

**Solution** (#364) If  $F_n$  has  $r$  decimal places this means that

$$10^{r-1} \leq F_n < 10^r.$$

From Proposition 2.30 we have

$$\frac{\alpha^n - \beta^n}{\sqrt{5}} \quad \text{where } \alpha = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}, \beta = \frac{1 - \sqrt{5}}{2}.$$

As  $|\beta^n/\sqrt{5}| < 1$  then

$$\frac{\alpha^n}{\sqrt{5}} \leq 10^r.$$

Hence, taking logarithms to base 10,

$$n \leq \frac{r + \log_{10} \sqrt{5}}{\log_{10} \alpha}.$$

As

$$\alpha^5 = \left( \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right)^5 = \frac{176 + 80\sqrt{5}}{32} > \frac{176 + 160}{32} = \frac{336}{10} > 10,$$

then  $\log_{10} \alpha > \frac{1}{5}$ . So

$$n < 5 \left( r + \log_{10} \sqrt{5} \right) = 5r + \log_{10} (25\sqrt{5}) < 5r + 2.$$

As  $n$  and  $r$  are integers then  $n \leq 5r + 1$ .