

# Even Fibonacci numbers

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## **The problem description:**

Each new term in the Fibonacci sequence is generated by adding the previous two terms. By starting with 0 and 1, the first 12 terms will be:

0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, ...

By considering the terms in the Fibonacci sequence whose values do not exceed four million, find the sum of the even-valued terms.

Let's reformulate the problem in general form:

*Given a non-negative integer  $n$ , find the sum of the even-valued terms in the Fibonacci sequence whose values are below  $n$*

## Solution:

We can notice and easily prove that every third Fibonacci number is even:

*0*, 1, 1, *2*, 3, 5, *8*, 13, 21, *34*, 55, 89, *144*, 233, 377, ...

The proof easily follows from the fact that the sum is even if both terms are even or odd:

$$\begin{aligned}2k + 2l &= 2(k + l) \\(2k + 1) + (2l + 1) &= 2(k + l + 1)\end{aligned}$$

If we only write the even numbers:

0, 2, 8, 34, 144, ...

we can prove that they obey the following recursive relation:

$$E(n) = 4E(n - 1) + E(n - 2)$$

If we can prove that for the Fibonacci numbers the formula

$$F(n) = 4F(n - 3) + F(n - 6)$$

holds we have proven this recursion and we can easily program it.

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}F(n) &= F(n - 1) + F(n - 2) \\&= F(n - 2) + F(n - 3) + F(n - 2) \\&= 2F(n - 2) + F(n - 3) \\&= 2(F(n - 3) + F(n - 4)) + F(n - 3) \\&= 3F(n - 3) + 2F(n - 4) \\&= 3F(n - 3) + F(n - 4) + F(n - 4) \\&= 3F(n - 3) + F(n - 4) + F(n - 5) + F(n - 6) \\&= 4F(n - 3) + F(n - 6)\end{aligned}$$