

To form the fractions in the intervals  $(1,2)$ ,  $(2,3)$ ,  $(3,5)$ ,  $\dots$ , write the reciprocals in reverse order of the fractions in  $(1/2, 1)$  in  $f \cdot f_{n+1}$ , of  $(1/3, 1/2)$  in  $f \cdot f_{n+2}$ ,  $\dots$ , respectively. This gives  $f \cdot f_n$  as far as we want it.

In fact, one of the purposes of investigating the symmetries of Farey Fibonacci sequences was to develop easy methods to form them.

#### REFERENCE

1. Krishnaswami Alladi, "A Farey Sequence of Fibonacci Numbers," *The Fibonacci Quarterly*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (Feb. 1975), pp.

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### A SIMPLE PROOF THAT PHI IS IRRATIONAL

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Most proofs of the irrationality of phi, the golden ratio, involve the concepts of number fields and the irrationality of  $\sqrt{5}$ . This proof involves only very simple algebraic concepts.

Denoting the golden ratio as  $\phi$ , we have

$$\phi^2 - \phi - 1 = 0.$$

Assume  $\phi = p/q$ , where  $p$  and  $q$  are integers with no common factors except 1. For if  $p$  and  $q$  had a common factor, we could divide it out to get a new set of numbers,  $p'$  and  $q'$ .

Then

$$(p/q)^2 - p/q - 1 = 0$$

$$(p/q)^2 - p/q = 1$$

$$p^2 - pq = q^2$$

$$p(p - q) = q^2$$

(1)

Equation (1) implies that  $p$  divides  $q^2$ , and therefore,  $p$  and  $q$  have a common factor. But we already know that  $p$  and  $q$  have no common factor other than 1, and  $p$  cannot equal 1 because this would imply  $q = 1/\phi$ , which is not an integer. Therefore, our original assumption that  $\phi = p/q$  is false and  $\phi$  is irrational.

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