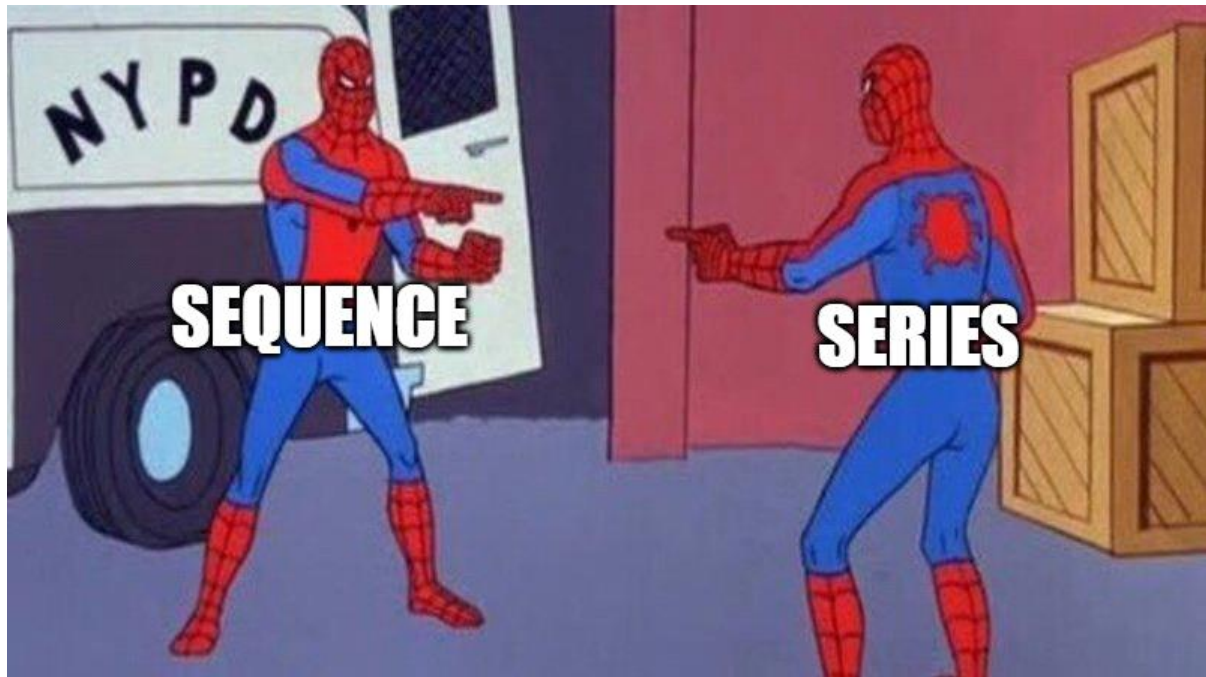


Series

Monday, 4 November 2024 1:09 pm

Series



$$\pi = 3.14159\ 26535\ 89793\ 23846\ 26433\ 83279\ 50288 \dots$$

$$\pi = 3 + \frac{1}{10} + \frac{4}{10^2} + \frac{1}{10^3} + \frac{5}{10^4} + \frac{9}{10^5} + \frac{2}{10^6} + \frac{6}{10^7} + \frac{5}{10^8} + \dots$$

$$a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \dots + a_n + \dots$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \quad \text{or} \quad \sum a_n$$

$$1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + \dots + n + \dots$$

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{32} + \frac{1}{64} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^n} + \dots$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^n} + \dots = 1$$

n	Sum of first n terms
1	0.50000000
2	0.75000000
3	0.87500000
4	0.93750000
5	0.96875000
6	0.98437500
7	0.99218750
10	0.99902344
15	0.99996948
20	0.99999905
25	0.99999997

We use a similar idea to determine whether or not a general series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ has a sum. We consider the **partial sums**

$$s_1 = a_1$$

$$s_2 = a_1 + a_2$$

$$s_3 = a_1 + a_2 + a_3$$

$$s_4 = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4$$

and, in general,

$$s_n = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \cdots + a_n = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i$$

2 Definition Given a series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \cdots$, let s_n denote its n th partial sum:

$$s_n = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i = a_1 + a_2 + \cdots + a_n$$

If the sequence $\{s_n\}$ is convergent and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = s$ exists as a real number, then the series $\sum a_n$ is called **convergent** and we write

$$a_1 + a_2 + \cdots + a_n + \cdots = s \quad \text{or} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n = s$$

The number s is called the **sum** of the series. If the sequence $\{s_n\}$ is divergent, then the series is called **divergent**.

EXAMPLE 1 Suppose we know that the sum of the first n terms of the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is

$$s_n = a_1 + a_2 + \cdots + a_n = \frac{2n}{3n+5}$$

4 The geometric series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ar^{n-1} = a + ar + ar^2 + \cdots$$

is convergent if $|r| < 1$ and its sum is

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ar^{n-1} = \frac{a}{1-r} \quad |r| < 1$$

If $|r| \geq 1$, the geometric series is divergent.

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

$$rs_n = ar + ar^2 + \cdots + ar^{n-1} + ar^n$$

$$s_n - rs_n = a - ar^n$$

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

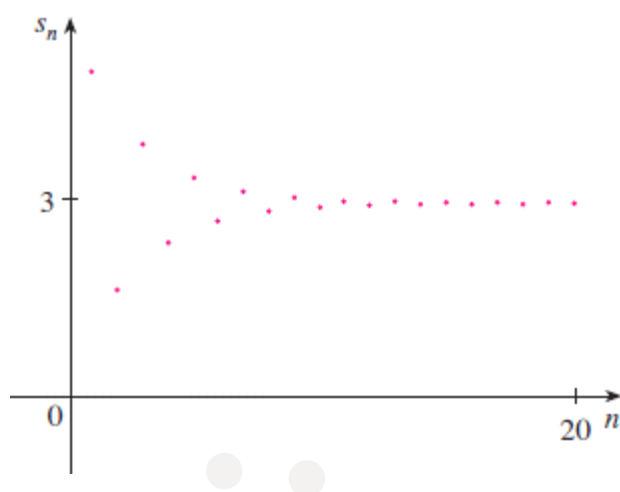
If $-1 < r < 1$, we know from (11.1.9) that $r^n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, so

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a(1-r^n)}{1-r} = \frac{a}{1-r} - \frac{a}{1-r} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^n = \frac{a}{1-r}$$

V EXAMPLE 3 Find the sum of the geometric series

$$5 - \frac{10}{3} + \frac{20}{9} - \frac{40}{27} + \cdots$$

n	S_n
1	5.000000
2	1.666667
3	3.888889
4	2.407407
5	3.395062
6	2.736626
7	3.175583
8	2.882945
9	3.078037
10	2.947975



EXAMPLE 4 Is the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2^{2n}3^{1-n}$ convergent or divergent?

SOLUTION Let's rewrite the n th term of the series in the form ar^{n-1} :

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2^{2n}3^{1-n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (2^2)^n 3^{-(n-1)} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{4^n}{3^{n-1}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 4\left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^{n-1}$$

We recognize this series as a geometric series with $a = 4$ and $r = \frac{4}{3}$. Since $r > 1$, the series diverges by [4].

V EXAMPLE 5 Write the number $2.\overline{317} = 2.3171717\ldots$ as a ratio of integers.

SOLUTION

$$2.3171717\ldots = 2.3 + \frac{17}{10^3} + \frac{17}{10^5} + \frac{17}{10^7} + \cdots$$

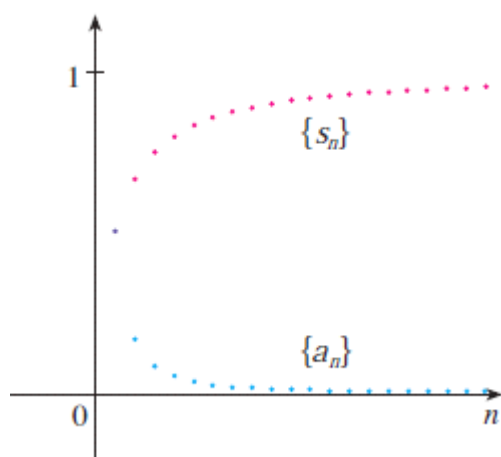
$$\begin{aligned}
 2.3\overline{17} &= 2.3 + \frac{\frac{17}{10^3}}{1 - \frac{1}{10^2}} = 2.3 + \frac{\frac{17}{1000}}{\frac{99}{100}} \\
 &= \frac{23}{10} + \frac{17}{990} = \frac{1147}{495}
 \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE 6 Find the sum of the series $\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} x^n$, where $|x| < 1$.

EXAMPLE 7 Show that the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(n+1)}$ is convergent, and find its sum.

$$\begin{aligned}
 s_n &= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i(i+1)} = \frac{1}{1 \cdot 2} + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3} + \frac{1}{3 \cdot 4} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n(n+1)} \\
 \frac{1}{i(i+1)} &= \frac{1}{i} - \frac{1}{i+1} \\
 s_n &= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i(i+1)} = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{i} - \frac{1}{i+1} \right) \\
 &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} \right) + \cdots + \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right) \\
 &= 1 - \frac{1}{n+1}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n+1} \right) = 1 - 0 = 1$$



V EXAMPLE 8 Show that the harmonic series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \cdots$$

is divergent.

$$s_2 = 1 + \frac{1}{2}$$

$$s_4 = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4}\right) > 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}\right) = 1 + \frac{2}{2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} s_8 &= 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{8}\right) \\ &> 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8}\right) \\ &= 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1 + \frac{3}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} s_{16} &= 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{5} + \cdots + \frac{1}{8}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{9} + \cdots + \frac{1}{16}\right) \\ &> 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{8} + \cdots + \frac{1}{8}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{16} + \cdots + \frac{1}{16}\right) \\ &= 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1 + \frac{4}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, $s_{32} > 1 + \frac{5}{2}$, $s_{64} > 1 + \frac{6}{2}$, and in general

$$s_{2n} > 1 + \frac{n}{2}$$

This shows that $s_{2n} \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and so $\{s_n\}$ is divergent. \square

6 Theorem If the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is convergent, then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$.

7 Test for Divergence If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$ does not exist or if $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \neq 0$, then the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is divergent.

EXAMPLE 9 Show that the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{5n^2 + 4}$ diverges.

8 Theorem If $\sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ are convergent series, then so are the series $\sum ca_n$ (where c is a constant), $\sum (a_n + b_n)$, and $\sum (a_n - b_n)$, and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(i)} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ca_n &= c \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n & \text{(ii)} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n + b_n) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \\ \text{(iii)} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n - b_n) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE 10 Find the sum of the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{3}{n(n+1)} + \frac{1}{2^n} \right)$.

NOTE 4 A finite number of terms doesn't affect the convergence or divergence of a series. For instance, suppose that we were able to show that the series

$$\sum_{n=4}^{\infty} \frac{n}{n^3 + 1}$$

is convergent. Since

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{n^3 + 1} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{9} + \frac{3}{28} + \sum_{n=4}^{\infty} \frac{n}{n^3 + 1}$$

it follows that the entire series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n/(n^3 + 1)$ is convergent. Similarly, if it is known that the series $\sum_{n=N+1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges, then the full series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n = \sum_{n=1}^N a_n + \sum_{n=N+1}^{\infty} a_n$$

is also convergent.