## An ordered set of certain seven numbers that results constantly from a recurrence formula based on Smarandache function

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**Abstract.** Combining two of my favorite topics of study, the recurrence relations and the Smarandache function, I discovered a very interesting pattern: seems like the recurrent formula f(n) = S(f(n-2)) + S(f(n-1)), where S is the Smarandache function and f(1), f(2) are any given different non-null positive integers, leads every time to a set of seven values (i.e. 11, 17, 28, 24, 11, 15, 16) which is then repeating infinitely.

## Conjecture:

The recurrent formula f(n) = S(f(n-2)) + S(f(n-1)), where S is the Smarandache function, leads every time to the set of seven consecutive values {11, 17, 28, 24, 11, 15, 16}, set which is then repeating infinitely, for any given different non-null positive integers f(1), f(2).

Verifying the conjecture for few pairs [f(1), f(2)]

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For [f(1), f(2)] = [1, 2]:
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: f(3) = S(1) + S(2) = 3;
                            f(4) = S(2) + S(3) = 5;
: f(5) = S(3) + S(5) = 8;
                             f(6) = S(5) + S(8) = 9;
: f(7) = S(8) + S(9) = 10;
                             f(8) = S(9) + S(10) = 11;
: f(9) = S(10) + S(11) = 16;
                             f(10) = S(11) + S(10) = 17;
: f(11) = S(16) + S(17) = 23;
                             f(12) = S(17) + S(23) = 40;
: f(13) = S(23) + S(40) = 28;
                             f(14) = S(40) + S(28) = 12;
: f(15) = S(28) + S(12) = 11;
                             f(16) = S(12) + S(11) = 15;
: f(17) = S(11) + S(15) = 16;
                             f(18) = S(15) + S(16) = 11;
f(20) = S(11) + S(17) = 28;
                             f(22) = S(28) + S(24) = 11;
(\ldots)
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## For [f(1), f(2)] = [7, 13]:

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: f(3) = S(7) + S(13) = 20; f(4) = S(13) + S(20) = 18; f(5) = S(20) + S(18) = 11; f(6) = S(18) + S(11) = 17
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For [f(1), f(2)] = [5, 11]:
f(3) = S(5) + S(11) = 16; f(4) = S(11) + S(16) = 17;
(\ldots)
: f(12) = 11;
                                  f(13) = 17
(...)
For [f(1), f(2)] = [531, 44]:
: f(3) = S(531) + S(44) = 70;
                                 f(4) = S(44) + S(70) = 18;
: f(5) = S(70) + S(18) = 13;
                                 f(6) = S(18) + S(13) = 19;
: f(7) = S(13) + S(19) = 32;
                                 f(8) = S(19) + S(32) = 27;
: f(9) = S(32) + S(27) = 17;
                                 f(10) = S(27) + S(17) = 26;
: f(11) = S(17) + S(26) = 30;
                                 f(12) = S(26) + S(30) = 18;
: f(13) = S(30) + S(18) = 11;
                                 f(14) = S(18) + S(19) = 17
(\ldots)
For [f(1), f(2)] = [341, 561]:
: f(3) = S(341) + S(561) = 48; f(4) = S(561) + S(48) = 23;
: f(5) = S(48) + S(23) = 29;
                                 f(6) = S(23) + S(29) = 52;
: f(7) = S(29) + S(52) = 42;
                                 f(8) = S(52) + S(42) = 20;
: f(9) = S(42) + S(20) = 12;
                                 f(10) = S(20) + S(12) = 9;
: f(11) = S(12) + S(9) = 10;
                                  f(12) = S(9) + S(10) = 11;
(\ldots)
: f(22) = 11;
                                  f(23) = 17
(...)
For [f(1), f(2)] = [49, 121]:
: f(3) = S(49) + S(121) = 35;
                                f(4) = S(121) + S(35) = 29;
: f(5) = S(35) + S(29) = 36;
                                 f(6) = S(29) + S(36) = 35;
: f(7) = S(36) + S(35) = 13;
                                 f(8) = S(35) + S(13) = 20;
: f(9) = S(13) + S(20) = 18;
                                  f(10) = S(20) + S(18) = 11;
: f(11) = S(18) + S(11) = 17
                                 (\ldots)
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## Open problems

- I. Is there any exception to this apparent rule?
- II. Is there a finite or infinite set of exceptions?
- III. Is there a superior limit for n such that eventually f(n) = 11 and f(n + 1) = 17?
- IV. Is the obtaining of a constant repeating set of values a characteristic of other recurrent formulas based similarly on the Smarandache function, having three or more terms?