



Section 1.7 Algebraic patterns, an introduction

PROJECT MATHS Text & Tests 6

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Example 1

Examine each of the following patterns of numbers and determine if there is a linear or quadratic relationship between the terms.

Write an algebraic expression for each set of numbers.

- (a) $-2, 1, 4, 7, \dots$ (b) $3, 5, 11, 21, \dots$

(a)

PATTERN
1st DIFFERENCE

$$\begin{array}{cccc} -2 & 1 & 4 & 7 \\ & 3 & 3 & 3 \end{array}$$

Common difference = +3

$T_2 - T_1$, etc..

THIS IS A LINEAR PATTERN
BECAUSE THE 1ST DIFFERENCE
IS CONSTANT

(b)

PATTERN
1st DIFFERENCE
2nd DIFFERENCE

$$\begin{array}{cccc} 3 & 5 & 11 & 21 \\ & 2 & 6 & 10 \\ & & 4 & 4 \end{array}$$

THIS IS A QUADRATIC PATTERN
BECAUSE THE SECOND DIFFERENCE
IS CONSTANT

Exercise 1.7

1. Examine each of the following patterns of numbers and determine if the pattern has a linear or quadratic relationship.

(a) $4, 7, 10, 13, 16, \dots$

What are the
next 3 terms?

If the 1st
Difference is
Constant we
have a
LINEAR PATTERN

(b) $-2, 2, 6, 10, 14, \dots$

$4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 25$

$-2, 2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 22, 26$

1. Examine each of the following patterns of numbers and determine if the pattern has a linear or quadratic relationship.

(c) $-4, -3, 0, 5, 12, \dots$

(c) PATTERN
1st DIFFERENCE
2nd DIFFERENCE

(d) $2, 1, -2, -7, -14, -23, \dots$

$-4, -3, 0, 5, 12$

This is a Quadratic pattern
because the 2nd difference is constant.

(d)

PATTERN
1st DIFFERENCE
2nd DIFFERENCE

$2, -1, -2, -7, -14, -23$

This is a Quadratic pattern
because the 2nd difference is constant.