

Fibonacci Numbers

Japheth Wood, PhD

Bard Math Circle AMC 8
November 12, 2019

Fibonacci's Rabbit Problem



“A certain man put a pair of rabbits in a place surrounded on all sides by a wall. How many pairs of rabbits can be produced from that pair in a year if it is supposed that every month each pair begets a new pair which from the second month on becomes productive?”

—A problem from the third section of Liber abaci (1202).

(<https://www-history.mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk/Biographies/Fibonacci.html>)

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Fibonacci Book
Rabbit Problem

Some problems to
solve

Solutions

Binet's Formula

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Recursive Definition

$$F(\text{Next}) = F(\text{Current}) + F(\text{Productive}), \quad F(0) = F(1) = 1$$

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Rabbit Population

Month:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rabbits:	1	1	2								

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Month:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rabbits:	1	1	2	3	5						

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Month:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rabbits:	1	1	2	3	5	8	13				

Fibonacci's Rabbit Problem



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Rabbit Population

Month:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rabbits:	1	1	2	3	5	8	13	21	34	55	89

Solve one of these problems:

A **composition** of n is a way to write n as the sum of positive integers (order matters). How many compositions are there of 8 that don't use 1?

How many compositions are there of 7 into odd parts?

How many subsets are there of $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ that include no two consecutive numbers?

In how many ways can you tile a 2×6 rectangle with 2×1 dominoes?

How many *increasing* paths are there through the honeycomb from 1 to 7?

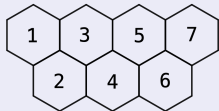


How many ways are there to climb a set of 6 stairs, one or two steps at a time?

How many binary sequences of length 5 are there, with no consecutive 0's?

Find 6 positive integer solutions (x, y) of $y^2 - xy - x^2 = \pm 1$.

How many *increasing* paths are there through the honeycomb from 1 to 7?



How many *increasing* paths are there through the honeycomb from 1 to 7?



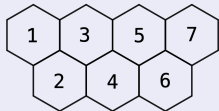
Path(7)

How many *increasing* paths are there through the honeycomb from 1 to 7?



Path(6) Path(7)

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Path(5) Path(6) Path(7)

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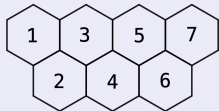
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How many *increasing* paths are there through the honeycomb from 1 to 7?



... Path(5) Path(6) Path(7)
Path(n)

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Path(n)

n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$P(n)$							

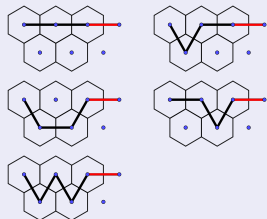
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Paths ending 5-7



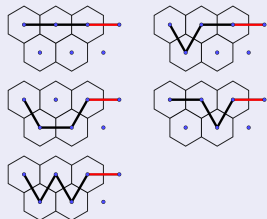
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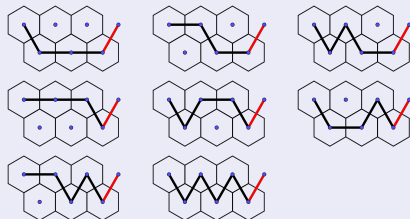
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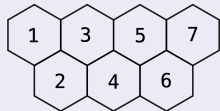
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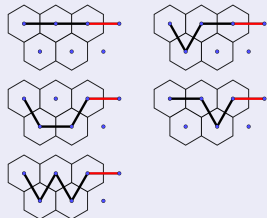


$$\text{Path}(5) + \text{Path}(6) = \text{Path}(7)$$

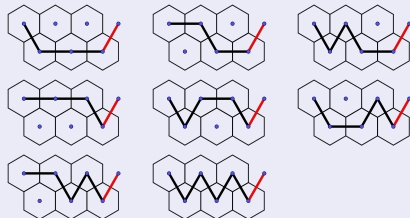
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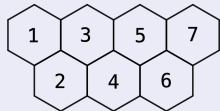
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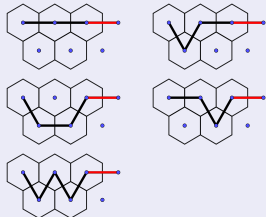


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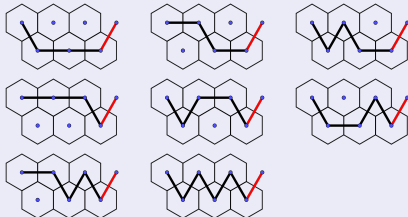
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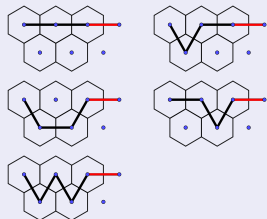


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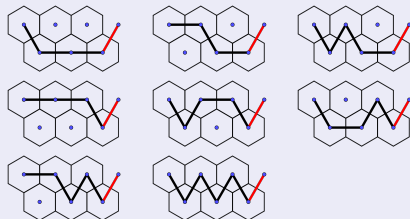
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n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$P(n)$	1	1					

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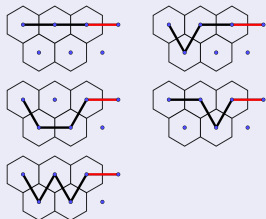


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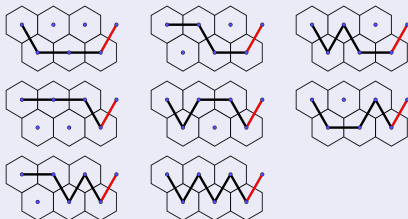
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n	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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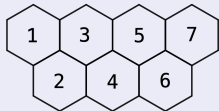
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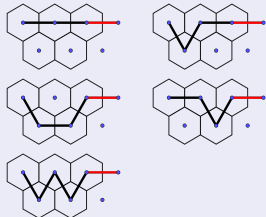


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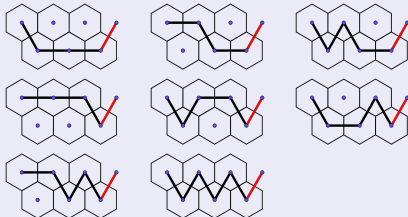
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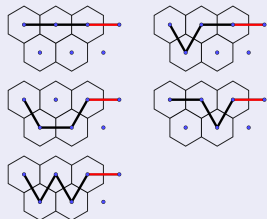


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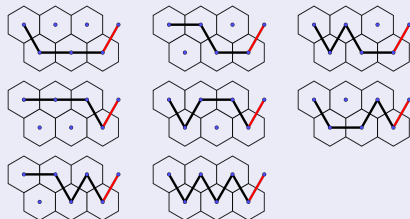
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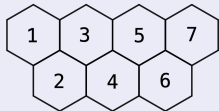
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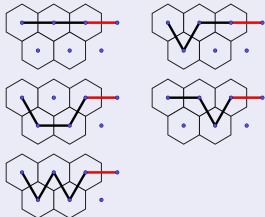


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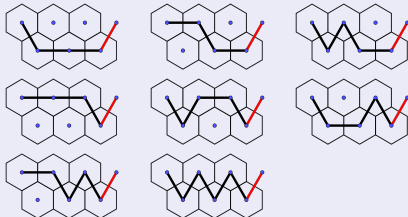
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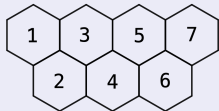
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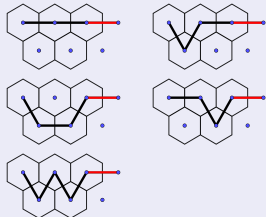


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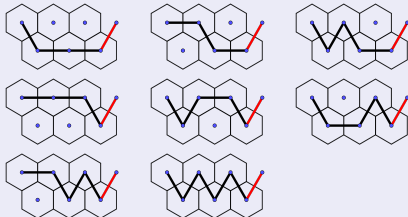
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The Fibonacci Sequence

$$F(n) = F(n-1) + F(n-2) \text{ (for } n > 2), F(1) = 1, F(2) = 1$$

n	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	...
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A Fibonacci-ish Sequence (Gibonacci?)

$$G(n) = G(n-1) + G(n-2)$$

n	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	...
$G(n)$	4	-2	2	0	2	2	4	...

Fact 1: Scaling a Fibonacci-ish Sequence yields a ...

n	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	...
$G(n)$	4	-3	1	-2	-1	-3	-4	...
$4G(n)$	16	-12	4	-8	-4	-12	-16	...

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Fact 2: If $G(0)$ is 0 then ...

n	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	...
$G(n)$	0	3	3	6	9	15	24	...

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Fact 3: Subtracting Fibonacci-ish Sequences yields a ...

n	0	1	2	3	4	5	...
$G(n)$	4	3	7	10	17	27	...
$H(n)$	2	1	3	4	7	11	...

Fact 1: Scaling a Fibonacci-ish Sequence yields a ...

n	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	...
$G(n)$	4	-3	1	-2	-1	-3	-4	...
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Fact 3: Subtracting Fibonacci-ish Sequences yields a ...

n	0	1	2	3	4	5	...
$G(n)$	4	3	7	10	17	27	...
$H(n)$	2	1	3	4	7	11	...
$G(n) - H(n)$	2	2	4	6	10	16	...

Two interesting Fibonacci-ish sequences

n	0	1	2	3	4	...
$R(n)$	1	r	r^2	r^3	r^4	...
$S(n)$	1	s	s^2	s^3	s^4	...

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Necessary (and Sufficient) Conditions

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$$R(0) + R(1) = R(2) \text{ or } 1 + r = r^2 \text{ and also } 1 + s = s^2$$

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$R(0) + R(1) = R(2)$ or $1 + r = r^2$ and also $1 + s = s^2$
Both r and s are solutions of $1 + x = x^2$.

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$$r = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \approx 1.618 \quad \text{and} \quad s = \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2} \approx -0.618$$

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n	0	1	2	3	4	...
$R(n)$	1	r	r^2	r^3	r^4	...
$S(n)$	1	s	s^2	s^3	s^4	...
$R(n) - S(n)$	0	$r - s$	$r^2 - s^2$	$r^3 - s^3$	$r^4 - s^4$...

Necessary (and Sufficient) Conditions

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$R(n)$	1	r	r^2	r^3	r^4	...
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$R(n) - S(n)$	0	$r - s$	$r^2 - s^2$	$r^3 - s^3$	$r^4 - s^4$...
$F(n)$	0	1	$\frac{r^2 - s^2}{r - s}$	$\frac{r^3 - s^3}{r - s}$	$\frac{r^4 - s^4}{r - s}$...

Necessary (and Sufficient) Conditions

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$S(n)$	1	s	s^2	s^3	s^4	...
$R(n) - S(n)$	0	$r - s$	$r^2 - s^2$	$r^3 - s^3$	$r^4 - s^4$...
$F(n)$	0	1	$\frac{r^2 - s^2}{r - s}$	$\frac{r^3 - s^3}{r - s}$	$\frac{r^4 - s^4}{r - s}$...

Necessary (and Sufficient) Conditions

$$R(0) + R(1) = R(2) \text{ or } 1 + r = r^2 \text{ and also } 1 + s = s^2$$

Both r and s are solutions of $1 + x = x^2$.

$$r = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \approx 1.618 \quad \text{and} \quad s = \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2} \approx -0.618$$

Binet's Formula

$$F(n) = \frac{r^n - s^n}{r - s} = \frac{\left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n - \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n}{\sqrt{5}}$$

The End

Thank You!

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