

FIBONACCI ONCE AGAIN

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Many popular-type math teasers are based on the concept that may be expressed symbolically as:

$$\underline{(X)}\underline{(Y)} = \underline{Y}^2 - \underline{X}^2 .$$

Examples are:

$$34\ 68 = 68^2 - 34^2$$

$$216\ 513 = 513^2 - 216^2 .$$

The true algebraical representation, of course, is:

$$10^n \underline{X} + \underline{Y} = \underline{Y}^2 - \underline{X}^2$$

Y having n digits including any initial zero. For example, with $n = 6$, we have:

$$2230\ 047276 = 47276^2 - 2230^2 .$$

Working recently on such examples, it seemed interesting to determine the limiting minimal value of the ratio $Y:X$, that is of Y/X . This proved quite simple, the derivation being as follows:

For very large values of n we may take the maximum value of Y as being 10^n .

Hence we have

$$10^n \underline{X} + 10^n = 10^{2n} - \underline{X}^2 .$$

Solving for X ,

$$\begin{aligned} 2X &= -10^n + \sqrt{10^{2n} + 4 \cdot 10^{2n} - 4 \cdot 10^n} \\ &= -10^n + \sqrt{5 \cdot 10^{2n} - 4 \cdot 10^n} \end{aligned}$$

Again for very large values we may ignore $4 \cdot 10^n$ in the expression under the square-root sign, so having, as $n \rightarrow \infty$,

$$2X \rightarrow -10^n + 10^n \sqrt{5} ,$$

i. e. ,

$$X \rightarrow \frac{10^n(\sqrt{5} - 1)}{2} .$$

Hence

$$X/Y \rightarrow (\sqrt{5} - 1)/2, \quad Y/X \rightarrow (\sqrt{5} + 1)/2 .$$

Fibonacci again!

It may be noted that with $n = 6$, the greatest value of Y (giving the minimal $X:Y$ ratio) gives

$$569466 \ 945388 = 945388^2 - 569466^2 .$$

And for this we have $Y/X = 1.6601 \dots$

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$$\sum_{j=0}^r \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_{j,k} x^j y^k F(x,y) = \sum_{m=0}^{r-1} x^m \sum_{j=0}^m \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_{j,k} y^k \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{m-j,n} y^n .$$

It follows that $F(x,y)$ is rational in x , again contradicting (2).

Remark. We note that $a_{m,n}$ does satisfy recurrences of the type

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