

Andrew's neighbours are planning on taking a vacation for two weeks. They have asked him to look after their cat and to water their plants. The neighbours have offered to pay him \$5 per day or \$0.01 the first day, \$0.02 the second day, \$0.04 the third day, \$0.08 the fourth day, etc.

1. Which method of payment should Andrew choose?

$$\frac{\$5}{\text{day}} \times 14 \text{ days} = 70 \$ \text{ or}$$

2. Andrew notices that the amounts he will earn each day if he chooses the second plan are the terms of the geometric sequence

$$0.01, 0.01(2)^1, 0.01(2)^2, 0.01(2)^3, \dots, 0.01(2)^{13}$$

Calculate the amount that he will have at the end of two weeks.

$$S_{14} = 0.01 + \underbrace{0.01(2)}_{\times 2} + \underbrace{0.01(2)^2}_{\times 2} + \underbrace{0.01(2)^3}_{\times 2} + \dots + \boxed{0.01(2)^{13}} = \$81.92$$

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

$$S_{14} = \frac{0.01(2^{14} - 1)}{2 - 1} = \frac{163.83}{1} = 163.83 \$$$

Generalize this method to find a formula for the geometric series

$$S_n = a + ar + ar^2 + \dots + ar^{n-1}$$

Geometric series is sum of the terms in a geometric sequence.

e.g) $-3 + 6 - 12 + 24 \dots$

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

a = first term r = common ratio

Example 1 Find the sum of the first ten numbers in the series. $S_{10} = ?$

a) $2 + 6 + 18 + \dots$

$\swarrow \searrow$
 $\times 3 \quad \times 3$ so $r=3$

$$S_{10} = \frac{2(3^{10} - 1)}{3 - 1} = 59048$$

b) $-2 + 4 - 8 + \dots$

$\swarrow \searrow$
 $\times -2 \quad \times -2$ so $r=-2$

$$S_{10} = \frac{-2((-2)^{10} - 1)}{-2 - 1}$$

$$= \frac{-2046}{-3} = 682$$

c) $1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{9} + \dots$

$\swarrow \searrow$
 $\times \frac{1}{3} \quad \times \frac{1}{3}$ so $r = \frac{1}{3}$

$$\frac{-59048}{59049} \times \frac{3}{-2} = \frac{-177144}{-118098} = 1.5$$

$$S_{10} = \frac{1\left(\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{10} - 1\right)}{\left(\frac{1}{3} - 1\right)} = \frac{\left(\frac{1}{59049} - 1\right)}{\left(\frac{1}{3} - 3\right)} = \frac{\frac{1 - 59049}{59049}}{\frac{-2}{3}} = \frac{-59048}{59049} \times \frac{3}{-2} = 1.5$$

Example 2 Find the sum of the series $\frac{1}{25} + \frac{1}{5} + 1 + \dots + 3125 \rightarrow n = ?$

$\swarrow \searrow$
 $\times 5 \quad \times 5$ so $r=5$

In order to find n , we use G sequence

formula: $t_n = a(r)^{n-1}$

G series formula

$$25 \times 3125 = \frac{1}{25} (5)^{n-1} \times 25$$

$$78125 = 5^{n-1}$$

$$78125 = 5^7$$

$$5^7 = 5^{n-1}$$

$$7 = n - 1$$

$$\therefore n = 8$$

\rightarrow Trial and error by using calculator

$$S_8 = \frac{\frac{1}{25} (5^8 - 1)}{5 - 1}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{1}{25} \times 390624}{4}$$

$$= 3906.24$$