
P2 Chapter 3: Sequences and Series

Sigma Notation

Sigma Notation

What does each bit of this expression mean?

The Greek letter, capital sigma, means 'sum'.

The numbers top and bottom tells us what r varies between. It goes up by 1 each time.

$$\sum_{r=1}^5 (2r + 1)$$

We work out this expression for each value of r (between 1 and 5), and add them together.

$$r = 1$$

$$r = 2$$

$$r = 3$$

$$r = 4$$

$$r = 5$$

$$= 3 \quad + 5 \quad + 7 \quad + 9 \quad + 11 \quad = 35$$

If the expression being summed (in this case $2r + 1$) is **linear**, we get an **arithmetic series**. We can therefore apply our usual approach of establishing a , d and n before applying the S_n formula.

Determining the value

First few terms?	Values of a, n, d or r ?	Final result?
$\sum_{n=1}^7 3n$?	?
$\sum_{k=5}^{15} (10 - 2k)$?	?
$\sum_{k=1}^{12} 5 \times 3^{k-1}$?	?
$\sum_{k=5}^{12} 5 \times 3^{k-1}$?

Determining the value

$$\sum_{n=1}^7 3n$$

First few terms?

$$= 3 + 6 + 9 + \dots$$

Values of a, n, d or r ?

$$a = 3, d = 3, n = 7$$

Final result?

$$S_7 = \frac{7}{2}(6 + 6 \times 3) \\ = 84$$

$$\sum_{k=5}^{15} (10 - 2k)$$

$$= 0 + (-2) + (-4) + \dots$$

$$a = 0, d = -2, n = 11$$

Be careful, there are 11 numbers between 5 and 15 inclusive. Subtract and +1.

$$S_{11} = \frac{11}{2}(0 + 10 \times -2) \\ = -110$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{12} 5 \times 3^{k-1}$$

$$= 5 + 15 + 45 + \dots$$

$$a = 5, r = 3, n = 12$$

$$S_{12} = \frac{5(1 - 3^{12})}{1 - 3} \\ = 1328600$$

$$\sum_{k=5}^{12} 5 \times 3^{k-1}$$

Note: You can either find from scratch by finding the first few terms (the first when $k = 5$), or by calculating:

$$\sum_{k=1}^{12} 5 \times 3^{k-1} - \sum_{k=1}^4 5 \times 3^{k-1}$$

i.e. We start with the first 12 terms, and subtract the first 4 terms.

Testing Your Understanding

Solomon Paper A

Evaluate

$$\sum_{r=10}^{30} (7 + 2r). \quad (4)$$

Method 1: Direct

?

Method 2: Subtraction

?

Testing Your Understanding

Solomon Paper A

Evaluate

$$\sum_{r=10}^{30} (7 + 2r). \quad (4)$$

Method 1: Direct

$$\sum_{r=10}^{30} (7 + 2r) = 27 + 29 + 31 + \dots$$

$$a = 27, d = 2, n = 21$$

$$\therefore S_{21} = \frac{21}{2}(54 + 20 \times 2) \\ = 987$$

Method 2: Subtraction

$$\sum_{r=10}^{30} (7 + 2r) = \sum_{r=1}^{30} (7 + 2r) - \sum_{r=1}^9 (7 + 2r)$$

$$\sum_{r=1}^{30} (7 + 2r) = 9 + 11 + 13 + \dots$$

$$a = 9, d = 2, n = 30$$

$$S_{30} = \frac{30}{2}(18 + 29 \times 2) = 1140$$

$$S_9 = \frac{9}{2}(18 + 8 \times 2) = 153$$

$$1140 - 153 = 987$$

On your calculator



The Casio calculator has a Σ button.

Use it to find:

$$\sum_{k=5}^{12} 2 \times 3^k$$

Exercise 3.6

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Homework Exercise

1 For each series:

- i write out every term in the series
- ii hence find the value of the sum.

a $\sum_{r=1}^5 (3r + 1)$

b $\sum_{r=1}^6 3r^2$

c $\sum_{r=1}^5 \sin(90r^\circ)$

d $\sum_{r=5}^8 2\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right)^r$

2 For each series:

- i write the series using sigma notation
- ii evaluate the sum.

a $2 + 4 + 6 + 8$

b $2 + 6 + 18 + 54 + 162$

c $6 + 4.5 + 3 + 1.5 + 0 - 1.5$

3 For each series:

- i find the number of terms in the series
- ii write the series using sigma notation.

a $7 + 13 + 19 + \dots + 157$

b $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{15} + \frac{4}{75} + \dots + \frac{64}{46875}$

c $8 - 1 - 10 - 19 - \dots - 127$

4 Evaluate:

a $\sum_{r=1}^{20} (7 - 2r)$

b $\sum_{r=1}^{10} 3 \times 4^r$

c $\sum_{r=1}^{100} (2r - 8)$

d $\sum_{r=1}^{\infty} 7\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right)^r$

5 Evaluate:

a $\sum_{r=9}^{30} \left(5r - \frac{1}{2}\right)$

b $\sum_{r=100}^{200} (3r + 4)$

c $\sum_{r=5}^{100} 3 \times 0.5^r$

d $\sum_{i=5}^{100} 1$

Problem-solving

$$\sum_{r=k}^n u_r = \sum_{r=1}^n u_r - \sum_{r=1}^{k-1} u_r$$

Homework Exercise

6 Show that $\sum_{r=1}^n 2r = n + n^2$.

7 Show that $\sum_{r=1}^n 2r - \sum_{r=1}^n (2r - 1) = n$.

8 Find in terms of k :

a $\sum_{r=1}^k 4(-2)^r$

b $\sum_{r=1}^k (100 - 2r)$

c $\sum_{r=10}^k (7 - 2r)$

9 Find the value of $\sum_{r=10}^{\infty} 200 \times \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^r$

10 Given that $\sum_{r=1}^k (8 + 3r) = 377$,

a show that $(3k + 58)(k - 13) = 0$ (3 marks)

b hence find the value of k . (1 mark)

11 Given that $\sum_{r=1}^k 2 \times 3^r = 59\,046$,

a show that $k = \frac{\log 19\,683}{\log 3}$ (4 marks)

b For this value of k , calculate $\sum_{r=k+1}^{13} 2 \times 3^r$. (3 marks)

Homework Exercise

12 A geometric series is given by $1 + 3x + 9x^2 + \dots$

The series is convergent.

a Write down the range of possible values of x .

(3 marks)

Given that $\sum_{r=1}^{\infty} (3x)^{r-1} = 2$

b calculate the value of x .

(3 marks)

Challenge

Given that $\sum_{r=1}^{10} (a + (r - 1)d) = \sum_{r=11}^{14} (a + (r - 1)d)$, show that $d = 6a$.

Homework Answers

1 a i $4 + 7 + 10 + 13 + 16$

b i $3 + 12 + 27 + 48 + 75 + 108$

c i $1 + 0 + (-1) + 0 + 1$

d i $-\frac{2}{243} + \frac{2}{729} - \frac{2}{2187} + \frac{2}{6561}$

ii 50

ii 273

ii 1

ii $-\frac{40}{6561}$

2 a i $\sum_{r=1}^4 2r$

ii 20

b i $\sum_{r=1}^5 (2 \times 3^{r-1})$

ii 242

c i $\sum_{r=1}^6 \left(-\frac{3}{2}r + \frac{15}{2}\right)$

ii 13.5

3 a i 26

ii $\sum_{r=1}^{26} (6r + 1)$

b i 7

ii $\sum_{r=1}^7 \left(\frac{1}{3} \times \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^{r-1}\right)$

c i 16

ii $\sum_{r=1}^{16} (17 - 9r)$

4 a -280

b 4 194 300

c 9300

d $-\frac{7}{4}$

5 a 2134 b 45854 c $\frac{3}{16}$ d 96

6 $\sum_{r=1}^n 2r = 2 + 4 + 6 + \dots + 2n; a = 2, d = 2$

$$S_n = \frac{n}{2}(4 + (n - 1)2) = \frac{n}{2}(2 + 2n) = n + n^2$$

7 $\sum_{r=1}^n 2r = n + n^2$

$$\sum_{r=1}^n (2r - 1) = \frac{n}{2}(2 + (n - 1)2) = \frac{n}{2}(2n) = n^2$$

$$\sum_{r=1}^n 2r - \sum_{r=1}^n (2r - 1) = n + n^2 - n^2 = n$$

8 a $\frac{8}{3}((-2)^k - 1)$

b $99k - k^2$

c $6k - k^2 + 27$

9 $\frac{25}{98304}$

10 a $a = 11, d = 3$

$$377 = \frac{k}{2}(2(11) + (k - 1)(3)) = \frac{k}{2}(19 + 3k)$$

$$3k^2 + 19k - 754 = 0 \Rightarrow (3k + 58)(k - 13) = 0$$

b $k = 13$

Homework Answers

11 a $a = 6, d = 3; S_k = \frac{6(3^k - 1)}{3 - 1} = 3(3^k - 1)$

$$\Rightarrow 3(3^k - 1) = 59046 \Rightarrow 3^k = 19683$$

$$\Rightarrow k \log 3 = \log 19683 \Rightarrow k = \frac{\log 19683}{\log 3}$$

b 4723920

12 a $|x| < \frac{1}{3}$ b $\frac{1}{6}$

Challenge

$$\sum_{r=1}^{10} [a + (r - 1)d]$$

$$S_{10} = 5(2a + 9d)$$

$$\sum_{r=11}^{14} [a + (r - 1)d] = \sum_{r=1}^{14} [a + (r - 1)d] - \sum_{r=1}^{10} [a + (r - 1)d]$$

$$= [7(2a + 13d) - 5(2a + 9d)] = 4a + 46d$$

$$4a + 46d = 10a + 45d \Rightarrow 6a = d$$