

The sequence

$$0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, \dots$$

is called the sequence of Fibonacci numbers. It is defined by setting $a_0 = 0$, $a_1 = 1$, and $a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$ for any $n \geq 2$.

1. Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and for each $n \geq 1$, let

$$\mathbf{a}_n = \begin{pmatrix} a_n \\ a_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Show that the matrix equations

$$\mathbf{a}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and $\mathbf{a}_{n+1} = A\mathbf{a}_n$ for each $n \geq 1$ also define the sequence of Fibonacci numbers.

2. Compute the eigenvalues of A . Call them λ_1 and λ_2 . Also compute eigenvectors for A . Let \mathbf{v}_1 be an eigenvector for λ_1 , and let \mathbf{v}_2 be an eigenvector for λ_2 .

3. Let P be the 2×2 matrix with \mathbf{v}_1 as its first column and \mathbf{v}_2 as its second. Also, let

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Compute PDP^{-1} .

4. Compute A^k for any $k \geq 1$. Your answer should be a 2×2 matrix where the entries depend on k . [Hint: Use the previous problem, and simplify the expression you get before attempting to figure out the entries of the matrix explicitly.]

5. Show that $\mathbf{a}_n = A^{n-1}\mathbf{a}_1$.

6. Compute \mathbf{a}_n for any $n \geq 1$. Your answer should be a vector with two entries, each of which depend on n .

7. Give an explicit formula for a_n in terms of n .

8. Compute

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{a_{n-1}}.$$

Do you know what this number is called?