

Sequences and Series 4

1. By using the difference method find the sum of the first n terms:

$$\frac{1}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4} + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5} + \frac{1}{3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \cdot 6} + \dots = \frac{1}{18} - \frac{1}{3(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)}$$

$$\text{Let } v_r = \frac{1}{3(r+1)(r+2)(r+3)}, u_r = \frac{1}{r(r+1)(r+2)(r+3)}$$

$$v_{r-1} - v_r = \frac{1}{3r(r+1)(r+2)} - \frac{1}{3(r+1)(r+2)(r+3)} = \frac{(r+3)-r}{3r(r+1)(r+2)(r+3)} = \frac{1}{r(r+1)(r+2)(r+3)} = u_r$$

$$\sum_{r=1}^n u_r = \sum_{r=1}^n (v_{r-1} - v_r) = v_0 - v_n = \frac{1}{18} - \frac{1}{3(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)}$$

2. Express $\frac{2}{r^2-1}$ in partial fractions. Hence, find a simple expression for $S = \sum_{r=2}^n \frac{2}{r^2-1}$ and determine whether S converges when n tends to infinity.

$$\frac{2}{r^2-1} = \frac{1}{r-1} - \frac{1}{r+1}$$

$$S = \sum_{r=2}^n \frac{2}{r^2-1} = \sum_{r=2}^n \left(\frac{1}{r-1} - \frac{1}{r+1} \right) = \frac{1}{2-1} - \frac{1}{n+1} = 1 - \frac{1}{n+1}$$

$$\sum_{r=2}^{\infty} \frac{2}{r^2-1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n+1} \right) = 1$$

3. If $\sum_{r=1}^n T_r = 3n^2 + 4n$, find the value of $\sum_{r=1}^{n-1} T_r$.
Deduce the general term T_n and hence find $\sum_{r=n+1}^{2n} T_r$.

$$\sum_{r=1}^{n-1} T_r = 3(n-1)^2 + 4(n-1) = 3n^2 - 2n - 1$$

$$T_n = \sum_{r=1}^n T_r - \sum_{r=1}^{n-1} T_r = (3n^2 + 4n) - (3n^2 - 2n - 1) = 6n + 1$$

$$\sum_{r=n+1}^{2n} T_r = \sum_{r=1}^{2n} T_r - \sum_{r=1}^n T_r = [3(2n)^2 + 4(2n)] - (3n^2 + 4n) = 9n^2 + 4n$$

4. The sum of the first $2n$ terms of a series $18n - 12n^2$. Find the sum of the first n terms and the n th term of this series. Show that this series is an arithmetic.

$$S(2n) = 18n - 12n^2 = 9(2n) - 3(2n)^2$$

$$\text{Hence } S(n) = 9n - 3n^2.$$

$$T(n) = S(n) - S(n-1) = [9n - 3n^2] - [9(n-1) - 3(n-1)^2] = 12 - 6n$$

$$T(n) - T(n-1) = [12 - 6n] - [12 - 6(n-1)] = -6 \text{ which is a constant.}$$

Therefore, this series is an arithmetic with a common difference -6 .

5. In a set of integers between the numbers 1 and 10,000,
- (a) how many of these numbers are divisible by 3, 4, 5 and 11?
- (b) how many of these numbers are divisible by 3, 4, 5 or 11?
- (a) The number must be divisible by the least common multiple of 3, 4, 5 and 11, which is 660.
Denote $\lfloor x \rfloor$ be the greatest integer smaller or equal to x .
Then the number between the numbers 1 and 10,000 which are divisible by 3, 4, 5 and 11
- $$= \left\lfloor \frac{10000}{660} \right\rfloor = 15$$
- (b) Let $A = \{ \text{integers from 1 through 10000 that are multiples of 3} \}$
 $B = \{ \text{integers from 1 through 10000 that are multiples of 4} \}$
 $C = \{ \text{integers from 1 through 10000 that are multiples of 5} \}$
 $D = \{ \text{integers from 1 through 10000 that are multiples of 11} \}$

Denote $\lfloor x \rfloor$ be the greatest integer smaller or equal to x . We have :

$$|A| = \left\lfloor \frac{10000}{3} \right\rfloor = 3333, |B| = \left\lfloor \frac{10000}{4} \right\rfloor = 2500, |C| = \left\lfloor \frac{10000}{5} \right\rfloor = 2000, |D| = \left\lfloor \frac{10000}{11} \right\rfloor = 909,$$

$$|A \cap B| = \left\lfloor \frac{10000}{12} \right\rfloor = 833, |A \cap C| = \left\lfloor \frac{10000}{15} \right\rfloor = 666, |A \cap D| = \left\lfloor \frac{10000}{33} \right\rfloor = 303,$$

$$|B \cap C| = \left\lfloor \frac{10000}{20} \right\rfloor = 500, |B \cap D| = \left\lfloor \frac{10000}{44} \right\rfloor = 227, |C \cap D| = \left\lfloor \frac{10000}{55} \right\rfloor = 181$$

$$|A \cap B \cap C| = \left\lfloor \frac{10000}{60} \right\rfloor = 166, |A \cap B \cap D| = \left\lfloor \frac{10000}{132} \right\rfloor = 75, |A \cap C \cap D| = \left\lfloor \frac{10000}{165} \right\rfloor = 60,$$

$$|B \cap C \cap D| = \left\lfloor \frac{10000}{220} \right\rfloor = 45$$

$$|A \cap B \cap C \cap D| = \left\lfloor \frac{10000}{660} \right\rfloor = 15$$

By the Principle of Exclusion and Inclusion,

Required number

$$= (3333 + 2500 + 2000 + 909) - (833 + 666 + 303 + 500 + 227 + 181) \\ - (166 + 75 + 60 + 45) + 15 = \mathbf{5701}$$

6. The sum of the first n terms of a geometric sequence is given by $S_n = 15(1 - 3^{-n})$. Find
- (a) the n th term,
- (b) the common ratio,
- (c) the smallest value of n such that $S_\infty - S_n < 0.01$.

(a) $T_n = S_n - S_{n-1} = 15(1 - 3^{-n}) - 15(1 - 3^{-(n-1)}) = 15(3^{-(n-1)} - 3^{-n})$
 $= 15(3^{1-n} - 3^{-n}) = 15[3(3^{-n}) - 3^{-n}] = 15[2(3^{-n})] = \mathbf{30(3^{-n})}$

(b) $r = \frac{T_n}{T_{n-1}} = \frac{30(3^{-n})}{30(3^{-(n-1)})} = \frac{1}{3}$

$$(c) S_{\infty} = \frac{T_1}{1-r} = \frac{30(3^{-1})}{1-\frac{1}{3}} = 15$$

$$S_{\infty} - S_n < 0.01 \Rightarrow 15 - 15(1 - 3^{-n}) < 0.01 \Rightarrow 15(3^{-n}) < 0.01 \Rightarrow 3^n > 1500$$

$$\Rightarrow n \log 3 > \log 1500 \Rightarrow n > \frac{\log 1500}{\log 3} = 6.65678$$

$$\therefore n = 7$$

7. Verify the identity $\frac{2r-1}{r(r-1)} - \frac{2r+1}{r(r+1)} = \frac{2}{(r-1)(r+1)}$. Hence, using the method of difference, prove that

$$\sum_{r=2}^n \frac{2}{(r-1)(r+1)} = \frac{3}{2} - \frac{2n+1}{n(n+1)}.$$

Deduce the sum of the infinite series $\frac{1}{1 \times 3} + \frac{1}{2 \times 4} + \frac{1}{3 \times 5} + \dots + \frac{1}{(n-1)(n+1)} + \dots$

$$\frac{2r-1}{r(r-1)} - \frac{2r+1}{r(r+1)} = \frac{(2r-1)(r+1) - (r-1)(2r+1)}{r(r-1)(r+1)} = \frac{2r}{r(r-1)(r+1)} = \frac{2}{(r-1)(r+1)}$$

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

$$= \left\{ \frac{3}{2} + \sum_{r=3}^n \left[\frac{2r-1}{r(r-1)} \right] \right\} - \left\{ \sum_{r=2}^{n-1} \left[\frac{2r+1}{r(r+1)} \right] + \frac{2n+1}{n(n+1)} \right\} = \frac{3}{2} - \frac{2n+1}{n(n+1)} + \left\{ \sum_{r=3}^n \left[\frac{2r-1}{r(r-1)} \right] - \sum_{r=2}^{n-1} \left[\frac{2r+1}{r(r+1)} \right] \right\}$$

$$= \frac{3}{2} - \frac{2n+1}{n(n+1)} + \left\{ \sum_{r=3}^n \left[\frac{2r-1}{r(r-1)} \right] - \sum_{k=3}^n \left[\frac{2k-1}{k(k-1)} \right] \right\} \text{ where } r = k - 1$$

$$= \frac{3}{2} - \frac{2n+1}{n(n+1)}$$

$$\frac{1}{1 \times 3} + \frac{1}{2 \times 4} + \frac{1}{3 \times 5} + \dots + \frac{1}{(n-1)(n+1)} = \sum_{r=2}^n \frac{1}{(r-1)(r+1)} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{3}{2} - \frac{2n+1}{n(n+1)} \right]$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{1 \times 3} + \frac{1}{2 \times 4} + \frac{1}{3 \times 5} + \dots + \frac{1}{(n-1)(n+1)} + \dots = \sum_{r=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(r-1)(r+1)} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{3}{2} - \frac{2n+1}{n(n+1)} \right] = \frac{3}{4}$$

8. If $\frac{1}{x}, \frac{1}{y}, \frac{1}{z}$ are three consecutive terms in an arithmetic progression.

Show that $\frac{y+z}{x}, \frac{z+x}{y}, \frac{x+y}{z}$ also form three consecutive terms in an arithmetic progression.

Since $\frac{1}{x}, \frac{1}{y}, \frac{1}{z}$ are in A.P.

$$\text{therefore } \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{z} = \frac{2}{y}$$

$$(x + y + z) \left(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{z} \right) = (x + y + z) \left(\frac{2}{y} \right)$$

$$\frac{x+y+z}{x} + \frac{x+y+z}{z} = \frac{2(x+y+z)}{y}$$

$$1 + \frac{y+z}{x} + 1 + \frac{x+y}{z} = 2 + 2\left(\frac{z+x}{y}\right)$$

$$\frac{y+z}{x} + \frac{x+y}{z} = 2\left(\frac{z+x}{y}\right)$$

Therefore $\frac{y+z}{x}, \frac{z+x}{y}, \frac{x+y}{z}$ also in A.P.

9. If S is the sum of the series $1 + 3x + 5x^2 + 7x^3 + \dots + (2n+1)x^n$, for $x \neq 1$, by considering $(1-x)S$, or otherwise, show that $S = \frac{1+x-(2n+3)x^{n+1}+(2n+1)x^{n+2}}{(1-x)^2}, x \neq 1$.

Method 1

$$\begin{aligned}(1-x)S &= (1-x)[1 + 3x + 5x^2 + 7x^3 + \dots + (2n+1)x^n] \\&= 1 + 3x + 5x^2 + 7x^3 + \dots + (2n+1)x^n \\&\quad -x - 3x^2 - 5x^3 - \dots - (2n-1)x^n - (2n+1)x^{n+1} \\&= 1 + 2x + 2x^2 + 2x^3 + \dots + 2x^n - (2n+1)x^{n+1} \\&= 1 + (2x)\left(\frac{1-x^n}{1-x}\right) - (2n+1)x^{n+1} \\&= \frac{(1-x)+2x-2x^{n+1}-(1-x)(2n+1)x^{n+1}}{1-x} \\&= \frac{1+x-(2n+3)x^{n+1}+(2n+1)x^{n+2}}{1-x} \\\therefore S &= \frac{1+x-(2n+3)x^{n+1}+(2n+1)x^{n+2}}{(1-x)^2}, x \neq 1\end{aligned}$$

Method 2

$$S = 1 + 3x + 5x^2 + 7x^3 + \dots + (2n+1)x^n$$

Replace $x = y^2$

$$\begin{aligned}S &= 1 + 3y^2 + 5y^4 + 7y^6 + \dots + (2n+1)y^{2n} \\&= \frac{d}{dy}[y + y^3 + y^5 + \dots + y^{2n+1}] = \frac{d}{dy}\left[\frac{y(1-y^{2n+2})}{1-y^2}\right] = \frac{1+y^2-(2n+3)y^{2n+2}+(2n+1)y^{2n+4}}{(1-y^2)^2} \\&= \frac{1+x-(2n+3)x^{n+1}+(2n+1)x^{n+2}}{(1-x)^2}\end{aligned}$$

Method 3

$$\begin{aligned}S(1-x)^2 &= (1-x)^2[1 + 3x + 5x^2 + 7x^3 + \dots + (2n+1)x^n] \\&= (1-2x+x^2)[1 + 3x + 5x^2 + 7x^3 + \dots + (2n+1)x^n] \\&= 1 + 3x + 5x^2 + 7x^3 + \dots + (2n+1)x^n \\&\quad -2x - 6x^2 - 10x^3 - \dots - 2(2n-1)x^n - 2(2n+1)x^{n+1} \\&\quad + x^2 + 3x^3 + \dots + (2n-3)x^n + (2n-1)x^{n+1} + (2n+1)x^{n+2} \\&= 1 + x - (2n+3)x^{n+1} + (2n+1)x^{n+2} \\\therefore S &= \frac{1+x-(2n+3)x^{n+1}+(2n+1)x^{n+2}}{(1-x)^2}, x \neq 1\end{aligned}$$

10. (a) The sequence of positive integers is grouped into four as follows:

(1,2,3,4), (5,6,7,8), (9,10,11,12), ...

Show that the sum of all integers in the k^{th} bracket is $S_k = 2(8k - 3)$.

(b) If the integers are similarly grouped with m integers in each bracket, find the sum S_n of all integers in the n^{th} bracket in terms of m and n .

Hence, show that S_n, S_{2n}, S_{3n} are in arithmetic progression.

(a) Last term in the k^{th} bracket is $4k$.

First term in the k^{th} bracket is $4k - 3$.

$$S_k = (4k - 3) + (4k - 2) + (4k - 1) + 4k = 16k - 6 = 2(8k - 3)$$

(b) The sequence is

(1,2, ..., m), ($m + 1, m + 2, \dots, 2m$), ($2m + 1, 2m + 2, \dots, 3m$), ...

Last term in the n^{th} bracket is $a = mn$.

First term in the n^{th} bracket is $l = mn - (m - 1) = mn - m + 1$.

$$S_n = \frac{m}{2}(a + l) = \left\{ \frac{m}{2} [mn - (n + 1)] + mn \right\} = \frac{m}{2}(2mn - m + 1)$$

$$S_{2n} = \frac{m}{2}(4mn - m + 1)$$

$$S_{3n} = \frac{m}{2}(6mn - m + 1)$$

$$S_{2n} - S_n = \frac{m}{2}(4mn - m + 1) - \frac{m}{2}(a + l) = m^2n$$

$$S_{3n} - S_{2n} = \frac{m}{2}(6mn - m + 1) - \frac{m}{2}(4mn - m + 1) = m^2n$$

Since $S_{3n} - S_{2n} = S_{2n} - S_n$, hence S_n, S_{2n}, S_{3n} are in arithmetic progression.