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Quiz - October 22, 2004

Does the series $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{4^{k+1}}{7^{k-1}}$ converge or diverge? If the series converges, find its sum.

Answer: The series is the geometric series

$$\frac{4^2}{1} + \frac{4^3}{7} + \frac{4^4}{7^2} + \dots \; .$$

This series has initial term a = 16 and ratio $r = \frac{4}{7}$. We see that -1 < r < 1. We conclude that the series converges to the sum $\frac{a}{1-r} = \boxed{\frac{16}{1-\frac{4}{7}}}$.