

Recall the recursive definition of the Fibonacci sequence:

$$F_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = 1 \text{ or } i = 2, \\ F_{i-1} + F_{i-2} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

It turns out that any positive integer can be written as a sum of *non-consecutive* Fibonacci numbers; this is known as *Zeckendorf's theorem*. For example, we can write the integer 83 as

$$83 = 55 + 21 + 5 + 2 = F_{10} + F_8 + F_5 + F_3.$$

We will prove this theorem with a greedy algorithm. Let n be a positive integer, and consider the following greedy algorithm.

Always choose the largest Fibonacci number that is at most equal to n , subtract the integer from n , and recurse until there is no remainder.

(a) Prove that the algorithm is correct.

Hint. You should prove that if you take the largest Fibonacci number F_k , then largest Fibonacci number that can fit $n - F_k$ is at most F_{k-2} .

(b) Prove that the Fibonacci representation produced by the algorithm is *unique*.

Rubric.

- This task will form part of the portfolio.
- Ensure that your argument is clear and keep reworking your solutions until your lab demonstrator is happy with your work.