

Problem 11767

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Proposed by M. Merca (Romania).

Prove that

$$\sum \frac{(1 + t_1 + t_2 + \dots + t_n)!}{(1 + t_1)!t_2! \dots t_n!} = 2^n - F_n$$

where the sum is over all nonnegative integer solutions to $t_1 + 2t_2 + \dots + nt_n = n$ and F_k is the k th Fibonacci number.

Solution proposed by Roberto Tauraso, Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Roma “Tor Vergata”, via della Ricerca Scientifica, 00133 Roma, Italy.

Let $F(x, y) = (e^{xy} - 1)e^{\frac{x^2y}{1-x}}$ for $x, y \in (-1, 1)$ then

$$F(x, y) = (e^{xy} - 1) \prod_{k=2}^{\infty} e^{x^k y} = \sum_{t_1=0}^{\infty} \frac{(xy)^{1+t_1}}{(1+t_1)!} \prod_{k=2}^{\infty} \sum_{t_k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(x^k y)^{t_k}}{t_k!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_* \frac{y^{1+t_1+t_2+\dots+t_n}}{(1+t_1)!t_2! \dots t_n!} x^{n+1}$$

where \sum_* is over all nonnegative integer solutions to $t_1 + 2t_2 + \dots + nt_n = n$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_* \frac{(1 + t_1 + t_2 + \dots + t_n)!}{(1 + t_1)!t_2! \dots t_n!} x^{n+1} &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{\partial^m (F(x, y))}{\partial y^m} \Big|_{y=0} \\ &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^m \binom{m}{k} \frac{\partial^{m-k} (e^{xy} - 1)}{\partial y^{m-k}} \Big|_{y=0} \cdot \frac{\partial^k (e^{\frac{x^2y}{1-x}})}{\partial y^k} \Big|_{y=0} \\ &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^m \binom{m}{k} (x^{m-k} - \delta_{m,k}) \cdot \frac{x^{2k}}{(1-x)^k} \\ &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left(x^m \sum_{k=0}^m \binom{m}{k} \frac{x^k}{(1-x)^k} - \frac{x^{2m}}{(1-x)^m} \right) \\ &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left(x^m \left(1 + \frac{x}{1-x} \right)^m - \frac{x^{2m}}{(1-x)^m} \right) \\ &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^m - x^{2m}}{(1-x)^m} \\ &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{x}{1-x} \right)^m - \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{x^2}{1-x} \right)^m \\ &= \frac{x}{1-2x} - \frac{x^2}{1-x-x^2} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2^n - F_n) x^{n+1}, \end{aligned}$$

which implies that for any nonnegative integer n ,

$$\sum_* \frac{(1 + t_1 + t_2 + \dots + t_n)!}{(1 + t_1)!t_2! \dots t_n!} = 2^n - F_n.$$

□