



JEE Main Maths

Short Notes

Sequence and Series

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SEQUENCE AND SERIES

1. Arithmetic Progression

Arithmetic Progression (AP) is defined as a series in which difference between any two consecutive terms is constant throughout the series. This constant difference is called the common difference. If a is the first term and d is the common difference then an AP can be written as $a, (a + d), (a + 2d) \dots$

The n th term of an AP is given by $T_n = a + (n-1)d$

And the sum up to n terms is given by $S_n = (n/2) [2a + (n-1)d] = (n/2) [a + l]$ where l is the last or the n th term of the A.P.

Properties of A.P. Series:

- If a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n are in AP with common difference d , then $a_1 + k, a_2 + k, \dots, a_n + k$ will also be in AP with same common difference.
- If a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n are in AP with common difference d , then $a_1 - k, a_2 - k, \dots, a_n - k$ will also be in AP with same common difference.
- If a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n are in AP with common difference d , then ka_1, ka_2, \dots, ka_n will also be in AP with same common difference kd .
- If a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n are in AP with common difference d , then $(a_1/k), (a_2/k), \dots, (a_n/k), \dots$ will also be in AP with same common difference d/k
- If a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n are in AP with common difference d_1 and b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n are in AP with common difference d_2 then $a_1 \pm b_1, a_2 \pm b_2, a_3 \pm b_3, \dots, a_n \pm b_n$ is in AP with common difference $d_1 \pm d_2$
- In a finite AP, the sum of terms equidistant from the beginning and end is always same i.e. $a_1 + a_n = a_2 + a_{n-1} = \dots$
- Three numbers a, b, c is in AP implies $2b = a + c$
- If $a, A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n, b$ are in AP, then A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n are called n Arithmetic Means between a and b .

Selection of terms in AP:

- 3 terms: $a - d, a, a + d$
- 4 terms: $a - 3d, a - d, a + d, a + 3d$
- 5 terms: $a - 2d, a - d, a, a + d, a + 2d$
- 6 terms: $a - 5d, a - 3d, a - d, a + d, a + 3d, a + 5d$

Sum of first n natural numbers: $1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n = [n(n+1)] / 2$

Sum of squares of 1st n natural numbers: $1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + n^2 = [n(n+1)(2n+1)] / 6$

Sum of cubes of 1st n natural numbers: $1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + n^3 = [n(n+1)] / 2]^2$



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2. Geometric Progression

GP is defined as a series in which ratio between any two consecutive terms is constant throughout the series. This constant is called the common ratio. If a is the first term and r is the common ratio, then a GP can be written as $a, ar, ar^2, ar^3, \dots, ar^n$

The n th term is given by $T_n = ar^{(n-1)}$

Sum up to n terms is given by $S_n = \frac{a(1-r^n)}{1-r}$ if $r \neq 1$
 $= na$ if $r = 1$

Properties of GP:

- If a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n are in GP with common ratio r then ka_1, ka_2, \dots, ka_n will also be in G.P. with the same common ratio provided k is non-zero
- If a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n are in GP with common ratio r then $(a_1/k), (a_2/k), \dots, (a_n/k)$ will also be in GP with the same common ratio provided k is non-zero
- If a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n are in GP then $a_1^k, a_2^k, \dots, a_n^k$ will also be in GP with common ratio r^k
- If a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n be in GP with all terms positive and common ratio r then $\log a_1, \log a_2, \dots, \log a_n$ will be in AP with common difference $\log r$.
- Product of two individual GP's will have common ratio as the product of two common ratios
- In a finite GP, the product of the terms equidistant from the beginning and the end is always the same i.e. $a_1a_n = a_2a_{n-1} = \dots$
- Three numbers a, b, c are in GP if $b^2 = ac$
- If $a, G_1, G_2, \dots, G_n, b$ are in GP, then G_1, G_2, \dots, G_n are called the n geometric means between a and b

Selection of terms in GP:

- 3 terms: $(a/r), a, ar$
- 4 terms: $(a/r^3), (a/r), ar, ar^3$
- 5 terms: $(a/r^2), (a/r), a, ar, ar^2$
- 6 terms: $(a/r^5), (a/r^3), a/r, ar, ar^3, ar^5$

Infinite GP Series:

If number of terms of a GP is very large i.e. n tends to infinite, then such a GP series is known as infinite GP series. An infinite GP will have finite sum if and only if $|r| < 1$

Sum of infinite series = $a / (1 - r)$



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3. Arithmetic-Geometric Progression

If each term of a progression is the product of the corresponding terms of an AP and a GP, then it is called a AGP.

i.e. $a, (a + d)r, (a + 2d)r^2, (a + 3d) ar^3, \dots, (a + (n-1)d) r^{n-1}$

The general term is $T_n = (a + (n-1) d) r^{(n-1)}$

To find the sum of n terms we suppose its sum is S_n . Multiply both sides by the common ratio of GP.

$$S_n = a + (a + d)r + (a + 2d)r^2 + (a + 3d) ar^3 + \dots + (a + (n-1)d)r^{n-1}$$

$$rS_n = ar + (a + d)r^2 + (a + 2d)r^3 + (a + 3d) ar^4 + \dots + (a + (n-1)d)r^n$$

So,

$$S_n(1 - r) = a + rd + r^2d + \dots + [a + (n - 1) d]r^n$$

$$S_n = \frac{a}{(1-r)} + [rd(1 - r^{n-1}) / (1 - r)^2] - [a + (n - 1) d]r^n / (1 - r)$$

4. Harmonic Progression

If a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n are in AP such that none of them is 0, then $(1/a_1), (1/a_2), \dots, (1/a_n)$ are said to be in HP

- If a, b, c are in HP, then $(1/a), (1/b), (1/c)$ are in AP
- If $a, H_1, H_2, \dots, H_n, b$ are in HP, then H_1, H_2, \dots, H_n are called n harmonic means between a and b.

5. Inequalities

$$\text{Arithmetic mean}(A) = \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n}{n}$$

$$\text{Geometric mean}(G) = (x_1 x_2 \dots x_n)^{\frac{1}{n}}$$

$$\text{Harmonic mean}(H) = \frac{n}{\frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_n}}$$

$$A \geq G \geq H$$

Equality holds when $x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_n$

$$\text{Weighted arithmetic mean}(A^*) = \frac{m_1 x_1 + m_2 x_2 + \dots + m_n x_n}{m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_n}$$

$$\text{Weighted geometric mean}(G^*) = (x_1^{m_1} x_2^{m_2} \dots x_n^{m_n})^{\frac{1}{m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_n}}$$

$$\text{Weighted harmonic mean}(H^*) = \frac{m_1 + m_2 + m_3 + \dots + m_n}{\frac{m_1}{x_1} + \frac{m_2}{x_2} + \dots + \frac{m_n}{x_n}}$$



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$$A^* \geq G^* \geq H^*$$

Equality holds when all the entries are equal

Let x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n be n positive real numbers and let m be a real number. Then

$$\frac{x_1^m + x_2^m + \dots + x_n^m}{n} \geq \left[\frac{x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n}{n} \right]^m \text{ if } m \text{ belongs to all real numbers outside the range } [0, 1]$$

$$\frac{x_1^m + x_2^m + \dots + x_n^m}{n} \leq \left[\frac{x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n}{n} \right]^m \text{ if } m \text{ lies in between } 0 \text{ and } 1$$

$$\frac{x_1^m + x_2^m + \dots + x_n^m}{n} = \left[\frac{x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n}{n} \right]^m \text{ if } m \text{ is equal to } 0 \text{ or } 1$$

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