

A series is the expression for the sum of the terms of a sequence.

Finite sequences and series have terms that you can count individually from 1 to a final whole number n .

Infinite sequences and series continue without end. You can indicate an infinite sequence with an ellipsis.

Finite vs. Infinite

Finite sequence

6, 9, 12, 15, 18

Finite Series

$6 + 9 + 12 + 15 + 18$

Infinite sequence

3, 7, 11, 15, ...

Infinite Series

$3 + 7 + 11 + 15 + \dots$

Example 1:

Find the sum of the numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

One way to find the sum is to add each term individually:

$$1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9 = \underline{45}$$

Is this always feasible? **NO!**

The sum of a **finite** arithmetic series:

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2} (a_1 + a_n)$$

terms *1st term* *last term*

Sum of n terms

Find the sum of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 using this formula.

$$S_n = \frac{9}{2} (1+9)$$

$$= 45$$

1. Find the sum of the first 10 numbers of the series
 $23 + 25 + 27 + 29 + \dots + 41$.

$S_{10} = \frac{10}{2} (23 + 41) = 320$

2. Find the sum of: $-2 + 2.5 + 7 + 11.5 + \dots + 268$

$a_n = a_1 + d(n-1)$
 $268 = -2 + 4.5(n-1)$
 $n = 61$
 $S_n = \frac{n}{2} (-2 + 268) = 8113$

3. $a_1 = 12$ $n = 8$ $a_n = -23$

$S_8 = \frac{8}{2} (12 + (-23)) = -44$

1. Given $S_n = 822$, $n = 12$, and $a_1 = 8$, find a_n .

$822 = \frac{12}{2} (8 + a_n)$

$a_n = 129$

2. Given $a_1 = 12$ and $a_n = 86$, and $S_n = 931$, find n .

$931 = \frac{n}{2} (12 + 86)$

$n = 19$

Determine the number of terms for the given series.

$-2 + 2.5 + 7 + \dots$, $S_n = 5194$

$5194 = \frac{n}{2} (-2 + a_n)$
 $a_n = -2 + 4.5(n-1)$
 $= 4.5n - 6.5$

$5194 = \frac{n}{2} (-2 + 4.5n - 6.5)$

$10388 = n(4.5n - 8.5)$

$0 = 4.5n^2 - 8.5n - 10388$

Quad for $n = 49$

* n has to be positive

Summation Notation

$\sum_{n=i}^j a_n$
 Last term j
 first term i
 Explicit Eq

↓
 term #

* Also called sigma notation

Evaluate $\sum_{n=1}^{85} (n-1)$

$S = \frac{85}{2} (0 + 84)$
 $= 3570$

Evaluate $\sum_{n=12}^{32} (25 - 2n)$

$32 - 12 + 1$
 $S = \frac{21}{2} (1 - 39) = -399$

Not Arithmetic find by hand

Evaluate the following.

1. $\sum_{m=1}^4 (m^2 - 2)$

$-1, 2, 7, 14$
 $= 22$

2. $\sum_{n=2}^6 3n^2$

$12, 27, 48, 75, 108$
 $= 270$

3. $\sum_{n=0}^6 (4n^2 + 1)$

$1, 9, 17, 37, 65, 101, 145$
 $= 371$

Write the following series using sigma notation.

1. $5 + 9 + 13 \dots + 33$

$\sum_{n=1}^8 (4n+1)$

$33 = 5 + 4(n-1)$
 $n = 8$

2. $7, 1, -5, -11, \dots, -53$

$\sum_{n=1}^{11} (-6n+13)$

$-53 = 7 - 6(n-1)$

$a_n = 7 - 6(n-1)$
 $a_n = 13 - 6n$
 $n = 11$

A geometric series is the expression for the sum of a geometric sequence.

As with arithmetic series, we can use a formula to evaluate geometric finite series.

Sum of n terms

$$S_n = \frac{a(1 - r^n)}{1 - r} \quad r \neq 1$$

1st term (pointing to a)
nth term (pointing to r^n)

Find the sum of the following series.

1. $a_1 = 60$ $n = 6$ $r = 1/2$

$$S = \frac{60(1 - (\frac{1}{2})^6)}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} = 118.125$$

2. Find the sum of: 2, 4, 8, ... to 8 terms

$$S = \frac{2(1 - 2^8)}{1 - 2} = 510$$

Use the formula to evaluate the series
 $3 + 6 + 12 + 24 + 48 + 96.$

$$S = \frac{3(1 - 2^6)}{1 - 2} = 189$$

Find the sum of $\sum_{n=1}^8 4 \cdot 3^{n-2}$

Plug in 1 to get 1st term
1st term = $\frac{4}{3}$

$$S = \frac{\frac{4}{3}(1 - 3^8)}{1 - 3} = 4373.33$$