

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE
CONTEST 4 - JANUARY 2011 SOLUTION KEY**

Team Round – continued

$$F) \quad A = \sqrt{x+37} \text{ and } B = \sqrt{x-N} \rightarrow \begin{cases} x+37 = A^2 \\ x-N = B^2 \end{cases} \rightarrow 37+N = A^2 - B^2 = (A+B)(A-B)$$

Thus, we must look at the factors of $(37+N)$. We know that for any pair of unequal factors of $(37+N)$, $(A+B)$ will equal the larger factor (call it L) and $(A-B)$, the smaller (call it S).

Specifically, $\begin{cases} A+B=L \\ A-B=S \end{cases} \rightarrow A = \frac{L+S}{2}, B = \frac{L-S}{2}$. To insure that A and B are integers, L and

S must be of the same parity, i.e. both even or both odd. We need to find the smallest value of N for which there are three such factor pairs (L, S) .

By trial and error,

$N=1 \rightarrow 38$ (none – no same parity factor pairs)

$N=2 \rightarrow 39$ (only $39 \cdot 1, 13 \cdot 3$) $N=3 \rightarrow 40$ (only $20 \cdot 2, 10 \cdot 4$)

$N=4 \rightarrow 41$ (prime) $N=5 \rightarrow 42$ (no same parity factor pairs) $N=6 \rightarrow 43$ (prime)

$N=7 \rightarrow 44$ ($22 \cdot 2$ only) $N=8 \rightarrow 45$ ($45 \cdot 1, 15 \cdot 3, 9 \cdot 5$) – Bingo!

$$\begin{cases} A+B=45 & 15 & 9 \\ A-B= & 1 & 3 & 5 \end{cases} \rightarrow (A,B) = (23,22), (9,6), (7,2) \rightarrow x = 492, 44, 12$$

Thus, $(k, T) = (8, 492 + 44 + 12) = \underline{\underline{(8, 548)}}$.

We could have made the observation that we were looking for a number with 6 odd factors.

The smallest such positive number would have been $3^2 \cdot 5^1 = 45$ which would have avoided and laborious plug and check.