

Arithmetic and Geometric Progression

1. The geometric series converges if $\left| \frac{x}{1-x} \right| < 1 \Leftrightarrow |x| < |1-x| \Leftrightarrow x^2 < (1-x)^2 = 1 - 2x + x^2 \Leftrightarrow x < \frac{1}{2}$

The sum to infinity for such values of $x = \frac{1}{1 - \left(-\frac{x}{1-x} \right)} = 1 - x$.

2. The first series converges if $|x| < 1 \Leftrightarrow -1 < x < 1$ (1)

The second series converges if $\left| \frac{x}{1+x} \right| < 1 \Rightarrow -\frac{1}{2} < x$ (2)

From (1) and (2), the common range of x is $-\frac{1}{2} < x < 1$.

In this range, $s_1 = \frac{1}{1+x}$, $s_2 = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{x}{1+x}} = 1+x$, $s_1 s_2 = 1$.

3. Let a be the first term and d the common difference.

$$\therefore a + (p-1)d = P \quad (1) \quad a + (q-1)d = Q \quad (2) \quad a + (r-1)d = R \quad (3)$$

If $d = 0$, then $P = Q = R = a$ and the result is obvious.

If $d \neq 0$, then $\{(2)-(1)\}/d$, $q - p = (Q - P)/d$ (4)

$$\{(3)-(1)\}/d, \quad r - p = (R - P)/d \quad (5)$$

$$\{(1)-(2)\}/d, \quad p - q = (P - Q)/d \quad (6)$$

$$\text{From (4), (5), (6), } P(q-r) + Q(r-p) + R(p-q) = \frac{P(Q-R)}{d} + \frac{Q(R-P)}{d} + \frac{R(P-Q)}{d} = 0$$

If the sequence is geometrical, let a be the first term and b be the common ratio.

$$\therefore ab^{p-1} = P \Rightarrow \log a + (p-1) \log b = \log P \quad (7)$$

$$ab^{q-1} = P \Rightarrow \log a + (q-1) \log b = \log Q \quad (8)$$

$$ab^{r-1} = P \Rightarrow \log a + (r-1) \log b = \log R \quad (9)$$

$\therefore \log P, \log Q, \log R$ are the $p^{\text{th}}, q^{\text{th}}, r^{\text{th}}$ terms respectively of an arithmetic sequence.

By the first part of this question, $(q-r) \log P + (r-p) \log Q + (p-q) \log R = 0$.

4. Let r be the common ratio. $1 + r + \dots + r^{n-1} = 255$ (1)

$$1 + \frac{1}{r} + \dots + \frac{1}{r^{n-1}} = \frac{255}{128} \quad (2)$$

$$\text{From (2), } \frac{1}{r^{n-1}} (1 + r + \dots + r^{n-1}) = \frac{255}{128} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{r^{n-1}} (255) = \frac{255}{128} \Rightarrow r^{n-1} = 128 \quad (3)$$

$$\text{From (1), } \frac{r^{n-1} - 1}{r - 1} + r^{n-1} = 255 \Rightarrow \frac{128 - 1}{r - 1} + 128 = 255 \Rightarrow r = 2 \quad (4)$$

$$(4) \downarrow (3), \quad 2^{n-1} = 128 = 2^7 = 2^{8-1}. \quad \therefore n = 8.$$

5. “convergent series” – Let $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n, \dots$ be an infinite sequence and let $s_1 = u_1, s_2 = u_1 + u_2, \dots, s_n = u_1 + u_2 + \dots + u_n$ be the partial sums. Then $u_1 + u_2 + \dots + u_n + \dots$ is a convergent series if $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = s$ exists. i.e. $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N(\varepsilon) > 0$ s.t. $n > N \Rightarrow |s_n - s| < \varepsilon$. s is called the “sum to infinity of the convergent series”.

For the geometric series : $s = a + ar + ar^2 + \dots + ar^{n-1} + \dots$, first we prove that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^n = 0$ when $|r| < 1$.

By the Bernoulli's inequality which states that if $1 + h > 0$ and $n \geq 2$, then $(1 + h)^n > 1 + nh$.

Now, since $|r| < 1$, we can write $|r| = \frac{1}{1+h}, h > 0$. Therefore $|r^n| = \frac{1}{(1+h)^n} < \frac{1}{1+nh}$.

Given $\varepsilon > 0$, $|r^n| < \varepsilon$ if $1 + nh > 1/\varepsilon$. Thus, $|r^n| < \varepsilon$ if $n > (1/\varepsilon - 1)/h$.

Put $N = [(1/\varepsilon - 1)/h] + 1$, then $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N(\varepsilon) > 0$ s.t. $n > N \Rightarrow |r^n - 0| < \varepsilon$.

$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^n = 0$ when $|r| < 1$.

Observe that : $s_n = a \frac{1-r^n}{1-r} = \frac{a}{1-r} - \frac{ar^n}{1-r} \therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = \frac{a}{1-r}$, since $\frac{ar^n}{1-r} \rightarrow 0$

Note : When $r > 1$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^n = \infty$, the series diverges.

When $r = 1$, $s_n = na$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = \infty$, the series diverges.

When $r = -1$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^n$ oscillates between 1 and -1, the series oscillates finitely.

When $r < -1$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^n = \pm\infty$ the series oscillates infinitely.

(a) $2 + \frac{4}{3} + \frac{8}{9} + \frac{16}{27} + \dots$ converges since $|r| = 2/3 < 1$.

(b) $1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + 1 - \dots$ oscillates infinitely since $r = -1$.

$$6. S_{4m} = 44 S_m \Rightarrow \frac{u_1 + u_{4m}}{2} (4m) = 44 \times \frac{u_1 + u_m}{2} (m) \Rightarrow u_1 + u_{4m} = 11(u_1 + u_m) \Rightarrow u_1 + 24 = 11(u_1 + 4)$$

$$\therefore u_1 = -2 \quad u_m = u_1 + (m-1)d = 4 \quad \therefore (m-1)d = 4 - u_1 = 6 \quad \dots(1)$$

$$u_{4m} = u_1 + (4m-1)d = 24 \quad \therefore (4m-1)d = 24 - u_1 = 26 \quad \dots(2)$$

$$(2)/(1), \quad (4m-1)/(m-1) = 26/6 \quad \therefore m = 10$$

$$7. S_n = \frac{2u_1 + (n-1)d}{2} (n) = 2n \Rightarrow 2u_1 + (n-1)d = 4 \quad \dots(1)$$

$$S_{2n} = \frac{2u_1 + (2n-1)d}{2} (2n) = n \Rightarrow 2u_1 + (2n-1)d = 1 \quad \dots(2)$$

$$(2) - (1), \quad nd = -3 \quad \dots(3)$$

$$S_{4n} = \frac{2u_1 + (4n-1)d}{2} (n) = 2 \left[\frac{2u_1 + (2n-1)d}{2} (2n) + \frac{2nd}{2} (2n) \right] = 2[S_{2n} + 2n(nd)] = 2[n + 2n(-3)] = -10n, \text{ by (3).}$$

$$8. \text{ Sum} = \sum_{r=0}^{332} (3r+1) + \sum_{r=0}^{332} (3r+2) = 6 \sum_{r=0}^{332} r + 3 \sum_{r=0}^{332} 1 = 6 \frac{332 \times 333}{2} + 3(333) = 3(333)(333) = \underline{\underline{332667}}$$

$$9. \text{ The first integer in the } n^{\text{th}} \text{ group} = 1 + 2 + \dots + (n-1) + 1 = \frac{n(n-1)}{2} + 1 = \underline{\underline{\frac{n^2 - n + 2}{2}}}$$

$$\therefore \text{ Sum of the integers of the } n^{\text{th}} \text{ group} = \frac{n}{2} [2u_1 + (n-1)d] = \frac{n}{2} \left[2 \times \frac{n^2 - n + 2}{2} + (n-1)1 \right] = \underline{\underline{\frac{n(n^2 + 1)}{2}}}$$

$$10. S = (2m+1) + (2m+3) + \dots + (4m-1) = \frac{(2m+1) + (4m+1)}{2} m = \underline{\underline{3m^2}}$$

Since $3m^2$ contains a factor 3, therefore S is divisible by 3.

If m is even, put $m = 2n$, where $n \in \mathbf{N}$, then $S = 3(2n)^2 = 12n^2$, which is divisible by 12.

11. Let the three positive numbers be $a-d, a, a+d$.

$$\text{Then, } (a-d)^2 + a^2 + (a+d)^2 = 165 \quad \dots(1)$$

$$(a-d) + a + (a+d) = 21 \quad \dots(2)$$

From (2), $a = 7$ and substitute this value in (1), $d = \pm 3$, giving the three numbers: 4, 7, 10.

$$12. a^2, b^2, c^2 \text{ form an arithmetic sequence} \Rightarrow b^2 - a^2 = c^2 - b^2 \Rightarrow (b-a)(b+a) = (c-b)(c+b)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{b-a}{b+c} = \frac{c-b}{a+b} \Rightarrow \frac{b-a}{(c+a)(b+c)} = \frac{c-b}{(a+b)(a+c)} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{c+a} - \frac{1}{b+c} = \frac{1}{a+b} - \frac{1}{a+c}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{b+c}, \frac{1}{c+a}, \frac{1}{a+b} \text{ form an arithmetic sequence.}$$

13. Since arithmetic sequence has constant common difference, the points $P = (p, a), Q = (q, b), R = (r, c)$ are

$$\text{points on a straight line. } \therefore m_{PQ} = m_{QR} \Rightarrow \frac{a-b}{p-q} = \frac{b-c}{q-r} \Rightarrow (q-r)a + (r-p)b + (p-q)c = 0.$$

$$14. (p, q), (q, p), (m, a_m) \text{ are collinear, giving Gradient} = \frac{a_m - p}{m - q} = \frac{p - q}{q - p} = -1 \Rightarrow a_m = p + q - m$$

$$\text{Since } (p, a_p), (q, a_q), (p+q, a_{p+q}) \text{ are collinear, giving } \frac{a_{p+q} - a_p}{p+q-p} = \frac{a_p - a_q}{p-q} \Rightarrow \frac{a_{p+q} - a_p}{2q} = \frac{a_p - a_q}{2(p-q)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{q} \left[\left(\frac{a_1 + a_{p+q}}{2} \right) - \left(\frac{a_1 + a_p}{2} \right) \right] = \frac{1}{p-q} \left[\left(\frac{a_1 + a_p}{2} \right) - \left(\frac{a_1 + a_q}{2} \right) \right] \Rightarrow \frac{1}{q} \left[\frac{S_{p+q}}{p+q} - \frac{S_p}{p} \right] = \frac{1}{p-q} \left[\frac{S_p}{p} - \frac{S_q}{q} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow S_{p+q} = \frac{p+q}{p-q} (S_p - S_q) \Rightarrow S_{p+q} = \frac{p+q}{p-q} (q-p) \Rightarrow S_{p+q} = -(p+q)$$

$$15. \text{ From No. 14, } S_{p+q} = \frac{p+q}{p-q} (S_p - S_q) = 0$$

$$16. S_m = \frac{a_1 + a_m}{2} m, S_n = \frac{a_1 + a_n}{2} n \quad \therefore \frac{S_m}{S_n} = \frac{m^2}{n^2} \Rightarrow \frac{a_1 + a_m}{a_1 + a_n} = \frac{m}{n} \Rightarrow \frac{2a_1 + (m-1)d}{2a_1 + (n-1)d} = \frac{m}{n} \Rightarrow a_1 = \frac{d}{2}$$

$$\therefore \frac{a_m}{a_n} = \frac{a_1 + (m-1)d}{a_1 + (n-1)d} = \frac{d/2 + (m-1)d}{d/2 + (n-1)d} = \frac{2m-1}{2n-1}$$

17. Let $a_2 = d$, then $a_k = a_1 + (k-1)d = (k-1)d$

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \frac{a_3}{a_2} + \frac{a_4}{a_3} + \dots + \frac{a_n}{a_{n-1}} - a_2 \left(\frac{1}{a_2} + \frac{1}{a_3} + \dots + \frac{1}{a_{n-2}} \right) = \frac{2}{1} + \frac{3}{2} + \dots + \frac{n-1}{n-2} - \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n-3} \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{2}{1} - 1 \right) + \left(\frac{3}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \right) + \dots + \left(\frac{n-2}{n-3} - \frac{1}{n-3} \right) + \frac{n-1}{n-2} = 1 + 1 + \dots + 1 + \left(1 + \frac{1}{n-2} \right) = n-3 + \left(1 + \frac{1}{n-2} \right) \\ &= n-2 + \frac{1}{n-2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 18. \quad S &= \frac{\sqrt{a_2} - \sqrt{a_1}}{a_2 - a_1} + \frac{\sqrt{a_3} - \sqrt{a_2}}{a_3 - a_2} + \dots + \frac{\sqrt{a_n} - \sqrt{a_{n-1}}}{a_n - a_{n-1}} = \frac{1}{d} \left[(\sqrt{a_2} - \sqrt{a_1}) + (\sqrt{a_3} - \sqrt{a_2}) + \dots + (\sqrt{a_n} - \sqrt{a_{n-1}}) \right] \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{a_n} - \sqrt{a_1}}{d} = \frac{a_n - a_1}{d(\sqrt{a_n} + \sqrt{a_1})} = \frac{(n-1)d}{d(\sqrt{a_n} + \sqrt{a_1})} = \frac{n-1}{\sqrt{a_n} + \sqrt{a_1}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 19. \quad S &= a_1^2 - a_2^2 + a_3^2 - a_4^2 + \dots + a_{2k-1}^2 - a_{2k}^2 = (a_1 - a_2)(a_1 + a_2) + (a_3 - a_4)(a_3 + a_4) + \dots + (a_{2k-1} - a_{2k})(a_{2k-1} + a_{2k}) \\ &= -d(a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4 + \dots + a_{2k-1} + a_{2k}) = -d S_{2k} = -d \frac{a_1 + a_{2k}}{2} (2k) = \frac{k}{2k-1} (a_1 + a_{2k}) [-d(2k-1)] \\ &= \frac{k}{2k-1} (a_1 + a_{2k}) [a_1 - (a_1 + d(2k-1))] = \frac{k}{2k-1} (a_1 + a_{2k})(a_1 - a_{2k}) = \frac{k}{2k-1} (a_1^2 - a_{2k}^2) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 20. \quad (i) \quad S(n+3) - 3S(n+2) + 3S(n+1) - S(n) &= S(n+3) - S(n+2) - 2[S(n+2) - S(n+1)] + [S(n+1) - S(n)] \\ &= d - 2d + d = 0, \text{ where } d \text{ is the common difference.} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (ii) \quad 3[S(2n) - S(n)] &= 3 \left[\frac{2a_1 + (2n-1)d}{2} (2n) - \frac{2a_1 + (n-1)d}{2} (n) \right] = \frac{3n}{2} [4a_1 + (2n-1)(2)d - 2a_1n - (n-1)d] \\ &= \frac{2a_1 + (3n-1)d}{2} (3n) = S(3n) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 21. \quad S_n (S_{3n} - S_{2n}) &= a_1 \frac{1-r^n}{1-r} \left[a_1 \frac{1-r^{3n}}{1-r} - a_1 \frac{1-r^{2n}}{1-r} \right] = a_1 \frac{1-r^n}{1-r} \left[a_1 \frac{r^{2n} - r^{3n}}{1-r} \right] = a_1 \frac{1-r^n}{1-r} r^n \left[a_1 \frac{r^n - r^{2n}}{1-r} \right] \\ &= \left[a_1 \frac{r^n - r^{2n}}{1-r} \right] \left[a_1 \frac{r^n - r^{2n}}{1-r} \right] = \left[a_1 \frac{r^n - r^{2n}}{1-r} \right]^2 = \left[a_1 \frac{1-r^{2n}}{1-r} - a_1 \frac{1-r^n}{1-r} \right]^2 = (S_{2n} - S_n)^2. \end{aligned}$$

22. By the Lagrange's Identity (which can be proved by expansion) :

$$\begin{aligned} (x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_{n-1}^2)(y_1^2 + y_2^2 + \dots + y_{n-1}^2) - (x_1y_1 + x_2y_2 + \dots + x_{n-1}y_{n-1})^2 \\ = (x_1y_2 - x_2y_1)^2 + (x_1y_3 - x_3y_1)^2 + \dots + (x_{n-2}y_{n-1} - x_{n-1}y_{n-2})^2 \end{aligned}$$

Putting $x_1 = a_1, x_2 = a_2, \dots, x_{n-1} = a_{n-1}; y_1 = a_2, y_2 = a_3, \dots, y_{n-1} = a_n$

$$(a_1^2 + a_2^2 + \dots + a_{n-1}^2)(a_2^2 + a_3^2 + \dots + a_n^2) = (a_1a_2 + a_2a_3 + \dots + a_{n-1}a_n)^2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (a_1^2 + a_2^2 + \dots + a_{n-1}^2)(a_2^2 + a_3^2 + \dots + a_n^2) - (a_1a_2 + a_2a_3 + \dots + a_{n-1}a_n)^2 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (a_1a_3 - a_2^2)^2 + (a_1a_4 - a_3a_2)^2 + \dots + (a_{n-2}a_n - a_{n-1}^2)^2 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow a_1a_3 - a_2^2 = 0 \quad \wedge \quad a_1a_4 - a_3a_2 = 0 \quad \wedge \dots \wedge \quad a_{n-2}a_n - a_{n-1}^2 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{a_1}{a_2} = \frac{a_2}{a_3} = \dots = \frac{a_{n-1}}{a_n}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \text{ form a geometric sequence.}$$

23. Since $S_k = a_1 \frac{r^k - 1}{r - 1} = \frac{a_{k+1} - a_1}{r - 1}$

$$(i) \quad S_1 + S_2 + \dots + S_n = \frac{a_2 - a_1}{r - 1} + \frac{a_3 - a_1}{r - 1} + \dots + \frac{a_{n+1} - a_1}{r - 1} = \frac{(a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_{n+1}) - (n - 1)a_1}{r - 1}$$

$$= \frac{S_{n+1}}{r - 1} - \frac{(n - 1)a_1}{r - 1} = \frac{a_1 r^{n+1} - a_1}{(r - 1)^2} - \frac{(n - 1)a_1}{r - 1} = a_1 \frac{r^{n+1} + n + r - nr}{(r - 1)^2}$$

$$(ii) \quad \frac{1}{a_1^2 - a_2^2} + \frac{1}{a_2^2 - a_3^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{a_{n-1}^2 - a_n^2} = \frac{1}{1 - r^2} \left[\frac{1}{a_1^2} + \frac{1}{a_2^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{a_{n-1}^2} \right] = \frac{1}{1 - r^2} \frac{1}{a_1^2} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right)^{n-1} - 1}{\frac{1}{r^2} - 1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{a_1^2} \frac{1}{(1 - r^2)^2} \frac{1}{r^{2(n-2)}} = \frac{1}{a_1^2 r^{2(n-2)} (1 - r^2)^2}$$

$$(iii) \quad \frac{1}{a_1^k + a_2^k} + \frac{1}{a_2^k + a_3^k} + \dots + \frac{1}{a_{n-1}^k + a_n^k} = \frac{1}{1 + r^k} \left[\frac{1}{a_1^k} + \frac{1}{a_2^k} + \dots + \frac{1}{a_{n-1}^k} \right] = \frac{1}{1 + r^k} \frac{1}{a_1^2} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{r^k}\right)^{n-1} - 1}{\frac{1}{r^k} - 1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 + r^k} \frac{1}{a_1^2} \frac{1}{r^{k(n-2)}} \frac{1 - r^{k(n-1)}}{1 - r^k} = \frac{1 - r^{k(n-1)}}{a_1^2 r^{k(n-2)} (1 - r^{2k})}$$

24. Let the arithmetic sequence be $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$. Let a_k^* be the k^{th} term from the end of the sequence.

$$\therefore a_k^* = a_n - (k - 1)d, \quad a_k = a_1 + (k - 1)d$$

$$\therefore a_k a_k^* = a_1 a_n - (k - 1)^2 d^2 + (k - 1)d(a_n - a_1) = a_1 a_n - (k - 1)^2 d^2 + (k - 1)(n - 1)d^2$$

$$= a_1 a_n + d^2 \{(k - 1)(n - 1) - (k - 1)^2\} = a_1 a_n + d^2(k - 1)(n - k) = a_1 a_n + d^2 P_k$$

It only remain to show that P_k increases with an increase in k from 1 to $n/2$ or $(n + 1)/2$.

Since $P_k = (k - 1)(n - k)$, $P_{k+1} = k(n - k - 1)$, therefore $P_{k+1} - P_k = n - 2k$

$$\therefore P_{k+1} > P_k \quad \text{if} \quad n - 2k > 0, \quad \text{i.e. if} \quad k < n/2.$$

25. Let the arithmetic sequence be $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$. $a_1 > 0$.

Let the geometric sequence be $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$. $u_i > 0$.

Then $a_1 = u_1$, $a_n = u_n$. First we prove for $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, (n - 1)$, $u_{k+1} + u_{n-k} < u_1 + u_n$.

$$\text{Proof: } u_{k+1} + u_{n-k} - (u_1 + u_n) = u_1 r^k + u_1 r^{n-k-1} - u_1 - u_1 r^{n-1} = u_1 (r^k - 1) (1 - r^{n-k-1}) < 0$$

$$\text{since } u_1 > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{if } r > 1, \quad r^k - 1 > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad 1 - r^{n-k-1} < 0$$

$$\text{if } r < 1, \quad r^k - 1 < 0 \quad \text{and} \quad 1 - r^{n-k-1} > 0.$$

$$\text{Now, } u_{k+1} + u_{n-k} < u_1 + u_n \Rightarrow \sum_{k=0}^n (u_{k+1} + u_{n-k}) < \sum_{k=0}^n (u_1 + u_k)$$

$$\therefore 2(u_1 + u_2 + \dots + u_n) < n(u_1 + u_n) = n(a_1 + a_n) = (a_1 + a_n) + (a_1 + a_n) + \dots + (a_1 + a_n)$$

$$= (a_1 + a_n) + (a_2 + a_{n-1}) + \dots + (a_n + a_1) = 2(a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n)$$

$$\text{since } a_{k+1} + a_{n-k} = (a_1 + kd) + [a_1 + (n - k - 1)d] = a_1 + [a_1 + (n - 1)d] = a_1 + a_n.$$

$$\therefore u_1 + u_2 + \dots + u_n < a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n$$

26. Let the first common term of the sequences be a and the second term be b .

Then the n^{th} term of the arithmetic sequence is $a + (b - a)(n - 1)$ and the corresponding term of the geometric sequence is $a(b/a)^{n-1}$.

$$\begin{aligned} a + (b - 1)(n - 1) - a\left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^{n-1} &= a\left\{\left(\frac{b}{a} - 1\right)(n - 1) - \left[\left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^{n-1} - 1\right]\right\} \\ &= a\left(\frac{b}{a} - 1\right)\left\{(n - 1) - \left[\left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^{n-2} + \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^{n-3} + \dots + \left(\frac{b}{a}\right) + 1\right]\right\} \\ &= a\left(\frac{b}{a} - 1\right)\left\{\left[1 - \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^{n-2}\right] + \left[1 - \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^{n-3}\right] + \dots + \left[1 - \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)\right]\right\} \end{aligned}$$

≤ 0 by considering separately the three cases : $\frac{b}{a} > 1$, $\frac{b}{a} = 1$, $\frac{b}{a} < 1$.

$\therefore a + (b - 1)(n - 1) \leq a\left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^{n-1}$ and the proposition is proved.

$$27. \quad a_1 a_3 \dots a_{2n-1} = a_1 (a_1 r^2) (a_1 r^4) \dots (a_1 r^{2n-2})$$

$$= a_1^n (1) (r^2) (r^4) \dots (r^{2n-2})$$

$$= a_1^n r^{[2+4+\dots+(2n-2)]}$$

$$= a_1^n r^{n(n-1)}.$$

$$a_2 a_4 \dots a_{2n} = (a_1 r) (a_1 r^3) \dots (a_1 r^{2n-1})$$

$$= a_1^n (r) (r^3) \dots (r^{2n-1})$$

$$= a_1^n r^{[1+3+\dots+(2n-1)]}$$

$$= a_1^n r^{n^2}$$