ADDITIONAL RESULTS ON SOME RECENT INFINITE SUMS

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ABSTRACT. The paper referred to in the title is [1]. We rederive a recursion in a more general setting, without resorting to probabilistic arguments, in a simple and straight forward way. Then we find an explicit form for the exponential generating function in question, from which it is easy to extract coefficients, at least in principle. Since this function is meromorphic, the asymptotic behaviour of the numbers in question follows from the behaviour at the dominant simple pole.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Fibonacci sequence of order k ($k \geq 2$) is defined via the recursion

$$F_n^{(k)} = \sum_{j=1}^{k} F_{n-j}^{(k)} \quad \text{for} \quad n \geq 2,$$

with $F_1^{(k)} = 1$ and $F_n^{(k)} = 0$ for $n \leq 0$. The instance $k = 2$ is the classical case.

In the recent paper [1] the sums

$$\alpha_{m,k} := \sum_{n \geq 1} q^{n+k-1} n^m F_n^{(k)}$$

are studied in the instance $q = \frac{1}{2}$. This special choice stems from some probabilistic arguments used in [1]. Here, we will derive a recursion in a most elementary fashion, and thus only require that the series in question converges. This happens iff $|q|$ is smaller than the reciprocal of the *generalized golden ratio*, and this is a number that approaches $\frac{1}{2}$ from above when k gets large. Compare the papers [3, 6] for an analysis of these ratios.

After that, we turn to asymptotics via generating functions.

2. THE RECURSION

From the definition of the Fibonacci sequence of order k we get, by summing on $n \geq 2$:

$$\sum_{n \geq 2} q^{n+k-1} n^m F_n^{(k)} = \sum_{j=1}^{k} \sum_{n \geq 2} q^{n+k-1} n^m F_{n-j}^{(k)},$$

or

$$\alpha_{m,k} - q^k = \sum_{j=1}^{k} \sum_{n \geq 0} q^{n+j+k-1} (n+j)^m F_n^{(k)}$$

$$= \sum_{r=0}^{m} \binom{m}{r} j^{m-r} q^j \sum_{j=1}^{k} \sum_{n\geq 0} q^{n+k-1} n^r F_n^{(k)}$$

$$= \sum_{r=0}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{k} \binom{m}{r} j^{m-r} q^j \alpha_{r,k}. \tag{2.1}$$

For reasons of comparison with [1] we rewrite it:

$$\alpha_{m,k} = q^k + \sum_{r=0}^{m-1} \sum_{j=1}^{k} \binom{m}{r} j^{m-r} q^j \alpha_{r,k} + \sum_{j=1}^{k} q^j \alpha_{m,k}$$

$$= q^k + \sum_{r=0}^{m-1} \sum_{j=1}^{k} \binom{m}{r} j^{m-r} q^j \alpha_{r,k} + \alpha_{m,k} \frac{q^{k+1} - q}{q - 1}$$

or

$$\frac{1 - 2q + q^{k+1}}{(1-q)q^k} \alpha_{m,k} = 1 + \sum_{r=0}^{m-1} \sum_{j=1}^{k} \binom{m}{r} j^{m-r} q^{j-k} \alpha_{r,k}.$$

For $q = \frac{1}{2}$, this is a "main result" (Proposition 1.2) from the paper [1].

3. Generating functions

Now we want to study the behaviour of $\alpha_{m,k}$ for fixed k as $m \to \infty$. For that, we introduce the exponential generating functions

$$A_k(z) := \sum_{m\geq 0} \frac{\alpha_{m,k} z^m}{m!}.$$

From (2.1) we get by summing

$$\sum_{m\geq 0} \frac{z^m}{m!} \alpha_{m,k} = q^k \sum_{m\geq 0} \frac{z^m}{m!} + \sum_{r=0}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{k} \sum_{m\geq 0} \frac{z^m}{m!} \binom{m}{r} j^{m-r} q^j \alpha_{r,k}$$

or

$$A_k(z) = q^k e^z + \sum_{j=1}^{k} q^j \sum_{r\geq 0} \sum_{m-r\geq 0} \frac{z^r \alpha_{r,k}}{r!} \frac{(jz)^{m-r}}{(m-r)!}$$

$$= q^k e^z + \sum_{j=1}^{k} q^j e^{jz} A_k(z),$$

which leads to

$$A_k(z) = \frac{(1 - qe^z) q^k e^z}{1 - 2qe^z + q^{k+1} e^{(k+1)z}}.$$

From this explicit form it is easy to extract coefficients:

$$\alpha_{m,k} = m! [z^m] \frac{(1 - qe^z) q^k e^z}{1 - 2qe^z + q^{k+1} e^{(k+1)z}}.$$

We report the first few instances for $q = \frac{1}{2}$, extending the list from [1]:

$$\alpha_{0,m} = 1, \qquad \alpha_{1,m} = 2^{k+1} - k - 1,$$
$$\alpha_{2,m} = 2^{2k+3} - (4k+3)2^{k+1} + k^2 + 2k - 1,$$
$$\alpha_{3,m} = 3 \, 2^{3k+4} - 3(3k+2)2^{2k+3} + (12k^2 + 18k + 1)2^{k+1} - k^3 - 3k^2 + 3k - 1.$$

Now we turn to asymptotics. The function $A_k(z)$ is meromorphic, with only simple poles. The asymptotics of such functions is very well understood, see [2]. We must investigate the zeroes of the denominator $1 - 2qe^z + q^{k+1}e^{(k+1)z}$. In the following diagram, we depicted them for $q = 0.4$ and $k = 7$.
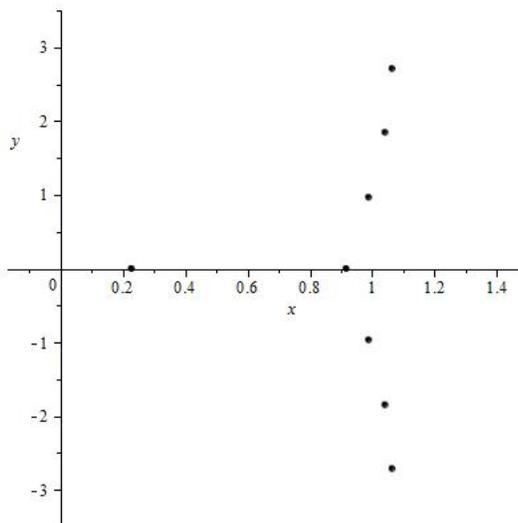
There is a dominant (=closest to the origin) zero, that we call $\rho_k(q)$; in the example it is about 0.22717. There is a second real solution (0.9163 in the example), which is canceled by a zero of the numerator. Some information of such dominant zeroes can be found e.g. in [3, 6]. For us, a crude approximation, obtained by *bootstrapping*, will be enough. For an explanation of the method, we refer to [4, 5]. We write $x = qe^z$, and write the equation as

$$x = \frac{1 + x^{k+1}}{2}.$$

A first approximation is $x \sim \frac{1}{2}$; plugging this into the RHS, this leads to the improved approximation $\frac{1}{2}\left(1 + \frac{1}{2^{k+1}}\right)$. In terms of the variable z, this means

$$\rho_k \sim \log\left(\frac{1}{2q}\left(1 + \frac{1}{2^{k+1}}\right)\right) \sim -\log(2q) + \frac{1}{2^{k+1}}.$$

This evaluates to 0.22705 for our running example $q = 0.4$, $k = 7$.

The dominant part of $A_k(z)$ is thus

$$A_k(z) = \frac{(1 - qe^z)q^k e^z}{1 - 2qe^z + q^{k+1}e^{(k+1)z}} \sim \frac{C_k(q)}{1 - z/\rho_k(q)},$$

with

$$C_k(q) = \frac{(1 - qe^\rho)q^k e^\rho}{-2qe^\rho + (k+1)e^{(k+1)\rho}} \frac{1}{-\rho}$$

$$= \frac{(1 - qe^\rho)q^k e^\rho}{-2qe^\rho + (k+1)[-1 + 2qe^\rho]} \frac{1}{-\rho}$$
$$= \frac{(1 - qe^\rho)q^k e^\rho}{\rho(k + 1 - 2kqe^\rho)},$$

where we wrote $\rho = \rho_k(q)$ for convenience.

Consequently we get the desired asymptotics for $m \to \infty$ and fixed k:

$$\alpha_{m,k} \sim m! C_k(q) \big(\rho_k(q)\big)^{-m}.$$

References

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