

# ACTIVITY#10 — Math 151 — Calculus II — Spring 2021

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**SERIES:** Let us see how series can be used in a wide range of applications.

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(1) **Bouncy ball:** A ball is dropped from a height of  $H$  meters. Under ideal conditions (no air resistance and no energy loss during bounces), after each bounce the ball returns to  $1/3$  of its previous height.

(i) To what height does the ball rise after it hits the floor for the  $n$ -th time? How long does it take to completely stop?

(ii) Find the *total* vertical distance the ball travels before coming to rest.

(iii) Repeat the above if the ball returns to  $1/b$  of its previous height with  $b > 1$ . Is the total length travelled finite or infinite?

**(2) Retirement investment:** Suppose an initial deposit of  $D$  dollars into a savings account yielding a fixed percentage  $p$  per year and that, at the end of each year,  $W$  dollars are withdrawn from the account. We would like to know how much capital a person needs to initially deposit when he/she retires to live for  $N$  years without investing any more capital and living off the  $W$  dollars withdrawn each year.

(i) Denote by  $A_n$  the amount in the savings account after  $n$  years. Thus,  $A_0 = D$  corresponds to the initial deposit,  $A_1$  to the amount after one year,  $A_2$  to the amount after two years, etc...

(a) Find a recurrence relationship giving the next year's amount  $A_{n+1}$  as a function of the previous year's amount  $A_n$ .

(b) Write  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$ ,  $A_3$  and, from there, find a direct formula giving  $A_N$  as a function of  $D$ ,  $W$ , and  $p$ .

(ii) Under this saving strategy, how much money needs to be initially deposited to last exactly  $N$  years?

[Note: the partial sum of a geometric series is given by:  $\sum_{i=1}^N b r^{i-1} = b(1 - r^N)/(1 - r)$ ].

(iii) In a realistic scenario, the average person retires at 65 and the life expectancy is about 80 years. Assume a 5% yield a year and that the person needs 30,000 per year to sustain themselves. How much does this person need to invest at retirement?

(iv) Compare this to the total amount needed to live for 15 years at 30,000 per year ( $= 15 \times 30,000 = 450,000$ ).