

# ON SOME ARITHMETIC PROPERTIES OF A SEQUENCE RELATED TO THE QUOTIENT OF FIBONACCI NUMBERS

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ABSTRACT. We examine the sequence  $(T_n)_{n \geq 1}$  of numbers: 1, 11, 61, 451, 3001, 20801, 141961, ... given by  $T_n = F_{5n}/(5F_n)$ , where  $F_n$  is the Fibonacci number. Curious divisibility properties are obtained including related conditions resembling a strong divisibility sequence. In particular, we prove that all prime divisors of the numbers in this sequence end in one. Another result asserts that each integral power of a number in the sequence is a divisor of some other number in the sequence. Specifically, we prove that for any positive integers  $n$  and  $k$ , the term

$$T(nT(nT(\cdots nT(n) \cdots)))$$

with  $k$  occurrences of the number  $n$  is exactly divisible by  $T_n^k$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Fibonacci sequence  $(F_n)_{n \geq 0}$  is defined by

$$F_0 = 0, F_1 = 1, \quad \text{and} \quad F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2} \quad \text{for } n \geq 2.$$

It is probably regarded as one of the most studied integer sequences of all time because of its rich and well-structured properties. The terms in the Fibonacci sequence are referred to as the Fibonacci numbers. Their most intriguing characters are based on the number-theoretic properties. For example, the Fibonacci sequence is a divisibility sequence in the sense that  $F_m$  divides  $F_n$  whenever  $m$  divides  $n$  for all nonnegative integers  $m$  and  $n$ . Some distinguished arithmetic properties of the Fibonacci sequence lie in the intricate structure of its subsequences as illustrated by a previous work of the authors of this note. In [6], we define a family of subsequences  $(G_k(n))$  of the Fibonacci sequence as follows: for each nonnegative integer  $n$ ,<sup>1</sup>

$$G_1(n) = F_n \quad \text{and} \quad G_k(n) = F(nG_{k-1}(n)) \quad \text{for } k \geq 2.$$

One of the most basic properties states that the number  $F_n^k$  exactly divides  $G_k(n)$  for all positive integers  $k$  and  $n$  with  $n > 3$ . In this work, we find that this kind of dynamical property is shared by at least one more sequence. The terms of this sequence are denoted by  $T_n$  and defined as the quotient of Fibonacci numbers  $F_{5n}/(5F_n)$  for each positive integer  $n$ . The first few terms of this sequence are

$$1, 11, 61, 451, 3001, 20801, 141961.$$

We notice immediately that each term of this sequence seems to end in one. This sequence appeared in [2] where the authors gave the Zeckendorf decomposition of each number in the sequence. We are to examine number-theoretic properties of these numbers, including the characters of their prime factorizations and related divisibility properties.

In the following discussion we recall the definition of exact divisibility as follows: a power of integer  $a^k$  is said to *exactly divide* an integer  $b$ , denoted  $a^k \parallel b$ , provided that  $a^k \mid b$  and

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<sup>1</sup>The notations  $a_n$  and  $a(n)$  to denote the  $n$ th term of a sequence  $(a_n)$  are used interchangeably in this paper.

$a^{k+1} \nmid b$ . We also recall the  $p$ -adic valuation  $v_p(a)$  of a positive integer  $a$  to be the exponent of the prime  $p$  in the prime factorization of  $a$ .

## 2. ENTRY POINT FUNCTION $Z(n)$

For a positive integer  $n$ , we define  $Z(n)$  to be the so-called *entry point* of  $n$  in the Fibonacci sequence as the first positive index  $m$  such that  $n \mid F_m$ . For example,  $Z(3) = 4$  since  $F_4 = 3$  and  $Z(11) = 10$  since  $F_{10} = 55 \equiv 0 \pmod{11}$  and  $F_j \not\equiv 0 \pmod{11}$  for all  $1 \leq j \leq 9$ . Arithmetic properties of  $Z(n)$  are extensive and quite useful, including the generalization of the relations and the examination of a specific case such as when  $n$  is prime or a power of prime. Some of these results that are needed for this work are summarized in the following lemma. Its comprehensive investigation can be found in [7].

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $m$  and  $n$  be positive integers and  $p$  prime. Then the following statements hold.*

- (1)  $n \mid F_m$  if and only if  $Z(n) \mid m$ .
- (2)  $p \equiv \left(\frac{p}{5}\right) \pmod{Z(p)}$ , where  $\left(\frac{p}{5}\right)$  is the Legendre symbol of  $p$  with respect to 5.

## 3. PRIME DIVISORS OF $T_n$

We have observed earlier that the first few terms of the sequence  $(T_n)$  seem to end in one. The following theorem shows that this is indeed the case for all terms of the sequence.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $n$  be a positive integer. Then*

- (1)  $\gcd(F_n, T_n) = 1$ , and
- (2)  $T_n \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$ .

*Proof.* This follows immediately from the relation

$$T_n = 5F_n^2(F_n^2 + (-1)^n) + 1. \tag{3.1}$$

This relation is a result of a more general one given in [5] which states that

$$F_{(2q+1)n} = F_n \sum_{k=0}^q (-1)^{n(q+k)} \frac{2q+1}{q+k+1} 5^k \binom{q+k+1}{2k+1} F_n^{2k}, \quad n, q \geq 0.$$

By letting  $q = 2$ , we obtain the identity (3.1), as required. □

We may characterize the prime divisors of the terms of  $(T_n)$  based on divisibility properties of the entry point as follows.

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $p$  be prime. Then  $p \mid T_n$  for some  $n$  if and only if  $p \neq 5$  and  $5 \mid Z(p)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $p$  be prime. Assume that  $p \mid T_n$  for some  $n$ . By Theorem 3.1, we have  $p \neq 5$  and  $p \nmid F_n$ . Now since  $F_{5n} = 5F_n T_n$ , we have  $p \mid F_{5n}$ . By Lemma 2.1, we have  $Z(p) \mid 5n$  and  $Z(p) \nmid n$  (from  $p \nmid F_n$ ). Hence,  $5 \mid Z(p)$ .

For the converse, we assume that  $p \neq 5$  and  $5 \mid Z(p)$ . Let  $n = \frac{Z(p)}{5}$ . By the definition of  $Z(p)$ , we have  $p \mid F_{5n}$  and  $p \nmid F_n$ . Since  $F_{5n} = 5F_n T_n$  and  $p \neq 5$ , it follows that  $p \mid T_n$ . □

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $p$  be prime. Then  $p \mid T_n$  for some  $n$  if and only if  $p \neq 5$ ,  $Z(p) \mid 5n$ , and  $v_5(Z(p)) = v_5(n) + 1$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $p$  be prime. Assume that  $p \mid T_n$  for some  $n$ . Since  $F_{5n} = 5F_nT_n$ , we obtain  $p \mid F_{5n}$ . By Theorem 3.1, we also obtain  $p \neq 5$  and  $p \nmid F_n$ . Hence, by Lemma 2.1,  $Z(p) \mid 5n$  and  $Z(p) \nmid n$ . Now since  $p \mid T_n$ , it follows from Theorem 3.2 that  $5^k \parallel Z(p)$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Write  $Z(p) = 5^k m_1$  and  $n = 5^\ell n_1$ , where  $5 \nmid m_1$  and  $5 \nmid n_1$ . Then  $5^k m_1 \mid 5^{\ell+1} n_1$  and  $5^k m_1 \nmid 5^\ell n_1$ . This yields  $k = \ell + 1$ . Since  $v_5(Z(p)) = k$  and  $v_5(n) = \ell$ , the result follows.

For the converse, assume that  $p \neq 5$ ,  $Z(p) \mid 5n$ ,  $5^k \parallel Z(p)$ , and  $5^{k-1} \parallel n$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Since  $Z(p) \mid 5n$ , Lemma 2.1 implies that  $p \mid F_{5n}$ . Since  $5^k \parallel Z(p)$  and  $5^{k-1} \parallel n$ , it follows that  $Z(p) \nmid n$ . Once again, Lemma 2.1 implies that  $p \nmid F_n$ . Now since  $p \neq 5$  and  $F_{5n} = 5F_nT_n$ , we have  $p \mid T_n$ , as required.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $p$  be prime such that  $p \mid T_n$  for some  $n$ . Then*

$$p \equiv 1 \pmod{10}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $p$  be prime such that  $p \mid T_n$  for some  $n$ . By Theorem 3.1, we have  $p \neq 2$ . By Theorem 3.2, we have  $5 \mid Z(p)$ . This implies  $Z(p) = 5n_1$  for some positive integer  $n_1$ . By Lemma 2.1, we obtain  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{5n_1}$ . This implies  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{5}$ . By Lemma 2.1,  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{5n_1}$ . Since  $p$  is odd, this implies  $n_1$  is even. Hence,  $p = 10k + 1$  for some positive integer  $k$  and the theorem follows.  $\square$

**Remark 3.5.** *We note that the converse of Theorem 3.4 does not hold, i.e., not all primes  $p$  ending in one are divisors of some  $T_n$ . In fact, consider the prime  $p = 211$ . By direct computation, we have  $Z(p) = 42$  and since  $5 \nmid 42$ , Theorem 3.2 implies that  $211 \nmid T_n$  for all  $n$ .*

#### 4. ALMOST STRONG DIVISIBILITY SEQUENCE

A sequence  $(a_n)$  of integers is said to be a *strong divisibility sequence* if  $\gcd(a_m, a_n) = a_{\gcd(m,n)}$  for all  $m, n$ . The sequence  $a_n = a^n - b^n$  where  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$  is a nontrivial example of such sequence. Another well-known example includes the Fibonacci sequence. We show in this section that the sequence  $(T_n)$  also possesses in some sense the quality of being a strong divisibility sequence.

**Lemma 4.1.** *Let  $m$  and  $n$  be positive integers such that  $m \mid n$  and  $v_5(m) = v_5(n)$ . Then  $T_m \mid T_n$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $m \mid n$  and  $v_5(m) = v_5(n)$ , there exist positive integers  $r, s$ , and  $\ell$  such that  $m = \ell r$ ,  $n = \ell s$ ,  $r \mid s$ ,  $5 \nmid r$ , and  $5 \nmid s$ . Let  $p$  be a prime such that  $p^k \parallel T_{\ell r}$ . Then  $p^k \mid F_{5\ell r}$  (by definition) and  $p^k \nmid F_{\ell r}$  (by Theorem 3.1). By Lemma 2.1,  $Z(p^k) \mid 5\ell r$  and  $Z(p^k) \nmid \ell r$ . Since  $5 \nmid r$ , the previous statement holds if and only if  $5^i \parallel Z(p^k)$  and  $5^{i-1} \parallel \ell$  for some  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ . Now since  $5 \nmid s$  and  $r \mid s$ , we have  $Z(p^k) \mid 5\ell s$  and  $Z(p^k) \nmid \ell s$ . Thus, by Lemma 2.1,  $p^k \mid F_{5\ell s}$  and  $p^k \nmid F_{\ell s}$ . Now since, by Theorem 3.1,  $p \neq 5$  and  $\gcd(F_{\ell s}, T_{\ell s}) = 1$ , it follows that  $p^k \mid T_{\ell s}$ . Hence,  $v_p(T_m) \leq v_p(T_n)$ . Since  $p$  was arbitrary, it follows that  $T_m \mid T_n$  and the lemma follows.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.2.**  $\gcd(T_m, T_n) \mid T_{\gcd(m,n)}$  for all positive integers  $m$  and  $n$ .

*Proof.* Let  $d$  be a common divisor of  $T_m$  and  $T_n$ . It suffices to prove that  $d \mid T_{\gcd(m,n)}$ . If  $d = 1$ , then the result is clear. Assume that  $d > 1$ . We have  $d \mid T_m$  and  $d \mid T_n$ . By the definition of the sequence  $(T_n)$ , we have  $d \mid F_{5m}$  and  $d \mid F_{5n}$ . Consequently,  $d \mid \gcd(F_{5m}, F_{5n})$ . Since  $(F_n)$  is a strong divisibility sequence, this implies  $d \mid F_{\gcd(5m, 5n)}$ . Now since  $F_{\gcd(5m, 5n)} = F_{5\gcd(m,n)} = 5F_{\gcd(m,n)}T_{\gcd(m,n)}$ , it follows that  $d \mid 5F_{\gcd(m,n)}T_{\gcd(m,n)}$ . By Theorem 3.1, we have  $\gcd(d, 5) = 1$  and  $\gcd(d, F_m) = \gcd(d, F_n) = 1$ , so that  $\gcd(d, \gcd(F_m, F_n)) = 1$ .

Again, since  $(F_n)$  is a strong divisibility sequence, it follows that  $\gcd(d, F_{\gcd(m,n)}) = 1$ . Hence,  $d \mid T_{\gcd(m,n)}$  and the proof is complete.  $\square$

We are now ready to prove the theorem that characterizes the sequence  $(T_n)$  as an *almost* strong divisibility sequence in the sense that  $\gcd(T_m, T_n) = T_{\gcd(m,n)}$  if and only if  $v_5(m) = v_5(n)$ . The precise statement is as follows.

**Theorem 4.3.** *Let  $m$  and  $n$  be positive integers. Then*

$$\gcd(T_m, T_n) = \begin{cases} T_{\gcd(m,n)}, & \text{if } v_5(m) = v_5(n), \\ 1, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Let  $m$  and  $n$  be positive integers. We consider two cases.

Case 1.  $v_5(m) = v_5(n)$ .

By Lemma 4.2, it suffices to show that  $T_{\gcd(m,n)} \mid \gcd(T_m, T_n)$ . We write  $m = 5^k m_1$ ,  $n = 5^k n_1$ , and  $d = \gcd(m, n) = 5^k d_1$ , where  $\gcd(m_1, 5) = \gcd(n_1, 5) = \gcd(d_1, 5) = 1$ . Consequently,  $d_1 \mid m_1$  and  $d_1 \mid n_1$ . By Lemma 4.1, we have  $T_d \mid T_m$  and  $T_d \mid T_n$ , i.e.,  $T_{\gcd(m,n)} \mid \gcd(T_m, T_n)$ , as required.

Case 2.  $v_5(m) \neq v_5(n)$ .

Assume to the contrary that there is a prime  $p$  such that  $p \mid T_m$  and  $p \mid T_n$ . We write  $m = 5^k m_1$  and  $n = 5^\ell n_1$ , where  $\gcd(m_1, 5) = \gcd(n_1, 5) = 1$ . By Theorem 3.2, there exists a positive integer  $i$  such that  $5^i \parallel Z(p)$ . Since  $p \mid T_m$  and  $p \mid T_n$ , by Theorem 3.3, we have  $i = k + 1$  and  $i = \ell + 1$ . Consequently,  $k = \ell$ , contradicting the fact that  $v_5(m) \neq v_5(n)$ . Hence,  $\gcd(T_m, T_n) = 1$ .  $\square$

## 5. DYNAMICAL PROPERTIES OF $(T_n)$

In this section, we discuss some dynamical properties of  $(T_n)$  that are analogous to the work of Panraksa, Tangboonduangjit, and Wiboonton [6] of the Fibonacci numbers. For this purpose we define similar subsequences  $(H_k(n))$  of the sequence  $(T_n)$  as follows: for each positive integer  $n$ , we let

$$H_1(n) = T_n \quad \text{and} \quad H_k(n) = T_{nH_{k-1}(n)} \quad \text{for } k \geq 2.$$

The first few terms of such sequence, therefore, are

$$T(n), \quad T(nT(n)), \quad T(nT(nT(n))), \quad T(nT(nT(nT(n)))).$$

We will show that each term of this sequence is exactly divisible by some power of  $T_n$ . We first prove some lemmas about the greatest common divisor of the Fibonacci numbers and some quotients of them.

**Lemma 5.1.** *Let  $n$  be a positive integer and  $p$  prime. Then*

$$\gcd\left(F_n, \frac{F_{pn}}{F_n}\right) = \begin{cases} p, & \text{if } p \mid F_n; \\ 1, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* By the expansion formula of Fibonacci into the sum involving binomial coefficients and lower terms of Fibonacci numbers (see [3], for example), we obtain

$$F_{pn} \equiv \binom{p}{1} F_n F_{n-1}^{p-1} \equiv p F_n F_{n-1}^{p-1} \pmod{F_n^2}.$$

Thus,  $\frac{F_{pn}}{F_n} \equiv p F_{n-1}^{p-1} \pmod{F_n}$  and the result follows.  $\square$

**Lemma 5.2.** *Let  $k$  and  $n$  be positive integers such that  $k \mid F_n$ . Then*

$$\gcd\left(F_n, \frac{F_{kn}}{kF_n}\right) = 1.$$

*Proof.* Assume that  $k \mid F_n$ . Applying the same expansion formula of Fibonacci numbers as in the proof of Lemma 5.1, we have

$$F_{kn} \equiv \binom{k}{1} F_n F_{n-1}^{k-1} + \binom{k}{2} F_n^2 F_{n-1}^{k-2} \equiv k F_n F_{n-1}^{k-1} + \frac{k(k-1)}{2} F_n^2 F_{n-1}^{k-2} \pmod{F_n^3}.$$

Thus,

$$\frac{F_{kn}}{kF_n} \equiv F_{n-1}^{k-1} + \frac{(k-1)}{2} F_n F_{n-1}^{k-2} \pmod{\frac{F_n}{k} F_n}, \quad \text{so that} \quad \frac{F_{kn}}{kF_n} \equiv F_{n-1}^{k-1} \pmod{F_n}.$$

We therefore have  $\gcd\left(\frac{F_{kn}}{kF_n}, F_n\right) = \gcd(F_{n-1}^{k-1}, F_n) = 1$ , where we have used a well-known fact which states that  $\gcd(F_{n-1}, F_n) = 1$  for all  $n$ . □

**Lemma 5.3.** *Let  $k$  and  $n$  be positive integers. Then*

$$\gcd(F_{nH_k(n)}, T_n) = 1.$$

*Proof.* Let  $k$  and  $n$  be positive integers. Then, since  $(F_n)$  is a strong divisibility sequence, we have

$$\gcd(F_{nH_k(n)}, F_{5n}) = F_{\gcd(nH_k(n), 5n)} = F_{n \gcd(H_k(n), 5)} = F_n, \quad (5.1)$$

where the last equality follows from the fact that  $5 \nmid H_k(n)$ . Let

$$d = \gcd(F_{nH_k(n)}, T_n) = \gcd\left(F_{nH_k(n)}, \frac{F_{5n}}{5F_n}\right).$$

Then, by (5.1), we have  $d \mid F_n$ . Therefore,  $d$  is a common divisor of  $F_n$  and  $T_n$ . However, since  $\gcd(F_n, T_n) = 1$  (by Theorem 3.1), it follows that  $d = 1$ . Hence, the proof is complete. □

The following lemma appeared as a step of the proof of a lemma in [6]. We repeat its proof here for the sake of completeness.

**Lemma 5.4.** *Let  $m, k$ , and  $\ell$  be positive integers with  $\ell \geq 3$ , then*

$$\gcd(m^k, \ell) \mid m^{\ell-2}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $p$  be a prime divisor of  $m$ . Let  $r = v_p(\gcd(m^k, \ell))$  and  $s = v_p(m^{\ell-2})$ . It suffices to prove that  $r \leq s$ . We have

$$m^k = p^{r+i} c_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \ell = p^{r+j} c_2,$$

where  $i, j \geq 0$  and  $\gcd(p, c_1) = \gcd(p, c_2) = 1$ . We see that

$$s = \frac{r+i}{k} (p^{r+j} c_2 - 2).$$

Now since  $\frac{r+i}{k} \geq 1$ , it suffices to show that  $r \leq p^{r+j} c_2 - 2$ . Since  $\ell \geq 3$ , the statement is true when  $r = 1$ , and so we may assume that  $r \geq 2$ . Then

$$p^{r+j} c_2 - 2 \geq p^r - 2 \geq 2^r - 2 \geq r.$$

Hence,  $r \leq s$ , as desired. □

In the proof of the next two results, we identify the usual subscript notation of a term of sequence with its functional notation for the sake of readability.

**Theorem 5.5.** *Let  $k$  and  $n$  be positive integers. Then*

$$T_n^k \mid H_k(n).$$

*Proof.* Let  $n$  be a positive integer. We will prove the statement by induction on  $k$ . The case when  $k = 1$  is clear. For the inductive step, we assume that  $T^k(n) \mid H_k(n)$  for some  $k \geq 1$ . Then, by Lemma 4.1,  $T(nT^k(n)) \mid H_{k+1}(n)$ . Therefore, it suffices to prove that  $T^{k+1}(n) \mid T(nT^k(n))$ . The expansion formula of the Fibonacci numbers yields

$$\begin{aligned} F(5nT^k(n)) &= \sum_{j=1}^{T^k(n)} \binom{T^k(n)}{j} F^j(5n) F^{T^k(n)-j}(5n-1) F(j) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{T^k(n)} \frac{T^k(n)}{\gcd(T^k(n), j)} a_j F^j(5n) F^{T^k(n)-j}(5n-1) F(j), \quad a_j \in \mathbb{N} \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{T^k(n)} T^k(n) a_j F(5n) b_j, \quad b_j \in \mathbb{N} \\ &= T^{k+1}(n) d, \quad d \in \mathbb{N}, \end{aligned}$$

where we have used a result by Hermite [4] in the second equality. The third equality follows from the definition of  $T(n)$  and the fact that  $\gcd(T^k(n), j)$  divides  $T^{j-1}(n)$  for all  $j$ . Indeed, the case  $j = 1$  is obvious; for the case  $j = 2$ , we have  $\gcd(T^k(n), j) = 1$ , since  $T(n)$  is odd; for the case  $j \geq 3$  we apply Lemma 5.4. The last equality follows again from the definition of  $T(n)$ . Therefore,

$$T(nT^k(n)) = \frac{F(5nT^k(n))}{5F(nT^k(n))} = \frac{T^{k+1}(n)d}{5F(nT^k(n))}.$$

Since  $(F(n))$  is a divisibility sequence, we have  $\gcd(F(nT^k(n)), F(5n)) = F(\gcd(nT^k(n), 5n)) = F(n \gcd(T^k(n), 5)) = F(n)$ . Thus,  $(F(nT^k(n)), T(n)) = 1$ , so that  $\frac{d}{5F(nT^k(n))}$  is an integer. This proves that  $T^{k+1}(n) \mid T(nT^k(n))$ , as desired. This establishes the inductive step and the proof by induction is complete.  $\square$

**Theorem 5.6.** *Let  $n \geq 2$  and  $k$  be positive integers. Then*

$$T_n^k \parallel H_k(n).$$

*Proof.* Let  $n \geq 2$  be a positive integer. We will prove the statement by induction on  $k$ . The case when  $k = 1$  is obvious. For the inductive step, we assume that  $T^k(n) \parallel H_k(n)$ . We want to show that  $T^{k+1}(n) \parallel H_{k+1}(n)$ . We have

$$H_{k+1}(n) = \frac{F(5nH_k(n))}{5F(nH_k(n))}.$$

Let the numerator be denoted by  $P$ . By Lemma 5.3, it suffices to show that  $T^{k+1}(n) \parallel P$ . The expansion formula of the Fibonacci numbers, together with Theorem 5.5, yields, after taking modulo  $T^{k+2}(n)$

$$P \equiv H_k(n)F(5n)F^{H_k(n)-1}(5n-1) + \frac{H_k(n)(H_k(n)-1)}{2} F^2(5n)F^{H_k(n)-2}(5n-1). \quad (5.2)$$

Since  $H_k(n)$  is odd, as it is a term of  $(T(n))$ , we have  $2 \mid H_k(n) - 1$  and therefore,

$$T^{k+2}(n) \mid H_k(n) \left( \frac{H_k(n) - 1}{2} \right) F^2(5n).$$

However,  $T^{k+1}(n)$  exactly divides the first summand in (5.2). Therefore,  $T^{k+1}(n) \parallel P$ , as required. Hence, the proof by induction is complete.  $\square$

**Theorem 5.7.** *For each nonnegative integer  $i$ , let  $N_i$  be the set of all positive integers  $n$  such that  $v_5(n) = i$  and let  $\mathcal{T}_i$  be the set of all  $T_n$  with  $n \in N_i$ . Then the following statements hold.*

(1) *The collection  $\{\mathcal{T}_i\}_{i \geq 0}$  partitions the image set of the sequence  $(T_n)$ , i.e.,*

$$\{T_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\} = \bigcup_{i \geq 0} \mathcal{T}_i.$$

(2) *For each nonnegative integer  $i$  and positive integer  $k$ , we have*

$$H_k(N_i) \subset \mathcal{T}_i,$$

where  $H_k(N_i) = \{H_k(n) : n \in N_i\}$ .

*Proof.* The first statement follows directly from Theorem 4.3. To prove the second statement, we let  $i$  be a nonnegative integer and let  $n \in N_i$ . It suffices to prove that  $H_k(n) \in \mathcal{T}_i$  for each  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . For  $k = 1$ , the result is clear. Assume  $k \geq 2$ . For  $n = 1$ , the statement is obvious. Assume  $n \geq 2$ . Then, Theorem 5.5 implies that  $\gcd(H_k(n), T_n) = T_n > 1$ . Since  $H_k(n) = T_{nH_{k-1}(n)}$ , Theorem 4.3 implies that  $v_5(n) = v_5(nH_{k-1}(n))$ . By the definition, this yields  $H_k(n) = T_{nH_{k-1}(n)} \in \mathcal{T}_i$ . Hence, the statement follows.  $\square$

## 6. THE INFINITUDE OF CERTAIN PRIMES

Upon considering some arithmetic properties of  $(T_n)$ , one might be led to ask the question: Is the set of all prime divisors of the sequence  $(T_n)$  infinite? To answer this question, we need the following theorem by Carmichael [1, 9].

**Theorem 6.1.** *For a positive integer  $n \neq 1, 2, 6, 12$ , the Fibonacci number  $F_n$  has a prime divisor which does not divide any earlier Fibonacci number.*

The next theorem gives the analogue of this theorem for the sequence  $(T_n)$  and therefore provides the affirmative answer to the underlying question above.

**Theorem 6.2.** *For a positive integer  $n \neq 1$ , the term  $T_n$  has a prime divisor which does not divide any earlier term of  $(T_n)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $n \neq 1$  be a positive integer. Then  $5n \neq 1, 2, 6, 12$ , so that Theorem 6.1 implies  $F_{5n}$  has a prime divisor which does not divide any  $F_k$  for all  $k < 5n$ . Since  $T_n = F_{5n}/5F_n$ , it follows that  $T_n$  has a prime divisor which does not divide any  $T_k$  for all  $k < 5n$ . In particular, since  $n < 5n$ , this implies  $T_n$  has a prime which does not divide any  $T_k$  for all  $k < n$ .  $\square$

In light of Theorem 3.2 which characterizes the prime divisors of the sequence  $(T_n)$ , some interesting corollaries of this result follows.

**Corollary 6.3.** *Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be the set of all primes  $p$  of the form  $p = 10k + 1$  with  $5 \mid Z(p)$ . Then the set  $\mathcal{P}$  is infinite.*

*Proof.* By Theorem 3.2,  $\mathcal{P}$  is exactly the set of all prime divisors of the terms of  $(T_n)$ . However, by Theorem 6.2, this set is known to be infinite (as  $T_n$  has a new prime divisor for each  $n > 1$ ). Hence the conclusion follows.  $\square$

**Corollary 6.4.** *For each nonnegative integer  $i$ , let  $P_i$  be the set of all primes  $p$  such that  $p \mid T_n$  with  $v_5(n) = i$ . Then the set  $P_i$  is infinite.*

*Proof.* Let  $i$  be a nonnegative integer. Let  $(m_j)$  be a subsequence of the sequence of all positive integers with the property that  $\gcd(5, m_j) = 1$  for each  $j$ . Then  $P_i$  is the set of all prime divisors of the terms of  $(T_{n_j})$  with  $n_j = 5^i m_j$  for each  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ . Consequently, Theorem 6.2 implies that  $P_i$  is an infinite set, since, for each  $j > 1$ , the term  $T_{n_j}$  has a prime divisor that has never occurred before in prime factorization of  $T_{n_k}$  with  $k < j$ .  $\square$

**Remark 6.5.** *We have learned from Theorem 6.2 that the set  $\mathcal{P}$  of all prime divisors of the terms of  $(T_n)$  is infinite. In fact, by Theorem 4.3, it is not difficult to see that the set  $\mathcal{P}$  can be partitioned by the set of  $P_i$ 's defined in Corollary 6.4, i.e.,*

$$\mathcal{P} = \bigcup_{i \geq 0} P_i,$$

where  $P_i$ 's are nonempty and pairwise disjoint.

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