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SOME CONGRUENCES FOR FIBONACCI NUMBERS

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1. INTRODUCTION

The first congruence in this paper arose in an effort to extend a result of Collings [1] and the second congruence is merely an elaboration of part of a theorem of Wall [5]. In the final section we look at some congruences modulo m^2.

Some of the symbols involved are: $D(m)$, the period of divisibility modulo m (or rank of apparition of m or entry point of m), the smallest positive integer z such that $F_z \equiv 0$ (mod m) (see Daykin and Dresel [2]); $C(m)$, the period of cycle modulo m, the smallest positive integer k; $F_{k+n} \equiv F_n$ (mod m), $n \geqslant 0$; $T(m)$, the smallest positive integer ℓ: $F_{z+1}^{\ell} \equiv 1$. (mod m). In fact, $z\ell = k$. (See Wyler [6].)

Collings' result was than when m is prime, ℓ is even,

(1.1) $$F_r + F_{\frac{1}{2}\ell z+r} \equiv 0 \pmod{m},$$

where

$$F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2} \;\; (n \geqslant 3), \quad F_1 = F_2 = 1.$$

We show that m can be composite if $F_{z+1}^{\frac{1}{2}\ell} \equiv -1$ (mod m).

2. LEMMAS

Lemma 2.1: (see Vinson [5].)

For $m > 2$, $D(m)$ is odd implies that $T(m) = 4$; and $D(m)$ is even implies that $T(m) = 1$ or 2.

Proof: Simson's relation can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} F_{z+1}^2 &= F_{z+2}F_z + (-1)^{z+2} \\ &\equiv (-1)^{z+2} \quad \text{since} \quad F_z \equiv 0 \pmod{m}, \\ &\equiv 1 \pmod{m} \quad \text{if} \quad z = D(m) \quad \text{is even}, \\ &\equiv -1 \pmod{m} \quad \text{if} \quad z = D(m) \quad \text{is odd.} \end{aligned}$$

When

$$F_{z+1}^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{m},$$
$$T(m) = 2 \quad \text{if} \quad F_{z+1} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{m},$$
$$T(m) = 1 \quad \text{if} \quad F_{z+1} \equiv 1 \pmod{m}.$$

When

$$F_{z+1}^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{m},$$
$$F_{z+1}^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{m} \quad \text{if} \quad m > 2;$$

so

$$F_{z+1} \not\equiv \pm 1 \pmod{m}.$$
$$F_{z+1}^3 = F_{z+1}^2 F_{z+1} \equiv -F_{z+1} \pmod{m};$$
$$F_{z+1}^4 = [F_{z+1}^2]^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{m},$$

and

$$T(m) = 4.$$

Lemma 2.2: $$F_{k-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{m}.$$

Proof: $$F_{k-1} = F_{k+1} - F_k \equiv F_1 - 0 \pmod{m}$$
$$\equiv 1 \pmod{m}.$$

3. THEOREMS

Theorem 3.1: If $\ell \neq 1$ and $F_{z+1}^{\frac{1}{2}\ell} \equiv -1 \pmod{m}$, then

$$F_r + F_{\frac{1}{2}\ell z+r} \equiv 0 \pmod{m} \quad \text{for all} \quad r > 0.$$

Proof: $\ell = T(m)$ which takes only the values $1, 2, 4$ (Lemma 2.1). But $\ell \neq 1$ (given). Therefore ℓ is even. Therefore, $F_{z+1}^{\frac{1}{2}\ell}$ exists and is unique. Moreover,

$$F_{\frac{1}{2}\ell z+r} \equiv F_{z+1}^{\frac{1}{2}} F_r \pmod{m} \quad \text{(see Eq. (8) of [4])}$$
$$\equiv -F_r \pmod{m} \quad \text{as} \quad F_{z+1}^{\frac{1}{2}\ell} \equiv -1$$
$$\therefore F_r + F_{\frac{1}{2}\ell z+r} \equiv 0 \pmod{m}.$$

NOTE. (i) Conversely, if for $\ell \neq 1$ we are given that

$$F_r + F_{\frac{1}{2}\ell z+r} \equiv 0 \pmod{m},$$

for all r, this congruence must hold for $r = 1$.

$$\therefore 1 = F_1 \equiv -F_{\frac{1}{2}\ell z+1} \pmod{m}$$
$$\equiv -F_{z+1}^{\frac{1}{2}\ell} F_1 \pmod{m}$$
$$\equiv -F_{z+1}^{\frac{1}{2}\ell}.$$

On the other hand, it is possible for

$$F_r + F_{\frac{1}{2}\ell z+r}$$

to be congruent to zero for some particular r without $F_{z+1}^{\frac{1}{2}\ell}$ being congruent to -1. Thus, when $m = 12$,

$$F_{12} = 144 \equiv 0 \pmod{12} \quad \text{and} \quad z = 12.$$
$$F_{z+1} = F_{13} = 233 \equiv 5 \pmod{12}$$
$$\therefore \ell = 2$$
$$\therefore F_{z+1}^{\frac{1}{2}\ell} = F_{13} \not\equiv -1 \pmod{12}.$$

Despite this,

$$F_3 + F_{\frac{1}{2}\ell z+3} = F_3 + F_{15} = 2 + 610 = 612 \equiv 0 \pmod{12}.$$

(ii) When $\ell = 1$ the situation is very untidy. If z is odd, $F_{\frac{1}{2}\ell z+r}$ does not exist. Even when z is even, we have trouble with $F_{z+1}^{\frac{1}{2}\ell}$. As $\ell = 1$, $F_{z+1} \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$. Therefore

$$F_{z+1}^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{F_{z+1}} \equiv \sqrt{1} = \pm 1$$

(and possibly other values as well). -1 is always a possible value for $F_{z+1}^{\frac{1}{2}}$, but never the exclusive value.

(iii) Although -1 is always a possible value for $F_{z+1}^{\frac{1}{2}\ell}$ $(\ell = 1)$, it is not necessarily true that

$$F_r + F_{\frac{1}{2}\ell z+r} \equiv 0 \pmod{m} \quad \text{for all} \quad r > 0.$$

Thus, when $m = 4$, $z = 6$.

$$\therefore F_{z+1} \equiv 1 \pmod{m}, \quad \therefore \ell = 1.$$
$$\therefore F_2 + F_{\frac{1}{2}z+2} = F_2 + F_5 = 6 \equiv 2 \pmod{4}.$$

Theorem 3.2: $F_r + (-1)^r F_{k-r} \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$.

Proof: $-F_k \equiv 0 = F_0$ and $F_{k-1} \equiv 1 = F_1 \pmod{m}$, by Lemma 2.2

$$-F_{k-2} = -F_k + F_{k-1} \equiv F_0 + F_1 \equiv F_2 \pmod{m}.$$

It follows by induction on k that

$$\begin{aligned}(-1)^{r-1}F_{k-r} &= (-1)^{r-1}F_{k-r+2} + (-1)^r F_{k-r+1}\\ &\equiv F_{r-2} + F_{r-1} \pmod{m}\\ &\equiv F_r \pmod{m},\end{aligned}$$

which gives the required result.

4. CONGRUENCES MODULO m^2

Here we use the results (see Hoggatt [3])

$$F_{nr+1} = F_{(n-1)r}F_r + F_{(n-1)r+1}F_{r+1} \tag{4.1}$$

and

$$F_{2n+1} = F_n^2 + F_{n+1}^2 . \tag{4.2}$$

If $a \pmod{m} \equiv F_{z+1} \equiv b \pmod{m^2}$, then b is of the form $Bm + a$, for some B. For example, $F_5 \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$, $3 \pmod{5} \equiv F_6 \equiv 8 \pmod{5^2}$, and $8 = 1 \times 5 + 3$.

Using $F_z \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$ and (4.1) and (4.2) we find

$$F_{2z+1} \equiv F_{z+1}^2 \pmod{m^2} \equiv b^2 \pmod{m^2},$$

and

$$F_{3z+1} \equiv F_{2z+1}F_{z+1} \pmod{m^2} \equiv b^3 \pmod{m^2},$$

which, by the use of (4.1), can be generalized to

$$F_{nz+1} \equiv b^n \pmod{m^2}. \tag{4.3}$$

Furthermore, since $F_z = Am$ for some A, then

$$F_{z-1} \equiv b - Am \pmod{m^2}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}F_{2z} &= F_{z-1}F_z + F_zF_{z+1}\\ &\equiv (b - Am)Am + Amb \pmod{m^2}\\ &\equiv 2bAm \pmod{m^2}.\end{aligned}$$

Also,

$$\begin{aligned}F_{3z} &= F_{2z-1}F_z + F_{2z}F_{z+1} \quad \text{(from (4.1))}\\ &\equiv (b^2 - 2bAm)Am + 2bAm \cdot b \pmod{m^2}\\ &\equiv 3b^2Am \pmod{m^2}.\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, $F_{4z} \equiv 4b^3Am \pmod{m^2}$. Thus

$$F_{nz} \equiv nb^{n-1}Am \pmod{m^2}. \tag{4.4}$$

When $F_{nz} \equiv 0$ the congruence $nb^{n-1}A \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$ reduces to $nA \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$, because, from (4.3) and (4.4), if b and m have any factor in common, so have F_{nz} and F_{nz+1}, which is impossible as adjacent Fibonacci numbers are always co-prime. Thus, if we solve $nA \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$ for n, then $Z = nz$ gives that F_Z which is zero (mod m^2).

Let us apply these methods to find which Fibonacci numbers are divisible by convenient powers of 10. Instead of working with $m = 10$, we shall find the equations simpler if we write $10 = m_1 \cdot m_2$, where $m_1 = 2$, $m_2 = 5$, and $100 = 2^2 \cdot 5^2$. $m_1 = 2$, $z = 3$, $F_3 = 1 \cdot 2$ and so $A = 1$. The equation $nA \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$ reduces to $n \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$, which gives $n = 2$, so that $Z = 2z = 6$. Similarly with $m_2 = 5$, $z = 5$, and we find that $Z = 5z = 25$.

If we take $m_1 = 4$, $z = 6$, $F_6 = 2 \cdot 4$ and so $A = 2$. Thus $2n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ which gives $n = 2$ and $Z = 2z = 12$. Similarly, with $m_2 = 25$, $z = 25$ and $F_{25} = 75025 = 3001 \cdot 25$ which yields $A \equiv 1 \pmod{25}$. So $n = 25$ and $Z = 25z = 625$.

Relying on the known result that the period of divisibility by m_1m_2 (m_1,m_2 co-prime) is given by $D(m_1m_2) = LCM(z_1, z_2)$ (see Wall [6]), we get the results:

$LCM(3,5) = 15$, and so F_{15} is the first Fibonacci number to be divisible by 10. $lcm\ (6,25) = 150$, and so F_{150} is divisible by 100. $LCM(12,625) = 7{,}500$ and so F_{7500} is divisible by 10^4.

This has been an exercise in finding the z numbers. By an extension of the argument we can produce the corresponding k numbers—the period of recurrence of the Fibonacci numbers (mod m^2).

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$$F_k(x) = \sum_{j=0}^{[k/2]} (-1)^j e^j \frac{k}{k-j} \binom{k-j}{j} g_{k-2j}((-1)^j x) . \tag{5}$$

Write

$$\begin{cases} h_k(x) = (1 - a_k x + (-1)^k x^2) g_k(x) \\ c_k \quad = [(r-sb)a]^k + [(sa-r)b]^k . \end{cases} \tag{6}$$

Following Riordan [6], with $a_0 = 2$ and $h_0(x) = 1 - x$, we eventually derive

$$\left\{\begin{aligned} c_1 + s\sqrt{5}\,x &= h_1(x) \\ c_2 - x(2e+5s^2) &= h_2(x) - 2e\left\{h_0(-x) - (a_0+a_2)xg_0(-x)\right\} \\ c_3 + s\sqrt{5}\,x(3e+5s^2) &= h_3(x) - 3e\left\{h_1(-x) - (a_1+a_3)xg_1(-x)\right\} \\ c_4 - x(2e^2+20s^2e+25s^4) &= h_4(x) - 4e\left\{h_2(-x) - (a_2+a_4)xg_2(-x)\right\} \\ &\qquad + 2e^2\left\{h_0(x) - (a_4-a_0)xg_0(x)\right\} \\ c_5 - e_1 &= h_5(x) - 5e\left\{h_3(-x) - (a_3+a_5)xg_3(-x)\right\} + 5e^2\left\{h_1(x) - (a_5-a_1)xg_1(x)\right\} \end{aligned}\right. \tag{7}$$

where

$$e_1 = 2r^5 - 5r^4s + 30r^2s^2 - 40r^2s^3 + 35rs^4 - 10s^5 .$$

Substituting values of $a_k = a^k + b^k$, we have

$$\left\{\begin{aligned} h_1(x) &= \sqrt{5}\,(r+sx) \\ h_2(x) &= 5(r^2 - s^2x) - 10exg_0(-x) \\ h_3(x) &= 5\sqrt{5}\,(r^3+s^3x) - 15exg_1(-x) \\ h_4(x) &= 25(r^4 - s^4x) - 40exg_2(-x) + 50e^2xg_0(x) \\ h_5(x) &= 25\sqrt{5}\,(r^5+s^5x) - 75exg_3(-x) + 125e^2xg_1(x) . \end{aligned}\right. \tag{8}$$

These functions lead back to (2).

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