

# ON INTEGER SEQUENCES IN PRODUCT SETS

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ABSTRACT. Let  $B$  be a finite set of natural numbers or complex numbers. Product set corresponding to  $B$  is defined by  $B.B := \{ab : a, b \in B\}$ . In this paper we give an upper bound for longest length of consecutive terms of a polynomial sequence present in a product set accurate up to a positive constant. We give a sharp bound on the maximum number of Fibonacci numbers present in a product set when  $B$  is a set of natural numbers and a bound which is accurate up to a positive constant when  $B$  is a set of complex numbers.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In [4] and [5] Zhelezov has proved that if  $B$  is a set of natural numbers then the product set corresponding to  $B$  cannot contain long arithmetic progressions. In [4] it was shown that the longest length of arithmetic progression is at most  $O(|B| \log |B|)$ . We try to generalize this result for polynomial sequences. Let  $P(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$  be a non constant polynomial with positive leading coefficient. Let  $R$  be the longest length of consecutive terms of the polynomial sequence contained in the product set  $B.B$ , that is,

$$R = \max\{n : \text{there exists an } x \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } \{P(x+1), \dots, P(x+n)\} \subset B.B\}.$$

We prove that  $R$  cannot be large for a given non constant polynomial  $P(x)$ . In section 3 we consider the question of determining maximum number of Fibonacci and Lucas sequence terms in a product set. Let  $A \times B$  denote the cartesian product of sets  $A$  and  $B$ . As in [4] we define an auxiliary bipartite graph  $G(A, B.B)$  and auxiliary graph  $G'(A, B.B)$  which are constructed for any sets  $A$  and  $B$  whenever  $A \subset B.B$ . The vertex set of  $G(A, B.B)$  is a union of two isomorphic copies of  $B$  namely  $B_1 = B \times \{1\}$  and  $B_2 = B \times \{2\}$  and vertex set of  $G'(A, B.B)$  is one isomorphic copy of  $B$  namely  $B_1 = B \times \{1\}$ . For each  $a \in A$  we pick a unique representation  $a = b_1 b_2$  where  $b_1, b_2 \in B$  and place an edge joining  $(b_1, 1)$ ,  $(b_2, 2)$  in  $G(A, B.B)$  and place an edge joining  $(b_1, 1)$ ,  $(b_2, 1)$  in  $G'(A, B.B)$ . Note that the number of vertices in  $G(A, B.B)$  is  $2|B|$  where as number of vertices in  $G'(A, B.B)$  is  $|B|$ . Number of edges in both  $G(A, B.B)$  and  $G'(A, B.B)$  is  $|A|$ . Observe that  $G'(A, B.B)$  can have self loops and  $G(A, B.B)$  cannot have self loops and that  $G(A, B.B)$  is necessarily a bipartite graph where as  $G'(A, B.B)$  may not be a bipartite graph.

## 2. POLYNOMIAL SEQUENCES

We deal the problem, given a non constant polynomial  $P(x)$  with positive leading coefficient and integer coefficients what can we say about the longest length of consecutive terms in the product set  $B.B$ . Since there can be at most finitely many

natural numbers  $r$  such that  $P(r) \leq 0$  or  $P'(r) \leq 0$  there exists an  $l$  such that  $P(r+l) > 0$  and  $P'(r+l) > 0$  for all  $r \geq 1$ . Hence we can assume without loss of generality that every irreducible factor  $g(x)$  of  $P(x)$  we have  $g(x) > 0$  and  $g'(x) > 0 \quad \forall x \geq 1$ , as this assumption only effects  $R$  by a constant. From now on we will be assuming that for every irreducible divisor  $g(x)$  of  $P(x)$ ,  $g(x) > 0$  and  $g'(x) > 0$  for all natural numbers  $x$ . We prove three lemmas in order to obtain an upper bound on  $R$ . From now we let  $f(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$  denote an irreducible polynomial divisor of  $P(x)$ . If  $f(x)$  is a polynomial of degree  $\geq 2$ . Let  $D$  be the discriminant of  $f(x)$ . Let  $d$  be the greatest common divisor of the set  $\{f(n) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Let  $f_1(x) = \frac{f(x)}{d}$ . Denote  $|D|d^2$  by  $M$ . If  $p$  is a prime divisor of  $M$  such that  $p^e \parallel M$ , that is  $p^e \mid M$  and  $p^{e+1} \nmid M$ , then  $p^e \nmid d$  and hence there exists an  $a_p$ , such that  $f_1(x)$  is not divisible by  $p$  for all  $x \equiv a_p \pmod{p^e}$ . From Chinese remainder theorem there exists an integer  $a$  such that  $a \equiv a_p \pmod{p^e}$  for all primes  $p$  dividing  $M$  and hence there exists an  $a$  such that  $f_1(x)$  is relatively prime to  $M$  for all  $x \equiv a \pmod{M}$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** *For sufficiently large  $R$  the number of numbers in the set  $\{f_1(r+i) : 1 \leq i \leq R, r+i \equiv a \pmod{M}\}$  with at least one prime factor greater than  $R$  is  $\geq \frac{R}{3M}$  for every non negative integer  $r$ .*

*Proof.* Let

$$Q = \prod_{\substack{i=1 \\ r+i \equiv a \pmod{M}}}^R f_1(r+i).$$

Let  $S$  be the largest divisor of  $Q$  such that all the prime factors of  $S$  are  $\leq R$ . Let  $e_p$  be the index of  $p$  in  $S$ , that is  $p^{e_p} \mid S$  and  $p^{e_p+1} \nmid S$ . Let  $\rho(p)$  denote the number of solutions modulo  $p$  of the congruence  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . We have,

$$\begin{aligned} (1) \quad \log S &= \sum_{\substack{p \nmid M \\ p \leq R}} e_p \log p \\ (2) \quad &= \sum_{\substack{p \nmid M \\ p \leq R}} \sum_{n=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f_1(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq R \\ r+i \equiv a \pmod{M} \\ f_1(r+i) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}}} \log p. \end{aligned}$$

For a prime  $p \nmid M$ , as  $p$  does not divide the discriminant of  $f(x)$ , each root  $x$  of  $f_1(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  is a simple root modulo  $p$  and each root  $x$  modulo  $p$  can be uniquely lifted to a solution  $x'$  modulo  $p^n$  of  $f_1(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}$ . Hence number of solutions modulo  $p^n$  of  $f_1(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}$  is  $\rho(p)$ . From Chinese remainder theorem, each solution  $x$  modulo  $p^n$  such that  $f_1(r+x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}$  with an additional congruence  $r+x \equiv a \pmod{M}$  corresponds to a unique solution modulo  $Mp^n$ . Hence number of solutions  $x$  modulo  $Mp^n$  such that  $f_1(r+x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}$  and  $r+x \equiv a \pmod{M}$  is  $\rho(p)$ . From Lagrange's theorem, we have  $\rho(p) \leq \deg(f(x))$ . Hence  $\rho(p) = O(1)$ . Let  $a_1, \dots, a_{\rho(p)}$  be distinct solutions modulo  $Mp^n$  of the congruences  $f_1(r+x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}$  and  $r+x \equiv a \pmod{M}$ . As for any  $a_j$ ,

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq R \\ i \equiv a_j \pmod{Mp^n}}} 1 = \frac{R}{Mp^n} + O(1)$$

we have,

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq R \\ r+i \equiv a \pmod{M} \\ f_1(r+i) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}}} \log p &= (\log p) \left( \sum_{j=1}^{\rho(p)} \sum_{i \equiv a_j \pmod{Mp^n}} 1 \right) \\
&= (\log p) \left( \sum_{j=1}^{\rho(p)} \frac{R}{Mp^n} + O(1) \right) \\
&= \frac{R\rho(p) \log p}{Mp^n} + O(\log p).
\end{aligned}$$

Combining the above result with (2) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
(3) \quad \log S &= \sum_{\substack{p \nmid M \\ p \leq R}} \sum_{n=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f_1(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} \left( \frac{R\rho(p) \log p}{Mp^n} + O(\log p) \right) \\
(4) \quad &= \frac{R}{M} \sum_{\substack{p \nmid M \\ p \leq R}} \frac{\rho(p) \log p}{p} + \frac{R}{M} \left( \sum_{\substack{p \nmid M \\ p \leq R}} \sum_{n=2}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f_1(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} \frac{\log p}{p^n} \right) + \sum_{\substack{p \nmid M \\ p \leq R}} \sum_{n=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f_1(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} O(\log p)
\end{aligned}$$

From prime ideal theorem( See Theorem 3.2.1 of [3]), we have

$$\sum_{p \leq x} \rho(p) = \text{li } x + O(xe^{-c\sqrt{\log x}})$$

for some constant  $c > 0$ . Using partial summation, we have

$$\sum_{p \leq x} \frac{\rho(p) \log p}{p} = \log x + O(1).$$

Hence the first term of (4) is

$$\frac{R}{M} \sum_{\substack{p \nmid M \\ p \leq R}} \frac{\rho(p) \log p}{p} = \frac{R \log R}{M} + O(R).$$

As  $\left( \sum_{\substack{p \nmid M \\ p \leq R}} \sum_{n=2}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f_1(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} \frac{\log p}{p^n} \right) = O(1)$  the second term of (4) is  $O(R)$ . As  $\log f_1(r+R) = O(\log(r+R))$  and number of primes not dividing  $M$  and less than  $R$  is  $O(\frac{R}{\log R})$  we have the following estimate of third term of (4)

$$\sum_{\substack{p \nmid M \\ p \leq R}} \sum_{n=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f_1(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} O(\log p) = O\left( \frac{R \log(r+R)}{\log R} \right).$$

Combining the results of each term of (4), we have

$$(5) \quad \log S = \frac{R \log R}{M} + O\left( \frac{\log(r+R)R}{\log R} \right).$$

Let  $L$  be a subset of  $\{f_1(r+i) : 1 \leq i \leq R, r+i \equiv a \pmod{M}\}$  containing all the numbers which do not contain any prime factor greater than  $R$  and let  $l$  denote the cardinality of  $L$ . We have the inequality,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (6) \quad & \log \prod_{\substack{i=1 \\ f_1(r+i) \in L}}^R f_1(r+i) \geq \log \prod_{i=1}^l f_1(r+i) \\
 (7) \quad & = n \sum_{i=1}^l \log(r+i) + O(l) \\
 (8) \quad & = nl \log(r+l) + O(l) \\
 (9) \quad & \geq 2l \log(r+l) + O(l),
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $n \geq 2$  is the degree of the polynomial  $f(x)$ . Hence as  $\prod_{f_1(r+i) \in L}^R f_1(r+i) | S$ , we have the inequality,

$$\log \prod_{\substack{i=1 \\ f_1(r+i) \in L}}^R f_1(r+i) \leq \log S.$$

Hence from (5) and (9) we have

$$2l \log(r+l) + O(l) \leq \frac{R \log R}{M} + O\left(\frac{\log(r+R)R}{\log R}\right).$$

Hence for sufficiently large  $R$ ,  $l$  should be less than  $\frac{2R}{3M} - 2$ . The number of numbers in the set  $\{f_1(r+i) : 1 \leq i \leq R, r+i \equiv a \pmod{M}\}$  is  $\geq \frac{R}{M} - 1$ . Hence number of numbers belonging to the set  $\{f_1(r+i) : 1 \leq i \leq R, r+i \equiv a \pmod{M}\}$  with at least one prime factor greater than  $R$  is  $\geq \frac{R}{3M}$ .  $\square$

The following corollary immediately follows from Lemma 2.1.

**Corollary 2.2.** *If  $P(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$  has an irreducible divisor of degree  $\geq 2$ . Then there exists a constant  $c > 0$  which may depend on  $P(x)$  and independent of  $R$  such that for sufficiently large  $R$  and any non negative integer  $r$ , there are at least  $cR$  numbers in the set  $\{P(r+i) : 1 \leq i \leq R\}$  having at least one prime factor greater than  $R$ .*

**Lemma 2.3.** *If  $f(x)$  is a linear polynomial. If  $r \geq R^\gamma$  for a  $\gamma > 1$  then there exists a constant  $c > 0$  depending upon  $\gamma$  such that for sufficiently large  $R$ , number of numbers in the set  $\{f(r+i) : 1 \leq i \leq R\}$  with a prime factor greater than  $R$  is greater than  $cR$ .*

*Proof.* The proof is similar to that of Lemma 2.1. Let  $Q = \prod_{i=1}^R f(r+i)$  and  $S$  be the largest divisor of  $Q$  such that all the prime factors  $\leq R$ , let  $f(x) = sx + t$ . Let

$e_p$  be the index of prime  $p$  dividing  $S$ .

(10)

$$\log S = \sum_{p \leq R} e_p \log p$$

(11)

$$= \sum_{p \leq R} \sum_{n=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq R \\ f(r+i) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}}} \log p$$

(12)

$$= \sum_{\substack{p \leq R \\ p \nmid s}} \sum_{n=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq R \\ f(r+i) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}}} \log p + \sum_{\substack{p \leq R \\ p \mid s}} \sum_{n=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq R \\ f(r+i) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}}} \log p.$$

If  $p \nmid s$  then  $f(r+x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}$  has a unique solution modulo  $p^n$ . Let  $a_1$  be the unique solution modulo  $p^n$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq R \\ f(r+i) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}}} \log p &= \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq R \\ i \equiv a_1 \pmod{p^n}}} \log p \\ &= \frac{R \log p}{p^n} + O(\log p). \end{aligned}$$

Observe that  $\log f(r+i) = O(\log(r+i))$ . Hence the first term of (12) is

$$(13) \quad \sum_{\substack{p \leq R \\ p \nmid s}} \sum_{n=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq R \\ f(r+i) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}}} \log p = \sum_{\substack{p \leq R \\ p \nmid s}} \sum_{n=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} \left( \frac{R \log p}{p^n} + O(\log p) \right)$$

$$(14) \quad = R \sum_{\substack{p \leq R \\ p \nmid s}} \frac{\log p}{p} + R \sum_{\substack{p \leq R \\ p \nmid s}} \sum_{n=2}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} \left( \frac{\log p}{p^n} \right) + \sum_{\substack{p \leq R \\ p \nmid s}} O(\log(r+R))$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{p \leq R \\ p \nmid s}} \frac{\log p}{p} &= \log R + O(1), \\ \sum_{\substack{p \leq R \\ p \nmid s}} \sum_{n=2}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} \left( \frac{\log p}{p^n} \right) &= O(1) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\sum_{\substack{p \leq R \\ p \nmid s}} O(\log(r+R)) = O\left( \frac{R \log(r+R)}{\log R} \right).$$

Substituting the above results in (14) we obtain the value of first term of (12)

$$(15) \quad \sum_{\substack{p \leq R \\ p \nmid s}} \sum_{n=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq R \\ f(r+i) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}}} \log p = R \log R + O\left(\frac{R \log(r+R)}{\log R}\right).$$

If  $p \mid s$  such that  $p^k \mid s$  and  $p^{k+1} \nmid s$ . Note that  $p^k \leq s$ . The number of solutions of  $f(r+x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}$  is less than or equal to  $p^k$ . Let  $a_1, \dots, a_{s_1}$  be the distinct solutions modulo  $p^n$ . We have  $|s_1| \leq p^k \leq s$  for all  $n$ . Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq R \\ f(r+i) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}}} \log p &= \sum_{j=1}^{s_1} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq R \\ i \equiv a_j \pmod{p^n}}} \log p \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{s_1} (\log p) \left( \frac{R}{p^n} + O(1) \right) \\ &= s_1 \left( \frac{R \log p}{p^n} + O(\log p) \right) \\ &\leq s \left( \frac{R \log p}{p^n} + O(\log p) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Using the above result we obtain an estimate on second term of (12)

$$(16) \quad \sum_{\substack{p \leq R \\ p \mid s}} \sum_{n=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq R \\ f(r+i) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}}} \log p \leq \sum_{\substack{p \leq R \\ p \mid s}} \sum_{n=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} s \left( \frac{R \log p}{p^n} + O(\log p) \right).$$

As there are only  $O(1)$  number of prime factors of  $s$  and  $\log f(r+R) = O(\log(r+R))$  we have

$$\sum_{\substack{p \leq R \\ p \mid s}} \sum_{n=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} s \left( \frac{R \log p}{p^n} \right) = O(R)$$

and

$$\sum_{\substack{p \leq R \\ p \mid s}} \sum_{n=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} O(s \log p) = O(\log(r+R)).$$

Combining the above two results in (16) we have an estimate for the second term of (12)

$$(17) \quad \sum_{\substack{p \leq R \\ p \mid s}} \sum_{n=1}^{\lfloor \frac{\log f(r+R)}{\log p} \rfloor} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i \leq R \\ f(r+i) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}}} \log p = O(R + \log(r+R)).$$

From (12), (15) and (17) we have

$$(18) \quad \log S = R \log R + O\left(\frac{R \log(r+R)}{\log R}\right).$$

Let  $L$  be a subset of  $\{1 \leq i \leq R\}$  containing all  $i$  such that  $f(r+i)$  has all prime factors  $\leq R$ . Let the cardinality of  $L$  be  $l$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \log \prod_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \in L}}^R f(r+i) &\geq \log \prod_{i=1}^l f(r+i) \\ &= l \log(r+R) + O(R). \end{aligned}$$

As  $\prod_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \in L}}^R f(r+i) | S$  we have  $\log \prod_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \in L}}^R f(r+i) \leq \log S$ . From (18) and the above inequality we have

$$l \log(r+R) + O(R) \leq R \log R + O\left(\frac{R \log(r+R)}{\log R}\right).$$

For sufficiently large  $R$ ,  $l$  should be  $\leq \frac{(1+\gamma)}{2\gamma} R$ . Hence for sufficiently large  $R$  number of numbers of the set  $\{f(r+i) : 1 \leq i \leq R\}$  with at least one prime factor greater than  $R$  is  $\geq \frac{(\gamma-1)R}{2\gamma}$ .  $\square$

We have the following Corollary for Lemma 2.3.

**Corollary 2.4.** *If degree of every irreducible divisor of  $P(x)$  is 1 and  $\gamma > 1$  then there exists a positive constant  $c$  such that the number of elements of the set  $\{P(r+i) : 1 \leq i \leq R\}$  having at least one prime factor greater than  $R$  is greater than  $cR$  for sufficiently large  $R, r$  satisfying the inequality  $r \geq R^\gamma$ .*

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $f(x)$  be a linear polynomial. If  $r \leq R^\gamma$  for some  $\gamma > 1$  then there are at least  $c \frac{R}{\log R}$  numbers of the set  $\{f(r+i) : 1 \leq i \leq R\}$  with at least one prime factor greater than  $\frac{R}{2}$  for a constant  $c > 0$  and sufficiently large  $R$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $f(n) = sn + t$  then there are at least  $c_1(\frac{R}{\log R})$  primes between  $(\frac{R}{2}, R]$  which are coprime to  $s$ , for a constant  $c_1 > 0$ . Each prime in the interval  $(\frac{R}{2}, R]$  has one or two  $i \in [1, R]$  such that  $p | f(r+i)$ . For each  $f(r+i)$  there are at most  $O(1)$  prime divisors belonging to  $(\frac{R}{2}, R]$ . Hence there are at least  $c \frac{R}{\log R}$  numbers with at least one prime factor greater than  $\frac{R}{2}$  for sufficiently large  $R$  and for some constant  $c > 0$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.6.** *If degree of every irreducible divisor of  $P(x)$  is 1 and  $r \leq R^\gamma$  then number of elements of the set  $\{P(r+i) : 1 \leq i \leq R\}$  with at least one prime factor belonging to the range  $(\frac{R}{2}, R]$  is greater than  $c \frac{R}{\log R}$  for a constant  $c > 0$  and for sufficiently large  $R$ .*

In a graph  $G(V, E)$  for  $v \in V$  we define  $V(v)$  to be the set of all vertices adjacent to  $v$ . Now we require a graph theoretic result in order to obtain an upper bound on  $R$ .

**Lemma 2.7.** *If there is a bipartite graph  $(A, B, E)$  such that for all  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$ , degree of  $a$  is  $\leq n$  and degree of  $b$  is  $\geq 1$  then there exists a sequence of vertices  $b_1, \dots, b_k$  with  $b_i \in B$  satisfying  $V(b_1) \neq \phi$  and  $V(b_i) / (\cup_{j=1}^{i-1} V(b_j)) \neq \phi$  for  $2 \leq i \leq k$  and  $k \geq \frac{|B|}{n}$ .*

*Proof.* The proof is by induction on  $n$ . For  $n = 1$  the lemma is true since degree of  $a \leq 1 \forall a \in A \implies V(b_1) \cap V(b_2) = \phi \forall b_1 \neq b_2 \in B$  and the sequence  $b_1, \dots, b_{|B|}$  will clearly satisfy  $V(b_1) \neq \phi$  and  $V(b_i) / (\cup_{j=1}^{i-1} V(b_j)) \neq \phi$  for  $2 \leq i \leq k$ . If the

lemma is true for  $n = r$  we have to prove for  $n = r + 1$ . Order the vertices of  $B$  as  $b_1, \dots, b_{|B|}$ . Let  $S = \{a \in A : \text{degree of } a \geq 1\}$ . Let  $S_1 = V(b_1)$  and for  $2 \leq i \leq |B|$ , let  $S_i = V(b_i) / (\cup_{j=1}^{i-1} V(b_j))$ . Observe that  $S = \cup_{i=1}^{|B|} S_i$ . Let  $K$  be a set defined by  $K = \{b_i : S_i \neq \phi\}$ . If  $|K| \geq \frac{|B|}{r+1}$  then we can choose the vertices in the set  $K$  arranged in a sequence which satisfies the hypothesis. If  $|K| < \frac{|B|}{r+1}$  then consider the induced subgraph  $A \cup (B/K)$  then degree of  $a$  is less than or equal to  $r$  for all  $a \in A$ . From the induction assumption there exists a sequence with length  $\geq \frac{|B/K|}{r} > |B|(1 - \frac{1}{r+1}) \frac{1}{r} = \frac{|B|}{r+1}$  in  $B/K$  satisfying the hypothesis which completes the proof by induction.  $\square$

Now we prove the main theorem.

**Theorem 2.8.** *If  $P(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$  is a non constant polynomial with a positive leading coefficient and  $B$  is a set of complex numbers. If  $\{P(r+1), \dots, P(r+R)\}$  is contained in the product set  $B \cdot B$  for a nonnegative integer  $r$  and a natural number  $R$ . Then*

- (1) *If  $P(x)$  has an irreducible factor of degree  $\geq 2$  then  $R = O(|B|)$ . In this case the implicit constant only depends on  $P(x)$ .*
- (2) *If  $P(x)$  has no irreducible factor of degree  $\geq 2$  and there exists a  $\gamma > 1$  such that  $r > R^\gamma$  then  $R = O(|B|)$ . In this case the implicit constant depends on  $P(x)$  and  $\gamma$ .*
- (3) *If  $P(x)$  has no irreducible factor of degree  $\geq 2$  and there exists a  $\gamma > 1$  such that  $r \leq R^\gamma$  then  $R = O(|B| \log |B|)$ . In this case the implicit constant depends on  $\gamma$  and  $P(x)$ .*

*Proof.* If  $P(x)$  has an irreducible factor  $f(x)$  of degree  $\geq 2$  or  $P(x)$  has no irreducible divisor of degree  $\geq 2$  and  $r > R^\gamma$  for some  $\gamma > 1$  let

$$A = \{p : p \text{ is a prime, } p|P(r+i) \text{ for some } 1 \leq i \leq R, p > R\}$$

and let

$$C = \{P(r+i) : 1 \leq i \leq R, \exists \text{ prime } p > R \text{ such that } p|P(r+i)\}.$$

If  $P(x)$  has no irreducible divisor of degree  $\geq 2$  and  $r \leq R^\gamma$  for some  $\gamma > 1$  then let

$$A = \{p : p \text{ is a prime, } \frac{R}{2} < p \leq R \text{ and } p|P(r+i) \text{ for some } 1 \leq i \leq R\}$$

and let

$$C = \{P(r+i) : 1 \leq i \leq R, \exists \text{ prime } p \in (\frac{R}{2}, R] \text{ such that } p|P(r+i)\}.$$

In cases (1) and (2) from Corollaries 2.2 and 2.4 the size of  $C$  is greater than  $cR$  for some constant  $c > 0$  ( $c$  depends only on  $P(x)$  in case (1) and depends on  $P(x)$  and  $\gamma$  in case (2)) and for sufficiently large  $R$ . In case (3) from Corollary 2.6 the size of  $C$  is greater than  $c \frac{R}{\log R}$  for sufficiently large  $R$  and for some constant  $c > 0$  which depends on  $\gamma$  and  $P(x)$ . If we consider a bipartite graph  $G$  between  $A \cup C$  constructed such that there exists an edge  $p \in A$  and  $P(r+i) \in C$  if and only if  $p|P(r+i)$ . Let degree of  $P(x)$  be  $d$ . In this graph, from Lagrange's theorem the degree of  $a \in A$  is less than or equal to the degree of polynomial  $P(x)$  in case (1) and (2) and less than twice the degree of polynomial  $P(x)$  in case (3). Hence from Lemma 2.7 there exists a sequence  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k \in C$  with  $k \geq \frac{|C|}{2d}$  such that  $V(c_1) \neq \phi$  and  $V(c_i) / \cup_{j=1}^{i-1} V(c_j) \neq \phi$ . Therefore every  $c_i$  has a prime divisor



which does not divide any of  $c_j$  for  $1 \leq j \leq i-1$ . Let  $C' = \{c_1, \dots, c_k\}$ . Note that in cases (1) and (2) we have  $|C'| \geq \frac{c}{2d}R$  and in case (3) we have  $|C'| \geq \frac{cR}{2d \log R}$  for sufficiently large  $R$ . Consider the bipartite auxiliary graph  $G(C', B.B)$ . We claim that there cannot be any cycle in this graph. Note that the vertex set of  $G(C', B.B)$  is  $B \times \{1\} \cup B \times \{2\}$ . Suppose there was a cycle, since it is a bipartite graph, cycle length has to be an even number and there will be a cycle of the form  $(b_1, 1)(b_2, 2) \dots (b_{2k}, 2)(b_1, 1)$  where  $b_i$ 's belong to  $B$  then

$$\begin{aligned} b_1 b_2 &= c_{n_1} \\ b_2 b_3 &= c_{n_2} \\ &\vdots \\ b_{2k} b_1 &= c_{n_{2k}} \end{aligned}$$

for some  $n_i$ 's such that  $1 \leq n_i \leq k$  and  $n_i \neq n_j$  for  $i \neq j$ . Then it is easy to observe the relation

$$(19) \quad \prod_{i=1}^k c_{n_{2i}} = \prod_{j=1}^k c_{n_{2j-1}}$$

let  $n_i$  be the largest element of the set  $\{n_1, \dots, n_{2k}\}$ . There exists a prime  $p$  such that  $p \mid c_{n_i}$  and  $p \nmid c_{n_j}$  for  $j \neq i$  and hence  $p$  divides exactly one side of (19) and hence (19) cannot be true. Thus there exists no cycle in  $G(C', B.B)$ . In any graph without self loops, if there exists no cycle then the numbers of edges is strictly less than number of vertices. Hence  $|C'| \leq 2|B| - 1$ . As in cases (1) and (2) we have  $|C'| \geq \frac{c}{2d}R$  and in case (3) we have  $|C'| \geq \frac{cR}{2d \log R}$  for sufficiently large  $R$ . Therefore  $R = O(|B|)$  in cases (1),(2) and  $R = O(|B| \log |B|)$  in case (3) which completes the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

### 3. NUMBER OF FIBONACCI NUMBERS AND LUCAS NUMBERS IN A PRODUCT SET

Let  $B$  be a finite set of natural numbers. Let  $A$  be the set of Fibonacci numbers contained in the product set  $B.B$ . From [2] there are only two perfect square Fibonacci numbers, viz., 1 and 144. Hence there can be at most two self loops in the graph  $G'(A, B.B)$ . We give an upper bound on the cardinality of  $A$  by using the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $F_n$  and  $F_m$  be  $n$ th and  $m$ th Fibonacci numbers and  $m < n$  and  $n > 2$  then  $\gcd(F_n, F_m) < \sqrt{F_n}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $d = \gcd(m, n)$ . From the strong divisibility property of Fibonacci numbers  $\gcd(F_n, F_m) = F_d$ . We know that  $F_n = \frac{\alpha^n - \beta^n}{\alpha - \beta}$ , where  $\alpha = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$  and  $\beta = \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}$ . Since  $m < n$ , clearly  $d \leq \frac{n}{2}$ . If  $d = 1$  then the hypothesis is clearly true and if  $d > 1$ , we have

$$(F_d)^2 = \frac{(\alpha^d - \beta^d)^2}{(\alpha - \beta)^2} < \frac{(\alpha^{2d} - \beta^{2d})}{(\alpha - \beta)} \leq F_n.$$

Thus,  $\gcd(F_m, F_n) < \sqrt{F_n}$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.2.** *There cannot be more than  $|B|$  Fibonacci numbers in the product set  $B.B$  when  $B$  is a set of natural numbers.*

*Proof.* We claim that in the graph  $G'(A, B.B)$  there cannot any cycle other than self loops. Suppose there is a  $k$ -cycle of the form  $(b_1, 1)(b_2, 1) \cdots (b_k, 1)(b_1, 1)$  where  $b_i \in B$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ . We now have the information that  $b_i b_{i+1}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k-1$  and  $b_k b_1$  are distinct Fibonacci numbers in the set  $B.B$ . Without loss of generality let us assume  $b_1 b_2 = F$  is the largest Fibonacci number among  $b_i b_{i+1}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k-1$  and  $b_k b_1$ . From Lemma 3.1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} b_1 &\leq \gcd(b_1 b_2, b_1 b_k) < \sqrt{F}, \\ b_2 &\leq \gcd(b_1 b_2, b_2 b_3) < \sqrt{F}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $F = b_1 b_2 < F$  which is a contradiction. Hence there cannot be any cycle. From [2] there cannot be more than 2 self loops. Hence the number of edges which equal number of Fibonacci numbers in the set  $B.B$  cannot exceed  $|B| + 1$ . Now we prove that there cannot be  $|B| + 1$  Fibonacci numbers in  $B.B$ . Suppose there are  $|B| + 1$  Fibonacci numbers, as the graph cannot have any cycle there should be two self loops namely,  $(1, 1)$  and  $(12, 1)$ , and  $1, 12 \in B$  and the graph obtained by removing the two self loops should be connected tree of  $|B|$  vertices. Since the graph is connected there should be a path between  $(1, 1)$  and  $(12, 1)$ . Let the path be  $(b_1, 1)(b_2, 1) \cdots (b_k, 1)$  which implies that  $b_i b_{i+1}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k-1$  are Fibonacci numbers and without loss of generality assume  $b_1 = 1$  and  $b_k = 12$ . Let  $l$  be the index of highest value of  $b_i b_{i+1}$ , that is  $b_l b_{l+1}$  is the largest Fibonacci number among  $b_i b_{i+1}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k-1$ . Clearly  $l \neq 1$  and if  $2 \leq l \leq k-2$  then from Lemma 3.1 we have

$$\begin{aligned} b_l &\leq \gcd(b_l b_{l+1}, b_{l-1} b_l) < \sqrt{b_l b_{l+1}}, \\ b_{l+1} &\leq \gcd(b_l b_{l+1}, b_{l+1} b_{l+2}) < \sqrt{b_l b_{l+1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Which implies  $b_l b_{l+1} < b_l b_{l+1}$ . Hence  $l = k-1$ . Again from Lemma 3.1

$$b_{k-1} \leq \gcd(b_{k-1} b_k, b_{k-2} b_{k-1}) < \sqrt{b_{k-1} b_k}$$

which implies  $b_{k-1} < b_k = 12$  but there are no Fibonacci numbers of the form  $12b$  with  $b < 12$ . Hence there cannot be  $|B| + 1$  Fibonacci numbers. Thus number of Fibonacci numbers in the set  $B.B$  is  $\leq |B|$ .  $\square$

Now we consider the case where  $B$  is a set of complex numbers and try to give an upper bound on the number of Lucas sequence terms in the product set. Let  $A$  be the set of Lucas sequence terms with indices greater than 30 in the product set  $B.B$ .

**Lemma 3.3.** *There cannot be any cycle in  $G(A, B.B)$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose there was a cycle, then there will be a cycle of the form  $(b_1, 1)(b_2, 2) \cdots (b_{2k}, 2)(b_1, 1)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} b_1 b_2 &= L_{n_1} \\ b_2 b_3 &= L_{n_2} \\ &\vdots \\ &\vdots \\ &\vdots \\ b_{2k} b_1 &= L_{n_{2k}}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $L_{n_i}$  are Lucas sequence terms with indices greater than 30, which implies

$$(20) \quad \prod_{i=1}^k L_{n_{2i}} = \prod_{j=1}^k L_{n_{2j-1}}$$

Let  $n_i$  be the largest index  $\geq 31$ . Then from [1],  $L_{n_i}$  contains a primitive divisor  $p$  and hence  $p$  divides exactly one side of (20) and therefore (20) cannot be true. Thus there cannot be any cycle.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $(L_n)_{n=1}^\infty$  be a Lucas sequence. Then the number of distinct elements of  $(L_n)_{n=1}^\infty$  in  $B.B$  is less than  $2|B| + 30$ .*

*Proof.* Since the number of vertices in  $G(A, B.B)$  is  $2|B|$  and from Lemma 3.3 there cannot be a cycle in  $G(A, B.B)$  and hence the number of edges in  $G(A, B.B)$  is  $\leq 2|B| - 1$ . Hence the number of distinct terms in Lucas sequence of index  $\geq 31$  is  $\leq 2|B| - 1$ . Hence number of distinct Lucas sequence terms in  $B.B$  is  $\leq 2|B| + 29$ .  $\square$

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