

1. PROOF BY INDUCTION

We start with the following definitions

$$(1) \quad \phi = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$$

$$(2) \quad \psi = \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2}$$

and are asked to prove that

$$(3) \quad \text{fib}(n) = \frac{\phi^n - \psi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$$

For a proof by induction we must first prove that the trivial case is true, this is a trivial task. Next we must show that if we have n , that $n + 1$ is guaranteed to work. We will show this by establishing that

$$(4) \quad \text{fib}(n + 1) = \text{fib}(n) + \text{fib}(n - 1)$$

The binomial expansion states that

$$(5) \quad (1 + a)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} a^k$$

We rewrite ϕ and ψ accordingly

$$(6) \quad (2\phi)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} a^k$$

$$(7) \quad (2\psi)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} (-1)^k a^k$$

where $a = \sqrt{5}$, to ease reading.

The difference between ϕ and ψ are the terms that are negative in ψ .

$$(8) \quad \phi^n - \psi^n = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \sum_{k=1, \text{odd}}^n \binom{n}{k} a^k$$

We can then redefine our fib function as

$$(9) \quad \text{fib}(n) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \sum_{k=1, \text{odd}}^n \binom{n}{k} a^{k-1}$$

Now with the combination identity of

$$(10) \quad \binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$$

It is trivial now to establish that the case of n and $n - 1$ will sum to the case for $n + 1$. This is a property of the binomial theorem.