

MAT 132 8.2- Series

Consider the sequence defined explicitly by the formula $a_n = 1/2^n$.

Define a new sequence:

$$s_1 = a_1,$$

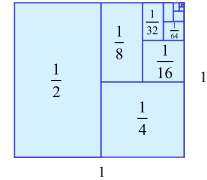
$$s_2 = a_1 + a_2,$$

$$s_3 = a_1 + a_2 + a_3,$$

...

$$s_n = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n,$$

Is $\{s_n\}$ convergent?



Consider a sequence $\{a_n\}$. We associate with $\{a_n\}$ a new sequence $\{s_n\}$, with general term

$$s_n = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n,$$

The sequence $\{s_n\}$ is called an *infinite series*.

If the sequence $\{s_n\}$ is convergent to a number s then we write

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n = s$$

The number s is called the sum of the series.

Example: give the first three terms of the series associated to the sequences below, determine whether they are convergent and if so, find the sum.

a. $a_n = (-1)^n$.

b. $a_n = n/(n+1)$

c. $a_n = n$

d. $a_n = 1/(n \cdot (n+1))$.

e. $a_n = 1/3^n$.

Hint: Recall

$$(a^n - b^n) = (a - b)(a^{n-1} + a^{n-2}b + \dots + ab^{n-2} + b^{n-1})$$

$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ar^{n-1}$ Determine whether each of the series below is a geometric series. If so, find a formula for the general term and a formula for the sum.

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} + \dots$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-1}$$

$$\frac{3}{5} - \frac{12}{25} + \frac{48}{125} - \frac{192}{625} + \dots$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3}{5} \left(-\frac{4}{5}\right)^{n-1}$$

$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{4}{3} + \frac{8}{3} + \frac{16}{3} + \dots$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{3} (2)^{n-1}$$

The sum of a geometric series

$$s_n = a + ar + ar^2 + ar^3 + \dots + ar^{n-1} \quad \text{Sum of } n \text{ terms}$$

$$rs_n = ar + ar^2 + ar^3 + \dots + ar^n \quad \text{Multiply each term by } r$$

$$s_n - rs_n = a - ar^n \quad \text{subtract}$$

$$s_n = \frac{a - ar^n}{1 - r} = \frac{a(1 - r^n)}{1 - r}, r \neq 1$$

if $|r| < 1$, $r^n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Geometric series converges to $s_n = \frac{a}{1 - r}$, $|r| < 1$

If $r > 1$ the geometric series diverges.

Find, if possible, the sum of the geometric series below.

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} + \dots \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-1}$$

$$\frac{3}{5} - \frac{12}{25} + \frac{48}{125} - \frac{192}{625} + \dots \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3}{5} \left(-\frac{4}{5}\right)^{n-1}$$

$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{4}{3} + \frac{8}{3} + \frac{16}{3} + \dots \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{3} (2)^{n-1}$$

Recall: An geometric sequence has the form $a_n = a_1 \cdot r^{n-1}$

- Write the number $3.\overline{1234}$ as a ratio of integers.

Important example.

- The series associated with the sequence $a_n = 1/n$ is called the harmonic series.
- Determine whether the harmonic series is convergent.

Theorem

- If a series associated to the sequence $\{a_n\}$ is convergent, then $a_n \rightarrow 0$ when $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Question: if $a_n = 1/n$ then $a_n \rightarrow 0$ when $n \rightarrow \infty$. Does this imply that the harmonic series is convergence.

What does this theorem tell us?

If a_n does not converge to 0 when $n \rightarrow \infty$ then the series diverges.

If $a_n \rightarrow 0$ when $n \rightarrow \infty$ the series may converge (but we need more work to prove it or disprove it)

8 Theorem If $\sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ are convergent series, then so are the series $\sum ca_n$ (where c is a constant), $\sum (a_n + b_n)$, and $\sum (a_n - b_n)$, and

$$(i) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ca_n = c \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \quad (ii) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n + b_n) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$$

$$(iii) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n - b_n) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$$

Find the area and the perimeter of the Koch Snowflake

