

Title:

Counting Lattice Paths having Step Sizes of $\{-2, -1, 1, 2\}$ from j to k , where j, k are Natural Numbers and the Path Never Touches nor Goes Below the x -axis

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Abstract:

We seek an explicit formula to count the number of good lattice paths, $G(n, j, k)$, that travel from j to k in n -steps where j and k are natural numbers and $\{-2, -1, 1, 2\}$ is the set of allowable step sizes. A Good path is defined to be lattice path that travels from j to k in n -allowable steps while never touching nor going below the x -axis along the way. We present two alternative approaches:

- A recursive formula that produces a formula for $G(n, j, k)$ by counting bad lattice paths. This makes key use of interesting but unestablished formula for $G(n, 0, 1)$ and $G(n, 0, 2)$.
- *The impressive kernel method as described in Cyril Banderier, Philippe Flajolet. Basic analytic combinatorics of directed lattice paths. Theoretical Computer Science 281, Issue 1-2 (2002), 37-80. This produces the generating function whose coefficients are $G(n, j, k)$.*

Connections and pro's and con's of the preceding results of each method are discussed.