The sum to infinity of a geometric series is 27. The sum of the first 3 terms is 19. Find the common ratio.

19

The sum to infinity of a geometric series is 27.

We need to solve these simultaneous equations. Notice that $\frac{U_1}{1-r}$ is common to both equations

$$\frac{U_{1}(1-r^{3})}{1-r} = 19$$
$$\frac{U_{1}}{1-r}(1-r^{3}) = 27(1-r^{3}) = 19$$
$$1-r^{3} = \frac{19}{27}$$
$$1-\frac{19}{27} = r^{3}$$
$$r^{3} = \frac{8}{27}$$
$$r = \sqrt[3]{\frac{8}{27}}$$
$$r = \frac{\sqrt[3]{\frac{8}{3\sqrt{27}}}}{\sqrt[3]{\frac{8}{3\sqrt{27}}}}$$
$$r = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$\frac{U_1}{1-r} = 27$$

$$S_n = \frac{U_1(1-r^n)}{1-r}$$

$$\frac{U_1(1-r^3)}{1-r} = 19$$

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