

As example we apply obtained formula to determine $\sigma_{3,3}(n)$:

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{3,3}(n) &= \sum_{i=1}^3 (-1)^{3-i} \binom{3}{i} \left((n+1)^i - n^i \right) s_{k+m-i}(n) = \left((n+1)^3 - n^3 \right) s_3(n) - \\ &\quad - 3 \left((n+1)^2 - n^2 \right) s_4(n) + 3 \left((n+1) - n \right) s_5(n) = \\ &= (3n^2 + 3n + 1) s_3(n) - 3(2n + 1) s_4(n) + 3s_5(n).\end{aligned}$$

Since

$$s_4(n) = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)(3n^2+3n-1)}{30}, \quad s_5(n) = \frac{n^2(n+1)^2(2n^2+2n-1)}{12}$$

then

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{3,3}(n) &= \frac{n^2(n+1)^2(3n^2+3n+1)}{4} - \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)^2(3n^2+3n-1)}{10} + \\ &\quad + \frac{n^2(n+1)^2(2n^2+2n-1)}{4} = \frac{1}{20}n(n+1)(n^2+1)(n^2+2n+2).\end{aligned}$$

Arkady Alt

W16. (Solution by the proposer.) Let $I_n := \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ and

$f(k) := \left\lfloor \frac{k^2}{n} \right\rfloor$, for any $k \in I_n$. We have to determine $|f(I_n)|$.

Consider two cases.

Case1. n is even, that is $n = 2m$.

Lemma. For any $k \in I_m$ holds inequality

$$f(k+1) - f(k) \leq 1.$$

Proof. First we consider $k \in I_{m-1}$. Let $1 \leq k \leq m-1$ then

$$f(k+1) = \left\lfloor \frac{k^2 + 2k + 1}{2m} \right\rfloor$$

and

$$1 + f(k) = \left[\frac{k^2 + 2m}{2m} \right].$$

Note that $k \leq m - 1$ yields

$$f(k + 1) \leq \left[\frac{k^2 + 2(m - 1) + 1}{2m} \right] = \left[\frac{k^2 + 2m - 1}{2m} \right] \leq \left[\frac{k^2 + 2m}{2m} \right] = 1 + f(k).$$

Also for $k = m$ we have

$$f(m + 1) = \left[\frac{m^2 + 2m + 1}{2m} \right] = \left[\frac{\frac{m^2 + 2m + 1}{2}}{m} \right] = \left[\frac{\left[\frac{m^2 + 2m + 1}{2} \right]}{m} \right] = \left[\frac{m + 2 + \left[\frac{1}{m} \right]}{2} \right] = 1 + \left[\frac{m}{2} \right] = 1 + f(m)$$

Corollary.

$$f(I_m) = \left\{ 0, 1, 2, \dots, \left[\frac{m}{2} \right] \right\}.$$

Proof. Note that $f(k)$ isn't decreasing, that is

$$f(k + 1) - f(k) = \left[\frac{(k + 1)^2}{n} \right] - \left[\frac{k^2}{n} \right] \geq 0.$$

Also,

$$f(m) = \left[\frac{m^2}{2m} \right] = \left[\frac{m}{2} \right]$$

and

$$f(1) = \left[\frac{1}{2m} \right] = 0.$$

Suppose that there is $i \in I_{m/2}$ for which $f^{-1}(i) = \emptyset$. Obvious that

$$1 \leq i < \left[\frac{m}{2} \right].$$

Let $k_* := \{k \mid k \in I_m \text{ and } f(k) < i\}$.

Then

$$f(k_*) < i < f(k_* + 1) \implies f(k_* + 1) - f(k_*) > 1,$$

that is contradiction to Lemma.

Now note that $f(k)$ is strictly increasing in $k \in \{m+1, m+2, \dots, 2m\}$.

Indeed, since for any $k \in I_m$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(m+k) &= \left\lfloor \frac{(m+k)^2}{2m} \right\rfloor = \left\lfloor \frac{m^2 + 2mk + k^2}{2m} \right\rfloor = \\ &= k + \left\lfloor \frac{m^2 + k^2}{2m} \right\rfloor \end{aligned}$$

then

$$\begin{aligned} f(m+(k+1)) &= k+1 + \left\lfloor \frac{m^2 + (k+1)^2}{2m} \right\rfloor > \\ &> k + \left\lfloor \frac{m^2 + k^2}{2m} \right\rfloor = f(m+k) \end{aligned}$$

for any $k \in I_{m-1}$.

Hence, $|f(I_{2m} \setminus I_m)| = m$ and since $|f(I_m)| = \left\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \right\rfloor + 1$ then

$$|f(I_{2m})| = m + \left\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \right\rfloor + 1 = \left\lfloor \frac{3m+2}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Case 2. n is odd, that is $n = 2m + 1$.

Then as above we will prove divide this case on two parts.

First we consider f on I_{m+1} .

For any $k \in I_m$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(k+1) &= \left\lfloor \frac{k^2 + 2k + 1}{2m+1} \right\rfloor \leq \left\lfloor \frac{k^2 + 2m + 1}{2m+1} \right\rfloor = \\ &= 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{k^2}{2m+1} \right\rfloor = 1 + f(k+1) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$f(m+1) = \left\lfloor \frac{m^2 + 2m + 1}{2m+1} \right\rfloor = 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{m^2}{2m+1} \right\rfloor, \quad f(1) = \left\lfloor \frac{1}{2m+1} \right\rfloor = 0.$$

By the same way as above, using inequality $f(k+1) \leq f(k) + 1$, can be proved that for any $0 < i < 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{m^2}{2m+1} \right\rfloor$ there is preimage in I_{m+1} .

So,

$$|f(I_{m+1})| = 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{m^2}{2m+1} \right\rfloor.$$

Remains consider behavior of f on $I_{2m+1} \setminus I_{m+1} = \{m+1+k \mid k \in I_m\}$. For any $k \in I_m$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(m+1+k) &= \left\lfloor \frac{(m+1)^2 + 2(m+1)k + k^2}{2m+1} \right\rfloor = \\ &= k + \left\lfloor \frac{k^2 + k + (m+1)^2}{2m+1} \right\rfloor \end{aligned}$$

and then

$$\begin{aligned} f(m+1+(k+1)) &\geq k+1 + \left\lfloor \frac{(k+1)^2 + (k+1) + (m+1)^2}{2m+1} \right\rfloor > \\ &> k + \left\lfloor \frac{k^2 + k + (m+1)^2}{2m+1} \right\rfloor = f(m+1+k). \end{aligned}$$

Since $f(k)$ is strictly increasing in $k \in I_{2m+1} \setminus I_{m+1}$ then

$$|f(I_{2m+1} \setminus I_{m+1})| = m.$$

Thus,

$$|f(I_{2m+1})| = m + 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{m^2}{2m+1} \right\rfloor = 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{3m^2 + m}{2m+1} \right\rfloor.$$

So,

$$|f(I_n)| = \begin{cases} 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{3m}{2} \right\rfloor & \text{if } n = 2m \\ 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{3m^2 + 3m + 1}{2m+1} \right\rfloor & \text{if } n = 2m + 1 \end{cases}$$

For $n = 2m$ we have

$$|f(I_n)| = 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{3m}{2} \right\rfloor = 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{6m}{4} \right\rfloor = 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{3n}{4} \right\rfloor.$$

For $n = 2m + 1$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} |f(I_n)| &= 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{3m^2 + 3m + 1}{2m + 1} \right\rfloor = 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{12m^2 + 12m + 4}{4} \right\rfloor = \\ &= 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{3(2m + 1)^2 + 1}{4} \right\rfloor = 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{3(2m + 1) + \frac{1}{2m + 1}}{4} \right\rfloor = \\ &= 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{3(2m + 1)}{4} \right\rfloor = 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{3n}{4} \right\rfloor. \end{aligned}$$

So,

$$|f(I_n)| = 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{3n}{4} \right\rfloor.$$

Arkady Alt

W17. (Solution by the proposer.) First we solve the recurrence

$$t_{k+2} - t_{k+1} - t_k = f_k, k \in \mathbb{N}, \text{ where } f_k, k \in \mathbb{N} \text{ are Fibonacci numbers.} \quad (1)$$

For any sequence $(t_n)_{n \geq 0}$ we set $F(t_n) := t_{n+2} - t_{n+1} - t_n$ and call F Fibonacci Operator.

Easy to see that F is linear operator, that is

$$F(at'_n + bt''_n) = aF(t'_n) + bF(t''_n) \text{ for any } a, b \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Noting that

$$\begin{aligned} F(nf_n) &= (n + 2)f_{n+2} - (n + 1)f_{n+1} - nf_n = \\ &= 2f_{n+2} - f_{n+1} = f_{n+1} + 2f_n \end{aligned}$$

and

$$F(nf_{n-1}) = (n + 2)f_{n+1} - (n + 1)f_n - nf_{n-1} =$$