The Golden Ratio

1:1.618*

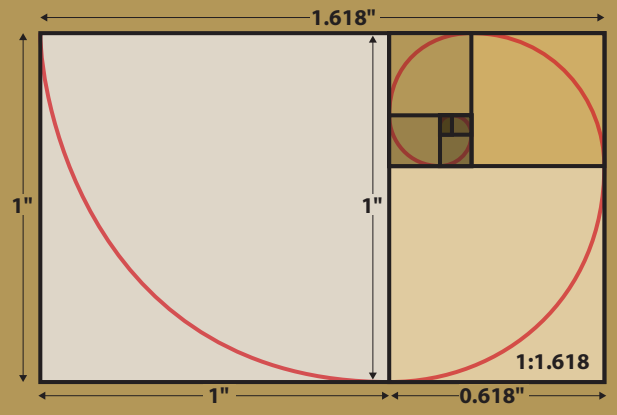
Also known as the golden mean, the golden ratio is considered an ideal proportion between two values such as height and width. It is commonly used in fields such as art, design and architecture.

Two values are considered to be in a golden ratio if their ratio to each other is the same as their sum is to the larger of the two.

An example is the golden rectangle, shown above right. Its height and width are in the golden ratio. When repeatedly divided by the golden ratio, each smaller rectangle stays within the golden ratio.

The concept of the golden ratio goes back to Classsical Greece, where Euclid first defined it, and where it was often applied to architecture.

*Like Pi, its actual value is infinite: 1:1.6180339887. . .



A is to B as B is to C.

> As the whole line is to the greater segment, so is the greater to the lesser.
>
> —*Euclid*

MTSU School of Journalism
MTSUjournalism.org
Philip Loubere