

Worksheet: Sum/Product Notations

Solutions

Practice Problems

1. Write the following sums and products explicitly without using sum/product notations, and then evaluate them. (Here n denotes a positive integer and c is a positive constant. (In all cases there is a simple formula for the given sum or product.)

$$(a) \sum_{i=1}^n c \quad \boxed{c + c + \cdots + c = cn}$$

$$(b) \prod_{i=1}^n c \quad \boxed{c \cdot c \cdots c = c^n}$$

$$(c) \sum_{i=1}^n (n-i) \quad \boxed{(n-1) + (n-2) + \cdots + 1 + 0 = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} i = \frac{n(n-1)}{2}}$$

$$(d) \prod_{i=1}^n (n-i) \quad \boxed{(n-1) \cdot (n-2) \cdots 1 \cdot 0 = 0}$$

$$(e) \prod_{i=1}^n i^n \quad \boxed{1^n \cdot 2^n \cdots n^n = n!^n}$$

$$(f) \prod_{i=1}^n \left(1 + \frac{1}{i}\right) \quad \boxed{\frac{2}{1} \frac{3}{2} \cdots \frac{n+1}{n} = \frac{2 \cdot 3 \cdots (n+1)}{1 \cdot 2 \cdots n} = n+1}$$

$$(g) \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{n+i}{i} \quad \boxed{\frac{(n+1)(n+2) \cdots (2n)}{1 \cdot 2 \cdots n} = \frac{(2n)!}{n!^2} = \binom{2n}{n}}$$

$$(h) \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=i}^n 1 \quad \boxed{\sum_{i=1}^n (n-i+1) = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}}$$

$$(i) \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n (i+j) \quad \boxed{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n i + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n j = \sum_{i=1}^n (ni) + \sum_{j=1}^n (nj) = 2 \cdot n \cdot \frac{n(n+1)}{2} = n^2(n+1)}$$

2. Express the following sums in summation notation and evaluate using appropriate summation formulas.

$$(a) 3 + 7 + 11 + \cdots + (4n-1) \quad \boxed{\sum_{i=1}^n (4i-1) = 4 \frac{n(n+1)}{2} - n.}$$

$$(b) (1/3)^2 - (1/3)^4 + (1/3)^6 - (1/3)^8 + \cdots \quad \boxed{\frac{1}{9} \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{9}\right)^i = \frac{1/9}{1+1/9} = \frac{1}{10}}$$

$$(c) y^n + xy^{n-1} + x^2y^{n-2} + \cdots + x^{n-1}y + x^n \quad (x, y \neq 0, x \neq y).$$

$$\boxed{\sum_{i=0}^n x^i y^{n-i} = y^n \sum_{i=0}^n (x/y)^i = \frac{y^n(1 - (x/y)^{n+1})}{1 - (x/y)}}.$$