

The Binet formula, sums and representations of generalized Fibonacci p -numbers

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Received 10 June 2006; accepted 6 March 2007

Available online 1 April 2007

Abstract

In this paper, we consider the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers and then we give the generalized Binet formula, sums, combinatorial representations and generating function of the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers. Also, using matrix methods, we derive an explicit formula for the sums of the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers.

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1. Introduction

We consider a generalization of well-known Fibonacci numbers, which are called Fibonacci p -numbers. The Fibonacci p -numbers $F_p(n)$ are defined by the following equation for $n > p + 1$

$$F_p(n) = F_p(n - 1) + F_p(n - p - 1) \quad (1)$$

with initial conditions

$$F_p(1) = F_p(2) = \dots = F_p(p) = F_p(p + 1) = 1.$$

If we take $p = 1$, then the sequence of Fibonacci p -numbers, $\{F_p(n)\}$, is reduced to the well-known Fibonacci sequence $\{F_n\}$.

The Fibonacci p -numbers and their properties have been studied by some authors (for more details see [1,4–6,8,13–26,29]).

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In 1843, Binet gave a formula which is called “Binet formula” for the usual Fibonacci numbers F_n by using the roots of the characteristic equation $x^2 - x - 1 = 0 : \alpha = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}, \beta = \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}$

$$F_n = \frac{\alpha^n - \beta^n}{\alpha - \beta}$$

where α is called Golden Proportion, $\alpha = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$ (for details see [7,30,28]). In [12], Levesque gave a Binet formula for the Fibonacci sequence by using a generating function. In [2], the authors considered an $n \times n$ companion matrix and its n th power, then gave the combinatorial representation of the sequence generated by the n th power the matrix. Further in [25], the authors derived analytical formulas for the Fibonacci p -numbers and then showed these formulas are similar to the Binet formulas for the classical Fibonacci numbers. Also, in [11], the authors gave the generalized Binet formulas and the combinatorial representations for the generalized order- k Fibonacci [3] and Lucas [27] numbers. In [10], the authors defined the generalized order- k Pell numbers and gave the Binet formula for the generalized Pell sequence. For the common generalization of the generalized order- k Fibonacci and Pell numbers, and its generating matrix, sums and combinatorial representation, we refer readers to [9].

In this paper, we consider the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers and give the generalized Binet formula, combinatorial representations and sums of the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers by using the matrix method.

The generating matrix for the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers is given by Stakhov [23] as follows: Let Q_p be the following $(p + 1) \times (p + 1)$ companion matrix :

$$Q_p = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \dots & \ddots & \dots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \tag{2}$$

and the n th power of the matrix Q_p is

$$Q_p^n = \begin{bmatrix} F_p(n+1) & F_p(n-p+1) & \dots & F_p(n-1) & F_p(n) \\ F_p(n) & F_p(n-p) & \dots & F_p(n-2) & F_p(n-1) \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ F_p(n-p+2) & F_p(n-2p+2) & \dots & F_p(n-p) & F_p(n-p+1) \\ F_p(n-p+1) & F_p(n-2p+1) & \dots & F_p(n-p-1) & F_p(n-p) \end{bmatrix}. \tag{3}$$

The matrix Q_p is said to be a generalized Fibonacci p -matrix.

2. The generalized Binet formula

In this section, we give the generalized Binet formula for the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers. We start with the following results.

Lemma 1. Let $a_p = \frac{1}{p} \left(\frac{p-1}{p}\right)^{p-1}$. Then $a_p > a_{p+1}$ for $p > 1$.

Proof. Since $2p^3 - 2p - 1 > 0$ and $p > 1$, $(p^2 + 2p + 1)(p^2 - 1) > p^4$. Thus, $\left(\frac{p^2-1}{p^2}\right) > \left(\frac{p}{p+1}\right)^2$. Therefore, for $p > 1$, $\left(\frac{p^2-1}{p^2}\right)^{p-1} > \left(\frac{p}{p+1}\right)^2$ and so $\left(\left(\frac{p-1}{p^2}\right) \times \left(\frac{p+1}{p}\right)\right)^{p-1} > \left(\frac{p}{p+1}\right)^2$. Then we have $\left(\frac{p-1}{p^2}\right)^{p-1} > \left(\frac{p}{p+1}\right)^{p+1}$. So the proof is easily seen. \square

Lemma 2. *The characteristic equation of the Fibonacci p -numbers $x^p - x^{p-1} - 1 = 0$ does not have multiple roots for $p > 1$.*

Proof. Let $f(z) = z^p - z^{p-1} - 1$. Suppose that α is a multiple root of $f(z) = 0$. Note that $\alpha \neq 0$ and $\alpha \neq 1$. Since α is a multiple root, $f(\alpha) = \alpha^p - \alpha^{p-1} - 1 = 0$ and $f'(\alpha) = p\alpha^{p-1} - (p-1)\alpha^{p-2} = 0$. Then

$$f'(\alpha) = \alpha^{p-2}(p\alpha - (p-1)) = 0.$$

Thus $\alpha = \frac{p-1}{p}$, and hence

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= f(\alpha) = -\alpha^p + \alpha^{p-1} + 1 = \alpha^{p-1}(1 - \alpha) + 1 \\ &= \left(\frac{p-1}{p}\right)^{p-1} \left(1 - \frac{p-1}{p}\right) + 1 = \frac{1}{p} \left(\frac{p-1}{p}\right)^{p-1} + 1 \\ &= a_p + 1. \end{aligned}$$

Since, by Lemma 1, $a_2 = \frac{1}{4} < 1$ and $a_p > a_{p+1}$ for $p > 1$, $a_p \neq 1$, which is a contradiction. Therefore, the equation $f(z) = 0$ does not have multiple roots. \square

We suppose that $f(\lambda)$ is the characteristic polynomial of the generalized Fibonacci p -matrix Q_p . Then, $f(\lambda) = \lambda^{p+1} - \lambda^p - 1$, which is a well-known fact from the companion matrices. Let $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{p+1}$ be the eigenvalues of the matrix Q_p . Then, by Lemma 2, we know that $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{p+1}$ are distinct. Let A be a $(p+1) \times (p+1)$ Vandermonde matrix as follows:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1^p & \lambda_1^{p-1} & \dots & \lambda_1 & 1 \\ \lambda_2^p & \lambda_2^{p-1} & \dots & \lambda_2 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ \lambda_{p+1}^p & \lambda_{p+1}^{p-1} & \dots & \lambda_{p+1} & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We denote A^T by V . Let

$$d_k^i = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1^{n+p+1-i} \\ \lambda_2^{n+p+1-i} \\ \vdots \\ \lambda_{p+1}^{n+p+1-i} \end{bmatrix}$$

and $V_j^{(i)}$ be a $(p+1) \times (p+1)$ matrix obtained from V by replacing the j th column of V by d_k^i .

Then we can give the generalized Binet formula for the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers with the following theorem.

Theorem 3. Let $F_p(n)$ be the n th generalized Fibonacci p -number; then

$$q_{ij} = \frac{\det(V_j^{(i)})}{\det(V)}$$

where $Q_p^n = [q_{ij}]$ and $q_{ij} = F_p(n + j - i - p)$ for $j \geq 2$ and $q_{i,1} = F_p(n + 2 - i)$ for $j = 1$.

Proof. Since the eigenvalues of the matrix Q_p are distinct, the matrix Q_p is diagonalizable. It is easy to show that $Q_p V = V D$, where $D = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{p+1})$. Since the Vandermonde matrix V is invertible, $V^{-1} Q_p V = D$. Hence, the matrix Q_p is similar to the diagonal matrix D . So we have the matrix equation $Q_p^n V = V D^n$. Since $Q_p^n = [q_{ij}]$, we have the following linear system of equations:

$$\begin{aligned} q_{i1}\lambda_1^p + q_{i2}\lambda_1^{p-1} + \dots + q_{i,p+1} &= \lambda_1^{p+n+1-i} \\ q_{i1}\lambda_2^p + q_{i2}\lambda_2^{p-1} + \dots + q_{i,p+1} &= \lambda_2^{p+n+1-i} \\ &\vdots \\ q_{i1}\lambda_{p+1}^p + q_{i2}\lambda_{p+1}^{p-1} + \dots + q_{i,p+1} &= \lambda_{p+1}^{p+n+1-i}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, for each $j = 1, 2, \dots, p + 1$, we obtain

$$q_{ij} = \frac{\det(V_j^{(i)})}{\det(V)}.$$

So the proof is complete. \square

Thus, we give the Binet formula for the n th Fibonacci p -number $F_p(n)$ by the following corollary.

Corollary 4. Let $F_p(n)$ be the n th Fibonacci p -number. Then

$$F_p(n) = \frac{\det(V_1^{(2)})}{\det(V)} = \frac{\det(V_{p+1}^{(1)})}{\det(V)}.$$

Proof. The conclusion is immediate result of Theorem 3 by taking $i = 2, j = 1$ or $i = 1, j = p + 1$. \square

The following lemma can be obtained from [2].

Lemma 5. Let the matrix $Q_p^n = [q_{ij}]$ be as in (3). Then

$$q_{ij} = \sum_{(m_1, \dots, m_{p+1})} \frac{m_j + m_{j+1} + \dots + m_{p+1}}{m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_{p+1}} \times \binom{m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_{p+1}}{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{p+1}}$$

where the summation is over nonnegative integers satisfying $m_1 + 2m_2 + \dots + (p + 1)m_{p+1} = n - i + j$, and defined to be 1 if $n = i - j$.

Then we have the following corollaries.

Corollary 6. Let $F_p(n)$ be the generalized Fibonacci p -number. Then

$$F_p(n) = \sum_{(m_1, \dots, m_{p+1})} \frac{m_{p+1}}{m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_{p+1}} \times \binom{m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_{p+1}}{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{p+1}}$$

where the summation is over nonnegative integers satisfying $m_1 + 2m_2 + \dots + (p + 1)m_{p+1} = n + p$.

Proof. In Lemma 5, when $i = 1$ and $j = p + 1$, then the conclusion can be directly seen from (3). \square

Corollary 7. Let $F_p(n)$ be the generalized Fibonacci p -number. Then

$$F_p(n) = \sum_{(m_1, \dots, m_{p+1})} \binom{m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_{p+1}}{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{p+1}}$$

where the summation is over nonnegative integers satisfying $m_1 + 2m_2 + \dots + (p + 1)m_{p+1} = n - 1$.

Proof. In Lemma 5, if we take $i = 2$ and $j = 1$, then we have the corollary from (3). \square

We consider the generating function of the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers. We give the following lemma.

Lemma 8. Let $F_p(n)$ be the n th generalized Fibonacci number, then for $n > 1$

$$x^n = F_p(n - p + 1)x^p + \sum_{j=1}^p F_p(n - p + 1 - j)x^{j-1}.$$

Proof. We suppose that $n = p + 1$; then by the definition of the Fibonacci p -numbers

$$x^{p+1} = F_p(2)x^p + F_p(1) = x^p + 1.$$

Now we suppose that the equation holds for any integer $n, n > p + 1$. Then we show that the equation holds for $n + 1$. Thus, from our assumption and the characteristic equation the Fibonacci p -numbers,

$$\begin{aligned} x^{n+1} &= x^n x = \left(F_p(n - p + 1)x^p + \sum_{j=1}^p F_p(n - p + 1 - j)x^{j-1} \right) x \\ &= F_p(n - p + 1)(x^p + 1) + \sum_{j=1}^p F_p(n - p + 1 - j)x^j \\ &= F_p(n - p + 1)x^p + F_p(n - p + 1) + F_p(n - 2p + 1)x^p \\ &\quad + F_p(n - 2p + 2)x^{p-1} + \dots + F_p(n - 2p + 1)x^2 + F_p(n - p)x \\ &= [F_p(n - p + 1) + F_p(n - 2p + 1)]x^p + F_p(n - 2p + 2)x^{p-1} \\ &\quad + F_p(n - 2p + 3)x^{p-2} + \dots + F_p(n - p)x + F_p(n - p + 1). \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

Using the definition of the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers, we have

$$F_p(n - p + 1) + F_p(n - 2p + 1) = F_p(n - p + 2).$$

Therefore, we can write the Eq. (4) as follows

$$\begin{aligned} x^{n+1} &= F_p(n - p + 2)x^p + F_p(n - 2p + 2)x^{p-1} \\ &\quad + F_p(n - 2p + 3)x^{p-2} + \dots + F_p(n - p)x + F_p(n - p + 1) \\ &= F_p(n - p + 2)x^p + \sum_{j=1}^p F_p(n - p + 2 - j)x^{j-1} \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

which is what was desired. \square

Now we give the generating function of the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers:

Let

$$G_p(x) = F_p(1) + F_p(2)x + F_p(3)x^2 + \dots + F_p(n + 1)x^n + \dots .$$

Then

$$G_p(x) - xG_p(x) - x^{p+1}G_p(x) = (1 - x - x^{p+1})G_p(x).$$

By the Eq. (5), we have $(1 - x - x^{p+1})G_p(x) = F_p(1) = 1$. Thus

$$G_p(x) = (1 - x - x^{p+1})^{-1}$$

for $0 \leq x + x^{p+1} < 1$.

Let $f_p(x) = x + x^{p+1}$. Then, for $0 \leq f_p(x) < 1$, we have the following lemma.

Lemma 9. For positive integers t and n , the coefficient of x^n in $(f_p(x))^t$ is

$$\sum_{j=0}^t \binom{t}{j}, \quad \frac{n}{p+1} \leq t \leq n$$

where the integers j satisfy $pj + t = n$.

Proof. From the above results, we write

$$(f_p(x))^t = (x + x^{p+1})^t = x^t (1 + x^p)^t = x^t \sum_{j=0}^t \binom{t}{j} x^{pj}.$$

In the above equation, we consider the coefficient of x^n . For positive integers t and j such that $pj + t = n$ and $j \leq t$, the coefficients of x^n are

$$\sum_{j=0}^t \binom{t}{j}, \quad \frac{n}{p+1} \leq t \leq n.$$

So we have the required conclusion. \square

Now we can give a representation for the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers by the following theorem.

Theorem 10. Let $F_p(n)$ be the n th generalized Fibonacci p -number. Then, for positive integers t and n ,

$$F_p(n+1) = \sum_{\frac{n}{p+1} \leq t \leq n} \sum_{j=0}^t \binom{t}{j}$$

where the integers j satisfy $pj + t = n$.

Proof. Since

$$\begin{aligned} G_p(x) &= F_p(1) + F_p(2)x + F_p(3)x^2 + \cdots + F_p(n+1)x^n + \cdots \\ &= \frac{1}{1-x-x^{p+1}} \end{aligned}$$

and $f_p(x) = x + x^{p+1}$, the coefficient of x^n is the $(n+1)$ th generalized Fibonacci p -number, $F_p(n+1)$ in $G_p(x)$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} G_p(x) &= \frac{1}{1-x-x^{p+1}} \\ &= \frac{1}{1-f_p(x)} \\ &= 1 + f_p(x) + (f_p(x))^2 + \cdots + (f_p(x))^n + \cdots \\ &= 1 + x(1+x^p) + x^2 \sum_{j=0}^2 \binom{2}{j} x^{pj} + \cdots + x^n \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} x^{pj} + \cdots \end{aligned}$$

As we need the coefficient of x^n , we only consider the first $n+1$ terms on the right-side. Thus by [Lemma 9](#), the proof is complete. \square

Now we give an exponential representation for the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers.

$$\begin{aligned} \ln G_p(x) &= \ln \left[1 - (x + x^{p+1}) \right]^{-1} \\ &= -\ln \left[1 - (x + x^{p+1}) \right] \\ &= - \left[- (x + x^{p+1}) - \frac{1}{2} (x + x^{p+1})^2 - \cdots - \frac{1}{n} (x + x^{p+1})^n - \cdots \right] \\ &= x \left[(1 + x^p) + \frac{1}{2} (1 + x^p)^2 + \cdots + \frac{1}{n} (1 + x^p)^n + \cdots \right] \\ &= x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} (1 + x^p)^n. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$G_p(x) = \exp \left(x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} (1 + x^p)^n \right).$$

3. Sums of the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers by matrix methods

In this section, we define a $(p + 2) \times (p + 2)$ matrix T , and then we show that the sums of the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers can be obtained from the n th power of the matrix T .

Definition 11. For $p \geq 1$, let $T = (t_{ij})$ denote the $(p + 2) \times (p + 2)$ matrix by $t_{11} = t_{21} = t_{22} = t_{2,p+2} = 1, t_{i+1,i} = 1$ for $2 \leq i \leq p + 1$ and 0 otherwise.

Clearly, by the definition of the matrix Q_p ,

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{or} \quad T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 1 & & & \\ 0 & Q_p & & \\ \vdots & & & \\ 0 & & & \end{bmatrix} \tag{6}$$

where the $(p + 1) \times (p + 1)$ matrix Q_p given by (2).

Let S_n denote the sums of the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers from 1 to n , that is:

$$S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n F_p(i). \tag{7}$$

Now we define a $(p + 2) \times (p + 2)$ matrix C_n as follows

$$C_n = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ S_n & & & \\ S_{n-1} & Q_p^n & & \\ \vdots & & & \\ S_{n-p} & & & \end{bmatrix} \tag{8}$$

where Q_p^n given by (3).

Then we have the following theorem.

Theorem 12. Let the $(p + 2) \times (p + 2)$ matrices T and C_n be as in (6) and (8), respectively. Then, for $n \geq 1$:

$$C_n = T^n.$$

Proof. We will use the induction method to prove that $C_n = T^n$. If $n = 1$, then, by the definition of the matrix C_n and generalized Fibonacci p -numbers, we have

$$C_1 = T.$$

Now we suppose that the equation holds for n . Then we show that the equation holds for $n + 1$. Thus,

$$T^{n+1} = T^n \cdot T$$

and by our assumption,

$$T^{n+1} = C_n T.$$

Since $S_{n+1} = S_n + F_p(n + 1)$ and using the definition of the generalized Fibonacci numbers, we can derive the following matrix recurrence relation

$$C_n T = C_{n+1}.$$

So the proof is complete. \square

We define two $(p + 2) \times (p + 2)$ matrices. First, we define the matrix R as follows:

$$R = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -1 & \lambda_1^p & \lambda_2^p & \dots & \lambda_{p+1}^p \\ -1 & \lambda_1^{p-1} & \lambda_2^{p-1} & \dots & \lambda_{p+1}^{p-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -1 & \lambda_1 & \lambda_2 & \dots & \lambda_{p+1} \\ -1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix} \tag{9}$$

and the diagonal matrix D_1 as follows:

$$D_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ & \lambda_1 & & & \\ & & \ddots & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & \lambda_{p+1} \end{bmatrix} \tag{10}$$

where the λ_i 's are the eigenvalues of the matrix Q_p for $1 \leq i \leq p + 1$.

We give the following theorem for the computing the sums of the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers 1 from to n by using a matrix method.

Theorem 13. *Let the sums of the generalized Fibonacci numbers S_n be as in (7). Then*

$$S_n = F_p(n + p + 1) - 1.$$

Proof. If we compute the $\det R$ by the Laplace expansion of determinant with respect to the first row, then we obtain that $\det R = \det V$, where the Vandermonde matrix V is as in Theorem 3. Therefore, we can easily find the eigenvalues of the matrix R . Since the characteristic equation of the matrix R is $(x^p - x^{p-1} - 1) \times (x - 1)$ and by Lemma 2, the eigenvalues of the matrix R are $1, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{p+1}$ and distinct. So the matrix R is diagonalizable. We can easily prove that $TR = RD_1$, where the matrices T, R and D_1 are as in (6), (9) and (10), respectively. Then we have

$$T^n R = R D_1^n. \tag{11}$$

Since $T^n = C_n$, we write that $C_n R = R D_1^n$. We know that $S_n = (C_n)_{2,1}$. By a matrix multiplication,

$$S_n - \left(\sum_{i=0}^p F_p(n + 1 - i) \right) = -1. \tag{12}$$

By the definition of the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers, we know that $\sum_{i=0}^p F_p(n + 1 - i) = F_p(n + p + 1)$. Then we write the Eq. (12) as follows:

$$S_n - F_p(n + p + 1) = -1.$$

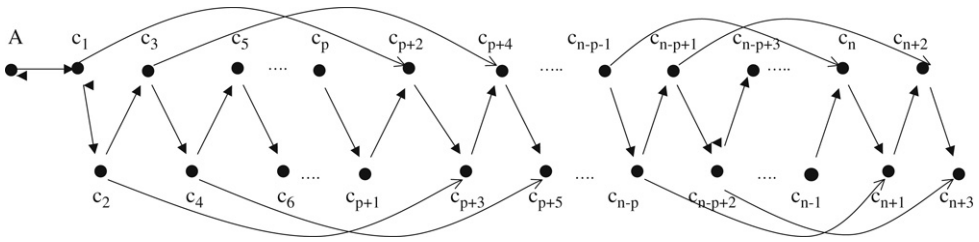


Fig. 1.

Thus,

$$S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n F_p(i) = F_p(n + p + 1) - 1.$$

So the proof is complete. □

In [30], the author presents an enumeration problem for the paths from A to c_n , and then shows that the number of paths from A to c_n are equal to the n th usual Fibonacci number. Now, we are interested in a problem of paths. The problem is as in Fig. 1.

It is seen that the number of path from A to c_1, c_2, \dots, c_{p+1} is 1. Also, we know that the initial conditions of the generalized Fibonacci p -numbers, that is, $F_p(1), F_p(2), \dots, F_p(p + 1)$, are 1. Now we consider the case $n > p + 1$. The number of the path from A to c_{p+2} is 2. By the induction method, one can see that the number of the path from A to c_n is the n th generalized Fibonacci p -number.

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