

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE
CONTEST 3 - DECEMBER 2011 SOLUTION KEY**

Round 1

A) Either knowing common Pythagorean Triples or using the Pythagorean Theorem, the hypotenuse has length 13. Therefore, $\cos B + \cos C = \frac{5}{13} + \frac{12}{13} = \frac{17}{13}$

B) By the law of Sines, $\frac{\sin 30^\circ}{12} = \frac{1}{24} = \frac{\sin C}{k}$

$$\Rightarrow \sin C = \frac{k}{24} = \frac{k}{2^3 \cdot 3}$$

Only fractions with denominations containing exclusively powers of 2, powers of 5 or products thereof have terminating decimal representations.

Therefore, k must be a positive multiple of 3 and less than or equal to 24.

$\Rightarrow 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24 \Rightarrow \underline{108}$.

C) Using the Law of Cosines, $k^2 = 64 + 16 - 2 \cdot 4 \cdot 8 \cos A = 80 - 64 \cos A$.

$$\text{Solving for } \cos A, \cos A = \frac{80 - k^2}{64}.$$

Applying the Triangle Inequality to $\triangle BAD$, the minimum value of k is 5 and the maximum

$$\text{value is 11. Substituting for } k, \cos A = \frac{80 - 25}{64} = \frac{55}{64}, \frac{80 - 121}{64} = \frac{-41}{64}$$

$$\text{Thus, the positive difference is } \frac{96}{64} = \frac{3}{2}.$$