

# Assembling a Rational Number from Constituent Digit Vectors Relative to a Given Base

## The Set-up

The given vectors are  $u, v, w$ , and the given base is  $b$ . In each case the subscripts on the coordinates of the digit vectors increase from left to right. For example, in base 10 if

$$u = [3, 6], \quad v = [5, 4], \quad \text{and} \quad w = [1, 2],$$

then the indicated decimal expansion is

$$36.5412121212\dots,$$

and its representation as a quotient of coprime integers is

$$\frac{60293}{1650}.$$

## Formulas:

result =  $r + s + t$  where

$$r = \sum_{j=1}^k u_j b^{k-j}$$

$$s = \sum_{j=1}^l v_j b^{-j}$$

$$t1 = \sum_{j=1}^m w_j b^{m-j}$$

$$t2 = (b^l)(b^m - 1)$$

$$t = t1/t2$$

with

$$k = \text{length}(u) \quad l = \text{length}(v) \quad m = \text{length}(w) .$$

## Exercise

Raise issues you find with the following code proposed for the task:

```
ratFromVecs := proc (u, v, w) local b, r, s, t, j, k, l, m, c1, c2, n;  
u := [u[1], ..., u[k]];   
v := [v[1], ..., v[l]];   
w := [w[1], ..., w[m]];   
k := nops(u);   
l := nops(v);   
m := nops(w);   
r := sum('u[j]*b^(k-j)', 'j' = (1 .. k));   
s := Sum('v[j]*b^(-j)', 'j' = (1 .. l));   
t1 := sum('w[j]*b^(m-j)', 'j' = (1 .. m));   
t2 := b^l*(b^m-1);   
t := t1/t2;   
for j to k do n := r+s+t; end do;   
n;   
end;
```