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# Non covered vertices in Fibonacci cubes by a maximum set of disjoint hypercubes

Michel Mollard\*

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#### Abstract

The Fibonacci cube of dimension n, denoted as  $\Gamma_n$ , is the subgraph of n-cube  $Q_n$  induced by vertices with no consecutive 1's. In this short note we give an immediate proof that asymptotically all vertices of  $\Gamma_n$  are covered by a maximum set of disjoint subgraphs isomorphic to  $Q_k$ , answering an open problem proposed in [2] and solved with a longer proof in [3].

Keywords: Fibonacci cube, Fibonacci numbers. AMS Subj. Class. (2010):

# 1 Introduction

Let n be a positive integer and denote  $[n] = \{1, ..., n\}$ , and  $[n]_0 = \{0, ..., n-1\}$ . The n-cube, denoted as  $Q_n$ , is the graph with vertex set

$$V(Q_n) = \{x_1 x_2 \dots x_n \mid x_i \in [2]_0 \text{ for } i \in [n]\},\$$

where two vertices are adjacent in  $Q_n$  if the corresponding strings differ in exactly one position. The Fibonacci n-cube, denoted by  $\Gamma_n$ , is the subgraph of  $Q_n$  induced by vertices with no consecutive 1's. Let  $\{F_n\}$  be the Fibonacci numbers:  $F_0 = 0$ ,  $F_1 = 1$ ,  $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$  for  $n \geq 2$ . The number of vertices of  $\Gamma_n$  is  $|V(\Gamma_n)| = F_{n+2}$ . Fibonacci cubes have been investigated from many points of view and we refer to the survey [1] for more information about them. Let  $q_k(n)$  be the maximum number of disjoint subgraphs isomorphic to  $Q_k$  in  $\Gamma_n$ . This number is studied in a recent paper [2]. The authors obtained the following recursive formula

**Theorem 1.1** For every 
$$k \ge 1$$
 and  $n \ge 3$   $q_k(n) = q_{k-1}(n-2) + q_k(n-3)$ .

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In [3] Elif Saygi and Ömer Eğecioğlu, solved an open problem proposed by the authors of [2]. They proved that asymptotically all vertices of  $\Gamma_n$  are covered by a maximum set of disjoint subgraphs isomorphic to  $Q_k$  thus that

**Theorem 1.2** For every 
$$k \ge 1$$
,  $\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{q_k(n)}{|V(\Gamma_n)|} = \frac{1}{2^k}$ .

The ingenious, but long, proof they proposed is a nine cases study of the decomposition of the generating function of  $q_k(n)$ . The purpose of this short note is to deduce from Theorem 1.1 a recursive formula for the number of non covered vertices by a maximum set of disjoint hypercubes. We obtain as a consequence an immediate proof of Theorem 1.2.

## 2 Number of non covered vertices

**Definition 2.1** Let  $\{P_k(n)\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  be the family of sequences of integers defined by  $(i)P_k(n+3) = P_k(n) + 2P_{k-1}(n+1)$  for  $k \geq 2$  and  $n \geq 0$   $(ii)P_k(0) = 1, P_k(1) = 2, P_k(2) = 3$ , for  $k \geq 2$   $(iii)P_1(n) = 0$  if  $n \equiv 1[3]$  and  $P_1(n) = 1$  if  $n \equiv 0[3]$  or  $n \equiv 2[3]$ .

Solving the recursion consecutively for the first values of k and each class of n modulo 3 we obtain the first values of  $P_k(n)$ .

n mod 3	0	1	2
$P_1(n)$	1	0	1
$P_2(n)$	1	$\frac{2}{3}n + \frac{4}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}n + \frac{5}{3}$
$P_3(n)$	$\frac{2}{9}n^2 + \frac{2}{3}n + 1$	$\frac{2}{9}n^2 + \frac{8}{9}n + \frac{8}{9}$	$\frac{2}{3}n + \frac{5}{3}$
$P_4(n)$	$\frac{4}{81}n^3 + \frac{2}{9}n^2 + \frac{2}{9}n + 1$	$\frac{3}{9}n^2 + \frac{8}{9}n + \frac{8}{9}$	$\frac{4}{81}n^3 + \frac{4}{27}n^2 + \frac{10}{27}n + \frac{103}{81}$

Table 1:  $P_k(n)$  for k = 1, ..., 4

**Proposition 2.2** Let n = 3p + r with r = 0, 1 or 2. For a fixed r,  $P_k(n)$  is a polynomial in n of degree at most k - 1.

**Proof.** From (i) we can write

$$P_k(n) = 2\sum_{i=0}^{p-1} P_{k-1}(n-2-3i) + P_k(r).$$

For any integer d the classical Faulhaber's formula expresses the sum  $\sum_{m=0}^{n} m^{d}$  as a polynomial in n of degree d+1. Thus if Q(n) is a polynomial of degree at most d then  $\sum_{m=0}^{n} Q(m)$  is a polynomial in n of degree at most d+1. Let Q'(m)=Q(m) if

 $m \equiv 0[3]$  and 0 otherwise. Applying this to Q' we obtain that  $\sum_{m=0, m\equiv 0[3]}^n Q(m)$  is also a polynomial in n of degree at most d+1. Thus if  $P_{k-1}(n)$  is a polynomial in n of degree at most k-2 then  $\sum_{i=0}^{p-1} P_{k-1}(n-2-3i)$  is a polynomial of degree at most k-1. Since for a fixed  $P_1(n)$  is a constant, by induction on k,  $P_k(n)$  is a polynomial in n of degree at most k-1.

**Theorem 2.3** The number of non covered vertices of  $\Gamma_n$  by  $q_k(n)$  disjoint  $Q_k$ 's is  $P_k(n)$ .

**Proof.** This is true for k = 1 since the Fibonacci cube  $\Gamma_n$  has a perfect matching for  $n \equiv 1[3]$  and a maximum matching missing a vertex otherwise.

For k > 1 this is true for n = 0, 1, 2 since the values of  $P_k(n)$  are respectively 1,2,3 thus are equal to  $|V(\Gamma_n)|$  and there is no  $Q_k$  in  $\Gamma_n$ .

Assume the property is true for some  $k \geq 1$  and any n. Then consider k + 1. By induction on n we can assume that the property is true for  $\Gamma_{n-3}$ . Let us prove it for  $\Gamma_n$ .

From Theorem 1.1 we have  $q_{k+1}(n) = q_k(n-2) + q_{k+1}(n-3)$ .

Thus the number of non covered vertices of  $\Gamma_n$  by  $q_{k+1}(n)$  disjoint  $Q_{k+1}$ 's is

$$|V(\Gamma_n)| - 2^{k+1} q_{k+1}(n) = F_{n+2} - 2^{k+1} [q_k(n-2) + q_{k+1}(n-3)] = F_{n+2} - 2 \cdot 2^k q_k(n-2) - 2^{k+1} q_{k+1}(n-3).$$

Using equalities  $P_k(n-2) = F_n - 2^k q_k(n-2)$  and  $P_{k+1}(n-3) = F_{n-1} - 2^{k+1} q_{k+1}(n-3)$  we obtain

$$|V(\Gamma_n)| - 2^{k+1}q_{k+1}(n) = F_{n+2} + 2(P_k(n-2) - F_n) + P_{k+1}(n-3) - F_{n-1}.$$

From  $F_{n+2} - 2F_n - F_{n-1} = 0$  and  $2P_k(n-2) + P_{k+1}(n-3) = P_{k+1}(n)$  the number of non covered vertices is  $P_{k+1}(n)$ . So the theorem is proved.

For any k, since the number of non covered vertices is polynomial in n and  $|V(\Gamma_n)| = F_{n+2} \sim \frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{2\sqrt{5}} (\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2})^n$  we obtain, like in [3], that

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{P_k(n)}{|V(\Gamma_n)|} = 0$$

thus

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{q_k(n)}{|V(\Gamma_n)|} = \frac{1}{2^k}$$

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