

1.13 Prove that  $\text{Fib}(n)$  is the closest integer to  $\frac{\varphi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$ , where  $\varphi = \frac{(1+\sqrt{5})}{2}$ .

Hint: Let  $\psi = \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}$ . Use induction

and the definition of the Fibonacci numbers (see 1.2.2) to prove that  $\text{Fib}(n) = \frac{(\varphi^n - \psi^n)}{\sqrt{5}}$

$$\text{Fib}(n) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n=0, \\ 1 & \text{if } n=1, \\ \text{Fib}(n-1) + \text{Fib}(n-2) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Induction proof of  $\text{Fib}(n) = \frac{(\varphi^n - \psi^n)}{\sqrt{5}}$

Base cases are  $n=0$  and  $n=1$ .

$$\text{Fib}(0) = \frac{\varphi^0 - \psi^0}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{1-1}{\sqrt{5}} = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

$$\text{Fib}(1) = \frac{\varphi^1 - \psi^1}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} - \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{1+\sqrt{5} - 1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} = \frac{2\sqrt{5}}{2} = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{\sqrt{5}} = 1 \quad \checkmark$$

We see that the base cases hold.

By the inductive hypothesis, we assume the case also holds for  $n=k$ .

$$\text{Fib}(k) = \frac{\varphi^k - \psi^k}{\sqrt{5}}$$

Then, it should also hold for  $n=k+1$ .

By the definition of ~~the~~  $\text{Fib}(n)$ , we see that

$$\text{Fib}(k+1) = \text{Fib}(k) + \text{Fib}(k-1)$$

Therefore, we add  $\frac{\varphi^{k-1} - \psi^{k-1}}{\sqrt{5}}$  to both sides of the equation.

$$\text{Fib}(k) + \frac{\varphi^{k-1} - \psi^{k-1}}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{\varphi^k - \psi^k}{\sqrt{5}} + \frac{\varphi^{k-1} - \psi^{k-1}}{\sqrt{5}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Fib}(k+1) &= \frac{\varphi^k + \varphi^{k-1} - \psi^k - \psi^{k-1}}{\sqrt{5}} \\ &= \frac{\varphi^{k-1}(\varphi+1) - \psi^{k-1}(\psi+1)}{\sqrt{5}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi^2 &= \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \cdot \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \\ &= \frac{1+2\sqrt{5}+5}{4} = \frac{6+2\sqrt{5}}{4} \\ &= \frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \psi^2 &= \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2} \cdot \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2} \\ &= \frac{1-2\sqrt{5}+5}{4} = \frac{6-2\sqrt{5}}{4} \\ &= \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi+1 &= \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} + \frac{2}{2} \\ &= \frac{3+\sqrt{5}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \psi+1 &= \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2} + \frac{2}{2} \\ &= \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Therefore, } \text{Fib}(k+1) = \frac{\varphi^{k-1} \cdot \varphi^2 - \psi^{k-1} \cdot \psi^2}{\sqrt{5}}$$

$$= \frac{\varphi^{k+1} - \psi^{k+1}}{\sqrt{5}}$$

Thus, we have proved by induction that

$$\text{Fib}(n) = \frac{\varphi^n - \psi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$$

Original task: Prove that  $\text{Fib}(n)$  is the closest integer to  $\frac{\varphi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$ .

Since  $\text{Fib}(n) = \frac{\varphi^n - \psi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$ , we have

$$\text{that } \text{Fib}(n) + \frac{\psi^n}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{\varphi^n}{\sqrt{5}}.$$

If  $-0.5 < \frac{\psi^n}{\sqrt{5}} < 0.5$  for all  $n$ , then the distance from  $\text{Fib}(n)$  to  $\frac{\varphi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$  must be within the  $0.5$  range, thus making  $\text{Fib}(n)$  the closest integer to  $\frac{\varphi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$ .

We prove  $\left| \frac{\psi^n}{\sqrt{5}} \right| < \frac{1}{2}$

Recall:  $\psi^n = \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2}$

$$\left| \frac{\psi^n}{\sqrt{5}} \right| < \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2} \Rightarrow \left| \frac{(1 - \sqrt{5})^n}{2} \right| < \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}$$

We see that this holds for the cases  $n=0$  and  $n=1$ .



Also, we know from the definition  $\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^n = \frac{a^n}{b^n}$   
 that if  $b > |a|$  then  $\left|\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^n\right|$  will shrink as  $n$  increases

So  $\left|\left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n\right| < \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}$  holds if

$$|1 - \sqrt{5}| < 2.$$

Let's inspect:

$$|1 - \sqrt{5}| < 2$$

$$-2 < 1 - \sqrt{5} < 2$$

$$1 - \sqrt{5} < 2$$

$$\sqrt{5} < 1 \quad \gamma$$

$$1 - \sqrt{5} > -2$$

$$3 - \sqrt{5} > 0 \quad \gamma$$

Proved!

Thus, we see that  $|1 - \sqrt{5}| < 2$ ,  
 meaning  $\left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n$  will shrink as  $n$  grows,

meaning that  $\left|\frac{\varphi^n}{\sqrt{5}}\right| < \frac{1}{2}$ , which means that

Since  $\frac{\varphi^n}{\sqrt{5}} - \frac{\psi^n}{\sqrt{5}} = \text{Fib}(n)$ , then  $\frac{\varphi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$  is an integer closer to  $\frac{\varphi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$  than  $\text{Fib}(n)$ .