

# INFINITE SERIES: GEOMETRIC SERIES & TELESCOPING SERIES [SST 8.2]

**DEFINITIONS:** Let  $\{a_n\}_{n=N}^{\infty}$  (where  $N \in \mathbb{Z}$ ) be a **sequence**. That is,  $\text{Dom}(\{a_n\}) \subset \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\text{Rng}(\{a_n\}) \subset \mathbb{R}$ .

- The  $n^{\text{th}}$  **partial sum** is defined by:  $S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k$ . e.g. The  $5^{\text{th}}$  partial sum is  $S_5 = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4 + a_5$ .
- An **infinite series**  $\sum_{k=N}^{\infty} a_k = a_N + a_{N+1} + a_{N+2} + \dots$  is a **sequence of partial sums**  $\{S_n\}_{n=N}^{\infty}$  where  $S_n := \sum_{k=1}^n a_k$ .
  - The RHS of  $\sum_{k=N}^{\infty} a_k = a_N + a_{N+1} + a_{N+2} + \dots$  is called the **series expansion**. The LHS is called the **closed form**.
- $k$  is called the **index** of the series  $\sum_{k=N}^{\infty} a_k$ .
  - Any index can be used:  $\sum_{i=N}^{\infty} a_i = \sum_{j=N}^{\infty} a_j = \sum_{k=N}^{\infty} a_k = \sum_{n=N}^{\infty} a_n = \sum_{\alpha=N}^{\infty} a_{\alpha} = \sum_{\omega=N}^{\infty} a_{\omega}$ .
  - Similarly with definite integrals:  $\int_a^b f(x) dx = \int_a^b f(y) dy = \int_a^b f(z) dz = \int_a^b f(\alpha) d\alpha = \int_a^b f(\omega) d\omega$
- We'll never consider **finite series**,  $\sum_{k=N}^M a_k$ , as Calculus is not necessary in computing or analysing them.
  - Thus going forward, any mention of just "series" means "infinite series".

## SERIES CONVERGENCE IS RELATED TO SEQUENCE CONVERGENCE:

- **Series**  $\sum_{k=N}^{\infty} a_k$  **converges**  $\iff$  Sequence of partial sums  $\{S_n\}_{n=N}^{\infty}$  converges. Otherwise, the series **diverges**.

## GENERAL PROPERTIES OF SERIES: $(c, d \in \mathbb{R})$

- (SR.L)  $\sum_{k=N}^{\infty} a_k$  and  $\sum_{k=N}^{\infty} b_k$  both converge  $\implies \sum_{k=N}^{\infty} (ca_k + db_k)$  converges  $\implies \sum_{k=N}^{\infty} (ca_k + db_k) = c \sum_{k=N}^{\infty} a_k + d \sum_{k=N}^{\infty} b_k$
- Either  $\sum_{k=N}^{\infty} a_k$  or  $\sum_{k=N}^{\infty} b_k$  diverges  $\implies \sum_{k=N}^{\infty} (ca_k + db_k)$  diverges

## ARITHMETIC SERIES: $(a, b \in \mathbb{R})$

- (SR.A) **Arithmetic series**  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (ak + b)$  converges only when  $a = b = 0$ , otherwise it diverges.

## GEOMETRIC SERIES:

- **Geometric series** has the form:  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} ar^k = a + ar + ar^2 + ar^3 + ar^4 + ar^5 + \dots$  where  $a \neq 0$ .
- (SR.G)  $|r| < 1 \implies \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} ar^k$  converges  $\implies \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} ar^k = \frac{a}{1-r}$       Otherwise,  $|r| \geq 1 \implies \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} ar^k$  diverges ( $a \neq 0$ )
- Note that the **index**  $k$  must start at **zero**. If it doesn't, **re-index**:

– (IDX) e.g.  $\sum_{k=-2}^{\infty} ar^k = ar^{-2} + ar^{-1} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} ar^k$ ,      e.g.  $\sum_{k=3}^{\infty} ar^k \stackrel{CI=0}{=} -ar^0 - ar^1 - ar^2 + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} ar^k$

## TELESCOPING SERIES:

- (SR.T) A series is called a **telescoping series** if there is **internal cancellation of terms in the partial sums**.
- Basic Forms:  $\sum_{k=N}^{\infty} [f(k) - f(k+1)]$       or       $\sum_{k=N}^{\infty} [f(k) - f(k-1)]$ , where  $f$  is a **function**.
- Useful tools: Partial Fraction Decomposition (PFD), Properties of Logarithms, Rationalizing Roots, Trig Identities.

**EX 8.2.1:** Expand the first five terms of each series:

$$(a) \sum_{k=-2}^{\infty} k^5 =$$

$$(b) \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{j^2} =$$

$$(c) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{2}\right) =$$

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**EX 8.2.2:** Write each series expansion in closed form (NOTE: Closed forms are not unique):

$$(a) 1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + 4^2 + 5^2 + \dots =$$

$$(b) (-1) + 1 + 8 + 27 + 64 + \dots =$$

$$(c) 7 - \sqrt{7} + 1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{7}} + \frac{1}{7} + \dots =$$

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**EX 8.2.3:** (a) Find the  $n^{\text{th}}$  partial sum,  $S_n$ , of the series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (k + 100)$ . (b) Does the series converge?

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**EX 8.2.4:** (a) Find the  $n^{\text{th}}$  partial sum,  $S_n$ , of the series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^k$ . (b) Does the series converge?

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**EX 8.2.5:** Does the series  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{11}{(-3)^{k+2}}$  converge? If so, what's its sum?

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**EX 8.2.6:** Does the series  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-4)^k}{(-5)^{2k+1}}$  converge? If so, what's its sum?

**EX 8.2.7** Does the series  $\sum_{k=-3}^{\infty} \frac{1}{6^{k+1}}$  converge? If so, what's its sum?

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**EX 8.2.8** Does the series  $\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^4 + \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^5 + \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^6 + \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^7 + \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^8 + \dots$  converge? If so, what's its sum?

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**EX 8.2.9** Does the series  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left[ 7 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^k - 5 \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^k \right]$  converge? If so, what's its sum?

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**EX 8.2.10** Does the series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1+3^k}{2^k}$  converge? If so, what's its sum?

**EX 8.2.11** Does the series  $\sum_{k=5}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k(k+1)}$  converge? If so, what's its sum?

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**EX 8.2.12** Does the series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (e^{-k} - e^{-(k+1)})$  converge? If so, what's its sum?

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**EX 8.2.13** Does the series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right)$  converge? If so, what's its sum?