Discrete Assignment
EE1205 Signals and Systems

Nimal Sreekumar
EE23BTECH11044

Question 11.9.2.5: In an A.P., if the p-th term is $\frac{1}{q}$ and q-th term is $\frac{1}{p}$, prove that the sum of the first pq terms is $\frac{1}{2}(pq + 1)$, where $p \neq q$.

Solution:

symbols	expression	Description
a_n	$a_n = a_0 + nd$	General equation for the n^{th} term, where d is the common d
S_n	$S_n = \frac{n}{2}(2a_0 + (n+1)d)$	General equation for the sum of first n terms in the A

Using the above formulas, we can also write a_p and a_q as

$$a_p = a_0 + pd \tag{1}$$
$$a_q = a_0 + qd \tag{2}$$

Now substituting $a_p = \frac{1}{q}$ and $a_q = \frac{1}{p}$ in equations (1) and (2) respectively gives

$$\frac{1}{q} = a_0 + pd \tag{3}$$
$$\frac{1}{p} = a_0 + qd \tag{4}$$

Subtracting (3) and (4) gives

$$\frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p} = d(p - q) \tag{5}$$
$$\frac{1}{pq} = d \tag{6}$$

Now dividing (3) and (4) gives

$$\frac{p}{q} = \frac{a_0 + pd}{a_0 + qd} \tag{7}$$

After solving, we get

$$a_0(p - q) = 0 \tag{8}$$
$$a_0 = 0 \tag{9}$$

As $p \neq q$

Now we just have to find the sum of the first pq terms,

$$S_{pq} = \frac{pq}{2}(2a_0 + (pq + 1)d) \tag{10}$$

Using (6) and (9), we get

$$S_{pq} = \frac{pq}{2}\left(2(0) + (pq + 1)\frac{1}{pq}\right) \tag{11}$$

$$S_{pq} = \frac{pq}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \tag{12}$$

Finally,

$$\boxed{S_{pq} = \frac{1}{2}(pq + 1)} \tag{13}$$

Hence proved.