



Verbal olympiad solutions

Graham Middle School Math Olympiad Team



$$\sqrt{x} = 3, 14$$

$$3 \times 3 = 9$$



PROBLEMS 1-2

P1. A duckling and a gosling were participating in a triathlon competition. The distances for running, swimming, and flying was the same. Duckling ran, swam, and flew with the same speed. The gosling ran twice as slow as the duckling but swam twice as fast as the duckling. Who should fly faster and by how much, so they start and finish at the same time?

Answer: The gosling flew twice as fast as the duckling.

Let the duckling complete each part in 1 hour. Then gosling was running for 2 hours and was

swimming for $\frac{1}{2}$. As a result she had

$3 - 2 - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$ hours for flying to finish in the same time as duckling.

P2. Nineteen witches, all of different heights, stand in a circle around a campfire. Each witch says whether she is taller than both of her neighbors, shorter than both, or in-between. Exactly three said "I am taller." How many said "I am in-between"?

Between each taller and shorter witches all other witches are sorted by height, so in this line, all other witches are "in-between". From each taller witch to the left and to the right there are lines of witches in descendant order, so between two taller witches exactly one shorter witch. Since these three taller witches form 3 pairs in this circle, there are 3 shorter witches in the circle. So we have $19 - 3 - 3 = 13$ "in-between" witches.

PROBLEM 3-4

P3. Find two numbers that aren't divisor of each other, their GCD is 50, and their LCM is 1000.

Let this number be $50n$ and $50m$, $n < m$ and $\gcd(n, m) = 1$. So $\text{lcm}(50n, 50m) = 50nm = 1000$, and $nm = 20$.

We have 3 cases:

Case 1: $n = 1$, $m = 20$. In this case, 50 is a divisor of 1000.

Case 2: $n = 2$, $m = 10$. In this case, 100 is a divisor of 500.

Case 3: $n = 4$, $m = 5$. In this case, 200 is not a divisor of 250.

So our answer is 200 and 250.

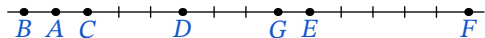
P4. 7 points A, B, C, D, E, F , and G are selected on a line, such that

$$AB = 1, BC = 2, CD = 3, DE = 4, \\ EF = 5, FG = 6, GA = 7.$$

Find the arrangement of the points so the distance between the leftmost and the rightmost points is maximal.

The circle $A - B - C - D - E - F - G - A$ has a length $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 = 28$ and visit both the left and the right points. So the maximum distance between two furthest point is $\frac{28}{2} = 14$.

The possible configuration of the points is shown in the picture:



The uniqueness of this configuration is followed in that points between the two furthest points should be aligned from left to right, so 14 should be the sum of several consecutive numbers. Only one such sequence exists: $2 + 3 + 4 + 5 = 14$.

PROBLEM 5

P5. Integer numbers from 1 to 100 are each colored in one of the three color. Prove that there are two different numbers of one color, such that their difference is a square of an integer (e.g. 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, etc.).

Suppose there are no two different numbers of one color with a difference of a square of an integer.

The numbers n , $n + 9$, and $n + 25$ all should have the different colors, because difference between them are 9, 16, and 25. The same is true for n , $n + 16$, and $n + 25$. So numbers $n + 9$ and $n + 16$ should be of the same color. That means all numbers from 10 till 91, which is differed by 7 is colored in the same color. But for example, numbers 10 and 59 has a difference of 49 which is a square of 7. We got the *contradiction*.

So our *assumption* is incorrect and there should be two different numbers of one color with the difference of a square of an integer.