

About one non linear recurrence of the third order Sequences

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Let k be an integer greater than 1. The sequence $(a_n)_{n \geq 0}$ is defined by

$$a_0 = 4, a_1 = a_2 = (k^2 - 2)^2 \text{ and } a_{n+1} = a_n a_{n-1} - 2(a_n + a_{n-1}) - a_{n-2} + 8 \text{ for } n \geq 2.$$

Prove that $2 + \sqrt{a_n}$ is a perfect square all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

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Since

$$(1) \quad a_{n+2} = a_{n+1} a_n - 2(a_{n+1} + a_n) - a_{n-1} + 8 \iff a_{n+2} - 2 = (a_{n+1} - 2)(a_n - 2) - (a_{n-1} - 2)$$

then for $b_n := a_n - 2$ we obtain recurrence

$$(2) \quad b_{n+2} = b_{n+1} b_n - b_{n-1}, n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ with } b_0 = 2, b_1 = b_2 = (k^2 - 2)^2 - 2.$$

Lemma.

Let sequence $(P_n)_{n \geq 0}$ be determined by the recurrence

$$(3) \quad P_{n+2} = P_{n+1} P_n - P_{n-1}, n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ with } P_0 = 2, P_1 = P_2 = x > 2,$$

and let (f_n) be sequence of Fibonacci numbers ($f_{n+1} = f_n + f_{n-1}, n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $f_0 = 1, f_1 = 1$).

Then recurrence (3) determine polynomial $P_n(x)$ of x , of degree f_n with integer coefficients, such that $P_n(\cosh(t)) = 2 \cosh(f_n t)$,

where $t := \cosh^{-1}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Since } 2 \cosh(f_0 t) &= 2 \cosh(0) = 2, 2 \cosh(f_1 t) = 2 \cosh(f_2 t) = \\ 2 \cosh t = x \text{ and } 2 \cosh(f_{n+1} t) \cdot 2 \cosh(f_n t) - 2 \cosh(f_{n-t} t) &= \\ 4 \cosh(f_{n+1} t) \cosh(f_n t) - 2 \cosh(f_{n-t} t) &= \\ 2(\cosh(f_{n+1} t + f_n t) + \cosh(f_{n+1} t - f_n t)) - 2 \cosh(f_{n-t} t) &= \\ 2 \cosh(f_{n+2} t) + 2 \cosh(f_{n-1} t) - 2 \cosh(f_{n-t} t) &= 2 \cosh(f_{n+2} t) \end{aligned}$$

then by Math Induction we obtain

$$\text{that } P_n(x) = 2 \cosh\left(f_{n+2} \cdot \cosh^{-1}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)\right).$$

Coming back to recurrence (2) and denoting $t := \cosh^{-1}\left(\frac{k}{2}\right)$ we

obtain that

$$(k^2 - 2)^2 - 2 = (4 \cosh^2 t - 2)^2 - 2 = 4(2 \cosh^2 t - 1)^2 - 2 = 4 \cosh^2 2t - 2 = 2(2 \cosh^2 2t - 1) = 2 \cosh 4t \text{ and then accordingly to Lemma } b_n = 2 \cosh(4f_n t).$$

Therefore, $a_n = 2 \cosh(4f_n t) + 2 = 4 \cosh^2(2f_n t)$ and since $\cosh(x) > 0$

for any x then $2 + \sqrt{a_n} = 2 + 2 \cosh(2f_n t) = 2(1 + \cosh(2f_n t)) =$

$$4 \cosh^2(f_n t) = (2 \cosh(f_n t))^2 = (P_n(k))^2.$$