

Nathan Jue, Ithaca College

Generalizing the Golden Ratio

Abstract: Given a number $a + b\sqrt{q}$ ($a, b \in \mathbf{Q}$, $\sqrt{q} \notin \mathbf{Q}$), does there exist a sequence of real numbers convergent to $a + b\sqrt{q}$? The Golden Ratio, also known as $\phi = (1 + \sqrt{5})/2$, is one of mathematics' most famous constants. While this number possesses many beautiful properties, we shall be focusing on its connection to the Fibonacci sequence. The Fibonacci sequence, f_n , is defined as

$$f_0 = 0, f_1 = 1, \text{ and } f_n = f_{n-2} + f_{n-1} \text{ for } n \geq 2.$$

It is well known that the limit as $n \rightarrow \infty$ of f_n/f_{n-1} equals ϕ , and this ultimately provides the motivation for our question. Given an element of a simple finite extension of \mathbf{Q} , can we define a sequence S_n such that the limit as $n \rightarrow \infty$ of S_n/S_{n-1} equals $a + b\sqrt{q}$?