

Remodelling of Equations of Arithmetic Progressions (S_n & T_n)

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Abstract: Advanced and more generalised equations for Arithmetic Progression are derived in this article. A thorough survey of field of Arithmetic Progressions is made and shortcut route is picked up and produced in this article for the benefit of students.

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I. Introduction

This is a research article wherein present equations of Arithmetic Progressions are modified such that they are more useful to the students. In most of the prevailing solutions to the problems of Arithmetic Progression, before finding the required result, finding the first term is very essential. Whereas, using remodelled equations, most of the solutions to same problems of A.P are found, without the help of first term. By this, several steps are skipped out; hence it is possible to arrive directly at the result. Solution to example 2.5 is found using (3), hence it can be solved within a very few steps. At section IV of this article, theory of conjugate pairs is newly introduced. This idea helps to solve some of the problems in a different and better way. Example 3.4, shows that in such case data 'd' and 'a' are not required to find the solution and solution is drawn within a very few steps. Solution to example 4.2, is noteworthy because it unearths family of solution and required elements like 'd', 'a', etc, from minimum available data.

II. Modified Equation For n^{th} Term Of Arithmetic Progressions

2. We know that prevailing equation for general term of Arithmetic Progression is

$$T_n = T_1 + (n - 1)d \quad \text{--- (1.1)}$$

(1.1) can also be written as

$$T_n = a + (n - 1)d ; [\text{since } T_1 = a] \quad \text{--- (1.2)}$$

Where T_n denotes the general term for n^{th} term of an Arithmetic Progression,

'n' denotes the number of terms and 'a' or T_1 denotes first term.

(1.1) & (1.2) facilitate to solve the problem for T_n , usually when T_1 or 'a' is known.

To improve the generalisation of (1.1) or (1.2), following method is followed.

To start with, neutral pair of 'd' is added to (1.1).

Then, $T_n = [T_1 + (n - 1)d] + d - d$

Rearranging them conveniently, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T_n &= (T_1 + d) + (n - 1)d - d \\ &= T_2 + (n - 2)d ; [\text{since } T_2 = T_1 + d] \end{aligned}$$

Repeating the same steps, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T_n &= (T_2 + d) + (n - 2)d - d \\ &= T_3 + (n - 3)d \end{aligned}$$

⋮

Similarly repeating steps up to 'p', we have

$$T_n = T_p + (n - p)d ; \text{whence } p \leq n \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

Proof of $T_n = T_p + (n - p)d ; \text{whence } p \leq n$,

$$T_n = T_p + (n - p)d$$

$$T_n - T_p = (n - p)d$$

$$d = \frac{T_n - T_p}{n - p} ; \text{this is an already known relation for 'd'}$$

Thus proved.

Example. 2.1. If 3^{rd} and 9^{th} terms are 4 and -8 respectively, which term of this A.P. is zero? [7]

Method.1. Solution to this problem as given in, [8].

Here, $T_3 = 4$, and $T_9 = -8$.

\therefore using $T_n = a + (n - 1)d$

$$\Rightarrow T_3 = a + 2d = 4$$

$$T_9 = a + 8d = -8$$

Subtracting (1) from (2) we get,

$$(a + 8d) - (a + 2d) = -8 - 4$$

$$\Rightarrow 6d = -12$$

$$\Rightarrow d = -2$$

Now from (1) we have,

$$a + 2d = 4$$

$$\Rightarrow a + 2(-2) = 4$$

$$\Rightarrow a = 8$$

Let the n^{th} term of the A.P be 0.

$$\therefore T_n = a + (n - 1)d = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 8 + (n - 1) \times (-2) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow n - 1 = 4$$

$$\Rightarrow n = 5$$

Thus the 5^{th} term of A.P is 0.

Method.2. Solution using remodelled equation.

Data: $T_3 = 4$; $T_9 = -8$; $T_n = 0$; $n = ?$

Initially, 'd' is found by known relation, $d = \frac{T_q - T_p}{q - p}$

Putting the known values, we have, $d = \frac{-8 - 4}{9 - 3}$
 $d = -2$

Using (2), n is found, i. e., $T_n = T_p + (n - p)d$

Putting the values we have, $0 = 4 + (n - 3)(-2)$

After simplification we have, $n = 5$

\therefore 5^{th} term of the A.P. is 0.

Note: In method. 1, prevailing equation to find the n^{th} term is applicable only when initial term 'a' is found. Whereas in method. 2. answer is found by using remodelled equation without the help of initial term 'a'.

Example. 2.2. An A.P consists of 50 terms of which 3^{rd} term is 12 and last term is 106. Find 29^{th} term. [9]

Solution- Method.1: Prevailing method. [10]

Given $T_3 = 12$, and $T_{50} = 106$,

When two terms of A.P are given common difference can be found by the equation, $d = \frac{T_p - T_q}{p - q}$

$$\therefore d = \frac{T_{50} - T_3}{50 - 3}$$

$$= \frac{106 - 12}{47}$$

$$\Rightarrow d = 2$$

In an A.P., $T_n = a + (n - 1)d$ ----- (1)

Put, $n = 3$, $T_3 = a + (3 - 1)2$

$$\Rightarrow 12 = a + 4$$

Hence, $a = 8$

Put, $d = 2$; $a = 8$, and $n = 29$ in (1)

$$T_{29} = 8 + (29 - 1)2$$

$$T_{29} = 64$$

\therefore The 29^{th} term is 64.

Solution – Method. 2. solution to same problem using remodelled equation.

Initially common difference is found using the relation, $d = \frac{T_p - T_q}{p - q}$

$$\therefore d = \frac{T_{50} - T_3}{50 - 3}$$

$$= \frac{106 - 12}{47}$$

$$\Rightarrow d = 2$$

Using (2) the remodelled equation, $T_n = T_p + (n - p)d$, solution can be found without finding first term.

Substituting the given values, we have $T_{29} = 12 + (29 - 3)2$

$$\Rightarrow T_{29} = 64$$

Note: This method skips out, steps to find 'a', which is done in method.1.

Example. 2.3: Determine the A.P whose third term is 16 and the 7th term exceeds the 5th term by 12. [11]

Method.1: Current method of solution: [12].

Let the first term = a and the common difference = d.

$$\therefore T_n = a + (n - 1)d, \text{ we have}$$

$$T_3 = a + 2d$$

$$\Rightarrow a + 2d = 16$$

$$\text{And, } T_7 = a + 6d ; T_5 = a + 4d$$

According to the condition,

$$T_7 - T_5 = 12$$

$$\Rightarrow (a + 6d) - (a + 4d) = 12$$

$$\Rightarrow a + 6d - a - 4d = 12$$

$$\Rightarrow 2d = 12$$

$$\Rightarrow d = \frac{12}{2} = 6$$

Now, from (1) and (2), we have,

$$a + 2(6) = 16$$

$$\Rightarrow a + 12 = 16$$

$$\Rightarrow a = 4$$

\therefore The required A.P is 4, [4+6], [4+2(6)], [4+3(6)],.... Or. 4,10,16,22,...

Method.2: Solution using remodelled equation:

$$\text{Remodelled equation, } T_n = T_p + (n - p)d$$

$$T_7 = T_5 + (7 - 2)d$$

$$\Rightarrow (7 - 2)d = 12$$

$$\Rightarrow d = 6$$

The sequence is : $T_3 - 2d, T_3 - d, T_3, \dots$

i.e., 4,12,16, ...

Comparatively, this method is easier than method.1.

Case study of equation, $T_n = T_p + (n - p)d$.

Case. 1. When $p = 1$, remodelled equation, $T_n = T_p + (n - p)d$ will be

$$T_n = T_1 + (n - 1)d ; \text{ this is the present form of equation for } T_n.$$

Case. 2:

When $p = \frac{n}{2}$; $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{Note that } n \text{ is a natural number since it is an ordinal} \\ \text{number that specify the position of the term, it should} \\ \text{be an even number, in this case.} \end{array} \right]$

$$T_n = T_p + (n - p)d$$

Putting the defined variable of p in the above equation, $T_n = T_{\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} + \left(n - \frac{n}{2}\right)d$

$$T_n = T_{\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} + \left(\frac{n}{2}\right)d$$

Example.2.4: The A.P is 3, 8, 13, 18, ... find 8th term.

$$\text{Data: } d = T_2 - T_1 = 8 - 3 = 5$$

$$T_{\frac{n}{2}} = T_8 = T_4 = 18 ; \text{ therefore equation derived in case 2 is applicable.}$$

$$\text{Then, } T_n = T_{\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)} + \left(\frac{n}{2}\right)d$$

$$T_8 = T_{\left(\frac{8}{2}\right)} + \left(\frac{8}{2}\right)5$$

$$T_8 = 18 + 20 = 38$$

Case.3:

When $p = \frac{n \pm 1}{2}$, relation (2) i.e. $T_n = T_p + (n - p)d$, will be ; (\because 'p' is a natural number, 'n' should be an odd number)

$$T_n = T_{\left(\frac{n \pm 1}{2}\right)} + \left(n - \left(\frac{n \pm 1}{2}\right)\right)d$$

Further, cases $p = \frac{n + 1}{2}$ and $p = \frac{n - 1}{2}$ are dealt separately, as following,

a) When $p = \frac{n + 1}{2}$,

$$T_n = T_p + (n - p)d$$

Replacing the relation of p, in the above equation, $T_n = T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} + \left[n - \left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)\right]d$

$$\Rightarrow T_n = T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} + \left[\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)\right]d$$

Example. 2.5: The 8th term of an A.P is 17 and the 19th term is 39. find the 25th term..

Method.1.: Current solution to this problem is as following;

Data: $T_8 = 17, T_{19} = 39, T_{25} = ?$.

First 'd' is found using the relation, $d = \frac{T_p - T_q}{p - q}$

$$d = \frac{T_{19} - T_8}{19 - 8} = \frac{39 - 17}{11} = \frac{22}{11}$$

$$\therefore d = 2$$

Consider, $T_8 = 17$

$$a + 7d = 17 ; [\because T_n = T_1 + (n - 1)d]$$

$$a + 7(2) = 17$$

$$a + 14 = 17$$

$$\therefore a = 3$$

To find T_{25} ,

$$T_n = T_1 + (n - 1)d$$

$$T_{25} = 3 + (25 - 1)2 = 3 + (24 \times 2) = 3 + 48$$

$$\therefore T_{25} = 51$$

Method.2: Same problem is solved using remodelled equation (2) as following,

First 'd' is found using the relation, $d = \frac{T_p - T_q}{p - q}$

$$i.e., d = \frac{T_{19} - T_8}{19 - 8} = \frac{39 - 17}{11} = \frac{22}{11}$$

$$\therefore d = 2$$

Now using (2), we have

$$T_n = T_p + (n - p)d$$

$$T_{25} = 39 + (25 - 19)2$$

$$T_{25} = 51$$

This method brings down several steps, in comparison with the former method.

Replacing the relation of p, in the above equation, $T_n = T_{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} + \left[n - \left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)\right]d$

$$\Rightarrow T_n = T_{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} + \left[\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)\right]d$$

Example. 2.6: If $\frac{n - 1}{2} = 17$, and 17th term is -27, and $d = -3$, find n^{th} term.

Solution: It is given that $\frac{n - 1}{2} = 17$

$$\Rightarrow n = 35$$

Then n^{th} term can be found using, $T_n = T_{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} + \left[\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)\right]d$

Putting the known values, we have, $T_{35} = T_{\left(\frac{35-1}{2}\right)} + \left[\left(\frac{35+1}{2}\right)\right](-3)$

$$T_{35} = -27 + (-54)$$

$$T_{35} = -81$$

Case. 4: When $p = n - 1$

$$T_n = T_p + (n - p)d$$

$$T_n = T_{n-1} + (n - (n - 1))d$$

$$T_n = T_{n-1} + d$$

Case.5: When $p = n$

$$T_n = T_p + (n - p)d$$

$$T_n = T_n + (n - n)d$$

$$T_n = T_n$$

Case.6: When two A.P have same c.d, (Common difference), The difference between equidistant terms will be constant.

i. e., If $T_1, T_2, T_3, \dots, T_n$; and $T'_1, T'_2, T'_3, \dots, T'_n$ are the two A.Ps that have same c.d ,

i. e., $d = d'$

Then difference between same terms in both A.Ps will be constant.

$$T_{p \pm a} - T'_{p \pm a} = T_1 - T'_1 = c ; a \text{ constant} \text{ --- (3)}$$

Proof:

Let T_p and T'_p be the chosen terms to find the difference. i. e., value of $T_p - T'_p$

Then, $T_p - T'_p = T_1 + (p - 1)d - [T'_1 + (p - 1)d]$; $\because d = d'$

$$T_p - T'_p = T_1 - T'_1$$

For $(p + 1)^{th}$ term

$$T_{p+1} - T'_{p+1} = T_1 + ((p + 1) - 1)d - [T'_1 + ((p + 1) - 1)d]$$

$$T_{p+1} - T'_{p+1} = T_1 - T'_1$$

Similarly

:

$$T_{p \pm a} - T'_{p \pm a} = T_1 - T'_1$$

This shows that difference of all equidistant terms is a constant.

Thus proved

Example. 2.7: Two A.Ps. have the same common difference. The difference between their 100 th terms is 100.

What is the difference between their 1000th terms? [13]

Method.1: Solution to this problem given in the book. [14]

Let for the 1st A.P, first term = a

$$T_{100} = a + 99d$$

And for 2nd A.P, the first term = a'

$$\therefore T'_{100} = a' + 99d$$

It is given that, $T_{100} - T'_{100} = 100$

$$\Rightarrow a + 99d - (a' + 99d) = 100$$

$$\Rightarrow a - a' = 100$$

Let $T_{1000} - T'_{1000} = x$

$$\therefore a + 999d - (a' + 999d) = x$$

$$a - a' = x \Rightarrow 100$$

\therefore The difference between the 1000 th term is 100

Method. 2: Solution to this problem is found directly using (3)

i. e., $T_{p \pm a} - T'_{p \pm a} = T_1 - T'_1 = c ; a \text{ constant}$

Given $T_{100} - T'_{100} = 100$

$$\therefore T_{1000} - T'_{1000} = 100$$

III. Sum Of First 'n' Terms Of Arithmetic Progressions

2. Further we know that S_n is the algebraic notation for sum of series of Arithmetic Progressions for n terms. And current equations for sum of A.P are

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_1 + T_n] \text{ --- (4.1)}$$

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [a + l] \text{ --- (4.2)}$$

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2a + (n - 1)d] \text{ --- (4.3)}$$

Where, Initial term = $T_1 = a$; Last term = $T_n = l$; number of terms = n and common difference = d

3.1. Remodelling of (4.1), (4.2), (4.3) are done as following.

Consider prevailing equation, $S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_1 + T_n]$

Using (2), above equation can be written as,

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_1 + \{T_p + (n - p)d\}] \text{-----(5)}$$

Let $n - p = x$; substituting this relation in the above equation and rearranging conveniently we obtain.

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_p + (T_1 + xd)]$$

We know that $T_1 + d = T_2$
 $T_1 + 2d = T_3$
 \vdots
 $T_1 + xd = T_{(x+1)}$ ----- (6)

In view of (6) and (5) the equation, $S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_p + (T_1 + xd)]$ can be written as, $S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_p + T_{(x+1)}]$

Once again substituting the relation of 'x' in the above equation, we get

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}] \text{----- (7)}$$

This is the remodelled equation for sum of A.P for first n terms and this resembles (4.1) and (4.2).

3.2. Further, (4.3) is remodelled as following,

i. e., $S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2a + (n - 1)d]$

Replacing 'a' by T_1 , we have

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2T_1 + (n - 1)d]$$

Adding neutral pair $2d, -2d$, to the above equation, we have,

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2T_1 + (n - 1)d + 2d - 2d]$$

Rearranging them conveniently we have

$$= \frac{n}{2} [2T_1 + 2d + (n - 1)d - 2d]$$

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2(T_1 + d) + (n - 3)d]$$

Similarly, repeating same steps, we have

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2T_2 + 2d + (n - 3)d - 2d]$$

$$S_n = [2T_3 + (n - 5)d]$$

$$\vdots$$

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2T_p + \{n - (2p - 1)\}d]$$

Or

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2T_p + (n + 1 - 2p)d] \text{----- (8)}$$

This equation is equivalent to (4.3)

Case Study.

Case.I:

Putting $p = 1$ in (7), we get

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}]$$

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_1 + T_{(n-1)+1}]$$

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_1 + T_n]$$

This shows that from (7), prevailing equation is derivable.

Example. 3.1: Given $a_3 = 15, S_{10} = 125$, find d and a_{10} . [15]

Method.1: Solution to this problem, as given in [16]

Here, $a_3 = 15 = l$ and $S_{10} = 125$.

Let, first term of A.P be 'a' and common difference = d

$$\therefore a_3 = a + 2d$$

$$\Rightarrow a + 2d = 15 \text{----- (1)}$$

Again, $S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2a + (n - 1)d]$

$$\Rightarrow S_{10} = \frac{10}{2} [2a + (10 - 1)d]$$

$$\Rightarrow 125 = 5[2a + 9d]$$

$$\Rightarrow 2a + 9d = 25 \text{ --- (2)}$$

Solving for a and d from simultaneous equations (1) and (2), i.e.,

$$a + 2d = 15 \text{ --- (1)}$$

$$2a + 9d = 25 \text{ --- (2)}$$

$$\Rightarrow d = -1$$

$$\therefore \text{From (1), } a + 2(-1) = 15 \Rightarrow a = 15 + 2$$

$$\Rightarrow a = 17$$

$$\text{Now, } a_{10} = a + (10 - 1)d$$

$$= 17 + 9(-1)$$

$$= 17 - 9 = 8$$

Thus, $d = -1$ and $a_{10} = 8$

Method.2: Solved the same problem using remodelled equations as following.

It is given that, $S_n = S_{10} = 125$, $a_3 = T_3 = T_p = 15$, Then, $p = 3$ and $n = 10$

$$\text{Using (8), i.e., } S_n = \frac{n}{2}[2T_p + (n + 1 - 2p)d]$$

$$\text{Then, (8) is, } 125 = \frac{10}{2}[2 \times 15 + (10 + 1 - 2 \times 3)d]$$

$$5 = 6 + d$$

Consequently, $d = -1$

Then, using (2), $T_n = T_p + (n - p)d$

$$T_{10} = T_3 + (10 - 3)(-1)$$

$$T_{10} = 15 - 7$$

$$\Rightarrow T_{10} = a_{10} = 8$$

This is shorter and easier than the current method of solution.

Method. 3: Using (7), i.e., $S_n = \frac{n}{2}[T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}]$ this problem is solvable.

$$125 = \frac{10}{2}[T_3 + T_{(10-3)+1}]$$

$$125 = 5[15 + T_8]$$

$$T_8 = 10$$

$$\text{Now, } d = \frac{T_8 - T_3}{8 - 3}$$

$$d = \frac{10 - 15}{5} = -1$$

Then, using (2) $T_n = T_p + (n - p)d$

$$T_{10} = T_3 + (10 - 3)(-1)$$

$$T_{10} = 15 + (10 - 3)(-1)$$

$$T_{10} = 8$$

In method. 2. and method. 3., value of ' a ' is not required to find the solution.

Example.3.2: The sum of the third and seventh terms of an A.P is 6 and their product is 8.find the sum of first sixteen terms of A.P. [17]

Method.1:Present solution to above problem is, [18].

Sol: Here, $T_3 + T_7 = 6$ and $T_3 \times T_7 = 8$

Let, first term = a and the common difference = d

$$\therefore T_3 = a + 2d \text{ and } T_7 = a + 6d$$

$$\therefore T_3 + T_7 = 6$$

$$(a + 2d) + (a + 6d) = 6$$

$$\Rightarrow 2a + 8d = 6$$

$$\Rightarrow a + 4d = 3 \text{ --- (1)}$$

Again, $T_3 \times T_7 = 8$

$$\therefore (a + 2d) \times (a + 6d) = 8$$

$$\Rightarrow (a + 4d - 2d) \times (a + 4d + 2d) = 8$$

$$\Rightarrow [3 - 2d] \times [3 + 2d] = 8$$

$$\Rightarrow 9 - 4d^2 = 8$$

$$\Rightarrow d^2 = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow d = \pm \frac{1}{2}$$

When $d = \frac{1}{2}$

From (1), we have

$$a + 4\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = 3$$

$$\Rightarrow a = 1$$

Now, using $S_n = \frac{n}{2}[2a + (n - 1)d]$

$$S_{10} = \frac{16}{2}\left[2(1) + (16 - 1)\frac{1}{2}\right]$$

$$S_{10} = 76$$

When, $d = -\frac{1}{2}$

From (1), we have,

$$a + 4\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = 3$$

$$\Rightarrow a = 5$$

Again sum of first 16 terms

$$S_{16} = \frac{16}{2}\left[2(5) + (16 - 1)\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)\right]$$

$$S_{16} = 20$$

Method.2: Same problem is solved by using remodelled equations.

Given, $T_3 + T_7 = 6$ and $T_3 \times T_7 = 8$

Sol: Multiplying first datum by T_3 , we have

$$T_3(T_3 + T_7) = 6T_3$$

$$\Rightarrow T_3^2 + T_3T_7 = 6T_3$$

$$\Rightarrow T_3^2 - 6T_3 + 8 = 0 ; \text{ since } T_3 \times T_7 = 8$$

Factorised the above quadratic equation as following.

$$T_3^2 - 4T_3 - 2T_3 + 8 = 0$$

$$T_3(T_3 - 4) - 2(T_3 - 4) = 0$$

$$(T_3 - 4)(T_3 - 2) = 0$$

Consequently, $T_3 = 4$ or $T_3 = 2$

Then, $T_7 = 6 - 4 = 2$ or $T_7 = 6 - 2 = 4$

To find 'd', known relation is used, i.e., $d = \frac{T_q - T_p}{q - p}$

$$\text{Then, } d = \frac{T_7 - T_3}{7 - 3} = \frac{2 - 4}{7 - 3} = \frac{-2}{4} = -\frac{1}{2}$$

Then, to find sum of first 16 terms, $S_n = \frac{n}{2}[2T_p + (n + 1 - 2p)d]$ is used.

Accordingly, substituting known and obtained values, we have,

$$S_{16} = \frac{16}{2}\left[2 \times 4 + (16 + 1 - 2 \times 3)\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)\right]; \text{ where, } n = 16, T_p = T_3 = 4 \text{ and } d = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$S_{16} = 8\left[8 - \frac{11}{2}\right]$$

$$\text{i.e., } S_{16} = 20$$

Similarly, sum of sixteen terms for another value of T_3 can be found.

Advantages of method.2., in comparison with prevailing method i.e., method.1.

1. Number of steps are remarkably less than the previous method.
2. In prevailing method, finding first term is essential, whereas in case of remodelled equation finding first term is not essential to find the result or required value.
3. 'd' is found directly using a little advanced method.
4. Finally, sum of sixteen terms is found without the help of first term.

Example. 3.3: In an A.P., if p^{th} term is $\frac{1}{q}$ and q^{th} term is $\frac{1}{p}$, prove that the sum of first pq terms

$$\text{is } \frac{1}{2}(pq + 1), \text{ where } p \neq q. [19].$$

Method.1: Prevailing solution to this problem: [6]

It is known that general term of an A.P, is $a_n = a + (n - 1)d$

According to given information,

$$p^{th} \text{ term is, } a_p = a + (p - 1)d = \frac{1}{q} \text{ --- (1)}$$

$$q^{th} \text{ term is, } a_q = a + (q - 1)d = \frac{1}{p} \text{ --- (2)}$$

Subtracting (2) from (1) we obtain.

$$(p - 1)d - (q - 1)d = \frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p}$$

$$\Rightarrow (p - 1 - q + 1)d = \frac{p - q}{pq}$$

$$\Rightarrow d = \frac{1}{pq}$$

Putting the value of d in (1), we obtain

$$a + (p - 1)\frac{1}{pq} = \frac{1}{q}$$

$$\Rightarrow a = \frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{pq} + \frac{1}{pq} = \frac{1}{pq}$$

$$\therefore S_{pq} = \frac{pq}{2} [2a + (pq - 1)d]$$

$$= \frac{pq}{2} \left[\frac{2}{pq} + (pq - 1)\frac{1}{pq} \right]$$

$$= \frac{pq}{2} \times \frac{1}{pq} [2 + pq - 1]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (pq + 1)$$

Thus the sum of first pq terms of the A. P is $\frac{1}{2} (pq + 1)$

Method.2: Same problem is solved using remodelled equations as following:

Data: $T_p = \frac{1}{q}; T_q = \frac{1}{p}; n = pq;$

Then, $d = \frac{T_q - T_p}{q - p}$

$$\therefore d = \frac{\frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{q}}{q - p}$$

Simplify the above, we get, $d = \frac{1}{pq}$

Now using remodelled equation $S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2T_p + (n + 1 - 2p)d]$

Then sum of first pq terms is, $S_{pq} = \frac{pq}{2} [2T_p + (pq + 1 - 2p)\frac{1}{pq}]$

Simplify the above, we have, $S_{pq} = \frac{1}{2} (pq + 1)$

Thus proved.

In this method, direct approach towards the result is noticeable.

Case.II:

Putting $p = \frac{n}{2}$ in (7), we obtain, (As 'p' is a natural number, 'n' will be an even number in this case)

i. e., $S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}]$

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} \left[T_{\frac{n}{2}} + T_{(n - \frac{n}{2}) + 1} \right]$$

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} \left[T_{\frac{n}{2}} + T_{\frac{n}{2} + 1} \right]$$

Note: $T_{\frac{n}{2}} + T_{\frac{n}{2} + 1}$ is the sum of middle conjugate pair., refer section IV of this article.

Example.3.4: If fifth term of an A.P, is 15 and sixth term is 18, find sum of first ten terms.

Data: $n = 10, T_5 = T_n = 15$ and $T_6 = T_{\frac{n}{2} + 1} = 18$, Also $\frac{n}{2} = \frac{10}{2} = 5$ is a natural number.

Therefore above relation for S_n is applicable.

$$i.e., S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_{\frac{n}{2}} + T_{\frac{n}{2}+1}]$$

Substituting the given values, we have, $S_{10} = \frac{10}{2} [15 + 18]$
 $S_{10} = 165$

Case.III.

When $P = \frac{n \pm 1}{2}$, (7) is simplified as following; (Since 'P' is a natural number 'n' should be odd number)

a) Putting $p = \frac{n+1}{2}$ we have $S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}]$
 $= \frac{n}{2} [T_{(\frac{n+1}{2})} + T_{\{n-(\frac{n+1}{2})\}+1}]$
 $= \frac{n}{2} [T_{(\frac{n+1}{2})} + T_{(\frac{n+1}{2})}]$
 $S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2T_{(\frac{n+1}{2})}]$
 $S_n = n [T_{(\frac{n+1}{2})}] \text{-----(9)}$

Note: $T_{(\frac{n+1}{2})}$ is the middle term since n is an odd number.

Example. 3.5: Find the sum of the first 111 terms of an A.P, whose 56th term is $\frac{5}{37}$. [20]

Method.1. Prevailing Solution, [21]

The 56th term is $\frac{5}{37} \Rightarrow T_{56} = \frac{5}{37}, n = 5$

In A.P, $T_n = a + (n - 1)d$

Put $n = 56, T_{56} = a + 55d$

$\therefore a + 55d = \frac{5}{37}$ ----- (1)

Now we need to find the sum of 111 terms

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2a + (n - 1)d]$$

$$S_{111} = \frac{111}{2} [2a + 110d]$$

$$S_{111} = 111[a + 55d]$$

Putting relation (1) in the above equation, we have,

$$S_{111} = 111 \left[\frac{5}{37} \right]$$

$$S_{111} = 15$$

Method. 2. Using remodelled equation this problem is solved as following,

Given; $n = 111, T_{56} = \frac{5}{37}$

Here n is an odd number, $\therefore \frac{n+1}{2} = \frac{111+1}{2} = 56$; $\therefore T_{56}$ is the middle term of this A.P., then

$$S_n = n \left[T_{(\frac{n+1}{2})} \right]$$

$$S_{111} = 111 \left[T_{(\frac{111+1}{2})} \right]$$

$$S_{111} = 111 [T_{56}]$$

$$S_{111} = 111 \left[\frac{5}{37} \right]$$

$$S_{111} = 15$$

This method is easier and shorter than method.1.

Example.3.6: If sixth term of A.P is 18, find sum of first eleven terms of A.P.

Data: $n = 11$, hence $\frac{n+1}{2} = \frac{11+1}{2} = 6, T_6 = 18$,

Using the equation derived in case. III. i. e, $S_n = n \left[T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} \right]$

$$S_{11} = 11[(18)]$$

$$S_{11} = 198$$

In this case sum of first 11 terms is found without the help of d and a.

But, actual A.P is remaining unknown. Specific A.P is not possible to find in this case, although it is possible to find set of A.Ps or family of A.P.

It is known that $T_6 = 18$, this can be written as, $T_1 + 5d = 18$

This equation $T_1 + 5d = 18$ indicates family of solutions.

To find particular A.P it requires one more criterion. For example, if $T_1 = d$,

$$\text{we have } T_1 + 5d = 18$$

$$d + 5d = 18$$

$$6d = 18$$

$$\text{Then } d = 3$$

Now only it is possible to find particular A.P i.e., 3,6,9...18...33

Similarly, if $T_1 = 8$,

putting value of T_1 in $T_1 + 5d = 18$, we have

$$8 + 5d = 18$$

$$\text{Then, } d = 2$$

\therefore A.P is 8, 10, 12, ... 18, ..., 28

$\therefore T_1 + 5d = 18$ indicates family of A.Ps

Example. 3.7: Find three numbers in A.P. whose sum and products are respectively. i) 21 and 231.

[22]

Method.1: This is the current method of solution.[23]

Let the three numbers be $a - d, a, a + d$

Given their sum = 21

$$\therefore a - d + a + a + d = 21$$

$$3a = 21$$

$$a = 7$$

And their product is = 231

$$(a - d)a(a + d) = 231$$

$$a(a^2 - d^2) = 231$$

$$7(7^2 - d^2) = 231$$

$$7^2 - d^2 = 33$$

$$d = \pm 4$$

\therefore The numbers are $a - d = 7 - 4 = 3$

$$a = 7$$

$$a + d = 7 + 4 = 11$$

They are, 3,7,11

Note- In this method 'a' is not initial term. This may lead to confusion because algebraic notation 'a' in

Arithmetic Progression is particularly meant to first term.

Method. 2: Same problem is solved by using remodelled equations as following.

Given $S_3 = 21$

i. e., applying (9) we have,

$$21 = 3[T_2] \text{ ; since } T_2 \text{ is the middle term.}$$

$$\therefore T_2 = 7$$

Also, given that, $T_1 \times T_2 \times T_3 = 231$

This can be written as $(T_2 - d)T_2(T_2 + d) = 231$

$$(7 - d)7(7 + d) = 231$$

$$7^2 - d^2 = 33$$

$$d = \pm 4$$

\therefore numbers are, 3, 7, 11 (since $T_2 = 7$ and $d = 4$, T_1 will be = 3)

b) Putting $p = \frac{n-1}{2}$, we have

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}]$$

$$= \frac{n}{2} \left[T_{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} + T_{\left\{n - \left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)\right\}+1} \right]$$

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} \left[T_{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} + T_{\left(\frac{n+3}{2}\right)} \right]$$

Example: If fifth term of an A.P is 15 and seventh term is 21, find sum of first 11 terms.

Data: $n = 11, T_{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} = T_{\left(\frac{11-1}{2}\right)} = T_5 = 15, T_{\left(\frac{n+3}{2}\right)} = T_{\left(\frac{11+3}{2}\right)} = T_7 = 21.$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then, } S_n &= \frac{n}{2} \left[T_{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} + T_{\left(\frac{n+3}{2}\right)} \right] \\ &= \frac{n}{2} \left[T_{\left(\frac{11-1}{2}\right)} + T_{\left(\frac{11+3}{2}\right)} \right] \\ &= \frac{n}{2} [T_5 + T_7] \\ &= \frac{11}{2} [15 + 21] \\ &= 198 \end{aligned}$$

Case. IV: When $p = n, S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}]$ will be,

$$= \frac{n}{2} [T_n + T_{(n-n)+1}]$$

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_n + T_1]$$

This resembles case. I.

Similarly, same results are obtainable using (8), i. e., $S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2T_p + (n + 1 - 2p)d]$

IV. Conjugate Pair And Terms

In (7), it is noticeable that the sum of the terms T_p and $T_{(n-p)+1}$ is a constant to first n terms of an A.P. Conjugate pair or conjugate terms or pair of equidistant terms. This can be written as $(T_p, T_{(n-p)+1})$.

And the sum of conjugate pair is a constant, i. e., $S_{c,p}^p = (T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}) = k$ — — — — (10)

where k is a constant for given n of A.P and in $S_{c,p}^p$ sum of conjugate terms of p^{th} term.

For instance, consider the sequence 1,3,5, ..., 23. In this sequence $n = 12$.

From (9) we have $S_{c,p}^p = (T_p + T_{(n-p)+1})$

For $p = 1, (9)$ will be; $S_{c,p}^1 = (T_1 + T_{(12-1)+1}) = (T_1 + T_{12}) = (1 + 23) = 24$

$p = 2, ; S_{c,p}^2 = (T_2 + T_{(12-2)+1}) = (T_2 + T_{11}) = (3 + 21) = 24$

$p = 3, ; S_{c,p}^3 = (T_3 + T_{(12-3)+1}) = (T_3 + T_{10}) = (5 + 19) = 24$

⋮

For $p = 6, (9)$ will be; $S_{c,p}^6 = (T_6 + T_{(12-6)+1}) = (T_6 + T_7) = (1 + 23) = 24$

Here maximum value of $p = \frac{n}{2}$ when n is even number and $p = \frac{n-1}{2}$ when n is an odd number.

And a middle term exists when n is an odd number.

In this case, number of conjugate pairs is $n_{c,p} = \frac{12}{2} = 6$; where $n_{c,p}$ denotes number of conjugate pairs.

If A.P is 1, 3, 5, ..., 25. Here conjugates are as following,

For $p = 1, (9)$ will be; $S_{c,p}^1 = (T_1 + T_{(13-1)+1}) = (T_1 + T_{13}) = (1 + 25) = 26$

For $p = 2, (9)$ will be; $S_{c,p}^2 = (T_2 + T_{(13-1)+1}) = (T_2 + T_{12}) = (3 + 23) = 26$

⋮

For $p = 6, (9)$ will be; $S_{c,p}^6 = (T_6 + T_{(13-6)+1}) = (T_6 + T_8) = (11 + 15) = 26$

In this case mid term exists, hence number of conjugate terms are $\frac{n-1}{2}$, when

n is odd. Here $n_{c,p} = \frac{13-1}{2} = 6$ pairs of conjugates and next term is middle term i. e., $T_7 = 13$.

Properties of conjugate pair and terms.

1) In conjugate pair, each term is conjugate to another. i. e., T_p is conjugate to $T_{(n-p)+1}$ and vice versa.

2) When n is an odd number, Then value of mid – term is always equal to, $T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} = \frac{[T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}]}{2}$

Example. 4.1. Find the middle term of A.P. 10,7,4, ..., -62 (AI CBSE 209 C). [24]

Method.1. Solution furnished in the book. [24]

Solution: Here $a = 10$; $d = 7 - 10 = -3$; $T_n = -62$

\therefore using $T_n = a + (n - 1)d$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} -62 &= 10 + (n - 1) \times (-3) \\ \Rightarrow n - 1 &= \frac{-62 - 10}{-3} = \frac{-72}{-3} = 24 \\ \Rightarrow n &= 25 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \text{Middle term} &= \left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right) \text{th term} \\ &= \frac{25+1}{2} \\ &= 13^{\text{th}} \text{ term} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } T_{13} &= 10 + 12d \\ &= 10 + 12(-3) \\ &= -26 \end{aligned}$$

Thus the middle term = -26

Method. 2. Solution using middle term equation, $T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} = \frac{[T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}]}{2}$

Solution: Let we choose a conjugate terms, $a = T_p = 10$ and $l = T_{(n-p)+1} = -62$

When n is considered as an odd number then middle term exists and putting the values in the

middle term equation, we have $T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} = \frac{[10 - 62]}{2}$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Middle term } T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} = -26$$

Hence the answer is also guessable by this method.

Proof of mid term : Consider the expression of mid term, $T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} = \frac{[T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}]}{2}$

whence n is odd number.

Let $p = \frac{n+1}{2}$, here n is odd number.

Then, $T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} = \frac{[T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}]}{2}$ can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} &= \frac{\left[T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} + T_{\left(n - \left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right) + 1\right)} \right]}{2} \\ &= \frac{\left[T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} + T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} \right]}{2} \\ &= \frac{2T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)}}{2} \\ T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} &= T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} \\ \text{LHS} &= \text{RHS} \end{aligned}$$

Thus proved.

Example. 4.2: let 3, 6, 9, ..., 21 is an A.P of 7 terms, find mid term.

Here, $n = 7$, then $\frac{n+1}{2} = \frac{7+1}{2} = 4$, T_4 is the mid term. and value of this term is

$$T_{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} = \frac{[T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}]}{2}$$

Let value of p be arbitrarily choosen, i.e, let $p = 3$, then

Putting the values in the above equation, $T_4 = \frac{[T_3 + T_{(7-3)+1}]}{2}$

$$T_4 = \frac{[T_3 + T_5]}{2}$$

Middle term is;

$$T_4 = \frac{9 + 15}{2} = 12$$

3) Sum of first 'n' terms is, $S_n = \frac{n}{2} [k]$;

Above equation can be written as $S_n = \frac{n}{2} [S_{c.p}^p]$

Consequently, $S_n = \frac{n}{2} [(T_p + T_{(n-p)+1})] - - - - - (11)$

Proof of (11) is very simple, i.e., by putting $p = 1$ we get the already known equation,

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} [T_1 + T_n]$$

4) Sum of terms of each conjugate pair is constant to the given A.P. to first n terms.

i.e., $[T_1 + T_n] = [T_2 + T_{(n-1)}] = \dots = [T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}] = \dots = [T_n + [T_1]] = k$

And $k = 2a + (n - 1)d$

Proof,

We know that sum to first 'n' terms of an A.P is

$$S_n = T_1 + T_2 + T_3 + \dots + T_p + \dots + T_n - - - - - (1)$$

$$S_n = T_n + T_{(n-1)} + T_{(n-2)} + \dots + T_{(n-p)+1} + \dots + T_1 - - - - - (2) \text{ [Written in the reverse order]}$$

Adding (1) and (2) we have,

$$2S_n = [T_1 + T_n] + [T_2 + T_{(n-1)}] + [T_3 + T_{(n-2)}] + \dots + [T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}] + \dots + [T_n + T_1] - - - - - (3)$$

Similarly, it is known that,

$$2S_n = [2a + (n - 1)d] + \dots + [2a + (n - 1)d] + \dots + [2a + (n - 1)d] \text{ upto } n \text{ terms} - - - (4)$$

Comparing (3) and (4) we have

$$[T_1 + T_n] = [T_2 + T_{(n-1)}] = \dots = [T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}] = \dots = [T_n + [T_1]] = [2a + (n - 1)d]$$

$$\therefore k = [2a + (n - 1)d]$$

Thus proved.

Further, conjugate pairs that are made in a particular A.P, number of pairs will be equal to integral number (i.e., natural number), only when number of terms 'n' is an even number. Also, when n is odd number mid- term exists.

i.e., When 'n' is even number, number of conjugate pairs = $\frac{n}{2}$

And, when 'n' is an odd number, then number of conjugate pairs = $\frac{n - 1}{2}$ and one

mid - term exists. Also the mid - term $T_{(\frac{n+1}{2})}$ is always equal to $\frac{[T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}]}{2}$.

Example. 4.3: In an A.P, if sum of conjugate terms 18th and 52nd terms is 176, find middle term. And find the sum of first n terms. Also find the family of A.P.

Solution: Data; $p = 18$; $[T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}] = 176$; $T_{(\frac{n}{2})} = ?$, $S_n = ?$, and family of A.P = ?.

$$T_p = T_{18}; \therefore p = 18$$

$$\text{Similarly, } T_{(n-p)+1} = T_{52}$$

\therefore Equating the subscripts of T on both sides, we have, $(n - p) + 1 = 52$

Putting the value of p in the above equation, we have, $(n - 18) + 1 = 52$

Consequently, $n = 69$

Since $n = 69$ is an odd number, mid term exists,

$$\text{Hence, } T_{\frac{n+1}{2}} = \frac{[T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}]}{2}$$

$$= \frac{176}{2} = 88$$

$$\text{Also, } 88 = \frac{k}{2}$$

Further to find sum of first 69 terms, $S_n = n \left(\frac{k}{2}\right)$; since n is an odd number.

$$\text{i.e., } S_{69} = 69 \times 88$$

$$\Rightarrow S_{69} = 6072$$

Moreover to find the family of A.P, we have,

$$[T_p + T_{(n-p)+1}] = 176$$

$$\text{i.e., } 2a + (n - 1)d = 176$$

$$2a + (69 - 1)d = 176$$

$$2a + 68d = 176$$

$$a + 34d = 88$$

This is the family of A.P in this case.

For instance, let $a = 10d$, then by putting this relation in the above equation.

we have $a + 34d = 88$

$$10d + 34d = 88$$

$$\Rightarrow d = 2$$

Then, $a = 10d$

$$= 10 \times 2$$

$$a = 20$$

Also, 69th term is, $T_{69} = 20 + (69 - 1)2$

$$T_{69} = 156$$

Consequently, member of family of A.P. is $10d, 11d, 12d, \dots, 78d$

i. e., $20, 22, 24, \dots, 156$

This fulfils all the conditions that an A.P should have to exhibit, They are,

1) Common difference is constant. i. e., $d = 22 - 20 = 2$ and $d = 24 - 22 = 2$ and so on.

2) sum of terms of each conjugate pairs is constant. for example, $20 + 156 = 22 + 154 = \dots = 176$

3) Since $n = 69$ is an odd number, this A.P has a middle term.

and etc.

$\therefore 20, 22, 24, \dots, 156$ is a member of family of A.P, $a + 34d = 88$

To find another one, let $a = -23d$

Then, $a + 34d = 88 \Rightarrow -23d + 34d = 88$

i. e., $11d = 88$

hence, $d = 8$

Further to find the last term, $T_n = a + (n - 1)d$

$$= -23 \times 8 + (69 - 1)8$$

$$= -184 + 544$$

$$T_n = 360$$

Now another member of this family is, $-184, -176, -168, \dots, 360$

Similarly, this A.P, also follows all conditions.

i. e., 1) Common difference is constant.

i. e., $d = -176 - (-184) = 8$ and $d = -168 - (-176) = 8$ and so on.

2) sum of terms of each conjugate pairs is constant.

i. e., $-184 + 360 = -176 + 352 = \dots = 176$.

3) Since $n = 69$ which is an odd number, this A.P has a middle term.

And etc.

Example. 4.4: The sum of first and fifth terms of an A.P is equal to 26, and product of second and fourth is 160, find the sum of first six terms.

Solution: Given, $T_1 + T_5 = 26$ & $T_2 \times T_4 = 160$

From 1st to 5th term, number of terms is 5 terms, then mid term is 3rd term.

Since T_1 and T_5 are conjugate terms in A.P of 1 to 5 terms

$$\text{Hence, } T_3 = \frac{T_1 + T_5}{2} = \frac{26}{2} = 13$$

Using value of T_3 , 'd' can be found as following.

It is given that $T_2 \times T_4 = 160$

i. e., $(T_3 - d)(T_3 + d) = 160$

$$(13 - d)(13 + d) = 160$$

$$13^2 - d^2 = 160$$

$$\Rightarrow d = 3$$

Then, $S_n = \frac{n}{2} [2T_p + \{(n + 1) - 2p\}d]$

$$S_6 = \frac{6}{2} [2 \times 13 + \{(6 + 1) - 2 \times 3\}3]$$

$$S_6 = 87$$

Example. 4.5: Given $a_3 = 15, S_{10} = 125$, find d and a_{10} . [15]

This problem is solved at section III, example.3.1, using current method and remodelled equation. Here same problem is solved using (11) which is one of conjugate property.

Solution: consider, $S_n = \frac{n}{2} [(T_p + T_{(n-p)+1})]$

Here $T_3 = 15, n = 10$,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then, } 125 &= \frac{10}{2} [15 + T_{10-3+1}] \\ \Rightarrow 25 &= 15 + T_8 \\ \Rightarrow T_8 &= 10 \\ \text{Then, } d &= \frac{T_8 - T_3}{8 - 3} \\ &= \frac{10 - 5}{5} \\ d &= 1 \\ \text{Then, } T_{10} &= T_8 + 2d \\ &= 10 + 2 \\ T_{10} &= 12 \end{aligned}$$

V. Conclusion

Generalisation of equations and shortcuts to results will be helpful to students. This article is aimed at both perspectives.

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- [23] Book.[5], Progression (part-5), Exercise.2.3 (from text book), p.54; Q.9.
- [24] Book. [4], Chapter 5, 'Arithmetic Progressions', II. Short answer type questions. p.277; Q.12.

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