

welcome to the second lecture on sequence and series from the first lecture it should be clear that by a sequence a_n n is equal to 1 to infinity written in expanded form as $a_1 a_2 a_3$

so on a_n

so on we actually mean a function f from n to r we are talking about real sequence and various ways to describe a sequence including the recursive formula where a particular term of a sequence is expressed in terms of one or more of its previous terms now let us try to represent a sequence using graph commonly a sequence is represented by graphs in two ways consider the sequence a_n n is equal to 1 to infinity one way to represent this using a graph is to mark a few terms of this sequence on a real line let us say $a_1 a_2 a_3$ and

so on a specific example will make it more clear consider the sequence a_n n is equal to 1 to infinity where a_n is given by $\sqrt[n]{n}$ n th term is given by $\sqrt[n]{n}$ to represent this using graph we plot the real axis here is 0 there is 1 2 3 4 5 and

so on the first term of this given sequence namely a_n with a_n as $\sqrt[n]{n}$ is 1

so this is $a_1 a_2$ is going to be $\sqrt{2}$ it's less than 2 greater than 1

so somewhere here a_3 is going to be $\sqrt[3]{3}$ which is greater than $\sqrt{2}$

so it is somewhere here and a_4 is $\sqrt[4]{4}$ which is 2 a_5 is $\sqrt[5]{5}$ greater than 2 but less than 3 this is the graph of the given sequence $\sqrt[n]{n}$ let us see

another example consider sequence b_n n is equal to 1 to infinity where the n th term b_n is given by $1/n$ to graph this let us have the real line see that b_1 will be one b_2 is one by two

so this is $b_1 b_2$ is one by two which is halfway between zero and one b_3 is one by three which is less than one by two

so somewhere here b_4 is $1/4$ which is half b between 0 and half

so this is b_4 and

so on you can see that the terms of the sequence coming nearer and nearer to zero this is one way to represent a sequence by graph another way is as follows recall that a sequence is a function and hence we can graph the corresponding function to explain it with specific example consider the sequence a_n n is equal to 1 to infinity where a_n is given by $\sqrt[n]{n}$ we are going to consider the corresponding function f from n to r given by $f(n) = \sqrt[n]{n}$ and we are going to consider the graph of this function

so for that we consider the axis with n plotted along the x axis and a_n plotted along the y axis corresponding to 1 the value of the function is $\sqrt[1]{1}$ which is 1

so the point is 1 1 corresponding to 2 let me mark the points on y axis which designates a_n corresponding to 2 the value of the function is $\sqrt{2}$

so we plot 2 comma $\sqrt{2}$ 2 is here $\sqrt{2}$ is in between 1 and 2.

so this is 2 comma $\sqrt{2}$ and corresponding to 3 the value of the function is $\sqrt[3]{3}$ which is less than 2 but greater than $\sqrt{2}$

so somewhere here 3 $\sqrt[3]{3}$ corresponding to 4 the value of the function is $\sqrt[4]{4}$ which is 2

so we plot 4 2 and

so on and these isolated points provides the graph of the function corresponding to the sequence a_n is equal to $\sqrt[n]{n}$ this is another way to graph a sequence having said this let us practice with some examples to graphs the basic concept of sequence i am going to give some problems write first five terms of the sequence given by the formula a_n the n th term of the sequence is equal to n into n plus 2 i should admit that it's bit confusing to say first five terms of the sequence because we have remarked that a sequence can be treated as a function from n to r in that case the corresponding list will be a_1

a_2 a_3 and

so on or it may be treated as a function from a subset of n to r in that case it is not necessary that the sequence starts with a 1 it may be for instance a 6 a 7 a 8 and

so on but unless otherwise specified let us assume that the sequence start with n is equal to 1 that is the list consists of a 1 a 2 and

so on with that agreement we will find first 5 terms of the given sequence a 1 the first term is 1 into 1 plus 2 obtained by just plugging n is equal to 1 is 3 a 2 is obtained by plugging n is equal to 2 this 2 into 2 plus 2 which is 2 into 4 which is 8 a_3 is obtained by substituting n is equal to 3

so 3 multiplied with 3 plus 2 which amounts to 3 multiplied with 5 which is 50 a 4 is given by 4 multiplied with the number corresponding to 4 plus 2 which is 4 into 6 which is 24 and a 5 is obtained by plugging n equal to 5 in the formula ϕ into 5 plus 2 which is 5 into 7 which amounts to 35 the list consists of 3 8 15 24 and 35 these are the first 5 terms if you want to write it as a sequence it will be 3 8 15 24 35 etc etc and the number occurring in n th place will be n into n plus 2 etc and it is always suggested to write if possible the term in the n th place as a function of n instead of just listing first few terms what i mean is for a sequence a_n corresponding to this problem it is always suggested to list it as 3 8 15 24 35 etc and then the n th place element n into n plus 2 etc instead of just writing 3 8 15 24 35 etc the reason from the first few terms the pattern may not be always recognizable let us proceed with the example find first four terms of the sequence given by the formula a_n is equal to n into n square plus ϕ by 4.

of course this is just numerical but let us do it step by step all the details first term corresponding to this sequence namely a_1 is 1 into 1 square plus 5 by 4 which on calculation reduces to 1 into 6 by 4 which can be simplified into 3 by 2.

second term a_2 is equal to 2 into 2 square plus 5 by 4 which on calculation reduces to 2 into 4 plus 5 by 4 which reduces to 2 into 9 by 4 by cancellation it reduces to 9 by 2 let us proceed third term a_3 will be 3 into 3 square plus 5 by 4 which on calculation reduces to 3 into 3 square is 9 9 plus 5 by 4 which is 3 into 9 plus 5 is 14 by 4 which reduces to 3 into 7 by 2 which is 21 by 2 last term to be found is the fourth term since the question demands you to find first four terms is 4 into 4 square plus 5 by 4 and this on calculation reduces to 4 into 4 square is 16 plus 5 by 4 which can be written as 4 into 21 by 4 and which gives a whole number twenty one

so these are the first four terms if you list the first four terms alone it will be three by two nine by two twenty one by two twenty one hope i have not made any calculation mistake it is a good exercise to recheck next example demands you to find ninth term of the sequence sequence a_n n is equal to 1 to infinity where a_n is given by minus 1 power n minus one into n cube the ninth term namely a_9 can be obtained by plugging n equal to 9 in the general expression

so a_9 will be minus 1 power 9 minus 1 into 9 cube which is equal to minus 1 power 8 into 9 cube which is minus 1 power 8 amounts to 1 and 9 cube is 81 into 9 which is 7 2 9 that solves the previous problem in the next example you are asked to find first three terms of the sequence sequence a_n n is equal to one to infinity where a_n is described by the formula a_n is equal to a_{n-1} minus 1 for n greater than 2 and a_1 and a_2 are two i would suggest you to recall the rabbit problem example were instead of writing a_n in terms of n we write a_n in terms of its previous terms describing a sequence such a manner that the n th term is expressed in terms of previous terms is called recurrence relation or it is called recursive definition of the sequence and here you are

given with the recursive definition a_n equal to $a_{n-1} - 1$ and the recursion starts with the terms a_1 and a_2 which is given to be 2.

in fact a_1 is 2 and a_2 is 2 which is given this is how you can start the recursion for n greater than 2 a_n is defined as the previous term minus 1 therefore a_3 will be put n equal to 2 in the recursive relation a_3 will be a_2 minus 1 and a_2 is given to be $2 - 1$ which is 1

so you should observe that unlike in the case where sequence is described with a formula in terms of n in the recursive definition to get a particular term we may have to find the previous term and then plug that previous term and

so on let us continue with one more example find first to four terms of the sequence a_n is equal to one to infinity where a_n is described using a_1 is equal to 3 and a_n is equal to $3 \times a_{n-1}$ for n greater than or equal to 2 observe that in this example as well the sequence is described with a recurrence relation first term is given to be 3 the second term a_2 using the recurrence relation is 3×1 which is 3 into 3^2 third term a_3 is equal to $3 \times a_2$ and a_2 we have previously found which is 3×3 which is 3^3 a_4 is $3 \times a_3$ this is by the recursive definition which is equal to $3 \times a_3$ we have found in the previous step and which amounts to three power four these are the four terms asked to find but then in this example let us see whether we can find a_n in terms of n remember that the recurrence relation given a_n is $3 \times a_{n-1}$ using the recurrence relation a_{n-1} is $3 \times a_{n-2}$ and a_{n-2} is $3 \times a_{n-3}$ and

so on applying this in succession we will see that it will be 3^1 times observe that 1 can be thought of as $n - n$

so that the power of 3 with which a_1 to be multiplied is 3^{n-1} see the pattern when we have a_{n-1} power of 3 is 1 when we have a_{n-2} power of 3 is 2 and

so on

so when we have a_1 that is a_{n-n} the power of 3 is $n - 1$ a_1 is given to be 3

so this is 3^{n-1} into 3 which is 3^n in this example even though as such the sequence is given in terms of a recursive definition using that recursive definition successively we could write a_n in terms of n this is called closed form expression for the n th term a_n is expressed as a function of n

so that given any n we can directly find what will be the term corresponding to the given n without finding the previous terms this way in which a_n is expressed solely in terms of n is called closed form expression this example illustrate that there are cases where though the sequence is expressed originally in terms of a recursive definition or a recurrence relation ultimately we can come up with a closed form expression for the same sequence this is called solving of recurrence relation of course there is a systematic theory to solve given recurrence relation we are not going into the details of it but this example is expected to shed light that there are cases where a recurrence relation given for a sequence can be solved to obtain the n th term of a sequence in terms of n there are cases where the recurrence relation is preferred rather than formula in terms of n having said this let me continue with few more examples but this time with a different intention consider the sequence a_n is equal to $1/n$ to infinity where the n th term a_n is given in terms of n using the expression $a_n = 1/n$ to be explicit let me write few terms of this sequence first term is $1/1$ second term is $1/2$ third term is $1/3$ fourth term is $1/4$

so on and

so forth recall the same thing can be expressed graphically in fact in two ways

let me use the first way of marking the terms in the real axis this is the real axis with natural numbers or more specifically non negative integers indicated the first term is 1

so this is a 1 second term is 1 by 2 it is midway between 0 and 1 this is a 2 1 by 2 and a 3 is 1 by 3 somewhere here a 4 is 1 by 4 it is midway between 0 and a2

so this is a4 and

so on do you observe either from the list of elements in the sequence or from the graph that we have plotted that as we progress towards the end of the sequence one one by two one by 3 1 by 4 etcetera etcetera the terms get closer and closer to 0 because as you progress towards end of the sequence n increases number corresponding to the place first place second place third place and

so on increases that is n increases the number occurring in nth place is 1 by n

so as n increases 1 by n keeps on decreasing and it eventually comes near to 0

so the observation in regard to this example is that as we progress towards the end of the sequence in other words as we increase n the term a_n becomes close to a fixed number zero that's clear from the graph $a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4$ that moves towards zero keeping this in mind let us proceed with another example consider the sequence 0 1 by 2 2 by 3 3 by 4 etc as i told you previously it is always suggestive if possible to write what is the term in nth place if you see the pattern it is n minus 1 by n and

so on consider this sequence now let us do the similar exercise as in previous example that is let us observe what happens to this sequence as n becomes larger and larger one way to do it is draw the graph i mean represent the sequence using graph using the first method i suggested here is zero here is 1 let us say 2 and

so on the first term is 0 this is a 1 second term is 1 by 2 which is midway between 0 and 1 this is 8 2 third term is 2 by 3 which is greater than 1 by 2 you can observe it but it is less than 1

so somewhere here is a3 a4 is again less than 1 because it is 3 by 4 but it is greater than a3

so somewhere here and

so on you can observe more and more points f i a six and

so on you can see that the terms as far as this example is concerned comes closer and closer to one it can also be observed in a different manner without relying on the plot let us write the term 0 1 by 2 2 by 3 and

so on the nth term namely n minus 1 by n can be rewritten as 1 minus 1 by n isn't it now the terms are 0 the second term is actually 1 minus 1 by 2 third term is 1 minus 1 by 3 and

so on nth term is 1 minus 1 by m now can you guess what happens when n becomes larger and larger as n becomes larger 1 by n comes close to 0

so that 1 minus 1 by n those numbers will come near to 1.

thus as far as this particular example is concerned as n increases or as you move towards the tail end of the sequence the terms of the sequence are coming close and close to 1.

recall in the previous example namely the sequence 1 by n as n becomes larger and larger the terms were becoming very close to 0 and in this example as n becomes larger and larger the other way of saying it is as you progress towards the end of the sequence the terms gets closer and closer to 1.

let us continue with another example namely the sequence root n n is equal to 1 to infinity to be explicit let us list few more terms 1 root 2 second term root 3 third term and

so on nth term is root n and

so on it's an infinite sequence let us do the exercise we have done previously

namely try to observe what happens when n becomes larger and larger remember when n grows larger $\sqrt[n]{n}$ grows larger for instance $\sqrt{100}$ which is ten is greater than $\sqrt{2}$ $\sqrt{10000}$ is greater than $\sqrt{10}$ namely 10 and

so on thus when you progress towards the end of the sequence the terms are becoming larger and larger and this growth is not controllable in the sense as you go on you can increase the value of the terms thus unlike in the previous example in this example we don't observe that as n becomes larger and larger the terms of the sequence become close to some particular value if you graph it it will be like first term is 1 second term is $\sqrt{2}$ which is greater than 1 third term is $\sqrt[3]{3}$ which is greater than 1 and also greater than $\sqrt{2}$.

a 4 which is $\sqrt[4]{4}$ which is 2 and

so on

so whatever large number i give you can find a term in this sequence such that that term is larger than number given by me for example suppose i say 100 you can always find a term in this sequence greater than 100 for instance if you find a 1001 it will be actually $\sqrt[1001]{1001}$ and $\sqrt[1001]{1001}$ is greater than hundred

so given hundred i can find a term namely ten thousand one term which is greater than hundred now suppose i give another number larger than hundred still you can find a term a_n greater than the given number k in other words as you progress the terms of the sequence are becoming larger and larger

so you do not find any fixed number to which the terms are becoming near now let us proceed with another example consider the sequence $1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + \dots$ etc the n th term is $(-1)^{n+1}$ first term is $(-1)^2$ which is 1 second term is $(-1)^3$ which is -1 and

so on here as you progress towards the end of the sequence in other words when you make n larger and larger what happens to the sequence is it bounces back between 1 and -1 if n is a large number which is an odd integer then $n+1$ will be even and the term will become 1 and if n is a large number which is an even integer then $n+1$ will be odd and hence the term will be -1 thus as n progresses the terms will be either 1 or -1 we cannot say it definitely it depends upon what is the value of n

so we cannot find a number to which the terms of the sequence come closer consolidating the previous examples that you see in the first example namely $1/n$ what happened was as n increases the terms change but then it becomes nearer and nearer to zero in the second example as n increases the term comes nearer and nearer to one in the third example as n increases the term becomes larger and larger

so that we cannot say that all terms will be ultimately near to some fixed number in the last example though the terms are not becoming larger either it will be 1 or -1 but still we cannot find a number

so that all the terms are coming close to this particular number these examples should illustrate that there are cases where sequence behave in such a manner that as n increases term become close to a number and there are instances where as n increases the terms of the sequence will not remain near a fixed number to distinguish these two cases we introduce the terms called convergent sequence and divergent sequence informally a sequence is said to be convergent if as n increases the n th term of the sequence a_n comes near to a fixed number l let me write informally a sequence a_n is equal to 1 to infinity is said to be convergent if as n increases a_n becomes sufficiently close to a number l keep the first example in mind namely the sequence $1/n$ as n increases the terms become close to 0.

remember that the number l may not be a term in the sequence for example in the

case of $\frac{1}{n}$ terms are becoming closer and closer to 0 but no term is exactly 0 .

such sequences for which there exists a number l such that as n increases all the terms of sequence a_n come near to l is called convergent this l is called limit of that sequence in notation we write it as $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = l$ is called the limit of the sequence and such a sequence is called convergence if there is no number l for which as n increases a_n come close to l then the sequence is called divergence those who recall limit of a function can understand that this is a particular case in the sense that sequence is also a function let us not go into the details of this convergence sequence etc but at least informally what's the meaning of a sequence to be convergent and what the meaning of limit should be clear we will not dwell on the precise definition of convergence how sequence conversion and the limit of a function which you studied etcetera are connected having known the informal definition of convergence let us practice with some more examples consider the sequence $a_n = \frac{1}{n}$ where $a_n = \frac{1}{5}$ by n square of course here i used a bracket instead of a set notation i should say that a sequence can also be represented by using parenthesis like this instead of set notation we have used

so far that is instead of writing a sequence like this we can write in this manner as well in fact i feel this is more suggestive in the sense that it will not be confused with a set sequence is ordered whereas set there is no specific order of elements now let us consider the sequence a_n where n th term a_n is given by the formula $\frac{5}{n^2}$ now i would like you to guess what happens to the terms of the sequence as n becomes larger and larger let us list a few terms first term is $\frac{5}{1^2}$ second term is $\frac{5}{2^2}$ third term is $\frac{5}{3^2}$ fourth term is $\frac{5}{4^2}$ and

so on observe that the numerator is fixed to be 5 and denominator gets increased like 2^2 3^2 4^2 etc the 100 th term will be $\frac{5}{100^2}$ etc

so as you progress as n becomes larger and larger the terms $\frac{5}{n^2}$ by a very very large number goes to 0 .

so almost all terms after that will be zero not almost all term in fact every term will become closer and close to zero except finite number of terms okay in other words this can be represented by $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5}{n^2} = 0$ or the sequence $\frac{5}{n^2}$ is convergent and 0 is its limit as a final example consider the sequence $a_n = \frac{4 - 7n^6}{n^6 + 3}$ where a_n is given by $\frac{4 - 7n^6}{n^6 + 3}$.

the question is observe what happens to the terms of the sequence when n becomes larger and larger or determine whether the given sequence is convergent or not as such by the given form it may not be straightforward to see what happens to a_n as $n \rightarrow \infty$ but let us do some manipulation a_n can be written as i am taking an n^6 common from numerator

so it will be $\frac{4 - 7n^6}{n^6 + 3} = \frac{4 - 7n^6}{n^6} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \frac{3}{n^6}}$

now n^6 cancels out and n th term can be rewritten as $\frac{4 - 7n^6}{n^6} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \frac{3}{n^6}}$

now as n becomes larger and larger $\frac{4 - 7n^6}{n^6}$ becomes closer and closer to 0 because denominator n^6 gets increase

so this goes to 0

so the numerator reduces to -7 as n becomes larger similarly the denominator $1 + \frac{3}{n^6}$ the second summat namely $\frac{3}{n^6}$ goes to 0 as $n \rightarrow \infty$ three by n^6 become close to zero

so denominator becomes close to one plus zero

so as a result a_n when you observe as n becomes larger and larger comes near to minus 7 thus the given sequence is convergent and the limit is minus -7 we will discuss more about sequence and then enter into series in the next class thank you you

Prutor@iitk