Geometric Series

A geometric series is the ______ of the terms of a geometric sequence.

If the sequence is t_1 , t_2 , t_3 , t_4 t_n then the series is

$$S_1$$
, S_2 , S_3 , S_4 S_n where:

$$s_1 = t_1 = a$$

$$s_2 = t_1 + t_2 = a + ar$$

$$S_3 = t_1 + t_2 + t_3 = a + ar + ar^2$$

$$s_4 = t_1 + t_2 + t_3 + t_4 = a + ar + ar^2 + ar^3$$

In general

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

a is

r is

n is

Examples:

- 1. Find the sum of the first 10 terms of 5, 10, 20, 40, . . .
- 2. Find the sum of -4 + 12 36 + ... + 972.

Summary: Formula List

General Term

Geometric Sequence

Arithmetic Sequence

Series

Arithmetic

Arithmetic

(alternate version)

Geometric