

## Fibonacci numbers and divisibility.

**Problem with a solution proposed by Arkady Alt, San Jose , California, USA.**

Let  $f_n$  be  $n$ -th Fibonacci number defined by recurrence  $f_{n+1} - f_n - f_{n-1} = 0, n \in \mathbb{N}$

and initial conditions  $f_0 = 0, f_1 = 1$ . Prove that for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$(n-1)(n+1)(2nf_{n+1} - (n+6)f_n)$  is divisible by 150 for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Solution.**

Let  $s_n := \frac{(n-1)(n+1)(2nf_{n+1} - (n+6)f_n)}{150}, n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ . Then  $s_0 = 0, s_1 = 0$ .

Note that  $s_{n+1} = \frac{n(n+2)(2(n+1)f_{n+2} - (n+7)f_{n+1})}{150} =$

$$\frac{n(n+2)(2(n+1)(f_{n+1} + f_n) - (n+7)f_{n+1})}{150} = \frac{n(n+2)((n-5)f_{n+1} + 2(n+1)f_n)}{150}$$

$$\text{and } s_{n-1} = \frac{(n-2)n(2(n-1)f_n - (n+5)f_{n-1})}{150} = \frac{(n-2)n(2(n-1)f_n - (n+5)(f_{n+1} - f_n))}{150} =$$

$$\frac{(n-2)n(3(n+1)f_n - (n+5)f_{n+1})}{150}. \text{ Hence,}$$

$$s_{n+1} - s_n - s_{n-1} = \frac{n(n+2)((n-5)f_{n+1} + 2(n+1)f_n)}{150} - \frac{(n-1)(n+1)(2nf_{n+1} - (n+6)f_n)}{150} -$$

$$\frac{(n-2)n(3(n+1)f_n - (n+5)f_{n+1})}{150} = \frac{(5n^2 + 3n - 2)f_n - 6nf_{n+1}}{50}.$$

Let  $h_n := \frac{(5n^2 + 3n - 2)f_n - 6nf_{n+1}}{50}, n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ . Then  $h_0 = 0, h_1 = 0$ .

Noting that  $h_{n+1} = \frac{(5(n+1)^2 + 3(n+1) - 2)f_{n+1} - 6(n+1)f_{n+2}}{50} =$

$$\frac{(5n^2 + 13n + 6)f_{n+1} - 6(n+1)(f_{n+1} + f_n)}{50} = \frac{n(5n+7)f_{n+1} - 6(n+1)f_n}{50} \text{ we obtain}$$

$$h_{n+2} = \frac{(n+1)(5(n+1) + 7)f_{n+2} - 6(n+2)f_{n+1}}{50} = \frac{(5n^2 + 17n + 12)(f_{n+1} + f_n) - 6(n+2)f_{n+1}}{50} =$$

$$\frac{(5n^2 + 17n + 12)f_n + n(5n+11)f_{n+1}}{50} \text{ and, therefore,}$$

$$h_{n+2} - h_{n+1} - h_n = \frac{(5n^2 + 17n + 12)f_n + n(5n+11)f_{n+1}}{50} - \frac{n(5n+7)f_{n+1} - 6(n+1)f_n}{50} -$$

$$\frac{(5n^2 + 3n - 2)f_n - 6nf_{n+1}}{50} = \frac{nf_{n+1} + 2(n+1)f_n}{5}.$$

Let  $g_n := \frac{nf_{n+1} + 2(n+1)f_n}{5}, n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ . Then  $g_0 = 0, g_1 = \frac{f_2 + 4f_1}{5} = 1$  and

we have  $g_{n+1} = \frac{(n+1)f_{n+2} + 2(n+2)f_{n+1}}{5} = \frac{(n+1)(f_{n+1} + f_n) + 2(n+2)f_{n+1}}{5} =$

$$\frac{(n+1)f_n + (3n+5)f_{n+1}}{5}. \text{ Also, } g_{n-1} = \frac{(n-1)f_n + 2nf_{n-1}}{5} = \frac{(n-1)f_n + 2n(f_{n+1} - f_n)}{5} =$$

$$\frac{2nf_{n+1} - (n+1)f_n}{5}.$$

Hence,

$$g_{n+1} - g_n - g_{n-1} = \frac{(n+1)f_n + (3n+5)f_{n+1}}{5} - \frac{nf_{n+1} + 2(n+1)f_n}{5} - \frac{2nf_{n+1} - (n+1)f_n}{5} = f_{n+1}.$$

Since  $g_n$  is integer for any  $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$  (By Math Induction because  $g_0 = 0, g_1 = 1$  and

$$g_{n+1} = g_n + g_{n-1} + f_{n+1}, n \in \mathbb{N})$$

and  $h_{n+2} = h_{n+1} + h_n + g_n, n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ , where  $h_0 = h_1 = 0$  then for any  $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$

$h_n$  is integer as well. Thus,  $s_{n+1} = s_n + s_{n-1} + h_n, n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ , where  $s_0 = 0, s_1 = 0$

and  $h_n$  is integer for any  $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ . Hence, again by Math Induction, we can conclude that

$s_n$  is integer for any  $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ .