



Problem:

Simplify the sum:

$$1 - \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{25} + \frac{1}{16} - \frac{1}{125} + \frac{1}{64} - \dots - \frac{1}{5^n} + \frac{1}{4^n}.$$

Ellipses and summation signs can't be used in the answer.

Solution:

Let's simplify the sum:

$$S = 1 - \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{25} + \frac{1}{16} - \frac{1}{125} + \frac{1}{64} - \dots - \frac{1}{5^n} + \frac{1}{4^n} = 1 + \frac{1}{4} + \dots + \frac{1}{4^n} - \left(\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{25} + \dots + \frac{1}{5^n} \right),$$

Let's write the sum of geometric progressions:

$$1 + \frac{1}{4} + \dots + \frac{1}{4^n} = 1 \cdot \frac{1 - \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^{n+1}}{1 - \frac{1}{4}} = \frac{4}{3} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{1}{4^{n+1}}\right),$$

$$\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{25} + \dots + \frac{1}{5^n} = \frac{1}{5} \cdot \frac{1 - \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)^n}{1 - \frac{1}{5}} = \frac{1}{4} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{1}{5^n}\right) \Rightarrow S = \frac{4}{3} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{1}{4^{n+1}}\right) - \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - \frac{1}{5^n}\right) =$$

$$= \frac{13}{12} + \frac{1}{4 \cdot 5^n} - \frac{1}{3 \cdot 4^n} \Rightarrow S = \boxed{\frac{13}{12} + \frac{1}{4 \cdot 5^n} - \frac{1}{3 \cdot 4^n}}.$$

$$\text{Answer: } \frac{13}{12} + \frac{1}{4 \cdot 5^n} - \frac{1}{3 \cdot 4^n}.$$