

Two infinite nested roots.

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2062. Proposed by K.R.S. Sastry, Dodballapur, India.

Find a positive integer n so that both the continued roots

$$\sqrt{1995 + \sqrt{n + \sqrt{1995 + \sqrt{n + \dots}}}}$$

and

$$\sqrt{n + \sqrt{1995 + \sqrt{n + \sqrt{1995 + \dots}}}}$$

converge to positive integers.

Solution by Arkady Alt, San Jose, California, USA.

Let a, b be real positive numbers.

Consider two sequences $(x_n), (y_n)$ defined by the system of recurrences of the first order;

$$(1) \begin{cases} x_{n+1} = \sqrt{a + y_n} \\ y_{n+1} = \sqrt{b + x_n} \end{cases} \quad n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ and } x_1 = \sqrt{a}, y_1 = \sqrt{b}.$$

Let $h(x) := \sqrt{a + \sqrt{b + x}}$. Then $x_{n+2} = h(x_n), x_1 = \sqrt{a}, x_2 = \sqrt{a + \sqrt{b}}$

and $y_{n+2} = h(y_n), y_1 = \sqrt{b}, y_2 = \sqrt{b + \sqrt{a}}$

Both sequences are convergent and to prove this suffice consider one of them, let it be (x_n) .

Let $m := \max\{a, b\}$ and $m_n = \sqrt{m + \sqrt{m + \sqrt{m + \dots + \sqrt{m}}}}$ (n roots).

Since $x_n \leq m_n, n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $m_n \leq \frac{1 + \sqrt{4m + 1}}{2}$ then (x_n) is bounded from above.

Also, (x_n) is increasing sequence.

Indeed, since $x_1 < x_2 < x_3$ and for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ assuming that

$x_{2n-1} < x_{2n} < x_{2n+1}, n \in \mathbb{N}$ we obtain

$$h(x_{2n-1}) < h(x_{2n}) < h(x_{2n+1}) \Leftrightarrow x_{2n+1} < x_{2n+2} < x_{2n+3}.$$

then by Math Induction $x_{2n-1} < x_{2n} < x_{2n+1}$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, that is (x_n) is increasing sequence.

As increasing and bounded from above (x_n) is convergent and (y_n)

is convergent by the same reason. Let $x := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n$ and $y := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n$.

Then passing to limit in (1) we obtain for (x, y) system of equation

$$(2) \begin{cases} x = \sqrt{a + y} \\ y = \sqrt{b + x} \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} x^2 = a + y \\ y^2 = b + x \end{cases}.$$

Applying system (4) for nested roots of the problem we obtain

$$\begin{cases} x^2 = 1995 + y \\ y^2 = n + x \end{cases}.$$

Let $y \in \mathbb{N}$ be such that $1995 + y$ is a perfect square, that is $1995 + y = (44 + t)^2$.

Then $x = 44 + t, y = x^2 - 1995 = (44 + t)^2 - 1995 = t^2 + 88t - 59$ and

$$n = y^2 - x = (t^2 + 88t - 59)^2 - (44 + t) = t^4 + 176t^3 + 7626t^2 - 10385t + 3437$$

for any $t \in \mathbb{N}$ (because $P(t) := t^4 + 176t^3 + 7626t^2 - 10385t + 3437 \geq 1$ for any $t \in \mathbb{N}$).

Thus, for any $t \in \mathbb{N}$ we have

$$(x, y, n) = (44 + t, t^2 + 88t - 59, P(t))$$

For example let $t = 1$ we obtain $x = 45, y = 84, n = P(t) = 855$