

IB Mathematics HL

Topic 1 | Sequences and series

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A **number sequence** is a set of numbers defined by a rule. The rule is often a formula for the **general term** or **n th term** of the sequence.

A sequence which continues forever is called an **infinite sequence**.

A sequence which terminates is called a **finite sequence**.

Arithmetic Sequences

- each term differs from the previous one by the same fixed number
- $u_{n+1} - u_n = d$ for all n , where d is the **common difference**
- the general n th term is $u_n = u_1 + (n - 1)d$.

Geometric Sequences

- each term is obtained from the previous one by multiplying by the same non-zero constant
- $\frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} = r$ for all n , where r is the **common ratio**
- the general n th term is $u_n = u_1 r^{n-1}$.

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Compound interest at $i\%$ per compounding period gives a geometric sequence with common ratio $\left(1 + \frac{i}{100}\right)$, which is raised to the power n , where n is the number of compounding periods.

Series

A **series** is the addition of the terms of a sequence.

For a **finite series** with n terms, the sum $S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n u_k = u_1 + u_2 + \dots + u_n$.

For a **finite arithmetic series**, $S_n = \frac{n}{2}(u_1 + u_n) = \frac{n}{2}(2u_1 + (n - 1)d)$.

For a **finite geometric series**, $S_n = \frac{u_1(r^n - 1)}{r - 1}$, $r \neq 1$.

For an **infinite series**, the sum $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} u_k$ can only be calculated in some cases.

The sum of an **infinite geometric series** is $S = \frac{u_1}{1 - r}$ provided $|r| < 1$.

If $|r| > 1$ the series is **divergent**.

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- a** An arithmetic series has terms $u_5 = 11$ and $u_{12} = 53$.
- i** Find the first term u_1 and common difference d .
 - ii** Find the 22nd term u_{22} .
 - iii** Find the sum of the first 22 terms of the series.
- b** An infinite geometric series is defined by $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^k$.
- i** Find the first term u_1 and common ratio r .
 - ii** Find the sum of the series.

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- a i** $u_5 = 11$ and $u_{12} = 53$
 $\therefore u_1 + 4d = 11$ and $u_1 + 11d = 53$
 $\therefore (u_1 + 11d) - (u_1 + 4d) = 53 - 11$
 $\therefore 7d = 42$
 $\therefore d = 6$
 and $u_1 = 11 - 4d = -13$
- ii** $u_n = u_1 + (n-1)d$
 $\therefore u_{22} = u_1 + 21d = -13 + 21(6) = 113$
- iii** $S_n = \frac{n}{2}(u_1 + u_n)$
 $\therefore S_{22} = \frac{22}{2}(-13 + 113) = \frac{22}{2} \times 100 = 1100$
- b i** $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^k$ has general term $u_n = 2\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^n$
 $= \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^{n-1}$
 $\therefore u_1 = \frac{1}{2}$ and $r = \frac{1}{4}$.
- ii** Since $|r| < 1$, the series converges.
 $S = \frac{u_1}{1-r} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{1-\frac{1}{4}} = \frac{2}{3}$

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- a** Tobias invested €1600 on December 1st 2015. His investment earns fixed interest of 4.8% per annum, compounded annually.
- i** What will the investment be worth on December 1st 2022?
 - ii** How many years will it take for the investment to reach €5000?
- b** Consider the series $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 8(x+1)^{k-1}$.
- i** For what values of x will the series converge?
 - ii** Evaluate the sum of the series when $x = -0.2$.

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- a** Tobias' account balance forms a geometric sequence with $u_1 = 1600$ and $r = \left(1 + \frac{4.8}{100}\right) = 1.048$.
- i** On December 1st 2022, 7 compounding periods have passed.

$$\therefore u_8 = u_1 \times r^7$$

$$= 1600 \times 1.048^7 \approx \text{€}2221.51$$
 - ii** The investment reaches €5000 when

$$1600 \times 1.048^n = 5000$$

$$\therefore 1.048^n = \frac{5000}{1600} = \frac{25}{8}$$

$$\therefore n \approx 24.3 \quad \{\text{using technology}\}$$

$$\therefore \text{it will take 25 years for the investment to reach €5000.}$$
- b**
- i** The series is geometric with first term $u_1 = 8$, and common ratio $r = x + 1$.
 The series converges provided $|r| < 1$

$$\therefore -2 < x < 0$$
 - ii** When $x = -0.2$, the series converges with

$$\text{sum } S = \frac{u_1}{1-r} = \frac{8}{1-(-0.2+1)} = \frac{8}{0.2} = 40$$

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Find the sum of all integers between 30 and 90 (inclusive) which are **not** divisible by 3.

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The sum of the integers between 30 and 90 which are *not* a multiple of 3, is $(30 + 31 + 32 + \dots + 89 + 90) - (30 + 33 + \dots + 87 + 90)$.

Now, $30 + 31 + 32 + \dots + 89 + 90$ is an arithmetic series with $u_1 = 30$, $n = 61$, and $u_n = 90$.

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2}(u_1 + u_n)$$

$$\therefore S_{61} = \frac{61}{2}(30 + 90) \\ = 3660$$

Now, $30 + 33 + \dots + 87 + 90$ is an arithmetic series with $u_1 = 30$, $n = 21$, and $u_n = 90$

$$\therefore S_{21} = \frac{21}{2}(30 + 90) \\ = 1260$$

$$\therefore \text{the required sum} = 3660 - 1260 \\ = 2400$$

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A sequence is defined by $u_n = 8\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^{n-1}$.

- a Prove that the sequence is geometric.
- b Find the 4th term in rational form.
- c Find, correct to 3 decimal places where appropriate:

i $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n$

ii $\sum_{n=1}^{15} u_n$

Turn around

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{a } \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} &= \frac{8\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^n}{8\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^{n-1}} \\ &= \frac{3}{4} \text{ for all } n \end{aligned}$$

\therefore the sequence is geometric with common ratio $r = \frac{3}{4}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b } u_4 &= 8\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^3 \\ &= 8\left(\frac{27}{64}\right) \\ &= \frac{27}{8} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c } \text{I } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n &= \frac{u_1}{1-r} \\ &= \frac{8\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^0}{1-\frac{3}{4}} \\ &= \frac{8}{\frac{1}{4}} \\ &= 32 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{II } \sum_{n=1}^{15} u_n &= S_{15} \\ \text{Now, } S_n &= \frac{u_1(r^n - 1)}{r - 1} \\ \therefore S_{15} &= \frac{8\left(\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^{15} - 1\right)}{\frac{3}{4} - 1} \\ &\approx 31.572 \end{aligned}$$

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- a** A geometric sequence has consecutive terms $k-2$, $2k$, and k^2 . Find the value of k .
- b** A sequence is defined by $u_n = \frac{3-2n}{4}$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.
- Prove that the sequence is arithmetic.
 - Find the 20th term.
 - Find $\sum_{n=20}^{30} u_n$
- c** Aretha deposits €120 in an account on February 1. The account pays compound interest of 3.4% per annum, compounding monthly on the last day of each month.
- Find the value of the fund after interest is deposited on May 31.
 - Write an expression for the value of the fund after k years.
 - Hence find the value of the fund after 15 years.

Unfold

- a** Since they are consecutive terms, $\frac{k^2}{2k} = \frac{2k}{k-2}$ {equating ratios}
- $$\therefore k^2(k-2) = (2k)^2$$
- $$\therefore k^3 - 2k^2 = 4k^2$$
- $$\therefore k^3 - 6k^2 = 0$$
- $$\therefore k^2(k-6) = 0$$
- If $k=0$, the terms of the sequence are $-2, 0, 0$, which are not geometric.
If $k=6$, the terms of the sequence are $4, 12, 36$, which are geometric with common ratio 3 $\therefore k=6$
- b i** $u_n = \frac{3-2n}{4}$
- $$\therefore u_{n+1} - u_n = \frac{3-2(n+1)}{4} - \frac{3-2n}{4}$$
- $$= \frac{3-2n-2-3+2n}{4} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{ for all } n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$
- \therefore consecutive terms differ by $-\frac{1}{2}$,
so the sequence is arithmetic with $d = -\frac{1}{2}$.
- ii** $u_1 = \frac{3-2(1)}{4} = \frac{1}{4}$ and $d = -\frac{1}{2}$
- Now $u_n = u_1 + (n-1)d$
- $$\therefore u_{20} = \frac{1}{4} + 19\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) = -\frac{37}{4}$$
- iii** $\sum_{n=20}^{30} u_n = S_{30} - S_{19}$
- $$= \frac{30}{2} \left[2\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) + 29\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \right] - \frac{19}{2} \left[2\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) + 18\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \right]$$
- $$= (-210) - (-80.75) = -129.25$$
- c** Rate per month = $\frac{3.4\%}{12} = \frac{17}{600}$. Let $R = \frac{17}{600} \div 100 = \frac{17}{60000}$
- i** After 4 months, her amount is
- $$120(1+R) + 120(1+R)^2 + 120(1+R)^3 + 120(1+R)^4$$
- which is geometric with $u_1 = 120(1+R)$ and $r = 1+R$.
- So, $S_4 = 120(1+R) \left[\frac{(1+R)^4 - 1}{1+R-1} \right] \approx €483.41$
- ii** After k years or $12k$ months,
- $$S_{12k} = 120(1+R) \left[\frac{(1+R)^{12k} - 1}{R} \right]$$
- $$\therefore S_{12k} \approx 42472.9 \left([1.002833]^{12k} - 1 \right)$$
- iii** After 15 years, $k=15$
- $$S_{180} \approx 42472.9 \left([1.002833]^{180} - 1 \right) \approx €28\,200$$

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The **x -intercepts** of a function are the values of x for which $y = 0$. They are the **zeros** of the function.

The **y -intercept** of a function is the value of y when $x = 0$.

An **asymptote** is a line that the graph *approaches* or begins to look like as it tends to infinity in a particular direction.

- To find vertical asymptotes, look for values of x for which the function is undefined.
 - If $y = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$, find where $g(x) = 0$.
 - If $y = \log_a(f(x))$, find where $f(x) = 0$.
- To find horizontal asymptotes, consider the behaviour as $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$.

Unfold

Transformations of graphs

- $y = f(x) + b$ translates $y = f(x)$ vertically b units (upwards if $b > 0$).
- $y = f(x - a)$ translates $y = f(x)$ horizontally a units (right if $a > 0$).
- $y = f(x - a) + b$ translates $y = f(x)$ by the vector $\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$.
- $y = pf(x)$, $p > 0$ is a **vertical stretch** of $y = f(x)$ with scale factor p .
- $y = f(qx)$, $q > 0$ is a **horizontal stretch** of $y = f(x)$ with scale factor $\frac{1}{q}$.
- $y = -f(x)$ is a **reflection** of $y = f(x)$ in the x -axis.
- $y = f(-x)$ is a **reflection** of $y = f(x)$ in the y -axis.
- If $f^{-1}(x)$ exists, $y = f^{-1}(x)$ is a **reflection** of $y = f(x)$ in the line $y = x$.

Invariant points are the points which do not move under a transformation.

Graphs of modulus functions

To graph $y = |f(x)|$, we reflect in the x -axis that part of the graph of $y = f(x)$ which lies below the x -axis; the rest remains invariant.

To graph $y = f(|x|)$, the part of the graph of $y = f(x)$ which lies to the right of the y -axis is invariant, and this part is reflected in the y -axis.

Graphs of reciprocal functions

- If $f(x) > 0$ then $\frac{1}{f(x)} > 0$.
- If $f(x) < 0$ then $\frac{1}{f(x)} < 0$.
- When $f(x)$ is a minimum, $\frac{1}{f(x)}$ is a maximum, and vice versa.
- Zeros of $f(x)$ correspond to vertical asymptotes of $\frac{1}{f(x)}$.
- Vertical asymptotes of $f(x)$ correspond to zeros of $\frac{1}{f(x)}$.
- Invariant points occur when $f(x) = \pm 1$.

Graphs of rational functions

You should be able to graph a rational function of the form $y = \frac{ax + b}{cx + d}$, $c \neq 0$ using transformations, and include its asymptotes.

Graphs of exponential and logarithmic functions

The graph of $y = a^x$ has the horizontal asymptote $y = 0$.
The graph of $y = \log_a x$ has the vertical asymptote $x = 0$.

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Consider the function $f(x) = e^x$.

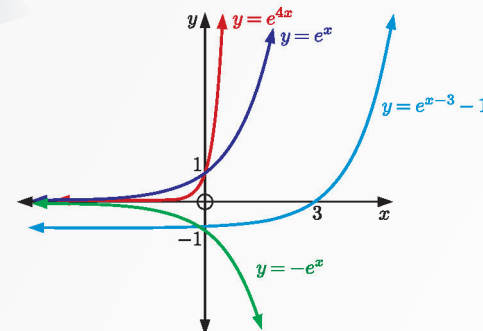
- a** Find the equation of the resulting image when $y = f(x)$ is:
- i** reflected in the x -axis
 - ii** translated by $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$
 - iii** stretched horizontally with scale factor $\frac{1}{4}$.
- b** Graph $y = f(x)$ and each of the transformations in **a** on the same set of axes.

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- a**
- i** For a reflection in the x -axis, $y = -f(x)$
 $\therefore y = -e^x$
 - ii** For a translation by $\begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$, $y = f(x-3) - 1$
 $\therefore y = e^{x-3} - 1$
 - iii** For a horizontal stretch with scale factor $\frac{1}{4}$,
 $y = f(4x)$
 $\therefore y = e^{4x}$
- b**



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The graph alongside shows the function

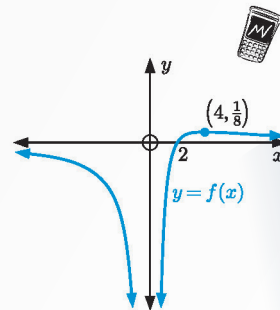
$$f(x) = \frac{x-2}{x^2}.$$

- a Explain why $f(x)$ has no inverse function.
- b State the asymptotes of $y = f(x)$.
- c Suppose $g(x) = \frac{x-2}{x^2}$, $0 < x \leq 4$.

Draw, on the same set of axes:

$$y = g(x), \quad y = g(-x), \quad y = -g(x), \quad y = \frac{1}{g(x)}, \quad y = |g(x)|,$$

$$y = g(x+2), \quad \text{and} \quad y = g^{-1}(x).$$

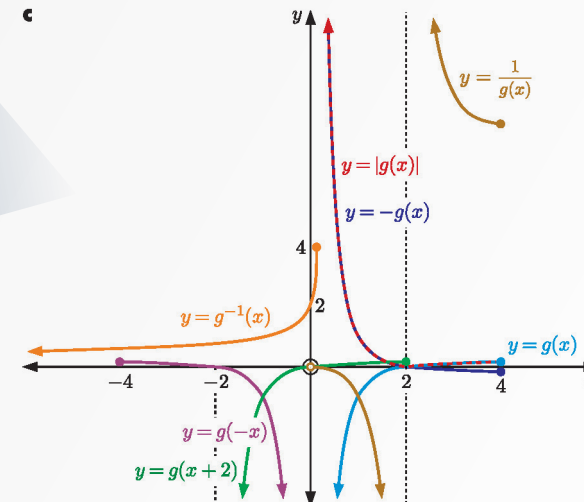


Turn around

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- a $f(x)$ is not one-to-one, so it has no inverse.
- b The asymptotes of $y = f(x)$ are $x = 0$ and $y = 0$.
- c



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Consider the function $f : x \mapsto 3 \ln(4 - x)$.

- a State the domain and range of f .
- b Find f^{-1} .
- c Graph $y = f(x)$ and $y = f^{-1}(x)$ on the same set of axes.

Turn around

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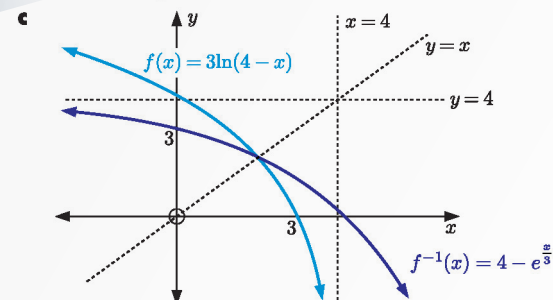
- a Domain = $\{x \mid x < 4\}$
Range = $\{y \mid y \in \mathbb{R}\}$

- b f is $y = 3 \ln(4 - x)$
 $\therefore f^{-1}$ is $x = 3 \ln(4 - y)$

$$\therefore \frac{x}{3} = \ln(4 - y)$$

$$\therefore e^{\frac{x}{3}} = 4 - y$$

$$\therefore y = 4 - e^{\frac{x}{3}}$$



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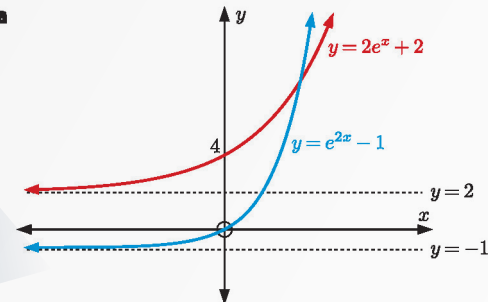
- a** Sketch the graphs of $y = e^{2x} - 1$ and $y = 2e^x + 2$ on the same set of axes.
- b** Find the coordinates of any points of intersection of the graphs.

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a



- b** The graphs intersect when

$$\begin{aligned} e^{2x} - 1 &= 2e^x + 2 \\ \therefore e^{2x} - 2e^x - 3 &= 0 \\ \therefore (e^x - 3)(e^x + 1) &= 0 \\ \therefore e^x &= 3 \quad \{\text{since } e^x > 0\} \\ \therefore x &= \ln 3 \end{aligned}$$

When $x = \ln 3$, $y = 2e^{\ln 3} + 2 = 8$
 \therefore the graphs intersect at $(\ln 3, 8)$.

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Let $g(x) = \frac{3-x}{x+1}$.

- a** Sketch $y = g(x)$, clearly showing any axes intercepts and asymptotes.

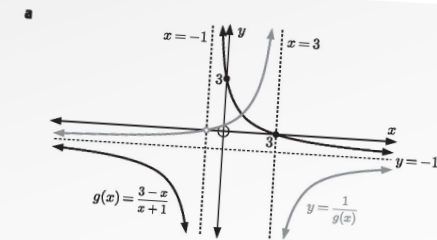
Hence, sketch $y = \frac{1}{g(x)}$ on the same set of axes.

- b** Explain what happens to $y = \frac{1}{g(x)}$ around $x = -1$.

- c** State the position of any invariant points.

- d** Explain what transformations can be used to produce $y = g(x)$ from $y = \frac{1}{x}$.

Unfold



- b** Since $x = -1$ is an asymptote of $y = g(x)$, the point where $x = -1$ is not included on the graph of $y = \frac{1}{g(x)}$. However, the graph crosses the axis either side of this point.

- c** Invariant points occur when $\frac{1}{g(x)} = g(x)$

$$\therefore [g(x)]^2 = 1$$

$$\therefore \left(\frac{3-x}{x+1}\right)^2 = 1$$

$$\therefore (3-x)^2 = (x+1)^2$$

$$\therefore 3-x = \pm(x+1)$$

$$\therefore 3-x = x+1 \quad \text{or} \quad 3-x = -x-1$$

$$\therefore 2x = 2 \quad \text{or} \quad x = 1$$

$$g(1) = \frac{3-1}{1+1} = 1$$

\therefore the only invariant point is $(1, 1)$.

d $g(x) = \frac{3-x}{x+1} = \frac{-(x+1)+4}{x+1} = -1 + \frac{4}{x+1}$

So, if $y = g(x)$, then $y = \frac{4}{x+1} - 1$.

This is a translation by $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ from $y = \frac{4}{x}$.

To obtain $y = g(x)$ from $y = \frac{1}{x}$, we first perform a vertical stretch of $y = \frac{1}{x}$ with scale factor 4. We then perform a translation of the resultant curve with translation vector $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$.