

## COUNTING DIVISORS OF LUCAS NUMBERS

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The Lucas numbers  $L_n$  are defined by  $L_0 = 2$ ,  $L_1 = 1$  and the recurrence  $L_n = L_{n-1} + L_{n-2}$ . An estimate for the number of  $m \leq x$  such that  $m$  divides some Lucas number is established. This estimate has error of order  $x \log^{\epsilon-1} x$  for every  $\epsilon > 0$ .

### 1. Introduction.

Let  $\{S_n\}$  be a second order linear recurrence consisting of integers only. M. Ward [22] proved that, except for some degenerate cases, there are always an infinite number of distinct primes dividing the terms of  $\{S_n\}$ . A deeper question is whether in the non-degenerate case the set of prime divisors has a prime density. (If  $S$  is any set of natural numbers, then  $S(x)$  denotes the number of elements  $n$  in  $S$  with  $1 < n \leq x$ . In case  $S$  is a set of primes we define the prime density of  $S$  to be  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} S(x)/\pi(x)$ , if it exists, where  $\pi(x)$  denotes the number of primes not exceeding  $x$ .) It is conjectured that the answer is yes and that the density is in fact positive. In case of what are called torsion sequences, this was recently established by P. Stevenhagen [21], generalizing on results in the earlier papers [9, 11, 13]. Stevenhagen showed, moreover, that the density of a torsion sequence is a rational number. For a large class of non-torsion sequences, the existence and positivity of the prime density was established by P.J. Stephens [20], under the assumption of the Generalized Riemann Hypothesis.

The sequence  $\{L_n\}$  is torsion. Lagarias established that it has prime density  $2/3$ . His method goes back to H. Hasse [6], who expressed the prime density of sequences  $\{a^k + b^k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  in terms of degrees of Kummer extensions. This method will be used in Section 3. The analytic aspects of prime divisors of sequences  $\{a^k + b^k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  were explored by K. Wiertelak in several papers [24, 25, 26, 27, 28]. For a survey of results on prime divisors of, not necessarily second order, linear recurrences, see Ballot [1].

The problem of general divisors of second order linear recurrence sequences, in contrast, has not received much attention. Let  $a$  and  $b$  be fixed coprime integers such that  $|a| \neq |b|$ . In [12] the set of divisors,  $G_{a,b}$ , of the sequence  $\{a^k + b^k\}$  was considered. Some of the results obtained there have

an application in coding theory [8, 17]. It was shown that for given  $t \geq 1$ ,

$$(1) \quad G_{a,b}(x) = \frac{x}{\log x} \left( c'_0 \log^\alpha x + \sum_{j=0}^{t-1} c'_{1+j} \log^{\beta \cdot 2^{-j}} x + O(\log^{\beta \cdot 2^{-t}} x) \right),$$

as  $x$  tends to infinity, where  $c'_0, \dots, c'_t$  and  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are positive constants depending at most on  $a$  and  $b$ . The implied constant depends at most on  $a, b$  and  $t$ . The constants  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  can be explicitly given. They are rational numbers. In contrast the constants  $c'_0, \dots, c'_t$  seem to be very difficult to compute.

The purpose of this paper is to establish the following analogue of (1):

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $\mathcal{L}(x)$  denote the number of divisors not exceeding  $x$  of the sequence of Lucas numbers. Then, for  $t \geq 1$ ,*

$$(2) \quad \mathcal{L}(x) = \frac{x}{\log x} \left( \sum_{j=0}^{t-1} c_j \log^{\frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{2^j}} x + O(\log^{\frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{2^t}} x) \right),$$

where  $c_0, \dots, c_t$  are positive constants and the implied constant depends at most on  $t$ .

The sequence of exponents  $\{2^{-j}/3\}_{j=0}^\infty$  appearing in (2) coincides with that appearing in (1) in case  $a/b \notin \{\pm\mathbb{Q}^2, \pm 2\mathbb{Q}^2\}$  [12].

Although the strategy of proof is similar, establishing (2) is more difficult than establishing (1). Firstly because one now has to work over the base field  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$  rather than  $\mathbb{Q}$  and secondly since many ingredients required in the proof of (1) can be found in the literature, whereas this is only rarely the case for their counterparts in the proof of (2). In order to explain the strategy of proof, a little bit of notation is needed. If  $\{S_n\}$  is a sequence of integers, the smallest index  $k$  such that  $m|S_k$  for some non-zero element  $S_k$ , is called the *rank of apparition* of  $m$  provided it exists. Let  $\{F_n\}$  be the Fibonacci sequence. Thus  $F_0 = 0$ ,  $F_1 = 1$ ,  $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . For the Fibonacci sequence denote the rank of apparition of  $n$  by  $\rho(n)$ . (It exists for arbitrary  $n$  as will be seen later.) Let  $\sigma(n)$  denote the rank of apparition of  $n$  in the Lucas sequence, if it exists. The proof of Theorem 1 proceeds as follows. In Section 2 a characterization for Lucas divisors is derived. This result shows the need of estimating the growth of the sets  $C_e := \{p > 2 : 2^e \parallel \rho(p)\}$ , for  $e \geq 0$ . Using a method of Wiertelak an estimate of the form

$$(3) \quad C_e(x) = \delta_e \text{Li}(x) + O\left(\frac{x(\log \log x)^4}{\log^3 x}\right),$$

where  $\delta_e > 0$  is a constant and  $\text{Li}(x)$  denotes the logarithmic integral, is derived. Using Hasse's method the densities  $\delta_e$  are computed in Section 3.

Lagarias [9] only computed  $\delta_0$ ; it equals  $1/3$ . Using a result on multiplicative functions that are constant on average in prime arguments, a formula for  $G_e(x)$  is obtained, where  $G_e$  denotes the number of Lucas divisors not exceeding  $x$  composed only of primes from  $C_e$ . From this and the characterization of Lucas divisors it is straightforward to obtain an expression of the form (2) for *odd* Lucas divisors. Going from there to all Lucas divisors requires a bit of elementary trickery.

A natural question that arises is whether Theorem 1 can be extended to other sequences of the form  $\{\alpha^n + \bar{\alpha}^n\}_{n=0}^\infty$  with  $\alpha$  an algebraic integer from a quadratic field  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{D})$ . In the case  $D > 0$  and  $\alpha$  is a unit this certainly seems to be the case. Since the exponents in (2) depend in an idiosyncratic way on  $\alpha$ , it will be awkward to state and prove a generalization of Theorem 1 of this type. I have restricted myself therefore to the most well-known of the sequences of the above form. Given the necessary patience the reader should be able to work out some other cases as well. It is not clear what to expect for general second-order linear recurrences. Then both Theorem 2 and the Hasse method fail.

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### 2. Characterization of Lucas divisors.

The following properties of the Fibonacci and Lucas number are well-known (see e.g. [18, pp. 41-55]):

- (i)  $m|F_n$  if and only if  $\rho(m)|n$ ;
- (ii) If  $p|F_n$ , then  $p^e|F_{np^{e-1}}$  for  $e \geq 1$ ;
- (iii)  $L_n F_n = F_{2n}$ ;
- (iv)  $(F_n, L_n)|2$ ;
- (v) If  $b \geq 1$  and odd, then  $L_a|L_{ab}$ .

These properties will be used to derive a characterization of divisors of Lucas numbers. To this end we need a proposition and a lemma.

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $p^r$  be an odd prime power. Then  $\rho(p^r) = \rho(p)p^j$  for some  $0 \leq j \leq r - 1$ .*

*Proof.* By (i) and (ii) it follows that  $\rho(p^r)|\rho(p)p^{r-1}$ . Clearly  $\rho(p)|\rho(p^r)$ . Thus the proposition follows. □

**Lemma 1.** *The odd prime power  $p^r$  is a divisor of  $\{L_n\}$  if and only if  $\rho(p^r)$  is even. If  $p^r$  is a divisor of  $\{L_n\}$  then  $\sigma(p^r) = \rho(p^r)/2$  and*

$$(4) \quad p^r|L_n \iff n \equiv \frac{\rho(p^r)}{2} \pmod{\rho(p^r)}.$$

*Proof.* We prove the first part of the assertion. The proof of the second part is similar and left to the reader. Let  $p^r$  be odd. If it divides  $L_n$ , then by (iii) it divides  $F_{2n}$  and thus by (i)  $2n \equiv 0 \pmod{\rho(p^r)}$ . If  $\rho(p^r)$  would be odd then  $p^r$  would divide  $F_n$ , thus contradicting (iv). Suppose  $\rho(p^r)$  is even. Then  $L_{\frac{\rho(p^r)}{2}} F_{\frac{\rho(p^r)}{2}} = F_{\rho(p^r)}$ . Using (i) and (iv) it then follows that  $p^r | L_{\frac{\rho(p^r)}{2}}$ .  $\square$

Using this result it is not difficult to prove the following result characterizing odd divisors of Lucas numbers.

**Theorem 2.** *An odd integer  $m$  divides  $\{L_n\}$  if and only if there exists  $e \geq 1$  such that  $2^e || \rho(p)$ , the rank of apparition of  $p$  in  $\{F_n\}$ , for every prime  $p$  dividing  $m$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $m = \prod_{i=1}^s p_i^{e_i}$  be the canonical prime factorization of  $m$ .  
 $\Rightarrow$ . By Lemma 1 it follows there exist odd integers  $b_i$  such that

$$\frac{\rho(p_1^{e_1})}{2} b_1 = \dots = \frac{\rho(p_s^{e_s})}{2} b_s.$$

Thus there exists  $e \geq 1$  such that  $2^e || \rho(p^r)$  for all prime powers  $p^r$  dividing  $m$ . By Proposition 1 this implies there exists  $e \geq 1$  such that  $2^e || \rho(p)$  holds for all primes  $p$  dividing  $m$ .

$\Leftarrow$ . Put  $a_i = \rho(p_i)/2^e$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq s$ . Then  $a_i$  is odd. Using (4) and Proposition 1, we see that  $m | L_{2^{e-1} m a_1 \dots a_s}$ .  $\square$

The behaviour of  $\{F_n\}$  and  $\{L_n\}$  is intimately connected with certain aspects of the arithmetic of  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$ . In the remainder of this section we will deal with some elementary aspects of this connection that will be needed in the sequel.

Put  $\epsilon = (1 + \sqrt{5})/2$ ,  $\bar{\epsilon} = (1 - \sqrt{5})/2$ ,  $\theta = \epsilon/\bar{\epsilon}$ . Note that  $\theta = -\epsilon^2 = -(3 + \sqrt{5})/2$ . Recall that  $\mathbb{Z}[\epsilon]$  is the ring of algebraic integers of  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$ . The Fibonacci numbers  $F_n$  and the Lucas numbers  $L_n$  satisfy

$$F_n = \frac{\epsilon^n - \bar{\epsilon}^n}{\sqrt{5}}, \quad L_n = \epsilon^n + \bar{\epsilon}^n,$$

respectively. The symbols  $p, \mathfrak{P}$  will be exclusively used to denote rational primes respectively prime ideals. In this section the prime ideals will be from  $\mathbb{Z}[\epsilon]$ . From elementary number theory recall that an ideal  $(p)$  is a prime ideal of degree 2 if  $(5/p) = -1$ , i.e. if  $p \equiv \pm 2 \pmod{5}$  and  $(p) = \mathfrak{P}\bar{\mathfrak{P}}$  with  $\mathfrak{P}$  of degree 1 if  $(5/p) = 1$ , i.e. if  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{5}$ . Furthermore  $(5) = \mathfrak{P}^2$  with  $\mathfrak{P} = (\sqrt{5})$ . Notice that  $m$  divides some non-zero Fibonacci number if and only if for some  $x \geq 1$  the congruence  $\theta^x \equiv 1 \pmod{(m)}$  holds in  $\mathbb{Z}[\epsilon]$ . Since  $\theta$  is a unit in  $\mathbb{Z}[\epsilon]$  this is the case for arbitrary  $m$ . Thus  $\rho(m)$  exists. For Lucas numbers the situation is slightly more complicated. We have for  $p \neq 5$ ,  $r \geq 1$ ,

$$(5) \quad p^r | L_n \iff \theta^n \equiv -1 \pmod{(p^r)} \iff \theta^n \equiv -1 \pmod{\mathfrak{P}^r},$$

where  $\mathfrak{P}$  is any prime ideal dividing  $(p)$ . The second equivalence in (5) follows on noting that  $\theta^n + 1$  is a unit times a rational integer and so  $\mathfrak{P}^r$  divides  $\theta^n + 1$  if and only if  $(p^r)$  does.

**Lemma 2.** *If  $\mathfrak{P}$  is of degree 1, then  $\text{ord}_{\mathfrak{P}}(\theta) | p - 1$ , if  $\mathfrak{P}$  is of degree 2, then  $\text{ord}_{\mathfrak{P}}(\theta) | p + 1$ .*

*Proof.* Since  $\mathbb{Z}[\epsilon]/\mathfrak{P} \cong \mathbb{F}_p$  when  $\mathfrak{P}$  is of degree 1 and  $\mathbb{F}_p^*$  is cyclic of order  $p - 1$ , the first part of the assertion follows. In the second case we have  $\mathbb{Z}[\epsilon]/\mathfrak{P} \cong \mathbb{F}_{p^2}$ . Then  $\theta^p \equiv \bar{\theta} \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$  and so  $1 = N(\theta) = \theta \cdot \bar{\theta} \equiv \theta^{p+1} \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$ . Therefore  $\text{ord}_{\mathfrak{P}}(\theta) | p + 1$ .  $\square$

### 3. Computing the densities $\delta_e$ .

In order to prove the estimate (3) we need to compute, for  $e \geq 0$ , the prime density  $\delta_e$  of the set  $C_e := \{p > 2 : 2^e || \rho(p)\}$ . This can be almost carried out by algebraic number theory only. For  $s = 1, 2$ ,  $e \geq 0$ ,  $j \geq 1$  put

$$N_s(e, j) = \{p : p \equiv \pm s \pmod{5}, p \equiv 3 - 2s + 2^j \pmod{2^{j+1}}, 2^e || \text{ord}_{(p)}(\theta)\}.$$

Then it follows on noting that  $\rho(5) = 5$  that  $C_0 = \cup_{j=1}^{\infty} \{N_1(e, j) \cup N_2(e, j)\} \cup \{5\}$  and  $C_e = \cup_{j=1}^{\infty} \{N_1(e, j) \cup N_2(e, j)\}$  for  $e \geq 1$ . Note that all sets in this union are disjoint. As a first step we compute  $\Delta_s(e, j)$ , the prime density of the set  $N_s(e, j)$ . In the case  $s = 1$  this problem can be reduced to computing degrees of certain number fields. This reduction is due to Hasse [6] and was used by several subsequent authors [1, 9, 11, 13, 15, 24]. The case  $s = 2$  is almost trivial; here one only needs the prime number theorem for arithmetic progressions. The densities  $\Delta_1(e, j)$ ,  $\Delta_2(e, j)$  are recorded in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively. The entry  $e$  in the last column gives  $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \Delta_s(e, j)$ . The entry  $j$  in the last row gives  $\sum_{e=0}^{\infty} \Delta_s(e, j)$ .

The case  $s = 1$ . Here some information on the number fields  $K_{0,n} := \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}, \zeta_{2^n})$ ,  $n \geq 1$ , is needed.  $K_{0,n}$  is normal over  $\mathbb{Q}$  and is easily seen to be of degree  $2^n$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . As compositum of the abelian fields  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$  and  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{2^n})$ ,  $K_{0,n}$  is abelian. As is well-known the absolute value of the discriminant of  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{2^n})$  is  $(m/2)^{m/2}$ , where  $m = 2^n$ . The discriminant of  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$  is 5. Since 5 does not ramify in  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{2^n})$  we have  $d_{K_{0,n}/\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{2^n})} = (5)$ . Now if  $K \subseteq L \subseteq M$  is a tower of fields, then (see e.g. [14, Proposition 4.9])

$$(6) \quad d_{M/K} = (N_{L/K} d_{M/L}) d_{L/K}^{[M:L]}.$$

Thus the absolute value of the discriminant of  $K_{0,n}$  equals  $5^{m/2} (m/2)^m$  and consequently the primes outside  $\{2, 5\}$  do not ramify. The primes that split completely in  $K_{0,n}$  are precisely the primes satisfying  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{5}$  and  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{2^n}$ .

For  $b \geq a$  put  $K_{a,b} = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}, \theta^{1/2^a}, \zeta_{2^b})$  and  $d_{a,b} = [K_{a,b} : \mathbb{Q}]$ .

**Lemma 3.** For  $b > a \geq 1$ ,  $d_{a,b} = 2^{a+b-1}$ . Furthermore  $d_{0,b} = 2^b$ ,  $b \geq 1$ ,  $d_{1,1} = 4$  and  $d_{b,b} = 2^{2b-1}$  for  $b \geq 2$ .

*Proof.* When  $b > a \geq 1$ ,  $K_{a,b} = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}, \epsilon^{1/2^{a-1}} \zeta_{2^{a+1}}, \zeta_{2^b}) = \mathbb{Q}(\epsilon^{1/2^{a-1}}, \zeta_{2^b})$ . I claim that  $X^{2^{a-1}} - \epsilon$  is irreducible over  $K_{0,b}$ , for if it were not, then  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{\epsilon})$  would be a subfield of the abelian field  $K_{0,b}$  and hence normal. However, by [5, Satz 1],  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{\epsilon})$  is not normal. Thus  $X^{2^{a-1}} - \epsilon$  is irreducible over  $K_{0,b}$  and hence  $d_{a,b} = 2^{a-1}d_{0,b} = 2^{a+b-1}$ . The degrees  $d_{b,b}$  were computed in [9, Lemma 3.1].  $\square$

**Lemma 4.** A prime  $p$  satisfies

$$(7) \quad p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{5}, \quad p \equiv 1 + 2^j \pmod{2^{j+1}}, \quad \theta^{\frac{p-1}{2^t}} \equiv 1 \pmod{\mathfrak{P}},$$

where  $t \leq j$  and  $\mathfrak{P}$  is a prime ideal in  $\mathbb{Z}[\epsilon]$  dividing  $(p)$  if and only if  $p$  splits completely in  $K_{t,j}$ , but does not split completely in  $K_{t,j+1}$ . The prime density of the set of all primes satisfying (7) equals  $1/d_{t,j} - 1/d_{t,j+1}$ .

*Proof.* The proof of the last part of the assertion follows from the first part and the Chebotarev density theorem. Note that it is enough to show that for  $j \geq 1$ ,  $t \leq j$ , the primes  $p$  for which  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{5}$ ,  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{2^j}$ ,  $\theta^{\frac{p-1}{2^t}} \equiv 1 \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$  are precisely those that split completely in  $K_{t,j}$ . The primes satisfying  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{5}$ ,  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{2^j}$  are precisely those that split completely in  $K_{0,j}$ . Now let  $p$  be a prime that splits completely in  $K_{0,j}$ . Note that  $p$  is odd. Then  $\theta^{\frac{p-1}{2^t}} \equiv 1 \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$  implies by Euler’s criterion that  $X^{2^t} \equiv \theta \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$  has a solution in  $\mathbb{Z}[\epsilon]$ . Let  $\mathfrak{Q}$  be a prime ideal of  $\mathfrak{D}_{K_{0,j}}$  lying over  $\mathfrak{P}$ . Since the inertial degree  $f(\mathfrak{Q}|\mathfrak{P}) = 1$ ,  $X^{2^t} \equiv \theta \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$  has a solution in  $\mathbb{Z}[\epsilon]$  iff

$$(8) \quad X^{2^t} \equiv \theta \pmod{\mathfrak{Q}}$$

has a solution in  $\mathfrak{D}_{K_{0,j}}$ . Thus the proof will be completed once we show that  $\mathfrak{Q}$  splits completely in  $K_{t,j}/K_{0,j}$  iff (8) has a solution in  $\mathfrak{D}_{K_{0,j}}$ . So assume (8) has such a solution. Since  $\zeta_{2^t} \in \mathfrak{D}_{K_{0,j}}$  and  $\mathfrak{Q}$  does not extend 2, the latter congruence has  $2^t$  distinct solutions. Let  $f(X)$  be a monic irreducible polynomial over  $K_{0,j}$  such that  $f(X)|X^{2^t} - \theta$  and  $K_{0,j}(X)/(f(X)) \cong K_{t,j}$ . It now follows by [16, Example 29] that in  $\mathfrak{D}_{K_{0,j}}$  we have  $\mathfrak{Q} = \mathfrak{P}_1 \cdots \mathfrak{P}_s$ , where  $s = [K_{t,j} : K_{0,j}]$  and the prime ideals  $\mathfrak{P}_\nu$  are pairwise distinct. Thus  $\mathfrak{Q}$  splits completely in  $K_{t,j}/K_{0,j}$ . If (8) does not have a solution in  $\mathfrak{D}_{K_{0,j}}$  it follows similarly that  $\mathfrak{Q}$  decomposes in  $K_{t,j}$  as a product of prime ideals of residual degree at least 2.  $\square$

The next lemma gives the densities  $\Delta_1(e, j)$  for  $e \geq 0$  and  $j \geq 1$ . For the convenience of the reader these prime densities are recorded in Table 1.

**Lemma 5.**  $\Delta_1(e, j) = 0$  for  $e > j$ .  $\Delta_1(0, 1) = 0$ ,  $\Delta_1(0, j) = 1/4^j$  for  $j \geq 2$ . For  $j \geq 1$ ,  $\Delta_1(1, j) = 1/4^j$ . For  $j \geq 2$ ,  $\Delta_1(j, j) = 0$ .  $\Delta_1(e, j) = 1/2^{2^{j+1}-e}$  for  $e \geq 2$  and  $j \geq e + 1$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $p \in N_1(e, j)$ . By (5) the assertion  $2^e \parallel \text{ord}_{(p)}(\theta)$  is equivalent with

$$(9) \quad 2^e \parallel \text{ord}_{\mathfrak{P}}(\theta),$$

where  $\mathfrak{P} | (p)$ . That  $\Delta_1(e, j) = 0$  for  $e > j$  is immediate by Lemma 2. So assume  $e \leq j$ . In case  $e = 0$  the condition (9) is equivalent with  $\theta^{\frac{p-1}{2^j}} \equiv 1 \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$ . Then, by Lemma 4,  $\Delta_1(0, j) = 1/d_{j,j} - 1/d_{j,j+1}$ . Using Lemma 3 we find  $\Delta_1(0, 1) = 0$  and  $\Delta_1(0, j) = 1/4^j$  for  $j \geq 2$ . In case  $e \geq 1$  the condition (9) is equivalent with  $\theta^{\frac{p-1}{2^{j-e}}} \equiv 1 \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$  and  $\theta^{\frac{p-1}{2^{j-e+1}}} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$ . Thus, using Lemma 4, we find that for  $e \geq 1$ ,  $e \leq j$ ,

$$\Delta_1(e, j) = \frac{1}{d_{j-e,j}} - \frac{1}{d_{j-e,j+1}} - \frac{1}{d_{j+1-e,j}} + \frac{1}{d_{j+1-e,j+1}}.$$

The remainder of the assertion now follows on invoking Lemma 3. □

The case  $s = 2$ . Let  $p \equiv \pm 2 \pmod{5}$ . Recall that  $\text{ord}_{(p)}(\theta) | p + 1$ . Since  $\epsilon \bar{\epsilon} = -1$  and  $\epsilon^p \equiv \bar{\epsilon} \pmod{p}$ ,  $\epsilon^{p+1} \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$ . Hence if  $p \equiv -1 + 2^j \pmod{2^{j+1}}$ ,  $j \geq 2$ , then  $\theta^{\frac{p+1}{2}} = (-1)^{\frac{p+1}{2}} \epsilon^{p+1} \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$ . Thus we have  $2^j \parallel \text{ord}_{(p)}(\theta)$  and therefore  $N_2(j, j) = \{p : p \equiv \pm 2 \pmod{5}, p \equiv -1 + 2^j \pmod{2^{j+1}}\}$ . In particular it follows that  $\Delta_2(j, j) = 1/2^{j+1}$  and  $\Delta_2(e, j) = 0$  whenever  $e \neq j$ . In case  $j = 1$  and  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  we have  $\theta^{\frac{p+1}{2}} = (-1)^{\frac{p+1}{2}} \epsilon^{p+1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ . Thus, using that  $(p + 1)/2$  is odd, we find  $N_2(0, 1) = \{p : p \equiv \pm 2 \pmod{5}, p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}\}$ ,  $\Delta_2(0, 1) = 1/4$  and, for  $e \geq 1$ ,  $\Delta_2(e, 1) = 0$ . This finishes the computation of the densities  $\Delta_2(e, j)$ . They are recorded in Table 2.

The analytic arguments in the next section will show that the density  $\delta_e$  satisfies  $\delta_e = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \{\Delta_1(e, j) + \Delta_2(e, j)\}$ . Using the formulae derived in this section for the prime densities  $\Delta_1(e, j)$  and  $\Delta_2(e, j)$  it then follows that

$$\delta_0 = \frac{1}{3}, \quad \delta_e = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{2^e} \quad (e \geq 1).$$

#### 4. Counting primes dividing Lucas numbers.

In this section Theorem 3 will be proved following Wiertelak [26], who on his turn used some ideas of P. D. T. A. Elliott [3]. Wiertelak used character sums over prime ideals to evaluate  $W_m(x)$ , where  $W_m := \{p : m | \text{ord}_p(a/b)\}$ , with  $a$  and  $b$  non-zero integers. A slightly easier alternative approach to deal with  $W_m(x)$ , as explored by R.W.K. Odoni [15], would only yield an error of  $\exp\{-c \log x / \log \log x\}$ , for some constant  $c > 0$ , which, however, is not sharp enough for our purposes.

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $\rho(p)$  denote the rank of apparition of  $p$  in the Fibonacci sequence. For  $e \geq 0$  put  $C_e = \{p > 2 : 2^e \parallel \rho(p)\}$ . Then*

$$C_e(x) = \delta_e \text{Li}(x) + O\left(\frac{x(\log \log x)^4}{\log^3 x}\right),$$

where  $\delta_0 = 1/3$ ,  $\delta_e = 2^{1-e}/3$  for  $e \geq 1$  and the implied constant may depend on  $e$ .

This result together with Theorem 2 and the prime number theorem with error  $O(x \log^{-3} x)$  implies the following improvement of [9, Theorem B]:

**Theorem 4.** *The set of prime divisors of the sequence of Lucas numbers,  $\mathcal{P}$ , satisfies*

$$\mathcal{P}(x) = \frac{2}{3} \text{Li}(x) + O\left(\frac{x(\log \log x)^4}{\log^3 x}\right).$$

In particular the set  $\mathcal{P}$  has prime density  $2/3$ .

Before embarking on the proof of Theorem 3 we need a few prerequisites. Let  $K$  be a number field of discriminant  $d_{K/\mathbb{Q}}$  and degree  $n$  over the rationals. Let  $\mathcal{O}_K$  be its ring of integers,  $\mathfrak{A}$  an arbitrary integral ideal and  $\mathfrak{P}$  an arbitrary integral prime ideal. Let  $\chi$  be a character of the group of ideal classes modulo  $\mathfrak{A}$  and  $\zeta(s, \chi)$  the Hecke zeta function (see [10]). By the group of ideal classes modulo  $\mathfrak{A}$  we understand the following. We say that  $\mathfrak{B} \sim \mathfrak{B}' \pmod{\mathfrak{A}}$  iff  $(\mathfrak{B}, \mathfrak{A}) = (\mathfrak{B}', \mathfrak{A}) = 1$  and there exist totally positive  $\xi$  and  $\delta$  in  $\mathfrak{O}_K$  such that  $\xi \equiv \delta \equiv 1 \pmod{\mathfrak{A}}$  and  $(\xi)\mathfrak{B} = (\delta)\mathfrak{B}'$ . The principal character of the group of ideal classes modulo  $\mathfrak{A}$  will be denoted by  $\chi_0$ , the exceptional real character by  $\chi_1$  and the hypothetical Siegel zero of  $\zeta(s, \chi_1)$ , which is real and simple, by  $\beta_1$ . We denote the product of  $|d_{K/\mathbb{Q}}|$  and  $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}\mathfrak{A}$ , the absolute norm of  $\mathfrak{A}$ , by  $\Delta$ . Set  $E_0(\chi) = 1$  if  $\chi = \chi_0$  is the principal character and zero otherwise. Set  $E_1(\chi) = 1$  if  $\chi = \chi_1$  is the exceptional real character and zero otherwise.

**Lemma 6** ([26]). *Let  $K$  be a number field. There exists an absolute positive constant  $g_1$  such that*

$$\sum_{N\mathfrak{P} \leq x} \chi(\mathfrak{P}) = E_0(\chi)\text{Li}(x) - E_1(\chi)\text{Li}(x^{\beta_1}) + O(R),$$

where

$$R = \frac{x \log(2\Delta)}{\sqrt{\log x}} \exp\left(-g_1 \frac{\log x}{\max\{\sqrt{[K : \mathbb{Q}] \log x}, \log \Delta\}}\right).$$

Reasoning as in [19], see especially page 148, we find (cf. [26, Lemma 5.2]):



**Lemma 7.** *Let  $K$  be normal over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Then there exists an absolute constant  $c_1 > 0$  such that*

$$\beta_1 < \max\left(1 - \frac{1}{4 \log \Delta}, 1 - \frac{c_1}{\Delta^{1/[K:\mathbb{Q}]}}\right).$$

Let  $m > 1$  be an integer. Put  $L = K(\zeta_m)$ . For  $\psi \in \mathfrak{O}_K$  and a prime ideal  $\mathfrak{P}$  of  $\mathfrak{O}_L$ ,  $(\mathfrak{P}, m\psi) = 1$ , we denote by  $\left(\frac{\psi}{\mathfrak{P}}\right)_m$  the  $m$ th power residue symbol. It is the unique  $m$ th root of unity such that  $\left(\frac{\psi}{\mathfrak{P}}\right)_m \equiv \psi^{\frac{N_{\mathfrak{P}}-1}{m}} \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$ . For the ideal  $\mathfrak{A}$  of  $\mathfrak{O}_L$ ,  $(\mathfrak{A}, m\psi) = 1$ , we put

$$\left(\frac{\psi}{\mathfrak{A}}\right)_m = \prod_{p^w \parallel \mathfrak{A}} \left(\frac{\psi}{\mathfrak{P}}\right)_m^w.$$

**Lemma 8.** *Let  $m > 1$  be an integer. Let  $K$  be a number field. Let  $\alpha \in \mathfrak{O}_K$ ,  $\alpha \neq 0$ . If  $\mathfrak{B}$  and  $\mathfrak{B}'$  are ideals of  $\mathfrak{O}_{K(\zeta_m)}$  coprime to  $(4m^2\alpha)$  and  $\mathfrak{B}'\mathfrak{B}^{-1} = (c)$ , where  $c$  is totally positive and  $c \equiv 1 \pmod{(4m^2\alpha)}$ , then*

$$\left(\frac{\alpha}{\mathfrak{B}'}\right)_m = \left(\frac{\alpha}{\mathfrak{B}}\right)_m.$$

*Proof.* The proof easily follows on combining [2, Exercise 1.8] and [7, Satz 121]. An alternative proof arises on using the well-known fact that  $\left(\frac{\alpha}{\mathfrak{P}}\right)_m$  depends only on the class to which  $\mathfrak{P}$  belongs mod  $\mathfrak{f}$ , where  $\mathfrak{f}$  is the conductor of the extension  $K(\zeta_m, \alpha^{1/m})$  of  $K(\zeta_m)$  (see e.g. [2, p. 273]). The proof then follows on using an estimate due to Hasse for the conductor of Kummerian fields ([7, Satz 166]; the meaning of the symbols  $\nu$  and  $s_0$  appearing in Satz 166 is explained in Satz 164).  $\square$

Lemma 8 was proved in case  $K = \mathbb{Q}$  by Elliott [4] with  $4m^2\alpha$  replaced by  $m^2\alpha$ . Elliott made heavy use of classical reciprocity results due to Hasse. The point of Lemma 8 is that it shows that the conductor of  $K(\zeta_m, \alpha^{1/m})$ , viewed as a function of  $m$ , is polynomial in  $m$ , rather than superexponential, which would follow on estimating the conductor by the discriminant. Using the superexponential estimate would result in a larger error term in Theorem 3.

Implicit error terms appearing in the remainder of this section that are not subindexed may depend at most on  $\psi$  and  $K$ .

**Theorem 5.** *Let  $K$  be a normal extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\psi \in \mathfrak{O}_K$  and  $M = K(\zeta_{2^n}, \psi^{1/2^r})$ . Let  $\hat{\pi}_M(x)$  denote the number of rational primes not exceeding  $x$  that split completely in  $M$ . Then for any  $C > 0$  there exists a constant  $g_2 > 0$  depending at most on  $\psi$ ,  $K$  and  $C$ , such that*

$$\hat{\pi}_M(x) = \frac{\text{Li}(x)}{[M:\mathbb{Q}]} + O\left(\frac{x}{\log^C x}\right),$$

uniformly for

$$(10) \quad 2^n \leq g_2 \frac{\log x}{(\log \log x)^2}, \quad r \leq n.$$

The implied constant also depends at most on  $\psi$ ,  $K$  and  $C$ .

*Proof of Theorem 5.* Put  $L = K(\zeta_{2^n})$  and  $M = L(\psi^{1/2^r})$ . For the duration of this proof  $\mathfrak{P}$  will be used to denote a prime ideal from  $\mathfrak{O}_L$ . Note that  $L$  as a compositum of two normal extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$  is itself normal over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Let  $r \leq n$ . Let  $S_M$  denote the set of rational primes  $p$  such that  $(p, 2N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\psi)) = 1$ ,  $p$  splits completely in  $L$  and  $X^{2^r} \equiv \psi \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$ , where  $\mathfrak{P}$  is any prime ideal dividing  $(p)$ , has a solution in  $\mathfrak{O}_L$ . Reasoning as in the proof of Lemma 4 we find

$$(11) \quad \hat{\pi}_M(x) = S_M(x) + O(1).$$

Since for  $p$  in  $S_M$ ,  $N\mathfrak{P} = p \equiv 1 \pmod{2^r}$ , we can by the Euler criterion also write

$$\left\{ p : (p, 2N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\psi)) = 1, p \text{ splits completely in } L, \psi^{\frac{p-1}{2^r}} \equiv 1 \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}, \mathfrak{P} | (p) \right\}$$

for  $S_M$ . On using the power residue symbol we can finally write

$$S_M = \left\{ p : (p, 2N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\psi)) = 1, p \text{ splits completely in } L, \left( \frac{\psi}{\mathfrak{P}} \right)_{2^r} = 1, \mathfrak{P} | (p) \right\}.$$

Now let us define  $T_{M,1} = \left\{ \mathfrak{P} : (\mathfrak{P}, 2^n \psi) = 1, \left( \frac{\psi}{\mathfrak{P}} \right)_{2^r} = 1, f(\mathfrak{P} | p) = 1 \right\}$  and  $T_M = \left\{ \mathfrak{P} : (\mathfrak{P}, 2^n \psi) = 1, \left( \frac{\psi}{\mathfrak{P}} \right)_{2^r} = 1 \right\}$ . Using that  $L$  is normal over  $\mathbb{Q}$  it follows that  $S_M(x) = T_{M,1}(x) / [L : \mathbb{Q}] + O(1)$ . Since  $T_M(x) = T_{M,1}(x) + O([L : \mathbb{Q}] \sqrt{x} \log x)$ , we find

$$(12) \quad S_M(x) = \frac{T_M(x)}{[L : \mathbb{Q}]} + O(\sqrt{x} \log x).$$

Next we estimate  $T_M(x)$ . Let  $\epsilon_k$  be a  $k$ th root of unity. Note that

$$\frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k \left( \left( \frac{\alpha}{\mathfrak{P}} \right)_k / \epsilon_k \right)^j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \left( \frac{\alpha}{\mathfrak{P}} \right)_k = \epsilon_k; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Thus we can write

$$(13) \quad T_M(x) = \sum_{N\mathfrak{P} \leq x, \left( \frac{\psi}{\mathfrak{P}} \right)_{2^r} = 1} 1 = \frac{1}{2^r} \sum_{j=1}^{2^r} \sum_{N\mathfrak{P} \leq x} \left( \frac{\psi^j}{\mathfrak{P}} \right)_{2^r},$$

where the summation is over all prime ideals  $\mathfrak{P}$  in  $\mathfrak{O}_L$  satisfying  $(\mathfrak{P}, 2^n \psi) = 1$ . For a given integer  $1 \leq j \leq 2^r$  we define  $\chi_j(\mathfrak{A})$  to be  $\left( \frac{\psi^j}{\mathfrak{A}} \right)_{2^n}^{2^{n-r}}$  in case  $(\mathfrak{A}, 4^{n+1} \psi) = 1$  and zero otherwise. By the multiplicativity of  $\chi_j$  and Lemma

8,  $\chi_j$  is a character of the group of ideal classes modulo  $(4^{n+1}\psi)$ , the principal ideal in  $\mathfrak{O}_L$  generated by  $4^{n+1}\psi$ . Thus we can rewrite (13) as

$$T_M(x) = \frac{1}{2^r} \sum_{j=1}^{2^r} \sum_{N\mathfrak{P} \leq x} \chi_j(\mathfrak{P}).$$

From this, Lemma 6, (12) and (11) we obtain

$$(14) \quad \hat{\pi}_M(x) = \frac{a_M}{[L : \mathbb{Q}]} \text{Li}(x) - \frac{b_M}{[L : \mathbb{Q}]} \text{Li}(x^{\beta_1}) + O(R) + O(\sqrt{x} \log x),$$

with  $0 \leq a_M, b_M \leq 1$ ,  $R$  as in Lemma 6 and  $\Delta = |d_{L/\mathbb{Q}}| \cdot N_{L/\mathbb{Q}}(8^n\psi)$ . We have  $\log \Delta \leq g_3 2^n n$ , where  $g_3$  depends at most on  $\psi$  and  $K$ . If  $r$  and  $n$  satisfy (10) then

$$(15) \quad \log \Delta \leq g_2 g_3 \frac{\log x}{\log \log x},$$

where  $g_2$  is still to be chosen. Let  $C > 0$  be given. Using the estimate (15) and Lemma 7 to deal with the exceptional zero  $\beta_1$  in (14), we see that we can choose  $g_2$  so small as to ensure that  $\hat{\pi}_M(x) = a_M \text{Li}(x)/[L : \mathbb{Q}] + O(x \log^{-C} x)$  uniformly in the region (10). By the Chebotarev density theorem it follows that  $a_M/[L : \mathbb{Q}] = 1/[M : \mathbb{Q}]$  (hence  $a_M = 1/[M : L]$ ). So the result follows.  $\square$

It should be remarked that the best known uniform version of the Chebotarev theorem yields only a far weaker result (cf. [15]). Our approach, however, does not work for arbitrary number fields and hence does not lead to a better uniform version of the Chebotarev density theorem.

*Proof of Theorem 3.* Applying Theorem 5 with  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$  and  $\psi = \theta = -(3 + \sqrt{5})/2$ , we find using Lemma 4 that there exists an absolute positive constant  $g_4$  such that uniformly for  $2^j \leq g_4 \log x (\log \log x)^{-2}$ ,  $e \leq j$ ,

$$(16) \quad N_1(e, j)(x) = \Delta_1(e, j) \text{Li}(x) + O\left(\frac{x}{\log^3 x}\right)$$

(cf. the proof of Lemma 5). Next we estimate  $I(x) := \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} N_1(e, j)(x)$ . Since  $N_1(e, j)$  is empty for  $j < e$ , we can write  $I(x) = I_1(x) + I_2(x)$ , where  $I_1(x) = \sum_{j=e}^m N_1(e, j)(x)$ ,  $I_2(x) = \sum_{j=m+1}^{\infty} N_1(e, j)(x)$  and  $m$  is the largest integer such that  $2^m \leq g_4 \log x (\log \log x)^{-2}$ . Using equation (16) and

$\Delta_1(e, j) \ll 1/4^j$  (see Lemma 5) we find

$$\begin{aligned} I_1(x) &= \operatorname{Li}(x) \sum_{j=e}^m \Delta_1(e, j) + O\left(m \frac{x}{\log^3 x}\right) \\ &= \operatorname{Li}(x) \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \Delta_1(e, j) + O\left(\frac{\operatorname{Li}(x)}{4^m}\right) + O\left(m \frac{x}{\log^3 x}\right) \\ &= \operatorname{Li}(x) \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \Delta_1(e, j) + O\left(\frac{x(\log \log x)^4}{\log^3 x}\right). \end{aligned}$$

The primes counted by  $I_2(x)$  all satisfy the congruences  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{5}$ ,  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{2^m}$  and  $\theta^{(p-1)/2^m} \equiv 1 \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$ , where  $\mathfrak{P} \mid (p)$ . Thus  $I_2(x) \leq \hat{\pi}_{K_{m,m}}(x)$  (cf. the proof of Lemma 4). By Lemma 3  $[K_{m,m} : \mathbb{Q}] \gg 4^m$ . It follows from this estimate, Theorem 5 and  $2^m \leq g_4 \log x (\log \log x)^{-2}$  that  $I_2(x) = O(x(\log \log x)^4 \log^{-3} x)$ . Thus

$$I(x) = \operatorname{Li}(x) \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \Delta_1(e, j) + O\left(\frac{x(\log \log x)^4}{\log^3 x}\right).$$

Put  $J(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} N_2(e, j)(x)$ . In every row in Table 2 there is at most one non-zero prime density. As was seen in the computation of the prime densities  $\Delta_2(e, j)$ , the set corresponding to the non-zero prime density consists of all primes in a finite union of arithmetic progressions and furthermore the sets corresponding to the zero prime densities are all empty. Hence it follows using the prime number theorem for arithmetic progressions that

$$J(x) = \operatorname{Li}(x) \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \Delta_2(e, j) + O\left(\frac{x}{\log^3 x}\right).$$

Thus

$$C_e(x) = \operatorname{Li}(x) \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (\Delta_1(e, j) + \Delta_2(e, j)) + O\left(\frac{x(\log \log x)^4}{\log^3 x}\right)$$

and on recalling the conclusion of Section 3, the proof of Theorem 3 becomes complete.

## 5. Counting Lucas divisors.

Once Theorem 3 is established it is rather straightforward to prove Theorem 1, which will be done in this section. Recall that  $\delta_j = 2^{1-j}/3$ ,  $j \geq 1$ . Let  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{odd}}$  denote the set of odd Lucas divisors and  $\mathcal{L}$  the set of Lucas divisors.

We first show that

$$(17) \quad \mathcal{L}_{\text{odd}}(x) = \frac{x}{\log x} \left( \sum_{j=0}^{t-1} d_j \log^{\delta_{j+1}} x + O(\log^{\delta_{t+1}} x) \right),$$

with  $d_0, \dots, d_{t-1}$  positive constants. From this it is then deduced that a similar estimate holds for  $\mathcal{L}(x)$ , with different constants  $d_j$ . This then finishes the proof of Theorem 1.

By Theorem 2,

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{odd}} = \bigcup_{r=1}^{\infty} G_r,$$

where  $G_r$  is the set of natural numbers including 1 which are composed of primes in  $C_r$  only. The sets  $G_r$  are completely multiplicative;  $ab \in G_r$  if and only if  $a, b \in G_r$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are natural numbers. Furthermore  $G_r \cap G_s = \{1\}$  for  $r \neq s$ . Thus the problem of estimating  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{odd}}(x)$ , and, as we will see, that of estimating  $\mathcal{L}(x)$ , reduces to that of estimating  $G_r(x)$  for  $r \geq 1$ . In order to estimate  $G_r(x)$ , we use the following estimate:

**Theorem 6** ([12]). *Let  $S$  be a completely multiplicative set of natural numbers such that*

$$(18) \quad \sum_{p \in S, p \leq x} 1 = \tau \text{Li}(x) + O\left(\frac{x(\log \log x)^g}{\log^3 x}\right),$$

where  $\tau > 0$  and  $g \geq 0$  are fixed. Then

$$S(x) = cx \log^{\tau-1} x + O(x(\log \log x)^{g+1} \log^{\tau-2} x),$$

where  $c > 0$  is a constant.

For  $S = G_r$  (18) is satisfied with  $\tau = \delta_r$  and  $g = 4$  by Theorem 3. Applying Theorem 6 and using  $\delta_r \leq \frac{1}{3}$ , we obtain

$$(19) \quad G_r(x) = d_r x \log^{\delta_r-1} x + O\left(x \log^{\delta_{t+1}-1} x\right),$$

for some positive constant  $d_r$ . The estimate (17) for  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{odd}}(x)$  now follows once we show that

$$(20) \quad \sum_{r=t+1}^{\infty} G_r(x) = O\left(x \log^{\delta_{t+1}-1} x\right).$$

To this end, notice that the primes in  $C_r$ ,  $r \geq s \geq 1$ , satisfy  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{2^s}$ . Thus

$$\sum_{r \geq s} G_r(x) \leq \sum_{\substack{n \leq x \\ p|n \Rightarrow p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{2^s}}} 1.$$

This latter sum can be estimated with the help of Theorem 6 and the estimate

$$\pi(x; 2^s, 1) := \sum_{\substack{p \leq x \\ p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{2^s}}} 1 = \frac{2}{2^{s-1}} \text{Li}(x) + O\left(\frac{x}{\log^3 x}\right),$$

which follows from the prime number theorem for arithmetic progressions. Thus by choosing  $s$  large enough (taking  $2^{s-2} \geq 1/\delta_{t+1}$  will do), we can ensure that  $\sum_{r \geq s} G_r(x) = O(x \log^{\delta_{t+1}-1} x)$ . By (19) and the fact that  $\{\delta_r\}_{r=1}^\infty$  is monotonic decreasing, we have

$$\sum_{t+1 \leq r \leq s} G_r(x) = O\left(x \log^{\delta_{t+1}-1} x\right).$$

Thus (20) holds and (17) follows.

It remains to deal with even Lucas divisors. Note that  $2 \parallel L_n$  iff  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$ , that  $4 \parallel L_n$  iff  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$  and that 8 is not a Lucas divisor. Suppose  $m$  is an odd Lucas divisor, say  $m \mid L_n$ . Then  $2m \mid L_{6n}$  and so  $2m$  is a Lucas divisor,  $4m$  is only a Lucas divisor if the rank of apparition  $\rho(p)$  of all the prime divisors  $p$  of  $m$  is exactly divisible by 2, finally  $8m$  is never a divisor. Thus  $\mathcal{L}(x) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{odd}}(x) + \mathcal{L}_{\text{odd}}\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) + G_1\left(\frac{x}{4}\right)$ . Theorem 1 follows on invoking the estimate (17) and (19) with  $r = 1$ .

**Remark.** Let  $h \geq 1$  be an integer. Let  $\mathcal{L}_h$  denote the set of divisors of  $\{L_{hn}\}_{n=0}^\infty$ . It is possible to formulate and prove an analogue of Theorem 1 for  $\mathcal{L}_h(x)$ .

## 6. Explicit divisibility criteria.

Table 1 and 2 can be used to derive some explicit criteria for primes to divide Lucas numbers. We leave it to the reader to prove that if an entry in one of the tables is zero, then the corresponding set is empty. Using Table 1 and 2 it then follows that  $p$  is a divisor of  $\{L_n\}$  if  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ ; that is if  $p \equiv 3, 7, 11, 19 \pmod{20}$ ,  $p$  is a non-divisor of  $\{L_n\}$  if  $p \equiv 13, 17 \pmod{20}$ . This is Lemma 2.1 of [23]. More in particular we have  $p \in C_0$  if  $p \equiv 13, 17 \pmod{20}$ ,  $p \in C_1$  if  $p \equiv 11, 19 \pmod{20}$  and  $p \in C_{\text{ord}_2(p+1)}$  if  $p \equiv 3, 7 \pmod{20}$ . The primes  $p \equiv 1, 9 \pmod{20}$  are not covered. By Table 1 the primes  $p \equiv 21, 29 \pmod{40}$  are either in  $C_0$  or in  $C_1$ . Each such prime is represented by the form  $X^2 + 4Y^2$ . Let  $(X, Y) = (u, v)$  be such a representation. Then  $p \in C_1$  if and only if  $u \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{5}$  or  $v \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{5}$ . This follows using a result of Ward [23, Theorem 3.3]. Thus 7/8th of all primes are covered. Similar results can be proved for the recurrences  $\{a^k + b^k\}$  (see [12, Section 6]).

Using the fact that the second row in Table 2 has only zero entries it is deduced that the Lucas number  $L_n$  with  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$  is composed only of

primes  $p$  satisfying  $p = 2$  or  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{5}$ . In fact the number of divisors  $m$  of  $\{L_{1+2n}\}$  not exceeding  $x$  equals

$$c \frac{x}{\log^{2/3} x} + O\left(x \frac{(\log \log x)^5}{\log^{5/3} x}\right),$$

where  $c > 0$ . This estimate is quite different from that for the sequence  $\{L_{2n}\}$  (cf. the final remark of Section 5).

The rank of apparition of the prime  $p$  in the Fibonacci sequence is denoted by  $\rho(p)$ .

**Table 1**

Prime density of the set  $\{p : p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{5}, p \equiv 1 + 2^j \pmod{2^{j+1}}, 2^e \parallel \rho(p)\}$

$e \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...	
0	0	$\frac{1}{16}$	$\frac{1}{64}$	$\frac{1}{256}$	$\frac{1}{1024}$	$\frac{1}{4096}$	$\frac{1}{16384}$	...	$\frac{1}{12}$
1	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{16}$	$\frac{1}{64}$	$\frac{1}{256}$	$\frac{1}{1024}$	$\frac{1}{4096}$	$\frac{1}{16384}$	...	$\frac{1}{3}$
2	0	0	$\frac{1}{32}$	$\frac{1}{128}$	$\frac{1}{512}$	$\frac{1}{2048}$	$\frac{1}{8192}$	...	$\frac{1}{24}$
3	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{64}$	$\frac{1}{256}$	$\frac{1}{1024}$	$\frac{1}{4096}$	...	$\frac{1}{48}$
4	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{128}$	$\frac{1}{512}$	$\frac{1}{2048}$	...	$\frac{1}{96}$
5	0	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{256}$	$\frac{1}{1024}$	...	$\frac{1}{192}$
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{512}$	...	$\frac{1}{384}$
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{16}$	$\frac{1}{32}$	$\frac{1}{64}$	$\frac{1}{128}$	$\frac{1}{256}$	...	$\frac{1}{2}$

**Table 2**

Prime density of the set  $\{p : p \equiv \pm 2 \pmod{5}, p \equiv -1 + 2^j \pmod{2^{j+1}}, 2^e \parallel \rho(p)\}$

$e \setminus j$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...	
0	$\frac{1}{4}$	0	0	0	0	0	0	...	$\frac{1}{4}$
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	...	0
2	0	$\frac{1}{8}$	0	0	0	0	0	...	$\frac{1}{8}$
3	0	0	$\frac{1}{16}$	0	0	0	0	...	$\frac{1}{16}$
4	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{32}$	0	0	0	...	$\frac{1}{32}$
5	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{64}$	0	0	...	$\frac{1}{64}$
6	0	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{128}$	0	...	$\frac{1}{128}$
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{16}$	$\frac{1}{32}$	$\frac{1}{64}$	$\frac{1}{128}$	$\frac{1}{256}$	...	$\frac{1}{2}$



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