ALGEBRAIC TECHNIQUES...

@whisto_maths

Sequences

What do I need to be able to do?

By the end of this unit you should be able to:

- Generate a sequence from term to term or position to term rules
- Recognise arithmetic sequences and find the nth term
- Recognise geometric sequences and other sequences that arise

Keywords

Sequence: items or numbers put in a pre-decided order
Term: a single number or variable
Position: the place something is located
Linear: the difference between terms increases or decreases (+ or -) by a constant value each time
Non-linear: the difference between terms increases or decreases in different amounts, or by x or ÷
Difference: the gap between two terms
Arithmetic: a sequence where the difference between the terms is constant
Geometric: a sequence where each term is found by multiplying the previous one by a fixed non zero number

Linear and Non Linear Sequences

Linear Sequences – increase by addition or subtraction and the same amount each time
Non-linear Sequences – do not increase by a constant amount – quadratic, geometric and Fibonacci

- Do not plot as straight lines when modelled graphically
- The differences between terms can be found by addition, subtraction, multiplication or division

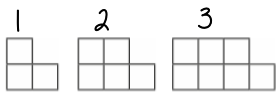
Fibonacci Sequence – look out for this type of sequence

0 1 1 2 3 5 8 ...

Each term is the sum of the previous two terms.

Sequence in a table and graphically

Position: the place in the sequence



"The **term** in **position** 3 has 7 squares"

3 5 7

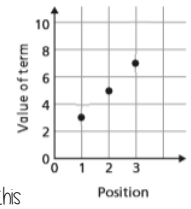
Term: the number or variable
(the number of squares in each image)

In a table

Position	1	2	3
Term	3	5	7

+2 +2

Graphically



Because the terms increase by the same addition each time this is **linear** – as seen in the graph

Sequences from algebraic rules

This is substitution!

$3n + 7$ — This will be linear - note the single power of n. The values increase at a constant rate

$3n^2 + 7$ — This is not linear as there is a power for n

$2n - 5$ → Substitute the number of the term you are looking for in place of 'n'

eg
1st term = 2 (1) – 5 = -3
2nd term = 2 (2) – 5 = -1
100th term = 2 (100) – 5 = 195

Checking for a term in a sequence

Form an equation

Is 201 in the sequence 3n – 4?

$3n - 4 = 201$ ← Term to check

Algebraic rule

Solving this will find the position of the term in the sequence. ONLY an integer solution can be in the sequence.

Complex algebraic rules

Misconceptions and comparisons

$2n^2$ — 2 times whatever n squared is

eg
1st term = 2 x 1^2 = 2
2nd term = 2 x 2^2 = 8
100th term = 2 x 100^2 = 2000

$(2n)^2$ — 2 times n then square the answer

eg
1st term = $(2 \times 1)^2$ = 4
2nd term = $(2 \times 2)^2$ = 16
100th term = $(2 \times 100)^2$ = 40000

$n(n + 5)$ ←

eg
1st term = 1 (1 + 5) = 6
2nd term = 2 (2 + 5) = 14
100th term = 100 (100 + 5) = 10500

You don't need to expand the expression

H Finding the algebraic rule

This is the 4 times table → 4, 8, 12, 16, 20....

4n

7, 11, 15, 19, 22 ← This has the same constant difference – but is 3 more than the original sequence

4n + 3

$4n + 3$

This is the constant difference between the terms in the sequence

This is the comparison (difference) between the original and new sequence