

Question:

Write a program that calculates the sum of all even numbers between two given integers a and b (inclusive). Ensure the program works even if a is greater than b.

Example:

Input:

a = 5, b = 10

Output: 24 (since $6 + 8 + 10 = 24$)

Input:

a = 12, b = 7

Output: 30 (since $8 + 10 + 12 = 30$)

Follow-up:

Can you optimize it to calculate the sum without iterating through all the numbers?