

Intermediate Test 4 – Solutions

Stellenbosch Camp 2018

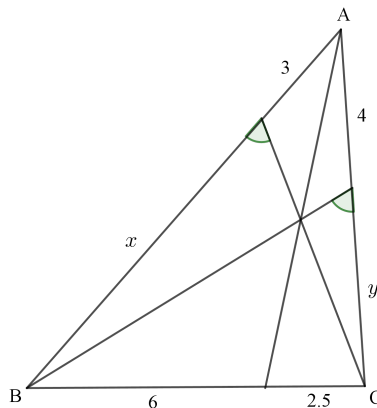
1. *How many numbers from 1 to 2018 inclusive can be written as the difference of two perfect squares?*

We say that a number is *nice* if it can be written as the difference of two perfect squares. Any odd number is nice, since $2k+1 = (k+1)^2 - k^2$. Also, any number divisible by 4 is nice since $4k = (k+1)^2 - (k-1)^2$. So looking at remainders modulo 4, any number with remainder 0, 1 or 3 is nice; on the other hand, since all perfect squares have remainder 0 or 1 modulo 4, the only possibilities for the remainder of a difference of two squares are 0, 3 and 1; hence the numbers with these remainders are precisely the nice numbers.

So to count the nice numbers from 1 to 2018, we take the total amount of numbers (2018) and subtract those with remainder 2; since 2018 has a remainder of 2 modulo 4, the amount of the latter is $\lfloor \frac{2018}{4} \rfloor + 1$, yielding a final answer of

$$2018 - \left\lfloor \frac{2018}{4} \right\rfloor - 1 = 1513.$$

2. *Solve for lengths x and y in the following diagram:*



3. *Find all functions $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that for all real numbers x ,*

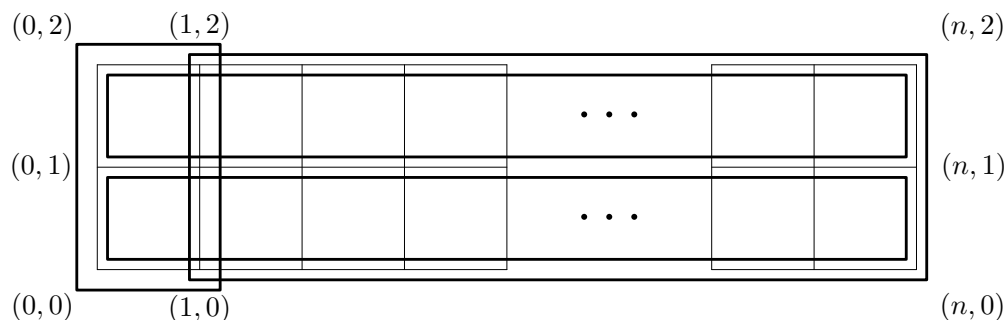
$$2f(x) + 3f(1-x) = x - 4x^3.$$

4. *Prove that it is impossible to write a positive integer in every cell of an infinite chessboard, in such a manner that, for all positive integers m, n , the sum of numbers in every $m \times n$ rectangle is divisible by $m+n$.*

Suppose that it is possible. Let n be a positive integer. The sum of the numbers in the $1 \times n$ rectangle with opposite corners at the coordinates $(0,0)$ and $(n,1)$ is divisible by $n+1$. The sum of the numbers

in the $1 \times n$ rectangle with opposite corners $(0, 1)$ and $(n, 2)$ is also divisible by $n + 1$. It follows that the sum of the numbers in the $2 \times n$ rectangle with opposite corners at $(0, 0)$ and $(n, 2)$ is divisible by $n + 1$. However, the sum of the numbers in the $2 \times (n - 1)$ rectangle with opposite corners at $(1, 0)$ and $(n, 2)$ is divisible by $n + 1$, and so we see that the sum of the numbers in the rectangle with opposite corners $(0, 0)$ and $(1, 2)$ is divisible by $n + 1$.

This must be true for every positive integer n . It follows that the sum of the numbers in the rectangle with opposite corners $(0, 0)$ and $(1, 2)$ must be 0. This is a contradiction since we assumed that each square is filled with a positive integer.



5. An exam with k questions is presented to n students. A student fails the exam if they get less than half the answers right. We say that a question is easy if more than half of the students get it right. Decide if it is possible that

- (a) All students fail even though all the questions were easy.
(b) No student fails even though no question was easy.

Consider the total number of correct solutions submitted by all of the students. If all of the students fail, then each student submits strictly fewer than $\frac{k}{2}$ correct solutions. There are therefore strictly fewer than $\frac{nk}{2}$ correct submissions. On the other hand, if every question is easy, then for each question there are strictly more than $\frac{n}{2}$ correct submissions, and there are thus strictly more than $\frac{nk}{2}$ correct submissions. It is thus not possible for every student to fail if all of the questions are easy.

Similarly, if every student passes then each student has strictly more than $\frac{k}{2}$ correct submissions giving strictly more than $\frac{nk}{2}$ correct submissions. If every question is difficult we similarly find that there are strictly fewer than $\frac{nk}{2}$ correct submissions. Thus if every student passes even though all of the questions are difficult then we would have that

$$\frac{nk}{2} > \frac{nk}{2}$$

which is a contradiction.

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