

If $f(x)$ satisfies $f(x+y) = f(x)f(y)$ and $f(1) = \frac{1}{2}$ find $\sum_{r=1}^{\infty} f(r)$

Solution :

we know that if $f(x+y) = f(x)f(y)$ then $f(x) = (f(1))^x$

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{r=1}^{\infty} f(r) &= f(1) + f(2) + f(3) + \dots \dots \dots f(\infty) \\ &= \frac{1^1}{2} + \frac{1^2}{2} + \frac{1^3}{2} + \frac{1^4}{2} + \dots \infty\end{aligned}$$

which is a infinite gp with first term being equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ and common ratio equal to $\frac{1}{2}$

$$\begin{aligned}&= \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} \\ &= 1\end{aligned}$$

NOTE :

1) if $f(x)$ satisfies $f(x+y) = f(x)f(y)$ then $f(x) = kx$, $k \in R$

2) If $f(x)$ is a polynomial in x and satisfies $f(x) + f\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = f(x)f\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$ then $f(x) = 1 \pm x^n$ $n \in R$

