

Problem 11602

(American Mathematical Monthly, Vol.118, November 2011)

Proposed by Roberto Tauraso (Italy).

Let p be a prime. Let F_n denote the n th Fibonacci number. Show that

$$\sum_{0 < i < j < k < p} \frac{F_i}{ijk} \equiv 0 \pmod{p}.$$

Solution proposed by Roberto Tauraso, Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Roma "Tor Vergata", via della Ricerca Scientifica, 00133 Roma, Italy.

Let $p > 3$ be prime (if $p = 2, 3$ the above sum is empty and it gives 0). For $k = 1, \dots, p-1$

$$\binom{p}{k} = (-1)^{k-1} \frac{p}{k} \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} \left(1 - \frac{p}{j}\right) \equiv (-1)^{k-1} \frac{p}{k} (1 - pH_{k-1}(1) + p^2 H_{k-1}(1, 1)) \pmod{p^4}$$

$$\binom{2p}{k} = (-1)^{k-1} \frac{2p}{k} \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} \left(1 - \frac{2p}{j}\right) \equiv (-1)^{k-1} \frac{2p}{k} (1 - 2pH_{k-1}(1) + 4p^2 H_{k-1}(1, 1)) \pmod{p^4}$$

$$\binom{p+k-1}{k} = \frac{p}{k} \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} \left(1 + \frac{p}{j}\right) \equiv \frac{p}{k} (1 + pH_{k-1}(1) + p^2 H_{k-1}(1, 1)) \pmod{p^4}$$

where

$$H_{k-1}(1) = \sum_{0 < i < k} \frac{1}{i}, \quad H_{k-1}(1, 1) = \sum_{0 < i < j < k} \frac{1}{ij}.$$

Let us consider the following known identities: for any integer $n \geq 0$

$$(1) \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} F_{n-k} (-1)^{n-k} = -F_n, \quad (2) \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k} F_{n-k} (-1)^{n-k} = -\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n+k-1}{k} F_{n-k}.$$

Letting $n = p$, then (1) and (2) become (note that $F_0 = 0$ and p is odd)

$$(1) pS_1 - p^2 S_2 + p^3 S_3 \equiv 0 \pmod{p^4}, \quad (2) 2pS_1 - 4p^2 S_2 + 8p^3 S_3 \equiv -pS_1 - p^2 S_2 - p^3 S_3 \pmod{p^4}$$

where

$$S_1 = \sum_{0 < i < p} \frac{F_{p-i}}{i}, \quad S_2 = \sum_{0 < i < j < p} \frac{F_{p-j}}{ij}, \quad S_3 = \sum_{0 < i < j < k < p} \frac{F_{p-k}}{ijk}.$$

By subtracting 3 times (1) from (2) we obtain $6p^3 S_3 \equiv 0 \pmod{p^4}$, that is $S_3 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$. Finally

$$0 \equiv S_3 = \sum_{0 < i < j < k < p} \frac{F_{p-k}}{ijk} = \sum_{0 < i < j < k < p} \frac{F_i}{(p-k)(p-j)(p-i)} \equiv - \sum_{0 < i < j < k < p} \frac{F_i}{ijk} \pmod{p}.$$

□