Infinite Sequences and Series

Finite Sequence: A sequence that eventually comes to an end.

ex.
$$t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4, ..., t_n$$

Infinite Sequence: A sequence that continues indefinitely.

$$ex. t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4, ...$$

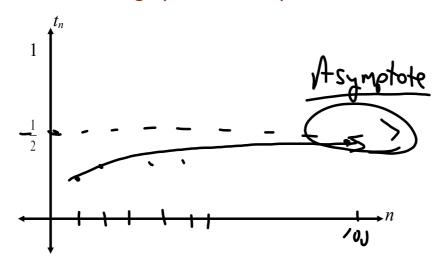
Another example of an infinite sequence would be

$$t_n = \frac{n}{2n+1}$$
, where $n \in N$

Let's look at the first few terms of this infinite sequence...

 $t_1 = \frac{1}{3}$, $t_2 = \frac{2}{5}$, $t_3 = \frac{3}{7}$, $t_4 = \frac{4}{9}$ As n increases what is happening to t_n ?

What would the graph of this sequence look like?



This result is expressed mathematically as follows:

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{n}{2n+1} = \frac{1}{2}$$
 "The limit of $\frac{n}{2n+1}$ as *n* approaches infinity is $\frac{1}{2}$."

Infinite Series

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \dots + a_n + \dots$$

• The first thing to understand about an infinite series is that it is not a true sum. For example we can add a finite number of 2's together and get a real number, but if we add an infinite number of 2's together we do not get a real number at all.

Partial Sum: The sum of a finite number of terms of a series.

Example:
$$-2 + 0 + 2 + 4 + 6 + 8 + 10 + ...$$

$$-2 + 0 + 2 + 4 + 6 + 8 + 10 + ...$$

$$-2 + 0 + 2 + 4 + 6 + 8 + 10 + ...$$

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$$-2 + 0 + 2 + 10 + 10 +$$

Sometimes with an infinite series the sequence of partial sums, all of which are true sums, approaches a finite limit S:

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \sum_{k=1}^{n} a_k = \lim_{n \to \infty} (a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n) = S$$

- If this is the case then we say that the series converges to S, and it would make sense to define S as the sum of the infinite series.
- If the limit of the partial sums does not exist, then the series diverges and has no sum.

Example:

Which of the following series converge?

(a)
$$0.1 + 0.01 + 0.001 + 0.0001 + \dots$$

(b)
$$10 + 20 + 30 + 40 + 50 + 60 + \dots$$

(c)
$$1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + 1 - \dots$$

(a) 0.1 + 0.01 + 0.001 + 0.0001 + Converges

(b) 10 + 20 + 30 + 40 + 50 + 60 + ... diverges

(c) 1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + 1 - ... diverges

Convergence of Geometric Series

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} ar^{k-1}$$
 will converge if and only if $|r| < 1$.

If it does converge, the sum of the series will be

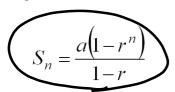


Why?

• Have a look at what happens if you take a fraction that is less than 1 and raise it to large powers.

$$\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{100} O \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{1000} O$$

 Now use what you just found to look at the limit of the sum of a geometric series as n approaches infinity



$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \frac{a(r)}{1-r}$$



Example:

Determine whether each of the following series converges. If it converges, give the sum of the series.

$$\begin{array}{lll} & \text{convergent} \\ & \text$$

Practice Pg.63 #1,2,5,6,7,9,11,17