

A Fibonacci-Tribonacci Fusion Technique

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The Fibonacci sequence is generated by the recursive formula

$$F_0 = 0, \quad F_1 = 1, \quad F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2} \quad (1.1)$$

Iteration of (1.1) gives the familiar 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144, 233, 377, 610... [A000045](#)

The tribonacci sequence is generated by the recursive formula

$$T_0 = 0, \quad T_1 = 1, \quad T_2 = 1, \quad T_n = T_{n-1} + T_{n-2} + T_{n-3} \quad (1.2)$$

Iterating (1.2) gives 0, 1, 1, 2, 4, 7, 13, 24, 44, 81, 149, 274, 504, 927, 1705, 3136, 5768... [A000073](#)

Based on a 'conditional coefficients' idea shared by Michael Somos, (1.1) and (1.2) are 'hybridized' in (1.3).

$$H_{-1} = -1, \quad H_0 = 0, \quad H_1 = 1, \quad H_n = H_{n-1} + bH_{n-2} + cH_{n-3} \quad (1.3)$$

$$\text{for } n > 1, \text{ if } \begin{cases} H_{n-1} \text{ is odd, then } b = 1, c = 0 \\ H_{n-1} \text{ is even, then } b = 0, c = 1 \end{cases}$$

I.e., when H_{n-1} is odd, this sequence is generated by the usual Fibonacci-type recursion: $H_n = H_{n-1} + H_{n-2}$. When H_{n-1} is even, then a tribonacci-type recursion kicks in and $H_n = H_{n-1} + H_{n-3}$.

For $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, (1.3) generates [A254308](#) = 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 19, 30, 41, 71, 112, 153, 265...

Working backwards for $a_n < 0$, i.e., terms left of zero: $A = \dots -989, -418, 153, -265, -112, 41, -71, -30, 11, -19, -8, 3, -5, -2, 1, -1, 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 19, 30, 41, 71, 112, 153, 265, 418, 571, 989, 1560, 2131, 3691, 6822, 8953, 15775, 24728, 33681, 58409, 92090, 125771, 217861, 343632, 569403, \dots$

A is factored into its nested sequences:

$$a_{3n-1} = \dots -989, -265, -71, -19, -5, -1, 1, 5, 19, 71, 265, 989, 3691, 15775, 58409, 217861, \dots = \text{A001834}$$

$$a_{3n} = \dots -418, -112, -30, -8, -2, 0, 2, 8, 30, 112, 418, 1560, 6822, 24728, 92090, 343632, \dots = \text{A052530}$$

$$a_{3n+1} = \dots 153, 41, 11, 3, 1, 1, 3, 11, 41, 153, 571, 2131, 8953, 33681, 125771, 569403, \dots = \text{A001835}$$

Most Fibonacci identities seem not to work for this sequence, but two that do are these:

$$(i) \quad \frac{a_{3n}}{2} + \frac{a_{3n-3}}{2} = a_{3n-1}$$

$$(ii) \quad \frac{a_{3n}}{2} - \frac{a_{3n-3}}{2} = a_{3n-2}$$