

CSC236H, Winter 2016
Assignment 1
Due January 31th, 10:00 p.m.

- You may work in groups of no more than **two** students, and you should produce a single solution in a PDF file named **a1.pdf**, submitted to MarkUs. Submissions must be **typed**.
- Please refer to the course information sheet for the **late submission policy**.

1. Let f_1, f_2, \dots be a sequence of natural numbers which is defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}f_1 &= 1, \\f_2 &= 1, \\f_n &= f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}, \quad n \geq 3.\end{aligned}$$

Use induction to prove that for any $n \geq 1$, $\gcd(f_n, f_{n+1}) = 1$.

Reminder: for two natural numbers a and b , $\gcd(a, b)$ denotes the greatest common divisor of. That is, the largest natural number that divides both a and b . A well-known theorem about gcd that can be useful for this problem states that for natural numbers a, b , if $a > b$, then $\gcd(a, b) = \gcd(b, a - b)$.

2. Consider the sequence f_1, f_2, \dots defined in the previous question, and the following sequence of natural numbers:

$$\begin{aligned}a_1 &= 1, \\a_2 &= 1, \\a_n &= a_{n-1} + a_{n-2} + 1, \quad \text{for } n \geq 3.\end{aligned}$$

Prove that for all $n \geq 1$, $a_n = 2f_n - 1$.

3. Use the well-ordering principle to prove that every natural number greater than 1 is divisible by a prime number.
4. Suppose that h_0, h_1, h_2, \dots is a sequence defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}h_0 &= 1, \\h_1 &= 2, \\h_2 &= 3, \\h_k &= h_{k-1} + h_{k-2} + h_{k-3}, \quad \text{for } k \geq 3.\end{aligned}$$

Suppose that s is any real number such that $s^3 \geq s^2 + s + 1$.

Prove that for all $n \geq 2$, $h_n \leq s^n$.

Note that $s^3 \geq s^2 + s + 1$ implies that $s > 1.83$.