

18.2 Arithmetic Sequences & Series

Arithmetic Sequence - Sequence in which each term increases or decreases by a common difference (d)

$$\begin{array}{ll} -4, -1, 2, 5, \dots & d = 3 \\ 7, 3, -1, -5, \dots & d = -4 \\ 2, 4, 8, 16, \dots & \text{not arithmetic} \end{array}$$

Example 1 Find the first five terms

Ⓐ $a_1 = 30$ $d = -5$

$$30, 25, 20, 15, 10$$

Ⓑ $a_3 = -7$ $d = 3$

$$\underline{-13} \quad \underline{-10} \quad \underline{-7} \quad \underline{-4} \quad \underline{-1}$$

a_3

General Term of an Arithmetic Sequence

$$a_n = a_1 + d(n-1)$$

* $d = \text{slope}$

Example 2 Find a_{10} and a_n for each

Ⓐ $a_1 = 6$ $d = 4$

$$a_n = a_1 + d(n-1)$$

$$a_n = 6 + 4(n-1)$$

$$a_n = 6 + 4n - 4$$

$$\boxed{a_n = 2 + 4n}$$

$$a_{10} = 2 + 4(10)$$

$$= 2 + 40$$

$$\boxed{a_{10} = 42}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad a_8 = -11 \quad a_{14} = 11$$

$$a_n = a_1 + d(n-1)$$

$$a_n = -19 + 5(n-1)$$

$$a_n = -19 + 5n - 5$$

$$\boxed{a_n = -24 + 5n}$$

$$a_{10} = -24 + 5(10)$$

$$= -24 + 50$$

$$\boxed{a_{10} = 26}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \text{common } d = \frac{a_2 - a_1}{2 - 1} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

$$x_1, x_2$$

$$a_8 = 16 \Rightarrow (8, 16)$$

$$a_{14} = 46 \Rightarrow (14, 46)$$

$$d = \frac{16 - 46}{8 - 14} = \frac{-30}{-6} = 5$$

② need a_1 ; use either given point

$$a_n = a_1 + d(n-1)$$

$$a_8 = a_1 + 5(8-1)$$

$$16 = a_1 + 35$$

$$-19 = a_1$$

Sum of the First n Terms of an Arithmetic Sequence

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2}(a_1 + a_n)$$

$n = \#$ of terms

$a_1 =$ 1st term

$a_n =$ last term

OR

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2}(2a_1 + d(n-1))$$

$n = \#$ of terms

$a_1 =$ 1st term

$d =$ common difference

Example 3 Find the sum of the first 12 terms ($n=12$)

Ⓐ $a_1 = 10 \quad d = -3$

$$S_{12} = \frac{12}{2}(2 \cdot 10 + -3(12-1))$$

$$= 6(20 - 33)$$

$$= 6(-13)$$

$$= -78$$

Ⓑ $8, 6, 4, \dots \quad d = -2$

$$S_{12} = \frac{12}{2}(2(8) + -2(12-1))$$

$$= 6(16 - 22)$$

$$= 6(-6)$$

$$= \boxed{-36}$$

18.2 cont'd

(C) $a_1 = -6$ $a_{12} = 30$

Given first and last terms

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2}(a_1 + a_n)$$

$$S_{12} = \frac{12}{2}(-6 + 30)$$

$$= 6(24)$$

$$= 144$$

Example 4 Find a_1 and d for the sequence

(A) $S_{31} = 5580$ $a_{31} = 360$

Sum of 31 terms last term

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2}(a_1 + a_n)$$

$$d = \text{slope} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

$$S_{31} = \frac{31}{2}(a_1 + a_{31})$$

$$a_1 = 0 \Rightarrow (1, 0)$$

$$5580 = \frac{31}{2}(a_1 + 360)$$

$$a_{31} = 360 \Rightarrow (31, 360)$$

$$\frac{31}{2} \qquad \frac{31}{2}$$

$$d = \frac{360 - 0}{31 - 1} = \frac{360}{30}$$

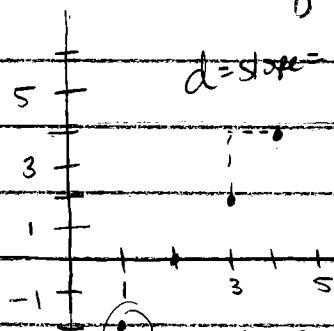
$$360 = a_1 + 360$$

$$\frac{360}{30}$$

$$\boxed{0 = a_1}$$

$$\boxed{d = 12}$$

Example 5 Find a formula for the n th term of the sequence



$$a_n = a_1 + d(n-1)$$

$$a_n = -2 + 2(n-1)$$

$$a_n = -2 + 2n - 2$$

$$\boxed{a_n = 2n - 4}$$

Example 5 Use a formula to find the sum of the arithmetic series

$$89 + 84 + 79 + 74 + \dots + 9 + 4$$

$$d = -5 \quad \# \text{ of terms?}$$

$$a_n = a_1 + d(n-1) \quad \text{solve for } n \text{ using the}$$

$$4 = 89 + -5(n-1) \quad \therefore \text{last term } a_n = 4$$

$$4 = 89 - 5n + 5$$

$$4 = 94 - 5n$$

$$5n = 90$$

$$n = 18$$

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2}(a_1 + a_n)$$

$$S_{18} = \frac{18}{2}(89 + 4)$$

$$= 9(93)$$

$$\boxed{S_{18} = 837}$$

Example 6 Evaluate the sum

$$\sum_{j=1}^{15} (5j - 9)$$

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2}(a_1 + a_n)$$

$$S_{15} = \frac{15}{2}(-4 + 66)$$

$$= 7.5(62)$$

$$= \boxed{465}$$

$$n = 15$$

$$a_1 = 5(1) - 9$$

$$= -4$$

$$a_{15} = 5(15) - 9$$

$$= 66$$