



## Recursive functions vs. Explicit functions

Create a sequence from the following.

**Recursive Definition:**

$$t_{n+1} = t_n + 4 \text{ and } t_1 = 3$$

$$n=1: t_2 = t_1 + 4 = 3 + 4 = 7$$

$$n=2: t_3 = t_2 + 4 = 7 + 4 = 11$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} t_1 & t_2 & t_3 & t_4 & t_5 & t_6 \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ 3 & 7 & 11 & 15 & 19 & 23, \dots \end{array}$$

Find  $t_{10} = 39$

Create a sequence from the following.

**Explicit Definition:**  $n=1: t_1 = 4(1) - 1 = 3$

$$t_n = 4n - 1$$

$$n=2: t_2 = 4(2) - 1 = 7$$

$$n=3: t_3 = 4(3) - 1 = 11$$

$$n=4: t_4 = 4(4) - 1 = 15$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} t_1 & t_2 & t_3 & t_4 & t_5 \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ 3 & 7 & 11 & 15 & 19, \dots \end{array}$$

Find  $t_{10}$  :  $n=10: t_{10} = 4(10) - 1 = 40 - 1 = 39$

How would you define the following?

Recursive Definition – a mathematical function that describes future terms of a sequence based on previous terms.

Explicit Definition – a mathematical function that describes any term of the sequence given the term number.

18. Create the first few terms of a sequence using the following **Recursive Definitions**:

a.  $t_{n+1} = 2 \cdot t_n - 1$  and  $t_1 = 2$

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} 2 & 3 & 5 & 9 & 17 & \dots \\ t_1 & t_2 & t_3 & t_4 & t_5 & \end{array}$$

$$n=1: t_2 = 2 \cdot t_1 - 1 = 2(2) - 1 = 3$$

$$n=2: t_3 = 2 \cdot t_2 - 1 = 2(3) - 1 = 5$$

$$n=3: t_4 = 2 \cdot t_3 - 1 = 2(5) - 1 = 9$$

$$n=4: t_5 = 2 \cdot t_4 - 1 = 2(9) - 1 = 17$$

b.  $a_{n+1} = 2^{(a_n)} - 1$  and  $a_1 = 2$

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} 2 & 3 & 7 & 127 & \dots \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 & a_4 & \end{array}$$

$$n=1: a_2 = 2^{a_1} - 1 = 2^2 - 1 = 3$$

$$n=2: a_3 = 2^{a_2} - 1 = 2^3 - 1 = 7$$

$$n=3: a_4 = 2^{a_3} - 1 = 2^7 - 1 = 127$$

c.  $t_n = (t_{n-1})^2 - 4$  and  $t_1 = 3$

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} 3 & 5 & 21 & 437 & \dots \\ t_1 & t_2 & t_3 & t_4 & \end{array}$$

~~$$n=1: t_1 = (t_0)^2 - 4$$~~

$$n=2: t_2 = (t_1)^2 - 4 = (3)^2 - 4 = 5$$

$$n=3: t_3 = (t_2)^2 - 4 = (5)^2 - 4 = 21$$

$$n=4: t_4 = (t_3)^2 - 4 = (21)^2 - 4 = 437$$

19. Complete the table.

$$a_n = 3 \cdot a_{n-2} - a_{n-1} - 1$$

n	1	2	3	4	5	6
$a_n$	3	4	4	7	4	16
	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	$a_4$	$a_5$	

$$\begin{aligned} n=5: a_5 &= 3a_3 - a_4 - 1 \\ &= 3(4) - (7) - 1 \\ &= 12 - 7 - 1 \\ &= 4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} n=6: a_6 &= 3a_4 - a_5 - 1 \\ &= 3(7) - (4) - 1 \\ &= 21 - 4 - 1 \\ &= 16 \end{aligned}$$

20. Generate 3 different sequences that could be defined by  $t_{n+1} = 2 \cdot t_n + 1$

$$t_1 = 1: 1, 3, 7, 15, \dots$$

$2(1)+1$     $2(3)+1$     $2(7)+1$

$$t_1 = 4: 4, 9, 19, 39, \dots$$

$2(4)+1$     $2(9)+1$     $2(19)+1$

$$t_1 = 5: 5, 11, 23, 47, \dots$$

$2(5)+1$     $2(11)+1$     $2(23)+1$

21. Create the first few terms of a sequence using the following **Explicit Definitions**:

a.  $t_n = 2 \cdot n - 1$

$$1, 3, 5, 7, \dots$$

$t_1$     $t_2$     $t_3$     $t_4$

$$n=1: t_1 = 2(1) - 1 = 1$$

$$n=2: t_2 = 2(2) - 1 = 3$$

$$n=3: t_3 = 2(3) - 1 = 5$$

$$n=4: t_4 = 2(4) - 1 = 7$$

b.  $a_n = 3^n - n$

$$2, 7, 24, 77, \dots$$

$a_1$     $a_2$     $a_3$     $a_4$

$$n=1: a_1 = 3^1 - 1 = 2$$

$$n=2: a_2 = 3^2 - 2 = 7$$

$$n=3: a_3 = 3^3 - 3 = 24$$

$$n=4: a_4 = 3^4 - 4 = 77$$

c.  $t_n = 5 \cdot n - 4$  and determine  $t_{23}$

$$\begin{aligned} n=23: t_{23} &= 5(23) - 4 \\ &= \boxed{111} \end{aligned}$$

22. Create the first few terms of a sequence using the following mixed Recursive Definitions:

a.  $a_{n+1} = n + 2a_n - 1$  and  $a_1 = 3$

3, 6, 13, 28, ...  
 $a_1$     $a_2$     $a_3$     $a_4$

$$\begin{aligned} n=1: a_2 &= (1) + 2a_1 - 1 \\ &= 1 + 2(3) - 1 \\ &= 1 + 6 - 1 = 6 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} n=3: a_4 &= (3) + 2a_3 - 1 \\ &= 3 + 2(13) - 1 \\ &= 3 + 26 - 1 = 28 \end{aligned}$$

---


$$\begin{aligned} n=2: a_3 &= (2) + 2a_2 - 1 \\ &= 2 + 2(6) - 1 \\ &= 2 + 12 - 1 = 13 \end{aligned}$$

b.  $t_n = 4 \cdot t_{n-2} - t_{n-1} - n$  and

n	1	2	3	4	5
$t_n$	3	4	5	7	8
	$t_1$	$t_2$	$t_3$	$t_4$	

$$\begin{aligned} n=5: t_5 &= 4 \cdot t_3 - t_4 - (5) \\ &= 4(5) - (7) - 5 \\ &= 20 - 7 - 5 = 8 \end{aligned}$$