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1. The sum of a geometric series can be computed using the formula $S = \frac{a(1-r^n)}{1-r}$

a) A first step in deriving the formula is to begin with a generic geometric series

$$S = a + ar + ar^2 + ar^3 + \dots + ar^{n-1}$$

And multiply both sides by r:

$$Sr = ar + ar^2 + ar^3 + ar^4 + \dots + ar^n$$

Using the two equations above, complete the derivation for the sum formula. Obviously, you already know the formula, so your answer will be graded on the clarity of your steps.

$$Sr - S = ar^n + ar^{n-1} - ar^{n-1} + \dots + ar^2 - ar^2 + ar - a = ar^n - a$$

[cancel terms in difference]

$$S(r-1) = a(r^n - 1) \quad [\text{factor out}]$$

$$S = \frac{a(r^n - 1)}{r - 1} = \frac{a(1 - r^n)}{1 - r}$$

b) Find the sum of the following geometric series:

$$6 - 9 + \frac{27}{2} - \frac{81}{4} + \dots + \frac{129140163}{32768}$$

$$a = 6, r = -\frac{3}{2}, n = 17$$

$$S = \frac{6(1 - (-\frac{3}{2})^{17})}{1 - (-\frac{3}{2})} = \frac{6 \cdot 2^{17} + 6 \cdot 3^{17}}{5 \cdot 2^{16}} = \frac{3 \cdot 2^{18} + 2 \cdot 3^{18}}{5 \cdot 2^{16}}$$

c) Use mathematical induction to prove that the geometric sum formula works for all positive n.

$$\text{Prove: } a + ar + ar^2 + ar^3 + \dots + ar^{n-1} = \frac{a(1-r^n)}{1-r}$$

1) Base case where $n = 1$:

$$a = \frac{a(1-r)}{1-r} = a$$

2) Assume true for $n = k$:

$$a + ar + ar^2 + \dots + ar^{k-1} = \frac{a(1-r^k)}{1-r}$$

3) Prove for $n = k+1$:

$$\begin{aligned} & a + ar + ar^2 + \dots + ar^{k-1} + ar^k \\ &= \frac{a(1-r^k)}{1-r} + ar^k = \frac{a(1-r^k) + ar^k(1-r)}{1-r} = \frac{a(1-r^k + r^k - r^{k+1})}{1-r} \\ &= \frac{a(1-r^{k+1})}{1-r} \quad \text{as desired} \end{aligned}$$

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2. Find the sum of $1 - 2 + 3 - 4 + 5 - \dots + 497 - 498 + 499 - 500$. Show your work!

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$$\underbrace{\begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & -2 & +3 & -4 & +5 & \dots & +497 & -498 & +499 & -500 \\ \hline & -1 & & -1 & & & & -1 & & -1 \end{array}}_{500/2 = 250 \text{ pairs}}$$

$$S = 250(-1) = \boxed{-250}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & 1+3+5+\dots+499 \\ & - (2+4+\dots+500) \\ & = 250^2 - 2\left(\frac{250(250+1)}{2}\right) \\ & = 250^2 - 250(250+1) \\ & = 250(250 - 250 - 1) = \boxed{-250} \end{aligned}$$

3. Simplify completely (you can leave your answers in factored form, but your final expressions should not have factorials in them).

a) $\frac{(n^2-4)!}{(n-2)(n^2-5)!}$

$$= \frac{(n^2-4)}{(n-2)} = \frac{(n-2)(n+2)}{(n-2)}$$

$$= \boxed{n+2}$$

(assuming $n \neq 2$)

b) $\frac{(n!)^2}{(n-1)!(n+1)!} = \frac{n!n!}{(n-1)!(n+1)!}$

$$= \frac{n!}{(n-1)!} \cdot \frac{n!}{(n+1)!} = n \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = \boxed{\frac{n}{n+1}}$$

4. The sum of the first 62 terms of a certain arithmetic series is 15,934. If the common difference of the sequence is 8, what is the first term of the series?

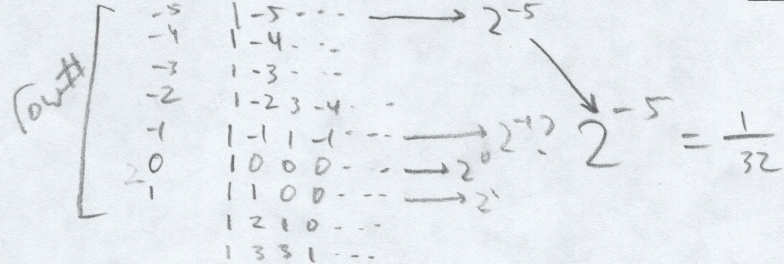
$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \#1 & & \#2 & & \#3 & & \#62 \\ a & + & (a+8) & + & (a+8(2)) & + \dots + & (a+8(61)) = 15934 \end{array}$$

$$62a + 8\left(\frac{61(61+1)}{2}\right) = 15934$$

$$a = \frac{15934 - 8\left(\frac{61(61+1)}{2}\right)}{62} = \boxed{13}$$

5. Most mathematicians would say that the series below "diverges" and has no sum, because the sum goes to positive/negative infinity. However, if you HAD to give it a sum based on the patterns we've found in Pascal's Triangle, what would be the most appropriate value?

$$1 - 5 + 15 - 35 + 70 - 126 + 210 - 330 + 495 - \dots = \frac{1}{32}$$



$\Rightarrow 0$