



Math 1050 ~ College Algebra

29 Series

$$\begin{aligned} -3x + 4y &= 5 \\ 2x - y &= -10 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -10 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^m k = \frac{m(m+1)}{2}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n z^k = \frac{1-z^{n+1}}{1-z}$$

Learning Objectives

- Use summation notation.
- Find the sum of a finite arithmetic sequence.
- Solve applications of arithmetic series.
- Find the value of an infinite geometric series with a finite sum.
- Find the sum of a finite geometric sequence.
- Solve applications of geometric series.

Summation Notation

$$\sum_{n=1}^p a_n = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \cdots + a_p$$

$$\sum_{n=j}^p a_n = a_j + a_{j+1} + a_{j+2} + \cdots + a_{p-1} + a_p$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \cdots$$

Ex 1: Find the following sums.

a) $\sum_{n=2}^6 (2n-1)$

b) $\sum_{k=1}^4 (-1)^k (2k)$

c) $\sum_{k=0}^5 2^k$

Ex 2: Write the following sums using summation notation. Assume the terms in each result from an arithmetic or geometric sequence

a) $9 - 6 + 4 - \frac{8}{3} + \frac{16}{9}$

b) $\frac{19}{2} + \frac{11}{2} + \frac{3}{2} - \frac{5}{2} + \cdots - \frac{29}{2}$

c) $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} + \cdots$

Properties of Summation

$$\sum_{n=j}^p (a_n \pm b_n) = \sum_{n=j}^p a_n \pm \sum_{n=j}^p b_n$$

$$\sum_{n=j}^p a_n = \sum_{n=j}^h a_n + \sum_{n=h}^p a_n, \text{ for any integer } j \leq h < p$$

$$\sum_{n=j}^p c a_n = c \sum_{n=j}^p a_n \quad c \text{ is a constant}$$

$$\sum_{n=j}^p a_n = \sum_{n=j+h}^{p+h} a_{n-h} \quad \text{for any integer } h \text{ (if } p = \infty, \text{ replace } p+h \text{ with } \infty)$$

Ex 3: Use the properties above to state these in another way.

a) $\sum_{k=1}^8 \frac{k^2}{3}$ b) $\sum_{k=1}^{10} \left(2k - \frac{1}{k^2} \right)$ c) $\sum_{j=2}^5 (j+1) + \sum_{j=2}^5 \frac{2}{j^2}$

Arithmetic Series

Ex 4: Add the first hundred integers.

Applications of Series

Ex 7: You are trying to break a bad habit. Two relatives offer to help with a financial incentive, but you must choose only one. How much is each offer? Which would you take?

a) Your Great Auntie Mare offers to give you \$1.00 on the first day of February and each day thereafter, she will give you one dollar more than she did the day before.

b) Your Uncle Ulysses offers to give you 1 cent on the first day of February and each day thereafter, he will give you double what he gave you the day before.