

Geometric Sequences

Determine if the sequence is geometric. If it is, find the common ratio.

1) -1, 6, -36, 216, ...

$r = -6$

2) -1, 1, 4, 8, ...

not geometric

3) 4, 16, 36, 64, ...

Not geometric

4) -3, -15, -75, -375, ...

$r = 5$

5) -2, -4, -8, -16, ...

$r = 2$

6) 1, -5, 25, -125, ...

$r = -5$

Given the explicit formula for a geometric sequence find the first five terms and the 8th term.

7) $a_n = 3^{n-1}$

1, 3, 9, 27, 81

$a_8 = 2187$

8) $a_n = 2 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^{n-1}$

2, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{32}$, $\frac{1}{128}$

$a_8 = \frac{1}{2192}$

9) $a_n = -2.5 \cdot 4^{n-1}$

-2.5, -10, -40, -160, -640

$a_8 = -40960$

10) $a_n = -4 \cdot 3^{n-1}$

-4, -12, -36, -108, -324

$a_8 = -2748$

Given the recursive formula for a geometric sequence find the common ratio, the first five terms, and the explicit formula.

11) $a_n = a_{n-1} \cdot 2$

$a_1 = 2$

$r = 2$

2, 4, 8, 16, 32

$a_n = 2^n$

13) $a_n = a_{n-1} \cdot 5$

$a_1 = 2$

$r = 5$

2, 10, 50, 250, 1250

$a_n = 2 \cdot 5^{n-1}$

12) $a_n = a_{n-1} \cdot -3$

$a_1 = -3$

$r = -3$

-3, 9, -27, 81, -243

$a_n = (-1)^n \cdot 3^n$

14) $a_n = a_{n-1} \cdot 3$

$a_1 = -3$

$r = 3$

-3, -9, -27, -81, -243

$a_n = -(3^n)$

Given the first term and the common ratio of a geometric sequence find the first five terms and the explicit formula.

15) $a_1 = 0.8, r = -5$

$.8, -4, 20, -100, 500$

$a_n = .8(-5)^{n-1}$

16) $a_1 = 1, r = 2$

$1, 2, 4, 8, 16$

$a_n = 1(2)^{n-1}$

Given the first term and the common ratio of a geometric sequence find the recursive formula and the three terms in the sequence after the last one given.

17) $a_1 = -4, r = 6$ $-24, -144, -864$

$\begin{cases} a_1 = -4 \\ a_n = 6(a_{n-1}) \end{cases}$

18) $a_1 = 4, r = 6$ $24, 144, 864$

$\begin{cases} a_1 = 4 \\ a_n = 6 \cdot a_{n-1} \end{cases}$

19) $a_1 = 2, r = 6$ $12, 72, 432$

$\begin{cases} a_1 = 2 \\ a_n = 6 \cdot a_{n-1} \end{cases}$

20) $a_1 = -4, r = 4$ $-16, -64, -256$

$\begin{cases} a_1 = -4 \\ a_n = 4 \cdot a_{n-1} \end{cases}$

Given a term in a geometric sequence and the common ratio find the first five terms, the explicit formula, and the recursive formula.

21) $a_4 = 25, r = -5$

$25 = a_1(-5)^{4-1}$

$a_1 = -.2$ $\begin{cases} a_1 = -.2 \\ a_n = -5 \cdot a_{n-1} \end{cases}$

$a_n = -.2(-5)^{n-1}$

22) $a_1 = 4, r = 5$

$a_n = 4(5)^{n-1}$

$\begin{cases} a_1 = 4 \\ a_n = 5 \cdot a_{n-1} \end{cases}$

Given two terms in a geometric sequence find the 8th term and the recursive formula.

23) $a_4 = -12$ and $a_5 = -6$

$r = \frac{1}{2}$

$-12 = a_1 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3$ $\begin{cases} a_1 = -96 \\ a_n = \frac{1}{2} \cdot a_{n-1} \end{cases}$

$a_1 = -96$

$a_8 = -96 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^7 = -\frac{3}{4}$

24) $a_5 = 768$ and $a_2 = 12$

$r = \sqrt[3]{\frac{768}{12}} = 4$

$12 = a_1(4)^1$

$\begin{cases} a_1 = 3 \\ a_n = 4 \cdot a_{n-1} \end{cases}$

$a_8 = 3(4)^7 = 49,152$

25) $a_1 = -2$ and $a_5 = -512$

$r = \sqrt[4]{\frac{-512}{-2}} = 4$

$a_8 = -2(4)^7 = -32,768$

$\begin{cases} a_1 = -2 \\ a_n = 4 \cdot a_{n-1} \end{cases}$

26) $a_5 = 3888$ and $a_3 = 108$

$r = \sqrt{\frac{3888}{108}} = 6$

$108 = a_1(6)^2$

$\begin{cases} a_1 = 3 \\ a_n = 6 \cdot a_{n-1} \end{cases}$

$a_8 = 3(6)^7 = 839,808$