

# A Problem Regarding a System of Matrices

by Russell Walsmith

[ixitol@yahoo.com](mailto:ixitol@yahoo.com)

The matrix  $T_2$  taken to progressively higher powers (and the elements read in the same order) generates the sequence  $S = r, s, t, u, rs + rt, ru + s^2, ru + t^2, su + tu \dots$

$$T_2 = \begin{pmatrix} t & u \\ r & s \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1)$$

$T_3$  generates squares of  $S$  in its corners:  $r^2, s^2, t^2, u^2, (rs + rt)^2, (ru + s^2)^2, (ru + t^2)^2, (su + tu)^2 \dots$  It also has [certain interesting effects](#) on the roots and discriminants of quadratic equations with coefficients  $(a \ b \ c)$ .

$$T_3 = \begin{pmatrix} t^2 & 2tu & u^2 \\ rt & ru + st & su \\ r^2 & 2rs & s^2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.2)$$

$T_4^n$  ( $n = 1, 2, 3 \dots$ ) generates  $S^3 = r^3, s^3, t^3, u^3, (rs + rt)^3, (ru + s^2)^3, (ru + t^2)^3, (su + tu)^3 \dots$

$$T_4 = \begin{pmatrix} t^3 & 3t^2u & 3tu^2 & u^3 \\ rt^2 & t(2ru + st) & u(ru + 2st) & su^2 \\ r^2t & r(ru + 2st) & s(2ru + st) & s^2u \\ r^3 & 3r^2s & 3rs^2 & s^3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.3)$$

$T_5^n$  generates  $S^4$ :

$$T_5 = \begin{pmatrix} t^4 & 4t^3u & 6t^2u^2 & 4tu^3 & u^4 \\ r^3 & t^2(3ru + st) & tu(3ru + 3st) & u^2(ru + 3st) & su^3 \\ r^2t^2 & rt(2ru + 2st) & r^2u^2 + 4rstu + s^2t^2 & su(2ru + 2st) & s^2u^2 \\ r^3t & r^2(ru + 3st) & rs(3ru + 3st) & s^2(3ru + st) & s^3u \\ r^4 & 4r^3s & 6r^2s^2 & 4rs^3 & s^4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.4)$$

*Problems:*

Find a  $T_6$  that generates  $S^5$  (i.e., find the next term in this sequence of matrices).

Find the general form of the  $(n+1)^2$  matrix that generates  $S^n$ .