

## MAT1575 Module 5 – Graphing sequences and series using Desmos.

**Objectives:** Study sequences and series numerically and graphically using Desmos.

1. In Desmos we can create a list of numbers using square brackets. For example  $[1, 2, \dots, 10]$  creates the list of numbers from 1 to 10. You can also make a list that starts at any other number, or that skips several numbers at a time, for example  $[3, 4, \dots, 7]$  or  $[2, 4, \dots, 12]$ . The important thing is that you specify a starting value, a “step” value, and an ending value. The ending value can even be a variable if you want to create a list whose length you can change with a slider.
2. If you set a list equal to a variable, like  $N=[1, 2, \dots, 10]$ , you can use that list to create new lists. Try the following:

$$\begin{aligned} N &= [1, 2, \dots, 10] \\ a_N &= 1 - 1/N \end{aligned}$$

This should create a list of the values  $1 - \frac{1}{N}$  from  $N = 1$  to  $N = 10$ . We can now plot the sequence  $a_N = 1 - \frac{1}{N}$  in Desmos using the following notation:

$$(N, a_N)$$

This plots the set of **pairs** where the first entry comes from  $N$  and the second entry comes from the matching pair in  $a_N$ .

3. To plot the **series** obtained from  $a_N$ , use the following notation

$$\left( N, \sum_{n=1}^N a_N[k] \right)$$

You can get the  $\sum$  symbol by typing the word **sum** into Desmos. Here  $a_N[k]$  means the  $k^{\text{th}}$  term of the list  $a_N$ .

4. Plot the following sequences and series using Desmos and guess whether or not they converge. If they converge, determine their limit.:
- (a)  $a_n = 3n + 2$
  - (b)  $a_n = \frac{n^k}{e^n}$  for  $k = 2, 3$

$$(c) a_n = \frac{-1}{n+1}$$

$$(d) a_n = \frac{n+1}{n+2}$$

$$(e) a_n = \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n$$

$$(f) \sum_{n=0}^m 3n + 2$$

$$(g) \sum_{n=0}^m \frac{x^n}{e^n} \text{ for } x = 2, 3$$

$$(h) \sum_{n=0}^m \frac{-1}{n^2 + 1}$$

$$(i) \sum_{n=0}^m \frac{n+1}{n+2}$$

$$(j) \sum_{n=0}^m (-1)^n$$