Exercise 1.19. There is a clever algorithm for computing the Fibonacci numbers in a logarithmic number of steps. Recall the transformation of the state variables a and b in the fib-iter process of section 1.2.2: $a \leftarrow a + b$ and $b \leftarrow a$. Call this transformation T, and observe that applying T over and over again n times, starting with 1 and 0, produces the pair Fib (n+1) and Fib (n). In other words, the Fibonacci numbers are produced by applying T^n , the nth power of the transformation T, starting with the pair (1,0). Now consider T to be the special case of p=0 and q=1 in a family of transformations T_{pq} , where T_{pq} transforms the pair (a,b) according to $a \leftarrow b \ q + a \ q + a \ p$ and $b \leftarrow b \ p + a \ q$. Show that if we apply such a transformation T_{pq} twice, the effect is the same as using a single transformation $T_{p'q'}$ of the same form, and compute p' and q' in terms of p and q. This gives us an explicit way to square these transformations, and thus we can compute T^n using successive squaring, as in the fast-expt procedure. Put this all together to complete the following procedure, which runs in a logarithmic number of steps:¹

Answer. By reading the description above, we may easily conclude that the key point to solving this problem relys on how to represent p' and q' in terms of p and q. With observation, we may immediately draw out our basic strategy in a straightforwardly: apply the transformation T_{pq} to the pair (a, b) twice, then compare the consequence with that of the single transformation $T_{p'q'}$.

In order to present the intermediate result in a clear way, we first denote the original pair (a, b) by (a_0, b_0) , that is,

$$a_0 = a, b_0 = b$$

Well, Let's see how the pair (a, b) involves while being transformed by T_{pq} for the first time:

$$a_{1} = b_{0} q + a_{0} q + a_{0} p$$

$$= b q + a q + a p$$

$$= b q + a (p + q)$$

$$b_{1} = b_{0} p + a_{0} q$$

$$= b p + a q$$

$$\begin{cases} a_{1} = b q + a (p + q) \\ b_{1} = b p + a q \end{cases}$$

Continue in this way, the value of pair (a_2, b_2) can be obtained gradually as follow:

$$\begin{array}{l} a_2 &= b_1\,q + a_1\,(p+q) \\ &= (b\,p + a\,q)\,q + (b\,q + a\,(p+q))(p+q) \\ &= b\,p\,q + a\,q^2 + b\,p\,q + b\,q^2 + a\,(p^2 + 2\,p\,q + q^2) \\ &= b\,(q^2 + 2\,p\,q) + a\,(p^2 + q^2 + q^2 + 2\,p\,q) \\ \\ b_2 &= b_1\,p + a_1\,q \\ &= (b\,p + a\,q)\,p + (b\,q + a\,(p+q))\,q \\ &= b\,p^2 + a\,p\,q + b\,q^2 + a\,(p\,q + q^2) \\ &= b\,(p^2 + q^2) + a\,(q^2 + 2\,p\,q) \\ \\ \left\{ \begin{array}{l} a_2 = b\,(q^2 + 2\,p\,q) + a\,(p^2 + q^2 + q^2 + 2\,p\,q) \\ b_2 = b\,(p^2 + q^2) + a\,(q^2 + 2\,p\,q) \end{array} \right. \end{array}$$

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^{1.} This exercise was suggested to us by Joe Stoy, based on an example in Kaldewaij 1990.

By Comparing the expression of the pair (a_2,b_2) above with that of the single transformation $T_{p'q'}$ where

$$\begin{cases} a_2 = b \, q' + a \, (p' + q') \\ b_2 = b \, p' + a \, q' \end{cases}$$

we can find out the expression of p' and q' in terms of p and q intuitively:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} p' = p^2 + q^2 \\ q' = q^2 + 2 \ p \ q \end{array} \right.$$

Finally, we have to complete the fib procedure to bring an end to our solution: