

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

# The Fibonacci Quilt Sequence

Minerva Catral, Pari Ford\*, Pamela Harris,  
Steven J. Miller, Dawn Nelson

AMS Section Meeting  
Georgetown University

March 7, 2015

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

## 1 Outline

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

## 1 Outline

## 2 Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

1 Outline

2 Zeckendorf

3 Fibonacci Quilt

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

1 Outline

2 Zeckendorf

3 Fibonacci Quilt

4 Number of Decompositions

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

1 Outline

2 Zeckendorf

3 Fibonacci Quilt

4 Number of Decompositions

5 Greedy Algorithm

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

## Theorem (Zeckendorf's Theorem)

*Every positive integer can be written uniquely as the sum of non-consecutive Fibonacci numbers where*

$$F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$$

*and  $F_1 = 1$ ,  $F_2 = 2$ .*

## Theorem (Zeckendorf's Theorem)

*Every positive integer can be written uniquely as the sum of non-consecutive Fibonacci numbers where*

$$F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$$

*and  $F_1 = 1$ ,  $F_2 = 2$ .*

Thus, if we create an increasing sequence of positive integers such that any positive number can be written uniquely as a sum of non-consecutive terms, we construct the sequence

$$1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, \dots$$



Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

# Expanding to a 2-Dimensional Construction

## Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
 Miller, Nelson

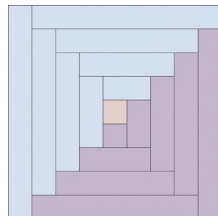
## Outline

Zeckendorf

## Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
 Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm



# Expanding to a 2-Dimensional Construction

## Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

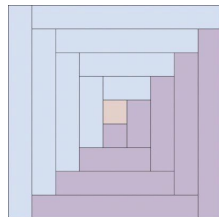
## Outline

Zeckendorf

## Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm



Beginning in the center with the 1 by 1 square and spiraling out counter clockwise, we construct an increasing sequence of positive integers where every positive integer can be expressed as a sum of terms that do not share an edge in the Fibonacci Quilt.

# The Fibonacci Quilt Sequence

## Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

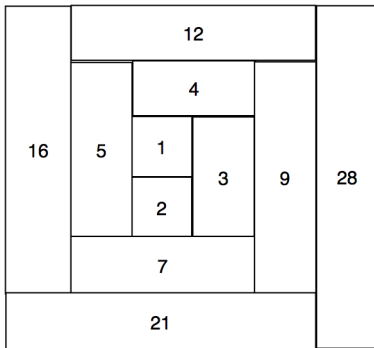
## Outline

Zeckendorf

## Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm



# The Fibonacci Quilt Sequence

## Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

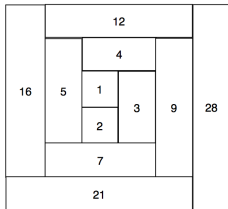
## Outline

Zeckendorf

## Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm



## Theorem (Fibonacci Quilt Numbers)

*The terms of the Fibonacci Quilt Sequence  $\{a_n\}$  satisfy the recurrence relation*

$$a_{n+1} = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$$

*for  $n \geq 4$  and  $a_i = i$  otherwise.*

# The Fibonacci Quilt Sequence

## Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

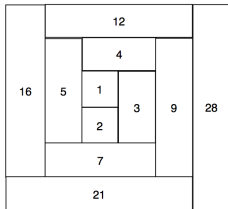
## Outline

Zeckendorf

## Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm



## Lemma (Recurrence Relation)

*The terms of the Fibonacci Quilt Sequence  $\{a_n\}$  satisfy the recurrence relation*

$$a_{n+1} = a_n + a_{n-4}$$

*for  $n \geq 6$  and  $a_i = i$  for  $i \leq 5$  and  $a_6 = 7$ .*

# Proof of Lemma: $a_{n+1} = a_n + a_{n-4}$ for $n \geq 6$

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

## Proof.

We can verify the recurrence for  $6 \leq n \leq 10$ .

Proof of Lemma:  $a_{n+1} = a_n + a_{n-4}$  for  $n \geq 6$ 

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

## Proof.

We can verify the recurrence for  $6 \leq n \leq 10$ .

If  $a_{n+1}$  is an element of the FQ Sequence where  $n \geq 10$ , then  $a_{n+1}$  cannot be legally decomposed from any previous elements of the FQ Sequence. Thus,  $a_{n+1} - 1$  is the largest positive integer that can be legally decomposed using the elements from the set  $\{a_1 < a_2 < \cdots < a_n\}$ .



Proof of Lemma:  $a_{n+1} = a_n + a_{n-4}$  for  $n \geq 6$ 

## Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

## Outline

## Zeckendorf

## Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

## Greedy Algorithm

## Proof.

We can verify the recurrence for  $6 \leq n \leq 10$ .

If  $a_{n+1}$  is an element of the FQ Sequence where  $n \geq 10$ , then  $a_{n+1}$  cannot be legally decomposed from any previous elements of the FQ Sequence. Thus,  $a_{n+1} - 1$  is the largest positive integer that can be legally decomposed using the elements from the set  $\{a_1 < a_2 < \cdots < a_n\}$ .

Then  $(a_{n+1} - 1) - (a_n)$  must be the largest number that can be legally decomposed using elements from the set  $\{a_1 < a_2 < \cdots < a_{n-5}\}$ , which equals  $a_{n-4} - 1$  for  $n \geq 10$  by construction. Thus  $a_{n+1} = a_n + a_{n-4}$  for  $n \geq 6$ .



# Proof of Theorem: $a_{n+1} = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$ for $n \geq 4$

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

## Proof.

Using the lemma and an inductive strategy, we first confirm that the recursive rule is satisfied for  $n = 4$  and  $n = 5$ .

# Proof of Theorem: $a_{n+1} = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$ for $n \geq 4$

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

## Proof.

Using the lemma and an inductive strategy, we first confirm that the recursive rule is satisfied for  $n = 4$  and  $n = 5$ .

Then

$$\begin{aligned} a_{n+1} &= a_n + a_{n-4} \\ &= (a_{n-1} + a_{n-5}) + a_{n-4} \\ &= a_{n-1} + (a_{n-4} + a_{n-5}) \\ &= a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}. \end{aligned}$$



# Not a Positive Linear Recurrence

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

$a_{n+1} = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$  for  $n \geq 4$  is not a Positive Linear Recurrence as the leading coefficient in the recurrence relation is zero.

# Not a Positive Linear Recurrence

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

$a_{n+1} = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$  for  $n \geq 4$  is not a Positive Linear Recurrence as the leading coefficient in the recurrence relation is zero.

$a_{n+1} = a_n + a_{n-4}$  for  $n \geq 6$  is also not a Positive Linear Recurrence because the initial conditions are not met (would have had to have  $a_6 = 7$ , but we actually have  $a_6 = 7$ ).

# Not a Positive Linear Recurrence

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

$a_{n+1} = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$  for  $n \geq 4$  is not a Positive Linear Recurrence as the leading coefficient in the recurrence relation is zero.

$a_{n+1} = a_n + a_{n-4}$  for  $n \geq 6$  is also not a Positive Linear Recurrence because the initial conditions are not met (would have had to have  $a_6 = 7$ , but we actually have  $a_6 = 7$ ).

This leads to new complications and questions we can ask.

# Non-Unique Decompositions

## Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

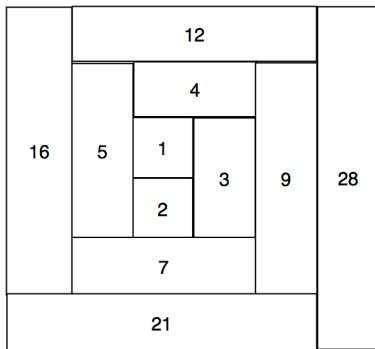
## Outline

Zeckendorf

## Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm



We find that we no-longer have unique decompositions. In particular,  $11 = 9+2$  and  $11=7+4$  are both legal decompositions.

# Non-Unique Decompositions

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

Let  $d(m)$  be the number of FQ-legal decompositions of  $m$ .  
By construction of our sequence,  $d(a_i) = 1$ .



# Non-Unique Decompositions

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

Let  $d(m)$  be the number of FQ-legal decompositions of  $m$ .  
By construction of our sequence,  $d(a_i) = 1$ .

Let  $d_{ave}$  be the average number of FQ-legal  
decompositions of the integers in  $I_n := [0, a_{n+1})$ . Then

$$d_{ave}(n) := \frac{1}{a_{n+1}} \sum_{m=0}^{a_{n+1}-1} d(m).$$

# Non-Unique Decompositions

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

Let  $d(m)$  be the number of FQ-legal decompositions of  $m$ .  
By construction of our sequence,  $d(a_i) = 1$ .

Let  $d_{ave}$  be the average number of FQ-legal  
decompositions of the integers in  $I_n := [0, a_{n+1})$ . Then

$$d_{ave}(n) := \frac{1}{a_{n+1}} \sum_{m=0}^{a_{n+1}-1} d(m).$$

## Theorem (Growth Rate of Number of Decompositions)

*There is computable  $\lambda > 1$  and a  $C > 0$  such that  $d_{ave}(n) \sim C\lambda^n$ . Thus the average number of decompositions of integers in  $[0, a_{n+1})$  tends to infinity exponentially fast.*

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

We define the following:

- $d_n$ : the number of FQ-legal decompositions using only elements of  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ .

$$d_n = \sum_{m=0}^{a_{n+1}-1} d(m)$$

$$d_{ave}(n) = \frac{d_n}{a_{n+1}}$$

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

We define the following:

- $d_n$ : the number of FQ-legal decompositions using only elements of  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ .

$$d_n = \sum_{m=0}^{a_{n+1}-1} d(m)$$

$$d_{ave}(n) = \frac{d_n}{a_{n+1}}$$

- Similarly we define  $c_n$  and  $b_n$  where
  - $c_n$  counts decompositions where  $a_n$  is a summand, and
  - $b_n$  counts decompositions where  $a_n$  and  $a_{n-2}$  are both summands.

# Number of Legal Decompositions

Using brute force we can compute the first few values of the sequences.

$n$	$a_n$	$d_n$	$c_n$	$b_n$
0		1	1	0
1	1	2	1	0
2	2	3	1	0
3	3	4	1	0
4	4	6	2	1
5	5	8	2	1
6	7	11	3	1
7	9	15	4	1
8	12	21	6	2
9	16	30	9	3
10	21	42	12	4
11	28	59	17	6

Table: First few terms.

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

## Lemma

*For  $n \geq 7$  we have*

$$d_n = c_n + d_{n-1}, \quad (1)$$

$$c_n = d_{n-5} + c_{n-2} - b_{n-2}, \text{ and} \quad (2)$$

$$b_n = d_{n-7}. \quad (3)$$

*Thus  $d_n = d_{n-1} + d_{n-2} - d_{n-3} + d_{n-5} - d_{n-9}$ , implying  $d_{ave}(n) \approx C(1.05459)^n$ .*

# Greedy Algorithm

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

The **Greedy Algorithm** for decompositions typically leads to unique representations by iteratively selecting the largest available summands.

# Greedy Algorithm

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

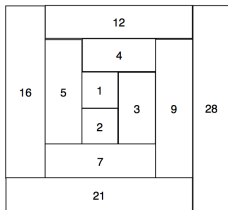
Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

The **Greedy Algorithm** for decompositions typically leads to unique representations by iteratively selecting the largest available summands.



For the FQ Sequence we do not have unique decompositions and the greedy algorithm does not always successfully terminate with a legal decomposition.

We have  $6 > a_5$ , but  $6 = a_4 + a_2$  is the only legal decomposition.



# Greedy Algorithm

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

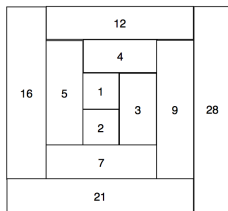
Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

The **Greedy Algorithm** for decompositions typically leads to unique representations by iteratively selecting the largest available summands.



For the FQ Sequence we do not have unique decompositions and the greedy algorithm does not always successfully terminate with a legal decomposition.

We have  $6 > a_5$ , but  $6 = a_4 + a_2$  is the only legal decomposition.

If  $N = a_n + 6 < a_{n+1}$ , then  $N$  does not have a legal decomposition by applying the Greedy Algorithm.

## Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

## Outline

## Zeckendorf

## Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

## Greedy Algorithm

In fact, if  $N = a_n + x$  and  $N < a_{n+1}$ , then  $N$  and  $x$  either both have a successful legal decomposition by applying the Greedy Algorithm, or neither has one.

The “Greedy Fails” less than  $a_{18} = 200$  are 6, 27, 34, 43, 55, 71, 92, 113, 120, 141, 148, 157, 178, 185, 194.

## Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

## Outline

## Zeckendorf

## Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

## Greedy Algorithm

In fact, if  $N = a_n + x$  and  $N < a_{n+1}$ , then  $N$  and  $x$  either both have a successful legal decomposition by applying the Greedy Algorithm, or neither has one.

The “Greedy Fails” less than  $a_{18} = 200$  are 6, 27, 34, 43, 55, 71, 92, 113, 120, 141, 148, 157, 178, 185, 194.

$h_n$ : number of integers in the interval  $[1, a_{n+1})$  where the greedy algorithm successfully terminates in a legal decomposition.

# Greedy Algorithm for Decompositions

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

$n$	$a_n$	$h_n$	$\rho_n$
1	1	1	100.0000
2	2	2	100.0000
3	3	3	100.0000
4	4	4	100.0000
5	5	5	83.3333
6	7	7	87.5000
7	9	10	90.9091
8	12	14	93.3333
9	16	19	95.0000
10	21	25	92.5926
11	28	33	91.6667

Table: First few terms, yields  $h_n = h_{n-1} + h_{n-5} + 1$ .

# Greedy Algorithm for Decompositions

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

Now we have  $h_n = h_{n-1} + h_{n-5} + 1$  and  $\rho_n \sim \frac{h_n}{a_{n+1}}$ .

Using the Generalized Binet Formula, we find the Greedy Algorithm for Decompositions yields a legal decomposition for about 92.627% of the integers.

Fibonacci Quilt

Catral, Ford\*, Harris,  
Miller, Nelson

Outline

Zeckendorf

Fibonacci Quilt

Number of  
Decompositions

Greedy Algorithm

Pari Ford

[fordpl@unk.edu](mailto:fordpl@unk.edu)