

On the coefficients of $(r + \sqrt{p} + \sqrt{q})^n$

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Let r be an integer and let $p, q > 1$ be two coprime natural numbers. Let $(a_n), (b_n), (c_n)$, and (d_n) be the sequences corresponding to the coefficients of $1, \sqrt{p}, \sqrt{q}$, and \sqrt{pq} , respectively, in the expansion of $(r + \sqrt{p} + \sqrt{q})^n$. Let $A(x), B(x), C(x)$, and $D(x)$ be the corresponding generating functions. We have

$$\begin{aligned} & a_{n+1} + b_{n+1}\sqrt{p} + c_{n+1}\sqrt{q} + d_{n+1}\sqrt{pq} \\ = & (r + \sqrt{p} + \sqrt{q})^{n+1} \\ = & (a_n + b_n\sqrt{p} + c_n\sqrt{q} + d_n\sqrt{pq})(r + \sqrt{p} + \sqrt{q}) \\ = & ra_n + pb_n + qc_n + (a_n + rb_n + qd_n)\sqrt{p} + (a_n + rc_n + pd_n)\sqrt{q} + (b_n + c_n + rd_n)\sqrt{pq} \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} A(x) &= 1 + x(rA(x) + pB(x) + qC(x)) \\ B(x) &= x(A(x) + rB(x) + qD(x)) \\ C(x) &= x(A(x) + rC(x) + pD(x)) \\ D(x) &= x(B(x) + C(x) + rD(x)) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, in matrix notation, we wish to solve the system $Mv = w$, where

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - rx & -px & -qx & 0 \\ -x & 1 - rx & 0 & -qx \\ -x & 0 & 1 - rx & -px \\ 0 & -x & -x & 1 - rx \end{pmatrix}, v = \begin{pmatrix} A(x) \\ B(x) \\ C(x) \\ D(x) \end{pmatrix}, w = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

With

$$\phi = (r^4 - 2r^2(p+q) + (p-q)^2)x^4 + 4r(p+q-r^2)x^3 + 2(3r^2 - p - q)x^2 - 4rx + 1$$

We then have

$$A(x) = \frac{r(p+q-r^2)x^3 + (3r^2-p-q) - 3rx + 1}{\phi}$$

$$B(x) = \frac{x((r^2-p+q) - 2rx + 1)}{\phi}$$

$$C(x) = \frac{x((r^2+p-q) - 2rx + 1)}{\phi}$$

$$D(x) = \frac{2x^2(-rx + 1)}{\phi}$$

Example

Taking $r = 1, p = 2$, and $q = 3$, we confirm the conjectures stated in A188571, A188572, and A188573.