

**Problem:** To find the sum of all even Fibonacci numbers less than  $F_n$  for some given  $n$ .

There is no real motivation for this problem, but it turns out to be interesting to analyze.

**Naive approach:**

```
long sum = 0;
for (int k = 1; k <= n; k++)
{
    long next = fib(k);
    if (next % 2 == 0)
        sum += next;
}
```

**Case 1:**  $\text{fib}(k)$  is implemented recursively.

In this case, the execution time of  $\text{fib}$  is given by  $T(n) = T(n-1) + T(n-2) + k$ . This is dominated by  $2T(n-1) + k$  and dominates  $2T(n-2) + k$ . These have asymptotic behaviour  $2^n$  and  $\sqrt{2}^n$  respectively and thus we can say that  $\text{fib}(n)$  is  $O(2^n)$  making the whole algorithm  $O(2^n)$ . Yuck!

An obvious improvement is given by:

**Case 2:**  $\text{fib}(k)$  is implemented iteratively. In this case,  $\text{fib}(k)$  is  $O(k)$ , so the overall complexity is  $O(n^2)$ .

Two approaches to further improvement are given by

**Case 3a:** Calculate the sum in the same loop where the Fibonacci numbers are calculated. This de-structures the code, but results in complexity  $O(n)$ .

Better, I think is

**Case 3b:** implement fib(k) recursively but using dynamic programming *via* memoization. This makes fib(n)  $O(c)$  at the expense of increasing the space to  $O(n)$ . Again, the overall complexity becomes  $O(n)$ .

At this point, we should probably be satisfied, but it gets better!

First, a little preliminary work:

**Claim:**  $f(0) + f(1) + f(2) + \dots + f(n) = f(n) + f(n+1) - 1$

**Proof:**

This is clearly true when  $n = 0$ , for the formula gives  $0 + 1 - 1 = 0$ .

Let  $n = k$ . Then by the inductive hypothesis we have

$f(0) + f(1) + \dots + f(k) = f(k) + f(k+1) - 1$ . Adding  $f(k+1)$  to each side gives  $f(0) + f(1) + \dots + f(k) + f(k+1) = [f(k) + f(k+1)] + f(k+1) - 1$ . But  $f(k) + f(k+1) = f(k+2)$ , so the right hand side becomes  $f(k+1) + f(k+2) - 1$ , which completes the proof.

**Claim:** for any non-negative integer  $n$ ,  $f(3n)$  is an even number,  $f(3n+1)$  and  $f(3n+2)$  are odd numbers.

**Proof:**

$f(0) = 0$  which is even.  $f(1) = f(2) = 1$  and thus both are odd.

Suppose  $f(3k)$  is an even number, and  $f(3k+1)$  and  $f(3k+2)$  are odd.

Then  $f(3k+3)$  is the sum of two odd numbers and thus even.  $f(3k+4)$  is the sum of an odd number ( $f(3k+2)$ ) and an even number ( $f(3k+3)$ ) and thus odd.  $f(3k+5)$  is also the sum of an odd ( $f(3k+4)$ ) and an even ( $f(3k+3)$ ) so it too is odd. This completes the proof.

Finally, consider the sum

$f(0) + [f(1) + f(2)] + f(3) + [f(4) + f(5)] + f(6) + \dots + f(3n-2) + f(3n-1) + f(3n)$

This, as observed above is equal to  $f(3n) + f(3n+1) - 1$ .

But each of the bracketed pairs sum to the succeeding Fibonacci number, so this sum becomes.

$$f(3) + f(3) + f(6) + f(6) + f(9) + f(9) + \dots + f(3n) + f(3n) \\ = 2f(3) + 2f(6) + 2f(9) \dots + 2f(3n) = f(3n) + f(3n+1) - 1.$$

The left hand side is just twice the sum of the even Fibonacci numbers less than or equal to  $3n$ . Thus, the sum we seek is given by

$$[f(3n) + f(3n+1)]/2.$$

Finally, it is well known that  $f(n)$  can be expressed as  $[\text{Phi}^n - (-\text{Phi})^{-n}]/\text{sqrt}(5)$  where  $\text{Phi}$  is the so called golden ratio.

Since  $1/\text{Phi}$  is approximately 0.612, the second term is less than  $1/2$  for any  $n$  greater than 1. This means  $f(n)$  is given by  $\text{round}(\text{Phi}^n)/\text{sqrt}(5)$ .

This gives us our final algorithm:

```
public static long sumEven(int n)
{
    final double PHI = (1 + Math.sqrt(5.0)) / 2.0;
    while(n % 3 != 0)
        n--;
    long f3n = (long)Math.round(raise(PHI, n));
    long f3np1 = (long)Math.round(raise(PHI, n+1));
    return (f3n + f3np1 - 1)/2;
}
```

`raise(base, exp)` can be written recursively to be  $O(\lg(n))$ , which gives us a  $\lg(n)$  solution to the original problem. Not bad improvement for a problem where we started at  $2^n$ .

