

12.3 and 12.4 Infinite Sequences & Series

1. **Infinite Sequence:** A sequence that never ends.
2. The sequence $1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{5}, \dots, \frac{1}{n}$ has infinitely many terms; as n increases the value of the terms decrease and get closer and closer to 0. Think about the graph of this function.

0 is called the Limit of the terms in this sequence and can be expressed as follows:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0 \quad \text{"the limit of } \frac{1}{n}, \text{ as } n \text{ approaches infinity equals zero"}$$

3. Rules for Finding Limits (**Same as horizontal asymptote rules**):
 - a. If the largest exponents are the same in the numerator and denominator, the limit is the ratio of the coefficients of the terms containing the largest exponent.
 - b. If largest exponent is in the numerator, there is no limit.
 - c. If the largest exponent is in the denominator, the limit is 0.
4. Find each limit:

a. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1-2n}{5n}$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-2n+1}{5n} = \frac{-2}{5}$$

b. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4n^2-6}{3n-1}$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4n^2-6}{3n-1} = \text{DNE}$$

c. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2n^2-3n+4}{3n^2+1}$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2n^2-3n+4}{3n^2+1} = \frac{2}{3}$$

d. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2+4}{n^3}$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2+4}{n^3} = 0$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2}{n^3} + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4}{n^3}$$

*e. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{5^n}$

Remember this is $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)^n$ so $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)^n = 0$

*f. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (2)^n$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^n = \text{DNE}$$

5. **Infinite Series:** An infinite series is the indicated sum of the terms of an infinite sequence
6. **Sum of an Infinite Series:** The sum of an infinite geometric series for which $|r| < 1$ is

given by
$$S_n = \frac{a_1}{1-r}$$

We knew
$$S_n = a_1 \left(\frac{1-r^n}{1-r} \right)$$

$$= a_1 \left(\frac{1-\left(\right)^n}{1-r} \right)$$

now if r is a fraction the limit goes to zero,

7. Find the sum of each infinite series, or state that the sum does not exist.

a. $\frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{40} + \frac{1}{80} + \dots$

$r = \frac{1}{2}$
 $S_n = \frac{\frac{1}{20}}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{20} \div \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{10}$

b. $2\sqrt{2} + 8 + 16\sqrt{2} + \dots$

$r = 2\sqrt{2}$
 Since $|r| > 1$
 the sum DNE

c. $2 + \sqrt{2} + 1 + \dots$

$r = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$
 $S_n = \frac{2}{1 - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}} = \frac{2}{\frac{2 - \sqrt{2}}{2}} = 2 \div \frac{2 - \sqrt{2}}{2}$
 $\frac{2 \cdot 2}{2 - \sqrt{2}} = \frac{4}{2 - \sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{2 + \sqrt{2}}{2 + \sqrt{2}} = \frac{8 + 4\sqrt{2}}{2} = 4 + 2\sqrt{2}$

8. **Convergent Series:** Has a sum or limit ($|r| < 1$)

9. **Divergent Series:** Does not have a sum or limit, ($|r| \geq 1$) and it diverges

10. Determine whether each series is arithmetic or geometric, then determine if it is convergent or divergent.

a. $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6} + \dots$

$r = \frac{1}{2}$ geometric
 convergent
 $S_n = \frac{\frac{2}{3}}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{2}{1} = \frac{4}{3}$

b. $-4 - 2 - 0 + 2 + \dots$

$d = 2$ arithmetic
 divergent

c. $1 + 3 + 9 + 27 + \dots$

$r = 3$ geometric
 divergent

d. $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2^k$

$2 + 4 + 8 + 16, \dots$
 $r = 2$ geometric
 divergent

f. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2(4)^k$

$8 + 32 + 128, \dots$
 $r = 4$
 convergent $S_n = \frac{8}{1 - 4} = \frac{4}{3}$

11. **Repeating Decimals as a Fraction:**

You can use what you know about infinite series to write repeating decimals as fractions - - you must write the repeating decimal as an infinite geometric series

12. Write each repeating decimal as a fraction.

a. 0.454545...

$\frac{45}{100} + \frac{45}{10,000} + \frac{45}{1,000,000} + \dots$
 $r = \frac{1}{100}$
 $\frac{a_1}{1 - r} = \frac{\frac{45}{100}}{1 - \frac{1}{100}} = \frac{45}{100} \div \frac{99}{100} = \frac{45}{99} = \frac{5}{11}$

b. 0.888...

$\frac{8}{10} + \frac{8}{100} + \frac{8}{1000} + \dots$
 $r = \frac{1}{10}$
 $\frac{\frac{8}{10}}{1 - \frac{1}{10}} = \frac{8}{10} \div \frac{9}{10} = \frac{8}{9}$

c. 7.259259...

$7 + \left[\frac{259}{1000} + \frac{259}{1,000,000} + \dots \right]$
 $r = \frac{1}{1000}$
 $7 + \frac{\frac{259}{1000}}{1 - \frac{1}{1000}}$
 $7 + \frac{259}{999}$
 $= \frac{7252}{999} = \frac{196}{27}$