

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 2 – NOVEMBER 2012 SOLUTION KEY**

**Round 4**

A)  $126 = 6 \cdot 21 = 2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 7$

$132 = 11 \cdot 12 = 2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 11$

The common prime factors are 2 and 3, so the common factors are 1, 2, 3 and 6

$\Rightarrow$  4 common factors.

B)  $x^3y - xy^3 = xy(x^2 - y^2) = 12$

$x^3y^2 - x^2y^3 = x^2y^2(x - y) = 15$

$$\frac{xy(x^2 - y^2)}{x^2y^2(x - y)} = \frac{12}{15} \rightarrow \frac{x + y}{xy} = \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{y} = \underline{\underline{\frac{4}{5}}}$$

C)  $(x+1)(x-6)(x+3) - (x+1)^2(x-2) = (x+1)((x^2 - 3x - 18) - (x^2 - x - 2))$

$= (x+1)(-2x-16) = -2(x+1)(x+8) > 0$

Dividing through by  $-2$ ,  $(x+1)(x+8) < 0$

The critical values are  $-1$  and  $-8$ .

Both factors are negative for  $x < -8$ , positive for  $x > -1$  and in between  $-1$  and  $-8$ , they have opposite signs. Therefore, the product is negative for  $-8 < x < -1$ .