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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 find the series' sum if the series converges.

$$\frac{5}{1 \cdot 2} + \frac{5}{2 \cdot 3} + \frac{5}{3 \cdot 4} + \cdots + \frac{5}{n(n+1)} + \cdots$$

Given a sequence of numbers $\{a_n\}$, an expression of the form $a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \cdots + a_n + \cdots$ is an infinite series. The number a_n is the n th term in the series. The sum of the first n terms, called the partial sum, can be written as

$s_n = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \cdots + a_n$. Add the terms one at a time from the beginning to see if there is a pattern in how the partial sum grows, then determine if there seems to be a number to which the sum converges.

Find the partial sum of the first three terms.

Partial sum	Value
$S_1 = \frac{5}{2}$	$\frac{5}{2}$
$S_2 = \frac{5}{2} + \frac{5}{6}$	$\frac{10}{3}$
$S_3 = \frac{5}{2} + \frac{5}{6} + \frac{5}{12}$	$\frac{15}{4}$

Compare the three sums. Notice each can be written as a number subtracted from 5.

Partial sum	Value	Suggestive expression
$S_1 = \frac{5}{2}$	$\frac{5}{2}$	$5 - \frac{5}{2}$
$S_2 = \frac{5}{2} + \frac{5}{6}$	$\frac{10}{3}$	$5 - \frac{5}{3}$
$S_3 = \frac{5}{2} + \frac{5}{6} + \frac{5}{12}$	$\frac{15}{4}$	$5 - \frac{5}{4}$

Now compare the value of each denominator with n in each partial sum. Notice how the denominator of each consecutive term increases by 1 and is 1 more than the given value of n .

Write an expression for the partial sum of the n th term.

$$S_n = 5 - \frac{5}{(n+1)}$$

To determine if the series converges, find the limit as n approaches infinity.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5}{(n+1)} = 0$$

Because the limit of $\frac{5}{(n+1)}$ is zero, the series converges. Thus, the sum of the series is 5.