

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If:

$$\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left((-1)^{\lceil \frac{m+1}{5} \rceil} + (-1)^{\lceil \frac{m-1}{5} \rceil} \right) x^m = 2$$

then find the value of the expression $x^5 - x^3 - x^2 - x$
[] is the floor function*

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$$\begin{aligned}
 \Omega &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{\lceil \frac{m+1}{5} \rceil} x^m + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{\lceil \frac{m-1}{5} \rceil} x^m = \Omega_1 + \Omega_2 = 2 \\
 0 < x < 1; \quad k &= \left\lceil \frac{m+1}{5} \right\rceil, n = \left\lceil \frac{m-1}{5} \right\rceil, m \in N_0; \quad \begin{array}{ll} m+1 < 5, k=0 \\ m+1 > 5, k \in N \\ m < 1, \quad k \in Z^- \end{array} \\
 \Omega_1 &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{\lceil \frac{m+1}{5} \rceil} x^m = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 - x^4 - x^5 - x^6 - x^7 - x^8 + x^9 \dots \\
 &\quad = \sum_{m=0}^3 x^m - \sum_{m=4}^8 x^m + \sum_{m=9}^{13} x^m - \dots \\
 \Omega_2 &= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{\lceil \frac{m-1}{5} \rceil} x^m = -1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4 + x^5 - x^6 - x^7 - \dots - x^{10} + x^{11} + \dots \\
 \Omega_1 + \Omega_2 &= 2, \quad 2x + 2x^2 + 2x^3 - 2x^4 - 2x^5 - 2x^6 - 2x^7 - 2x^8 + \dots = 2 \\
 (x + x^2 + x^3) - x^5(x + x^2 + x^3) + x^{10}(x + x^2 + x^3) \dots &= 1 \\
 (x + x^2 + x^3)(1 - x^5 + x^{10} - x^{15} + x^{20} - \dots) &= 1 \\
 (x + x^2 + x^3) \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^m x^{5m} &= 1; \frac{x + x^2 + x^3}{1 + x^5} = 1 \\
 -x^5 + x + x^2 + x^3 &= 1; \quad x^5 - x^3 - x^2 - x = -1
 \end{aligned}$$