Exercise 6

Find the sum of the following infinite series:

$$x + \frac{n}{9}x + \frac{n^2}{81}x + \frac{n^3}{729}x + \dots, \ 0 < n < 9$$

Solution

Inspecting the series, we see that it is geometric. The first term is

$$a_1 = x$$
,

and the common ratio is

$$r = \frac{n}{9} < 1.$$

Therefore, the sum of the series is

$$S = \frac{a_1}{1-r}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1-\frac{n}{9}}x$$

$$= \frac{9}{9-n}x.$$