

1.3 Summation of series

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 14 marks

KEY WORDS method of differences 差分法 • sum to infinity 无穷和 • partial fractions 部分分式 • summation of series 级数求和

Objective

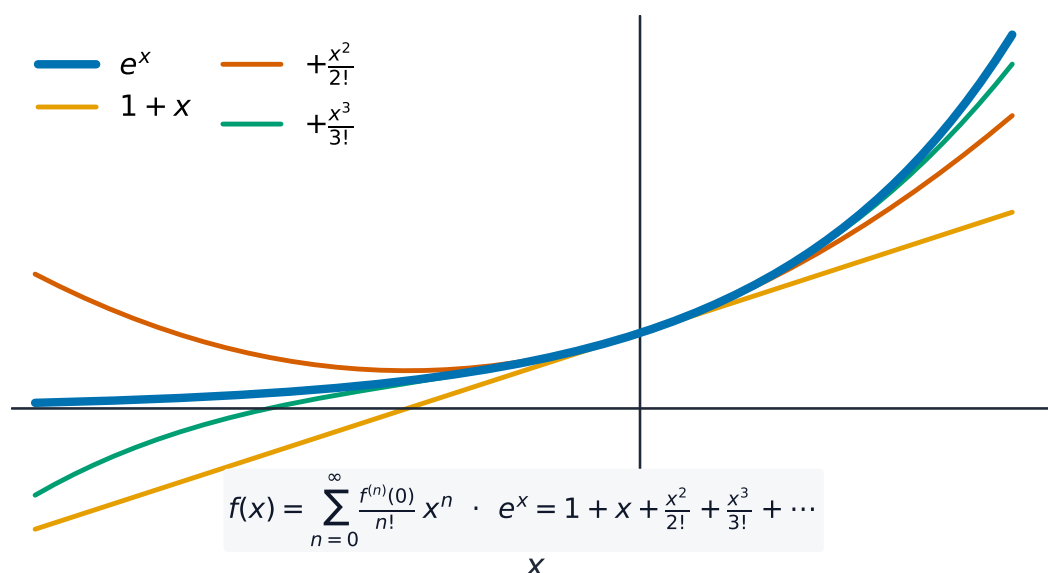
Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **summation of series** 级数求和 — the standard results for $\sum r$, $\sum r^2$, $\sum r^3$, and the **method of differences** 差分法.

You must be able to:

- use $\sum r = \frac{1}{2}n(n+1)$, $\sum r^2 = \frac{1}{6}n(n+1)(2n+1)$, $\sum r^3 = \frac{1}{4}n^2(n+1)^2$
- sum a series by the method of differences (telescoping)
- decide convergence and find a sum to infinity

1 Worked examples

■ Standard results & differences



A finite sum builds from standard results; telescoping cancels all but the end terms

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

Differences: if $u_r = f(r) - f(r + 1)$ then $\sum_{r=1}^n u_r = f(1) - f(n + 1)$.

2 Practice

2.1 Evaluate $\sum_{r=1}^n r^2$ as a formula in n . [1]

2.2 Find $\sum_{r=1}^{10} (3r - 1)$. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 $\sum_{r=1}^n r^3$ equals: [1]

- **A** $\frac{1}{4}n^2(n + 1)^2$
 - **B** $\frac{1}{6}n(n + 1)(2n + 1)$
 - **C** $\frac{1}{2}n(n + 1)$
 - **D** n^3
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3.2 (a) Express $\frac{1}{r(r + 1)}$ in partial fractions. [2]

(b) Hence find $\sum_{r=1}^n \frac{1}{r(r + 1)}$ by the method of differences, and state its sum to infinity. [4]

3.3 Find $\sum_{r=1}^n (r^2 + r)$, giving your answer as a single factorised expression. [4]

Solutions

2.1 $\frac{1}{6}n(n+1)(2n+1).$

2.2 $3 \cdot \frac{1}{2}(10)(11) - 10 = 165 - 10 = 155.$

3.1 A. $\sum r^3 = \frac{1}{4}n^2(n+1)^2.$

3.2 (a) $\frac{1}{r(r+1)} = \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{r+1}.$

(b) $\sum_{r=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{r+1} \right) = 1 - \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{n}{n+1};$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ the sum $\rightarrow 1.$

3.3 $\sum (r^2 + r) = \frac{1}{6}n(n+1)(2n+1) + \frac{1}{2}n(n+1); = \frac{1}{6}n(n+1)[(2n+1) + 3]; = \frac{1}{6}n(n+1)(2n+4) = \frac{1}{3}n(n+1)(n+2).$