Combo 4

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August 2020

1 Problems

1. For each positive integer n, the Bank of Cape Town issues coins of denomination $\frac{1}{n}$. Given a finite collection of such coins (of not necessarily different denominations) with total value at most most $99 + \frac{1}{2}$, prove that it is possible to split this collection into 100 or fewer groups, such that each group has total value at most 1.

2. There are $n \geq 2$ line segments in the plane such that every two segments cross and no three segments meet at a point. Geoff has to choose an endpoint of each segment and place a frog on it facing the other endpoint. Then he will clap his hands $n - 1$ times. Every time he claps,each frog will immediately jump forward to the next intersection point on its segment. Frogs never change the direction of their jumps. Geoff wishes to place the frogs in such a way that no two of them will ever occupy the same intersection point at the same time.

   (a) Prove that Geoff can always fulfill his wish if n is odd.

   (b) Prove that Geoff can never fulfill his wish if n is even.

3. Fix positive integers n and $k \geq 2$. A list of n integers is written in a row on a blackboard. You can choose a contiguous block of integers, and I will either add 1 to all of them or subtract 1 from all of them. You can repeat this step as often as you like, possibly adapting your selections based on what I do. Prove that after a finite number of steps, you can reach a state where at least $n - k + 2$ of the numbers on the blackboard are all simultaneously divisible by k.