

# Project Euler Problems

Michael E. Conlen

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# Preface

Project Euler, <http://projecteuler.net/>, is a list of programming problems with a mathematical and algorithmic bent. These problems have solutions that vary from the naïve to the sophisticated. While the easiest problems can be effectively solved naïvely the advanced problems require sophisticated solutions to run effectively. Here we compile a set of solutions in various programming languages along with a mathematical treatment of the sophisticated solutions. Where possible the solutions are generalized for various parameters given in the statement of the problem.

While Project Euler requests that the solutions not be shared outside of the forums it's clear the solutions are available on the internet. If you have not solved a problem it is up to you to be honest. It is up to you to realize that understanding the solution is not the point; the point is to have been able to develop the solution yourself.

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# Chapter 1

## Sum of Natural Numbers

### Divisible by 3 and 5

If we list all the natural numbers below 10 that are multiples of 3 or 5, we get 3, 5, 6 and 9. The sum of these multiples is 23.

Find the sum of all the multiples of 3 or 5 below 1000.

#### 1.1 Introduction

The naïve solutions is to iterate  $k$  over the range of integers and if  $k \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  or  $k \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$  then add the integer to the sum. This solutions is given in Listing [1.1](#); however this solution runs in  $O(n)$  time. A direct computation can be found.

Listing 1.1: Problem 1: Naïve Solution

```

1 #include <stdlib.h>
2 #include <stdio.h>
3
4 int main(int argc, char *argv[])
5 {
6     int j,k;
7     j=0;
8     for(k=0; k<1000; k++) {
9         if(k%3 == 0 || k%5 == 0) j+=k;
10    }
11    printf("%d\n", j);
12    return(0);
13 }

```

## 1.2 Direct Computation

Let  $n$  be the integer we iterate up through, in this case, 999\*. Let  $m_q = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{q} \right\rfloor$ , the number of natural numbers less than  $n$  which are multiples of the natural number  $q$ ; then notice that the sum of natural numbers less than  $n$  and divisible by  $q$  is

$$\begin{aligned}
 q + 2q + 3q + \cdots + m_q q &= q \sum_{k=1}^{m_q} k \\
 &= q \frac{(m_q)(m_q + 1)}{2}
 \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

If we are summing over the integers which are multiples of  $q$  and  $r$  then each natural number which is a multiple of both  $p$  and  $r$  is counted twice;

---

\* The problem asks for numbers up to 1000, thus does not include 1000 where it is a multiple of 5.

---

thus we subtract multiples of  $qr$ ; and the solution is

$$q \frac{(m_q)(m_q + 1)}{2} + r \frac{(m_r)(m_r + 1)}{2} - qr \frac{(m_{qr})(m_{qr} + 1)}{2} \quad (1.2)$$

A generalized version of this program is given in Listing [1.2](#). It's runtime is  $O(1)$ .



Listing 1.2: Problem 1: C Solution

```
1 #include <stdlib.h>
2 #include <stdio.h>
3 #include <unistd.h>
4
5 int main(int argc, char *argv[])
6 {
7     unsigned long long q=0, r=0, n=0;
8     unsigned long long mq, mr, mqr, sum;
9     char copt;
10
11     while((copt = getopt(argc, argv, "n:q:r:")) != -1) {
12         switch(copt) {
13             case 'n':
14                 n = atoll(optarg)-1;
15                 break;
16             case 'q':
17                 q = atoll(optarg);
18                 break;
19             case 'r':
20                 r = atoll(optarg);
21                 break;
22             default:
23                 goto usage;
24         }
25     }
26     if(n == 0 || q == 0 || r == 0) goto usage;
27
28     mq = n/q;
29     mr = n/r;
30     mqr = n/(q*r);
31     sum = q*(mq*(mq+1))/2 + r*(mr*(mr+1))/2 - (q*r)*(mqr*(mqr
32         +1))/2;
33     printf("%lld\n", sum);
34     exit(0);
35 usage:
36     fprintf(stderr, "%s_-n_N_-q_Q_-r_R\n", argv[0]);
37     exit(-1);
38 }
```

## Chapter 2

# Sum of Even Fibonacci Numbers

Each new term in the Fibonacci sequence is generated by adding the previous two terms. By starting with 1 and 2, the first 10 terms will be:

$$1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, \dots$$

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

### 2.1 Introduction

The naïve solution is to iterate  $k$  over the range of natural numbers computing  $F_k$ , the  $k^{th}$  Fibonacci number, until  $F_k > 4000000$  and if  $F_k$  is even add it to

the sum. This solution is given in Listing 2.1. While this solution is generally quick on modern computers it is not efficient.

Listing 2.1: Problem 2: Naïve Solution

```

1  #include <stdlib.h>
2  #include <stdio.h>
3
4  unsigned long long int fib(unsigned long long n)
5  {
6      if(n==0) return(0);
7      if(n==1) return(1);
8      return(fib(n-1) + fib(n-2));
9  }
10
11 int main(int argc, char *argv[])
12 {
13     unsigned long long j,k,Fk;
14
15     j=0; k=0;
16     while(1) {
17         Fk = fib(k++);
18         if(Fk > 4000000) break;
19         if(Fk%2 == 0) j += Fk;
20     }
21     printf("%llu\n", j);
22     return(0);
23 }
```

## 2.2 Order of $F_n$

We claim that the computation of `fib(n)` is at least exponential. Let  $T(n)$  be the time to compute the  $n^{\text{th}}$  Fibonacci number and we can see that if we let  $T(0) = 1$  in units of the time to make the comparison in Line 6, then  $T(1) = 2 > 1$  and  $T(2) = 2 + T(1) + T(0) > T(1) + T(0)$ . In general

---

$T(n) > T(n-1) + T(n-2)$ . That is, the estimate is directly related to the Fibonacci numbers themselves.

We may use generating functions<sup>\*</sup> to compute  $F_k$ . Assume there is a function  $f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} F_k x^k$ . Recall the defining equation of the Fibonacci numbers;

$$F_{k+2} = F_{k+1} + F_k \tag{2.1}$$

with the boundary conditions  $F_0 = 0$  and  $F_1 = 1^\dagger$ . Multiply equation 2.1 by  $x^k$ ,

$$F_{k+2}x^k = F_{k+1}x^k + F_kx^k \tag{2.2}$$

---

<sup>\*</sup> See [1, 2].

<sup>†</sup> This is not precisely the same boundary as  $T(0) = 1$  and  $T(1) = 1$ ; however we can see that it is simply a shift if we consider the negative extension  $T(-1) = 0$  noting that it preserves the recurrence relation. This preserves the standard numbering of the Fibonacci sequence.

then sum both sides of equation 2.2 over all  $k$  and compute

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} F_{k+2}x^k = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} F_{k+1}x^k + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} F_kx^k \\
\implies & \frac{1}{x^2} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} F_{k+2}x^{k+2} = \frac{1}{x} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} F_{k+1}x^{k+1} + f(x) \\
\implies & \frac{1}{x^2} (f(x) - F_1x - F_0) = \frac{1}{x} (f(x) - F_0) + f(x) \\
\implies & f(x) - F_1x - F_0 = x(f(x) - F_0) + x^2f(x) \\
\implies & f(x) - xf(x) - x^2f(x) = F_1x + F_0 - F_0x \\
\implies & f(x) (1 - x - x^2) = x \\
\implies & f(x) = \frac{x}{1 - x - x^2} \tag{2.3}
\end{aligned}$$

If we define  $\varphi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$  and  $\psi = \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}$  we can see that

$$1 - x - x^2 = (1 - x\varphi)(1 - x\psi) \tag{2.4}$$

Thus we can simplify equation 2.3 using equation 2.4 and partial fraction decomposition

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{x}{1 - x - x^2} &= \frac{x}{(1 - x\varphi)(1 - x\psi)} \\
&= \frac{A}{1 - x\varphi} + \frac{B}{1 - x\psi} \\
&= \frac{(1 - x\psi)A + (1 - x\varphi)B}{1 - x - x^2} \\
&= \frac{(A + B) - x(\psi A + \varphi B)}{1 - x - x^2} \tag{2.5}
\end{aligned}$$

and from equation 2.5 we can deduce that  $A + B = 0$  and  $\psi A + \varphi B = 1$  and compute

$$\begin{aligned}\psi A + \varphi B &= -1 \\ \implies \psi A + \varphi(-A) &= -1 \\ \implies (\psi - \varphi)A &= -1 \\ \implies A &= \frac{1}{\varphi - \psi}\end{aligned}$$

thus

$$B = -\frac{1}{\varphi - \psi}$$

We rewrite equation 2.3

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{1-x-x^2} &= \frac{1}{\varphi - \psi} \left( \frac{1}{1-x\varphi} - \frac{1}{1-x\psi} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \varphi^k x^k - \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \psi^k x^k \right) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\varphi^k - \psi^k}{\sqrt{5}} x^k\end{aligned}\tag{2.6}$$

thus, recalling that  $f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} F_k x^k$  we conclude that

$$F_k = \frac{\varphi^k - \psi^k}{\sqrt{5}}\tag{2.7}$$

Since  $|\psi| < 1$  we have that  $\psi^k \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ ; thus we can see that  $F_k$  is

exponential in  $k$ ; hence  $T(n)$  is at least  $O(\varphi^n)^*$ .

## 2.3 Computing `fib(n)` Directly

Equation 2.7 gives us a closed form for  $F_n$  which can be computed for the cost of two calls to `pow()`. Recall, however, that  $|\psi| < 1$  and, in fact,  $\left|\frac{\psi}{\sqrt{5}}\right| < \frac{1}{2}$ ; thus we can avoid computation of  $\psi^n$  and estimate that  $F_k = \frac{\varphi^k}{\sqrt{5}} + \epsilon$  and that  $|\epsilon| < 1$ ; thus we can compute

$$F_k = \left\lfloor \frac{\varphi^k}{\sqrt{5}} + \frac{1}{2} \right\rfloor \quad (2.8)$$

This solution is given in Listing 2.2. Note that we make use of the fact that for positive numbers typecasting a `double` to an `int` type is equivalent to the floor function. In this implementation the runtime of `fib(n)` is generally  $O(1)$  as `pow()` is implemented in constant time on most processors<sup>†</sup>. This gives the overall program a runtime of  $O(\log n)$ ; but we can do better.

## 2.4 Sum of Even Fibonacci Numbers

Notice that the first two Fibonacci numbers are odd, followed by an even. We can see from the defining relation that the even Fibonacci numbers have an index  $k \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ . Moreover, the sum of the even Fibonacci numbers

---

\* If we work with the estimate that  $T_0 = 1$ ,  $T_1 = 2$  and  $T_{k+2} = T_{k+1} + T_k + m$  where  $m$  is the number of operations for the non-recursive steps in the general case, then a similar analysis will show that the runtime is exponential.

† If this is not available exponentiation by squaring is  $O(\log n)$ .

Listing 2.2: Problem 2: fib(n) Direct

```
1 #include <math.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3 #include <stdio.h>
4
5 #define PHI 1.618033988749895
6 #define OORF 0.4472135954999579
7
8 unsigned long long int fib(unsigned long long n)
9 {
10     double Fn;
11
12     Fn = pow(PHI, n)*OORF + 0.5;
13     return((unsigned long long)Fn);
14 }
15
16 int main(int argc, char *argv[])
17 {
18     unsigned long long j,k,Fk;
19
20     j=0; k=0;
21     while(1) {
22         Fk = fib(k++);
23         if(Fk > 4000000) break;
24         if(Fk%2 == 0) j += Fk;
25     }
26     printf("%llu\n", j);
27     return(0);
28 }
```



is equal to the sum of the odd Fibonacci numbers before it. We can make use of this fact and the following observation

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $F_k$  be the  $k^{\text{th}}$  Fibonacci number with  $F_1 = 1$  and  $F_2 = 1$ ; then  $\sum_{k=1}^n F_k = F_{n+2} - 1$ .*

*Solution.* Let  $n = 1$  then  $\sum_{k=1}^1 F_k = F_1 = 1 = 2 - 1 = F_3 - 1$ ; this proves the base case. We compute for arbitrary  $n$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^n F_k &= F_n + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} F_k \\ &= F_n + F_{n+1} - 1 \\ &= F_{n+2} - 1 \end{aligned}$$

□

Thus, if we know the index of the largest Fibonacci number less than or equal to some value, we can compute the desired sum.

## 2.5 Finding the Index

Notice that if we have a Fibonacci number  $F$ , then we can compute the index into the sequence,  $k$ , by

$$k = \log_{\varphi} \left( F\sqrt{5} + \psi^k \right)$$

but without  $k$  we must estimate, but  $|\psi^k| < \frac{1}{2}$  for  $k > 1$ ; thus we have that

$$k < \log_{\varphi} \left( F\sqrt{5} + \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

moreover, the difference is less than 1 for sufficiently large  $F^*$  so let

$$k = \left\lfloor \log_{\varphi} \left( F\sqrt{5} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \right\rfloor$$

Now, suppose that  $F$  is not a Fibonacci number, but is some natural number; then for some  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $F_j < F < F_{j+1}$  so

$$j \leq \left\lfloor \log_{\varphi} \left( F\sqrt{5} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \right\rfloor \leq j + 1 \quad (2.9)$$

thus

$$\left\lfloor \log_{\varphi} \left( F\sqrt{5} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \right\rfloor \in \{j, j + 1\} \quad (2.10)$$

We wish to determine  $j$ , the index of the largest Fibonacci number less than or equal to  $F^\dagger$ ; so compute  $k$  then  $F_k$  and if  $k = j + 1$   $F_k > F$  and if  $k = j$  then  $F_k \leq F$ . In either case we can determine  $j$ .

Finally, to get the largest *even* Fibonacci number recall that a Fibonacci number  $F_k$  is even if and only if  $k \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ .

---

\* Consider  $\frac{d}{dx} \log(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ .

† Recall that the problem states ... *terms in the Fibonacci sequence whose values do not exceed four million...*

## 2.6 Direct Computation

We combine the results of the last two sections in Listing 2.3.

Listing 2.3: Problem 2: Direct Solution

```
1  #include <math.h>
2  #include <stdlib.h>
3  #include <stdio.h>
4
5  #define PHI 1.618033988749895
6  #define OORF 0.4472135954999579
7  #define RF 2.23606797749979
8  #define LPHI 0.48121182505960347
9
10 unsigned long long int fib(unsigned long long n)
11 {
12     double Fn;
13
14     Fn = pow(PHI, n)*OORF + 0.5;
15     return((unsigned long long)Fn);
16 }
17
18 int main(int argc, char *argv[])
19 {
20     unsigned long long j,k,Fk, Fk2;
21
22     j=0; k=0;
23     k = (unsigned long long)(log(4000000*RF+0.5)/LPHI);
24     Fk = fib(k);
25     if(Fk > 4000000) k--;
26     Fk2=fib(k+2);
27     j = (Fk2 - 1)/2;
28     printf("%llu\n", j);
29     return(0);
30 }
```

---

## 2.7 Generalization

We generalize the above solution to arbitrary  $n$  within the limits of unsigned long long in Listing [2.4](#).

Listing 2.4: Problem 2: General Solution

```

1  #include <math.h>
2  #include <stdlib.h>
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <unistd.h>
5
6  #define PHI 1.618033988749895
7  #define OORF 0.4472135954999579
8  #define RF 2.23606797749979
9  #define LPHI 0.48121182505960347
10
11 unsigned long long int fib(unsigned long long n)
12 {
13     double Fn;
14
15     Fn = pow(PHI, n)*OORF + 0.5;
16     return((unsigned long long)Fn);
17 }
18
19 int main(int argc, char *argv[])
20 {
21     unsigned long long n=0, j,k,Fk, Fk2;
22     char copt;
23
24     while((copt = getopt(argc, argv, "n:")) != -1) {
25         switch(copt) {
26             case 'n':
27                 n = atoll(optarg);
28                 break;
29             default:
30                 goto usage;
31         }
32     }
33     if(n==0) goto usage;
34     j=0; k=0;
35     k = (unsigned long long)(log(n*RF+0.5)/LPHI);
36     Fk = fib(k);
37     if(Fk > n) k--;
38     k -= k%3;
39     Fk2=fib(k+2);
40     j = (Fk2 - 1)/2;
41     printf("%llu\n", j);
42     exit(0);
43 usage:
44     fprintf(stderr, "%s_-n_N\n", argv[0]);
45     exit(-1);
46 }

```

# Chapter 3

## Largest Prime Factor of $n$

The problem of distinguishing prime numbers from composite numbers and of resolving the latter into their prime factors is known to be one of the most important and useful in arithmetic

---

C. F. Gauss

The prime factors of 13195 are 5, 7, 13 and 29.

What is the largest prime factor of the number 600851475143 ?

### 3.1 Introduction

This algorithm works simply by factoring the integer<sup>\*</sup> in to prime factors then searching for the largest of the list. We implement this algorithm in Listing [3.1](#).

---

<sup>\*</sup> See Appendix [A](#).

Listing 3.1: Problem 3: Naïve Solution

```
1 #include <math.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3 #include <stdio.h>
4 #include "factor.h"
5
6 int main(int argc, char *argv[])
7 {
8     unsigned long long n = 600851475143, i, d=0;
9     unsigned long long len, *list;
10
11     factorN(n, &list, &len);
12     for(i=0; i<len; i++) {
13         if(d<list[i]) d = list[i];
14     }
15     printf("%llu\n", d);
16     return(0);
17 }
```

## 3.2 Remarks

There are a number of more efficient algorithms for larger composite numbers to investigate including the general number sieve.

## Chapter 4

# Largest Palindrome Product

A palindromic number reads the same both ways. The largest palindrome made from the product of two 2-digit numbers is  $9009 = 91 \times 99$ .

Find the largest palindrome made from the product of two 3-digit numbers.

### 4.1 Introduction

This problem presents a few programming issues, the first is to factor an integer and find products of the factors of a given decimal size. The other problem is to be able to represent the sequence of palindrome numbers in a way that we can easily find the predecessor of an element in the sequence.



## 4.2 Palindromic Numbers

### 4.2.1 Introduction

Palindromic numbers are natural numbers which are the same when written (in a given base) forwards and reverse. These numbers can be thought of as having two varieties; those with an odd number of digits and those with an even number of digits. We can represent a palindromic number by an integer, representing the leading sequence of the integer and a value to indicate whether the number of digits is odd or even; that is, whether the last digit in the integer should be included once or twice respectively. By way of example the palindromic number 10101 can be represented by (101, **ODD**) and the number 457754 can be represented by (457, **EVEN**).

### 4.2.2 Predecessor and Successor

To see how to compute predecessor or successor palindromic numbers we consider what the sequence looks like in these terms. The first nine terms are the natural numbers 0 through 9. These are represented by the values (0, **ODD**) through (9, **ODD**). These numbers are followed by 11, 22, 33, ..., 99 which are represented by (1, **EVEN**) through (9, **EVEN**). The next portion of the sequence is

$$101, 111, 121, 131, \dots, 191, 202, 212, 222, \dots, 292, 303, \dots, 999$$

These are represented by (10, ODD) through (99, ODD). It can be seen that the following portion of the sequence is represented by the values (10, EVEN) through (99, EVEN).

We can then consider how to compute the successor of a given palindromic number  $(a, b)$ , written  $(a, b) ++$ . If  $a + 1 \neq 10^k$  for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $k > 0$  then  $(a + b) ++ = (a + 1, b)$ . That is,  $(7, \text{ODD}) ++ = (8, \text{ODD})$  for example. If  $a + 1 = 10^k$  for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $k > 0$  then we have two situations depending on  $b$ . The successor of  $(9, \text{ODD})$  is  $(1, \text{EVEN})$ , likewise  $(99, \text{ODD}) ++ = (10, \text{EVEN})$  and so forth; thus we see that in this case

$$(a, b) ++ = \left( \frac{a+1}{10}, \text{EVEN} \right)$$

In the case where  $b = \text{EVEN}$  we have  $(a, b) ++ = (a + 1, \text{ODD})$ .

We can write the successor function as

$$(a, b) ++ = \begin{cases} (a + 1, b), & a + 1 \neq 10^k, \ k \in \mathbb{N}, \ k > 0 \\ \left( \frac{a+1}{10}, \text{EVEN} \right), & a + 1 = 10^k, \ k \in \mathbb{N}, \ k > 0 \wedge b = \text{ODD} \\ (a + 1, \text{ODD}), & a + 1 = 10^k, \ k \in \mathbb{N}, \ k > 0 \wedge b = \text{EVEN} \end{cases} \quad (4.1)$$

This function is implemented in `palindromeSuccessor()` given in Listing 4.1.

From the successor we can compute the predecessor function  $(a, b) --$ ,

Listing 4.1: Problem 4: `palindromeSuccessor()`

```
1 int palindromeSuccessor(palindromeN *n)
2 {
3     double      k;
4
5     k = log10(n->a + 1);
6     if(k - floor(k) < 1e-15 && (int)k >= 1) {    // k in N
7         if(n->b == PALINDROME_ODD) {
8             n->a = (n->a + 1)/10;
9             n->b = PALINDROME_EVEN;
10        } else {
11            n->a++;
12            n->b = PALINDROME_ODD;
13        }
14    } else { // k not in N
15        n->a++;
16    }
17    return(0);
18 error0:
19    return(-1);
20 }
```

remembering to take care of a few extra special cases.

$$(a, b) -- = \begin{cases} \text{UNDEFINED}, & a = 0 \wedge b = \text{ODD} \\ (a - 1, \text{ODD}), & a = 1 \wedge b = \text{ODD} \\ (a - 1, b), & a \neq 10^k, k \in \mathbb{N}, k > 0 \\ (a - 1, \text{EVEN}), & a = 10^k, k \in \mathbb{N}, k > 0 \wedge b = \text{ODD} \\ ((a - 1) \cdot 10 + 9, \text{ODD}), & a = 10^k, k \in \mathbb{N} \wedge b = \text{EVEN} \end{cases} \quad (4.2)$$

### 4.2.3 Computing Integer from Representation

Given the representation of a palindromic number used above we need to compute the actual integer. The value  $a$  represents the leading digits which must be shifted some places to the left. The number of places depends on the value of  $b$ . If  $b = \text{ODD}$  then the shift is  $\lfloor \log_{10}(a) \rfloor$ . If  $b = \text{EVEN}$  then the shift is  $\lfloor \log_{10}(a) \rfloor + 1$ .

We might attempt to figure out the value of each place in decimal; but this has been done already by `sprintf()`. We simply determine the length of  $a$ , `digits(a) =  $\lfloor \log_{10}(a) \rfloor + 1$`  to determine the length of the string necessary, `length(a) + 1`, then use `sprintf()` to place the integer into the string, then treating each character as an integer subtract the value of the string "0" from each value.

The function `palindromeInteger()` in Listing 4.3 implements this.

Listing 4.2: Problem 4: palindromePredecessor()

```
1 int palindromePredecessor(palindromeN *n)
2 {
3     double k;
4
5     if(n->a == 0 && n->b == PALINDROME_ODD) {
6         n->b = PALINDROME_UNDEF;
7         return(0);
8     }
9     if(n->a == 1 && n->b == PALINDROME_ODD) {
10        n->a--;
11        return(0);
12    }
13    k = log10(n->a);
14    if(k - floor(k) < 1e-15) {
15        if(n->b == PALINDROME_ODD) {
16            n->a--;
17            n->b = PALINDROME_EVEN;
18        } else {
19            n->a = (n->a - 1)*10 + 9;
20            n->b = PALINDROME_ODD;
21        }
22    } else {
23        n->a--;
24    }
25
26    return(-1);
27 }
```

Listing 4.3: Problem 4: `palindromeInteger()`

```

1  uint64_t palindromeInteger(palindromeN n) {
2      uint64_t    d, shift, len, i;
3      char        *str;
4
5      len = floor(log10(n.a)) + 1;
6      shift = n.b == 1 ? len : len - 1;
7      d = n.a * pow(10, shift);
8      if((str = malloc(sizeof(char)*(len + 1))) == NULL) goto
          error0;
9      sprintf(str, "%llu\n", n.a);
10     for(i=0; i< shift; i++) {
11         d += ((int)str[i] - '0')*pow(10, i);
12     }
13     free(str);
14     return(d);
15 error0:
16     return(0);
17 }

```

#### 4.2.4 Finding an Answer

Given that we can find the largest palindromic integer less than a given number<sup>\*</sup> we must determine if it satisfies the condition that it is the product of two integers of a given length. To do this we may start by factoring the integer into a list of  $m$  prime factors. Then we can determine if any grouping of the prime factors into two integers will have products of the required length. There are  $\sum_{k=0}^m \binom{m}{k} = 2^m$  ways to group  $m$  prime factors into two groups where we choose  $k$  of them for one product and the remaining  $m - k$  are in the other product. By enumerating over these  $2^m$  groupings we can determine

---

<sup>\*</sup> Using the free digits at the start of the integer find the palindromic integer associated with it. Either it satisfies the inequality, at which point any palindromic integer larger than it will not satisfy the inequality, or it's predecessor will satisfy the inequality.

if any grouping satisfies by computation.

Listing 4.4: Problem 4: twoFactor()

```

1 int twoFactor(uint64_t *list , uint64_t len , uint64_t *x,
  uint64_t *y, uint64_t n)
2 {
3     uint64_t i;
4
5     if(n >= (uint64_t)1 << len) goto error0; // n is out of
        bounds
6     *x = 1; *y = 1;
7     for(i=0; i<len; i++) if((n & ((uint64_t)1 << i)) == 0) *y
        *= list[i]; else *x *= list[i];
8     return(0);
9
10 error0:
11     return(-1);
12 }
```

This algorithm appears inefficient, possibly even exponential, at first glance; however it should not be too bad. Let  $n$  be given. We may write  $n = \prod_p p^{k_p}$  where  $p$  ranges over all prime numbers and  $k_p = 0$  if  $p \nmid n$ . The number of prime factors  $m(n)$  is given by  $m(n) = \sum k_p$ . We can understand the growth of  $m$  by inverting it. The smallest integer which has  $x$  prime factors is  $2^x$  since any integer which has as many prime factors must have some factor(s) which are not 2 and all prime numbers not equal to 2 are greater than 2.  $m(2^x) = x$ ; thus the growth of  $m$  is  $\log_2(n)$ ; thus an upper bound on the number of groupings we must check for each  $n$  is  $2^{\log_2(n)} = n$ . Summing over all  $n$  we have that the algorithm is  $O(n^2)$ .

The function `twoFactor()` takes a list of (presumably prime) factors and an integer  $n$  such that  $2^n$  is less than the length of the list and groups

the prime factors. The code is given in Listing 4.4.

In short, the algorithm is as follows

1. Find largest palindromic number less than  $999 \times 999$
2. For each palindromic number less than  $999 \times 999$  down to  $100 \times 100$  do:
  - (a) Factor the palindromic integer
  - (b) For each grouping of the factors determine if the grouping results in a pair of 3-digit numbers; if so terminate

The code for this is given in Listing 4.5

Listing 4.5: Problem 4: main()

```

1  #include <math.h>
2  #include <stdlib.h>
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <unistd.h>
5  #include "palindrome.h"
6  #include "factor.h"
7
8  int main(int argc, char *argv[])
9  {
10     char                copt, *str;
11     uint64_t            strlen = 0, halfLen = 0, len = 0, n =
12         0, x = 0, y = 0, i=0;
13     uint64_t            min, curN, *factorList, factorLen;
14     palindromeN         p;
15
16     while((copt = getopt(argc, argv, "n:")) != -1) {
17         switch(copt) {
18             case 'n':
19                 len = atoll(optarg);
20                 break;
21             default:
22                 goto usage;
23         }
24     }
25     if(len==0) goto usage;

```



```

25     for(i=0; i<len; i++) {
26         x += 9*pow(10, i);
27     }
28     n = x*x;
29     strlen = (uint64_t)floor(log10(n)) + 1;
30     p.b = ((strlen%2) == 0) ? PALINDROME_EVEN :
31         PALINDROME_ODD;
32     if((str = malloc(sizeof(char)*(strlen + 1))) == NULL)
33         goto error0;
34     sprintf(str, "%llu\n", n);
35     halfLen = (strlen/2.0);
36     if(p.b == PALINDROME_ODD) halfLen++;
37     p.a = 0;
38     for(i=0; i< halfLen; i++) {
39         p.a += (str[i] - '0')*pow(10, halfLen - 1 - i);
40     }
41     if(n < palindromeInteger(p)) palindromePredecessor(&p);
42     x = pow(10, len - 1);
43     min = x*x;
44     while((curN = palindromeInteger(p)) >= min) {
45         factorN(curN, &factorList, &factorLen);
46         for(i=0; i< ((uint64_t)1 << factorLen); i++) {
47             twoFactor(factorList, factorLen, &x, &y, i);
48             if(len == floor(log10(x)) + 1 && len == floor
49                 (log10(y)) + 1) {
50                 printf("Integer %llu factors into %llu
51                     and %llu\n", curN, x, y);
52                 goto done;
53             }
54         }
55         palindromePredecessor(&p);
56     }
57     printf("found no solutions\n");
58 done:
59     exit(0);
60 error0:
61     exit(-1);
62 usage:
63     fprintf(stderr, "%s -n N\n", argv[0]);
64     exit(-1);
65 }

```

# Chapter 5

## Smallest Multiple

2520 is the smallest number that can be divided by each of the numbers from 1 to 10 without any remainder.

What is the smallest positive number that is evenly divisible by all of the numbers from 1 to 20?

### 5.1 Introduction

The solution to this problem is the least common multiple of all integers from 1 to 20.

**Definition 5.1** (Least Common Multiple). The *least common multiple* of two integers  $a$  and  $b$  is the smallest  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a \mid n$  and  $b \mid n$ . We write  $\text{lcm}(a, b) = n$ .

We can define the lcm on more than two integers inductively; that is

$\text{lcm}(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n) = \text{lcm}(\text{lcm}(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}), a_n)$ . We can compute the lcm of two integers  $a$  and  $b$  using the gcd.

**Definition 5.2** (Greatest Common Divisor). For two integers  $a$  and  $b$  with both not equal to zero the *greatest common divisor* is the  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $n \mid a$  and  $n \mid b$  and any other number  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  which divides both also divides  $n^*$ . We write  $\text{gcd}(a, b) = n$ .

The connection between the lcm and the gcd is

$$\text{lcm}(a, b) = \frac{a \cdot b}{\text{gcd}(a, b)} \quad (5.1)$$

To prove this we need some lemmas<sup>†</sup>

**Lemma 5.3** (Euclid's Lemma). Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$  and  $c \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $c \mid ab$  with  $\text{gcd}(b, c) = 1$  then  $c \mid a$ .

*Proof.* Notice that  $\text{gcd}(ab, ac) = |a| \text{gcd}(b, c) = |a|$ . By hypothesis  $c \mid ab$  and clearly  $c \mid ac$  so  $c \mid \text{gcd}(ab, ac) = |a|$  that is,  $c \mid a$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.4.** Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$ , let  $\ell = \text{lcm}(a, b)$  and  $g = \text{gcd}(a, b) = 1$ ; then  $\ell = ab$ .

*Proof.* Notice that  $b \mid \ell$ ; thus  $b = \ell n$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . First we show that  $a \mid n$  by Lemma 5.3. By hypothesis  $\text{gcd}(a, b) = 1$  and by definition  $a \mid \ell = bn$  but  $a \nmid b$  so  $a \mid n$ .

---

\* This definition could be written more succinctly as the greatest integer which divides both however the definition can be extended to commutative rings where *greatest* fails to have meaning.

† See [3]

Since  $\ell \mid ab$  it follows that  $\ell \leq ab$ ; thus  $ab \leq \ell = ab \left(\frac{n}{a}\right) = bn \geq ba$ , where we use the fact that  $a \mid n \implies n \geq a$ . Since  $ab \leq \ell \leq ab$  it follows that  $\ell = ab$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.5.** *Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$  and let  $g = \gcd(a, b)$ ; then  $\gcd\left(\frac{a}{g}, \frac{b}{g}\right) = 1$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $c \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $c \mid \frac{a}{g}$  and  $c \mid \frac{b}{g}$ ; then  $gc \mid a$  and  $gc \mid b$ . By maximality of  $g$  it follows that  $c = 1$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 5.6.** *Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$ . Let  $\ell = \text{lcm}(a, b)$  and  $g = \gcd(a, b)$  then  $g\ell = ab$*

*Proof.* By Lemma 5.5,  $\gcd\left(\frac{a}{g}, \frac{b}{g}\right) = 1$ . By Lemma 5.4 then  $\text{lcm}\left(\frac{a}{g}, \frac{b}{g}\right) = \frac{ab}{g^2}$ ; so  $ab = g^2 \cdot \text{lcm}\left(\frac{a}{g}, \frac{b}{g}\right) = g \cdot \text{lcm}(a, b) = g\ell$  as required.  $\square$

Thus Equation 5.1 is confirmed. This reduces the problem to one of finding the gcd of two numbers.

## 5.2 Computing the Greatest Common Divisor

Euclidean Division states that for  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $b \neq 0$  there exists unique integers  $q, r$  such that  $a = bq + r$  and  $0 \leq r < |b|$ . We can use this in an

algorithm to find  $\gcd(a, b)$ . Let  $a$  and  $b$  be given; then write

$$a = bq_0 + r_0$$

$$b = r_0q_1 + r_1$$

$$r_0 = r_1q_2 + r_2$$

$$\dots$$

$$r_{n-2} = r_{n-1}q_n + r_n$$

By Euclidean Division we can see that the sequence  $\{r_k\}$  is decreasing and this procedure terminates when  $r_n = 0$ . We can see then from the equations that  $r_{n-1}$  divides  $a$  and  $b$  by noting that since  $r_n = 0$  then  $r_{n-1} \mid r_{n-1}q_n = r_{n-2}$  and work up the ladder. Let  $c$  be any number that divides  $a$  and  $b$ ; then by the first equation  $c \mid r_0$ , and so forth we see that  $c \mid r_k$  for all  $k < n$ ; in particular  $c \mid r_{n-1}$ ; so  $c \leq r_{n-1}$  and  $r_{n-1} = \gcd(a, b)$ .

## Chapter 6

### Sum Square Difference

The sum of the squares of the first ten natural numbers is,

$$1^2 + 2^2 + \cdots + 10^2 = 385$$

The square of the sum of the first ten natural numbers is,

$$(1 + 2 + \cdots + 10)^2 = 3025$$

Hence the difference between the sum of the squares of the first ten natural numbers and the square of the sum is  $3025 - 385 = 2640$ .

Find the difference between the sum of the squares of the first one hundred natural numbers and the square of the sum.

# Appendix A

## Factoring Integers

### A.1 Introduction

Factoring integers is a key component of several problems; therefore a factoring library exists to factor integers and return a list of the prime factors. The header, `factor.h`, is given in listing [A.1](#). The code in `factor.c` is given in listing [A.2](#).

### A.2 `factorN()`

The function `factorN()` works by finding small factors, factoring them out and continuing to look for successively larger factors.

More precisely, let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  be given. Let  $n_1 = n$ . Let  $m_2 \in \mathbb{N}$  be the largest number such that  $2^{m_2}$  divides  $n_1$ ; then set  $n_2 = \frac{n_1}{2^{m_2}}$ . Inductively continue until we have a number  $n_k$  such that  $k > \sqrt{n_k}$ . Since  $\{n_i\}$  is a non-decreasing

sequence this number  $k$  exists.  $n_k$  will then be the largest prime factor of  $n$ .

Clearly  $n_k \mid n$ . We can see that  $n_k$  is not composite, since if it was the factors of  $n_k$  would be smaller than  $n_k$  and thus would have been divided out of  $n_k$  at the appropriate step in the construction. We are left to show that there is no prime  $p$  such that  $p > n_k$  and  $p \mid n$ . This can be seen by looking at the sequence  $\{n_k\}$ . At each step where  $n_k$  is a composite then at least one of it's prime factors is less than  $\sqrt{n_k}$ ; thus, if there are no such prime factors then  $n_k$  is prime.

Listing A.1: factor.h

```

1  #ifndef FACTOR_H
2  #define FACTOR_H
3
4  #include <config.h>
5  #include <stdint.h>
6
7  #if HAVE_CUNIT_CUNIT_H
8  int  init_factor(void);
9  int  clean_factor(void);
10 void  unit_factorN(void);
11 void  unit_twoFactor(void);
12 #endif
13
14 int  factorN(unsigned long long n, unsigned long long **list,
15             unsigned long long *len);
16 int  twoFactor(uint64_t *list, uint64_t len, uint64_t *x,
17             uint64_t *y, uint64_t n);
18 #endif

```



Listing A.2: factor.c:factorN()

```

1  int factorN(unsigned long long n, unsigned long long **list,
2      unsigned long long *len)
3  {
4      unsigned long long  sn, i, *f;
5      queue              *q;
6
7      if((q = queueCreate(NULL)) == NULL) goto error0;
8      sn = sqrt(n);
9      while((n & 1) == 0) {
10         f = malloc(sizeof(unsigned long long));
11         *f = 2;
12         queueEnqueue(q, f);
13         n = n >> 1;
14     }
15     sn = sqrt(n);
16     for(i=3; i<=sn; i+=2) {
17         while(n%i == 0) {
18             f = malloc(sizeof(unsigned long long));
19             *f = i;
20             queueEnqueue(q, f);
21             n = n/i;
22             sn = sqrt(n);
23         }
24     }
25     if(n != 1) {
26         f = malloc(sizeof(unsigned long long));
27         *f = n;
28         queueEnqueue(q, f);
29     }
30     *len = queueLength(q);
31     *list = malloc(sizeof(unsigned long long) * (*len));
32     for(i=0; i< *len; i++) {
33         f = queueDequeue(q);
34         (*list)[i] = *f;
35         free(f);
36     }
37     queueDestroy(q);
38     return(0);
39 error0:
40     return(-1);

```

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