

## INTEGERS WITH A MAXIMAL NUMBER OF FIBONACCI REPRESENTATIONS

P. KOCÁBOVÁ<sup>1</sup>, Z. MASÁKOVÁ<sup>1</sup> AND E. PELANTOVÁ<sup>1</sup>

**Abstract.** We study the properties of the function  $R(n)$  which determines the number of representations of an integer  $n$  as a sum of distinct Fibonacci numbers  $F_k$ . We determine the maximum and mean values of  $R(n)$  for  $F_k \leq n < F_{k+1}$ .

**Mathematics Subject Classification.** 11A67, 11B39.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $(F_k)_{k \geq 0}$  be the Fibonacci sequence defined by

$$F_0 = F_1 = 1, \quad F_{k+1} = F_k + F_{k-1} \quad \text{for } k \geq 1.$$

Every positive integer  $n$  can be written as a sum of distinct Fibonacci numbers, *i.e.* in the form

$$n = F_{m_r} + F_{m_{r-1}} + \cdots + F_{m_1}, \quad \text{where } m_r > m_{r-1} > \cdots > m_1 \geq 1. \quad (1)$$

The expression (1) is called a representation of the number  $n$  in the Fibonacci number system. The index of the maximal Fibonacci number that appears in the representation of  $n$  is called the length of the representation. Every Fibonacci representation can be written in the form of a finite word  $w = w_{m_r} w_{m_{r-1}} \cdots w_1$  in the alphabet  $\{0, 1\}$ , where  $w_i = 1$  for  $i = m_1, \dots, m_r$ , and  $w_i = 0$  otherwise. For example the number  $n = 32$  can be represented as

$$32 = 21 + 5 + 3 + 2 + 1 = F_7 + F_4 + F_3 + F_2 + F_1$$

---

*Keywords and phrases.* Fibonacci numbers, Zeckendorf representation.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Mathematics, FNSPE, Czech Technical University, Trojanova 13, 120 00 Praha 2, Czech Republic; e-mail: [petra.kocabova@centrum.cz](mailto:petra.kocabova@centrum.cz), [masakova@km1.fjfi.cvut.cz](mailto:masakova@km1.fjfi.cvut.cz), [pelantova@km1.fjfi.cvut.cz](mailto:pelantova@km1.fjfi.cvut.cz)

and this representation corresponds to the word 1001111. Due to the recurrence relation for Fibonacci numbers, different representations of the number  $n$  can be obtained by substituting the string 011 by 100 and *vice versa*. All representations of 32 correspond to words

$$1010100, \quad 1010011, \quad 1001111, \quad 111111.$$

The number of different Fibonacci representations of  $n$  will be denoted by  $R(n)$ . Let us enumerate the first twenty values of the sequence  $(R(n))_{n \geq 1}$ ,

$$(R(n))_{n \geq 1} = 1, 1, 2, 1, 2, 2, 1, 3, 2, 2, 3, 1, 3, 3, 2, 4, 2, 3, 3, 1, \dots \quad (2)$$

For a given positive integer  $n$  we can find  $k$  such that

$$F_k \leq n < F_{k+1}.$$

It is obvious that every representation of  $n$  has length  $\leq k$ . On the other hand, since

$$F_1 + F_2 + \dots + F_{k-2} < F_k \leq n,$$

the lengths of every representation of  $n$  is at least  $k - 1$ . Thus representations of the number  $n$  can be divided into long (having length  $k$ ) and short (of length  $k - 1$ ). Let us denote by  $R_1(n)$  the number of long representations of  $n$ , and by  $R_0(n)$  the number of short representations of  $n$ . Clearly

$$R(n) = R_1(n) + R_0(n).$$

If we prefix the short Fibonacci representations of  $n$  with the prefix 0, they have the same length as the long representations of  $n$ . The lexicographically greatest among all such representations of the number  $n$  is called the Zeckendorf representation of  $n$  and the corresponding word in the alphabet  $\{0, 1\}$  is denoted by  $\langle n \rangle$ . The distinguishing characteristic of this representation is that there are no adjacent 1's. For example, we have  $\langle 32 \rangle = 1010100$ .

The Zeckendorf representation of a number  $n$  is a word of the form

$$\langle n \rangle = 10^{r_1} 10^{r_2} \dots 10^{r_l}, \quad \text{where } r_1, \dots, r_{l-1} \geq 1, \text{ and } r_l \geq 0. \quad (3)$$

The sum  $r_1 + r_2 + \dots + r_l + l$  determines the length of the Zeckendorf representation of  $n$ . Since the relation between the number  $n$  and the word (3) is one-to-one, we define for the simplicity of notation

$$\begin{aligned} \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l) &:= R(n) \\ \varrho_1(r_1, \dots, r_l) &:= R_1(n) \\ \varrho_0(r_1, \dots, r_l) &:= R_0(n) \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where  $\langle n \rangle = 10^{r_1} 10^{r_2} \dots 10^{r_l}$ .

It can be seen easily that  $R(n) = 1$  if and only if  $n = F_k - 1$  for some  $k \geq 2$ . The values of  $R(n)$  for  $n = F_k \pm j$ ,  $j \leq 8$  are given in [2]. The segment of the sequence  $R(n)$  between two consecutive occurrences of 1 is a palindrome [2, 4], *i.e.*

$$R(F_k - 1 + i) = R(F_{k+1} - 1 - i), \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, F_{k-1} - 1.$$

The aim of this paper is to find the maximal and the mean values of the function  $R(n)$  for  $F_k - 1 < n < F_{k+1} - 1$ , which corresponds to the numbers  $n$  whose Zeckendorf representation has a fixed length  $k$ . We determine the numbers

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Max}(k) &:= \max\{R(n) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}, F_k \leq n < F_{k+1}\} \\ &= \max\left\{\varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l) \mid l \in \mathbb{N}, r_1, \dots, r_{l-1} \geq 1, r_l \geq 0, l + \sum_{i=1}^l r_i = k\right\}. \end{aligned}$$

In addition, we classify the arguments of the maxima.

Let us determine several initial values of the sequence  $\text{Max}(k)$ . It suffices to divide the sequence  $(R(n))_{n \geq 1}$  to blocks of length  $F_0, F_1, F_2, \dots$  along the occurrence of consecutive 1's and to find maximal values in these blocks, see (2). We have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Max}(1) &= \max\{R(n) \mid 1 \leq n < 2\} = R(1) = 1, \\ \text{Max}(2) &= \max\{R(n) \mid 2 \leq n < 3\} = R(2) = 1, \\ \text{Max}(3) &= \max\{R(n) \mid 3 \leq n < 5\} = R(3) = 2, \\ \text{Max}(4) &= \max\{R(n) \mid 5 \leq n < 8\} = R(5) = R(6) = 2, \\ \text{Max}(5) &= \max\{R(n) \mid 8 \leq n < 13\} = R(8) = R(11) = 3, \\ \text{Max}(6) &= \max\{R(n) \mid 13 \leq n < 21\} = R(16) = 4. \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

## 2. PROPERTIES OF THE FUNCTIONS $\varrho$ , $\varrho_0$ , $\varrho_1$

Berstel [1] gives an explicit formula for computing the values of functions  $\varrho$ ,  $\varrho_1$ ,  $\varrho_0$  defined in (4). Denote the matrix

$$M(r) := \begin{pmatrix} \lceil \frac{r}{2} \rceil & \lfloor \frac{r}{2} \rfloor \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Theorem 2.1** (Berstel). *Let  $r_1, \dots, r_l \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $r_1, \dots, r_{l-1} \geq 1$ ,  $r_l \geq 0$ . Then*

$$\begin{pmatrix} \varrho_0(r_1, \dots, r_l) \\ \varrho_1(r_1, \dots, r_l) \end{pmatrix} = M(r_1)M(r_2)\dots M(r_l) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since  $\varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l) = \varrho_0(r_1, \dots, r_l) + \varrho_1(r_1, \dots, r_l)$ , we have explicit formulas for the functions  $\varrho$ ,  $\varrho_0$ ,  $\varrho_1$  in the following form

$$\begin{aligned}\varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} M(r_1)M(r_2)\dots M(r_l) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ \varrho_0(r_1, \dots, r_l) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} M(r_1)M(r_2)\dots M(r_l) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ \varrho_1(r_1, \dots, r_l) &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} M(r_1)M(r_2)\dots M(r_l) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.\end{aligned}\quad (6)$$

Let us now derive some recurrence relations for  $\varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l)$  that will be needed for determining the maximal values. If  $l = 1$  we get directly from (6) that

$$\varrho(r) = \left\lfloor \frac{r}{2} \right\rfloor + 1. \quad (7)$$

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $l \in \mathbb{N}$ , and let  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{l-1} \geq 1$ ,  $r_l \geq 0$ . If  $r_l$  is odd, then  $\varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l) = \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_{l-1})$ .*

*Proof.* It follows from (6) since for  $r_l$  odd we have  $M(r_l) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = M(r_l - 1) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $l \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $l \geq 2$  and let  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{l-1} \geq 1$ ,  $r_l \geq 0$ . If  $r_i$  is even for some  $1 \leq i \leq l-1$ , then*

$$\varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l) = \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_i)\varrho(r_{i+1}, \dots, r_l).$$

*Proof.* For  $r_i$  even we have  $M(r_i) = M(r_i) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Substituting into (6) we obtain the lemma.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let  $l \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $l \geq 2$ , and let  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{l-1} \geq 1$ ,  $r_l \geq 0$ . We have*

$$\begin{aligned}\varrho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l) &= \frac{r_1 + 1}{2} \varrho(r_2, \dots, r_l) + \varrho_0(r_2, \dots, r_l), & \text{if } r_1 \text{ is odd,} \\ \varrho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l) &= \left( \frac{r_1}{2} + 1 \right) \varrho(r_2, \dots, r_l), & \text{if } r_1 \text{ is even.}\end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* First suppose  $r_1$  is odd. Since

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} M(r_1) = \frac{r_1 + 1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

substituting into (6) gives the desired result. The statement for  $r_1$  even is a consequence of Lemma 2.3 and the relation (7).  $\square$

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $l \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $l \geq 3$ , and let  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{l-1} \geq 1$ ,  $r_l \geq 0$ . If for some  $i$ ,  $2 \leq i \leq l-1$ , the coefficient  $r_i$  is odd, then*

$$\varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l) = \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_i - 1)\varrho(r_{i+1}, \dots, r_l) + \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_{i-1} + 1)\varrho_0(r_{i+1}, \dots, r_l).$$

*Proof.* Again, it suffices to verify the matrix equality

$$M(r_{i-1})M(r_i) = M(r_{i-1})M(r_i - 1) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} (1 \ 1) + M(r_{i-1} + 1) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} (1 \ 0)$$

for  $r_i$  odd and to use (6).  $\square$

The following lemma is a direct consequence of the definition of functions  $\varrho$ ,  $\varrho_0$  and can be found in [4] as Lemma 1.

**Lemma 2.6** (Edson, Zamboni). *Let  $l \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $l \geq 2$ , and let  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{l-1} \geq 1$ ,  $r_l \geq 0$ . Then*

- (i)  $\varrho_0(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l) = \varrho(r_1 - 2, r_2, \dots, r_l)$ , for  $r_1 \geq 3$ ;
- (ii)  $\varrho_0(2, r_2, \dots, r_l) = \varrho(r_2, \dots, r_l)$ ;
- (iii)  $\varrho_0(1, r_2, \dots, r_l) = \varrho_0(r_2, \dots, r_l)$ ;
- (iv)  $\varrho(r_1, \dots, r_{l-1}, 1, 1, \dots, 1) = \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_{l-1})$ .

Clearly,  $\varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l) \geq 1$ . However, the number of short Fibonacci representations  $\varrho_0(r_1, \dots, r_l)$  can be equal to 0. Using the rules given in Lemma 2.6 we easily deduce that

$$\varrho_0(r_1, \dots, r_l) = 0 \iff r_1 = r_2 = \dots = r_{l-1} = 1 \text{ and } r_l \in \{0, 1\}. \quad (8)$$

### 3. LOWER BOUND ON $\text{Max}(k)$

In order to find the lower estimates of  $\text{Max}(k)$ , let us determine the values  $\varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l)$  on some chosen  $l$ -tuples  $(r_1, \dots, r_l)$ .

**Lemma 3.1.**

- 1)  $\varrho(\underbrace{3, 3, \dots, 3}_{k-1 \text{ times}}, 4) = \varrho(1, \underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_{k-1 \text{ times}}, 2) = F_{2k+1}$  for  $k \geq 1$ .
- 2)  $\varrho(\underbrace{3, 3, \dots, 3}_k, 2) = \varrho(1, \underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_{k-1 \text{ times}}, 4) = F_{2k+2}$  for  $k \geq 1$ .

*Proof.* Let us first show by induction that for the  $s$ -th power of the matrix  $M(3) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  we have

$$(M(3))^s = \begin{pmatrix} F_{2s} & F_{2s-1} \\ F_{2s-1} & F_{2s-2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{for } s \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (9)$$

For  $s = 1$  the statement is trivial. For  $s \geq 2$  we use the induction hypothesis

$$(M(3))^s = (M(3))^{s-1} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} F_{2s-2} & F_{2s-3} \\ F_{2s-3} & F_{2s-4} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} F_{2s} & F_{2s-1} \\ F_{2s-1} & F_{2s-2} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Note that (9) is valid also for  $s = 0$  if we define  $F_{-1}, F_{-2}$  in such a way that the recurrence relation is still valid, ( $F_{-1} = 0, F_{-2} = 1$ ). It is now easy to use (6) to find

$$\begin{aligned} \varrho(\underbrace{3, 3, \dots, 3}_{k-1 \text{ times}}, 4) &= (1 \ 1) \begin{pmatrix} F_{2k-2} & F_{2k-3} \\ F_{2k-3} & F_{2k-4} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= (F_{2k-1} \ F_{2k-2}) \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = F_{2k+1} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \varrho(1, \underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_{k-1 \text{ times}}, 2) &= (1 \ 1) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} F_{2k-2} & F_{2k-3} \\ F_{2k-3} & F_{2k-4} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= (F_{2k} \ F_{2k-1}) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = F_{2k+1}. \end{aligned}$$

The relations (2) can be proved similarly.  $\square$

As a corollary, we have a lower estimate on the maxima for numbers with Zeckendorf representation of odd length.

**Corollary 3.2.**  $\text{Max}(2k + 1) \geq F_{k+1}$  for  $k \geq 1$ .

From the definition of the function  $\varrho$  it follows that

$$\varrho(2, r_1, \dots, r_l) \geq 2\varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l)$$

and for  $r_l > 0$  also

$$\varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l, 2) \geq 2\varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l).$$

Therefore we have the following lower estimate on the maxima for numbers with Zeckendorf representation of even length.

**Corollary 3.3.**  $\text{Max}(2k + 2) \geq 2\text{Max}(2k - 1) \geq 2F_k$  for  $k \geq 2$ .

Our aim is to show that the inequalities in Corollaries 3.2 and 3.3 are in fact equalities.

#### 4. MAXIMA OF THE FUNCTION $R(n)$

Let us now determine the maximum of the function  $R(n) = \varrho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l)$ , where  $F_k \leq n < F_{k+1}$  and  $\langle n \rangle = 10^{r_1} 10^{r_2} \dots 10^{r_l}$ . The  $l$ -tuple  $r_1, \dots, r_l \in \mathbb{Z}$  must satisfy  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{l-1} \geq 1, r_l \geq 0$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^l r_i + l = k$ . We shall not repeat these assumptions.

Let us show that  $\text{Max}(k)$  is not reached on integers  $n$  whose Zeckendorf representation has only one 1. More precisely, we have the following proposition.

**Proposition 4.1.** *Let  $\text{Max}(k) = \varrho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l)$ . Then  $l \geq 2$  or  $k \leq 5$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose by contradiction that  $k \geq 6$  and  $l = 1$ . Then using (7), we have  $\text{Max}(k) = \varrho(k-1) = \lfloor \frac{k-1}{2} \rfloor + 1$ . For  $k$  even we have by Corollary 3.3

$$2F_{\frac{k-2}{2}} \leq \text{Max}(k) = \left\lfloor \frac{k-1}{2} \right\rfloor + 1 = \frac{k}{2},$$

which is in contradiction with  $2F_{i-1} > i$  for all  $i \geq 3$ . For  $k$  odd we have by Corollary 3.2

$$F_{\frac{k+1}{2}} \leq \text{Max}(k) = \left\lfloor \frac{k-1}{2} \right\rfloor + 1 = \frac{k+1}{2},$$

which contradicts the fact that  $F_i > i$  for all  $i \geq 4$ . □

In the following several propositions we show that the maximum is reached on  $l$ -tuples of a certain specific form. The proofs are done by contradiction. Assuming that the maximal  $l$ -tuple does not satisfy the desired properties, we find another  $l$ -tuple on which the function  $\varrho$  has strictly greater value.

**Proposition 4.2.** *Let  $\text{Max}(k) = \varrho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l)$  for  $k \geq 6$ . Then  $r_l$  is even.*

*Proof.* Since the above Proposition 4.1 implies that  $l \geq 2$ , it suffices to prove that for  $r_l$  odd we have

$$\varrho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l) < \varrho(r_1 + 1, r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l - 1). \quad (10)$$

We divide the demonstration of (10) into two cases.

a) Let  $r_1$  be even. Using Lemmas 2.2 and 2.4 we have

$$\begin{aligned} \varrho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l) &= \varrho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l - 1) \\ &= \left( \frac{r_1}{2} + 1 \right) \varrho(r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l - 1), \\ \varrho(r_1 + 1, r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l - 1) & \\ &= \frac{r_1 + 2}{2} \varrho(r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l - 1) + \varrho_0(r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l - 1). \end{aligned}$$

In order to obtain (10) we need to show that  $\varrho_0(r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l - 1) > 0$ . Using (8),  $\varrho_0(r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l - 1) = 0$  with  $r_l$  odd implies  $r_2 = r_3 = \dots = r_l = 1$ . However, in this case the property (iv) of Lemma 2.6 and Proposition 4.1 give

$$\varrho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l) = \varrho(r_1, 1, 1, \dots, 1) = \varrho(r_1) < \varrho(k-1) < \text{Max}(k),$$

which contradicts the assumption of the proposition. Thus we necessarily have  $\varrho_0(r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l - 1) > 0$  and (10) is valid.

b) Let  $r_1$  be odd. Again we use Lemmas 2.2 and 2.4 to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\varrho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l) &= \frac{r_1 + 1}{2} \varrho(r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l) + \varrho_0(r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l), \\ \varrho(r_1 + 1, r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l - 1) &= \varrho(r_1 + 1, \dots, r_l) = \left( \frac{r_1 + 1}{2} + 1 \right) \varrho(r_2, \dots, r_l).\end{aligned}$$

The validity of (10) is obvious, since  $\varrho(r_2, \dots, r_l) > \varrho_0(r_2, \dots, r_l)$ .  $\square$

In order to find the arguments of the maxima of the function  $\varrho$ , we use the matrix formula (6). First we introduce a partial ordering on non-negative matrices. Lemma 4.4 then shows that replacing a matrix in (6) by a “bigger” one increases the value of the function  $\varrho$ .

**Definition 4.3.** Let  $\mathbb{X} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\tilde{\mathbb{X}} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{a} & \tilde{b} \\ \tilde{c} & \tilde{d} \end{pmatrix}$  be integer matrices with non-negative components. We say that  $\mathbb{X}$  majores  $\tilde{\mathbb{X}}$  (written  $\mathbb{X} \succ \tilde{\mathbb{X}}$ ) if

$$a \geq \tilde{a}, \quad b \geq \tilde{b}, \quad a + c \geq \tilde{a} + \tilde{c} \quad \text{and} \quad b + d \geq \tilde{b} + \tilde{d}. \quad (11)$$

**Lemma 4.4.** Let  $\alpha = (1 \ 1) \mathbb{A} \mathbb{X} \mathbb{B} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\tilde{\alpha} = (1 \ 1) \mathbb{A} \tilde{\mathbb{X}} \mathbb{B} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ , where

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{A} &= \mathbb{I}_2 \quad \text{or} \quad \mathbb{A} = M(r_1) \dots M(r_s), \\ \mathbb{B} &= \mathbb{I}_2 \quad \text{or} \quad \mathbb{B} = M(p_1) \dots M(p_t),\end{aligned}$$

and  $\mathbb{X}, \tilde{\mathbb{X}}$  are non-negative integer matrices. If  $\mathbb{X} \succ \tilde{\mathbb{X}}$ , then  $\alpha > \tilde{\alpha}$ .

*Proof.* Denote  $(x \ y) = (1 \ 1) \mathbb{A}$  and  $\begin{pmatrix} z \\ u \end{pmatrix} = \mathbb{B} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . It is easy to see that  $x \geq y \geq 1$  and that  $z \geq 0, u \geq 1$ . Let  $\mathbb{X} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  and  $\tilde{\mathbb{X}} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{a} & \tilde{b} \\ \tilde{c} & \tilde{d} \end{pmatrix}$  satisfy (11). Then

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha - \tilde{\alpha} &= (x \ y) \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} z \\ u \end{pmatrix} - (x \ y) \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{a} & \tilde{b} \\ \tilde{c} & \tilde{d} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} z \\ u \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \left( (a - \tilde{a})x + (c - \tilde{c})y, (b - \tilde{b})x + (d - \tilde{d})y \right) \begin{pmatrix} z \\ u \end{pmatrix} \\ &\geq \left( (a + c - \tilde{a} - \tilde{c})y, (b + d - \tilde{b} - \tilde{d})y \right) \begin{pmatrix} z \\ u \end{pmatrix} \geq (0 \ 1) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1. \quad \square\end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 4.5.** Let  $\varrho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l) = \text{Max}(k)$ . Then  $r_i \leq 5$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, l$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\langle n \rangle = 10^{r_1} 10^{r_2} \dots 10^{r_l}$ , and assume that there exists an index  $i$  such that  $r_i \geq 6$ . Denote by  $m$  the number with Zeckendorf representation  $\langle m \rangle = 10^{r_1} \dots 10^{r_{i-1}} 10^{r_i-3} 10^2 10^{r_{i+1}} \dots 10^{r_l}$ . Zeckendorf representations  $\langle n \rangle$  and  $\langle m \rangle$



have the same length. Since

$$\begin{aligned} M(r_i) &= \begin{pmatrix} \lceil \frac{r_i}{2} \rceil & \lfloor \frac{r_i}{2} \rfloor \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \prec \begin{pmatrix} \lceil \frac{r_i-3}{2} \rceil & \lfloor \frac{r_i-3}{2} \rfloor \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} r_i-3 & r_i-3 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = M(r_i-3)M(2), \end{aligned}$$

we have according to Lemma 4.4

$$R(n) = \varrho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l) < \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, r_i-3, 2, r_{i+1}, \dots, r_l) = R(m),$$

which contradicts the assumption of the proposition.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.6.** *Let  $\varrho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l) = \text{Max}(k)$ , where  $k \geq 6$  and the  $r_i$  are odd for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, l-1$ . Then  $r_1 \in \{1, 3\}$ ,  $r_2, \dots, r_{l-1} = 3$ , and  $r_l \in \{2, 4\}$ .*

*Proof.* As a consequence of Proposition 4.2, the final coefficient  $r_l$  is even, and due to Proposition 4.5 it can take only values  $\{0, 2, 4\}$ . Assumption of the present proposition with Proposition 4.5 implies that  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_{l-1} \in \{1, 3, 5\}$ . First let us show by contradiction that 5 does not occur. Suppose the opposite, *i.e.* that there exists an index  $1 \leq i \leq l-1$  such that  $r_i = 5$ . Let  $i$  be the maximal index with this property. Let  $s$  be the minimal non-negative integer, such that  $r_{i+s} \neq 3$ . Then  $r_{i+s} = 1$  or  $i+s = l$  and  $r_{i+s} \in \{0, 2, 4\}$ .

1) Let  $r_{i+s} = 1$ . We verify that

$$\tilde{\mathbb{X}} = M(5)(M(3))^{s-1}M(1) \prec (M(3))^{s+1} = \mathbb{X}.$$

According to (9), we obtain

$$\tilde{\mathbb{X}} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} F_{2s-2} & F_{2s-3} \\ F_{2s-3} & F_{2s-4} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} F_{2s+2} & F_{2s} \\ F_{2s} & F_{2s-2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbb{X} = \begin{pmatrix} F_{2s+2} & F_{2s+1} \\ F_{2s+1} & F_{2s} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Obviously  $\tilde{\mathbb{X}} \prec \mathbb{X}$  and using Lemma 4.4 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Max}(k) &= \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, 5, \underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_{s-1 \text{ times}}, 1, r_{i+s+1}, \dots, r_l) \\ &< \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, \underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_{s+1 \text{ times}}, r_{i+s+1}, \dots, r_l), \end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction.

2) Let  $r_{i+s} = 2$ . Similarly as in (1) we use matrices and Lemma 4.4 to obtain the contradiction

$$\text{Max}(k) = \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, 5, \underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_{s-1 \text{ times}}, 2) < \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, \underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_s, 4).$$

3) Let  $r_{i+s} = 4$ . Similarly as in (1) we use matrices and Lemma 4.4 to obtain the contradiction

$$\text{Max}(k) = \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, 5, \underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_{s-1 \text{ times}}, 4) < \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, \underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_{s+1 \text{ times}}, 2).$$

4) Let  $r_{i+s} = 0$ . Similarly as in (1) we use matrices and Lemma 4.4 to obtain the contradiction

$$\text{Max}(k) = \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, 5, \underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_{s-1 \text{ times}}, 0) < \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, \underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_s, 2).$$

Thus we have shown that  $r_1, \dots, r_{l-1} \leq 3$ , *i.e.* all take values in  $\{1, 3\}$ .

Let us now prove by contradiction that at most one of the coefficients  $r_1, \dots, r_{l-1}$  is equal to 1. Assume that there exist indices  $i, i+s$ ,  $1 \leq i < i+s \leq l-1$  such that  $r_i = r_{i+s} = 1$  and  $r_{i+1} = r_{i+2} = \dots = r_{i+s-1} = 3$ . Denote

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathbb{X}} &= M(1)(M(3))^{s-1}M(1) = \begin{pmatrix} F_{2s-1} & F_{2s-3} \\ F_{2s} & F_{2s-2} \end{pmatrix}, \\ \mathbb{X} &= (M(3))^s = \begin{pmatrix} F_{2s} & F_{2s-1} \\ F_{2s-1} & F_{2s-2} \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\tilde{\mathbb{X}} \prec \mathbb{X}$ , we derive that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Max}(k) &= \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, 1, \underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_{s-1 \text{ times}}, 1, r_{i+s+1}, \dots, r_l) \\ &< \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_{i-1}, \underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_s, r_{i+s+1}, \dots, r_l), \end{aligned}$$

which contradicts the maximality of  $\varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l)$ . Thus at most one of the coefficients  $r_1, \dots, r_{l-1}$  is equal to 1 and the others are equal to 3.

If  $l = 2$ , the proposition is proved. For  $l \geq 3$  we show by contradiction that  $r_2 = \dots = r_{l-1} = 3$ . Suppose that  $r_i = 1$  for some  $2 \leq i \leq l-1$ . Since

$$\begin{aligned} (1 \ 1)(M(3))^{i-1}M(1) &= (F_{2i} \ F_{2i-2}), \\ (1 \ 1)M(1)(M(3))^{i-1} &= (F_{2i} \ F_{2i-1}), \end{aligned}$$

it follows that

$$\text{Max}(k) = \varrho(\underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_{i-1 \text{ times}}, 1, r_{i+1}, \dots, r_l) < \varrho(1, \underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_{i-1 \text{ times}}, r_{i+1}, \dots, r_l),$$

which is a contradiction.

It remains to show that  $r_l \neq 0$ . But if  $r_l = 0$ , then  $r_{l-1} = 3$ . Relation  $M(3)M(0) \prec M(4)$  implies a contradiction.  $\square$

We are now in position to state the theorem about the maximal values of  $R(n)$ .

**Theorem 4.7.**

$$\begin{aligned} \max\{R(n) \mid F_{2k+1} \leq n < F_{2k+2}\} &= \text{Max}(2k+1) = F_{k+1} && \text{for } k \geq 0, \\ \max\{R(n) \mid F_{2k+2} \leq n < F_{2k+3}\} &= \text{Max}(2k+2) = 2F_k && \text{for } k \geq 1. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* In the proof we shall make use of the following inequalities for Fibonacci numbers, which are not difficult to demonstrate.

$$F_{x+1}F_{y+1} \leq 2F_{x+y} \quad \text{for } x, y \geq 0, \quad (12)$$

where the equality holds only if  $x = 1$  or  $y = 1$ .

$$2F_xF_y \leq F_{x+y+1} \quad \text{for } x, y \geq 1, \quad (13)$$

where the equality holds only if  $x = y = 2$ .

Since the lower bounds on the maxima of the function  $R(n)$  are known from Corollaries 3.2 and 3.3, it suffices to prove inequalities

$$\text{Max}(2k+1) \leq F_{k+1} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Max}(2k+2) \leq 2F_k. \quad (14)$$

Let us show it by induction on  $k$ . For initial values of  $k$  the validity of the theorem follows from (5). Now assume that

$$\text{Max}(2j+1) \leq F_{j+1} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Max}(2j+2) \leq 2F_j, \quad \text{for } j < k.$$

With this induction hypothesis we want to show (14).

• Let us first show that  $\text{Max}(2k+2) \leq 2F_k$ .

Let  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l$  be an  $l$ -tuple such that  $\varrho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l) = \text{Max}(2k+2)$  where  $k \geq 2$ . Proposition 4.2 implies that  $r_l$  is even. Since  $r_1 + r_2 + \dots + r_l + l = 2k+2$ , there must exist an  $i < l$  such that  $r_i$  is even. Let  $i$  be the maximal  $i < l$  with this property. The number  $r_{i+1} + \dots + r_l + (l-i)$  is odd, say  $2m+1$ . Then  $r_1 + \dots + r_i + i = 2k+2 - (2m+1)$ . Lemma 2.3, the induction hypothesis and inequality (12) implies

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Max}(2k+2) &= \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l) = \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_i) \varrho(r_{i+1}, \dots, r_l) \\ &\leq \text{Max}(2k-2m+1) \text{Max}(2m+1) = F_{k-m+1}F_{m+1} \leq 2F_k. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

• Now let us show the inequality  $\text{Max}(2k+1) \leq F_{k+1}$ .

Let  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l$  be an  $l$ -tuple such that  $\varrho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l) = \text{Max}(2k+1)$  where  $k \geq 2$ . Suppose that besides  $r_l$  there exist another  $i < l$  such that  $r_i$  is even and let  $i$  be the maximal index  $i < l$  with this property. Let us denote  $r_{i+1} + \dots + r_l + (l-i) =$

$2m + 1$ . Then  $r_1 + \dots + r_2 + i = 2k + 1 - (2m + 1) = 2k - 2m$ . Lemma 2.3, the induction hypothesis and inequality (13) implies

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Max}(2k + 1) &= \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l) = \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_i) \varrho(r_{i+1}, \dots, r_l) \\ &\leq \text{Max}(2k - 2m) \text{Max}(2m + 1) = 2F_{k-m-1}F_{m+1} \leq F_{k+1}. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

It remains to consider the case that the  $l$ -tuple  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l$  which satisfies  $\varrho(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_l) = \text{Max}(2k + 1)$  contains all  $r_i$  odd for  $1 \leq i \leq l - 1$ . According to Proposition 4.6 the maximal  $l$ -tuple is of the form  $(1, 3, \dots, 3, 4)$ ,  $(3, \dots, 3, 4)$ ,  $(1, 3, \dots, 3, 2)$ , or  $(3, \dots, 3, 2)$ . Note that for fixed length of the Zeckendorf representation only two of these are possible, namely  $(1, 3, \dots, 3, 2)$ , or  $(3, \dots, 3, 4)$  for length  $1 \pmod 4$ , and  $(1, 3, \dots, 3, 4)$ ,  $(3, \dots, 3, 2)$  for length  $3 \pmod 4$ . The values of the function  $\varrho$  for these  $l$ -tuples was determined in Lemma 3.1. Therefore the statement of the theorem is proved.  $\square$

## 5. ARGUMENT OF $\text{Max}(k)$

In this section we determine the integers on which the maximum of the function  $R(n)$  is reached for a fixed length  $\sum_{i=1}^l r_i + l$  of the Zeckendorf representation  $\langle n \rangle = 10^{r_1} \dots 10^{r_l}$ . The proof of Theorem 4.7 allows us to determine the  $l$ -tuples  $r_1, \dots, r_l$  representing such integers  $n$ .

Suppose first that the Zeckendorf representation of  $n$  has odd length. In this case the proof of Theorem 4.7 indicates that unless equality holds in (16), all the coefficients  $r_1, \dots, r_{l-1}$  are odd and therefore the  $l$ -tuples  $r_1, \dots, r_{l-1}, r_l$  are of very specific form (as a consequence of Prop. 4.6).

Equality in (16) provides an exceptional  $l$ -tuple. In order to make (16) true, the relation (13) necessitates that  $k = 4$  (hence  $m = 1$ ) and

$$\varrho(r_1, \dots, r_i) = \text{Max}(6) \quad \text{and} \quad \varrho(r_{i+1}, \dots, r_l) = \text{Max}(3).$$

Since according to the table (5) we have  $\text{Max}(6) = R(16) = \varrho(2, 2)$  and  $\text{Max}(3) = R(3) = \varrho(2)$  necessarily  $l = 3$  and  $r_1 = r_2 = r_3 = 2$ .

### Corollary 5.1.

- (i)  $\text{Max}(4k + 3)$  is reached precisely on two arguments for  $k \geq 1$  and on one argument for  $k = 0$ . We have  $\text{Max}(3) = \varrho(2)$ , and for  $k \geq 1$

$$\text{Max}(4k + 3) = \varrho(1, \underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_{k-1 \text{ times}}, 4) = \varrho(\underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_k, 2).$$

- (ii)  $\text{Max}(4k + 1)$  is reached precisely on two arguments for  $k \geq 3$  or  $k = 1$ , on three arguments for  $k = 2$ , and on one argument for  $k = 0$ . We have  $\text{Max}(1) = \varrho(0)$ ,  $\text{Max}(9) = \varrho(1, 3, 2) = \varrho(3, 4) = \varrho(2, 2, 2)$ , and for  $k = 1$

and  $k \geq 3$

$$\text{Max}(4k + 1) = \varrho(1, \underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_{k-1 \text{ times}}, 2) = \varrho(\underbrace{3, \dots, 3}_{k-1 \text{ times}}, 4).$$

As for integers with even length of their Zeckendorf representation, proof of Theorem 4.7 requires that an  $l$ -tuple  $r_1, \dots, r_l$  on which the maximum of  $\varrho$  is reached must satisfy equality in (15). Relation (12) for Fibonacci numbers implies that  $m - k = 1$  or  $m = 1$ . This can be true only if  $i = 1$  or  $i = l - 1$  respectively. Equality in (15) further requires that either  $r_1 = 2$ ,  $r_2, \dots, r_l$  are odd and  $\varrho(r_2, \dots, r_l)$  is maximal, or  $r_l = 2$  and  $\varrho(r_2, \dots, r_l)$  is maximal, respectively.

**Corollary 5.2.** *Let  $k \geq 3$  and let  $r_1, \dots, r_l$  satisfy  $\sum_{i=1}^l r_i + l = 2k$ . Then  $\varrho(r_1, \dots, r_l) = \text{Max}(2k)$  if and only if*

$$\begin{aligned} & r_1 = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad \varrho(r_2, \dots, r_l) = \text{Max}(2k - 3) \\ \text{or} \\ & r_l = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad \varrho(r_1, \dots, r_{l-1}) = \text{Max}(2k - 3). \end{aligned}$$

Recall that the elements of the sequence  $(R(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  can be grouped into palindromes  $R(F_k), \dots, R(F_{k+1} - 2)$  separated by values  $R(F_{k+1} - 1) = 1$ . Corollaries 5.1 and 5.2 show that up to the exceptional initial cases, the maximal value in each palindrome occurs twice (for  $k$  odd) and four times (for  $k$  even). The description of arguments of the maxima of  $R(n)$  in the palindrome, *i.e.* for  $n$  with fixed length of Zeckendorf representation, is given in Theorem 5.3. We need to introduce the following notation,

$$\begin{aligned} i_{2k+1} &= \begin{cases} F_{k+1}F_{k-3} + 1 & \text{for } k \text{ even,} \\ F_kF_{k-2} + 1 & \text{for } k \text{ odd,} \end{cases} \\ i_{2k} &= \begin{cases} F_{k+2}F_{k-5} + F_3 + 1 & \text{for } k \text{ even,} \\ F_{k+1}F_{k-4} + F_3 + 1 & \text{for } k \text{ odd,} \end{cases} \\ j_{2k} &= \begin{cases} F_{k+1}F_{k-3} + 1 & \text{for } k \text{ even,} \\ F_kF_{k-2} + 1 & \text{for } k \text{ odd.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 5.3.**

(i)  $\text{Max}(2k + 1)$  for  $k \geq 1$ ,  $k \neq 4$  is reached precisely on the integers

$$F_{2k+1} - 1 + i_{2k+1}, \quad F_{2k+2} - 1 - i_{2k+1}.$$

For  $k = 4$ ,  $\text{Max}(2k + 1) = \text{Max}(9)$  is reached precisely on three integers, namely

$$F_9 - 1 + i_9 = 63, \quad F_{10} - 1 - i_9 = 79, \quad \text{and their average } 71.$$

(ii)  $\text{Max}(2k)$  for  $k \geq 3$ ,  $k \neq 6$ , is reached precisely on the integers

$$\begin{aligned} F_{2k} - 1 + i_{2k}, & \quad F_{2k+1} - 1 - i_{2k}, \\ F_{2k} - 1 + j_{2k}, & \quad F_{2k+1} - 1 - j_{2k}. \end{aligned}$$

For  $k = 6$ ,  $\text{Max}(2k) = \text{Max}(12)$  is reached precisely on five integers, namely

$$\begin{aligned} F_{12} - 1 + i_{12} &= 270, & F_{13} - 1 - i_{12} &= 338, \\ F_{12} - 1 + j_{12} &= 296, & F_{13} - 1 - j_{12} &= 312, \\ & & \text{and their average} &= 304. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Corollaries 5.1 and 5.2 show that up to the exceptional initial cases, the maximal value in the palindrome  $R(F_k), \dots, R(F_{k+1} - 2)$  occurs twice for  $k$  odd and four times for  $k$  even. From the symmetry of the palindrome, for  $k$  odd there is an integer  $i_k \in \{1, 2, \dots, F_{k-1} - 1\}$  such that

$$R(F_k - 1 + i_k) = R(F_{k+1} - 1 - i_k) = \text{Max}(k).$$

Without loss of generality  $i_k$  is in our considerations the smaller of the two integers satisfying it. Similarly, for  $k$  even we have  $i_k, j_k \in \{1, 2, \dots, F_{k-1} - 1\}$  such that

$$R(F_k - 1 + i_k) = R(F_{k+1} - 1 - i_k) = R(F_k - 1 + j_k) = R(F_{k+1} - 1 - j_k) = \text{Max}(k).$$

We consider  $i_k < j_k$  to be the two smallest of the four integers satisfying it.

We derive the compact form of  $i_k$  and  $j_k$  from arguments of maxima given in Corollaries 5.1 and 5.2. For that we use the relation

$$F_i + F_{i+4} + F_{i+8} + \dots + F_{i+4(k-1)} = F_{2k+i-2}F_{2k-1}, \quad \text{for } i, k \geq 1,$$

which can be shown using  $F_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}(\tau^{k+1} - \tau'^{k+1})$ , where  $\tau = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \sqrt{5})$  is the golden ratio and  $\tau' = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \sqrt{5})$  its algebraic conjugate.  $\square$

It is interesting to study the position of the maximal values in the palindrome  $R(F_k - 1), R(F_k), \dots, R(F_{k+1} - 1)$ , *i.e.* the position of integers  $i_k$ , ( $i_k$  and  $j_k$ ) in the set  $1, 2, \dots, F_{k-1}$ . This is described by Proposition 5.4 and illustrated in Figure 1.

**Proposition 5.4.** *Let  $k \geq 1$ . Then*

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{i_{2k+1}}{F_{2k}} &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{i_{2k}}{F_{2k-1}} = \frac{1}{\tau + 2}, & \left| i_{2k+1} - \frac{F_{2k}}{\tau + 2} \right| &< \frac{1}{2}, \\ \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{j_{2k}}{F_{2k-1}} &= \frac{\tau}{\tau + 2}, & \left| j_{2k} - \frac{\tau F_{2k-1}}{\tau + 2} \right| &< \frac{1}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

The proposition shows that the numbers  $i_{2k+1}$  and  $j_{2k}$  are the closest integers to the asymptotic position of the maximal value. Let us mention that it is slightly more complicated in case of  $i_{2k}$ .

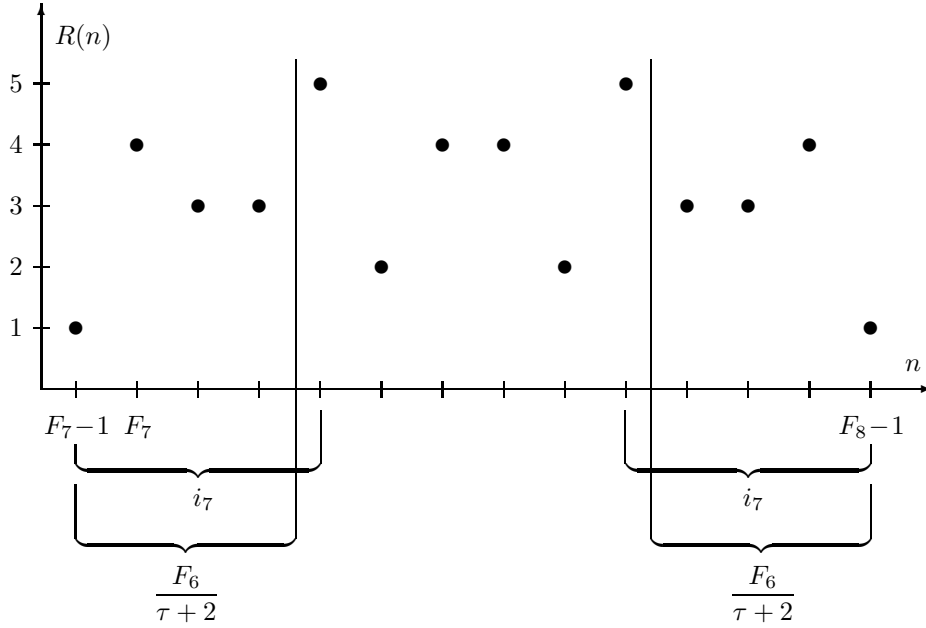


FIGURE 1. Illustration of the function  $R(n)$  for  $n \in [20, 33]$ . The values  $R(F_k - 1), R(F_k), \dots, R(F_{k+1} - 1)$  for  $k = 7$  form a palindrome. Since  $k \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ , the maximal value  $\text{Max}(7)$  appears twice and these local maxima are at the integers nearest to the asymptotical position, which is marked by the vertical lines.

## 6. MEAN VALUE OF $R(n)$

Berstel in his article [1] states an open question about the mean value of the function  $R(n)$ . In this section we answer his question. In particular, we determine the mean value of  $R(n)$  for integers with fixed length  $k$  of their Zeckendorf representation, *i.e.* the value

$$\frac{1}{F_{k-1}} \sum_{n=F_k}^{F_{k+1}-1} R(n).$$

**Proposition 6.1.** *Let  $k \geq 1$ . Then*

$$\sum_{n=F_k}^{F_{k+1}-1} R(n) = \frac{1}{3} (2^k - (-1)^k).$$

*Proof.* Consider the word  $w = w_l w_{l-1} \dots w_1$  in the alphabet  $\{0, 1\}$  where  $w_l = 1$ . The word  $w$  is a representation of the number  $n = \sum_{i=1}^l w_i F_i$ . Also  $w$  is a long representation of  $n$ , if  $\sum_{i=1}^l w_i F_i < F_{l+1}$ , and  $w$  is a short representation of  $n$ , if

$\sum_{i=1}^l w_i F_i \geq F_{l+1}$ . It can be easily shown that the latter occurs if and only if the word  $w$  has the prefix  $1010 \cdots 1011$ . More precisely,

$$\sum_{i=1}^l w_i F_i \geq F_{l+1}$$

if and only if

$$w_l w_{l-1} \cdots w_1 = (10)^i 11 w_{l-2i-2} \cdots w_1, \quad \text{for some } i \geq 0, i \leq \left\lfloor \frac{l-2}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Therefore the number of words  $w_l \cdots w_1$  with  $w_l = 1$  that represent an integer  $n \geq F_{l+1}$  is equal to the number of distinct suffixes  $w_{l-2i-2} \cdots w_1$ , *i.e.*

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \frac{l-2}{2} \rfloor} 2^{l-2i-2} = \left\lfloor \frac{2^l - 1}{3} \right\rfloor. \quad (17)$$

Consequently, the number of words  $w_l \cdots w_1$  with  $w_l = 1$  which represent an integer  $n < F_{l+1}$  is equal to

$$2^{l-1} - \left\lfloor \frac{2^l - 1}{3} \right\rfloor. \quad (18)$$

Since the sets of Fibonacci representations of distinct integers  $n$  are disjoint, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=F_k}^{F_{k+1}-1} R_0(n) &= \# \left\{ w_{k-1} \cdots w_1 \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid w_{k-1} = 1, \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} w_i F_i \geq F_k \right\} \\ &= \left\lfloor \frac{2^{k-1} - 1}{3} \right\rfloor, \\ \sum_{n=F_k}^{F_{k+1}-1} R_1(n) &= \# \left\{ w_k \cdots w_1 \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid w_k = 1, \sum_{i=1}^k w_i F_i < F_{k+1} \right\} \\ &= 2^{k-1} - \left\lfloor \frac{2^k - 1}{3} \right\rfloor. \end{aligned}$$

Together we obtain

$$\sum_{n=F_k}^{F_{k+1}-1} R(n) = 2^{k-1} - \left\lfloor \frac{2^k - 1}{3} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{2^{k-1} - 1}{3} \right\rfloor = \frac{1}{3} (2^k - (-1)^k). \quad \square$$



Since  $F_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} (\tau^{k+1} - \tau'^{k+1})$ , the mean value of the function  $R(n)$  for  $F_k \leq n < F_{k+1}$  is equal to

$$\frac{\frac{1}{3} (2^k - (-1)^k)}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} (\tau^k - \tau'^k)} \sim \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3} \left(\frac{2}{\tau}\right)^k.$$

*Acknowledgements.* The results were derived using a computer program implemented by F. Maňák to whom the authors express their gratitude.

### REFERENCES

- [1] J. Berstel, An exercise on Fibonacci representations. *RAIRO-Inf. Theor. Appl.* **35** (2001) 491–498.
- [2] M. Bicknell-Johnson and D.C. Fielder, The number of representations of  $N$  using distinct Fibonacci numbers, counted by recursive formulas. *Fibonacci Quart.* **37** (1999) 47–60.
- [3] L. Carlitz, Fibonacci representations. *Fibonacci Quart.* **6** (1968) 193–220.
- [4] M. Edson and L. Zamboni, *On representations of positive integers in the Fibonacci base.* Preprint University of North Texas (2003).

Communicated by J. Berstel.

Received February 17, 2004. Accepted June 8, 2004.