

Evaluate It and Back Again

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Let's pick a positive integer X without leading or trailing zeros. Consider an expression $X+X-0$. Its value is $2X$, but the reversed expression evaluates to $0-\text{rev}(X)+\text{rev}(X)=0$. Let's call this expression $f(X)$. The result of evaluating $f(X)$ is $2X$ and the result of evaluating $\text{rev}(f(X))$ is 0. Thus, when both p and q are even, $f(\frac{p}{2})+\text{rev}(f(\frac{q}{2}))$ is a possible answer. For negative X , define $f(X)$ to be $0-|X|-|X|$.

When p or q is odd, let's make both of them even. First, if they have different parities, add 12+ in the beginning. This would add 12 to the value of p and 21 to the value of q , so now they have the same parity. If they are both odd, append +1.

The remaining issue to be solved is that p and q might have trailing zeros. This can be solved by adding $+x$ instead of +1 in the last step (such x that makes p and q both even, but not ending with 0, always exists). The maximum length of such an expression is $4 + 2 \cdot (4 + 2 \cdot \text{len}(\frac{p}{2})) \leq 84$.

The larger limit on the length of the answer allowed for many other approaches. For example, you can use the fact that $12-4*4+5$ is a solution for $p = 1, q = 0$, multiply it by any number, and add it with its reverse. Another approach (yielding significantly longer expressions) is to use numbers like $xx..xx$ (or palindromes in general), $xx..xy..yy$, $9*9*\dots*9*x$ to make the input numbers (either p and q independently, or, their difference and an offset). Depending on the specific construction, this type of solution also has a good chance to pass the tests.