

Chapter 7 - Arithmetic Series

AP = Arithmetic Progression

(AP) is a sequence of numbers in order, in which the difference between any two consecutive numbers is a constant value

- L First term (a)
- L Common difference (d)
- L n th Term (a_n)
- L The sum of the first n terms (S_n)

General formula = $a + (n - 1) d$

General term = $a_n = a + (n - 1) \times d$

Sum of terms = $S_n = n/2[2a + (n - 1) \times d]$

GP = Geometric Progression

(GP) is a type of sequence where each succeeding term is produced by multiplying each preceding term by a fixed number, which is called a common ratio

- L Three non-zero terms – a, b, c – are in GP only if $b^2 = ac$
- L In a GP, three consecutive terms can be taken as $a/r, a, ar$
- L Four consecutive terms can be taken as $a/r^3, a/r, ar, ar^3$
- L Five consecutive terms can be taken as $a/r^2, a/r, a, ar, ar^2$
- L In a finite GP, the product of the terms equidistant from the beginning and the end is the same. That means, $t_1 \cdot t_n = t_2 \cdot t_{n-1} = t_3 \cdot t_{n-2} = \dots$
- L If each term of a GP is multiplied or divided by a non-zero constant, then the resulting sequence is also a GP with the same standard ratio
- L The product and quotient of two GPs is again a GP
- L If each term of a GP is raised to the power by the same non-zero quantity, the resultant sequence is also a GP

General formula = ar^{n-1}

General term formula = $a_n = t_n = ar^{n-1}$

Sum of terms formula = $S_n = a[(r^n - 1)/(r - 1)]$ if $r \neq 1$ and $r > 1$

Sum to infinity formula = $S_\infty = a/(1-r)$

The sum to infinity of a geometric sequence is the sum of the first n terms as n approaches infinity. This, however, does not exist for all geometric sequences. Let's relate this to two examples.

$$2 + 4 + 8 + 16 + 32 + \dots$$

Each term is twice the previous term ($r = 2$). The sum of the series is not finite, since each term is bigger than the previous. This is known as a divergent sequence.

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

In this sequence, each term is half the previous term ($r = \frac{1}{2}$). The sum of this kind of series is finite since eventually, the terms will reach 0. This is known as a convergent sequence.

A geometric sequence is only convergent if $|r| < 1$

Sigma Notation

This tells us the last value of r for our sequence, i.e. our last term will be $7 - 2(20) = -33$

This is the value of r where our series starts, i.e. our first term is $7 - 2(1) = 5$.

Inputting $r = 1$ into this expression gives us the first term, $r = 2$ gives us the second term, and so forth.

This series in particular represents an arithmetic series with first term 5 and common difference -2

$$\sum_{r=1}^{20} (7 - 2r) = 5 + 3 + 1 - 1 + \dots$$