

6.1 Geometric Sequences

Determine if the sequence is geometric. If it is, find the common ratio, the term named in the problem, and the explicit formula.

1) $-3, 12, -48, 192, \dots$ Common Ratio: $r = -4$
Find a_9

$$a_9 = -196608$$

$$\text{Explicit: } a_n = -3 \cdot (-4)^{n-1}$$

2) $-3, -6, -12, -24, \dots$ Common Ratio: $r = 2$
Find a_{12}

$$a_{12} = -6144$$

$$\text{Explicit: } a_n = -3 \cdot 2^{n-1}$$

3) $-2, 6, -18, 54, \dots$ Common Ratio: $r = -3$
Find a_{11}

$$a_{11} = -118098$$

$$\text{Explicit: } a_n = -2 \cdot (-3)^{n-1}$$

4) $2, 6, 18, 54, \dots$ Common Ratio: $r = 3$
Find a_9

$$a_9 = 13122$$

$$\text{Explicit: } a_n = 2 \cdot 3^{n-1}$$

5) $1, 2, 6, 24, \dots$
Find a_{10}

Not geometric

6) $4, 16, 36, 64, \dots$
Find a_{10}

Not geometric

7) $18, 10, 6, 4, \dots$
Find a_{11}

Not geometric

8) $-1, 4, -16, 64, \dots$ Common Ratio: $r = -4$
Find a_9

$$a_9 = -65536$$

$$\text{Explicit: } a_n = -(-4)^{n-1}$$

9) $-4, -8, -16, -32, \dots$ Common Ratio: $r = 2$
Find a_{12}

$$a_{12} = -8192$$

$$\text{Explicit: } a_n = -4 \cdot 2^{n-1}$$

10) $35, 356, 3566, 35666, \dots$
Find a_{11}

Not geometric

Given the explicit formula for a geometric sequence find the first five terms.

11) $a_n = -2 \cdot (-3)^{n-1}$

$-2, 6, -18, 54, -162$

12) $a_n = -4 \cdot (-2)^{n-1}$

$-4, 8, -16, 32, -64$

13) $a_n = (-6)^{n-1}$

$1, -6, 36, -216, 1296$

14) $a_n = -(-6)^{n-1}$

$-1, 6, -36, 216, -1296$

15) $a_n = 2 \cdot 6^{n-1}$

$2, 12, 72, 432, 2592$

16) $a_n = -3 \cdot 5^{n-1}$

$-3, -15, -75, -375, -1875$

Evaluate each geometric series described.

17) $2 + 6 + 18 + 54 \dots, n = 6$

728

18) $1 + 4 + 16 + 64 \dots, n = 7$

5461

19) $2 + 8 + 32 + 128\dots, n = 9$

174762

21) $1 + 3 + 9 + 27\dots, n = 9$

9841

23) $1 + 3 + 9 + 27\dots, n = 8$

3280

20) $1 + 6 + 36 + 216\dots, n = 7$

55987

22) $2 + 8 + 32 + 128\dots, n = 6$

2730

24) $4 - 8 + 16 - 32\dots, n = 6$

-84

Determine the number of terms n in each geometric series.

25) $a_1 = 4, r = 2, S_n = 124$

5

26) $a_1 = 4, r = 2, S_n = 508$

7

27) $a_1 = 4, r = -3, S_n = 244$

5

28) $a_1 = 4, r = 3, S_n = 52$

3

Evaluate each geometric series described.

29) $\sum_{m=1}^8 -4 \cdot 4^{m-1}$

-87380

30) $\sum_{k=1}^9 -81 \cdot \left(-\frac{1}{3}\right)^{k-1}$

$\frac{4921}{81}$

31) $\sum_{k=1}^8 (-4)^{k-1}$

-13107

32) $\sum_{i=1}^9 (-3)^{i-1}$

4921

33) $\sum_{n=1}^9 2 \cdot 5^{n-1}$

976562

34) $\sum_{n=1}^9 2^{n-1}$

511

Given two terms in a geometric sequence find the formula.

35) $a_6 = -16$ and $a_4 = -4$ ~~$a_n = a_{n-1} \cdot -2$~~
 ~~$a_1 = 0.5$~~

36) $a_4 = 12$ and $a_6 = \frac{1}{3}$ ~~$a_n = a_{n-1} \cdot \frac{1}{6}$~~
 ~~$a_1 = 2592$~~

See next page

37) $a_4 = -32$ and $a_3 = -16$ ~~$a_n = a_{n-1} \cdot 2$~~
 ~~$a_1 = -4$~~

38) $a_6 = \frac{1}{32}$ and $a_3 = -\frac{1}{4}$ ~~$a_n = a_{n-1} \cdot -\frac{1}{2}$~~
 ~~$a_1 = -1$~~

39) $a_3 = -8$ and $a_4 = 32$ ~~$a_n = a_{n-1} \cdot -4$~~
 ~~$a_1 = -0.5$~~

40) $a_1 = 3$ and $a_5 = 3888$ ~~$a_n = a_{n-1} \cdot 6$~~
 ~~$a_1 = 3$~~

$$35. \quad a_n = a_1 r^{n-1}$$

$$a_6 = a_4 r^{6-4}$$

$$-16 = -4(r)^2$$

$$4 = r^2$$

$$\boxed{2 = r}$$

$$\boxed{a_n = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)(-2)^{n-1}}$$

$$36. \quad a_n = 2592 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^{n-1}$$

$$37. \quad a_n = -4(2)^{n-1}$$

$$38. \quad a_n = -1\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-1}$$

$$39. \quad a_n = -\frac{1}{2}(-4)^{n-1}$$

$$40. \quad a_n = 3(6)^{n-1}$$

$$a_4 = a_1 r^{4-1}$$

$$-4 = a_1 (2)^3$$

$$-4 = a_1 \cdot 8$$

$$-\frac{4}{8} = a_1$$

$$\boxed{-\frac{1}{2} = a_1}$$