

## A Property of the Fibonacci Sequence

Fibonacci sequence is defined with the recurrence relation  $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$  where  $F_1 = F_2 = 1$ . The first few terms are:

1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144 ...

By observation, it is noticeable that every 3<sup>rd</sup> Fibonacci number is divisible by 2, and every 4<sup>th</sup> Fibonacci number is divisible by 3, etc. It is actually true that  $n^{\text{th}}$  Fibonacci number divides every  $n^{\text{th}}$  Fibonacci number.

**Theorem:** In the Fibonacci sequence where  $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$  and  $F_1 = F_2 = 1$ ,  $F_n$  divides  $F_{mn}$ .

**Proof:** By the recurrence relation,  $F_{mn} = F_{mn-1} + F_{mn-2} = F_2 F_{mn-1} + F_1 F_{mn-2}$ .

If we only “expand” the first term, we get:

$$F_2 F_{mn-1} + F_1 F_{mn-2} = (F_2 + F_1) F_{mn-2} + F_2 F_{mn-3} = F_3 F_{mn-2} + F_2 F_{mn-3}$$

If we keep repeating this procedure, we will eventually get:

$$F_{mn} = F_n F_{mn-n+1} + F_{n-1} F_{mn-n}$$

This means that the divisibility of  $F_{mn-n}$  by  $F_n$  implies the divisibility of  $F_{mn}$  by  $F_n$ . This means that, since  $F_n$  divides  $F_{n(2-1)}$ ,  $F_n$  divides  $F_{2n}$ . Since  $F_n$  divides  $F_{n(3-1)}$ ,  $F_n$  divides  $F_{3n}$ ... This can be continued infinitely. Therefore,  $F_n$  divides  $F_{mn}$  for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $m \geq 1$ .