FIBONACCI POLYNOMIALS OF ORDER k , MULTINOMIAL EXPANSIONS AND PROBABILITY

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ABSTRACT. The Fibonacci polynomials of order k are introduced and two expansions of them are obtained, in terms of the multinomial and binomial coefficients, respectively. A relation between them and probability is also established. The present work generalizes results of [2] - [4] and [5].

KEY WORDS AND PHRASES. *Fibonacci polynomials of order k , expansions, multinomial and binomial coefficients, probability.*

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1. INTRODUCTION.

In the sequel, k is a fixed integer greater than or equal to 2, x is a positive and finite real number, and n is a nonnegative integer unless otherwise specified. Motivated by the introduction of the Fibonacci polynomials of order k , to be denoted by $f_n^{(k)}(x)$, and study some of their properties. First we observe that $f_n^{(k)}(x)$ are generalized polynomials, appropriate extensions for the Fibonacci and Pell numbers of order k [3], [4], and identical to the r -bonacci polynomials $R_n(x) (n \geq -(r-2))$ of [1] for $k=r$ and $n \geq 0$. Then we state and prove a theorem, which provides two expansions of $f_n^{(k)}(x) (n \geq 1)$ in terms of the multinomial and binomial coefficients, respectively. Hoggatt and Bicknell [1], among other results, give another expansion of $f_n^{(k)}(x)$, in terms of the

elements of the left - justified k -nomial triangle. The latter, however, are less widely known and used than the multinomial and binomial coefficients, and on this account our expansions may be considered better. As a corollary to our theorem, we derive several results of [2]-[4] and [5]. We also obtain a relation between $f_n^{(k)}(x)$ ($n \geq 1$) and probability.

2. THE FIBONACCI POLYNOMIALS OF ORDER k AND MULTINOMIAL COEFFICIENTS.

In this section, we introduce the Fibonacci polynomials of order k and derive two expansions of them in terms of the multinomial and binomial coefficients, respectively. The proof is along the lines of [2] and [4].

DEFINITION. The sequence of polynomials $\{f_n^{(k)}(x)\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ is said to be the sequel of Fibonacci polynomials of order k if $f_0^{(k)}(x)=0$, $f_1^{(k)}(x)=1$, and

$$f_n^{(k)}(x) = \begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^n x^{k-i} f_{n-i}^{(k)}(x) & \text{if } 2 \leq n \leq k \\ \sum_{i=1}^k x^{k-i} f_{n-i}^{(k)}(x) & \text{if } n \geq k+1. \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

If $f_n^{(r)}(x)=0$ for $-(r-2) \leq n \leq -1$, Hoggatt and Bicknell [1] call $R_n(x)=f_n^{(r)}(x)$ ($n \geq -(r-2)$) r -bonacci polynomials.

Denoting by $F_n(x)$, $f_n^{(k)}$ and $P_n^{(k)}$, respectively, the Fibonacci polynomials [5], the Fibonacci numbers of order k [3], and the Pell numbers of order k [4], it follows from (2.1) that

$$f_n^{(2)}(x) = F_n(x), \quad f_n^{(k)}(1) = f_n^{(k)} \quad \text{and} \quad F_n^{(k)}(2) = P_n^{(k)}. \quad (2.2)$$

We now proceed to show the following lemma.

LEMMA. Let $\{f_n^{(k)}(x)\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ be the sequence of Fibonacci polynomials of order k , and denote its generating function by $g_k(s;x)$. Then, for $|s| < x/(1+x^k)$,

$$g_k(s;x) = \frac{s(1-\frac{s}{x})}{1-\frac{s}{x}(1+x^k-\frac{s}{x})} = \frac{s}{1-x^k[\frac{s}{x}+(\frac{s}{x})^2+\dots+(\frac{s}{x})^k]}.$$

PROOF. We see from the definition that $f_2^{(k)}(x)=x^{k-1}$, $xf_n^{(k)}(x)-f_{n-1}^{(k)}(x)=x^k f_{n-1}^{(k)}(x)$ for $3 \leq n \leq k+1$, and $xf_n^{(k)}(x)-f_{n-1}^{(k)}(x)=x^k f_{n-1}^{(k)}(x)-f_{n-1-k}^{(k)}(x)$ for $n \geq k+2$. Therefore,

$$f_n^{(k)}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{x}(1+x^k)f_{n-1}^{(k)}(x), & 3 \leq n \leq k+1 \\ \frac{1}{x}(1+x^k)f_{n-1}^{(k)}(x) - \frac{1}{x}f_{n-1-k}^{(k)}(x), & n \geq k+2 \end{cases}$$

$$= \begin{cases} [\frac{1}{x}(1+x^k)]^{n-2}x^{k-1}, & 2 \leq n \leq k+1 \\ \frac{1}{x}(1+x^k)f_{n-1}^{(k)}(x) - \frac{1}{x}f_{n-1-k}^{(k)}(x), & n \geq k+2. \end{cases} \quad (2.3)$$

It may be seen, by means of (2.3) and induction on n , that

$$f_n^{(k)}(x) \leq [\frac{1}{x}(1+x^k)]^{n-2}x^{k-1}, \quad n \geq 2, \quad (2.4)$$

which implies the convergence of $g_k(s; x)$ for $|s| < x/(1+x^k)$. Next, by means of (2.3), we observe that

$$g_k(s; x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} s^n f_n^{(k)}(x)$$

$$= s + \sum_{n=2}^{k+1} s^n [\frac{1}{x}(1+x^k)]^{n-2}x^{k-1} + \sum_{n=k+2}^{\infty} s^n f_n^{(k)}(x), \quad (2.5)$$

and

$$\sum_{n=k+2}^{\infty} s^n f_n^{(k)}(x) = \frac{1}{x}(1+x^k) \sum_{n=k+2}^{\infty} s^n f_{n-1}^{(k)}(x) - \frac{1}{x} \sum_{n=k+2}^{\infty} s^n f_{n-1-k}^{(k)}(x)$$

$$= \frac{s}{x}(1+x^k) \left\{ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} s^n f_n^{(k)}(x) - s \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} s^n [\frac{1}{x}(1+x^k)]^{n-2}x^{k-1} \right\} - \frac{1}{x} s^{k+1} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} s^n f_n^{(k)}(x)$$

$$= [\frac{s}{x}(1+x^k) - \frac{s^{k+1}}{x}] g_k(s; x) - \frac{s^2}{x} - \sum_{n=2}^{k+1} s^n [\frac{1}{x}(1+x^k)]^{n-2}x^{k-1}. \quad (2.6)$$

The last two relations give

$$g_k(s; x) = s + \frac{s}{x}(1+x^k - s^k) g_k(s; x) - \frac{s^2}{x},$$

so that

$$g_k(s; x) = \frac{s(1-\frac{s}{x})}{1-\frac{s}{x}(1+x^k-s^k)} = \frac{s}{1-x^k[\frac{s}{x}+(\frac{s}{x})^2+\dots+(\frac{s}{x})^k]}.$$

We will employ the above lemma to establish the following expansions of $f_n^{(k)}(x)$ ($n \geq 1$).

THEOREM. Let $\{f_n^{(k)}(x)\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ be the Fibonacci polynomials of order k . Then

$$(a) \quad f_{n+1}^{(k)}(x) = \sum_{n_1, \dots, n_k} \binom{n_1 + \dots + n_k}{n_1, \dots, n_k} x^{k(n_1 + \dots + n_k) - n}, \quad n \geq 0,$$

where the summation is over all non-negative integers $n_1, \dots, n_k$ such that $n_1 + 2n_2 + \dots + kn_k = n$;

$$(b) \quad f_{n+1}^{(k)}(x) = \left(\frac{1+x^k}{x}\right)^n \sum_{i=0}^{[n/(k+1)]} (-1)^i \binom{n-ki}{i} x^{ki} (1+x^k)^{-(k+1)i} \\ - \frac{1}{x} \left(\frac{1+x^k}{x}\right)^{n-1} \sum_{i=0}^{[(n-1)/(k+1)]} (-1)^i \binom{n-1-ki}{i} x^{ki} (1+x^k)^{-(k+1)i}, \quad n \geq 1, \\ n \geq 1,$$

where, as usual, $[x]$ denotes the greatest integer in x .

PROOF. First we show (a). Let $|s| < x/(1+x^k)$, so that $|x^k[\frac{s}{x} + (\frac{s}{x})^2 + \dots + (\frac{s}{x})^k]| < 1$.

Let $n_i (1 \leq i \leq k)$ be non-negative integers as specified below. Then, using the lemma and the

multinomial theorem, and replacing n by $n - \sum_{i=1}^k (i-1)n_i$, we get,

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} s^n f_{n+1}^{(k)}(x) = \{1 - x^k [\frac{s}{x} + (\frac{s}{x})^2 + \dots + (\frac{s}{x})^k]\}^{-1} \\ = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \{x^k [\frac{s}{x} + (\frac{s}{x})^2 + \dots + (\frac{s}{x})^k]\}^n \\ = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^{kn} \sum_{\substack{n_1, \dots, n_k \geq 0 \\ n_1 + 2n_2 + \dots + kn_k = n}} \binom{n}{n_1, \dots, n_k} \left(\frac{s}{x}\right)^{n_1 + 2n_2 + \dots + kn_k} \\ = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} s^n \sum_{\substack{n_1, \dots, n_k \geq 0 \\ n_1 + 2n_2 + \dots + kn_k = n}} \binom{n_1 + \dots + n_k}{n_1, \dots, n_k} n^{k(n_1 + \dots + n_k) - n}, \quad (2.8)$$

from which (a) follows.

We now proceed to establish (b). Let $0 < s < x/(1+x^k)$, so that $|\frac{s}{x}(1+x^k-s^k)| < 1$.

Then, using the lemma and the binomial theorem, replacing n by $n-ki$, and setting

$$B_n^{(k)}(x) = \left(\frac{1+x^k}{x}\right)^n \sum_{i=0}^{[n/(k+1)]} (-1)^i \binom{n-ki}{i} x^{ki} (1+x^k)^{-(k+1)i}, \quad n \geq 0, \quad (2.9)$$

we get

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} s^n f_{n+1}^{(k)}(x) = (1 - \frac{s}{x}) [1 - \frac{s}{x} (1+x^k-s^k)]^{-1} \\ = (1 - \frac{s}{x}) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left[\frac{s}{x} (1+x^k-s^k)\right]^n$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \left(1 - \frac{s}{x}\right)^n \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{s}{x}\right)^n \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (-1)^i \binom{n}{i} (1+x)^k n-1 s^{k1} \\
 &= \left(1 - \frac{s}{x}\right)^n \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} s^n \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor n/(k+1) \rfloor} (-1)^i \binom{n-ki}{i} (1+x)^k n-(k+1)i x^{-(n-ki)} \\
 &= \left(1 - \frac{s}{x}\right)^n \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} s^n B_n^{(k)}(x), \text{ by (2.9)} \\
 &= 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} s^n [B_n^{(k)}(x) - \frac{1}{x} B_{n-1}^{(k)}(x)], \tag{2.10}
 \end{aligned}$$

since $B_0^{(k)}(x) = 1$ from (2.9). The last two relations show part (b) of the theorem.

We have the following obvious corollary to the theorem, by means of relation (2.2).

COROLLARY 2.1. Let $F_n(x)$, $f_n^{(k)}$ and $p_n^{(k)}$ denote the Fibonacci polynomials, the Fibonacci numbers of order k and the Pell numbers of order k , respectively. Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (a) \quad F_{n+1}(x) &= \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \binom{n-i}{i} x^{n-2i}, \quad n \geq 0; \\
 (b)(i) \quad f_{n+1}^{(k)} &= \sum_{\substack{n_1, \dots, n_k \geq 0 \\ n_1 + 2n_2 + \dots + kn_k = n}} \binom{n_1 + \dots + n_k}{n_1, \dots, n_k}, \quad n \geq 0; \\
 (b)(ii) \quad f_{n+1}^{(k)} &= 2^n \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor n/(k+1) \rfloor} (-1)^i \binom{n-ki}{i} 2^{-(k+1)i} \\
 &\quad - 2^{n-1} \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor (n-1)/(k+1) \rfloor} (-1)^i \binom{n-1-ki}{i} 2^{-(k+1)i}, \quad n \geq 1; \\
 (c)(i) \quad p_{n+1}^{(k)} &= \sum_{\substack{n_1, \dots, n_k \geq 0 \\ n_1 + 2n_2 + \dots + kn_k = n}} \binom{n_1 + \dots + n_k}{n_1, \dots, n_k} 2^{k(n_1 + \dots + n_k) - n}, \quad n \geq 0; \\
 (c)(ii) \quad p_{n+1}^{(k)} &= \left(\frac{1+2^k}{2}\right)^n \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor n/(k+1) \rfloor} (-1)^i \binom{n-ki}{i} 2^{ki} (1+2^k)^{-(k+1)i} \\
 &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1+2^k}{2}\right)^{n-1} \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor (n-1)/(k+1) \rfloor} (-1)^i \binom{n-1-ki}{i} 2^{ki} (1+2^k)^{-(k+1)i}, \quad n \geq 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

REMARK. Part (a) of Corollary 2.1 was proposed by Swamy [5], who appears to be the first to introduce the Fibonacci polynomials. Part (b)(i) was first shown in [3], while (b) and (c), respectively, were later proved by a different method in [2] and [4].

The following corollary relates the Fibonacci polynomials of order k to probability.

COROLLARY 2.2. Let $\{f_n^{(k)}(x)\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ be the sequence of Fibonacci polynomials of order k , and denote by N_k the number of trials until the occurrence of the k th consecutive success in independent trials with success probability p ($0 < p < 1$). Then,

$$P(N_k = n+k) = p^{n+k} \left(\frac{1-p}{p}\right)^{n/k} f_{n+1}^{(k)} \left(\left(\frac{1-p}{p}\right)^{1/k}\right), \quad n \geq 0.$$

PROOF. It follows directly from Theorem 3.1 of [3] and part (a) of the present theorem.

In particular, Corollary 2.2. reduces to the following results of [2] and [4], respectively, by means of (2.2).

Let N_k be as above, and set $p = (1+2^k)^{-1}$. Then,

$$P(N_k = n+k) = \frac{2^n}{(1+2^k)^{n+k}} P_{n+1}^{(k)}, \quad n \geq 0. \quad (2.11)$$

Let N_k be as above, and set $p = 1/2$. Then,

$$P(N_k = n+k) = \frac{1}{2^{n+k}} f_{n+1}^{(k)}, \quad n \geq 0. \quad (2.12)$$

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