

SOLUTIONS

No problem is ever permanently closed. Any comments, new solutions, or new insights on old problems are always welcomed by the problem editor.

165. [2007; 151] *Proposed by José Luis Díaz-Barrero, Universidad Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain.*

Let n be a positive integer. Prove that

$$\frac{1}{2n} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \sqrt{1 + \left(F_k \binom{n}{k} \right)^2} \right)^2 \geq F_{2n},$$

where F_n is the n th Fibonacci number defined by $F_0 = 0$, $F_1 = 1$ and for all $n \geq 2$, $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$.

Solution I by Brian Bradie, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, Virginia. For $n = 1$, we have

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(\sqrt{1 + F_1^2} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{2} (\sqrt{1+1})^2 = 1 = F_2;$$

whereas, for $n = 2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{4} \left(\sqrt{1 + (2F_1)^2} + \sqrt{1 + F_2^2} \right)^2 &= \frac{1}{4} (\sqrt{1+4} + \sqrt{1+1})^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{4} (7 + 2\sqrt{10}) > 3 = F_4. \end{aligned}$$

To proceed further, first note that by a straightforward application of mathematical induction we can show that $F_m > m$ for all $m \geq 6$. Now, let $n \geq 3$. Then

$$\frac{1}{2n} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \sqrt{1 + \left(F_k \binom{n}{k} \right)^2} \right)^2 > \frac{1}{2n} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n F_k \binom{n}{k} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{2n} F_{2n}^2,$$