

# Fibonacci Primes

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**Definition 0.1.** The Fibonacci Sequence is the sequence of positive integers defined by the recurrence relation  $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$  with  $F_1 = F_2 = 1$ . The sequence begins as follows: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, ...

**Definition 0.2.**  $F_n$  = the  $n^{\text{th}}$  element of the Fibonacci Sequence

**Lemma 0.3.** For any positive integers  $n$  and  $x$ ,  $F_{n+x} = F_{x+1}F_n + F_xF_{n-1}$

*Proof.* By Definition 0.1,  $F_{n+1} = F_n + F_{n-1}$  and  $F_{n+2} = F_{n+1} + F_n = 2F_n + F_{n-1}$ .  $F_{n+x}$  is recursively defined from these first two cases, so we can obtain the coefficients of  $F_n$  and  $F_{n-1}$  by looking at the elements of the Fibonacci sequence. Observe:

- $F_{n+3} = F_{n+2} + F_{n+1} = 3F_n + 2F_{n-1}$
- $F_{n+4} = F_{n+3} + F_{n+2} = 5F_n + 3F_{n-1}$
- $F_{n+5} = F_{n+4} + F_{n+3} = 8F_n + 5F_{n-1}$
- $F_{n+6} = F_{n+5} + F_{n+4} = 13F_n + 8F_{n-1}$

And by setting the proper starting points, we have  $F_{n+x} = F_{x+1}F_n + F_xF_{n-1}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 0.4.** For any positive integers  $n$  and  $m$ ,  $F_n|F_{nm}$

*Proof.* We proceed by induction. Fix an integer  $n$  and assume that  $F_n|F_{nm}$  for all  $m$  from 1 to  $k$ . Now consider  $F_{n(k+1)} = F_{n+nk}$ . According to Lemma 0.3,  $F_{n+nk} = F_{nk+1}F_n + F_{nk}F_{n-1}$ . But by the inductive hypothesis,  $F_n|F_{nk}$ , so we may write  $F_{n+nk} = F_{nk+1}F_n + cF_nF_{n-1} = F_n(F_{nk+1} + cF_{n-1})$ . Therefore,  $F_n|F_{n+nk} = F_{n(k+1)}$ . Since the inductive step holds, and the base case  $F_n|F_n$  is obvious, we have that  $F_n|F_{nm}$  for all positive integers  $n$  and  $m$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 0.5.** If  $F_n$  is prime, then  $n$  is either 4 or prime.

*Proof.* By Lemma 0.4,  $F_n$  divides  $F_{nm}$  for any integers  $n$  and  $m$ , and thus any element,  $F_{nm}$  will definitely be composite whenever  $\min(F_n, F_m) > 1$ , or equivalently, whenever  $\min(n, m) > 2$ , which means  $nm$  is a composite integer greater than 4. The only remaining allowable indices for Fibonacci primes are primes and 4.  $\square$