

# Sum to Infinity - Divergent vs Convergent

What can you say about the sum of each series up to infinity?

✗  $1 + 2 + 4 + 8 + 16 + \dots$  Divergent

✗  $1 - 2 + 3 - 4 + 5 - 6 + \dots$  Divergent

✓  $1 + 0.5 + 0.25 + 0.125 + \dots$  Convergent




$$S_{\infty} = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} = \underline{\underline{2}}$$

- The infinite series will converge provided that  $-1 < r < 1$  (which can be written as  $|r| < 1$ ), because the terms will get smaller.

- Provided that  $|r| < 1$ , what happens to  $r^n$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ?

$$r^n \rightarrow 0$$

 A geometric series is convergent if  $|r| < 1$ .

- How therefore can we use the  $S_n = \frac{a(1-r^n)}{1-r}$  formula to find the sum to infinity, i.e.  $S_{\infty}$ ?

$$\frac{a(1-0)}{1-r}$$

 For a convergent geometric series,

$$S_{\infty} = \frac{a}{1-r}$$

$$S_{\infty} = \frac{a}{1-r}$$

$$1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{8}, \dots$$

$$a = 1 \quad r = \frac{1}{2} \quad S_{\infty} = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} = 2$$

$$27, -9, 3, -1, \dots$$

$$a = 27 \quad r = -\frac{1}{3} \quad S_{\infty} = \frac{27}{1 - (-\frac{1}{3})} = \frac{81}{4} = 20.25$$

$$p, p^2, p^3, p^4, \dots$$

$$a = p \quad r = p \quad S_{\infty} = \frac{p}{1-p}$$

where  $-1 < p < 1$

$$p, 1, \frac{1}{p}, \frac{1}{p^2}, \dots$$

$$a = p \quad r = \frac{1}{p} \quad S_{\infty} = \frac{p}{1 - \frac{1}{p}} \times p = \frac{p^2}{p-1}$$

The fourth term of a geometric series is 1.08 and the seventh term is 0.23328.

- a) Show that this series is convergent.  
b) Find the sum to infinity of this series.

$|r| < 1$  if convergent

find  $r$

find  $a$  then use  $S_{\infty} = \frac{a}{1-r}$

a)

$$u_4 = 1.08$$

$$1.08 = ar^3$$

$$\frac{0.23328}{1.08} = \frac{ar^6}{ar^3}$$

$$0.216 = r^3$$

$$r = 0.6$$

because  $|r| < 1$ ,

the series is convergent.

$$u_7 = 0.23328$$

$$0.23328 = ar^6$$

b)

$$1.08 = a \times 0.6^3$$

$$a = 5$$

$$5 + 3 + 1.8 + 1.08 + 0.648 \dots$$

$$S_{\infty} = \frac{5}{1-0.6}$$

$$= \underline{\underline{12.5}}$$

For a geometric series with first term  $a$  and common ratio  $r$ ,  $S_4 = 15$  and  $S_\infty = 16$ .

a) Find the possible values of  $r$ .

b) Given that all the terms in the series are positive, find the value of  $a$ .

b)  $r = \frac{1}{2}$

$$16 = \frac{a}{1 - \frac{1}{2}}$$

$$a = 16 \times \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\underline{\underline{a = 8}}$$

$$a) S_n = \frac{a(1-r^n)}{1-r} \quad u_n = \cancel{ar^{n-1}}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} S_4 = 15, n=4 \\ 15 = \frac{a(1-r^4)}{1-r} \end{array} \right\} \quad \begin{array}{l} S_\infty = 16 \\ 16 = \frac{a}{1-r} \end{array}$$

$$15 = 16(1-r^4)$$

$$\frac{15}{16} = 1 - r^4$$

$$r^4 = \frac{1}{16}$$

$$\underline{\underline{r = \pm \frac{1}{2}}}$$

10. In a geometric series the common ratio is  $r$  and sum to  $n$  terms is  $S_n$

Given

$$S_{\infty} = \frac{8}{7} \times S_6$$

show that  $r = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}$ , where  $k$  is an integer to be found.

(4)

$$S_{\infty} = \frac{8}{7} \times S_6$$

$$1 \cdot \frac{\cancel{a}}{\cancel{1-r}} = \frac{8}{7} \times \frac{\cancel{a}(1-r^6)}{\cancel{1-r}}$$

$$\frac{7}{8} = 1 - r^6$$

$$r^6 = 1 - \frac{7}{8}$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{8}\right)^{1/3} \quad \left( \begin{array}{l} r^6 = \frac{1}{8} \\ r^2 = \frac{1}{2} \end{array} \right) \left(\frac{1}{8}\right)^{1/3}$$

$$r = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\underline{\underline{k=2}}$$

## Your Turn

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6. The second and third terms of a geometric series are 192 and 144 respectively.

For this series, find

- (a) the common ratio, (2)
- (b) the first term, (2)
- (c) the sum to infinity, (2)
- (d) the smallest value of  $n$  for which the sum of the first  $n$  terms of the series exceeds 1000. (4)
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