

Definition 1. The Fibonnaci numbers are defined as the following.

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

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

Proof. Let $\psi = \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}$. We will prove Theorem 2 by first showing Lemma 3 and then using Lemma 6 to show that $\frac{\psi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$ is small enough such that $\text{Fib}(n)$ is the closest integer to $\frac{\varphi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$.

Lemma 3. $\text{Fib}(n) = \frac{\varphi^n - \psi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$.

Proof. By strong induction. The induction hypothesis $P(n)$, will be Lemma 3.

Base case: $\text{Fib}(n) = 0$, by Definition 1. $P(0) = \frac{\varphi^0 - \psi^0}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{1-1}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{0}{\sqrt{5}} = 0$.

Inductive step: Assume $\forall m \in \mathbb{Z}^+, m \leq n, P(m)$ and show that $P(n + 1)$.

$\text{Fib}(n + 1) = \text{Fib}(n) + \text{Fib}(n - 1)$, by Definition 1.

By the strong induction hypothesis, we know that $\text{Fib}(n) = \frac{\varphi^n - \psi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$ and $\text{Fib}(n - 1) = \frac{\varphi^{n-1} - \psi^{n-1}}{\sqrt{5}}$.
 $\text{Fib}(n + 1) = \frac{\varphi^n - \psi^n}{\sqrt{5}} + \frac{\varphi^{n-1} - \psi^{n-1}}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{\varphi^{n-1} + \varphi^n - \psi^{n-1} - \psi^n}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{\varphi^{n-1}\sqrt{5}(1+\varphi) - \psi^{n-1}(1+\psi)}{\sqrt{5}}$.

Remark 4. φ is defined by the *golden ratio*, $\varphi^2 = \varphi + 1$. Similarly, we can show that $\psi^2 = \psi + 1$.

Lemma 5. $\varphi^2 = \varphi + 1$ and $\psi^2 = \psi + 1$.

Proof. The former is given by the text. The latter is shown by direct proof.

$$\psi^2 = \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{1-2\sqrt{5}+5}{4} = \frac{6-2\sqrt{5}}{4} = \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2} = \frac{1-\sqrt{5}+2}{2} = \frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2} + 1 = \psi + 1. \quad \square$$

By Lemma 5, we can simplify $\text{Fib}(n + 1)$ to $\frac{\varphi^{n-1}(\varphi^2) - \psi^{n-1}(\psi^2)}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{\varphi^{n+1} - \psi^{n+1}}{\sqrt{5}} = P(n + 1)$. \square

By Lemma 3, $\text{Fib}(n) = \frac{\varphi^n}{\sqrt{5}} - \frac{\psi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$. We can rewrite this as $\frac{\varphi^n}{\sqrt{5}} = \text{Fib}(n) + \frac{\psi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$.

Now, we can show Theorem 2 by proving Lemma 6.

Lemma 6. $|\frac{\psi^n}{\sqrt{5}}| < \frac{1}{2}, \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

Proof. First, we show the absolute value of the numerator is less than 1.

Lemma 7. $|\psi^n| < 1, \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$.

Proof. $|\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}| = |-\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}| = \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}$. If $\sqrt{5} - 1 < 2$, then $\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2} < 1$. $\sqrt{5} < 3 \iff \sqrt{5} < \sqrt{9}$, therefore $\frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2} < 1$ and $|\psi^n| < 1$. \square

By Lemma 7, $|\frac{\psi^n}{\sqrt{5}}| < \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} < \frac{1}{2} \iff \sqrt{5} > 2 \iff \sqrt{5} > \sqrt{4}$. \square

Remark 8. Because $\psi^n < 1$, as $n \rightarrow \infty$, $\psi^n \rightarrow 0$.

By Lemma 6, $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^+, \frac{\varphi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$ is the closest integer to $\frac{\varphi^n - \psi^n}{\sqrt{5}}$. By Lemma 3, that is the closest integer to $\text{Fib}(n)$. \square