

Section 4.1: Sequences

1. Note: In Problem 15, the sequence should be $0, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, -\frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{5}, \dots$

2. **Sequence** - an ordered set of elements

Term, initial term, final term, infinite sequence, general formula

3. Example #1: List the first several terms of the following sequences.

(a) $b_j = \frac{5-j}{5+j}, \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{Z}, j \geq 1$

(b) $a_n = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor \cdot 2, \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}, n \geq 1$

(c) $f_0 = f_1 = 1, f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}, \forall n \geq 2$ (Fibonacci sequence)

4. Example #2: Find a general (explicit) formula for the n^{th} term of the sequence.

(a) $1, -4, 9, -16, 25, \dots$

(b) $1 - \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{5}, \dots$

(c) $3, 6, 12, 24, 48, 96, \dots$

5. Example #3: Summation and Product Notation (Compute the following)

(a) $\sum_{m=0}^3 \frac{1}{2^m}$

(b) $\prod_{j=0}^4 (-1)^j$

(c) $\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k(k+1)}$ (Use Partial Fractions)

(d) $\sum_{k=1}^{30} f_n - f_{n-1}$ (Fibonacci sequence)

6. Factorials: $n!$ and Binomial Coefficients (Pascal's Triangle)

(a) $\frac{8!}{3!4!}$

(b) $\frac{(n+1)}{n!}$

(c) $\frac{n!}{(n-4)!}$

7. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f_n}{f_{n-1}} = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} = \varphi(n)$ (Golden Ratio)

- Since the Renaissance, artists and architects have proportioned works to approximate $\varphi(n)$
- The golden rectangle (ratio of longer side to shorter is golden ratio): proportion is believed to be aesthetically pleasing

8. Construction of a golden rectangle:

- (a) Construct a unit square.
- (b) Draw a line from the midpoint of one side to an opposite corner.
- (c) Use that line as the radius to draw an arc that defines the long dimension of the rectangle.
- (d) When the square is removed, the remaining rectangle has the same proportion.
(Golden Spiral)

9. Change of Variable:

- (a) $\sum_{j=0}^{20} \frac{1}{j+1}$ (Substitute $k = j + 1$)
- (b) $\sum_{i=5}^{12} \frac{i}{i-1}$ (Substitute $k = i - 1$)
- (c) $\sum_{k=1}^{n+1} \left(\frac{k}{n+k} \right)$ (Substitute $j = n + k$)