

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2016 SOLUTION KEY**

Team Round

$$\text{A) } \begin{cases} (1) \ x + y + z = n \\ (2) \ 2x - y - z = n + 1 \\ (3) \ x + 2y - 2z = n + 2 \end{cases}$$

Subtracting the first two equations, $\boxed{x - 2y - 2z = 1}$.

Subtracting the last two equations, $\boxed{-x + 3y - z = 1}$.

Adding the boxed equations, $y - 3z = 2 \Rightarrow y = 2 + 3z$

Substituting in the first boxed equation, $x - 4 - 6z - 2z = 1 \Rightarrow x = 5 + 8z$

For both of the z -expressions for x and y , as z increases, the values of x and y increases also.

Thus, $x + y = 7 + 11z > 100 \Rightarrow z > \frac{93}{11} \Rightarrow z_{\min} = 9 \Rightarrow (x_{\min}, y_{\min}) = (77, 29)$

Substituting in equation (1) above, $n = 77 + 29 + 9 = 115$.

$\Rightarrow (x, y, n) = \underline{(77, 29, 115)}$.

$$\text{Check: } \begin{cases} 77 + 29 + 9 = 115 \\ 154 - 29 - 9 = 116 \\ 77 + 58 - 18 = 117 \end{cases}$$

B) Adding the given equations, we have $x + y = 2t \Rightarrow t = \frac{x + y}{2}$

Substituting in the first equation, $x = \frac{x + y}{2} + \frac{2}{x + y} \Rightarrow$

$$2x(x + y) = (x + y)^2 + 4 \Leftrightarrow 2x^2 + \cancel{2xy} = x^2 + \cancel{2xy} + y^2 + 4$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 - y^2 = 4 \Leftrightarrow y = \pm \sqrt{x^2 - 4}$$

$$\text{Thus, } y = \pm \sqrt{\frac{17}{4} - 4} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1}{4}} = \pm \underline{\underline{\frac{1}{2}}}.$$

Alternately, square both equations and subtract.

$$\begin{cases} x^2 = t^2 + 2 + t^{-2} \\ y^2 = t^2 - 2 + t^{-2} \end{cases} \Rightarrow x^2 - y^2 = 4$$

$$\text{Substituting, } y^2 = \frac{17}{4} - 4 = \frac{1}{4} \Rightarrow y = \pm \underline{\underline{\frac{1}{2}}}.$$