

# Word Equations, Fibonacci Numbers, and Hilbert's Tenth Problem

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# David Hilbert, *Mathematical Problems* [1900]

**10. Entscheidung der Lösbarkeit einer diophantischen Gleichung.** Eine diophantische Gleichung mit irgendwelchen Unbekannten und mit ganzen rationalen Zahlkoeffizienten sei vorgelegt: *man soll ein Verfahren angeben, nach welchen sich mittels einer endlichen Anzahl von Operationen entscheiden lässt, ob die Gleichung in ganzen rationalen Zahlen lösbar ist.*

**10. Determination of the Solvability of a Diophantine Equation.** Given a diophantine equation with any number of unknown quantities and with rational integral numerical coefficients: *To devise a process according to which it can be determined by a finite number of operations whether the equation is solvable in rational integers.*

# Word Equations

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Solution: words  $V_1, \dots, V_m \in A_n^*$  such that

$$P_{V_1, \dots, V_m}^{v_1, \dots, v_m} \equiv Q_{V_1, \dots, V_m}^{v_1, \dots, v_m}$$

# From Words to Numbers

(First Numbering: Matrices)

W.o.l.g  $n = 2$ , i.e.,  $A_2 = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2\}$



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**Lemma.** Every  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  with natural number elements and the determinant equal to 1 can be represented in a unique way as the product of matrices  $M_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $M_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .

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$$v_1, \dots, v_m \sim a_1, b_1, c_1, d_1, \dots, a_m, b_m, c_m, d_m$$

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$$P = Q \sim \begin{aligned} P_{11}(\dots, a_i, b_i, c_i, d_i, \dots) &= Q_{11}(\dots, a_i, b_i, c_i, d_i, \dots) \\ P_{12}(\dots, a_i, b_i, c_i, d_i, \dots) &= Q_{12}(\dots, a_i, b_i, c_i, d_i, \dots) \\ P_{21}(\dots, a_i, b_i, c_i, d_i, \dots) &= Q_{21}(\dots, a_i, b_i, c_i, d_i, \dots) \\ P_{22}(\dots, a_i, b_i, c_i, d_i, \dots) &= Q_{22}(\dots, a_i, b_i, c_i, d_i, \dots) \end{aligned}$$

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# From Words to Numbers

## (Second Numbering: Fibonacci weights)

Every word  $X = "\beta_{i_m}\beta_{i_{m-1}}\dots\beta_{i_1}"$  in the binary alphabet  $B = \{\beta_0, \beta_1\} = \{0, 1\}$  can be viewed as the number

$$x = i_m u_m + i_{m-1} u_{m-1} + \dots + i_1 u_1$$

written in positional system with weights of digits being the Fibonacci numbers  $u_1 = 1, u_2 = 1, u_3 = 2, u_4 = 3, \dots$  (rather than traditional 1, 2, 4, 8, 16,  $\dots$ ).

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"0" $\sim 0$	"00" $\sim 0$	"000" $\sim 0$	"0000" $\sim 0$	"00000" $\sim 0$
"1" $\sim 1$	"01" $\sim 1$	"001" $\sim 1$	"0001" $\sim 1$	"00001" $\sim 1$
	"10" $\sim 1$	"010" $\sim 1$	"0010" $\sim 1$	"00010" $\sim 1$
	"11" $\sim 2$	"011" $\sim 2$	"0011" $\sim 2$	"00011" $\sim 2$
		"100" $\sim 2$	"0100" $\sim 2$	"00100" $\sim 2$
		"101" $\sim 3$	"0101" $\sim 3$	"00101" $\sim 3$
		"110" $\sim 3$	"0110" $\sim 3$	"00110" $\sim 3$
		"111" $\sim 4$	"0111" $\sim 4$	"00111" $\sim 4$

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"1" $\sim 1$	"10" $\sim 1$	"100" $\sim 2$	"1000" $\sim 3$	"10000" $\sim 5$
	"11" $\sim 2$	"101" $\sim 3$	"1001" $\sim 4$	"10001" $\sim 6$
		"110" $\sim 3$	"1010" $\sim 4$	"10010" $\sim 6$
		"111" $\sim 4$	"1011" $\sim 5$	"10011" $\sim 7$
			"1100" $\sim 5$	"11100" $\sim 8$
			"1101" $\sim 6$	"11101" $\sim 9$
			"1110" $\sim 6$	"11110" $\sim 9$
			"1111" $\sim 7$	"11111" $\sim 10$



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$$x = i_mu_m + i_{m-1}u_{m-1} + \dots + i_1u_1$$

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"10" $\sim$ 1	"100" $\sim$ 2	"1000" $\sim$ 3	"10000" $\sim$ 5
	"110" $\sim$ 3	"1010" $\sim$ 4	"10010" $\sim$ 6
		"1100" $\sim$ 5	"10100" $\sim$ 7
		"1110" $\sim$ 6	"10110" $\sim$ 8
			"11000" $\sim$ 8
			"11010" $\sim$ 9
			"11100" $\sim$ 10
			"11110" $\sim$ 11

# From Words to Numbers

(Second Numbering: Zeckendorf's words)

"" ~ 0	"1010" ~ 4	"100000" ~ 8	"101010" ~ 12
"10" ~ 1	"10000" ~ 5	"100010" ~ 9	"1000000" ~ 13
"100" ~ 2	"10010" ~ 6	"100100" ~ 10	"1000010" ~ 14
"1000" ~ 3	"10100" ~ 7	"101000" ~ 11	"1000100" ~ 15

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**Zeckendorf's Theorem.** Every positive integer  $x$  can be represented in the form

$$x = i_m u_m + i_{m-1} u_{m-1} + \cdots + i_1 u_1$$

with additional restrictions  $i_m = 1$ ,  $i_1 = 0$ ,  $i_{k+1} i_k = 0$ , and in unique way.

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**Zeckendorf's Theorem.** Every positive integer  $x$  can be represented in the form

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**Zeckendorf's words:** they do not begin with "0", do not end with "1", and do not contain "11".

# From Words to Numbers

## (Third Numbering: Infinite Alphabet)

Every word " $\alpha_{i_k} \alpha_{i_{k-1}} \dots \alpha_{i_1}$ " in the infinite alphabet  $A_\infty = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots\}$  can be presented by the Zeckendorf word

$$"10^{i_k} 10^{i_{k-1}} \dots 10^{i_1}."$$

We get, via Fibonacci numbers, a natural one-to-one correspondence between words in the infinite alphabet  $A_\infty$  and natural numbers.

" " $\sim 0$	"1010" $\sim 4$	"100000" $\sim 8$	"101010" $\sim 12$
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<hr/>			
" " $\sim 0$	" $\alpha_1 \alpha_1$ " $\sim 4$	" $\alpha_5$ " $\sim 8$	" $\alpha_1 \alpha_1 \alpha_1$ " $\sim 12$
" $\alpha_1$ " $\sim 1$	" $\alpha_4$ " $\sim 5$	" $\alpha_3 \alpha_1$ " $\sim 9$	" $\alpha_6$ " $\sim 13$
" $\alpha_2$ " $\sim 2$	" $\alpha_2 \alpha_1$ " $\sim 6$	" $\alpha_2 \alpha_2$ " $\sim 10$	" $\alpha_4 \alpha_1$ " $\sim 14$
" $\alpha_3$ " $\sim 3$	" $\alpha_1 \alpha_2$ " $\sim 7$	" $\alpha_1 \alpha_3$ " $\sim 11$	" $\alpha_3 \alpha_2$ " $\sim 15$

# From Words to Numbers

## ( Concatenation)

$$\begin{aligned} X &= \text{"}\beta_{i_m} \dots \beta_{i_1}\text{"} \\ x &= i_m u_m + \dots + i_1 u_1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} Y &= \text{"}\beta_{j_n} \dots \beta_{j_1}\text{"} \\ y &= j_n u_n + \dots + j_1 u_1 \end{aligned}$$

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$$z = i_m u_{m+n} + \dots + i_1 u_{1+n} + j_n u_n + \dots + j_1 u_1$$

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$$u_{k+n} = u_k u_{n+1} + u_{k-1} u_n$$

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$$\begin{aligned} z &= i_m u_{m+n} + \dots + i_1 u_{1+n} + j_n u_n + \dots + j_1 u_1 \\ &= i_m (u_m u_{n+1} + u_{m-1} u_n) + \dots + i_1 (u_1 u_{n+1} + u_0 u_n) + y \end{aligned}$$

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where

$$y_2 = u_n, \quad y_3 = u_{n+1}$$

# From Words to Numbers

## ( Concatenation cont.)

$$X = \text{"}\beta_{i_m} \dots \beta_{i_1}\text{"}$$

$$x = i_m u_m + \dots + i_1 u_1$$

$$x_1 = i_m u_{m-1} + \dots + i_1 u_0$$

$$x_2 = u_m$$

$$x_3 = u_{m+1}$$

$$Y = \text{"}\beta_{j_n} \dots \beta_{j_1}\text{"}$$

$$y = j_n u_n + \dots + j_1 u_1$$

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$$y_2 = u_n$$

$$y_3 = u_{n+1}$$



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$$x_1 = i_m u_{m-1} + \dots + i_1 u_0$$

$$x_2 = u_m$$

$$x_3 = u_{m+1}$$

$$Y = \text{"}\beta_{j_n} \dots \beta_{j_1}\text{"}$$

$$y = j_n u_n + \dots + j_1 u_1$$

$$y_1 = j_n u_{n-1} + \dots + j_1 u_0$$

$$y_2 = u_n$$

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$$Z = XY = \text{"}\beta_{i_m} \dots \beta_{i_1} \beta_{j_n} \dots \beta_{j_1}\text{"}$$

$$z = x_1 y_2 + x y_3 + y$$

# From Words to Numbers

## ( Concatenation cont.)

$$X = \text{"}\beta_{i_m} \dots \beta_{i_1}\text{"}$$

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# Fibonacci Numbers and Diophantine Equations

**Theorem (G. D. Cassini [1680]).**

$$u_{m+1}^2 - u_{m+1}u_m - u_m^2 = (-1)^m$$

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**Theorem (M. J. Wastels [1902]).** If

$$w^2 - wv - v^2 = \pm 1$$

then

$$w = u_{m+1}, \quad v = u_m$$

for some  $m$ .

# From Words to Numbers

(Second Numbering cont.)

$$X = \beta_{i_m} \dots \beta_{i_1}$$

$$x = i_m u_m + \dots + i_1 u_1$$

$$x_1 = i_m u_{m-1} + \dots + i_1 u_0$$

$$x_2 = u_m$$

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(Second Numbering cont.)

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(Second Numbering cont.)

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$$x_2 = u_m$$

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$$(x_3^2 - x_3 x_2 - x_2^2)^2 = 1$$

$$x_2 \leq x < x_3$$

# From Words to Numbers

(Second Numbering cont.)

$$\frac{u_k}{u_{k-1}} \approx \phi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$$

$$X = \text{"}\beta_{i_m} \dots \beta_{i_1}\text{"}$$

$$x = i_m u_m + \dots + i_1 u_1$$

$$x_1 = i_m u_{m-1} + \dots + i_1 u_0$$

$$x_2 = u_m$$

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(Second Numbering cont.)

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$$(x_3^2 - x_3 x_2 - x_2^2)^2 = 1$$

$$x_2 \leq x < x_3$$

$$\frac{x}{x_1} \approx \phi$$

$$\phi - 2 < x_1 - x/\phi < \phi - 1$$

# Concatenation

$$\text{GCD}(u_m, u_n) = u_{\text{GCD}(m,n)}$$

$$X = \text{"}\beta_{i_m} \dots \beta_{i_1}\text{"}$$

$$x = i_m u_m + \dots + i_1 u_1$$

$$x_1 = i_m u_{m-1} + \dots + i_1 u_0$$

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$$Y = \text{"}\beta_{j_n} \dots \beta_{j_1}\text{"}$$

$$y = j_n u_n + \dots + j_1 u_1$$

$$y_1 = j_n u_{n-1} + \dots + j_1 u_0$$

$$y_2 = u_n$$

$$y_3 = u_{n+1}$$

$$\text{length}(X) = \text{length}(Y) \Leftrightarrow x_2 = y_2$$

$$\text{length}(X) \mid \text{length}(Y) \Leftrightarrow x_2(x_2 + x_3) \mid y_2(y_2 + y_3)$$

$$\text{GCD}(\text{length}(X), \text{length}(Y)) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \text{GCD}(x_2(x_2 + x_3), y_2(y_2 + y_3)) =$$

$$"10^{i_k} 10^{i_{k-1}} \dots 10^{i_1}"$$

$$\text{length}("10^{i_k} 10^{i_{k-1}} \dots 10^{i_1}") = k + i_k + i_{k-1} + \dots + i_1$$

# Concatenation

$$\frac{u_k}{u_{k-1}} \approx \phi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$$

$$X = \begin{array}{l} \text{"}\beta_{i_m}\beta_{i_{m-1}}\dots\beta_{i_1}\text{"} \\ \text{"}\beta_{i_m}0\beta_{i_{m-1}}0\dots\beta_{i_1}0\text{"} \end{array} \quad \text{"}1\text{"} \mapsto \text{"}10\text{"}, \text{"}0\text{"} \mapsto \text{"}$$

$$x = i_m u_{2m} + i_{m-1} u_{2(m-1)} + \dots + i_1 u_2$$

$$x_1 = i_m u_{2m-1} + i_{m-1} u_{2(m-1)-1} + \dots + i_1 u_1$$

$$x_2 = u_{2m}$$

$$x_3 = u_{2m+1}$$

$$x_3^2 - x_3 x_2 - x_2^2 = 1$$

$$x < x_3$$

$$\phi - 2 < x_1 - x/\phi < \phi - 1$$

$$\text{"}10\text{"} \mapsto \text{"}1\text{"}, \text{"}00\text{"} \mapsto \text{"}0\text{"}, \text{"}01\text{"} \mapsto \text{"}1\text{"}$$













