

From Fibonacci Quilts to Benford's Law through Zeckendorf Decompositions

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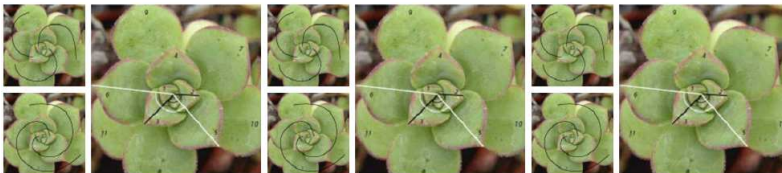
AMS Special Session on Difference Equations, San Antonio, January 10, 2015



Introduction

Goals of the Talk

- Generalize Zeckendorf decompositions
- Analyze gaps (in the bulk and longest)
- Patterns and new recurrences
- Some open problems (if time permits)



Collaborators and Thanks

Collaborators:

Gaps (Bulk, Individual, Longest): Olivia Beckwith, Amanda Bower, Louis Gaudet, Rachel Insoft, Shiyu Li, Philip Tosteson.

Kentucky Sequence, Fibonacci Quilt: Joint with Minerva Catral, Pari Ford, Pamela Harris & Dawn Nelson.

Benfordness: Andrew Best, Patrick Dynes, Xixi Edelsbunner, Brian McDonald, Kimsy Tor, Caroline Turnage-Butterbaugh & Madeleine Weinstein.

Supported by:

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Previous Results

Fibonacci Numbers: $F_{n+1} = F_n + F_{n-1}$;
 $F_1 = 1, F_2 = 2, F_3 = 3, F_4 = 5, \dots$

Zeckendorf's Theorem

Every positive integer can be written uniquely as a sum of non-consecutive Fibonacci numbers.

Example:

$$2014 = 1597 + 377 + 34 + 5 + 1 = F_{16} + F_{13} + F_8 + F_4 + F_1.$$

Lekkerkerker's Theorem (1952)

The average number of summands in the Zeckendorf decomposition for integers in $[F_n, F_{n+1})$ tends to $\frac{n}{\varphi^2 + 1} \approx .276n$, where $\varphi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$ is the golden mean.

Old Results

Central Limit Type Theorem

As $n \rightarrow \infty$, the distribution of number of summands in Zeckendorf decomposition for $m \in [F_n, F_{n+1})$ is Gaussian.

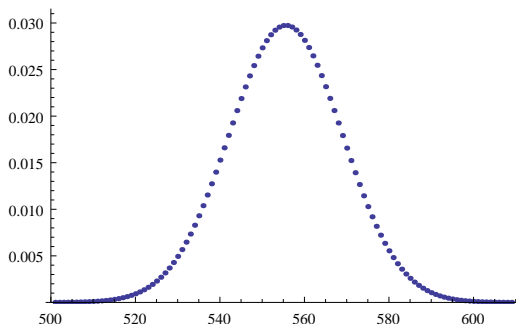


Figure: Number of summands in $[F_{2010}, F_{2011})$; $F_{2010} \approx 10^{420}$.

Benford's law

Definition of Benford's Law

A dataset is said to follow Benford's Law (base B) if the probability of observing a first digit of d is

$$\log_B \left(1 + \frac{1}{d} \right).$$

- More generally probability a significant at most s is $\log_B(s)$, where $x = S_B(x)10^k$ with $S_B(x) \in [1, B)$ and $k \in \mathbb{Z}$.
- Find base 10 about 30.1% of the time start with a 1, only 4.5% start with a 9.

Gaps

Joint with Olivia Beckwith, Amanda Bower, Louis Gaudet,
Rachel Insoft, Shiyu Li, Philip Tosteson

Distribution of Gaps

For $F_{i_1} + F_{i_2} + \cdots + F_{i_n}$, the gaps are the differences $i_n - i_{n-1}, i_{n-1} - i_{n-2}, \dots, i_2 - i_1$.

Example: For $F_1 + F_8 + F_{18}$, the gaps are 7 and 10.

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Bulk: What is $P(g) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P_n(g)$?

Individual: Similar questions about gaps for a fixed $m \in [F_n, F_{n+1})$: distribution of gaps, longest gap.

New Results: Bulk Gaps: $m \in [F_n, F_{n+1})$ and $\phi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$

$$m = \sum_{j=1}^{k(m)=n} F_{i_j}, \quad \nu_{m;n}(x) = \frac{1}{k(m)-1} \sum_{j=2}^{k(m)} \delta(x - (i_j - i_{j-1})).$$

Theorem (Zeckendorf Gap Distribution)

Gap measures $\nu_{m;n}$ converge to average gap measure where $P(k) = 1/\phi^k$ for $k \geq 2$.

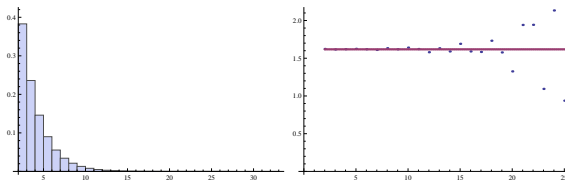


Figure: Distribution of gaps in $[F_{2010}, F_{2011})$; $F_{2010} \approx 10^{420}$.

New Results: Longest Gap

Fair coin: largest gap tightly concentrated around $\log n / \log 2$.

Theorem (Longest Gap)

As $n \rightarrow \infty$, the probability that $m \in [F_n, F_{n+1})$ has longest gap less than or equal to $f(n)$ converges to

$$\text{Prob}(L_n(m) \leq f(n)) \approx e^{-e^{\log n - f(n) \cdot \log \phi}}$$

- $\mu_n = \frac{\log\left(\frac{\phi^2}{\phi^2+1}n\right)}{\log \phi} + \frac{\gamma}{\log \phi} - \frac{1}{2} + \text{Small Error}.$
- If $f(n)$ grows **slower** (resp. **faster**) than $\log n / \log \phi$, then $\text{Prob}(L_n(m) \leq f(n))$ goes to **0** (resp. **1**).

Main Results

Theorem (Distribution of Bulk Gaps (SMALL 2012))

Let $H_{n+1} = c_1 H_n + c_2 H_{n-1} + \cdots + c_L H_{n+1-L}$ be a positive linear recurrence of length L where $c_i \geq 1$ for all $1 \leq i \leq L$. Then

$$P(g) = \begin{cases} 1 - \left(\frac{a_1}{c_{Lek}}\right)(2\lambda_1^{-1} + a_1^{-1} - 3) & : g = 0 \\ \lambda_1^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{c_{Lek}}\right)(\lambda_1(1 - 2a_1) + a_1) & : g = 1 \\ (\lambda_1 - 1)^2 \left(\frac{a_1}{c_{Lek}}\right) \lambda_1^{-g} & : g \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

Main Results

Theorem (Longest Gap (SMALL 2012))

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Kentucky Sequence and Quilts

with Minerva Catral, Pari Ford, Pamela Harris & Dawn Nelson

Kentucky Sequence

Rule: (s, b) -Sequence: Bins of length b , and:

- cannot take two elements from the same bin, and
- if have an element from a bin, cannot take anything from the first s bins to the left or the first s to the right.

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- $a_{2n} = 2^n$ and $a_{2n+1} = \frac{1}{3}(2^{2+n} - (-1)^n)$:
 $a_{n+1} = a_{n-1} + 2a_{n-3}, a_1 = 1, a_2 = 2, a_3 = 3, a_4 = 4.$

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 $a_{n+1} = a_{n-1} + 2a_{n-3}, a_1 = 1, a_2 = 2, a_3 = 3, a_4 = 4$.
- $a_{n+1} = a_{n-1} + 2a_{n-3}$: **New as leading term 0.**

Gaussian Behavior

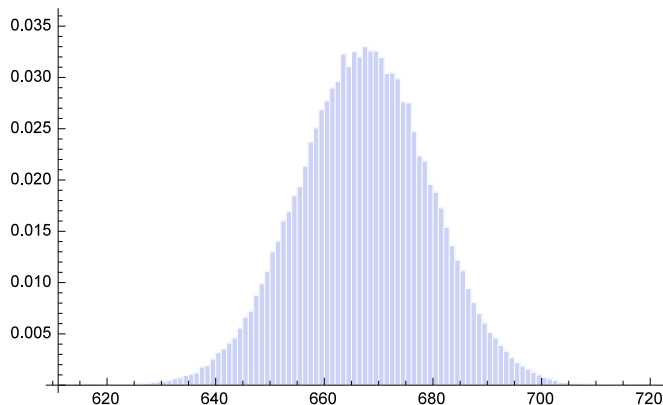


Figure: Plot of the distribution of the number of summands for 100,000 randomly chosen $m \in [1, a_{4000}) = [1, 2^{2000})$ (so m has on the order of 602 digits).

Gaps

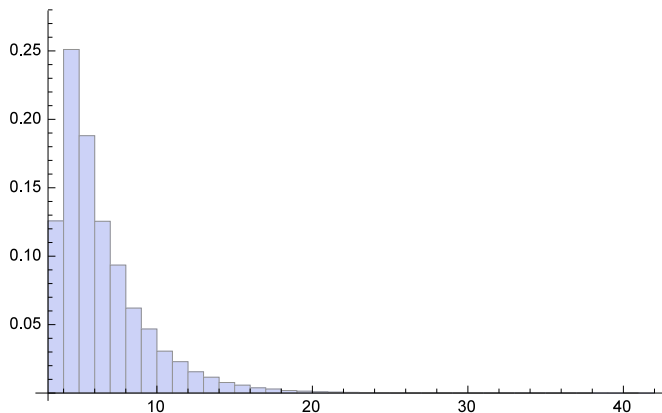


Figure: Plot of the distribution of gaps for 10,000 randomly chosen $m \in [1, a_{400}) = [1, 2^{200})$ (so m has on the order of 60 digits).

Gaps

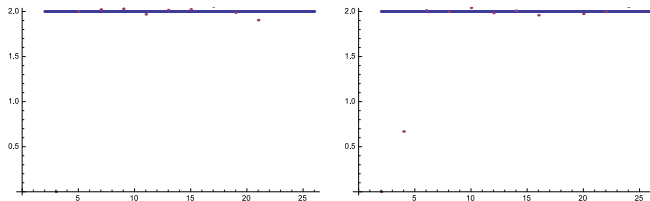
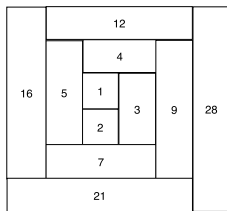


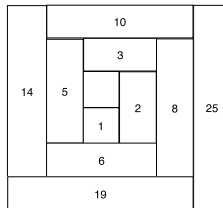
Figure: Plot of the distribution of gaps for 10,000 randomly chosen $m \in [1, a_{400}) = [1, 2^{200})$ (so m has on the order of 60 digits). Left (resp. right): ratio of adjacent even (resp odd) gap probabilities.

Again find geometric decay, but parity issues so break into even and odd gaps.

The Fibonacci (or Log Cabin) Quilt: Work in Progress



1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 16, 21, 28, ...



1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 14, 19, 25, 33, ...

- $a_{n+1} = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$, non-uniqueness (average number of decompositions grows exponentially).
- In process of investigating Gaussianity, Gaps, K_{\min} , K_{ave} , K_{\max} , K_{greedy} .

Average Number of Representations

- d_n : the number of FQ-legal decompositions using only elements of $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$.
- c_n requires a_n to be used, b_n requires a_n and a_{n-2} to be used.

n	d_n	c_n	b_n	a_n
1	2	1	0	1
2	3	1	0	2
3	4	1	0	3
4	6	2	1	4
5	8	2	1	5
6	11	3	1	7
7	15	4	1	9
8	21	6	2	12
9	30	9	3	16

Table: First few terms. Find $d_n = d_{n-1} + d_{n-2} - d_{n-3} + d_{n-5} - d_{n-9}$, implying $d_{\text{FQ;ave}}(n) \approx C \cdot 1.05459^n$.

Greedy Algorithm

h_n : number of integers from 1 to $a_{n+1} - 1$ where the greedy algorithm successfully terminates in a legal decomposition.

n	a_n	h_n	ρ_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
10	21	25	92.5926
11	28	33	91.6667
17	151	184	92.4623

Table: First few terms, yields $h_n = h_{n-1} + h_{n-5} + 1$ and percentage converges to about 0.92627.

Benfordness in Interval

Joint with Andrew Best, Patrick Dynes, Xixi Edelsbunner, Brian McDonald, Kimsy Tor, Caroline Turnage-Butterbaugh and Madeleine Weinstein

Benfordness in Interval

Theorem (SMALL 2014): Benfordness in Interval

The distribution of the summands in the Zeckendorf decompositions, averaged over the entire interval $[F_n, F_{n+1})$, follows Benford's Law.

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Example

Looking at the interval $[F_5, F_6) = [8, 13)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 8 &= 8 &&= F_5 \\
 9 &= 8 + 1 &&= F_5 + F_1 \\
 10 &= 8 + 2 &&= F_5 + F_2 \\
 11 &= 8 + 3 &&= F_5 + F_3 \\
 12 &= 8 + 3 + 1 &&= F_5 + F_3 + F_1
 \end{aligned}$$

Preliminaries for Proof

Density of S

For a subset S of the Fibonacci numbers, define the density $q(S, n)$ of S over the interval $[1, F_n]$ by

$$q(S, n) = \frac{\#\{F_j \in S \mid 1 \leq j \leq n\}}{n}.$$

Asymptotic Density

If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} q(S, n)$ exists, define the *asymptotic density* $q(S)$ by

$$q(S) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} q(S, n).$$

Needed Input

Let S_d be the subset of the Fibonacci numbers which share a fixed digit d where $1 \leq d < B$.

Theorem: Fibonacci Numbers Are Benford

$$q(S_d) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} q(S_d, n) = \log_B \left(1 + \frac{1}{d} \right).$$

Proof: Binet's formula, Kronecker's theorem on equidistribution of $n\alpha \bmod 1$ for $\alpha \notin \mathbb{Q}$.

Random Variables

Random Variable from Decompositions

Let $X(I_n)$ be a random variable whose values are the the Fibonacci numbers in $[F_1, F_n)$ and probabilities are how often they occur in decompositions of $m \in I_n$:

$$P\{X(I_n) = F_k\} := \begin{cases} \frac{F_{k-1}F_{n-k-2}}{\mu_n F_{n-1}}, & \text{if } 1 \leq k \leq n-2 \\ \frac{1}{\mu_n}, & \text{if } k = n \\ 0, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where μ_n is the average number of summands in Zeckendorf decompositions of integers in the interval $[F_n, F_{n+1})$.

Approximations

Estimate for $P\{X(I_n) = F_k\}$

$$P\{X(I_n) = F_k\} = \frac{1}{\mu_n \phi \sqrt{5}} + O\left(\phi^{-2k} + \phi^{-2n+2k}\right).$$

Constant Fringes Negligible

For any r (which may depend on n):

$$\sum_{r < k < n-r} P\{X(I_n) = F_k\} = 1 - r \cdot O\left(\frac{1}{n}\right).$$

Estimating $P\{X(I_n) \in S\}$

Set $r := \left\lfloor \frac{\log n}{\log \phi} \right\rfloor$.

Density of S over Zeckendorf Summands

We have

$$P\{X(I_n) \in S\} = \frac{nq(S)}{\mu_n \phi \sqrt{5}} + o(1) \rightarrow q(s).$$

Remark

- Stronger result than Benfordness of Zeckendorf summands.
- Global property of the Fibonacci numbers can be carried over locally into the Zeckendorf summands.
- If we have a subset of the Fibonacci numbers S with asymptotic density $q(S)$, then the density of the set S over the Zeckendorf summands will converge to this asymptotic density.

Benfordness of Random and Zeckendorf Decompositions

Joint with Andrew Best, Patrick Dynes, Xixi Edelsbunner, Brian McDonald, Kimsy Tor, Caroline Turnage-Butterbaugh and Madeleine Weinstein

Random Decompositions

Theorem 2 (SMALL 2014): Random Decomposition

If we choose each Fibonacci number with probability q , disallowing the choice of two consecutive Fibonacci numbers, the resulting sequence follows Benford's law.

Example: $n = 10$

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_1 + F_2 + F_3 + F_4 + F_5 + F_6 + F_7 + F_8 + F_9 + F_{10} \\
 &= 2 + 8 + 21 + 89 \\
 &= 120
 \end{aligned}$$

Choosing a Random Decomposition

Select a random subset A of the Fibonacci as follows:

- Fix $q \in (0, 1)$.
- Let $A_0 := \emptyset$.
- For $n \geq 1$, if $F_{n-1} \in A_{n-1}$, let $A_n := A_{n-1}$, else

$$A_n = \begin{cases} A_{n-1} \cup \{F_n\} & \text{with probability } q \\ A_{n-1} & \text{with probability } 1 - q. \end{cases}$$

- Let $A := \bigcup_n A_n$.

Main Result

Theorem

With probability 1, A (chosen as before) is Benford.

Stronger claim: For any subset S of the Fibonacci with density d in the Fibonacci, $S \cap A$ has density d in A with probability 1.

Preliminaries

Lemma

The probability that $F_k \in A$ is

$$p_k = \frac{q}{1+q} + O(q^k).$$

Using elementary techniques, we get

Lemma

Define $X_n := \#A_n$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} E[X_n] &= \frac{nq}{1+q} + O(1) \\ \text{Var}(X_n) &= O(n). \end{aligned}$$

Expected Value of Y_n

Define $Y_{n,S} := \#A_n \cap S$. Using standard techniques, we get

Lemma

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[Y_n] &= \frac{nqd}{1+q} + o(n). \\ \text{Var}(Y_{n,S}) &= o(n^2).\end{aligned}$$

Expected Value of Y_n

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Lemma

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[Y_n] &= \frac{nqd}{1+q} + o(n). \\ \text{Var}(Y_{n,S}) &= o(n^2).\end{aligned}$$

Immediately implies with probability $1 + o(1)$

$$Y_{n,S} = \frac{nqd}{1+q} + o(n), \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{Y_{n,S}}{X_n} = d.$$

Hence $A \cap S$ has density d in A , completing the proof.

Zeckendorf Decompositions and Benford's Law

Theorem (SMALL 2014): Benfordness of Decomposition

If we pick a random integer in $[0, F_{n+1})$, then with probability 1 as $n \rightarrow \infty$ its Zeckendorf decomposition converges to Benford's Law.

Proof of Theorem

- Choose integers randomly in $[0, F_{n+1})$ by random decomposition model from before.
- Choose $m = F_{a_1} + F_{a_2} + \cdots + F_{a_\ell} \in [0, F_{n+1})$ with probability

$$p_m = \begin{cases} q^\ell (1-q)^{n-2\ell} & \text{if } a_\ell \leq n \\ q^\ell (1-q)^{n-2\ell+1} & \text{if } a_\ell = n. \end{cases}$$

- Key idea:** Choosing $q = 1/\varphi^2$, the previous formula simplifies to

$$p_m = \begin{cases} \varphi^{-n} & \text{if } m \in [0, F_n) \\ \varphi^{-n-1} & \text{if } m \in [F_n, F_{n+1}), \end{cases}$$

use earlier results.

References

References

References

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Generalizations

Positive Linear Recurrence Sequences

This method can be **greatly generalized** to **Positive Linear Recurrence Sequences**: linear recurrences with non-negative coefficients:

$$H_{n+1} = c_1 H_{n-(j_1=0)} + c_2 H_{n-j_2} + \cdots + c_L H_{n-j_L}.$$

Theorem (Zeckendorf's Theorem for PLRS recurrences)

Any $b \in \mathbb{N}$ has a unique **legal** decomposition into sums of H_n ,
 $b = a_1 H_{i_1} + \cdots + a_{i_k} H_{i_k}.$

Here **legal** reduces to non-adjacency of summands in the Fibonacci case.

Messier Combinatorics

The **number** of $b \in [H_n, H_{n+1})$, with **longest gap** $< f$ is the coefficient of x^{n-s} in the generating function:

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$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{1-x} (c_1 - 1 + c_2 x^{t_2} + \cdots + c_L x^{t_L}) \times \\ & \times \sum_{k \geq 0} \left[((c_1 - 1)x^{t_1} + \cdots + (c_L - 1)x^{t_L}) \left(\frac{x^{s+1} - x^f}{1-x} \right) + \right. \\ & \left. + x^{t_1} \left(\frac{x^{s+t_2-t_1+1} - x^f}{1-x} \right) + \cdots + x^{t_{L-1}} \left(\frac{x^{s+t_L-t_{L-1}+1} - x^f}{1-x} \right) \right]^k. \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{1-x} (c_1 - 1 + c_2 x^{t_2} + \cdots + c_L x^{t_L}) \times \\ & \times \sum_{k \geq 0} \left[((c_1 - 1)x^{t_1} + \cdots + (c_L - 1)x^{t_L}) \left(\frac{x^{s+1} - x^f}{1-x} \right) + \right. \\ & \left. + x^{t_1} \left(\frac{x^{s+t_2-t_1+1} - x^f}{1-x} \right) + \cdots + x^{t_{L-1}} \left(\frac{x^{s+t_L-t_{L-1}+1} - x^f}{1-x} \right) \right]^k. \end{aligned}$$

A geometric series!

Generalized Generating Function

Let $f > j_L$. The number of $x \in [H_n, H_{n+1})$, with longest gap $< f$ is given by **the coefficient of s^n** in the generating function

$$F(s) = \frac{1 - s^{j_L}}{\mathcal{M}(s) + s^f \mathcal{R}(s)},$$

where

$$\mathcal{M}(s) = 1 - c_1 s - c_2 s^{j_2+1} - \dots - c_L s^{j_L+1},$$

and

$$\mathcal{R}(s) = c_{j_1+1} s^{j_1} + c_{j_2+1} s^{j_2} + \dots + (c_{j_L+1} - 1) s^{j_L}.$$

and c_i and j_i are defined **as above**.

What are the extra obstructions?

The **coefficients** in the **partial fraction** expansion might **blow up** from multiple roots.

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Theorem (Mean and Variance for "Most Recurrences")

For x in the interval $[H_n, H_{n+1})$, the mean longest gap μ_n and the variance of the longest gap σ_n^2 are given by

$$\mu_n = \frac{\log \left(\frac{\mathcal{R}(\frac{1}{\lambda_1})}{\mathcal{G}(\frac{1}{\lambda_1})} n \right)}{\log \lambda_1} + \frac{\gamma}{\log \lambda_1} - \frac{1}{2} + \text{Small Error} + \epsilon_1(n),$$

and

$$\sigma_n^2 = \frac{\pi^2}{6 \log \lambda_1} - \frac{1}{12} + \text{Small Error} + \epsilon_2(n),$$

where $\epsilon_i(n)$ tends to zero in the limit, and Small Error comes from the Euler-Maclaurin Formula.