

MEMO 2023-12 ED-00007(1) Geometric sequences

(1) Write the next three terms in each of the following sequences:

[Also indicate which of the sequences are geometric sequences. (GS)]

(a) 2 ; 10 ; 50 ; 250 ; **1 250 ; 6 250 ; 31 250** **GS**

(b) 31 ; 39 ; 47 ; 55 ; **63 ; 71 ; 79**

(c) 1 011 ; 1 008 ; 1 005 ; 1 002 ; **999 ; 996 ; 993**

(d) -0,17 ; -0,37 ; -0,57 ; -0,77 ; **-0,97 ; -1,17 ; -1,37**

(e) $\frac{1}{8}$; $\frac{3}{7}$; $\frac{9}{6}$; $\frac{27}{5}$; **$\frac{81}{4}$; $\frac{243}{3}$; $\frac{729}{2}$**

(f) $\frac{1}{2}$; 1 ; 2 ; 4 ; **8 ; 16 ; 32** **GS**

(2) Write the first four terms in each of the following sequences:

[Also indicate which of the sequences are geometric sequences. (GS)]

(a) $T_n = -4n$ $\rightarrow T_1 = -4(1) = -4$ $T_2 = -4(2) = -8$
 $T_3 = -4(3) = -12$ $T_4 = -4(4) = -16$

$\therefore -4 ; -8 ; -12 ; -16$

(b) $T_n = 3^n$ $\rightarrow T_1 = 3^1 = 3$ $T_2 = 3^2 = 9$
 $T_3 = 3^3 = 27$ $T_4 = 3^4 = 81$

$\therefore 3 ; 9 ; 27 ; 81$ $\rightarrow$ **GS**

(c) $T_n = n - 5$ $\rightarrow T_1 = (1) - 5 = -4$ $T_2 = (2) - 5 = -3$
 $T_3 = (3) - 5 = -2$ $T_4 = (4) - 5 = -1$

$\therefore -4 ; -3 ; -2 ; -1$

(d) $T_n = 2n + 1$ $\rightarrow T_1 = 2(1) + 1 = 3$ $T_2 = 2(2) + 1 = 5$
 $T_3 = 2(3) + 1 = 7$ $T_4 = 2(4) + 1 = 9$

$\therefore 3 ; 5 ; 7 ; 9$

(e) $T_n = n^2 - 1$ $\rightarrow T_1 = (1)^2 - 1 = 0$ $T_2 = (2)^2 - 1 = 3$
 $T_3 = (3)^2 - 1 = 8$ $T_4 = (4)^2 - 1 = 15$

$\therefore 0 ; 3 ; 8 ; 15$

(f) $T_n = 3^{n+1}$ $\rightarrow T_1 = 3^{1+1} = 3^2 = 9$ $T_2 = 3^{2+1} = 3^3 = 27$
 $T_3 = 3^{3+1} = 3^4 = 81$ $T_4 = 3^{4+1} = 3^5 = 243$

$\therefore 9 ; 27 ; 81 ; 243$ $\rightarrow$ **GS**

(3) Consider the sequence: $6 ; 2 ; \frac{2}{3} ; \frac{2}{9} ; \dots$

(a) Calculate the general term of the sequence.

$$\begin{aligned} a &= 6 & T_n &= a \cdot r^{n-1} \\ r &= \frac{1}{3} & \therefore T_n &= 6 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{n-1} \\ n &= ? & \text{or } \therefore T_n &= 6(3^{-1})^{n-1} \\ T_n &= ? & \therefore T_n &= 6(3)^{1-n} \end{aligned}$$

(b) Calculate T_{11} .

$$\begin{aligned} a &= 6 & T_n &= 6 \cdot (3)^{1-n} \\ r &= \frac{1}{3} & \therefore T_{11} &= 6 \times 3^{1-11} \\ n &= 11 & \therefore T_{11} &= 6 \times 3^{-10} \\ T_{11} &= ? & \therefore T_{11} &= \frac{2}{19\,683} \end{aligned}$$

(c) Calculate n if $T_n = \frac{2}{729}$.

$$\begin{aligned} T_n &= 6 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{n-1} \\ \therefore \frac{2}{729} &= 6 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{n-1} \\ \therefore \frac{2}{729 \times 6} &= \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{n-1} \\ \therefore \frac{1}{2\,187} &= \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{n-1} \\ \therefore \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^7 &= \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{n-1} & \rightarrow & 3^7 = 2\,187 \\ \therefore 7 &= n-1 & \rightarrow & EB \Leftrightarrow EE \\ \therefore n &= 8 \end{aligned}$$

(4) Consider the sequence: $-5 ; 10 ; -20 ; 40 ; \dots$

(a) Is this sequence converging? Motivate.

$$r = \frac{T_2}{T_1} = \frac{10}{-5} = -2$$

$\therefore$ The sequence is not converging, because $r < -1$.

(b) Calculate the general term of the sequence.

$$\begin{aligned} a &= -5 & T_n &= a \cdot r^{n-1} \\ r &= -2 & \therefore T_n &= -5 \cdot (-2)^{n-1} \\ T_n &= ? \end{aligned}$$

(c) Calculate T_{16} .

$$\begin{aligned} T_n &= -5 \cdot (-2)^{n-1} \\ \therefore T_{16} &= -5 \cdot (-2)^{16-1} \\ \therefore T_{16} &= -5 \cdot (-2)^{15} \\ \therefore T_{16} &= 163\,840 \end{aligned}$$

(d) Calculate n if $T_n = -5\,120$.

$$T_n = -5 \cdot (-2)^{n-1}$$

$$\therefore -5\,120 = -5 \cdot (-2)^{n-1}$$

$$\therefore \frac{-5\,120}{-5} = -5 \cdot (-2)^{n-1}$$

$$\therefore 1\,024 = (-2)^{n-1}$$

$$\therefore (-2)^{10} = (-2)^{n-1}$$

$$\therefore 10 = n - 1 \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{EB} \Leftrightarrow \text{EE}$$

$$\therefore n = 11$$