

MAST Application

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Algebra

A1

Let $x = 2020$. Then we can rewrite the expression to be

$$\frac{(2x-1)(2x)(2x+1) + (x-1)(x)(x+1)}{(x-1)(x) + x(x+1) + (x-1)(x)} = \frac{9x^3 - 3x}{3x^2 - 1} = 3x = \boxed{6060}$$

A2

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{a=1}^{\infty} \frac{32a}{16a^4 + 14a^2 + 25} &= \sum_{a=1}^{\infty} \frac{32a}{(4a+3)^2 + 16} \\ &= 32 \left(\frac{1}{5 \cdot 13} + \frac{2}{13 \cdot 29} + \frac{3}{29 \cdot 53} + \frac{4}{53 \cdot 85} \cdots \right) \end{aligned}$$

Through common differences, we see that the difference of the difference of factors in the denominators is constant i.e.

$$5 \quad 13 \quad 29 \quad 53 \quad 85 \dots$$

$$8 \quad 16 \quad 24 \quad 32 \dots$$

$$8 \quad 8 \quad 8 \dots$$

We can rewrite the top sequence to be:

$$\begin{aligned} 8 \binom{n}{2} + 8 \binom{n}{1} + 5 \binom{n}{0} &= \frac{8(n)(n-1)}{2} + 8n + 5 \\ &= 4n^2 + 4n + 5 \end{aligned}$$

where n is a positive integer. Now we can rewrite the original series as:

$$\sum_{a=1}^{\infty} \frac{32a}{16a^4 + 14a^2 + 25} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{32n}{(4n^2 + 4n + 5)(4n^2 - 4n + 5)}$$

Because there are two quadratic factors in the denominator of the series, we can use partial fraction decomposition. We can also factor out the 32 and multiply it later.

$$\frac{n}{(4n^2 + 4n + 5)(4n^2 - 4n + 5)} = \frac{An + B}{4n^2 + 4n + 5} + \frac{Cn + D}{4n^2 - 4n + 5}$$

Multiplying both sides by $(4n^2 + 4n + 5)(4n^2 - 4n + 5)$ gives $A = 0, B = \frac{-1}{8}, C = 0, D = \frac{1}{8}$. Expanding out the sequence shows that it telescopes and all but $\frac{C \cdot 0 + \frac{1}{8}}{4 \cdot 1^2 - 4 \cdot 1 + 5}$ are cancelled. Multiplying by 32 gives $32 \cdot \frac{1}{40} = \boxed{\frac{4}{5}}$