

GATE 2021 NM Q24

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Question: The sum of the infinite geometric series

$$1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{3^3} + \dots$$

(rounded off to one decimal place) is _____.
(GATE 2021 BT Q20)

Solution:

Symbol	Value	Description
$x(n)$		$(n+1)^{th}$ term of series
$x(0)$	1	1 st term of series
r	$\frac{1}{3}$	Common ratio
$y(n)$		Sum of $(n+1)$ terms

TABLE I: Given Parameters

General term:

$$x(n) = x(0)r^n u(n) \quad (1)$$

$$\Rightarrow X(z) = \frac{1}{1 - rz^{-1}} \quad (2)$$

$$y(n) = x(n) * u(n) \quad (3)$$

$$\Rightarrow Y(z) = X(z)U(z) \quad (4)$$

$$= \frac{1}{(1 - rz^{-1})(1 - z^{-1})} \quad (5)$$

$$= \frac{1}{r-1} \left(\frac{r}{1 - rz^{-1}} - \frac{1}{1 - z^{-1}} \right) \quad (6)$$

$$(7)$$

Taking inverse Z-transform:

$$y(n) = \frac{1}{r-1} (r(r^n u(n)) - u(n)) \quad (8)$$

$$= \left(\frac{r^{n+1} - 1}{r-1} \right) u(n) \quad (9)$$

$$= \left(\frac{1 - r^{n+1}}{1-r} \right) u(n) \quad (10)$$

For infinite terms:

$$y(\infty) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1 - r^{n+1}}{1-r} \right) u(n) \quad (11)$$

$$= \frac{1}{1-r} \quad (12)$$

$$= \frac{3}{2} \quad (13)$$

