

MTH210 — Discrete Mathematics II

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1 Sequences and Series

A **sequence** is an ordered set of numbers.

$2, 4, 6, 8, 10 \dots$ is an example of a sequence of positive numbers.

$a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n$ denotes an infinite sequence.

- A sequence is defined **analytically** if each term a_i is defined by some function $f(i) = a_i$
- A sequence is defined **recursively** if the first k terms are given **explicitly** and the rest are given through a recursive function $a_n = f(a_{n-1}, a_{n-2}, \dots, a_{n-k})$ for $n > k$.
- Even if two sequences are equal for small indexes, does not indicate that they don't diverge at some further point.

A **series** is the sum of all the terms in a sequence.

If m and n are integers and $m \leq n$, the symbol $\sum_{k=m}^n a_k$ is the summation from k , defined as:

$$\sum_{k=m}^n a_k = a_m + a_{m+1} + a_{m+2} + \dots + a_n$$

- We call k the **index** of the summation.
- m is the **lower limit** of the summation.
- n is the **upper limit** of the summation.

1.1 Sums and Products

If m and n are integers and $m \leq n$, the symbol $\prod_{k=m}^n a_k$ is read as product from k equals m to n of a sub k , it can be written as:

$$\prod_{k=m}^n a_k = a_m \cdot a_{m+1} \cdot a_{m+2} \times \dots \times a_n$$

Theorem 1.1. *The following properties hold for any integer $n \geq m$, given a_m, \dots and b_m, \dots sequences of real numbers.*

- $\sum_{k=m}^n a_k + \sum_{k=m}^n b_k = \sum_{k=m}^n (a_k + b_k)$
- $c \cdot \sum_{k=m}^n a_k = \sum_{k=m}^n (c \cdot a_k)$, given some constant c
- $(\prod_{k=m}^n a_k) \cdot (\prod_{k=m}^n b_k) = \prod_{k=m}^n (a_k \cdot b_k)$

Theorem 1.2. *The binomial theorem, also called n choose r is computed by using the following formula for $0 \leq r \leq n$:*

$$\binom{n}{r} = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$$

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