

and we immediately obtain conditions on the coefficients for the quartic to be the square of a quadratic.

Finally some generalisations, suppose $P(x)$ is a polynomial of degree $d = pq$ where p, q are integers $\neq 1$. We can investigate the possibility that $P(x)$ is the p th power of a polynomial of degree q or, alternatively, that it is the q th power of a polynomial of degree p . For example a certain sextic might be the cube of a quadratic or the square of a cubic. In the first case

$$P(x) = Q(x)^3,$$

where

$$Q = \frac{P^{(iv)}}{72} - \left(\frac{P^{(v)}}{360}\right)^2.$$

In the second case

$$P(x) = R(x)^2,$$

where

$$R = \frac{1}{12} \left\{ P''' - \frac{P^{(iv)} P^{(v)}}{960} + \frac{3}{4} \left(\frac{P^{(v)}}{120}\right)^3 \right\}.$$

Clearly once we get beyond the sextic the formulae are going to get more complicated. The formula for expressing a polynomial of degree $2p$ as the p th power of a quadratic is relatively easy to find—I leave it as an exercise for the reader—but I balk at trying for the square root of the polynomial. Perhaps readers will have other ideas and experiences of how to overcome software inadequacies and/or hardware failures.

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75.3 Making a Golden Rectangle by paper folding

The Golden Ratio $((1 + \sqrt{5})/2 \approx 1.618)$ is a number with many interesting mathematical properties. The purpose of this short note is to show how you can construct a Golden Rectangle using just a sheet of $8.5'' \times 11''$ paper without any other tools. A Golden Rectangle is a rectangle such that the ratio of one dimension over the other is the Golden Ratio.

One problem in creating a Golden Rectangle out of an $8.5'' \times 11''$ sheet of paper is that the ratio of length/width is only about 1.29. Step 1 of the construction makes the paper narrow enough so we can create a Golden Rectangle from it. If for your sheet of paper the ratio of the longest dimension to the shortest dimension is greater than the Golden Ratio, then you can begin with Step 2.

1. Place the paper before you so its long dimension is horizontal. Make a horizontal fold in the paper in the exact middle of the sheet by folding the sheet in half. Fold the paper along the crease several times until the paper will tear readily along the crease. The final result will be a long thin rectangle $ABCD$.
2. Fold corner A so it rests on DC as shown in Fig. 1. Let E be the new point created on AB where the paper is folded.
3. Using E as a guide, create a vertical crease at point E . Let F be the point where the crease touches DC . In Fig. 2 the dashed line EF represents the crease, and the figure $Aefd$ is a perfect square.
4. Now fold the paper so that AD perfectly coincides with EF . This creates a vertical crease in the middle of the square. Mark the ends of this crease with G and H as shown in Fig. 3.
5. Fold HC so that it runs through E and mark HC with a little fold where it intersects E as shown in Fig. 4. Call this point J .
6. Make a vertical crease at J by folding the paper. Call the other end of the crease I . Fig. 5 shows all the vertical creases created so far.
7. Fold the paper along IJ sufficiently many times to ensure that it rips smoothly along IJ , then rip it along IJ . The final rectangle, $AiJd$ in Fig. 6, is a Golden Rectangle.

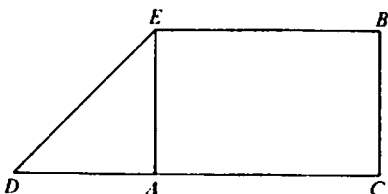


FIGURE 1. The first step in making a square.

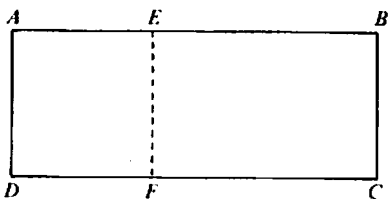


FIGURE 2. Creating a perfect square.

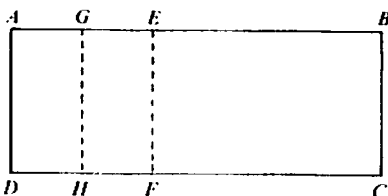


FIGURE 3. Dividing the square in half.

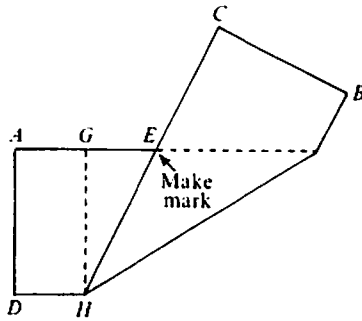


FIGURE 4. Marking the edge DC.

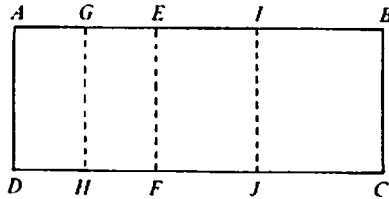


FIGURE 5. All the vertical creases in ABCD.

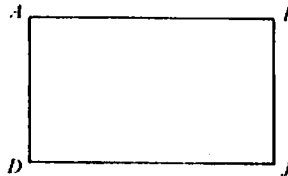


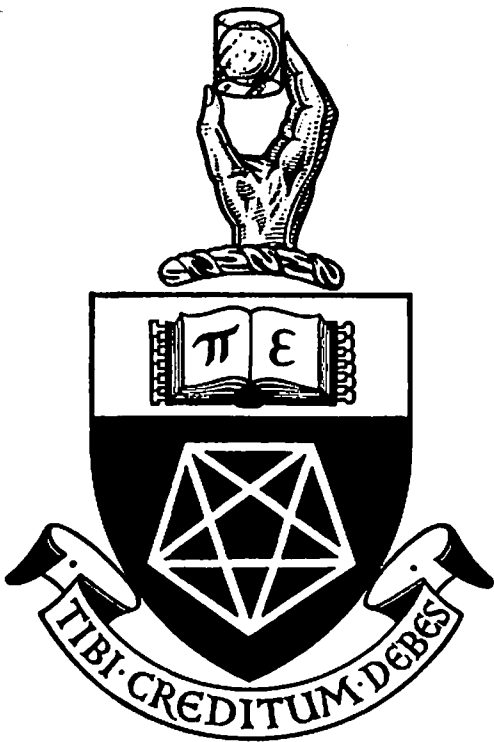
FIGURE 6. Finally, a Golden Rectangle.

To see that $AIJD$ of Fig. 6 is a Golden Rectangle, study Fig. 4 and use x to denote the distance DH . For an $8.5'' \times 11''$ piece of paper it is easy to see that $x = 2.125''$. In terms of x , GE has length x and GH has length $2x$. Since HGE is a right triangle, the Pythagorean Theorem shows that $HE = HJ = x\sqrt{5}$. Thus, the size of DJ is $x(1 + \sqrt{5})$ and since the size of AD is $2x$ the ratio DJ/AD is the Golden Ratio.

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CONTENTS

From quadrature to integration	<i>Jan van Maanen</i>	1
"... Assume the string is inextensible and elastic ..."	<i>Tom Roper and Ron Hartley</i>	15
A not-so-flawed draw	<i>M. C. Jones</i>	23
A mathematical celebration	<i>Tony Gardiner</i>	27
How many rugby balls can <i>you</i> fit in a minibus?	<i>Nigel Walkey and Gerald Goodall</i>	32
Wherefore "plug-and-chug"?	<i>Neil Bibby</i>	40
Advanced calculators and advanced-level mathematics	<i>Kenneth Ruthven</i>	48
A modular approach to sixth form mathematics	<i>Richard B. Wilson</i>	55
Varying the approach to A-level mathematics	<i>Doug French</i>	62
Calculus at A-level and its understanding	<i>Philip Maher</i>	68
Changes in the Cambridge mathematics course	<i>P. M. H. Wilson</i>	72
Revision of CSYS Mathematics	<i>Adam C. McBride</i>	75
Mathematical people: Rog�r Heath-Brown	<i>Roger Heath-Brown</i>	79
Notes 75.1-75.6		
The tale of the lop-sided parabola	<i>Nick Lord</i>	80
Polynomial square roots	<i>Nigel Backhouse</i>	84
Making a Golden Rectangle by paper folding	<i>George Markowsky</i>	85
On the evaluation of certain improper integrals	<i>Robert M. Young</i>	88
An ancient Egyptian approximation	<i>W. W. Wilson and G. L. Wilson</i>	89
A sixth form booklist for the 1990s	<i>Nick Lord</i>	90
Problem corner		93
Correspondence		96
Reviews		103

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