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The determination of the branching characteristics of natural streams of class five and higher is an extremely difficult and tedious task. Thus any hypothesis proposed for stream patterns of high class is very difficult to test. If it could be shown that a Fibonacci or one of the generalized Fibonacci patterns could serve as a first approximation to natural patterns, then any hypothesis proposed could quickly and easily be explored to very high orders and the results used to plan tests that could be applied to natural patterns.

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