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Divergent series: past, present, future

Divergent series have been used successfully in mathematics for centuries and have occupied an important place in mathematics until the middle of the 19th century. During this period mathematicians could not explain their success. In the 20th century mathematicians have justified rigorously the use of divergent series and also explained why they are so powerful. However divergent series remain a relatively marginal subject in contemporary mathematics. In this lecture I will present some history of divergent series related to differential equations and explain why they are not so marginal in the subject. This will bring me to the future.