

Some Elementary Problems from the Note Books of Srinivasa Ramanujan V

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Entry 29 (p 369) Page80 of Berndt Vol IV

Problem 54:

NBSR Vol II p 369

Let $1, \alpha, \alpha^2, \alpha^3, \alpha^4, \alpha^5, \alpha^6$ be the seventh roots of 1. Then

$$(\alpha + \alpha^2 + \alpha^4 ; \alpha^3 + \alpha^5 + \alpha^6) = \frac{1}{2}(-1 \pm i\sqrt{7})$$

Proof: The seventh roots of 1 ($\alpha^k, k = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$) satisfy the equation

$$z^7 = 1 \quad \text{i.e., } z^7 - 1 = 0 \tag{1}$$

$$\therefore \text{Sum of the roots} = 1 + \alpha + \alpha^2 + \alpha^3 + \alpha^4 + \alpha^5 + \alpha^6 = (1 - \alpha^7)(1 - \alpha) = 0 \tag{2}$$

$$\text{and the product of the roots} = 1 \cdot \alpha \cdot \alpha^2 \cdot \alpha^3 \cdot \alpha^4 \cdot \alpha^5 \cdot \alpha^6 = \alpha^{1+2+3+4+5+6} = \alpha^{21} = (\alpha^7)^3 = 1 \tag{3}$$

The sum of the given two expressions $(\alpha + \alpha^2 + \alpha^4)$ and $(\alpha^3 + \alpha^5 + \alpha^6)$

$$= \alpha + \alpha^2 + \alpha^4 + \alpha^3 + \alpha^5 + \alpha^6 = -1 \quad \text{from eq. (2)}$$

and their product = $(\alpha + \alpha^2 + \alpha^4)(\alpha^3 + \alpha^5 + \alpha^6)$

$$= \alpha^4(1 + \alpha + \alpha^3)(1 + \alpha^2 + \alpha^3)$$

$$= \alpha^4(1 + \alpha + \alpha^2 + 3\alpha^3 + \alpha^4 + \alpha^5 + \alpha^6)$$

$$= \alpha^4\{(1 + \alpha + \alpha^2 + \alpha^3 + \alpha^4 + \alpha^5 + \alpha^6) + 2\alpha^3\}$$

$$= \alpha^4(0 + 2\alpha^3) = 2\alpha^7 = 2 \quad (\text{since } \alpha \text{ is a seventh root of 1})$$

$$\therefore \text{the given two expressions are the roots of the quadratic equation: } x^2 + x + 2 = 0 \tag{4}$$

The roots of the quadratic (4) are

$$\frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{1-4 \times 2}}{2} = \frac{1}{2}(-1 \pm i\sqrt{7}) \tag{5}$$

$$\therefore (1 + \alpha^2 + \alpha^4); (\alpha^3 + \alpha^5 + \alpha^6) = \frac{1}{2}(-1 \pm i\sqrt{7})$$

Note: The next two entries are rather difficult at the lower level. However a knowledge of the series expansions for Sin x and Cos x and sum of a Geometric Progression are needed in establishing the entries 30 and 31 jotted by S.R on p 369 of NBSR.

$$\text{Sin } x = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \dots \dots \dots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!}$$

and

$$\cos x = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \dots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n}}{(2n)!}$$

Entry 31 (p 369)

Problem 55:

NBSR Vol II p 369

Let ϕ, Ψ and α be as defined in the previous two jottings. Then

$$\begin{aligned} 64 \int_{k=0}^6 \sin(\alpha^k x) &= -\phi(2x) - \phi\{2(\alpha + \alpha^2 + \alpha^4)x\} - \phi\{2(\alpha^3 + \alpha^5 + \alpha^6)x\} \\ &+ \phi\{2(\alpha + \alpha^6)x\} + \phi\{2(\alpha^2 + \alpha^5)x\} + \phi\{2(\alpha^3 + \alpha^4)x\} \\ &+ \phi\left\{\frac{2x}{\alpha + \alpha^6}\right\} + \phi\left\{\frac{2x}{\alpha^2 + \alpha^5}\right\} + \phi\left\{\frac{2x}{\alpha^3 + \alpha^4}\right\} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} 64 \int_{k=0}^6 \cos(\alpha^k x) &= \Psi(2x) + \Psi\{2(\alpha + \alpha^2 + \alpha^4)x\} - \Psi\{2(\alpha^3 + \alpha^5 + \alpha^6)x\} \\ &+ \Psi\{2(\alpha + \alpha^6)x\} + \Psi\{2(\alpha^2 + \alpha^5)x\} + \Psi\{2(\alpha^3 + \alpha^4)x\} \\ &+ \Psi\left\{\frac{2x}{\alpha + \alpha^6}\right\} + \Psi\left\{\frac{2x}{\alpha^2 + \alpha^5}\right\} + \Psi\left\{\frac{2x}{\alpha^3 + \alpha^4}\right\} \end{aligned}$$

The above two results are beyond the comprehension of the readers of the present book.

A remark by Ramanujan:

.....“ from which 7 interval formula can be found ”.

Notes: A “7 interval formula” is a recursive formula for Bernoulli numbers wherein the differences of successive indices are 14. Ramanujan does not state this “7 interval formula”.

Problem 56:

Prove that $16 \cos 20 \cos 40 \cos 60 \cos 80 = 1$

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Solution: $16 \cos 20 \cos 40 \cos 60 \cos 80$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 4\{2 \cos 20 \cos 80\}\{2 \cos 40 \cos 60\} \\ &= 4\{\cos 100 + \cos 60\}\{\cos 100 + \cos 20\} \\ &= 4\{\cos 60 - \cos 80\}\{\cos 20 - \cos 80\} \\ &= 4\left\{\frac{1}{2} \cos 20 - \frac{1}{2} \cos 80 - \cos 80 \cos 20 + 2 \cos^2 80\right\} \\ &= 2\{[\cos 20 - \cos 80] - [\cos 100 + \cos 60] + [1 + \cos 160]\} \\ &= 2\left\{\cos 20 - \cos 80 + \cos 80 - \frac{1}{2} + 1 - \cos 20\right\} \\ &= 2\left\{\frac{1}{2} - \cos 20 + \cos 20\right\} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Hence the result *.

Scribbling of S.R (NBSR Vol II p 356)

Problem 57 :

Show that

$$\sqrt[3]{\cos 40^\circ} + \sqrt[3]{\cos 80^\circ} = \sqrt[3]{\cos 20^\circ} + \sqrt[3]{\frac{3}{2}(\sqrt[3]{9} - 2)} \quad (*.1)$$

and
$$\sqrt[3]{\sec 40^\circ} + \sqrt[3]{\sec 80^\circ} = \sqrt[3]{\sec 20^\circ} + \sqrt[3]{6(\sqrt[3]{9} - 1)} \quad (*.2)$$

Solution:

Note: The superscript ($^\circ$) of the angles indicate that the angles are given in degree measure. The superscript ($^\circ$) is dropped in the following steps.

Consider the trigonometric identity:

$$\cos 3\theta = 4\cos^3\theta - 3\cos\theta$$

$$\Rightarrow (2\cos\theta)^3 = 3(2\cos\theta) + 2\cos 3\theta \quad (1)$$

Now $(2\cos 20)^\circ = 3(2\cos 20) + 2(\cos 60) = 3(2\cos 20) + 1 \quad (2.1)$

$$\begin{aligned} (2\cos 40)^\circ &= 3(2\cos 40) + 2(\cos 120) = 3(2\cos 40) - 1 \\ \Rightarrow (-2\cos 40)^\circ &= 3(-2\cos 40) + 1 \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

and also

$$\begin{aligned} (2\cos 80)^\circ &= 3(2\cos 80) + 2(\cos 240) = 3(2\cos 80) - 1 \\ \Rightarrow (-2\cos 80)^\circ &= 3(-2\cos 80) + 1 \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

The results (2.1) – (2.3) suggest that $2\cos 20$; $-2\cos 40$; $-2\cos 80$ are roots of the cubic equation:

$$z^3 - 3z - 1 = 0 \quad (3)$$

Let us refer to the problem: (NBSR Vol II p 325)

If α, β, γ be the roots of the equation $x^3 - ax^2 + bx - 1 = 0$

Then
$$\sqrt[3]{\alpha} + \sqrt[3]{\beta} + \sqrt[3]{\gamma} = \sqrt[3]{a + b + 3t}$$

and

$$\sqrt[3]{\alpha\beta} + \sqrt[3]{\beta\gamma} + \sqrt[3]{\gamma\alpha} = \sqrt[3]{b + 6 + 3t}$$

where t satisfying the cubic equation $t^3 - 3(a + b + 3)t - \{ab + 6(a + b) + 9\} = 0$

In this put $a = 0, b = -3$

Then α, β, γ are the roots of the equation $x^3 - 3x - 1 = 0$ which is same as equation (3)

$\alpha = 2\cos 20$; $\beta = -2\cos 40$ and $\gamma = -2\cos 80$ are the roots of the equation (1).

Further, t is given by $t^3 + 9 = 0 \Rightarrow t = \sqrt[3]{-9} = -\sqrt[3]{9}$

$$\begin{aligned} (\cos 20)^{1/3} + (-2\cos 40)^{1/3} + (-2\cos 80)^{1/3} &= (6 + 3t)^{1/3} = \{6 + 3(-\sqrt[3]{9})\}^{1/3} \\ (\cos 20)^{1/3} - (\cos 40)^{1/3} - (\cos 80)^{1/3} &= \left\{\frac{3}{2}(2 - \sqrt[3]{9})\right\}^{1/3} = -\left\{\frac{3}{2}(2 - \sqrt[3]{9})\right\}^{1/3} \\ (\cos 40)^{1/3} + (\cos 80)^{1/3} &= (\cos 20)^{1/3} + \left\{\frac{3}{2}(2 - \sqrt[3]{9})\right\}^{1/3} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Similarly

$$\begin{aligned} & \{(2\cos 20)(-2\cos 40)\}^{1/3} + \{(-2\cos 40)(-2\cos 80)\}^{1/3} + \{(-2\cos 80)(2\cos 20)\}^{1/3} \\ & = \{3 + 3t\}^{1/3} \\ & \{-4\cos 20\cos 40\}^{1/3} + \{4\cos 40\cos 80\}^{1/3} + \{-4\cos 80\cos 20\}^{1/3} = \{3(1 - \sqrt[3]{9})\}^{1/3} \quad (5) \end{aligned}$$

But $8\cos 20\cos 40\cos 80 = 1$

$$\therefore 4\cos 20\cos 40 = \frac{\sec 80}{2}; \quad 4\cos 40\cos 80 = \frac{\sec 20}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad 4\cos 80\cos 20 = \frac{\sec 40}{2}$$

Substituting these values in the result (5) and rearranging we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\{\frac{1}{2}\sec 40\right\}^{1/3} + \left\{\frac{1}{2}\sec 80\right\}^{1/3} = \left\{\frac{1}{2}\sec 20\right\}^{1/3} + \{3(\sqrt[3]{9} - 1)\}^{1/3} \\ \text{i. e.,} \quad & \{\sec 40\}^{1/3} + \{\sec 80\}^{1/3} = \{\sec 20\}^{1/3} + \{6(\sqrt[3]{9} - 1)\}^{1/3} \end{aligned}$$

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Notation given on p 56 in Vol II NBSR

$I(p)$: the greatest integer $\leq p$ i.e., $I(p)$ = integral part of p

Examples: $I(7) = 7$; $I\left(\frac{22}{3}\right) = 7$ and so on. $I(p)$ is also denoted by $[p]$ or $\lfloor p \rfloor$.

$N(p)$: the integer nearest to p .

Examples: $N(7) = 7$; $N\left(\frac{32}{5} = 6\frac{2}{5}\right) = 6$; $N\left(\frac{34}{5} = 6\frac{4}{5}\right) = 7$;

$$N\left(\frac{50}{7} = 7\frac{1}{7}\right) = 7; \quad N\left(\frac{55}{7} = 7\frac{6}{7}\right) = 8 \text{ and so on.}$$

Note: This definition for $N(p)$ of S.R is ambiguous when $p + 1/2$ is an integer. In such a situation, it is obvious from the sequel that $N(p) = p + \frac{1}{2}$ instead of $p - \frac{1}{2}$.

$G(p)$: the least integer $\geq p$

$$G(7) = 7; \quad G\left(\frac{50}{7} = 7\frac{1}{7}\right) = 8 \text{ and so on.}$$

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Scribbling of S.R

$$N(p) = I\left(p + \frac{1}{2}\right)$$

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Problem 58:

NBSR Vol II p 267

For each real number p

$$N(p) = I\left(p + \frac{1}{2}\right)$$

Solution:

$$\text{Let } p = [p] + \{p\} \tag{1}$$

where $\{p\}$ is the fractional part of p . Evidently $0 < \{p\} < 1$

If $\{p\} < \frac{1}{2}$, then $N(p) = [p]$ and $I\left(p + \frac{1}{2}\right) = [p]$.

Further, if $\{p\} > \frac{1}{2}$, then $N(p) = [p] + 1$ and $I\left(p + \frac{1}{2}\right) = [p] + 1$

In either case, $N(p) = I\left(p + \frac{1}{2}\right)$

The result * is established for

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Scribbling of S.R

$I\left(\frac{n}{p}\right)$ is the coefficient of x^n in the expansion of $\frac{x^p}{(1-x)(1-x^p)}$

Problem 59:

NBSR Vol II p 267

If p and n are positive integers, then the coefficient of x^n in the series expansion (in positive powers of $\frac{x^p}{(1-x)(1-x^p)}$ is $I\left(\frac{n}{p}\right)$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x^p}{(1-x)(1-x^p)} &= x^p(1-x)^{-1}(1-x^p)^{-1} \\ &= x^p\{1+x+x^2+x^3+\dots+x^i+\dots\} \\ &\quad \times \{1+x^p+x^{2p}+x^{3p}+x^{4p}+\dots+x^{jp}+\dots\} \\ &= \{1+x+x^2+x^3+\dots+x^i+\dots\} \\ &\quad \times \{x^p+x^{2p}+x^{3p}+x^{4p}+\dots+x^{(j+1)p}+\dots\} \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Estimation of the coefficient of x^n in the above product (1):

The coefficients (of powers of x) in both the factors in (1) are the same and each is equal to 1.

∴ coefficient of x^n in the product (1) i.e., the series expansion of the L.H.S of (1) is equal to the number of times x^n gets repeated by the term by term multiplication of the two (factor) series of the product (1).

The indices of the terms in the first factor are all equal to one and those of the terms in the second factor are multiples of p (i.e. $p, 2p, 3p, 4p \dots$)

The terms with x^n in the product (1) would be got by the multiplication of term pairs contained in the set:

$$\begin{aligned} &\{(1, x^n); (x, x^{n-1}); (x^2, x^{n-2}) \dots \dots (x^k, x^{n-k}) \dots \dots (x^{n-p}, x^p)\} \\ &= \left\{ \left\{ x^k, (x^p)^{\frac{n-k}{p}} \right\}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots \dots n-p \right\} \end{aligned}$$

The index of x^p in the second member of a typical pair in the set must be an integer.

∴ The number of such acceptable pairs = $I\left(\frac{n}{p}\right)$

∴ The coefficient of x^n in the expansion of $\frac{x^p}{(1-x)(1-x^p)}$ is $I\left(\frac{n}{p}\right)$.

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Examples:

1. The coefficient of x^{10} in the expansion $\frac{x^3}{(1-x)(1-x^3)}$ is $I\left(\frac{10}{3}\right) = 3$

$$\frac{x^3}{(1-x)(1-x^3)} = x^3\{1+x+x^2+x^3+\dots\}\{1+x^3+x^6+x^9+\dots\}$$

$$= \{1+x+x^2+x^3+\dots\}\{x^3+x^6+x^9+x^{12}+\dots\}$$

Terms with x^{10} can be got by multiplying the term pairs (x, x^9) ; (x^4, x^6) and (x^7, x^3) (no. of pairs = 3)

$$\therefore \text{The coefficient of } x^{10} = 3 = I\left(\frac{10}{3}\right)$$

2. The coefficient of x^{20} in the expansion of $\frac{x^5}{(1-x)(1-x^3)}$

$$\frac{x^5}{(1-x)(1-x^3)} = x^2 \cdot \frac{x^3}{(1-x)(1-x^3)}$$

$$\therefore \text{The coefficient of } x^{20} \text{ in the expansion } \frac{x^5}{(1-x)(1-x^3)}$$

$$= \text{coefficient of } x^{18} \text{ in the expansion of } \frac{x^3}{(1-x)(1-x^3)} = I\left(\frac{18}{3}\right) = 6$$

Corollary:

The coefficient of x^n in the expansion of $\frac{x^q}{(1-x)(1-x^p)}$:

$$\frac{x^q}{(1-x)(1-x^p)} = x^{q-p} \cdot \frac{x^p}{(1-x)(1-x^p)}$$

$$\therefore \text{The coefficient of } x^n \text{ in the expansion } \frac{x^q}{(1-x)(1-x^p)}$$

$$= \text{coefficient of } \{x^{n-(q-p)}\} \text{ in the expansion of } \frac{x^p}{(1-x)(1-x^p)}$$

$$= \left[\frac{n-(q-p)}{p} \right] = \frac{n+p-q}{p}$$

Note: The coefficient is zero if $n \leq (q-p)$

Scribbling of S.R

$$\text{The coefficient of } x^{100} \text{ in } \frac{x^7}{(1-x^2)(1-x^5)}$$

$$= \text{coefficient of } x^{95} \text{ in } \frac{x^2}{(1-x)(1-x^2)} - \frac{x^3}{(1-x)(1-x^5)}$$

$$= I\left(\frac{95}{2}\right) - I\left(\frac{95}{3}\right) = 16 \quad *$$

Problem 60:

NBSR Vol II p 361

The coefficients of x^{100} and x^{95} in the power series expansions of

$$\frac{x^7}{(1-x^2)(1-x^3)} \text{ and } \frac{x^2}{(1-x)(1-x^2)} - \frac{x^3}{(1-x)(1-x^3)}$$

respectively are each equal to

$$\left[\frac{95}{2} \right] - \left[\frac{95}{3} \right] = 16$$

Solution: It can be noted that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x^2}{(1-x)(1-x^2)} - \frac{x^3}{(1-x)(1-x^3)} &= \frac{x^2(1-x^3) - x^3(1-x^2)}{(1-x)(1-x^2)(1-x^3)} \\ &= \frac{x^2 - x^3}{(1-x)(1-x^2)(1-x^3)} \\ &= \frac{x^2(1-x)}{(1-x)(1-x^2)(1-x^3)} \\ &= \frac{x^2}{(1-x^2)(1-x^3)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \text{coefficient of } x^{100} \text{ in } \frac{x^7}{(1-x^2)(1-x^3)} &= \text{coefficient of } x^{95} \text{ in } \left\{ \frac{x^2}{(1-x^2)(1-x^3)} \right\} \\ &= \text{coefficient of } x^{95} \text{ in } \left\{ \frac{x^2}{(1-x)(1-x^2)} - \frac{x^3}{(1-x)(1-x^3)} \right\} \\ &= \text{coefficient of } x^{95} \text{ in } \left\{ \frac{x^2}{(1-x)(1-x^2)} \right\} - \text{coefficient of } x^{95} \text{ in } -\frac{x^3}{(1-x)(1-x^3)} \\ &= I\left(\frac{95}{2}\right) - I\left(\frac{95}{3}\right) = 47 - 31 = 16 \end{aligned}$$

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Scribbling of S.R:

$$I\left(\frac{n+4}{6}\right) - I\left(\frac{n-3}{6}\right) + I\left(\frac{n+2}{6}\right) = I\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) - I\left(\frac{n}{3}\right)$$

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Problem 61:

NBSR Vol II p.361

For each positive integral value for n , $I\left(\frac{n+4}{6}\right) - I\left(\frac{n-3}{6}\right) + I\left(\frac{n+2}{6}\right) = I\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) - I\left(\frac{n}{3}\right)$

Solution: It can be noticed that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x^2}{(1-x)(1-x^2)} - \frac{x^3}{(1-x)(1-x^3)} &= \frac{x^2(1-x^3) - x^3(1-x^2)}{(1-x)(1-x^2)(1-x^3)} \\ &= \frac{x^2 - x^3}{(1-x)(1-x^2)(1-x^3)} \\ &= \frac{x^2}{(1-x^2)(1-x^3)} \\ &= \frac{x^2(1+x^3)}{(1-x^2)(1-x^6)} \\ &= \frac{x^2(1-x+x^2)}{(1-x)(1-x^6)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Thus } \frac{x^2}{(1-x)(1-x^2)} - \frac{x^3}{(1-x)(1-x^3)} = \frac{x^2}{(1-x)(1-x^6)} - \frac{x^3}{(1-x)(1-x^6)} + \frac{x^4}{(1-x)(1-x^6)} \tag{1}$$

$$\text{The coefficient of } x^n \text{ in the expansion of L.H.S of } * = I\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) - I\left(\frac{n}{3}\right) \tag{2}$$

The coefficient of x^n in the expansion of R.H. S of *

$$\begin{aligned} &= I\left(\frac{n+6-2}{6}\right) - I\left(\frac{n+6-3}{6}\right) + I\left(\frac{n+6-4}{6}\right) \\ &= I\left(\frac{n+4}{6}\right) - I\left(\frac{n+3}{6}\right) + I\left(\frac{n+2}{6}\right) \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

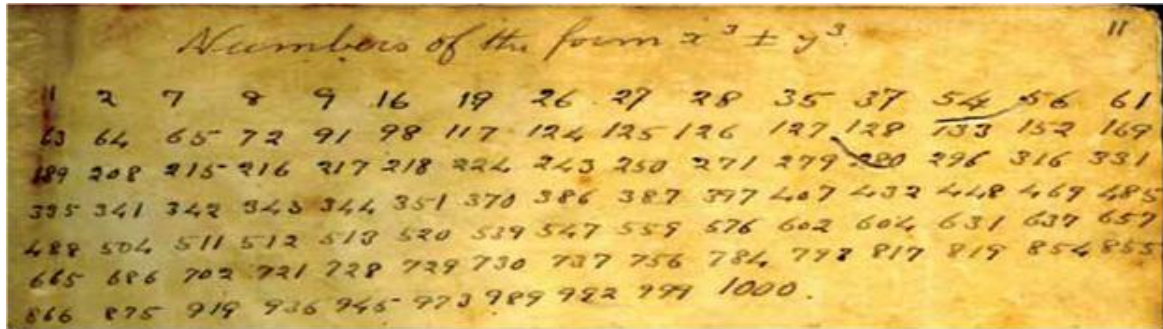
Hence equating (2) and (3) we get the result

$$I\left(\frac{n+4}{6}\right) - I\left(\frac{n+3}{6}\right) + I\left(\frac{n+2}{6}\right) = I\left(\frac{n}{2}\right) - I\left(\frac{n}{3}\right)$$

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Problem 62:

SR Ms(3) p.11 and NBSR vol p371.



Comments: S.R in this scribbling lists out numbers from 1 to 1000 that can be expressed in the form $x^3 \pm y^3$ i. e., sum or difference between two cube numbers. By numbers he means positive integers only.

Separation of the numbers in to the form $x^3 \pm y^3$ can be seen from the following table.

$1 = 1^3 + 0^3$	$117 = 5^3 - 2^3$	$279 = 7^3 - 4^3$	$504 = 8^3 - 2^3$	$728 = 12^3 - 10^3$
$2 = 1^3 + 1^3$	$124 = 5^3 - 1^3$	$280 = 6^3 + 4^3$	$511 = 8^3 - 1^3$	$729 = 9^3 + 0^3$
$7 = 2^3 - 1^3$	$125 = 5^3 + 0^3$	$296 = 8^3 - 6^3$	$512 = 8^3 + 0^3$	$730 = 9^3 + 1^3$
$8 = 2^3 + 0^3$	$126 = 5^3 + 1^3$	$316 = 7^3 - 3^3$	$513 = 8^3 + 1^3$	$737 = 9^3 + 2^3$
$9 = 2^3 + 1^3$	$127 = 7^3 - 6^3$	$331 = 11^3 - 10^3$	$513 = 9^3 - 6^3$	$756 = 9^3 + 3^3$
$16 = 2^3 + 2^3$	$128 = 4^3 + 4^3$	$335 = 7^3 - 2^3$	$520 = 8^3 + 2^3$	$784 = 10^3 - 6^3$
$19 = 3^3 - 2^3$	$133 = 5^3 + 2^3$	$341 = 6^3 + 5^3$	$539 = 8^3 + 3^3$	$793 = 9^3 + 4^3$
$26 = 3^3 - 1^3$	$152 = 5^3 + 3^3$	$342 = 7^3 - 1^3$	$547 = 14^3 - 13^3$	$817 = 17^3 - 16^3$
$27 = 3^3 + 0^3$	$152 = 6^3 - 4^3$	$343 = 7^3 + 0^3$	$559 = 7^3 + 6^3$	$819 = 11^3 - 8^3$
$28 = 3^3 + 1^3$	$169 = 8^3 - 7^3$	$344 = 7^3 + 1^3$	$576 = 8^3 + 4^3$	$854 = 9^3 + 5^3$
$35 = 3^3 + 2^3$	$189 = 5^3 + 4^3$	$351 = 7^3 + 2^3$	$602 = 11^3 - 9^3$	$855 = 8^3 + 7^3$
$37 = 4^3 - 3^3$	$189 = 6^3 - 3^3$	$370 = 7^3 + 3^3$	$604 = 9^3 - 5^3$	$866 = 13^3 - 11^3$
$54 = 3^3 + 3^3$	$208 = 6^3 - 2^3$	$386 = 9^3 - 7^3$	$631 = 15^3 - 14^3$	$875 = 10^3 - 5^3$
$56 = 4^3 - 2^3$	$215 = 6^3 - 1^3$	$387 = 8^3 - 5^3$	$637 = 8^3 + 5^3$	$919 = 18^3 - 17^3$
$61 = 5^3 - 4^3$	$216 = 6^3 + 0^3$	$397 = 12^3 - 11^3$	$657 = 10^3 - 7^3$	$936 = 10^3 - 4^3$
$63 = 4^3 - 1^3$	$217 = 6^3 + 1^3$	$407 = 7^3 + 4^3$	$665 = 9^3 - 4^3$	$945 = 9^3 + 6^3$
$64 = 4^3 + 0^3$	$217 = 9^3 - 8^3$	$432 = 6^3 + 6^3$	$686 = 7^3 + 7^3$	$973 = 10^3 - 3^3$
$65 = 4^3 + 1^3$	$218 = 7^3 - 5^3$	$448 = 8^3 - 4^3$	$702 = 9^3 - 3^3$	$988 = 11^3 - 7^3$ *
$72 = 4^3 + 2^3$	$224 = 6^3 + 2^3$	$468 = 7^3 + 5^3$ *	$721 = 9^3 - 2^3$	$992 = 10^3 - 2^3$
$91 = 4^3 + 3^3$	$243 = 6^3 + 3^3$	$469 = 13^3 - 12^3$	$721 = 16^3 - 15^3$	$999 = 10^3 - 1^3$

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$91 = 6^3 - 5^3$	$250 = 5^3 + 5^3$	$485 = 8^3 - 3^3$	$728 = 8^3 + 6^3$	$999 = 12^3 - 9^3$
$98 = 5^3 - 3^3$	$271 = 10^3 - 9^3$	$488 = 10^3 - 8^3$	$728 = 9^3 - 1^3$	$1000 = 10^3 + 0^3$

- There are two numbers missing in the entry (shown with * and bolded in the above table): **$468 = 5^3 + 7^3$** and **$988 = 11^3 - 7^3$** .
- 989 scribbled in the entry is expressible neither in the form $x^3 + y^3$ nor in the form $x^3 - y^3$. This might be a slip of S.R while scribbling 989 instead of 988.
- The table is extended further, scanning all numbers up to 5000 that can be expressed in the form $x^3 \pm y^3$.

Numbers between 1001 to 2000.

$1001 = 10^3 + 1^3$	$1216 = 10^3 + 6^3$	$1385 = 12^3 - 7^3$	$1647 = 15^3 - 12^3$	$1744 = 14^3 - 10^3$
$1008 = 10^3 + 2^3$	$1216 = 12^3 - 8^3$	$1387 = 22^3 - 21^3$	$1657 = 24^3 - 23^3$	$1755 = 12^3 + 3^3$
$1016 = 14^3 - 12^3$	$1241 = 9^3 + 8^3$	$1395 = 11^3 + 4^3$	$1664 = 12^3 - 4^3$	$1792 = 12^3 + 4^3$
$1024 = 8^3 + 8^3$	$1261 = 21^3 - 20^3$	$1413 = 14^3 - 11^3$	$1674 = 11^3 + 7^3$	$1801 = 25^3 - 24^3$
$1027 = 10^3 + 3^3$	$1267 = 11^3 - 4^3$	$1456 = 11^3 + 5^3$	$1685 = 13^3 - 8^3$	$1843 = 11^3 + 8^3$
$1027 = 19^3 - 18^3$	$1304 = 11^3 - 3^3$	$1458 = 9^3 + 9^3$	$1701 = 12^3 - 3^3$	$1853 = 12^3 + 5^3$
$1064 = 10^3 + 4^3$	$1323 = 11^3 - 2^3$	$1468 = 13^3 - 9^3$	$1720 = 12^3 - 2^3$	$1854 = 13^3 - 7^3$
$1072 = 9^3 + 7^3$	$1330 = 11^3 - 1^3$	$1512 = 10^3 + 8^3$	$1727 = 12^3 - 1^3$	$1899 = 16^3 - 13^3$
$1115 = 11^3 - 6^3$	$1331 = 11^3 + 0^3$	$1512 = 12^3 - 6^3$	$1728 = 12^3 + 0^3$	$1944 = 12^3 + 6^3$
$1125 = 10^3 + 5^3$	$1332 = 11^3 + 1^3$	$1519 = 23^3 - 22^3$	$1729 = 10^3 + 9^3$	$1946 = 19^3 - 17^3$
$1141 = 20^3 - 19^3$	$1339 = 11^3 + 2^3$	$1538 = 17^3 - 15^3$	$1729 = 12^3 + 1^3$	$1951 = 26^3 - 25^3$
$1178 = 15^3 - 13^3$	$1343 = 10^3 + 7^3$	$1547 = 11^3 + 6^3$	$1736 = 12^3 + 2^3$	$1981 = 13^3 - 6^3$
$1197 = 13^3 - 10^3$	$1352 = 16^3 - 14^3$	$1603 = 12^3 - 5^3$	$1736 = 18^3 - 16^3$	$2000 = 10^3 + 10^3$
$1206 = 11^3 - 5^3$	$1358 = 11^3 + 3^3$			

Numbers between 2001 to 3000.

$2015 = 14^3 - 9^3$	$2197 = 13^3 + 0^3$	$2401 = 14^3 - 7^3$	$2662 = 11^3 + 11^3$	$2765 = 16^3 - 11^3$
$2044 = 15^3 - 11^3$	$2198 = 13^3 + 1^3$	$2402 = 21^3 - 19^3$	$2680 = 14^3 - 4^3$	$2771 = 14^3 + 3^3$
$2060 = 11^3 + 9^3$	$2205 = 13^3 + 2^3$	$2413 = 13^3 + 6^3$	$2709 = 13^3 + 8^3$	$2791 = 31^3 - 30^3$
$2071 = 12^3 + 7^3$	$2224 = 13^3 + 3^3$	$2437 = 29^3 - 28^3$	$2716 = 17^3 - 13^3$	$2808 = 14^3 + 4^3$
$2072 = 13^3 - 5^3$	$2232 = 14^3 - 8^3$	$2457 = 12^3 + 9^3$	$2717 = 14^3 - 3^3$	$2863 = 15^3 - 8^3$
$2107 = 27^3 - 26^3$	$2240 = 12^3 + 8^3$	$2457 = 18^3 - 15^3$	$2728 = 12^3 + 10^3$	$2869 = 14^3 + 5^3$
$2133 = 13^3 - 4^3$	$2261 = 13^3 + 4^3$	$2528 = 14^3 - 6^3$	$2736 = 14^3 - 2^3$	$2906 = 23^3 - 21^3$

$2168 = 20^3 - 18^3$	$2269 = 28^3 - 27^3$	$2540 = 13^3 + 7^3$	$2743 = 14^3 - 1^3$	$2926 = 13^3 + 9^3$
$2169 = 17^3 - 14^3$	$2322 = 13^3 + 5^3$	$2611 = 30^3 - 29^3$	$2744 = 14^3 + 0^3$	$2960 = 14^3 + 6^3$
$2170 = 13^3 - 3^3$	$2331 = 11^3 + 10^3$	$2619 = 14^3 - 5^3$	$2745 = 14^3 + 1^3$	$2977 = 32^3 - 31^3$
$2189 = 13^3 - 2^3$	$2368 = 16^3 - 12^3$	$2646 = 15^3 - 9^3$	$2752 = 14^3 + 2^3$	
$2196 = 13^3 - 1^3$	$2375 = 15^3 - 10^3$	$2648 = 22^3 - 20^3$	$2763 = 19^3 - 16^3$	

Numbers between 3001 to 4000.

$3032 = 15^3 - 7^3$	$3197 = 13^3 + 10^3$	$3376 = 15^3 + 1^3$	$3528 = 13^3 + 11^3$	$3781 = 36^3 - 35^3$
$3059 = 12^3 + 11^3$	$3250 = 15^3 - 5^3$	$3383 = 15^3 + 2^3$	$3571 = 35^3 - 34^3$	$3789 = 22^3 - 19^3$
$3087 = 14^3 + 7^3$	$3256 = 14^3 + 8^3$	$3402 = 15^3 + 3^3$	$3582 = 17^3 - 11^3$	$3880 = 16^3 - 6^3$
$3087 = 20^3 - 17^3$	$3311 = 15^3 - 4^3$	$3429 = 21^3 - 18^3$	$3584 = 16^3 - 8^3$	$3887 = 15^3 + 8^3$
$3088 = 18^3 - 14^3$	$3348 = 15^3 - 3^3$	$3439 = 15^3 + 4^3$	$3591 = 15^3 + 6^3$	$3904 = 20^3 - 16^3$
$3096 = 16^3 - 10^3$	$3367 = 15^3 - 2^3$	$3456 = 12^3 + 12^3$	$3635 = 18^3 - 13^3$	$3913 = 17^3 - 10^3$
$3159 = 15^3 - 6^3$	$3367 = 16^3 - 9^3$	$3458 = 25^3 - 23^3$	$3718 = 15^3 + 7^3$	$3925 = 13^3 + 12^3$
$3169 = 33^3 - 32^3$	$3367 = 34^3 - 33^3$	$3473 = 14^3 + 9^3$	$3744 = 14^3 + 10^3$	$3971 = 16^3 - 5^3$
$3176 = 24^3 - 22^3$	$3374 = 15^3 - 1^3$	$3484 = 19^3 - 15^3$	$3752 = 26^3 - 24^3$	$3997 = 37^3 - 36^3$
$3185 = 17^3 - 12^3$	$3375 = 15^3 + 0^3$	$3500 = 15^3 + 5^3$	$3753 = 16^3 - 7^3$	

Numbers between 4001 to 5000.

$4032 = 16^3 - 4^3$	$4115 = 19^3 - 14^3$	$4394 = 13^3 + 13^3$	$4681 = 40^3 - 39^3$	$4905 = 17^3 - 2^3$
$4058 = 27^3 - 25^3$	$4123 = 16^3 + 3^3$	$4401 = 17^3 - 8^3$	$4697 = 17^3 - 6^3$	$4912 = 17^3 - 1^3$
$4069 = 16^3 - 3^3$	$4160 = 16^3 + 4^3$	$4439 = 16^3 + 7^3$	$4706 = 15^3 + 11^3$	$4913 = 17^3 + 0^3$
$4075 = 14^3 + 11^3$	$4167 = 23^3 - 20^3$	$4447 = 39^3 - 38^3$	$4706 = 29^3 - 27^3$	$4914 = 17^3 + 1^3$
$4088 = 16^3 - 2^3$	$4184 = 17^3 - 9^3$	$4472 = 14^3 + 12^3$	$4788 = 17^3 - 5^3$	$4921 = 17^3 + 2^3$
$4095 = 16^3 - 1^3$	$4219 = 38^3 - 37^3$	$4501 = 18^3 - 11^3$	$4816 = 22^3 - 18^3$	$4921 = 41^3 - 40^3$
$4096 = 16^3 + 0^3$	$4221 = 16^3 + 5^3$	$4563 = 24^3 - 21^3$	$4825 = 16^3 + 9^3$	$4940 = 17^3 + 3^3$
$4097 = 16^3 + 1^3$	$4312 = 16^3 + 6^3$	$4570 = 17^3 - 7^3$	$4832 = 18^3 - 10^3$	$4941 = 14^3 + 13^3$
$4104 = 15^3 + 9^3$	$4348 = 21^3 - 17^3$	$4608 = 16^3 + 8^3$	$4849 = 17^3 - 4^3$	$4977 = 17 + 4^3$
$4104 = 16^3 + 2^3$	$4375 = 15^3 + 10^3$	$4625 = 20^3 - 15^3$	$4886 = 17^3 - 3^3$	$4977 = 25^3 - 22^3$
$4104 = 18^3 - 12^3$	$4376 = 28^3 - 26^3$	$4662 = 19^3 - 13^3$		

Some Elementary Problems from the Note Books of Srinivasa Ramanujan V

	Analysis of the numbers of the form $x^3 \pm y^3$ between 1 to 5000					
Numbers of the form	Range of numbers					
	1-1000	1001 - 2000	2001 - 3000	3001-4000	4001 - 5000	
$x^3 + y^3$ in more than one way. $N=x_1^3+y_1^3=x_2^3+y_2^3$ such numbers are popular as Ramanujan Numbers.		$1729 = 10^3+9^3$ $= 12^3+1^3$			$4104 = 15^3+9^3$ $= 16^3+2^3$	
$x^3 - y^3$ in more than one way $N=x_1^3 - y_1^3$ $= x_2^3 - y_2^3$. These lead to Ramanujan Numbers: $x_1^3+y_2^3 = x_2^3+y_1^3$	$721 = 9^3-2^3 = 16^3-6^3$ $728 = 9^3-1^3 = 12^3-10^3$ $999 = 10^3-1^3 = 12^3-9^3$ \longrightarrow $2^3+16^3=9^3+15^3=4104$ $1^3+12^3=9^3+10^3=1729$			$3367 = \begin{cases} 15^3-2^3 \\ 16^3-9^3 \\ 34^3-33^3 \end{cases}$ $4104 = \begin{cases} 2^3+16^3 \\ 9^3+15^3 \end{cases}$ $39312 = \begin{cases} 2^3+34^3 \\ 5^3+33^3 \end{cases}$ $40033 = \begin{cases} 9^3+34^3 \\ 6^3+33^3 \end{cases}$		
both the forms $x^3 + y^3$ and $x^3 - y^3$ i. e $N = x_1^3 + y_1^3 = x_2^3 - y_2^3$ these lead to numbers of the form $x_1^3+y_1^3+y_2^3 = x_2^3$ (sum of the three cubes is a cube)	$91 = 3^3+4^3 = 6^3-5^3$ $152 = 3^3+5^3 = 6^3-4^3$ $217 = 1^3+6^3 = 9^3-8^3$ $189 = 4^3+5^3 = 6^3-3^3$ $513 = 1^3+8^3 = 9^3-6^3$ $728 = 6^3+8^3 = 9^3-1^3$ \longrightarrow $3^3+4^3+5^3 = 6^3(216)$ $1^3+6^3+8^3 = 9^3(=729)$	$1027 = 3^3+10^3 = 19^3-18^3$ $1216 = 6^3+10^3 = 12^3-8^3$ $1512 = 10^3+8^3 = 12^3-6^3$ \longrightarrow $1736 = 12^3+2^3 = 18^3-16^3$ \longrightarrow $3^3+10^3+18^3 = 19^3$ (=6859) $6^3+8^3+10^3 = 12^3$ (=1728)	$2457 = 12^3+9^3 = 18^3-15^3$ \longrightarrow $9^3+12^3+15^3 = 18^3$ (=5832)	$3087 = 7^3+14^3 = 20^3-17^3$ \longrightarrow $7^3+14^3+17^3 = 20^3$ (=8000)	$4104 = 12^3 + 16^3 = 18^3-12^3$ $4706 = 15^3 + 11^3 = 29^3 - 27^3$ $4921 = 17^3 + 2^3 = 41^3 + 40^3$ \longrightarrow $2^3+12^3+16^3 = 18^3$ (=5832)	

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Problem 63 :

Lost NB SR p. 344

$$\frac{(\sqrt{a^2 + ab + b^2} - a)(\sqrt{a^2 + ab + b^2} - b)}{a + b - \sqrt{a^2 + ab + b^2}} = a + b *$$

Solution:

$$\text{L.H. of } * = \frac{(a^2 + ab + b^2) - (a + b)\sqrt{a^2 + ab + b^2} + ab}{(a + b) - \sqrt{a^2 + ab + b^2}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{(a+b)^2 - (a+b)\sqrt{a^2 + ab + b^2}}{(a+b) - \sqrt{a^2 + ab + b^2}} \\
 &= \frac{(a+b) (a+b) - \sqrt{a^2 + ab + b^2}}{((a+b) - \sqrt{a^2 + ab + b^2})} = (a+b)
 \end{aligned}$$

Problem 64:

Lost NB SR p. 344

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\sqrt[3]{(a+b)(a^2 + b^2)} - a \quad \sqrt[3]{(a+b)(a^2 + b^2)} - b \\
 &= \frac{\sqrt[3]{(a+b)^2} - \sqrt[3]{a^2 + b^2}}{\sqrt[3]{(a+b)^2} + \sqrt[3]{a^2 + b^2}} \cdot (ab + ab + bc)
 \end{aligned}$$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{L.H.S} &= \sqrt[3]{(a+b)(a^2 + b^2)} - a \quad \sqrt[3]{(a+b)(a^2 + b^2)} - b \\
 &= (a+b)^{\frac{2}{3}} (a^2 + b^2)^{\frac{2}{3}} - (a+b)^{\frac{1}{3}} (a^2 + b^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} (a+b) + ab \\
 &= (a+b)^{\frac{2}{3}} (a^2 + b^2)^{\frac{2}{3}} - (a+b)^{\frac{4}{3}} (a^2 + b^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} + ab \\
 \therefore (\text{L.H.S}) \times \text{Denominator of R.H.S} \\
 &= \left\{ (a+b)^{\frac{2}{3}} (a^2 + b^2)^{\frac{2}{3}} - (a+b)^{\frac{4}{3}} (a^2 + b^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} + ab \right\} \cdot \left\{ (a+b)^{\frac{2}{3}} (a^2 + b^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} \right\} \\
 &= (a+b)^{\frac{4}{3}} (a^2 + b^2)^{\frac{2}{3}} - (a+b)^2 (a^2 + b^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} + ab(a+b)^{\frac{2}{3}} \\
 &\quad + (a+b)^{\frac{2}{3}} (a^2 + b^2) - (a+b)^{\frac{4}{3}} (a^2 + b^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} + ab(a^2 + b^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} \\
 &= (a^2 + b^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} ab - (a+b)^2 + (a+b)^{\frac{2}{3}} (a^2 + b^2 + ab) \\
 &= \text{Numerator of (R.H.S)} \\
 \therefore \text{L.H.S} &= \text{R.H.S}
 \end{aligned}$$

Problem 65:

Lost NB SR p. 313

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left\{ 1 + \left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{n + \alpha} \right)^3 \right\} \left\{ 1 + \left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{n + \beta} \right)^3 \right\} &= \frac{\left(1 + \frac{1+2\beta}{n} \right) \left(1 + \frac{2\alpha + \beta}{n} \right)}{\left(1 + \frac{\alpha}{n} \right)^3 \left(1 + \frac{\beta}{n} \right)^3} x \\
 \left\{ 1 - \left[\frac{(\alpha - \beta) + i(\alpha + \beta)\sqrt{3}}{2n} \right]^2 \right\} &\cdot \left\{ 1 - \left[\frac{(\alpha - \beta) - i(\alpha + \beta)\sqrt{3}}{2n} \right]^2 \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

Solution:

The Standard identity $1 + x^3 = (1 + x) (1 - x^3) (1 - x^3 + x^2)$ will be employed in establishing the above identity.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Now } \left\{ 1 + \left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{n + \alpha} \right)^3 \right\} &= \left\{ 1 + \frac{\alpha + \beta}{n + \alpha} \right\} \left\{ 1 - \frac{\alpha + \beta}{n + \alpha} + \left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{n + \alpha} \right)^2 \right\} \\
 &= \left\{ \frac{n + 2\alpha + \beta}{n + \alpha} \right\} \left\{ \frac{(n + \alpha)^2 - (\alpha + \beta)(n + \alpha) + (\alpha + \beta)^2}{(n + \alpha)^2} \right\} \\
 &= \frac{n}{(n + \alpha)^3} \left\{ 1 + \frac{2\alpha + \beta}{n} \right\} n^2 + n(\alpha - \beta) + \alpha^2 + \alpha\beta + \beta^2 \\
 &= \frac{1}{n^2 \left(1 + \frac{\alpha}{n} \right)^3} \left\{ 1 + \frac{2\alpha + \beta}{n} \right\} n^2 + n(\alpha - \beta) + (\alpha^2 + \alpha\beta + \beta^2)
 \end{aligned}$$

The roots of the quadratic equation

$$n^2 + n(\alpha - \beta) + (\alpha^2 + \alpha\beta + \beta^2) = 0$$

are
$$n = \frac{-\alpha - \beta \pm \sqrt{(\alpha - \beta)^2 - 4(\alpha^2 + \alpha\beta + \beta^2)}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{-\alpha - \beta \pm \sqrt{-3(\alpha^2 + 2\alpha\beta + \beta^2)}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{-\alpha - \beta \pm i(\alpha + \beta)\sqrt{3}}{2} \quad (= \text{root 1, root 2 say})$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \therefore n^2 + n(\alpha - \beta) + (\alpha^2 + \alpha\beta + \beta^2) &= (n - \text{root1})(n - \text{root2}) \\
 &= \left\{ n - \frac{-\alpha - \beta + i(\alpha + \beta)\sqrt{3}}{2} \right\} \left\{ n - \frac{-\alpha - \beta - i(\alpha + \beta)\sqrt{3}}{2} \right\} \\
 &= n^2 \left\{ 1 + \frac{(\alpha - \beta) - i(\alpha + \beta)\sqrt{3}}{2n} \right\} \left\{ 1 + \frac{(\alpha - \beta) + i(\alpha + \beta)\sqrt{3}}{2} \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

We thus have

$$\left\{ 1 + \left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{n + \alpha} \right)^3 \right\} = \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{\alpha}{n} \right)^3} \left\{ 1 + \frac{2\alpha + \beta}{n} \right\} \left\{ 1 + \frac{(\alpha - \beta) - i(\alpha + \beta)\sqrt{3}}{2n} \right\} \left\{ 1 + \frac{(\alpha - \beta) + i(\alpha + \beta)\sqrt{3}}{2n} \right\} \quad (1)$$

Similarly we get by interchanging α and β in the above result,

$$\left\{ 1 + \left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{n + \alpha} \right)^3 \right\} = \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{\beta}{n} \right)^3} \left\{ 1 + \frac{2\beta + \alpha}{n} \right\} \left\{ 1 + \frac{\beta - \alpha - i(\alpha + \beta)\sqrt{3}}{2n} \right\} \left\{ 1 + \frac{(\beta - \alpha) + i(\alpha + \beta)\sqrt{3}}{2n} \right\} \quad (2)$$

Multiplying these two results **1** and **2** re-arranging the factors

We notice that
$$\left\{ 1 + \left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{n + \alpha} \right)^3 \right\} \left\{ 1 + \left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{n + \beta} \right)^3 \right\} = \frac{\left(1 + \frac{2\alpha + \beta}{n} \right) \left(1 + \frac{2\beta + \alpha}{n} \right)}{\left(1 + \frac{\alpha}{n} \right)^3 \left(1 + \frac{\beta}{n} \right)^3} \cdot \left\{ 1 + \frac{(\alpha - \beta) + i(\alpha + \beta)\sqrt{3}}{2n} \right\} \cdot \left\{ 1 + \frac{(\beta - \alpha) - i(\alpha + \beta)\sqrt{3}}{2n} \right\} \cdot \left\{ 1 + \frac{(\alpha - \beta) - i(\alpha + \beta)\sqrt{3}}{2n} \right\} \cdot \left\{ 1 + \frac{(\beta - \alpha) + i(\alpha + \beta)\sqrt{3}}{2n} \right\}$$

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