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Zeno's Paradox

Drug Doses, Periodic Payments and More

250 mg every 6 hours, when 4% of the drug remains. How much is in the body after the n^{th} dose? Does the infinite series converge (i.e. stabilize in the body)?

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$$\text{after } n^{\text{th}} \text{ dose: } \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 250(.04)^i = \frac{a(1-x^n)}{1-x} = \frac{250(1-.04^n)}{1-.04}$$

$$|x| = .04 < 1 \text{ so } \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} 250 \cdot .04^i \text{ converges to } \frac{250}{1-.04} \approx 260.42$$

Clicker Question

1. Is this geometric? $5 - 10 + 20 - 40 + 80\dots$

- a) yes and I have a good reason why
- b) yes but I am unsure of why
- c) no, although it is a series
- d) no, it is a sequence, not a series

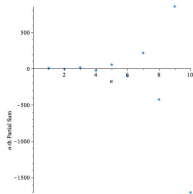
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$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} 5(-2)^i$$

$|x| = 2 > 1$ diverges



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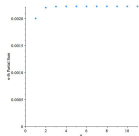
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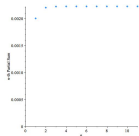
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$|.1|$, the common ratio, < 1 , so geo series converges to

$$\frac{a(1 - x^n)}{1 - x} = (2(.1)^2) \frac{1 - .1^{10}}{1 - .1}$$

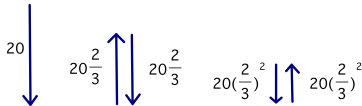
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3. We deposit \$150 per month (at the end of each month) into an account that pays 1.2% each month. What do we have in 3 years if the interest rate doesn't change?

- a) $\sum_{i=0}^{35} 150(1 + .012)^i$
- b) $\frac{150(1 - 1.012^{36})}{1 - 1.012}$
- c) both of the above
- d) none of the above

Clicker Question

4. We drop a ball from 20 ft and the ball bounces $\frac{2}{3}$ as high each time as the last. Can the total vertical distance (up and down) after the n^{th} bounce hits the ground be written as a geometric series?

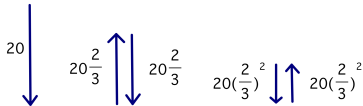


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a) yes

b) no

$$\sum_{i=0}^n 40\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^i - 20 = \frac{40\left(1 - \frac{2}{3}^{n+1}\right)}{1 - \frac{2}{3}} - 20$$

History and Applications

- Archimedes: compute the area enclosed by a parabola and a straight line using an infinite number of triangles and sum of geometric series
- early calculus: series represented geometric quantities and were manipulated using methods extended from finite procedures
- geometric series arise in many places, like in the examples we mentioned
- physical chemistry such as harmonic oscillator
- important to the study of Taylor series, via comparison