

# Project Euler Problems

Michael E. Conlen

June 3, 2013

# 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.

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Sum of Natural Numbers Divisible by 3 and 5</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Introduction . . . . .	1
1.2	Direct Computation . . . . .	2
<b>2</b>	<b>Sum of Even Fibonacci Numbers</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Introduction . . . . .	5
2.2	Order of $F_n$ . . . . .	6
2.3	Computing <code>fib(n)</code> Directly . . . . .	10
2.4	Sum of Even Fibonacci Numbers . . . . .	10
2.5	Finding the Index . . . . .	12
2.6	Direct Computation . . . . .	14
2.7	Generalization . . . . .	15
<b>3</b>	<b>Largest Prime Factor of <math>n</math></b>	<b>17</b>
3.1	Introduction . . . . .	17
3.2	Remarks . . . . .	19

---

<b>4 Largest Palindrome Product</b>	<b>20</b>
4.1 Introduction . . . . .	20

# Listings

1.1	Problem 1: Naïve Solution . . . . .	2
1.2	Problem 1: C Solution . . . . .	4
2.1	Problem 2: Naïve Solution . . . . .	6
2.2	Problem 2: <code>fib(n)</code> Direct . . . . .	11
2.3	Problem 2: Direct Solution . . . . .	14
2.4	Problem 2: General Solution . . . . .	16
3.1	Problem 3: Naïve Solution . . . . .	18

# 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<sup>\*</sup>. 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;

---

<sup>\*</sup> 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
36 usage:
37     fprintf(stderr, "%s_-n_N_-q_Q_-r_R\n", argv[0]);
38     exit(-1);
39 }
```

## 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 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  $F_1 = 1^*$ . Multiply equation 2.1 by  $x^k$ ,

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

---

\* 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

Naïvely we may divide  $n$  by the sequence of natural numbers  $\{2, 3, 5, 7, \dots, \lfloor \sqrt{n} \rfloor\}$  saving the result for further computation. This removes successively larger primes from the quotient until the last is found.

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 its prime factors is less than  $\sqrt{n_k}$ ; thus, if there are no such prime factors then  $n_k$  is prime.

We implement this algorithm in Listing 3.1.

Listing 3.1: Problem 3: Naïve Solution

```

1  #include <math.h>
2  #include <stdlib.h>
3  #include <stdio.h>
4
5  int main(int argc, char *argv[])
6  {
7      unsigned long long  n = 600851475143, sn;
8      unsigned long long  i, j, k;
9
10     sn = sqrt(n);
11     while(n & 1 == 0) n = n >> 1;
12     for(i=3; i< sn; i+=2) {
13         while(n%i == 0) { n = n/i; sn = sqrt(n); }
14     }
15     printf("%llu\n", n);
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 is to iterate the palindrome numbers<sup>\*</sup>. The numbers which result from three digit multiplication range from  $10000 = 100 \times 100$  to  $998001 = 999 \times 999$ ;

---

<sup>\*</sup> absent any theory which short circuits these requirements.

---

thus we must consider representations of palindrome numbers which have an even and odd number of digits.

# Index

Fibonacci Number, [5](#)

generating function, [7](#)

prime, [17](#)