

Calculators OK

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1. The sum of a geometric series can be computed using the formula $S = \frac{a(1-r^n)}{1-r}$

- a) A first step in deriving the formula is to begin with a generic geometric series

$$S = a + ar + ar^2 + ar^3 + \cdots + ar^{n-1}$$

And multiply both sides by r:

$$Sr = ar + ar^2 + ar^3 + ar^4 + \cdots + ar^n$$

Using the two equations above, complete the derivation for the sum formula. Obviously, you already know the formula, so your answer will be graded on the clarity of your steps.

$$\begin{aligned} Sr - S &= ar^n + ar^{n-1} - ar^{n-1} + \cdots + ar^2 - ar^2 + ar - a = ar^n - a \\ S(r-1) &= a(r^n - 1) \quad [\text{factor out } a] \\ S &= \frac{a(r^n - 1)}{r-1} = \boxed{\frac{a(1-r^n)}{1-r}}. \end{aligned}$$

- b) Find the sum of the following geometric series:

$$6 - 9 + \frac{27}{2} - \frac{81}{4} + \cdots + \frac{129140163}{32768}$$

$$a = 6, r = -\frac{3}{2}, n = 17$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 2 & 1 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 15 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & \cdots & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 7 & 17 & \cdots & 17 \end{array}$$

$$S = \frac{6(1 - (-\frac{3}{2})^{17})}{1 - (-\frac{3}{2})} = \frac{6(\frac{512}{(-3)^{17}})}{\frac{5}{2}} = \frac{6 \cdot 2^{17} + 6 \cdot 3^{17}}{5 \cdot 2^{16}} = \boxed{\frac{3 \cdot 2^{18} + 2 \cdot 3^{18}}{5 \cdot 2^{16}}}$$

- c) Use mathematical induction to prove that the geometric sum formula works for all positive n.

$$\text{Prove: } a + ar + ar^2 + ar^3 + \cdots + ar^{n-1} = \frac{a(1-r^n)}{1-r}$$

1) Base case where $n = 1$:

$$a = \frac{a(1-r)}{1-r} = a$$

2) Assume true for $n=k$:

$$a + ar + ar^2 + \cdots + ar^{k-1} = \frac{a(1-r^k)}{1-r}$$

3) Prove for $n=k+1$:

$$\begin{aligned} &a + ar + ar^2 + \cdots + ar^{k-1} + ar^k \\ &= \frac{a(1-r^k)}{1-r} + ar^k = \frac{a(1-r^k) + ar^k(1-r)}{1-r} = \frac{a(1-r^k + r^k - r^{k+1})}{1-r} \\ &= \boxed{\frac{a(1-r^{k+1})}{1-r}} \text{ as desired} \end{aligned}$$

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2. Find the sum of $1 - 2 + 3 - 4 + 5 - \dots + 497 - 498 + 499 - 500$. Show your work!

~~Method~~

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} & 1 & -2 & +3 & -4 & +5 & \dots & +497 & -498 & +499 & -500 \\ & \boxed{-1} & & \boxed{-1} & & & & \boxed{-1} & & \boxed{-1} & \\ \hline & & & & & & & & & \\ & 500/2 = 250 & & -15 & & & & & & \end{array}$$

$$S = 250(-1) = \boxed{-250}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & 1+3+5+\dots+499 \\ & -(2+4+\dots+500) \\ & = 250^2 - 2\left(\frac{250(250+1)}{2}\right) \\ & = 250^2 - 250(250+1) \\ & = 250(250-250-1) = \boxed{-250} \end{aligned}$$

3. Simplify completely (you can leave your answers in factored form, but your final expressions should not have factorials in them).

$$a) \frac{(n^2-4)!}{(n-2)(n^2-5)!}$$

$$= \frac{(n^2-4)}{(n-2)} = \frac{(n-2)(n+2)}{(n-2)}$$

$$= \boxed{n+2}$$

(assuming $n \neq 2$)

$$b) \frac{(n!)^2}{(n-1)!(n+1)!} = \frac{n!n!}{(n-1)!(n+1)!}$$

$$= \frac{n!}{(n-1)!} \cdot \frac{n!}{(n+1)!} = n \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = \boxed{\frac{n}{n+1}}$$

4. The sum of the first 62 terms of a certain arithmetic series is 15,934. If the common difference of the sequence is 8, what is the first term of the series?

$$\#1 \quad \#2 \quad \#3 \quad \#62 \\ a + (a+8) + (a+8(2)) + \dots + (a+8(61)) = 15934$$

$$62a + 8\left(\frac{61(61+1)}{2}\right) = 15934$$

$$a = \frac{15934 - 8\left(\frac{61(61+1)}{2}\right)}{62} = \boxed{13}$$

5. Most mathematicians would say that the series below "diverges" and has no sum, because the sum goes to positive/negative infinity. However, if you HAD to give it a sum based on the patterns we've found in Pascal's Triangle, what would be the most appropriate value?

$$1 - 5 + 15 - 35 + 70 - 126 + 210 - 330 + 495 - \dots = \frac{1}{32}$$

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-5	1	-5	---	2 ⁻⁵
-4	1	-4	---	
-3	1	-3	---	
-2	1	-2	3	4
-1	1	-1	1	1
0	1	0	0	0
1	1	1	0	0
2	1	2	1	0
3	1	3	3	1

$$2^{-5} = \frac{1}{32}$$

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