

Problem 12118

(American Mathematical Monthly, Vol.126, June-July 2019)

Proposed by H. Ohtsuka (Japan).

Compute

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{F_{2mn} + iF_m}$$

where m is an odd integer and F_n is the n -th Fibonacci number.

Solution proposed by Roberto Tauraso, Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Roma "Tor Vergata", via della Ricerca Scientifica, 00133 Roma, Italy.

Solution. By using the known identity

$$F_{i+j}F_{i+k} - F_iF_{i+j+k} = (-1)^i F_j F_k$$

with $i, j, k \in \mathbb{Z}$, it follows that for any odd integer m , $F_m = F_{-m}$ and

$$F_{2nm+m}F_{2nm-m} - F_{2nm}^2 = F_m^2 \implies F_{(2n+1)m}F_{(2n-1)m} = F_{2nm}^2 + F_m^2$$

$$F_m F_{2nm-m} - F_{-m} F_{2nm+m} = -F_{2m} F_{2nm} \implies \frac{F_{2nm}}{F_{(2n+1)m}F_{(2n-1)m}} = \frac{F_m/F_{2m}}{F_{(2n-1)m}} - \frac{F_m/F_{2m}}{F_{(2n+1)m}}$$

$$F_{2nm+m}F_{2nm-2m} - F_{2nm}F_{2nm-m} = -F_m F_{2m} \implies \frac{F_m}{F_{(2n+1)m}F_{(2n-1)m}} = \frac{F_{2nm}/F_{2m}}{F_{(2n+1)m}} - \frac{F_{(2n-2)m}/F_{2m}}{F_{(2n-1)m}}.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{F_{2mn} + iF_m} &= \frac{F_{2nm} - iF_m}{F_{2nm}^2 + F_m^2} = \frac{F_{2nm} - iF_m}{F_{(2n+1)m}F_{(2n-1)m}} \\ &= \frac{F_m}{F_{2m}} \left(\frac{1}{F_{(2n-1)m}} - \frac{1}{F_{(2n+1)m}} \right) - \frac{i}{F_{2m}} \left(\frac{F_{2nm}}{F_{(2n+1)m}} - \frac{F_{(2n-2)m}}{F_{(2n-1)m}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Hence the given sum is telescopic:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{F_{2mn} + iF_m} &= \frac{F_m}{F_{2m}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{F_{(2n-1)m}} - \frac{1}{F_{(2n+1)m}} \right) - \frac{i}{F_{2m}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{F_{2nm}}{F_{(2n+1)m}} - \frac{F_{(2n-2)m}}{F_{(2n-1)m}} \right) \\ &= \frac{F_m}{F_{2m}F_{-m}} - \frac{i}{F_{2m}} \left(\phi^{-m} - \frac{F_{-2m}}{F_{-m}} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{F_{2m}} - \frac{i}{F_{2m}} \left(\phi^{-m} + \frac{F_{2m}}{F_m} \right) = \frac{1 - i\phi^m}{F_{2m}} \end{aligned}$$

where $\phi = (1 + \sqrt{5})/2$ and by the Binet's formula

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F_{2nm}}{F_{(2n+1)m}} = \phi^{-m} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{F_{2m}}{F_m} = \phi^m - \phi^{-m}.$$

□