

# 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.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} r=1 & & r=2 & & r=3 & & r=4 & & r=5 \\ = 3 & +5 & +7 & +9 & +11 & = 35 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} a = 3 \\ d = 2 \\ n = 5 \end{array}$$

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.

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

First few terms?

$$\begin{array}{l} n=1 \quad n=2 \quad n=3 \\ 3 + 6 + 9 + 12 \\ \quad \quad \quad + 15 + 18 + 21 \end{array}$$

Values of  $a, n, d$  or  $r$ ?

$$\begin{array}{l} a = 3 \\ n = 7 \\ d = 3 \end{array}$$

Final result?

$$\begin{aligned} S_n &= \frac{n}{2} (2a + (n-1)d) \\ S_n &= \frac{n}{2} (a + L) \\ S_7 &= \frac{7}{2} (3 + 21) = \underline{\underline{84}} \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{array}{l} k=5 \quad k=6 \quad k=7 \\ 0 + (-2) + (-4) \\ 0 - 2 - 4 - 6 - 8 \dots \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} a = 0 \\ d = -2 \\ n = 11 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} S_{11} &= \frac{11}{2} (0 - 20) \\ &= \underline{\underline{-110}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\underline{\underline{5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15}}$$

$$\sum_{k=5}^{15} (10 - 2k) = \underline{\underline{-110}}$$

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

$$\begin{array}{l} k=1 \quad k=2 \quad k=3 \\ 5 \times 3^0 \quad 5 \times 3^1 \quad 5 \times 3^2 \\ 5 \quad + \quad 15 \quad + \quad 45 \\ \quad \quad \quad \nearrow \\ \quad \quad \quad \times 3 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} a = 5 \\ r = 3 \\ n = 12 \end{array}$$

$$S_n = \frac{a(1-r^n)}{1-r}$$

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

$$= \underline{\underline{1,328,600}}$$

On your calculator



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

$$\sum_{x=5}^{12} (2 \times 3^x) = 1,594,080$$

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

a show that  $k = \frac{\log 19\,683}{\log 3} = 9$

b For this value of  $k$ , calculate  $\sum_{r=k+1}^{13} 2 \times 3^r$ .  
↳ 9

a)  $2 \times 3^1 = 6$

$2 \times 3^2 = 18$

$2 \times 3^3 = 54$

$6 + 18 + 54 + \dots = 59,046$   
how many terms?  
 $n = k$

$a = 6$

$n = k$

$r = 3$

$S_k = 59,046$

$59,046 = \frac{6(1-3^k)}{1-3}$

$59,046 = -3(1-3^k)$

$-19,682 = 1-3^k$

$3^k = 19,683$

$k \log 3 = \log 19,683$

$k = \frac{\log 19,683}{\log 3}$

b)  $\sum_{r=10}^{13} 2 \times 3^r = \sum_{r=1}^{13} (2 \times 3^r) - \sum_{r=1}^9 (2 \times 3^r)$

$= 4,723,920$

# Exam Question - challenging!

13. Given that  $p$  is a positive constant,

(a) show that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{11} \ln(p^n) = k \ln p$$

where  $k$  is a constant to be found,

(2)

(b) show that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{11} \ln(8p^n) = 33 \ln(2p^2)$$

(2)

(c) Hence find the set of values of  $p$  for which

$$\sum_{n=1}^{11} \ln(8p^n) < 0$$

giving your answer in set notation.

(2)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } \sum_{n=1}^{11} \ln p^n &= \ln p + \ln p^2 + \ln p^3 + \dots + \ln p^{11} \\ &= \ln p + 2 \ln p + 3 \ln p + \dots + 11 \ln p \\ &= \ln p (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 + 10 + 11) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a &= 1 \\ d &= 1 \\ n &= 11 \\ S_{11} &= \frac{11}{2}(1+11) \\ &= 66 \end{aligned}$$

$$= 66 \ln p$$

$$\begin{aligned} b) \sum_{n=1}^{11} \ln 8p^n &= \ln 8p + \ln 8p^2 + \ln 8p^3 + \dots + \ln 8p^{11} \\ &= \ln 8 + \ln p + \ln 8 + 2\ln p + \dots + \ln 8 + 11\ln p \\ &= 11\ln 8 + 66\ln p \\ &= 11\ln 2^3 + 66\ln p \\ &= 33\ln 2 + 33\ln p^2 \\ &= 33(\ln 2 + \ln p^2) = \underline{\underline{33\ln 2p^2}}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} c) \quad 33\ln 2p^2 &< 0 \\ \ln 2p^2 &< 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\left\{ p : 0 < p < \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right\}$$

$$\ln 2p^2 = 0$$

$$e^0 = 2p^2$$

$$1 = 2p^2$$

$$\frac{1}{2} = p^2$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} = p$$

Question	Scheme	Marks	AOs
13 (a)	$\sum_{n=1}^{11} \ln(p^n) = \ln p + \ln p^2 + \ln p^3 + \dots + \ln p^{11}$ $= \ln p + 2\ln p + 3\ln p + \dots + 11\ln p$ $= \frac{11}{2}(2\ln p + (11-1)\ln p) \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{1}{2}(11)(12)\ln p$	M1	3.1a
	$= 66\ln p \quad \{k=66\}$	A1	1.1b
		(2)	
(b)	$S = \sum_{n=1}^{11} \ln(8p^n) = \ln 8p + \ln 8p^2 + \ln 8p^3 + \dots + \ln 8p^{11}$ $= 11\ln 8 + 66\ln p$	M1	1.1b
	e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><math>11\ln 8 + 66\ln p = 11\ln 2^3 + 66\ln p = 33\ln 2 + 66\ln p</math>  <math>= 33(\ln 2 + 2\ln p) = 33(\ln 2 + \ln p^2) = 33\ln(2p^2) *</math></li> <li><math>11\ln 8 + 66\ln p = 11\ln 2^3 + 66\ln p = 33\ln 2 + 66\ln p</math>  <math>= \ln(2^{33} p^{66}) = \ln((2p^2)^{33}) = 33\ln(2p^2) *</math></li> </ul>	A1*	2.1
		(2)	
(c)	$S < 0 \Rightarrow 33\ln(2p^2) < 0 \Rightarrow \ln(2p^2) < 0$		
	so either $0 < 2p^2 < 1$ or $2p^2 < 1$	M1	2.2a
	$\Rightarrow p^2 < \frac{1}{2} \text{ and } p > 0 \Rightarrow 0 < p < \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$		
	In set notation, e.g. $\left\{ p : 0 < p < \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right\}$	A1	2.5
		(2)	