2.1 Discussion: Rearrangements of Infinite Series

Consider the infinite series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{6} + \dots$$

If we just add from left to right, we get a series of *partial sums*: $s_1 = 1$, $s_2 = 1/2$, $s_3 = 5/6$, and so on. We also see that the sums oscillate such that $s_1 > s_3 > s_5 > \dots$ and $s_2 < s_4 < s_6 < \dots$.

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