

Q1(1):

$$\log_{10}(ax) \log_{10}(bx) + 1 = 0$$

$$\iff (\log_{10} a + \log_{10} x)(\log_{10} b + \log_{10} x) + 1 = 0$$

$$\iff (\log_{10} x)^2 + (\log_{10} a + \log_{10} b)(\log_{10} x) + (1 + \log_{10} a \log_{10} b) = 0$$

Regard it as a quadratic equation for  $\log_{10} x$ , we have

$$\Delta = (\log_{10} a + \log_{10} b)^2 - 4(1 + \log_{10} a \log_{10} b) \geq 0$$

$$(\log_{10} a - \log_{10} b)^2 \leq 4$$

$$\log_{10} \frac{a}{b} \leq -2 \text{ or } \log_{10} \frac{a}{b} \geq 2$$

$$\frac{a}{b} \leq 10^{-2} \text{ or } \frac{a}{b} \geq 10^2$$

For the former case, we have also the constrain  $\frac{a}{b} > 0$  and  $a, b > 0$ .

Therefore, we have  $\frac{a}{b} \geq \boxed{100}$  or  $\boxed{\frac{1}{100}} > \frac{a}{b} > \boxed{0}$ .

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Q1(2):

We have  $\sin 2\theta = 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta$

$$= -2\sqrt{(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}})(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}})}$$

$$= -2\sqrt{(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{8})}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}.$$

Also,  $\cos 2\theta = 2 \cos^2 \theta - 1$

$$= 2(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}) - 1$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}.$$

As  $\sin 2\theta < 0$  and  $\cos 2\theta > 0$ , we have  $2\theta$  lies on quadrant *IV*. Therefore, for

$0 \leq 2\theta < 4\pi$ , we have  $2\theta = \frac{7\pi}{4}$  or  $\frac{15\pi}{4}$ .

Moreover, as  $\sin \theta < 0$  and  $\cos \theta > 0$ , we have  $\theta$  also lies on quadrant *IV*.

Therefore, we have only  $2\theta = \boxed{\frac{15\pi}{4}}$ .

(Note: One must evaluate at least two among those trigonometric ratios of  $2\theta$  so as to reject one possible value of  $2\theta$ .)

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Q1(3):

$$\begin{aligned} 2^y - 2^{-y} &= x + \sqrt{x^2 + 1} + \frac{1}{x + \sqrt{x^2 + 1}} \\ &= x + \sqrt{x^2 + 1} + x - \sqrt{x^2 - 1} \text{ (rationalised the latter part)} \\ &= \boxed{2}x. \end{aligned}$$

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Q1(4):

As the domain for  $\log_2(x)$  is  $x \in (0, +\infty)$ , we have:

$$\log_3(\log_2(\log_3(\log_2 x))) > 0$$

$$\log_2(\log_3(\log_2 x)) > 1$$

$$\log_3(\log_2 x) > 2$$

$$\log_2 x > 9$$

$$x > 2^9 = \boxed{512}.$$

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Q1(5):

The only case that two digits 11 are remained after borrowing happened in the subtraction is  $20 - 9$ . However, this case is prohibited as 0 is not allowed to use. Therefore, no borrowing is allowed in the subtraction.

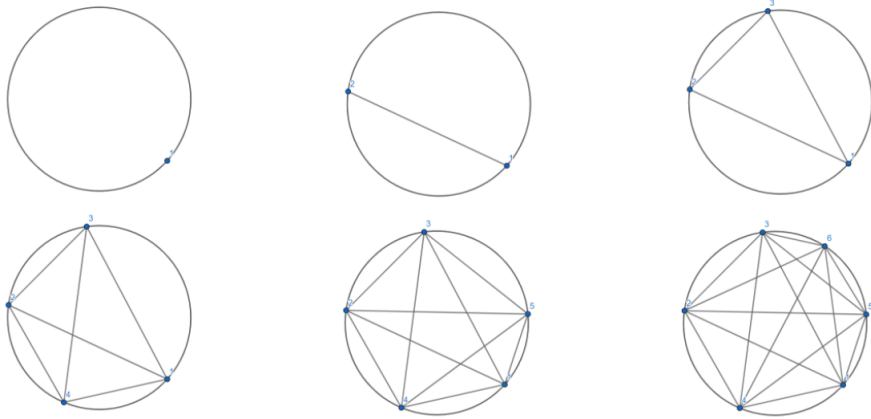
Then, the leading digit of the five-digit number will be 1, and other digits of the five-digit number will be in a pair of  $(9, 8), (7, 6), (5, 4)$  or  $(3, 2)$  with the corresponding digits of the four-digit number.

Therefore, the total number of such five-digit number and four-digit number will be the number of permutations of that four pairs, i.e.  $4! = \boxed{24}$ .

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Q2:

(1),(2),(3): Refer to the draft:



By counting directly, we have:

$$c_1, \dots, c_6 : \boxed{0, 1, 3, 6, 10, 15}$$

$$i_1, \dots, i_6 : \boxed{0, 0, 0, 1, 5, 15}$$

$$r_1, \dots, r_6 : \boxed{1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 31}$$

(2): As two points can join a line, we have  $c_n = \boxed{\binom{n}{2}}$ .

As four distant points guarantees an intersection, we have  $i_n = \boxed{\binom{n}{4}}$ .

Observe that each chord increases the number of regions by 1 and each intersection increases further the number of regions by 1. With the original 1 region of the circle, we have  $r_n = \boxed{1 + \binom{n}{2} + \binom{n}{4}}$ .

(Note: The cases  $n = 5, 6$  are a bit complicated and the corresponding values might be difficult to count. It is recommended to find out the general expression first and then calculate the value rather than counting.)

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Q3:

(1): Firstly, as 3 is a x-intercept of  $C$ , we have  $27 - 36 + 3a + b = 0$ , i.e.  $3a + b = 9$ .

Also, the slope of the tangent to  $C$  is given by  $y' = 3x^2 - 8x + a$ . As  $C$  is tangent to the x-axis (whose slope is 0) at  $x = 3$ , we have  $27 - 24 + a = 0$ , i.e.  $a = \boxed{-3}$ .

Substitute  $a = -3$  into the former equation, we have  $b = 9 + 9 = \boxed{18}$ .

(2): We are going to solve  $x^3 - 4x^2 - 3x + 18 = 0$ . As we know,  $x = 3$  is a solution. Therefore, we can do the factorisation:

$$(x - 3)(x^2 - x - 6) = 0$$

$$(x - 3)^2(x + 2) = 0$$

$$x = \boxed{-2, 3}$$

(3): The area =  $\int_{-2}^3 (x^3 - 4x^2 - 3x + 18) dx$

$$= \left[ \frac{x^4}{4} - \frac{4x^3}{3} - \frac{3x^2}{2} + 18x \right]_{-2}^3$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{81}{4} - 36 - \frac{27}{2} + 54 - 4 - \frac{32}{3} + 6 + 36 \\
&= \boxed{\frac{625}{12}}.
\end{aligned}$$

**Alternative** To simplify the calculation, we can compute the integral in the following way instead:

$$\begin{aligned}
&\int_{-2}^3 (x-3)^2(x+2)dx \\
&= \frac{1}{3} \int_{-2}^3 (x+2)d((x-3)^3) \\
&= \frac{1}{3} (x-3)^3(x+2)|_{-2}^3 - \frac{1}{3} \int_{-2}^3 (x-3)^3 d(x+2) \\
&= -\frac{1}{3} \int_{-2}^3 (x-3)^3 d(x-3) \\
&= -\frac{1}{12} (x-3)^4|_{-2}^3 \\
&= -\frac{5^4}{12} \\
&= \boxed{\frac{625}{12}}.
\end{aligned}$$