

Theorem Some basic sums

1) $\sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$ Sum of the first n positive integers

2) $\sum_{i=1}^n i^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$ Sum of the first n^2 integers

3) $\sum_{i=1}^n i^3 = \left(\frac{n(n+1)}{2}\right)^2$

Example Calculate $\sum_{i=1}^5 (2i^2 - 4i + 11)$

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{i=1}^5 (2i^2 - 4i + 11) &= 2 \sum_{i=1}^5 i^2 - 4 \sum_{i=1}^5 i + \sum_{i=1}^5 11 \\ &= 2 \left(\frac{5(5+1)(2 \cdot 5 + 1)}{6} \right) - 4 \left(\frac{5(5+1)}{2} \right) + 11 \cdot 5 \\ &= 2(55) - 4(15) + 55 = 105\end{aligned}$$

Example Calculate $\sum_{k=5}^{17} (2k^2 + 3k + 4)$

This problem is designed to show you how you can "shift" a sum by adjusting the index of summation and in turn adjusting the terms you are summing.

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{k=5}^{17} (2k^2 + 3k + 4) &= \sum_{j=1}^{13} (2(j+4)^2 + 3(j+4) + 4) \text{ We let } j=k-4 \text{ here} \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{13} 2j^2 + 19j + 48 \\ &= 2 \sum_{j=1}^{13} j^2 + 19 \sum_{j=1}^{13} j + \sum_{j=1}^{13} 48 \\ &= 2 \frac{13 \cdot 14 \cdot 27}{2} + 19 \frac{13 \cdot 14}{2} + 13 \cdot 48 = 3172\end{aligned}$$