

# The Wall of Mathematical Anxiety

**Building steps to climb the wall of mathematical anxiety**  
Count the number of squares required to build a set of steps 6 feet high.

1	1+2	1+2+3	1+2+3+4	1+2+3+4+5	1+2+3+4+5+6
1	3	6	10	15	21

Squares for n foot wall  $\sum_{i=1}^n i = 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n$

Big hint

n = 10

$\sum_{i=1}^{10} i = 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 + 10$

1	2	3	4	5
10	9	8	7	6
11	11	11	11	11

$(10+1)(10/2) = 55$

What is a general formula for the total number of steps n feet high?

Look up on the Internet "Gauss" and "Summation"