

Student: Arfaz Hossain
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Instructor: Muhammad Awais
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Assignment: HW-5 [Sections 10.1, 10.2 & 10.3]

Find a formula for the n th partial sum of the series and use it to determine if the series converges or diverges. If the series converges, find its sum.

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

Let s_n denote the sum of the first n terms of the series. Then the expression for s_1 is as shown below.

$$s_1 = \frac{3}{1} - \frac{3}{2}$$

The expression for s_2 is obtained by adding $\left(\frac{3}{n} - \frac{3}{n+1} \right)$ for $n = 2$.

$$s_2 = \left(\frac{3}{1} - \frac{3}{2} \right) + \left(\frac{3}{2} - \frac{3}{3} \right)$$

Continuing this process, the n th partial sum s_n can be written as shown below.

$$s_n = \left(\frac{3}{1} - \frac{3}{2} \right) + \left(\frac{3}{2} - \frac{3}{3} \right) + \left(\frac{3}{3} - \frac{3}{4} \right) + \dots + \left(\frac{3}{n-1} - \frac{3}{n} \right) + \left(\frac{3}{n} - \frac{3}{n+1} \right)$$

Notice that the expression has one non-zero term, then a series of pairs of terms with a sum of 0, and finally another non-zero term. Remove the parentheses and simplify by adding all the terms that sum to zero.

$$s_n = \frac{3}{1} - \frac{3}{2} + \frac{3}{2} - \frac{3}{3} + \frac{3}{3} - \frac{3}{4} + \dots + \frac{3}{n-1} - \frac{3}{n} + \frac{3}{n} - \frac{3}{n+1}$$

$$s_n = 3 - \frac{3}{n+1}$$

Evaluate $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n$.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(3 - \frac{3}{n+1} \right) \\ &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{3}{n} - \frac{3}{n+1} \right)$ converges and has the sum 3.