

# Exploring Sums of Powers

Math 206, Fall 2023

Meetings: MW 3:00–3:50, 254 Straub Hall  
Instructor: Nick Addington  
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Office Hours: Fridays 10:00–11:50, and by appointment.  
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This course consists mainly of small group discussions and writing. I'll do some lecturing, but hopefully not much. It is a 2-credit course, so you should expect to spend 4 hours a week outside of class. Grading is pass/no pass, with a passing grade of 85%, based on the following:

- **Biweekly write-ups (50%).** First drafts due Mondays. You'll be assigned two of your colleagues' write-ups to read, and give them feedback by Wednesday. A revised version will be due the following Monday.

Everything will be submitted through Canvas. You must use  $\text{\TeX}$ , the standard software for typing mathematics; I will provide resources to help you learn it.

- **Engagement (25%).** You should participate in small group discussions, or if you need to miss class, have a look at the day's worksheet on Canvas and email me one or more questions. You should also give timely and meaningful feedback on your colleagues' write-ups.
- **Final project (25%).** Choose a topic from course that you'd like to pursue further and in more depth, or a related topic that you'd like to explore. Topic due ~~Thursday, November 9~~ Monday, November 13; outline due ~~Thursday, November 16~~ Wednesday, November 22; draft due ~~Thursday, November 30~~ Friday, December 1; finished project due Thursday, December 7.

**Learning outcomes.** The goal of the Math Labs is to help students make the transition from the kind of “procedure-driven” mathematics that they see in K-12 education (and that to some extent continues in lower-division college courses) to the more creative engagement with mathematics that is required for upper-division math courses. Students will get practice writing mathematics rather than just calculating, and discussing and thinking about open-ended questions. They will learn the basics of  $\text{\TeX}$ .