

``Sigma'' notation (C)

We need a ``shorthand'' to represent sums with more than a few terms. If $f(n)$ is a rule which assigns the number $f(n)$ to each integer n in the set of integers $\{K, K+1, \dots, L\}$, such as $f(n) = 2^n$, or $f(n) = 2n+6$, etc, then

$$\sum_{n=K}^L f(n)$$

denotes the sum of the values $f(K), f(K+1), \dots, f(L)$, and is read ``The sum of $f(n)$ from $n = K$ to L ''. For example

$$\sum_{n=2}^5 (2n+1) = (2 \cdot 2 + 1) + (2 \cdot 3 + 1) + (2 \cdot 4 + 1) + (2 \cdot 5 + 1) = 5 + 7 + 9 + 11 = 32$$

and

$$\sum_{k=-2}^5 2^k = 2^{-2} + 2^{-1} + 2^0 + 2^1 + 2^2 + 2^3 + 2^4 + 2^5 = \frac{3}{4} + 63$$

Exercises Evaluate each of the following:

1.

$$\sum_{j=-2}^4 (2j-3)$$

;

2.

$$\sum_{j=0}^5 j^2$$

;

3.

$$\sum_{j=-8}^{-2} \sin(j\pi/6)$$

;

4.

$$\sum_{a=0}^4 (1/2)^a$$

;