

## SOME CONVERGENT SEQUENCES AND SERIES

Alina Sîntămărian

Department of Mathematics

Technical University of Cluj-Napoca

15, C. Daicoviciu Str., Cluj-Napoca, 400020, ROMANIA

e-mail: Alina.Sintamarian@math.utcluj.ro

**Abstract:** The purpose of this paper is to present a special class of convergent sequences and to find their limits, as well as to present a special class of series and to find their sums.

**AMS Subject Classification:** 40A05

**Key Words:** sequence, series, convergence, limit, sum

### 1. Introduction

Pârşan [3] proposed in 1978, in the oldest Romanian mathematical journal *Gazeta Matematică*, the following problem.

**Problem 1.** Let  $a, r \in (0, +\infty)$  and let  $(a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be the sequence defined by  $a_n = a + (n - 1)r$ , for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Evaluate  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{2n+1}a_{2n+3} \cdots a_{4n+1}}{a_{2n}a_{2n+2} \cdots a_{4n}}$ . (The limit is  $\sqrt{2}$ .)

Sîntămărian [4, problems 442–444, pp. 63], [5], [6, problems 59–61, 63, 64, 67, pp. 19–22] gave generalizations of this problem together with other related interesting problems.

In Section 2 we shall present our results regarding the above-mentioned theme.

Vernescu [7] obtained the sums of some convergent series, from which we mention, for example, the following two:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdots (2n-1)}{2 \cdot 4 \cdots (2n)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = 1$$

and

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdots (2n-1)}{2 \cdot 4 \cdots (2n)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = 2\sqrt{2} - 3.$$

The way of getting these sums inspired us in obtaining the results which we shall give in Section 3.

## 2. Some Convergent Sequences

**Proposition 2.** (see Sîntămărian [5], [6, problems 59–61, pp. 19, 20]) *Let  $k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$ ,  $q, s \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $a, r \in (0, +\infty)$ . We consider the sequence  $(a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  defined by  $a_n = a + (n-1)r$ , for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .*

Then:

$$(i) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{qn+k+1} a_{qn+k+1+p} \cdots a_{qn+k+1+s(n-1)p}}{a_{qn+k} a_{qn+k+p} \cdots a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}} = \sqrt[p]{\frac{ps+q}{q}};$$

$$(ii) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\frac{a_{qn+k} a_{qn+k+p} \cdots a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}}{(n!)^s}} = \left( \sqrt[p]{\frac{ps+q}{q}} \right)^q [(ps+q)r]^s;$$

$$(iii) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt[n]{a_{qn+k} a_{qn+k+p} \cdots a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}}}{n^s} = \left( \sqrt[p]{\frac{ps+q}{q}} \right)^q \left[ \frac{(ps+q)r}{e} \right]^s.$$

*Proof.* (i) We have  $a_n a_{n+2} < a_{n+1}^2$ , for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Hence

$$\prod_{i=1}^{p-1} a_{n+i-1}^i a_{n+i+1}^i < \prod_{i=1}^{p-1} a_{n+i}^{2i}$$

and

$$\prod_{i=1}^{p-1} a_{n+i-1}^{p-i} a_{n+i+1}^{p-i} < \prod_{i=1}^{p-1} a_{n+i}^{2(p-i)},$$

for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We get

$$a_n a_{n+p}^{p-1} < a_{n+p-1}^p$$

and

$$a_n^{p-1} a_{n+p} < a_{n+1}^p,$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Let  $x_n = \frac{a_{qn+k+1}a_{qn+k+1+p}\cdots a_{qn+k+1+s(n-1)p}}{a_{qn+k}a_{qn+k+p}\cdots a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}}$ , for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} x_n^p &= a_{qn+k+1}^{p-1}(a_{qn+k+1}a_{qn+k+1+p}^{p-1})(a_{qn+k+1+p}a_{qn+k+1+2p}^{p-1})\cdots \\ &\quad \times (a_{qn+k+1+(s(n-1)-1)p}a_{qn+k+1+s(n-1)p}^{p-1})a_{qn+k+1+s(n-1)p} \\ &\quad / (a_{qn+k}^p a_{qn+k+p}^p a_{qn+k+2p}^p \cdots a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}^p) \\ &< \frac{a_{qn+k+1}^{p-1} a_{qn+k+p}^p a_{qn+k+2p}^p \cdots a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}^p a_{qn+k+1+s(n-1)p}}{a_{qn+k}^p a_{qn+k+p}^p a_{qn+k+2p}^p \cdots a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}^p} \\ &= \frac{a_{qn+k+1}^{p-1} a_{qn+k+1+s(n-1)p}}{a_{qn+k}^p}, \end{aligned}$$

for any  $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$ . Also, we have

$$\begin{aligned} x_n^p &= a_{qn+k+1}^p a_{qn+k+1+p}^p \cdots a_{qn+k+1+(s(n-1)-1)p}^p a_{qn+k+1+s(n-1)p}^p \\ &\quad / [a_{qn+k}(a_{qn+k}^{p-1} a_{qn+k+p})(a_{qn+k+p}^{p-1} a_{qn+k+2p})\cdots \\ &\quad \times (a_{qn+k+1+(s(n-1)-1)p}^{p-1} a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p})a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}^{p-1}] \\ &> \frac{a_{qn+k+1}^p a_{qn+k+1+p}^p \cdots a_{qn+k+1+(s(n-1)-1)p}^p a_{qn+k+1+s(n-1)p}^p}{a_{qn+k} a_{qn+k+1}^p a_{qn+k+1+p}^p \cdots a_{qn+k+1+(s(n-1)-1)p}^p a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}^{p-1}} \\ &= \frac{a_{qn+k+1+s(n-1)p}^p}{a_{qn+k} a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}^{p-1}}, \end{aligned}$$

for any  $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$ . So, we are able to write

$$\frac{a_{qn+k+1+s(n-1)p}^p}{a_{qn+k} a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}^{p-1}} < x_n^p < \frac{a_{qn+k+1}^{p-1} a_{qn+k+1+s(n-1)p}}{a_{qn+k}^p},$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$ . It follows that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n^p = \frac{ps+q}{q}$ , because

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{qn+k+1+s(n-1)p}^p}{a_{qn+k} a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}^{p-1}} = \frac{ps+q}{q}$$

and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{qn+k+1}^{p-1} a_{qn+k+1+s(n-1)p}}{a_{qn+k}^p} = \frac{ps+q}{q}.$$

Therefore  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \sqrt[p]{\frac{ps+q}{q}}$ .

(ii) Let  $y_n = \frac{a_{qn+k}a_{qn+k+p} \cdots a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}}{(n!)^s}$ , for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{y_{n+1}}{y_n} &= \frac{a_{q(n+1)+k}a_{q(n+1)+k+p} \cdots a_{q(n+1)+k+snp}}{[(n+1)!]^s} \\ &\quad \times \frac{1}{(n!)^s} \\ &= \frac{a_{qn+k}a_{qn+k+p} \cdots a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}}{a_{qn+q+k}a_{qn+q+k+p} \cdots a_{qn+q+k+s(n-1)p}} \\ &\quad \times \frac{a_{qn+q+k}a_{qn+q+k+p} \cdots a_{qn+q+k+s(n-1)p}}{a_{qn+q+k+s(n-1)p+p}a_{qn+q+k+s(n-1)p+2p} \cdots a_{qn+q+k+snp}} \\ &= \frac{a_{qn+q+k}a_{qn+q+k+p} \cdots a_{qn+q+k+s(n-1)p}}{a_{qn+q+k-1}a_{qn+q+k-1+p} \cdots a_{qn+q+k-1+s(n-1)p}} \\ &\quad \times \frac{a_{qn+q+k-1}a_{qn+q+k-1+p} \cdots a_{qn+q+k-1+s(n-1)p}}{a_{qn+q+k-2}a_{qn+q+k-2+p} \cdots a_{qn+q+k-2+s(n-1)p}} \cdots \\ &\quad \times \frac{a_{qn+k+1}a_{qn+k+1+p} \cdots a_{qn+k+1+s(n-1)p}}{a_{qn+k}a_{qn+k+p} \cdots a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}} \\ &\quad \times \frac{a_{qn+q+k+s(n-1)p+p}}{n+1} \cdot \frac{a_{qn+q+k+s(n-1)p+2p}}{n+1} \cdots \\ &\quad \times \frac{a_{qn+q+k+s(n-1)p+sp}}{n+1}, \end{aligned}$$

for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Using the limit from part (i), it follows that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{y_{n+1}}{y_n} = \left( \sqrt[p]{\frac{ps+q}{q}} \right)^q [(ps+q)r]^s.$$

Now, according to the Cauchy-d'Alembert criterion, we are able to write

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{y_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{y_{n+1}}{y_n} = \left( \sqrt[p]{\frac{ps+q}{q}} \right)^q [(ps+q)r]^s.$$

(iii) For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{\sqrt[n]{a_{qn+k}a_{qn+k+p} \cdots a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}}}{n^s} \\ &= \sqrt[n]{\frac{a_{qn+k}a_{qn+k+p} \cdots a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}}{n^{ns}}}. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $z_n = \frac{a_{qn+k}a_{qn+k+p} \cdots a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}}{n^{ns}}$ , for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{z_{n+1}}{z_n} &= \frac{a_{q(n+1)+k}a_{q(n+1)+k+p} \cdots a_{q(n+1)+k+snp}}{(n+1)^{(n+1)s}} \\ &\quad \times \frac{1}{n^{ns}} \\ &\quad \times \frac{1}{a_{qn+k}a_{qn+k+p} \cdots a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{a_{qn+q+k}a_{qn+q+k+p} \cdots a_{qn+q+k+s(n-1)p}}{a_{qn+k}a_{qn+k+p} \cdots a_{qn+k+s(n-1)p}} \\
 &\times \frac{a_{qn+q+k+s(n-1)p+p}a_{qn+q+k+s(n-1)p+2p} \cdots a_{qn+q+k+snp}}{(n+1)^s} \\
 &\times \frac{1}{\left[\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n\right]^s},
 \end{aligned}$$

for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Having in view the proof of part (ii), it follows that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{z_{n+1}}{z_n} = \left(\sqrt[p]{\frac{ps+q}{q}}\right)^q \left[\frac{(ps+q)r}{e}\right]^s.$$

Now, according to the Cauchy-d’Alembert criterion, we are able to write

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{z_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{z_{n+1}}{z_n} = \left(\sqrt[p]{\frac{ps+q}{q}}\right)^q \left[\frac{(ps+q)r}{e}\right]^s. \quad \square$$

**Remark 3.** We present a few particular cases of the results given in Proposition 2.

(i<sub>1</sub>) For  $a = r = 1, k = 0, p = 3$  and  $q = s = 2$  we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(2n+1)(2n+4) \cdots (8n-5)}{(2n)(2n+3) \cdots (8n-6)} = \sqrt[3]{4}.$$

(i<sub>2</sub>) For  $a = r = 1, k = 0, p = 3, q = 2$  and  $s = 3$  we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(2n+1)(2n+4) \cdots (11n-8)}{(2n)(2n+3) \cdots (11n-9)} = \sqrt[3]{\frac{11}{2}}.$$

(i<sub>3</sub>) For  $a = r = 1, k = 0, p = 5, q = 3$  and  $s = 2$  we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(3n+1)(3n+6) \cdots (13n-9)}{(3n)(3n+5) \cdots (13n-10)} = \sqrt[5]{\frac{13}{3}}.$$

(i<sub>4</sub>) For  $a = r = 1, k = 1, p = 7$  and  $q = s = 1$  we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+2)(n+9) \cdots (8n-5)}{(n+1)(n+8) \cdots (8n-6)} = \sqrt[7]{8}.$$

(ii<sub>1</sub>) For  $a = r = 1, k = 0, p = 3$  and  $q = s = 2$  we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\frac{(2n)(2n+3) \cdots (8n-6)}{(n!)^2}} = 128\sqrt[3]{2}.$$

(ii<sub>2</sub>) For  $a = r = 1, k = 0, p = 3, q = 2$  and  $s = 3$  we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\frac{(2n)(2n+3) \cdots (11n-9)}{(n!)^3}} = 11^3 \left(\sqrt[3]{\frac{11}{2}}\right)^2.$$

(ii<sub>3</sub>) For  $a = r = 1$ ,  $k = 0$ ,  $p = 5$ ,  $q = 3$  and  $s = 2$  we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\frac{(3n)(3n+5) \cdots (13n-10)}{(n!)^2}} = 13^2 \left( \sqrt[5]{\frac{13}{3}} \right)^3.$$

(ii<sub>4</sub>) For  $a = r = 1$ ,  $k = 1$ ,  $p = 7$  and  $q = s = 1$  we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\frac{(n+1)(n+8) \cdots (8n-6)}{n!}} = 8\sqrt[7]{8}.$$

(iii<sub>1</sub>) For  $a = r = 1$ ,  $k = 0$ ,  $p = 3$  and  $q = s = 2$  we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt[n]{(2n)(2n+3) \cdots (8n-6)}}{n^2} = \frac{128\sqrt[3]{2}}{e^2}.$$

(iii<sub>2</sub>) For  $a = r = 1$ ,  $k = 0$ ,  $p = 3$ ,  $q = 2$  and  $s = 3$  we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt[n]{(2n)(2n+3) \cdots (11n-9)}}{n^3} = \left( \frac{11}{e} \right)^3 \left( \sqrt[3]{\frac{11}{2}} \right)^2.$$

(iii<sub>3</sub>) For  $a = r = 1$ ,  $k = 0$ ,  $p = 5$ ,  $q = 3$  and  $s = 2$  we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt[n]{(3n)(3n+5) \cdots (13n-10)}}{n^2} = \left( \frac{13}{e} \right)^2 \left( \sqrt[5]{\frac{13}{3}} \right)^3.$$

(iii<sub>4</sub>) For  $a = r = 1$ ,  $k = 1$ ,  $p = 7$  and  $q = s = 1$  we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt[n]{(n+1)(n+8) \cdots (8n-6)}}{n} = \frac{8\sqrt[7]{8}}{e}.$$

**Remark 4.** (see Sîntămărian, [4, Problem 442, p. 63]) proposed the following problem, which is a particular case of the result given in part (i) of Proposition 2.

Let  $p \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$  and  $q \in \mathbb{N}$ . Evaluate

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{qn+1}{qn} \cdot \frac{qn+p+1}{qn+p} \cdots \frac{qn+np+1}{qn+np} \right).$$

On February 12-th, 2008, Professor Dorian Popa communicated with the author about a beautiful solution of this problem, a solution which we shall present further on.

Let  $x_n = \frac{qn+1}{qn} \cdot \frac{qn+p+1}{qn+p} \cdots \frac{qn+np+1}{qn+np}$ , for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We have

$$\ln x_n = \sum_{k=0}^n \ln \frac{qn+kp+1}{qn+kp} = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{qn+kp} \cdot \frac{\ln \left( 1 + \frac{1}{qn+kp} \right)}{\frac{1}{qn+kp}},$$

for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We consider the function  $f : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , defined by  $f(x) = \frac{\ln(1+x)}{x}$ , for each  $x \in (0, +\infty)$ . Because  $f$  is strictly decreasing on  $(0, +\infty)$ , we are able to write

$$\frac{\ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{qn}\right)}{\frac{1}{qn}} \leq \frac{\ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{qn+kp}\right)}{\frac{1}{qn+kp}} \leq \frac{\ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{qn+np}\right)}{\frac{1}{qn+np}},$$

for any  $k \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ , for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . So, we have

$$\frac{\ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{qn}\right)}{\frac{1}{qn}} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{qn+kp} \leq \ln x_n \leq \frac{\ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{qn+np}\right)}{\frac{1}{qn+np}} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{qn+kp},$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . It follows that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \ln x_n = \frac{1}{p} \ln \frac{p+q}{q},$$

because

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{qn}\right)}{\frac{1}{qn}} = 1, \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{qn+np}\right)}{\frac{1}{qn+np}} = 1,$$

and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{qn+kp} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{q + p\frac{k}{n}} = \int_0^1 \frac{1}{q + px} dx = \frac{1}{p} \ln \frac{q+p}{q}.$$

Therefore  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \sqrt[p]{\frac{p+q}{q}}$ .

Further on we shall give problems in the solving of which the limit from part (i) of Proposition 2 can be applied.

**Problem 5.** (see Sîntămărian [4, Problem 443, p. 63], [6, Problem 63, p.

20]) Evaluate  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\binom{4n}{2n}}{4^n \binom{2n}{n}}$ .

*Solution.* We have

$$x_n := \frac{\binom{4n}{2n}}{4^n \binom{2n}{n}} = \frac{(2n+1)(2n+3)\cdots(4n-1)}{(2n+2)(2n+4)\cdots(4n)},$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Choosing  $a = r = 1$ ,  $k = 1$ ,  $p = 2$ ,  $q = 2$  and  $s = 1$  in part (i)

of Proposition 2, we obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(2n+2)(2n+4) \cdots (4n)}{(2n+1)(2n+3) \cdots (4n-1)} = \sqrt{2}.$$

So,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$ .

**Remark 6.** We can solve Problem 5 using the Wallis formula (see Knopp, [2, p. 384])

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \cdots (2n)}{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdots (2n-1)} \right)^2 \cdot \frac{1}{2n+1} = \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(2n+1)(2n+3) \cdots (4n-1)}{(2n+2)(2n+4) \cdots (4n)} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdots (4n-1)}{2 \cdot 4 \cdots (4n)} \cdot \sqrt{4n+1} \times \frac{2 \cdot 4 \cdots (2n)}{1 \cdot 3 \cdots (2n-1)} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2n+1}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2n+1}}{\sqrt{4n+1}} \right) \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

**Problem 7.** (see Sîntămărian, [4, Problem 444, p. 63]) Evaluate

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4^n \binom{4n}{2n}^2}{\binom{2n}{n} \binom{8n}{4n}}.$$

*Solution.* We have

$$y_n := \frac{4^n \binom{4n}{2n}^2}{\binom{2n}{n} \binom{8n}{4n}} = \frac{(4n+2)(4n+4) \cdots (8n)}{(4n+1)(4n+3) \cdots (8n-1)} \cdot x_n,$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , where  $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is the sequence from (the solution of) Problem 5. Choosing  $a = r = 1$ ,  $k = 1$ ,  $p = 2$ ,  $q = 4$  and  $s = 2$  in part (i) of Proposition 2, we obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(4n+2)(4n+4) \cdots (8n-2)}{(4n+1)(4n+3) \cdots (8n-3)} = \sqrt{2}.$$

So,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n = \sqrt{2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} = 1$ .

**Remark 8.** The limit  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(4n+2)(4n+4) \cdots (8n-2)}{(4n+1)(4n+3) \cdots (8n-3)} = \sqrt{2}$  can be also found using the Wallis formula.



**Problem 9.** (see Sîntămărian, [6, Problem 64, p. 20]) Evaluate

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3^{3n} \binom{2n}{n}^2}{\binom{3n}{n} \binom{6n}{3n}}.$$

*Solution.* We have

$$\begin{aligned} z_n &:= \frac{3^{3n} \binom{2n}{n}^2}{\binom{3n}{n} \binom{6n}{3n}} \\ &= \left[ \frac{(3n+3)(3n+6) \cdots (6n)}{(3n+2)(3n+5) \cdots (6n-1)} \right]^2 \frac{(3n+2)(3n+5) \cdots (6n-1)}{(3n+1)(3n+4) \cdots (6n-2)}, \end{aligned}$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Choosing  $a = r = 1$ ,  $k = 2$ ,  $p = 3$ ,  $q = 3$  and  $s = 1$  in part (i) of Proposition 2, we obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(3n+3)(3n+6) \cdots (6n)}{(3n+2)(3n+5) \cdots (6n-1)} = \sqrt[3]{2}.$$

Choosing  $a = r = 1$ ,  $k = 1$ ,  $p = 3$ ,  $q = 3$  and  $s = 1$  in part (i) of Proposition 2, we obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(3n+2)(3n+5) \cdots (6n-1)}{(3n+1)(3n+4) \cdots (6n-2)} = \sqrt[3]{2}.$$

So,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} z_n = (\sqrt[3]{2})^2 \cdot \sqrt[3]{2} = 2$ .

Alexandrescu in [1], proposed in *Gazeta Matematică* the following problem.

**Problem 10.** Let  $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $(y_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be the sequences defined by the recurrence relations

$$nx_{n+1} = \left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)x_n \quad \text{and} \quad ny_{n+1} = (n+1)y_n,$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , with  $y_1 \neq 0$ .

Evaluate  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n}{y_1 + y_2 + \cdots + y_n}$ . (The limit is 0.)

**Remark 11.** For the sequences  $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $(y_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  given in Problem 10, with  $x_1 \neq 0$ , Sîntămărian (see [6, Problem 66, part 2°, p. 21]) proposed to be found the limit

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{y_n(x_n + x_{n+1} + \cdots + x_{2n})}{x_n(y_n + y_{n+1} + \cdots + y_{2n})}.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{y_n(x_n + x_{n+1} + \cdots + x_{2n})}{x_n(y_n + y_{n+1} + \cdots + y_{2n})} \\ &= \frac{8n}{9(n+1)} \cdot \frac{(2n+1)(2n+3)(2n+5) \cdots (4n-1)}{(2n)(2n+2)(2n+4) \cdots (4n-2)} \cdot \frac{4n+1}{4n} - \frac{4(n-1)}{9(n+1)}, \end{aligned}$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Choosing  $a = r = 1$ ,  $k = 0$ ,  $p = 2$ ,  $q = 2$  and  $s = 1$  in part (i) of Proposition 2, we obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(2n+1)(2n+3) \cdots (4n-1)}{(2n)(2n+2) \cdots (4n-2)} = \sqrt{2}.$$

So,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{y_n(x_n + x_{n+1} + \cdots + x_{2n})}{x_n(y_n + y_{n+1} + \cdots + y_{2n})} = \frac{8}{9} \cdot \sqrt{2} \cdot 1 - \frac{4}{9} = \frac{4(2\sqrt{2} - 1)}{9}.$$

Also, Sîntămărian [6] gave the following problem.

**Problem 12.** (see Sîntămărian, [6, Problem 67, pp. 21, 22]) We consider the sequences  $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $(y_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ , with  $x_1 \neq 0$  and  $y_1 \neq 0$ , defined by the recurrence relations

$$nx_{n+1} = \left(n + \frac{1}{3}\right)x_n \quad \text{and} \quad ny_{n+1} = (n+1)y_n,$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Evaluate:

- 1°  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n}{y_1 + y_2 + \cdots + y_n}$ ;
- 2°  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{y_n(x_n + x_{n+1} + \cdots + x_{2n})}{x_n(y_n + y_{n+1} + \cdots + y_{2n})}$ ;
- 3°  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{y_n(x_n + x_{n+1} + \cdots + x_{3n})}{x_n(y_n + y_{n+1} + \cdots + y_{3n})}$ ;
- 4°  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{y_{2n}(x_{2n} + x_{2n+1} + \cdots + x_{3n})}{x_{2n}(y_{2n} + y_{2n+1} + \cdots + y_{3n})}$ .

*Solution.* We specify that a detailed solution can be found in our book Sîntămărian [6, pp. 93–99]. We present here a sketch of it.

1° Using the recurrence relations we get

$$\frac{x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n}{y_1 + y_2 + \cdots + y_n} = \frac{3(3n+1)}{2(n+1)} \cdot \frac{1 \cdot 4 \cdot 7 \cdots (3n-2)}{3 \cdot 6 \cdot 9 \cdots (3n)} \cdot \frac{x_1}{y_1},$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Because

$$0 < \frac{1 \cdot 4 \cdot 7 \cdots (3n-2)}{3 \cdot 6 \cdot 9 \cdots (3n)} < \frac{\sqrt[3]{3n-2}}{3n},$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$ , we can write that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n}{y_1 + y_2 + \cdots + y_n} = 0$ .

2° We have

$$\frac{y_n(x_n + x_{n+1} + \dots + x_{2n})}{x_n(y_n + y_{n+1} + \dots + y_{2n})} = \frac{n}{n+1} \cdot \frac{(3n+1)(3n+4)(3n+7) \dots (6n-2)}{(3n)(3n+3)(3n+6) \dots (6n-3)} \cdot \frac{6n+1}{6n} - \frac{n-1}{2(n+1)},$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Choosing  $a = r = 1, k = 0, p = 3, q = 3$  and  $s = 1$  in part (i) of Proposition 2, we obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(3n+1)(3n+4) \dots (6n-2)}{(3n)(3n+3) \dots (6n-3)} = \sqrt[3]{2}.$$

So,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{y_n(x_n + x_{n+1} + \dots + x_{2n})}{x_n(y_n + y_{n+1} + \dots + y_{2n})} = 1 \cdot \sqrt[3]{2} \cdot 1 - \frac{1}{2} = \sqrt[3]{2} - \frac{1}{2}.$$

3° We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{y_n(x_n + x_{n+1} + \dots + x_{3n})}{x_n(y_n + y_{n+1} + \dots + y_{3n})} \\ &= \frac{9n}{8(2n+1)} \cdot \frac{(3n+1)(3n+4)(3n+7) \dots (9n-5)}{(3n)(3n+3)(3n+6) \dots (9n-6)} \\ & \quad \times \frac{(9n-2)(9n+1)}{(9n-3)(9n)} - \frac{3(n-1)}{8(2n+1)}, \end{aligned}$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Choosing  $a = r = 1, k = 0, p = 3, q = 3$  and  $s = 2$  in part (i) of Proposition 2, we obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(3n+1)(3n+4) \dots (9n-5)}{(3n)(3n+3) \dots (9n-6)} = \sqrt[3]{3}.$$

So,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{y_n(x_n + x_{n+1} + \dots + x_{3n})}{x_n(y_n + y_{n+1} + \dots + y_{3n})} = \frac{9}{16} \cdot \sqrt[3]{3} \cdot 1 - \frac{3}{16} = \frac{3(3\sqrt[3]{3} - 1)}{16}.$$

4° We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{y_{2n}(x_{2n} + x_{2n+1} + \dots + x_{3n})}{x_{2n}(y_{2n} + y_{2n+1} + \dots + y_{3n})} \\ &= \frac{9n}{5(n+1)} \cdot \frac{(6n+1)(6n+4)(6n+7) \dots (9n-2)}{(6n)(6n+3)(6n+6) \dots (9n-3)} \cdot \frac{9n+1}{9n} \\ & \quad - \frac{3(2n-1)}{5(n+1)}, \end{aligned}$$

for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Choosing  $a = r = 1, k = 0, p = 3, q = 6$  and  $s = 1$  in part (i)

of Proposition 2, we obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(6n+1)(6n+4) \cdots (9n-2)}{(6n)(6n+3) \cdots (9n-3)} = \sqrt[3]{\frac{3}{2}}.$$

So,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{y_{2n}(x_{2n} + x_{2n+1} + \cdots + x_{3n})}{x_{2n}(y_{2n} + y_{2n+1} + \cdots + y_{3n})} = \frac{9}{5} \cdot \sqrt[3]{\frac{3}{2}} \cdot 1 - \frac{6}{5} = \frac{3(3\sqrt[3]{3} - 2\sqrt[3]{2})}{5\sqrt[3]{2}}.$$

### 3. Some Convergent Series

**Proposition 13.** *Let  $p \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$  and  $q \in \{1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$ . Then:*

$$(i) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{q(q+p) \cdots (q+np-p)}{p(2p) \cdots (np)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{q}{p-q};$$

$$(ii) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{q(q+p) \cdots (q+np-p)}{p(2p) \cdots (np)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{p}{p-q} \sqrt[p]{2^{p-q}} - \frac{q}{p-q} - 2.$$

*Proof.* (i) Using the Binomial Theorem (Knopp [2, p. 209]) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (1-x)^{-\frac{q}{p}} &= 1 + \frac{-\frac{q}{p}}{1!}(-x) + \frac{-\frac{q}{p} \left(-\frac{q}{p} - 1\right)}{2!}(-x)^2 + \cdots \\ &\quad + \frac{-\frac{q}{p} \left(-\frac{q}{p} - 1\right) \cdots \left(-\frac{q}{p} - n + 1\right)}{n!}(-x)^n + \cdots \\ &= 1 + \frac{q}{p}x + \frac{q(q+p)}{p^2 \cdot 2!}x^2 + \cdots \\ &\quad + \frac{q(q+p) \cdots (q+np-p)}{p^n \cdot n!}x^n + \cdots, \end{aligned}$$

for any  $x \in (-1, 1)$ . So,

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{(1-x)^q}} = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{q(q+p) \cdots (q+np-p)}{p(2p) \cdots (np)} \cdot x^n,$$

for each  $x \in (-1, 1)$ . Integrating from 0 to  $x$ , where  $x \in (-1, 1)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{p}{p-q} \sqrt[p]{(1-x)^{p-q}} + \frac{p}{p-q} \\ = x + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{q(q+p) \cdots (q+np-p)}{p(2p) \cdots (np)} \cdot \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1}. \end{aligned}$$

It is not difficult to verify that the series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{q(q+p) \cdots (q+np-p)}{p(2p) \cdots (np)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1}$$

is convergent. According to Abel’s Theorem (Knopp [2, p. 177]), it follows that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{q(q+p)\dots(q+np-p)}{p(2p)\dots(np)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{q}{p-q}.$$

(ii) Using the Binomial Theorem (Knopp [2, p. 209]) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (1+x)^{-\frac{q}{p}} &= 1 + \frac{-\frac{q}{p}}{1!}x + \frac{-\frac{q}{p}\left(-\frac{q}{p}-1\right)}{2!}x^2 + \dots \\ &\quad + \frac{-\frac{q}{p}\left(-\frac{q}{p}-1\right)\dots\left(-\frac{q}{p}-n+1\right)}{n!}x^n + \dots \\ &= 1 - \frac{q}{p}x + \frac{q(q+p)}{p^2 \cdot 2!}x^2 - \dots \\ &\quad + (-1)^n \frac{q(q+p)\dots(q+np-p)}{p^n \cdot n!}x^n + \dots, \end{aligned}$$

for any  $x \in (-1, 1)$ . So,

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{(1+x)^q}} = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{q(q+p)\dots(q+np-p)}{p(2p)\dots(np)} \cdot x^n,$$

for each  $x \in (-1, 1)$ . Integrating from 0 to  $x$ , where  $x \in (-1, 1)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{p}{p-q} \sqrt[p]{(1+x)^{p-q}} - \frac{p}{p-q} \\ = x + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{q(q+p)\dots(q+np-p)}{p(2p)\dots(np)} \cdot \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Because the series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{q(q+p)\dots(q+np-p)}{p(2p)\dots(np)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1}$$

is convergent, it follows, according to Abel’s Theorem (Knopp [2, p. 177]), that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{q(q+p)\dots(q+np-p)}{p(2p)\dots(np)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{p}{p-q} \sqrt[p]{2^{p-q}} - \frac{q}{p-q} - 2. \quad \square$$

**Remark 14.** We present a few particular cases of the results given in Proposition 13.

(i<sub>1</sub>) For  $p = 2$  and  $q = 1$  we get  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 3 \dots (2n-1)}{2 \cdot 4 \dots (2n)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = 1.$

(i<sub>2</sub>) For  $p = 3$  and  $q = 1$  we get  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 4 \dots (3n-2)}{3 \cdot 6 \dots (3n)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{1}{2}.$

(i<sub>3</sub>) For  $p = 3$  and  $q = 2$  we get  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2 \cdot 5 \dots (3n-1)}{3 \cdot 6 \dots (3n)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = 2.$

(i<sub>4</sub>) For  $p = 4$  and  $q = 1$  we get  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 5 \cdots (4n-3)}{4 \cdot 8 \cdots (4n)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{1}{3}$ .

(i<sub>5</sub>) For  $p = 4$  and  $q = 3$  we get  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3 \cdot 7 \cdots (4n-1)}{4 \cdot 8 \cdots (4n)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = 3$ .

(i<sub>6</sub>) For  $p \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$  and  $q = 1$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot (p+1) \cdots (np-p+1)}{p(2p) \cdots (np)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{1}{p-1}.$$

(i<sub>7</sub>) For  $p \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$  and  $q = p-1$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(p-1)(2p-1) \cdots (np-1)}{p(2p) \cdots (np)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = p-1.$$

(ii<sub>1</sub>) For  $p = 2$  and  $q = 1$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdots (2n-1)}{2 \cdot 4 \cdots (2n)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = 2\sqrt{2} - 3.$$

(ii<sub>2</sub>) For  $p = 3$  and  $q = 1$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1 \cdot 4 \cdots (3n-2)}{3 \cdot 6 \cdots (3n)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{3}{2} \sqrt[3]{4} - \frac{5}{2}.$$

(ii<sub>3</sub>) For  $p = 3$  and  $q = 2$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdots (3n-1)}{3 \cdot 6 \cdots (3n)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = 3\sqrt[3]{2} - 4.$$

(ii<sub>4</sub>) For  $p = 4$  and  $q = 1$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1 \cdot 5 \cdots (4n-3)}{4 \cdot 8 \cdots (4n)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{4}{3} \sqrt[4]{8} - \frac{7}{3}.$$

(ii<sub>5</sub>) For  $p = 4$  and  $q = 3$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{3 \cdot 7 \cdots (4n-1)}{4 \cdot 8 \cdots (4n)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = 4\sqrt[4]{2} - 5.$$

(ii<sub>6</sub>) For  $p \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$  and  $q = 1$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1 \cdot (p+1) \cdots (np-p+1)}{p(2p) \cdots (np)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{p}{p-1} \sqrt[p]{2^{p-1}} - \frac{2p-1}{p-1}.$$

(ii<sub>7</sub>) For  $p \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$  and  $q = p-1$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{(p-1)(2p-1) \cdots (np-1)}{p(2p) \cdots (np)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = p \sqrt[p]{2} - p - 1.$$

**Corollary 15.** *Let  $p \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$  and  $q \in \{1, 2, \dots, p - 1\}$ . Then:*

$$(i) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{q(q+p)\dots(q+2np-p)}{p(2p)\dots(2np)} \cdot \frac{1}{2n+1} = \frac{p}{2(p-q)} \sqrt[p]{2^{p-q}} - 1;$$

$$(ii) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{q(q+p)\dots(q+2np-2p)}{p(2p)\dots(2np-p)} \cdot \frac{1}{2n} = \frac{p}{p-q} - \frac{p}{2(p-q)} \sqrt[p]{2^{p-q}}.$$

*Proof.* (i) We add the series from parts (i) and (ii) of Proposition 13.

(ii) We subtract the series from parts (i) and (ii) of Proposition 13. □

**Remark 16.** We present a few particular cases of the results given in Corollary 15.

(i<sub>1</sub>) For  $p = 2$  and  $q = 1$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdots (4n - 1)}{2 \cdot 4 \cdots (4n)} \cdot \frac{1}{2n + 1} = \sqrt{2} - 1.$$

(i<sub>2</sub>) For  $p = 3$  and  $q = 1$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 4 \cdots (6n - 2)}{3 \cdot 6 \cdots (6n)} \cdot \frac{1}{2n + 1} = \frac{3}{4} \sqrt[3]{4} - 1.$$

(i<sub>3</sub>) For  $p = 3$  and  $q = 2$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdots (6n - 1)}{3 \cdot 6 \cdots (6n)} \cdot \frac{1}{2n + 1} = \frac{3}{2} \sqrt[3]{2} - 1.$$

(i<sub>4</sub>) For  $p = 4$  and  $q = 1$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 5 \cdots (8n - 3)}{4 \cdot 8 \cdots (8n)} \cdot \frac{1}{2n + 1} = \frac{2}{3} \sqrt[4]{8} - 1.$$

(i<sub>5</sub>) For  $p = 4$  and  $q = 3$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3 \cdot 7 \cdots (8n - 1)}{4 \cdot 8 \cdots (8n)} \cdot \frac{1}{2n + 1} = 2 \sqrt[4]{2} - 1.$$

(ii<sub>1</sub>) For  $p = 2$  and  $q = 1$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdots (4n - 3)}{2 \cdot 4 \cdots (4n - 2)} \cdot \frac{1}{2n} = 2 - \sqrt{2}.$$

(ii<sub>2</sub>) For  $p = 3$  and  $q = 1$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 4 \cdots (6n - 5)}{3 \cdot 6 \cdots (6n - 3)} \cdot \frac{1}{2n} = \frac{3}{2} - \frac{3}{4} \sqrt[3]{4}.$$

(ii<sub>3</sub>) For  $p = 3$  and  $q = 2$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdots (6n - 4)}{3 \cdot 6 \cdots (6n - 3)} \cdot \frac{1}{2n} = 3 - \frac{3}{2} \sqrt[3]{2}.$$

(ii<sub>4</sub>) For  $p = 4$  and  $q = 1$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 5 \cdots (8n - 7)}{4 \cdot 8 \cdots (8n - 4)} \cdot \frac{1}{2n} = \frac{4}{3} - \frac{2}{3} \sqrt[4]{8}.$$

(ii<sub>5</sub>) For  $p = 4$  and  $q = 3$  we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3 \cdot 7 \cdots (8n - 5)}{4 \cdot 8 \cdots (8n - 4)} \cdot \frac{1}{2n} = 4 - 2 \sqrt[4]{2}.$$

As can be seen, from Proposition 13 we do not obtain the series of the form

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 4 \cdots (3n - 2)}{2 \cdot 5 \cdots (3n - 1)} \cdot \frac{1}{n + 1}, & \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1 \cdot 4 \cdots (3n - 2)}{2 \cdot 5 \cdots (3n - 1)} \cdot \frac{1}{n + 1}, \\ &\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 5 \cdots (4n - 3)}{2 \cdot 6 \cdots (4n - 2)} \cdot \frac{1}{n + 1}, & \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1 \cdot 5 \cdots (4n - 3)}{2 \cdot 6 \cdots (4n - 2)} \cdot \frac{1}{n + 1}, \\ &\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 5 \cdots (4n - 3)}{3 \cdot 7 \cdots (4n - 1)} \cdot \frac{1}{n + 1}, & \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1 \cdot 5 \cdots (4n - 3)}{3 \cdot 7 \cdots (4n - 1)} \cdot \frac{1}{n + 1}, \\ &\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2 \cdot 6 \cdots (4n - 2)}{3 \cdot 7 \cdots (4n - 1)} \cdot \frac{1}{n + 1}, & \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{2 \cdot 6 \cdots (4n - 2)}{3 \cdot 7 \cdots (4n - 1)} \cdot \frac{1}{n + 1}, \end{aligned}$$

and so on. It is not difficult to verify that these series are convergent.

Let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ . We introduce the notation

$$(\alpha)_0 := 1, \quad (\alpha)_m := \alpha(\alpha + 1) \cdots (\alpha + m - 1),$$

known as Pochhammer’s symbol.

Also, we shall use a generalized hypergeometric series

$${}_3F_2(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3; \beta_1, \beta_2; x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\alpha_1)_k (\alpha_2)_k (\alpha_3)_k}{k! (\beta_1)_k (\beta_2)_k} \cdot x^k.$$

We can write

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 4 \cdots (3n - 2)}{2 \cdot 5 \cdots (3n - 1)} \cdot \frac{1}{n + 1} &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 4 \cdots (3k + 1)}{2 \cdot 5 \cdots (3k + 2)} \cdot \frac{1}{k + 2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\left(\frac{4}{3}\right)_k}{\left(\frac{5}{3}\right)_k} \cdot \frac{1}{k + 2} \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1)_k \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)_k (2)_k}{k! \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)_k (3)_k} \cdot 1^k \\
&= \frac{1}{4} {}_3F_2 \left( 1, \frac{4}{3}, 2; \frac{5}{3}, 3; 1 \right)
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1 \cdot 4 \cdots (3n-2)}{2 \cdot 5 \cdots (3n-1)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} &= - \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{1 \cdot 4 \cdots (3k+1)}{2 \cdot 5 \cdots (3k+2)} \cdot \frac{1}{k+2} \\
&= -\frac{1}{4} {}_3F_2 \left( 1, \frac{4}{3}, 2; \frac{5}{3}, 3; -1 \right).
\end{aligned}$$

In the same manner we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 5 \cdots (4n-3)}{2 \cdot 6 \cdots (4n-2)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} &= \frac{1}{4} {}_3F_2 \left( 1, \frac{5}{4}, 2; \frac{3}{2}, 3; 1 \right), \\
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1 \cdot 5 \cdots (4n-3)}{2 \cdot 6 \cdots (4n-2)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} &= -\frac{1}{4} {}_3F_2 \left( 1, \frac{5}{4}, 2; \frac{3}{2}, 3; -1 \right), \\
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 5 \cdots (4n-3)}{3 \cdot 7 \cdots (4n-1)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} &= \frac{1}{6} {}_3F_2 \left( 1, \frac{5}{4}, 2; \frac{7}{4}, 3; 1 \right), \\
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1 \cdot 5 \cdots (4n-3)}{3 \cdot 7 \cdots (4n-1)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} &= -\frac{1}{6} {}_3F_2 \left( 1, \frac{5}{4}, 2; \frac{7}{4}, 3; -1 \right), \\
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2 \cdot 6 \cdots (4n-2)}{3 \cdot 7 \cdots (4n-1)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} &= \frac{1}{3} {}_3F_2 \left( 1, \frac{3}{2}, 2; \frac{7}{4}, 3; 1 \right), \\
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{2 \cdot 6 \cdots (4n-2)}{3 \cdot 7 \cdots (4n-1)} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} &= -\frac{1}{3} {}_3F_2 \left( 1, \frac{3}{2}, 2; \frac{7}{4}, 3; -1 \right).
\end{aligned}$$

### References

- [1] I. Alexandrescu, Problem 16196 (Solution), *Gaz. Mat. Seria B*, **82**, No. 4 (1977), 139-141.
- [2] K. Knopp, *Theory and Application of Infinite Series*, Blackie and Son Limited, London and Glasgow (1951).
- [3] L. Pârşan, Problem 17263, *Gaz. Mat. Seria B*, **83**, No. 6 (1978), 250.
- [4] A. Sîntămărian, *Teste Grilă de Matematică. Admitere (Mathematics Grating Tests. Admission)*, Editura U.T. Press, Cluj-Napoca (2007).

- [5] A. Sîntămărian, Problem C: 3226, *Gaz. Mat. Seria B*, **112**, No. 10 (2007), 554.
- [6] A. Sîntămărian, *Probleme Selectate cu Şiruri de Numere Reale (Selective Problems with Sequences of Real Numbers)*, Editura U. T. Press, Cluj-Napoca (2008).
- [7] A. Vernescu, The summation of a family of series, *Am. Math. Mon.*, **115**, No. 10 (2008), 939-943.