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Integers from square roots

Problem. Find all integers n such that $\sqrt{1} + \sqrt{2} + \cdots + \sqrt{n}$ is an integer.

Lemma. For any $Q \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $Q(x - \sqrt{n})Q(x + \sqrt{n}) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$.

proof. If $Q(x) = \sum_i a_i x^i$, then $Q(s)Q(t) = \sum_i a_i^2 (st)^i + \sum_{i < j} a_i a_j (st)^i (s^{j-i} + t^{j-i})$.

Since both $(x - \sqrt{n})(x + \sqrt{n})$ and $(x - \sqrt{n})^{j-i} + (x + \sqrt{n})^{j-i}$ are in $\mathbb{Z}[x]$, so is $Q(x - \sqrt{n})Q(x + \sqrt{n})$. \square

Solution. $n = 1$ is a trivial solution. Suppose there exists a solution $n > 1$ and pick the smallest one. From the lemma, define $\{P_k\} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}[x]$ such that

$$P_0(x) = x \text{ and for } k \geq 1, \\ P_k(x) = P_{k-1}(x - \sqrt{k})P_{k-1}(x + \sqrt{k}).$$

This is represented in another way (product of alternating signs) as

$$P_k(x) = \prod_{j=0}^{2^k-1} \left\{ x + \sum_{i=1}^k (-1)^{\lfloor \frac{j}{2^{i-1}} \rfloor} \sqrt{i} \right\}.$$

Let $S_k = \sum_{i=1}^k \sqrt{i}$ and note that $P_k(S_k) = 0$ for all k . Now we consider minimal polynomial $x^2 - n$ of both \sqrt{n} and $-\sqrt{n}$ over \mathbb{Z} . Since $P_{n-1}(S_n - \sqrt{n}) = 0$ and $S_n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $x^2 - n | P_{n-1}(S_n - x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$.

$$\begin{aligned} |P_{n-1}(S_n + \sqrt{n})| &\geq \prod_{j=0}^{2^{n-1}-1} \left\{ |S_n + \sqrt{n}| - \left| \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (-1)^{\lfloor \frac{j}{2^{i-1}} \rfloor} \sqrt{i} \right| \right\} \\ &\geq \prod_{j=0}^{2^{n-1}-1} \{ |S_n + \sqrt{n}| - |S_{n-1}| \} > 0. \end{aligned}$$

However, $P_{n-1}(S_n + \sqrt{n}) \neq 0$. So it's a contradiction. \square