

60 Suppose we add laws to allow various operators to distribute over string join (semi-colon). For example, if i and j are items and s and t are strings, then the laws

$$nil + nil = nil$$

$$(i; s) + (j; t) = i+j; s+t$$

say that strings are added item by item (a sum of strings is a string of sums). For example,

$$(2; 4; 7) + (3; 9; 1) = 5; 13; 8$$

What string f is defined by

$$f = 0; 1; f+f_{1;..∞}$$

After trying the question, scroll down to the solution.

§ Using ... for unknown items, here are f and $f_{1;..\infty}$ and below that their sum.

$$f = 0; 1; \dots$$

$$f_{1;..\infty} = 1; \dots$$

$$f + f_{1;..\infty} = 1; \dots$$

So now we know item 2. So again

$$f = 0; 1; 1; \dots$$

$$f_{1;..\infty} = 1; 1; \dots$$

$$f + f_{1;..\infty} = 1; 2; \dots$$

So now we know item 3. So again

$$f = 0; 1; 1; 2; \dots$$

$$f_{1;..\infty} = 1; 1; 2; \dots$$

$$f + f_{1;..\infty} = 1; 2; 3; \dots$$

So now we know item 4. And so on. It's the Fibonacci sequence

$$f = 0; 1; 1; 2; 3; 5; 8; 13; 21; 34; \dots$$

usually defined as

$$f_0 = 0$$

$$f_1 = 1$$

$$f_{n+2} = f_n + f_{n+1}$$