Edexcel AS and A Level Modular Mathematics

Exercise A, Question 1

Question:

a Show that $r = \frac{1}{2}(r(r+1) - r(r-1))$.

b Hence show that $\sum_{r=1}^{n} r = \frac{n}{2}(n+1)$ using the method of differences.

Solution:

a
$$\frac{1}{2}(r(r+1)-r(r-1))$$
 Consider RHS.
$$=\frac{1}{2}(r^2+r-r^2+r)$$
 Expand and simplify.
$$=\frac{1}{2}(2r)$$

$$=r$$

$$= THS$$

= LHS

b
$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} r = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{r=1}^{n} r(r+1) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{r=1}^{n} r(r-1)$$
 Use above.

 $r = 1 \quad \frac{1}{2} \times 1 \times 2 \quad -\frac{1}{2} \times 1 \times 0$ Use method of differences.

 $r = 2 \quad \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times 3 \quad -\frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times 1$ When you add, all terms cancel except $\frac{1}{2}n(n+1)$.

 $r = n - 1 \quad \frac{1}{2} \frac{(n-1)(n)}{n} \quad -\frac{1}{2} \frac{(n-1)(n-2)}{n}$ Hence $\sum_{r=1}^{n} r = \frac{1}{2}n(n+1)$

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Exercise A, Question 2

Question:

Given
$$\frac{1}{r(r+1)(r+2)} \equiv \frac{1}{2r(r+1)} - \frac{1}{2(r+1)(r+2)}$$

find $\sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{r(r+1)(r+2)}$ using the method of differences.

Solution:

$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{r(r+1)(r+2)} = \sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{2r(r+1)} - \sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{2(r+1)(r+2)}$$
Use the information given and equate the summations.

Put $r = 1$

$$\frac{1}{2 \times 1 \times 2} - \frac{1}{2 \times 2 \times 3}$$
Use method of differences.

$$r = 2$$

$$\frac{1}{2 \times 2 \times 3} - \frac{1}{2 \times 3 \times 4}$$
All terms cancel except first and last.

$$r = 3$$

$$\vdots$$

$$r = n$$

$$\frac{1}{2n(n+1)} - \frac{1}{2(n+1)(n+2)}$$
Add
$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{r(r+1)(r+2)} = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{2(n+1)(n+2)}$$
First and last from above.

$$= \frac{(n+1)(n+2) - 2}{4(n+1)(n+2)}$$
Simplify.

$$= \frac{n^2 + 3n + 2 - 2}{4(n+1)(n+2)}$$

$$= \frac{n(n+3)}{4(n+1)(n+2)}$$

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Exercise A, Question 3

Question:

a Express $\frac{1}{r(r+2)}$ in partial fractions.

b Hence find the sum of the series $\sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{r(r+2)}$ using the method of differences.

Solution:

$$\mathbf{a} \frac{1}{r(r+2)} \equiv \frac{A}{r} + \frac{B}{r+2} \cdot \frac{1}{r(r+2)} \text{ identical to}$$

$$\frac{A}{r} + \frac{B}{r+2}.$$

$$\equiv \frac{A(r+2) + Br}{r(r+2)} \cdot \frac{1}{r(r+2)} = \frac{Add \text{ the two fractions.}}{1}$$

$$1 \equiv A(r+2) + Br$$

Put
$$r = 0$$

$$1 = 2A$$

$$A = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} = A$$

Put
$$r = 1$$

 $1 = \frac{1}{2}(3) + B$
 $B = -\frac{1}{2}$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{r(r+2)} = \frac{1}{2r} - \frac{1}{2(r+2)}$$

$$\mathbf{b} \sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{r(r+2)} = \sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{2r} - \sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{2(r+2)}$$

$$r = 1 \qquad \frac{1}{2 \times 1} - \frac{1}{2 \times 3}$$

$$r = 2 \qquad \frac{1}{2 \times 2} - \frac{1}{2 \times 4}$$

$$r = 3 \qquad \frac{1}{2 \times 3} - \frac{1}{2 \times 5}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$r = n-1 \qquad \frac{1}{2(n-1)} - \frac{1}{2(n+1)}$$

 $\frac{1}{2n}$ - $\frac{1}{2(n+2)}$

Use method of differences.

All terms cancel except
$$\frac{1}{2}$$
, $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2(n+1)}$ and $\frac{1}{2(n+2)}$

r = n

Add

$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{r(r+2)} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{2(n+1)} - \frac{1}{2(n+2)}$$

$$= \frac{2(n+1)(n+2) + (n+1)(n+2) - 2(n+2) - 2(n+1)}{4(n+1)(n+2)}$$

$$= \frac{2n^2 + 6n + 4 + n^2 + 3n + 2 - 2n - 4 - 2n - 2}{4(n+1)(n+2)}$$

$$= \frac{3n^2 + 5n}{4(n+1)(n+2)}$$

$$= \frac{n(3n+5)}{4(n+1)(n+2)}$$

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Exercise A, Question 4

Question:

a Express $\frac{1}{(r+2)(r+3)}$ in partial fractions.

b Hence find the sum of the series $\sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{(r+2)(r+3)}$ using the method of differences.

Solution:

$$\mathbf{a} \quad \frac{1}{(r+2)(r+3)} \equiv \frac{A}{r+2} + \frac{B}{r+3}$$

$$\equiv \frac{A(r+3) + B(r+2)}{(r+2)(r+3)}$$

$$\equiv \frac{A(r+3) + B(r+2)}{(r+2)(r+3)}$$
Add the two fractions.
$$1 \equiv A(r+3) + B(r+2)$$

$$r = -3 \Rightarrow B = -1$$

$$r = -2 \Rightarrow A = 1$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{(r+2)(r+3)} = \frac{1}{r+2} - \frac{1}{r+3}$$
Solve for A and B .

$$\mathbf{b} \quad \sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{(r+2)(r+3)} \equiv \sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{(r+2)} - \sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{(r+3)} \qquad \text{Use the method of differences.}$$

$$r = 1 \qquad \qquad \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4}$$

$$r = 2 \qquad \qquad \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{5} \qquad \text{All cancel except first and last.}}$$

$$r = 3 \qquad \qquad \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{5}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$r = n \qquad \qquad \frac{1}{n+3} - \frac{1}{n+3}$$

Add
$$\sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{1}{(r+2)(r+3)} = \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{n+3}$$

= $\frac{n+3-3}{3(n+3)}$
= $\frac{n}{3(n+3)}$

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Exercise A, Question 5

Question:

a Express $\frac{5r+4}{r(r+1)(r+2)}$ in partial fractions.

b Hence or otherwise, show that $\sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{5r+4}{r(r+1)(r+2)} = \frac{7n^2+11n}{2(n+1)(n+2)}$

Solution:



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Exercise A, Question 6

Question:

Given that
$$\frac{r}{(r+1)!} \equiv \frac{1}{r!} - \frac{1}{(r+1)!}$$

find $\sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{r}{(r+1)!}$

Solution:

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Exercise A, Question 7

Question:

Given that
$$\frac{2r+1}{r^2(r+1)^2} = \frac{1}{r^2} - \frac{1}{(r+1)^2}$$

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

Solution:

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

$$r = 1 \qquad \frac{1}{1} - \frac{1}{2^{2}} \cdot \text{Use method of differences.}$$

$$r = 2 \qquad \frac{1}{2^{2}} - \frac{1}{2^{2}} \cdot \text{All terms cancel except first and last.}$$

$$\vdots \\ r = n \qquad \frac{1}{n^{2}} - \frac{1}{(n+1)^{2}} \cdot \text{So adding } \sum_{r=1}^{n} \frac{2r+1}{r^{2}(r+1)^{2}} = 1 - \frac{1}{(n+1)^{2}} \cdot \text{Simplify.}$$

$$= \frac{(n+1)^{2}-1}{(n+1)^{2}} \quad \text{Simplify.}$$

$$= \frac{n^{2}+2n}{(n+1)^{2}}$$

 $=\frac{n(n+2)}{(n+1)^2}$