

# Source: Posamentier and Lehmann, *Those (Fabulous) Fibonacci Numbers*, Appendix B.

8. (p. 42) We have, by factoring (difference of squares),

$$\begin{aligned} & F_k^2 - F_{k-2}^2 \\ &= (F_k - F_{k-2})(F_k + F_{k-2}) \\ &= F_{k-1}(F_k + F_{k-2}) \\ &= F_{k-1}F_k + F_{k-1}F_{k-2} \\ &= F_{k-1}F_{k-2} + F_kF_{k-1} \end{aligned}$$

First we'll prove the following lemma, which will come in useful and later on.

LEMMA.  $F_{m+n} = F_{m-1}F_n + F_mF_{n+1}$

### Proof of Lemma

We proceed by induction on  $n$ . (Actually, this will be a form of induction that is called “strong induction,” where we will be using the statements for  $n = k - 1$  and for  $n = k$  to prove the statement for  $n = k + 1$ . This will also mean that we will need two base cases rather than just one; so we will have to check the statement for  $n = 1$  and for  $n = 2$ .) For  $n = 1$ , we have to check that  $F_{m+1} = F_{m-1}F_1 + F_mF_2$ , or, since  $F_2 = 1$  and  $F_2 = 1$ , we have to check that  $F_{m+1} = F_{m-1} + F_m$ ; this is, of course, true because it is the very relation by which we define the Fibonacci numbers. For  $n = 2$ , we have to check that  $F_{m+2} = F_{m-1}F_2 + F_mF_3$ , or, since  $F_2 = 1$  and  $F_3 = 2$ , we have to check that  $F_{m+2} = F_{m-1} + 2F_m$ ; and this is true by the following sequence of equalities:

$$F_{m-1} + 2F_m = (F_{m-1} + F_m) + F_m = F_{m+1} + F_m = F_{m+2}$$

Now assume the statement is true for  $n = k - 1$  and  $n = k$ , that is, assume

$$F_{m+k-1} = F_{m-1}F_{k-1} + F_mF_k$$

and

$$F_{m+k} = F_{m-1}F_k + F_mF_{k+1}$$

(This is our induction hypothesis.) Then

$$\begin{aligned} & F_{m-1}F_{k+1} + F_mF_{k+2} \\ &= F_{m-1}(F_{k-1} + F_k) + F_m(F_k + F_{k+1}) \\ &= F_{m-1}F_{k-1} + F_{m-1}F_k + F_mF_k + F_mF_{k+1} \\ &= F_{m-1}F_k + F_mF_{k+1} + F_{m-1}F_{k-1} + F_mF_k \\ &= F_{m+k} + F_{m+k-1} \\ &= F_{m+k+1} \end{aligned}$$

That is,  $F_{m-1}F_{k+1} + F_mF_{k+2} = F_{m+k+1}$ , which is exactly the statement for  $n = k + 1$ . So our induction is complete.

Now using this lemma, we see (by substituting  $m = k$  and  $n = k - 2$ ) that

$$F_{k-1}F_{k-2} + F_kF_{k-1} = F_{k+k-2} = F_{2k-2}$$

Hence  $F_k^2 - F_{k-2}^2 = F_{2k-2}$ , and the proof is complete.

9. (p. 43)  $F_n^2 + F_{n+1}^2 = F_{2n+1}$ ; that is, the sum of the squares of the Fibonacci numbers in positions  $n$  and  $n + 1$  (consecutive positions) is the Fibonacci number in place  $2n + 1$ .

### Proof

Using the lemma from item 8 (above), we prove our original statement. In the lemma, let  $m = n + 1$  and  $n = n$ . Then we get  $F_{2n+1} = F_nF_n + F_{n+1}F_{n+1}$ , or, in other words,  $F_{2n+1} = F_n^2 + F_{n+1}^2$ , which is the equation we wanted.

10. (p. 43) A proof that  $F_{n+1}^2 - F_n^2 = F_{n-1} \cdot F_{n+2}$

It follows immediately, because of the binomial theorem  $[a^2 - b^2 = (a + b)(a - b)]$  and the definition of the Fibonacci numbers, that

$$F_{n+1}^2 - F_n^2 = (F_{n+1} + F_n)(F_{n+1} - F_n) = F_{n+2} \cdot F_{n-1}$$

11. (p. 44) A proof of  $F_{n-1}F_{n+1} = F_n^2 + (-1)^n$ , where  $n \geq 1$ .

By mathematical induction:

For  $n = 1$ :

$$\begin{aligned} P(1): \quad F_0F_2 &= F_1^2 + (-1)^1; \\ 0 \cdot 1 &= 1^2 - 1 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

For  $n = k$ :

$$P(k): \quad F_{k-1}F_{k+1} = F_k^2 + (-1)^k, \text{ where } k \geq 1.$$

For  $n = k + 1$ :

$P(k + 1)$ : to check if it is true for  $k + 1$ :

$$\begin{aligned} F_{k+2}^2 - F_{k+1}^2 &= (F_k + F_{k+1})^2 - F_{k+1}^2 \\ &= F_k^2 + 2F_{k+1}F_k + F_{k+1}^2 - F_{k+1}^2 \\ &= F_k(F_k + 2F_{k+1}) \\ &= F_k[(F_k + F_{k+1}) + F_{k+1}] \\ &= F_k(F_{k+2} + F_{k+1}) \\ &= F_k \cdot F_{k+3} \end{aligned}$$

And we will complete the proof by mathematical induction if we in the following use the assumption for  $n = k$  in the form  $F_{k-1} \cdot F_{k+1} - F_k^2 = (-1)^{k+1}$ .

$P(k+1)$ : To check if  $P(k+1)$  is true:  $F_k F_{k+2} = F_{k+1}^2 + (-1)^{k+1}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_k F_{k+2} - F_{k+1}^2 &= F_k(F_{k+1} + F_k) - F_{k+1}^2 \\
 &= F_k F_{k+1} + F_k^2 - F_{k+1}^2 \\
 &= F_k^2 + F_{k+1}(F_k - F_{k+1}) \\
 &= F_k^2 + F_{k+1}(-F_{k-1}) \\
 &= F_k^2 - F_{k+1}F_{k-1} \\
 &= (-1)(F_{k+1}F_{k-1} - F_k^2) \\
 &= (-1)(-1)^k \\
 &= (-1)^{k+1}
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $P(k+1)$ :  $F_k F_{k+2} - F_{k+1}^2 = (-1)^{k+1}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{or } F_k F_{k+2} &= F_{k+1}^2 + (-1)^{k+1} \\
 &= (-1)^k
 \end{aligned}$$

12. (p. 47) We have to show that  $F_{mn}$  is divisible by  $F_m$  for any  $n$  and  $m$ . We proceed by induction on  $n$ .

For  $n = 1$ , we need to check that  $F_{1 \cdot m}$  is divisible by  $F_m$ ; and this is, of course, true. Now assume  $F_{mp}$  is divisible by  $F_m$  (this is our induction hypothesis—the statement for  $m = p$ ). We want to prove the statement for  $m = p + 1$ , that is, that  $F_{m(p+1)}$  is divisible by  $F_m$ . Using the Lemma in number 8, we get:

$$F_{m(p+1)} = F_{mp+m} = F_{mp-1}F_m + F_{mp}F_{m+1}$$

which is divisible by  $F_m$  because both summands (addends)  $F_{mp-1}F_m$  and  $F_{mp}F_{m+1}$  are divisible by  $F_m$  (by the induction hypothesis,  $F_{mp}$  is divisible by  $F_m$ ), so it is also  $F_{m(p+1)}$ .

This completes the induction.

14. (p. 49) We again proceed by induction. For  $n = 1$ , we need to check that  $L_1 = L_3 - 3$ ; and this is, of course, true