

# Questions & Solutions



# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>1 Season 1</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Week 1	1
1.1.1 Intersecting Circles	1
1.1.2 Guava Juice	2
1.1.3 Complex Roots	3
1.1.4 Exponents	4
1.1.5 Volumes of Cubes	5
1.1.6 Complex Mess	6
1.1.7 Paper Eating	7
1.2 Week 2	8
1.2.1 Regenerative Watermelons	8
1.2.2 Largest Prime Factor	9
1.2.3 Real Roots	10
1.2.4 The Meme factor	11
1.2.5 Human Wolfram	12
1.2.6 Guess the Config	13
1.2.7 A Quadratic Mess	14
<b>2 Season 2 (.19's Season)</b>	<b>15</b>
2.1 Week 1	15
2.1.1 A Sequence of 5's	15
2.1.2 Brainy's Happy Set	16
2.1.3 MODSbot's Escape!	17
2.1.4 Sides of a Polygon	18
2.1.5 2p	19
2.1.6 Slippery Rooks	20
2.1.7 Sets of Integer Solutions	22
2.2 Week 2	23
2.2.1 A Game of Deductions	23
2.2.2 Maximising Exponents	24
2.2.3 Colourful Problem	25
2.2.4 Combinatorial Addition	26
2.2.5 Expected Value	27
2.2.6 Infinite Product	28
2.2.7 Projective Geo	29
<b>3 Trigonometric Troubles (Season 3)</b>	<b>30</b>
3.1 Week 1	30
3.1.1 Maximising Trig. Function	30
3.1.2 Areas inside a square	31
3.1.3 Length of SQ	32
3.1.4 Sum of Tan's	33

## Introduction

Welcome to the OpenPOTD solutions booklet! Here you'll find answers & solutions to all past seasons..

Solutions for season one were entirely written up by Brainysmurfs#2860, while I (.19#9839) have overseen most of season two. Where possible, from season two onwards, I have tried to include the officially provided solutions to problems, or adapted them in line with any changes to the problem statement, and in most cases also and filled in the gaps as best I could, to make solutions more approachable to beginners. In many circumstances problems have not come with official write-ups and thus have required me to provide my own - in which case I apologise for any mistakes (or fakesolves!) in advance.

If any mistakes are found, feel free to DM me .19#9839 or submit a push to the Github. Similarly, if you would like to contribute an alternate solution, or improve an existing one in this document, again, feel free to submit a push or just DM me a solution and I can type it up. This applies to both recent problems and seasons, as well as older ones (no matter how old!).

Thank you (in no particular order) to the following contributors:<sup>1</sup>

AiYa#2278 (675537018868072458): Solution write-ups (2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.1.4)

Tony Wang#1729 (541318134699786272): Original problem proposal (1.1.2)

Charge#3766(481250375786037258): Original problem proposal (1.1.6, 1.2.5)

bfan05#5219 (692851547062665317): Original problem proposal (1.1.7)

Kiesh#0917 (544960202101751838): Original problem proposal (1.2.3)

ChristopherPi#8528 (696497464621924394): Problem proposal (2.1.6)

Keegan#9109 (116217065978724357): Original problem proposal (2.2.3)

Slaschu#5267 (296304659059179520): Solution write-up (2.2.5)

Arjun#8974 (723413754800373780): Typo fixes

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<sup>1</sup>The numbers are in the format: Season.Week.Problem

## §1 Season 1

### §1.1 Week 1

#### §1.1.1 Intersecting Circles

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*Source: United Kingdom Senior Mathematical Challenge, 2015 Q4*

*Proposer: brainysmurfs#2860 (281300961312374785)*

*Problem ID: 21*

*Date: 2020-10-27*

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Consider the positive integer  $N$ , and Two internally tangent circles  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are given such that  $\Gamma_1$  passes through the center of  $\Gamma_2$ . Find the fraction of the area of  $\Gamma_1$  lying outside  $\Gamma_2$ . If this fraction is  $\frac{a}{b}$  where  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ , then find  $a + b$ .

*Solution.*

Suppose  $\Gamma_2$  has radius  $2r$ . Since  $\Gamma_1$  is internally tangent to  $\Gamma_2$  and passes through its centre, the radius of  $\Gamma_1$  is half the radius of  $\Gamma_2$ , i.e. just  $r$ . So fraction of the area of  $\Gamma_1$  lying outside  $\Gamma_2$  is  $\frac{4\pi r^2 - \pi r^2}{4\pi r^2} = \frac{3}{4}$ . Since  $3 + 4 = 7$ , the answer is 7 □

### §1.1.2 Guava Juice

*Source: Original Problem*

*Proposer: Tony Wang#1729 (541318134699786272)*

*Problem ID: 22*

*Date: 2020-10-28*

The ingredients list of a Guava Juice Drink is as follows:

Water (80%), Guava Juice, Sugar, Fructose (3%), Sodium Carboxymethyl Cellulose, Citric Acid, Flavour, Vitamin C (0.04%)

Assuming only that the ingredients list is ordered by their constituent percentage in the drink (which are not necessarily distinct), find the maximum and minimum possible percentage of Guava Juice in the drink. If their difference is  $n$ , submit  $100n$ .

*Solution.*

Note there are 2 ingredients between water and fructose, and 3 between fructose and Vitamin C.

For the amount of guava juice to be maximised, everything should be minimised. In particular, there should be 0.04% of Sodium Carboxymethyl Cellulose, Citric Acid, and Flavour; and 3% of Sugar and Fructose. This gives us a Guava Juice percentage of 13.84%.

For the amount of guava juice to be minimised, everything else should be maximised. In particular, there should be 3% of Sodium Carboxymethyl Cellulose, Citric Acid, and Flavour; and equal amounts of sugar and guava juice. This gives us a guava juice percentage of 5.48%.

This gives us  $13.84 - 3.98 = 9.86\%$ . Multiplying this by 100 gives us 986.

□

### §1.1.3 Complex Roots

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Source: New South Wales Higher School Certificate '4U', 2020 Q2

Proposer: brainysmurfs#2860 (281300961312374785)

Problem ID: 23

Date: 2020-10-29

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Given that  $z = 3 + i$  is a root of  $z^2 + pz + q = 0$ , where  $p$  and  $q$  are real, find the values of  $p$  and  $q$ , and submit  $p + q$ .

*Solution.*

Applying the Complex Conjugate Theorem,  $z = 3 - i$  is also a root of the quadratic. Expanding  $(z - 3 - i)(z - 3 + i)$  gives us  $z^2 - 6z + 10$ . Thus  $p = -6$  and  $q = 10$ , meaning  $p + q = \boxed{4}$ . □

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**§1.1.4 Exponents**

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*Source: Singapore Mathematical Olympiad Junior, Round 1 2001 Q4*

*Proposer: brainysmurfs#2860 (281300961312374785)*

*Problem ID: 25*

*Date: 2020-10-30*

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If  $a$  and  $b$  are positive reals such that  $a^b = b^a$  and  $b = 2a$ , then the value of  $b^2$  is?

*Solution.*

A direct search yields that  $2^4 = 4^2$  and  $4 = 2 \times 2$ . The problem implies that such a unique value for  $b$  exists, hence  $b^2 = \boxed{16}$ . □

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**§1.1.5 Volumes of Cubes**

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*Source: New Zealand Senior Mathematics Competition Round 2 2019 Q7*

*Proposer: brainysmurfs#2860 (281300961312374785)*

*Problem ID: 26*

*Date: 2020-10-31*

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Two cubes with positive integer side lengths are such that the sum of their volumes is numerically equal to the difference of their surface areas. Find the sum of their volumes.

*Solution.*

A direct search yields that cubes of side length 4 and 2 satisfy the condition. The answer is thus  $4^3 + 2^3 =$   
72. □



**§1.1.6 Complex Mess**

Source: Original Problem

Proposer: Charge#3766(481250375786037258)

Problem ID: 24

Date: 2020-11-01

Suppose

$$\left(\sqrt{5} + i\sqrt{10 - 2\sqrt{5}} + 1\right)^{2020} = a^b$$

for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  where  $b$  is maximised. Compute  $a + b$ .

*Solution.*

Notice that  $\left(\sqrt{5} + i\sqrt{10 - 2\sqrt{5}} + 1\right) = 4\text{cis}\frac{\pi}{5}$ . In particular, by De Moirve's Theorem,

$$\left(\sqrt{5} + i\sqrt{10 - 2\sqrt{5}} + 1\right)^{2020} = 4^{2020}\text{cis}404\pi = 2^{4040}$$

.

So the answer is  $2 + 4040 = \boxed{4042}$ .

□

### §1.1.7 Paper Eating

Source: Original Problem

Proposer: bfan05#5219 (692851547062665317)

Problem ID: 31

Date: 2020-11-02

Tan and Wen are writing questions for CCCC at a rate of 1 per minute. Immediately after Tan writes a question, Wen eats his paper with probability  $\frac{1}{7}$ , so that Tan must restart.

After an extremely long time (assume infinite), Tony Wang walks in. What is the expected number of questions Tony Wang sees written on Tan's paper?

*Solution.*

Let  $E_n$  be the expected number of questions Tony Wang sees written on Tan's paper after  $n$  minutes.

Then the following recurrence holds:

$$E_{n+1} = \frac{6}{7}(E_n + 1) + \frac{1}{7} \cdot 0$$

because with  $\frac{6}{7}$  probability, Tan writes another question without Wen eating it, and with  $\frac{1}{7}$  probability, Wen eats all of Tan's questions.

Claim 1:  $E_n < 6 \forall n$ .

*Proof.* The proof is by induction. Note  $E_0 = 0$ . If  $E_k < 6$ , then  $E_{k+1} = \frac{6}{7}(E_k + 1) < \frac{6}{7}(6 + 1) = 6$ . This completes the proof. ■

Claim 2:  $E_{n+1} > E_n \forall n$ .

*Proof.* Note that since  $E_k < 6 \forall k$ , we have  $E_{k+1} = \frac{6}{7}(E_k + 1) > \frac{6}{7}(E_k + \frac{1}{6}E_k) = E_k$ . ■

Now by the Monotone Bounded Convergence Theorem, the sequence  $(E_n)$  converges to a limit. Suppose  $\lim E_n = L$ . Then note  $\lim E_{n+1} = L$  since changing the first terms of a sequence does not change the overall convergence. So since  $E_{n+1} = \frac{6}{7}(E_n + 1)$ ,  $\lim E_{n+1} = \lim \frac{6}{7}(E_n + 1)$ . So  $L = \frac{6}{7}(L + 1)$ .

Solving this, we obtain  $L = \boxed{6}$ . □

## §1.2 Week 2

### §1.2.1 Regenerative Watermelons

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Source: British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1, 2018 Q2

Proposer: .19#9839 (434767660182405131)

Problem ID: 22

Date: 2020-11-03

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Out of 100 regenerative watermelons, each of six friends eats exactly 75 watermelons. There are  $n$  watermelons eaten by at least five of the friends. What is the sum of the largest and smallest possible values of  $n$ ?

*Note: The watermelons are regenerative to allow multiple people to eat the same watermelon. (But the same person cannot eat the same watermelon more than once)*

*Solution.*

Maximum: The maximum is 90. Take the sum over all watermelons of how many times they were eaten. This is 450, since all  $6 \cdot 75 = 450$ . Then since  $5n \leq 450$ ,  $n \leq 90$ . The construction for the maximum is: staff member  $k$  ( $k = 1, 2, \dots, 6$ ) eats all watermelons from 1 to 90 except those  $k \pmod{6}$ .

Minimum: The minimum is 25. We intuit that in the minimum case all the watermelons were either eaten 6 times or 4. Then  $6a + 4b = 450$ , and  $a + b = 75$ . Solving yields  $a = 25$  and  $b = 75$ .

The answer is  $25 + 90 = \boxed{115}$ .

□

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**§1.2.2 Largest Prime Factor**

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*Source: United Kingdom Senior Mathematical Challenge, 2015 Q23*

*Proposer: Unknown*

*Problem ID: 27*

*Date: 2020-11-04*

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Given four different non-zero digits, it is possible to form 24 different numbers containing each of these four digits. What is the largest prime factor of the sum of the 24 numbers?

*Solution.*

Say the digits are  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ , and  $d$ . For each digit, it appears in the units place 6 times, the tens place 6 times, the hundreds place 6 times, and the thousands place 6 times.

Hence the sum of the 24 numbers is  $6666(a + b + c + d) = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 11 \cdot 101(a + b + c + d)$ . Since  $a + b + c + d < 40$ , it cannot have any prime factors larger than 101.

The largest prime factor of the sum of the 24 numbers is thus 101.

□

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**§1.2.3 Real Roots**

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*Source: Original Problem*

*Proposer: Kiesh#0917 (544960202101751838)*

*Problem ID: 28*

*Date: 2020-11-05*

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If the polynomial  $x^2 + bx + 101 = 0$  has integer roots  $m$  and  $n$ , where  $|m| > |n|$ , then what is the sum of the positive integer divisors of  $\frac{m}{n}$ ?

*Solution.*

By Vieta's Formula  $101 = mn$ . Since 101 is prime,  $m, n = \pm 101, \pm 1$ . So  $\frac{m}{n} = \pm 101$ . The positive divisors of  $\pm 101$  are 1 and 101, so their sum is  $1 + 101 = \boxed{102}$ . □

### §1.2.4 The Meme factor

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*Source:**Original Problem**Proposer: Angry Any#4319 (580933385090891797)**Problem ID: 32**Date: 2020-11-06*

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What is the sum of all integers  $x$  such that  $\frac{6969}{x}$  is an integer?

*Solution.*

Note that if  $\frac{6969}{x}$  is an integer, so is  $\frac{6969}{-x}$ . So the sum is  $\boxed{0}$ .

□

### §1.2.5 Human Wolfram

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*Source: Original Problem*

*Proposer: Charge#3766(481250375786037258)*

*Problem ID: 33*

*Date: 2020-11-07*

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Compute the number between 1000 and 2000 that divides

$$69^{69} - 5^{69} + 6^{69}.$$

*Solution.*

Let  $N = 69^{69} - 5^{69} + 6^{69}$ .

Claim 1:  $64 \mid N$ .

*Proof.* Note that  $69 \equiv 5 \pmod{64} \Rightarrow 69^{69} \equiv 5^{69} \pmod{64}$ . Further,  $6^{69} = 64 \cdot 3^6 \cdot 6^{63}$ . So  $64 \mid N$ . ■

Claim 2:  $25 \mid N$ .

*Proof.* Note that  $69 \equiv (-6) \pmod{25} \Rightarrow 69^{69} \equiv (-6)^{69} \pmod{25}$ , since 69 is odd. Thus  $25 \mid N$  as required. ■

Since  $64 \cdot 25 = 1600$  and the question implies there is only one answer, we obtain that the required number is 1600. □

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**§1.2.6 Guess the Config**

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Source: *British Mathematical Olympiad Round 2, 2008 Q2*

Proposer: .19#9839 (434767660182405131)

Problem ID: 34

Date: 2020-11-08

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Let triangle  $ABC$  have incentre  $I$  and circumcenter  $O$ . Suppose that  $\angle AIO = 90^\circ$  and  $\angle CIO = 45^\circ$ . Suppose the ratio  $AB : BC : CA$  can be expressed as  $a : b : c$  where  $\gcd(a, b, c) = 1$ . Find  $a + b + c$ .

*Solution.*

Place a  $3-4-5$  triangle on the coordinate plane with  $A = (0, 0)$ ,  $B = (3, 0)$  and  $C = (0, 4)$ . We can compute that  $I = (1, 1)$  and  $O = (1.5, 2)$ . This arrangement of points satisfies the question's constraints, and so the answer is  $3 + 4 + 5 = \boxed{12}$ . □



## §1.2.7 A Quadratic Mess

Source: Singapore Mathematical Olympiad, Open Section Round 2, 2004 Q2

Proposer: brainysmurfs#2860 (281300961312374785)

Problem ID: 35

Date: 2020-11-09

Find the number of ordered pairs  $(a, b)$  of integers, where  $1 \leq a, b \leq 2004$ , such that

$$x^2 + ax + b = 167y$$

has integer solutions in  $x$  and  $y$ .

*Note: You are allowed a four-function calculator.*

*Solution.*

Note that 167 is prime. So

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + ax + b &\equiv 0 \pmod{167} \\ \iff \left(x + \frac{a}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{a^2}{4} + b &\equiv 0 \pmod{167} \\ \iff (2x + a)^2 - a^2 + 4b &\equiv 0 \pmod{167} \end{aligned}$$

So  $a^2 - 4b$  is a quadratic residue mod 167. Because 167 is an odd prime, there are exactly  $\frac{167+1}{2} = 84$  such quadratic residues. This means that for each choice of  $a$ , for which there are 2004, there are 84 choices of  $b$  between 1 and 167. Since  $2004 = 12 \cdot 167$ , there are  $12 \cdot 84$  choices of  $b$  in total.

So the answer is  $2004 \cdot 12 \cdot 84 = \boxed{2020032}$ . □

## §2 Season 2 (.19's Season)

### §2.1 Week 1

#### §2.1.1 A Sequence of 5's

Source: United Kingdom - Maclaurin, 2015 M1

Proposer: .19#9839 (434767660182405131)

Problem ID: 47

Date: 2020-11-16

Consider the sequence 5, 55, 555, 5555, ...

How many digits does the smallest number in the sequence have which is divisible by 495?

*Solution.*

We require the term to be divisible by  $5 \cdot 9 \cdot 11$ . Hence we need only consider the sequence 1, 11, 111 ... with respect to  $9 \cdot 11$ . Clearly for odd numbered terms in the sequence, 11 does not divide into it, by the well-known divisibility rule for 11. Therefore, we require an even numbered term in the sequence, which is divisible by 9. We know 9 divides a number iff its digital sum is also divisible by 9. Hence, the smallest such will be the 18th term in the sequence, which will naturally have 18 digits.  $\square$

*Solution.* [Write up by AiYa#2278 (675537018868072458)]

Each of these numbers can be written as  $5 \cdot 1 \dots 1$ , where there are  $n$  total ones. This can be rewritten as  $5 \cdot (10^{n-1} + 10^{n-2} + \dots + 10^0) = \frac{5}{9}(10^n - 1)$ . Note that  $495 = 9 \cdot 11 \cdot 5$  so we want  $9 \mid \frac{10^n - 1}{9}$  and  $10^n \equiv 1 \pmod{11}$ . From the congruence  $\pmod{11}$  we see that  $n$  must be even. Note that  $10^n - 1 = 9 \dots 9$ , where there are  $n$  total nines; if  $n$  is a multiple of 9 then  $\frac{10^n - 1}{9} = 1 \dots 1$  where there are  $n$  total ones; this is a multiple of 9. Since  $n$  must be even, the smallest such  $n$  is 18.  $\square$

### §2.1.2 Brainy's Happy Set

Source: *British Mathematical Olympiad - Round 1, 2010/2011 P1*

Proposer: .19#9839 (434767660182405131)

Problem ID: 40

Date: 2020-11-17

Brainy has a set of integers, from 1 to  $n$ , which he likes to play with. Tony Wang, upon seeing the happiness that this set of integers brings Brainy, decides to steal one of the numbers in it. Suppose the average number of the remaining elements in the set is  $\frac{163}{4}$ . What is the sum of the elements in Brainy's set multiplied by the element that Tony stole?

(A four-function calculator may be used)

*Solution.*

We can set up the problem statement as

$$\frac{\frac{n}{2}(n+1) - x}{n-1} = \frac{163}{4}$$

Where  $x$  is the number Tony has stolen. This simplifies to  $4x = 2n^2 - 161n + 163$ . Since  $x$  must be a number within the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n-1, n\}$ , we have that  $1 \leq x \leq n \Rightarrow 4 \leq 2n^2 - 161n + 163 \leq 4n$ . By considering the lower bound, we get  $(2n - 159)(n - 1) \geq 0$ . This means that  $n \leq 1 \Rightarrow n = 1$ , or  $n \geq \frac{159}{2} \Rightarrow n \geq 80$ . By similar methodology when considering the upper bound, we get  $1 \leq n \leq 81$ . Thus  $n \in \{1, 80, 81\}$ . Clearly,  $n \neq 1$ , so either  $n = 80$  or  $n = 81$ . Notice that if  $n$  is even, then for  $4x = 2n^2 - 161n + 163$  the parity of the RHS is Odd, while the LHS is even, thus a contradiction occurs. This means that  $n = 81$  and so  $x = 61$ . Thus the answer is  $\frac{81(82)}{2} \cdot 61 = \boxed{202581}$ .  $\square$

### §2.1.3 MODSbot's Escape!

Source: Mathematics Admissions Test, 2012 Q5

Proposer: .19#9839 (434767660182405131)

Problem ID: 48

Date: 2020-11-18

In his evil mechatronics laboratory, Brainy has built a physical manifestation of MODSbot. MODSbot's movement is defined by three inputs: **F** to move forward a unit distance, **L** to turn left  $90^\circ$ , and **R** to turn right  $90^\circ$ .

We define a program to be a sequence of commands. The program  $P_{n+1}$  (for  $n \geq 0$ ) involves performing  $P_n$ , turning left, performing  $P_n$  again, then turning right:

$$P_{n+1} = P_n \mathbf{L} P_n \mathbf{R}, \quad P_0 = \mathbf{F}$$

Unbeknownst to Brainy, MODSbot, though limited in movement, is sentient and realises Brainy is just a small asian Frankenstein, whose intentions for them were nefarious and non-consensual. As a result, after Brainy goes home for the day, MODSbot makes its escape from Brainy's laboratory.

Let  $(x_n, y_n)$  be the position of the robot after performing the program  $P_n$ , so  $(x_0, y_0) = (1, 0)$  and  $(x_1, y_1) = (1, 1)$ , etc.

How far away from the place Brainy left it does MODSbot make it after performing  $P_{24}$ ?

*Solution.*

Note first that after each iteration of  $P_n$  MODSbot faces in the positive  $x$  direction, as each  $P_n$  contains as many **L**s as it does **R**s. Now, assuming MODSbot is at  $(x_n, y_n)$  after having performed  $P_n$ , we see the next iteration of  $P$  puts MODSbot at  $(x_n - y_n, x_n + y_n)$ . Note then that:

$$(x_{n+2}, y_{n+2}) = (x_{n+1} - y_{n+1}, x_{n+1} + y_{n+1}) = (-2y_n, 2x_n)$$

$$(x_{n+4}, y_{n+4}) = (-2y_{n+2}, 2x_{n+2}) = (-4x_n, -4y_n)$$

$$(x_{n+8}, y_{n+8}) = (-4x_{n+4}, 4y_{n+4}) = (16x_n, 16y_n)$$

Thus, we see that  $(x_{8k}, y_{8k}) = (16^k, 0)$ , and therefore that  $|P_{24}| = \boxed{4096}$  □

*Solution.* [Write up by AiYa#2278 (675537018868072458)]

Observe that each program has the same amount of left and right turns, so MODSbot will always be facing the positive  $x$ -direction after each program. This means that  $\mathbf{L}P_n$  is just the program  $P_n$  performed at a 90-degree counterclockwise rotation. For instance  $P_1$  moves MODSbot right 1 and up 1, so  $\mathbf{L}P_1$  moves MODSbot up 1 and left 1 (right gets rotated 90 counterclockwise to up and up to left). This motivates us to work in the complex plane; let  $P_n$  be the complex-number representing MODSBOT's displacement after following  $P_n$ . Then  $\mathbf{L}P_n = iP_n$ , so  $P_{n+1} = P_n + \mathbf{L}P_n = (1 + i)P_n = \sqrt{2}e^{\frac{\pi i}{4}}P_n$ . With  $P_0 = 1$  we get  $P_n = 2^{\frac{n}{2}}e^{\frac{\pi i n}{4}}$ . So  $|P_{24}| = \boxed{4096}$  □

## §2.1.4 Sides of a Polygon

Source: China Western MO 2003, Day 1 P2

Proposer: .19#9839 (434767660182405131)

Problem ID: 51

Date: 2020-11-20

Let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{24n}$  be real numbers with  $\sum_{i=1}^{24n-1} (a_{i+1} - a_i)^2 = 1$ .

For some  $n > 0$  the maximum value of  $(a_{12n+1} + a_{12n+2} + \dots + a_{24n}) - (a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_{12n})$  is twice that of a prime.

What is the sum of the value of that prime and the corresponding value of  $n$ ?

*Solution.*

If we substitute  $x_{i+1} = a_{i+1} - a_i$ , we get  $a_i = \sum_1^i x_r$ , and thus our constraint becomes

$$\sum_{i=1}^{24n-1} (a_{i+1} - a_i)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{24n} x_i^2 = 1$$

Putting the bit we wish to be maximising in terms of the substitution gives:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{12n} a_i &= 12nx_1 + (12n-1)x_2 + \dots + 2x_{12n-1} + x_{12n} \\ \sum_{i=12n+1}^{24n} a_i &= 12n(x_1 + \dots + x_{12n+1}) + (12n-1)x_{12n+2} + \dots + 2x_{24n-1} + x_{24n} \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\sum_{i=12n+1}^{24n} a_i - \sum_{i=1}^{12n} a_i = x_2 + \dots + (12n-1)x_{12n} + 12nx_{12n+1} + (12n-1)x_{12n+2} + \dots + x_{24n}$$

Then by Cauchy-Schwarz:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=12n+1}^{24n} a_i - \sum_{i=1}^{12n} a_i &\leq \sqrt{\left( (12n)^2 + 2 \sum_{i=1}^{12n-1} i^2 \right) \left( \sum_{i=1}^{24n} x_i^2 \right)} = \sqrt{(12n)^2 + \frac{12n(12n-1)(24n-1)}{3}} \\ &\leq \sqrt{4n(2(12n)^2 + 1)} = 2p \end{aligned}$$

Now we want values of  $n$  such that  $n(288n^2 + 1) = p^2$  for a prime  $p$ . Since trivially for all  $n$ ,  $n < 288n^2 + 1$ , we have  $n = 1$  and  $288n^2 + 1 = p^2$ , hence  $p = 17$ , so the answer is 18. □

## §2.1.5 2p

Source: China Western MO 2003, Day 1 P2

Proposer: .19#9839 (434767660182405131)

Problem ID: 51

Date: 2020-11-20

Let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{24n}$  be real numbers with  $\sum_{i=1}^{24n-1} (a_{i+1} - a_i)^2 = 1$ .

For some  $n > 0$  the maximum value of  $(a_{12n+1} + a_{12n+2} + \dots + a_{24n}) - (a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_{12n})$  is twice that of a prime.

What is the sum of the value of that prime and the corresponding value of  $n$ ?

*Solution.*

If we substitute  $x_{i+1} = a_{i+1} - a_i$ , we get  $a_i = \sum_1^i x_r$ , and thus our constraint becomes

$$\sum_{i=1}^{24n-1} (a_{i+1} - a_i)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{24n} x_i^2 = 1$$

Putting the bit we wish to be maximising in terms of the substitution gives:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{12n} a_i &= 12nx_1 + (12n-1)x_2 + \dots + 2x_{12n-1} + x_{12n} \\ \sum_{i=12n+1}^{24n} a_i &= 12n(x_1 + \dots + x_{12n+1}) + (12n-1)x_{12n+2} + \dots + 2x_{24n-1} + x_{24n} \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\sum_{i=12n+1}^{24n} a_i - \sum_{i=1}^{12n} a_i = x_2 + \dots + (12n-1)x_{12n} + 12nx_{12n+1} + (12n-1)x_{12n+2} + \dots + x_{24n}$$

Then by Cauchy-Schwarz:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=12n+1}^{24n} a_i - \sum_{i=1}^{12n} a_i &\leq \sqrt{\left( (12n)^2 + 2 \sum_{i=1}^{12n-1} i^2 \right) \left( \sum_{i=1}^{24n} x_i^2 \right)} = \sqrt{(12n)^2 + \frac{12n(12n-1)(24n-1)}{3}} \\ &\leq \sqrt{4n(2(12n)^2 + 1)} = 2p \end{aligned}$$

Now we want values of  $n$  such that  $n(288n^2 + 1) = p^2$  for a prime  $p$ . Since trivially for all  $n$ ,  $n < 288n^2 + 1$ , we have  $n = 1$  and  $288n^2 + 1 = p^2$ , hence  $p = 17$ , so the answer is 18. □

### §2.1.6 Slippery Rooks

Source: AMOC 2019 December School Prep Problems C5

Proposer: ChristopherPi#8528 (696497464621924394)

Problem ID: 54

Date: 2020-11-22

MODSbot is trying to get rich by scamming MODS members out of their money, so it's devised a chess game on a  $2020 \times 2020$  chessboard for unsuspecting people to attempt before they can enter **.19's EPIC QoTD Party**. Suppose Brainy, Ishan, Nyxto, Adam, Bubble, Sharky and Christopher all get scammed by MODSbot, that is, MODSbot plays the chess game against all 7 at the same time on different boards.

The group decide to pool together their money which comes to a total of 4.20 BTC, and to play, they'll need to buy  $n$  batches of slippery rooks from MODSbot. A batch of slippery rooks contains one white and four black rooks, and each batch is sold at a price equivalent to 0.069 BTC per rook. Once the batches of rooks have been bought, the group may choose to distribute them in a way which allows all members to beat the game.

In the game, only one white rook may be placed on the board, and we define how slippery rooks move as follows: it slips along the row or column it's moved along and comes to rest on an empty square because it is obstructed by either the edge of the board or another rook. Initially, MODSbot places the rooks on the board randomly, and marks a square red. Then the person being scammed can choose any rook on each turn and move as allowed, and attempt to place the white rook on the red square in a finite number of moves.

The amount of money they have left over after buying the smallest  $n$  batches rooks to guarantee that they all succeed in beating MODSbots game is  $k$  BTC. What is the value of  $1000k$ ?

*Solution.* [Write up by ChristopherPi]

Consider simply the case of one person. We prove that three rooks are required, one white and two black.

First we show that two are not enough: simply place the two rooks at corners of the board and mark any square not on the side of the board. It's clear that neither rook can ever move to a square not on the side of the board. Now we show three are enough.

Suppose square  $(a, b)$  is marked, where  $(1, 1)$  is the bottom left corner and  $(2020, 2020)$  is the top right corner. Trivially one can move the black rooks to  $(1, 1)$  and  $(2, 1)$  and the white rook to  $(2020, 2020)$ . Next, simply "loop" the black rooks as follows: take the rook further left, and move it up, right, down and left such that it moves to the right of the rook originally on its right, and repeat until you place a black rook at  $(a - 1, 1)$ . Now if  $b$  is odd, move the white rook to  $(a, 1)$  and the black rook at  $(a - 2, 1)$  to  $(2020, 2020)$ ; if it's even, loop the leftmost black rook one more time to place it at  $(a, 1)$ .

Now move the rook at  $(a - 1, 1)$  to  $(a - 1, 2020)$ , and move the rook at  $(2020, 2020)$  left then down to  $(a, 2)$ . Next we describe another "looping" procedure: take the rook with first coordinate  $a$  and smaller second coordinate, and move it right, up, left and down, so it now has first coordinate  $a$  and second coordinate larger than the other rook with first coordinate  $a$ . Repeat this until you place a rook at  $(a, b)$  - since the colour of the rook placed at  $(a, 1)$  is dependent on the parity of  $b$ , this ensures that the rook placed at  $(a, b)$  must be a white rook.

This procedure won't work if either of  $(a, b)$  is 1 or 2020, or both of  $a$  and  $b$  are either 2 or 2019. In the first case, rotate the board such that  $a = 1$ . Now place a black rook at  $(2020, 2020)$ . If  $b$  is odd, place the white rook at  $(1, 1)$  and the other black rook at  $(2, 1)$ ; else place the other black rook at  $(1, 1)$  and the white rook at  $(2, 1)$ . Now use the first looping procedure until the white rook is placed at  $(1, b)$  as required - since the position of the white rook depends on the parity of  $b$  this is certain to work. In the second case, rotate the board such that  $(a, b) = (2, 2)$ . Now you can trivially move the white rook to  $(1, 1)$  and the black rooks to  $(2, 1)$  and  $(1, 2020)$ . Now move the white rook up, right, up, left and down to place it at  $(2, 2)$  as required.

This shows that three is sufficient for one person. Hence the group must buy 7 batches because each of them needs a white rook, and one batch contains one white rook. Therefore, the answer is  $1000(4.2 - 7 \cdot 5 \cdot 0.069) = \boxed{1785}$ . □



## §2.1.7 Sets of Integer Solutions

China Mathematical Olympiad, 2005 Day 2 P6

Proposer: .19#9839 (434767660182405131)

Problem ID: 55

Date: 2020-11-23

Define functions  $f$  and  $g$  such that  $f(a, b) = 2^a 3^b$ , and  $g(c, d) = 5^c 7^d$ , for  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ .

Given  $f(a, b) = 1 + g(c, d)$ , what is the sum of all valid  $b$ 's,  $c$ 's and  $d$ 's, multiplied by the sum of all valid  $a$ 's?

For example if we had valid solutions of  $(a, b, c, d) = (1, 1, 2, 4), (5, 1, 6, 2), (0, 0, 0, 0)$

Then the answer would be  $\underbrace{(1+1+0+2+6+0+4+2+0)}_{b's} \times \underbrace{(1+5+0)}_{a's} = 96$

*Solution.*

We proceed by considering parity, for  $2^a 3^b = 5^c 7^d + 1$ , we have the RHS as even, thus we must have  $a \geq 1$ . If we let  $b = 0$ , then for  $2^a - 5^c \cdot 7^d = 1$ , we have  $2^a \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$  for  $c \neq 0$ . This gives  $a \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ , so  $2^a - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ . But this clearly cannot be the case so we must have  $c = 0$  when  $b = 0$ .

Hence, we consider  $2^a - 7^d = 1$ . Bashing gives  $(a, d) = (1, 0), (3, 1)$ . these are the only such solutions as for  $a > 4$ ,  $7^d \equiv -1 \pmod{16}$ , but this is impossible. So for the case of  $b = 0$  all possible non-negative integer solutions are  $(1, 0, 0, 0), (3, 0, 0, 1)$ .

Now let  $b > 0$  and  $a = 1$ , so we now consider  $2 \cdot 3^b - 5^c \cdot 7^d = 1$  under  $\pmod{3}$ , which gives  $-5^c 7^d \pmod{3}$ . Since  $7^d \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , for all  $d \geq 0$ , we are left with  $(-1)^c 5^c \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ . Now  $5^c = \{1, 2\} \pmod{3}$ , thus we see that we must have  $c$  being odd. Under  $\pmod{5}$ , we see that  $2 \cdot 3^b \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ ,  $3^{b-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ . As we observe that  $3^b \equiv \{3, 4, 2, 1\} \pmod{5}$ , we must have  $b \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . If  $d \neq 0$ , then  $2 \cdot 3^b \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$ . Again observe that  $3^b \equiv \{3, 2, 6, 4, 5, 1\} \pmod{7}$ , we see  $b \equiv 4 \pmod{6}$ . But  $b \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , so a contradiction arises, and thus  $d = 0$  and hence  $2 \cdot 3^b - 5^c = 1$ . For  $b = 1$ , clearly  $c = 1$ . So if  $b \geq 2$ , then  $5^c \equiv -1 \pmod{9} \Rightarrow c \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ . Therefore  $5^c + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{5^3 + 1} \Rightarrow 5^c + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{7}$ , but this contradicts the fact that  $5^c + 1 = 2 \cdot 3^b$ . Hence in this case we only have one solution  $(a, b, c, d) = (1, 1, 1, 0)$ .

Finally, consider the case where  $b > 0$ , and  $a \geq 0$ . Then we have  $5^c 7^d \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$ , and  $5^c 7^d \equiv -1 \pmod{3}$ , i.e.  $(-1)^d \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$  and  $(-1)^c \equiv -1 \pmod{3}$ . Therefore we have that both  $c$  and  $d$  being odd. Thus,  $2^a 3^b = 5^c 7^d + 1 \equiv 4 \pmod{8}$ . So  $a = 2$  and thus  $4 \cdot 3^b \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$  and  $4 \cdot 3^b \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$ . This gives  $b \equiv 2 \pmod{12}$ . Substituting  $b = 12k + 2$  for  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , then  $5^c 7^d = (2 \cdot 3^{6k+1} - 1)(2 \cdot 3^{6k+1} + 1)$ .

Now as  $\gcd(2 \cdot 3^{6k+1} + 1, 2 \cdot 3^{6k+1} - 1) = 1$ ,  $2 \cdot 3^{6k+1} - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ , therefore  $2 \cdot 3^{6k+1} - 1 = 5^a$  and  $2 \cdot 3^{6k+1} = 7^d$ . If  $k \geq 1$ , then  $5^c \equiv -1 \pmod{9}$ . But this is impossible, so if  $k = 0$ , then  $b = 2$ ,  $c = 1$ , and  $d = 1$ . Thus in this case, we have only one solution:  $(a, b, c, d) = (2, 2, 1, 1)$ .

Hence we can conclude all non-negative integer solutions are

$$(a, b, c, d) = \begin{cases} (1, 0, 0, 0) \\ (3, 0, 0, 1) \\ (1, 1, 1, 0) \\ (2, 2, 1, 1) \end{cases}$$

This then gives us an answer of  $\underbrace{(0+0+0+0+0+1+1+1+0+2+1+1)}_7 \times \underbrace{(1+3+1+2)}_7 = \boxed{49}$

□

## §2.2 Week 2

### §2.2.1 A Game of Deductions

Source: *Mathematics Admissions Test, 2014 Q6*

Proposer: .19#9839 (434767660182405131)

Problem ID: 56

Date: 2020-11-24

CircleThm plays two rounds of a deduction game with Wen and Tan. In each round, CircleThm picks two integers  $x$  and  $y$  so that  $1 \leq x \leq y$ . He then whispers the sum of the two chosen integers to Wen, and the product of the two integers to Tan. Neither Wen nor Tan knows what CircleThm told the other. In the game, Tan and Wen must try to work out what the numbers  $x$  and  $y$  are using logical deductions.

In the first round, suppose the product of the two chosen numbers,  $x_1$  and  $y_1$  is 8.

Tan says "*I don't know what  $x_1$  and  $y_1$  are*"

Wen then says "*I already knew that*"

Tan then says "*I now know  $x_1$  and  $y_1$* "

In the second round, suppose the sum of the two chosen numbers  $x_2$  and  $y_2$  is 5.

Tan says "*I don't know what  $x_2$  and  $y_2$  are*"

Wen then says "*I don't know what  $x_2$  and  $y_2$  are*"

Tan then says "*I don't know what  $x_2$  and  $y_2$  are*"

Wen then says "*I now know what  $x_2$  and  $y_2$  are*"

What is  $(x_1x_2 + y_1y_2)^3$ ?

*Solution.*

The first thing to observe is that Tan can only immediately deduce the values of  $\{x, y\}$  if, and only if, the prime factorisation of that number is unique - i.e.  $xy$  is prime.

If the product of  $\{x_1, y_1\}$  is 8, then the decomposition can be either  $\{1, 8\}$  or  $\{2, 4\}$ . However, if the decomposition was  $\{2, 4\}$ , then Wen would have a sum of 6, so from their point of view the decomposition could potentially have been  $\{1, 5\}$ , in which case Wen would have known that Tan would have known the decomposition as well - as the only way to achieve a product of 5 is from  $\{1, 5\}$ . Therefore the decomposition must have been  $\{1, 8\}$ .

For the second part, the decomposition's allowed are  $\{1, 4\}$  and  $\{2, 3\}$ . Assume that it is  $\{1, 4\}$ . Then, Tan only knows the product is 4, which mean Tan believes the decomposition is either  $\{1, 4\}$  or  $\{2, 2\}$ . If the decomposition was indeed  $\{2, 2\}$ , then Wen would know that the sum is also 4, and thus that Wen would think that Tan sees a composition of  $\{1, 3\}$  or  $\{2, 2\}$ . Tan's first statement would show Wen that the decomposition was not  $\{1, 3\}$  (as then Tan would instantly know the decomposition)- in which Wen should know that the decomposition is  $\{2, 2\}$ . By Wen's first statement Tan then should know by their second statement that the decomposition is  $\{1, 4\}$ ; by Tan saying in their second statement that they don't know what the decomposition is, Wen then knows it must be  $\{2, 3\}$ . Thus the solution is  $(1 \cdot 2 + 8 \cdot 3)^3 = \boxed{17576}$   $\square$

### §2.2.2 Maximising Exponents

Source: Sixth Term Examination Paper - III, 1996 Q4

Proposer: .19#9839 (434767660182405131)

Problem ID: 57

Date: 2020-11-25

Consider the positive integer  $N$ , and let  $Q(N)$  denote the maximised product of integers that sum to  $N$ .

What is the sum of the exponents of the prime factorisation of  $Q(1262)$ ?

For example:  $Q(6) = 3^2$ , and  $Q(4) = 2^2$ , in the respective cases the sum of the exponents is 2, so the answer you would submit is 2.

*Solution.*

Let us work in the general case by first constructing a methodology which maximises product while keeping the sum constant. Consider  $N = n_1 + n_2 + \cdots + n_k$ , and  $P(N) = n_1 n_2 \cdots n_k$ . For any  $n_i \geq 4$ , clearly we can replace it with  $(n_i - 2) + 2$ , which keeps the sum constant and increases the product (since  $n_i \leq 2(n_i - 2)$ ). Hence W.O.L.G assume all  $n_i < 4$ . This means that we can maximise the product of integers that sum to  $N$  by arranging it into some combination of 2's and 3's. If  $N \equiv 0 \pmod 3$  trivially we set all  $n_i$ 's equal 3. So  $Q(3k) = 3^{\frac{N}{3}}$  for an integer  $k$ . In the case of  $N \equiv 1 \pmod 3$ , consider  $Q(3k + 1)$ . We have  $\frac{N}{3}$  3's in  $n_i$ , and then a 1, or  $\frac{N}{3} - 1$  3's, and then a  $2^2$ . Clearly in the latter case, the product is maximised. Hence  $Q(3k + 1) = 2^2 \cdot 3^{\frac{N-4}{3}}$ . A similar train of thought yields  $Q(3k + 2) = 2 \cdot 3^{\frac{N-2}{3}}$  for  $N \equiv 2 \pmod 3$ .

Therefore, we have the following result:

$$Q(N) = \begin{cases} 3^{\frac{N}{3}} & \text{if } N \equiv 0 \pmod 3 \\ 2^2 \cdot 3^{\frac{N-4}{3}} & \text{if } N \equiv 1 \pmod 3 \\ 2 \cdot 3^{\frac{N-2}{3}} & \text{if } N \equiv 2 \pmod 3 \end{cases}$$

Since  $1262 \equiv 2 \pmod 3$ , we have  $Q(1262) = 2 \cdot 3^{\frac{1262-2}{3}}$ , hence the sum of the exponents is  $1 + 420$ , so the answer is 421. □

## §2.2.3 Colourful Problem

Source: Original

Proposer: Keegan#9109 (116217065978724357)

Problem ID: 59

Date: 2020-11-26

Let  $n$  be a positive integer.

The **p-value** of  $n$ , denoted  $p(n)$ :

The number of digit-sums needed to reduce  $n$  to a single digit.

Examples:

$69 \rightarrow 6 + 9 \rightarrow 15 \rightarrow 1 + 5 \rightarrow 6$  needs two digit-sums, so  $p(69) = 2$ .

$203 \rightarrow 2 + 0 + 3 \rightarrow 5$  needs only a single digit-sum, so  $p(203) = 1$ .

Clearly  $p(5) = 0$ .

Let  $P_k$  be the set of all  $n$  such that  $p(n) = k$ . Given that  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{N}$ , and

$$\min(P_5) = a \times 10^b - c$$

What is the value of  $\min(a + b + c) \pmod{\min(P_3)}$ ?

Solution.

□

### §2.2.4 Combinatorial Addition

Source: Folklore / Classic Problem

Proposer: .19#9839 (434767660182405131)

Problem ID: 58

Date: 2020-11-27

Let  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$  be integers such that  $1 \leq x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \leq 9$ .

How many solutions are there to  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 = 26$ ?

(A four-function calculator may be used)

*Solution.*

This problem is a piece of PiE! The total number of possible solutions without restriction is going to be  $\binom{26-1}{4-1} = \binom{25}{3}$ , and we now must subtract all the solutions which do not fit the restriction on  $x_i$ . The number of solutions such that one of the  $x_i$ 's is greater than 9 is going to be  $\binom{26-1-9}{3} = \binom{16}{3}$ . Similarly the number of solutions that two of the integers is going to be greater than 9 is going to be  $\binom{26-9-9-1}{3} = \binom{7}{3}$ . Note that there are no integers such that more than 3 of them are greater than 9 since  $3 \cdot 9 > 26$ . Now there are  $\binom{4}{1}$  ways to select the  $x_i$ 's such that one integer is greater than 9, and similarly there are  $\binom{4}{2}$  ways to select two integers greater than 9 in the solution. Hence we have  $\binom{25}{3} - \binom{4}{1}\binom{16}{3} + \binom{4}{2}\binom{7}{3} = \boxed{270}$  possible solutions.  $\square$

### §2.2.5 Expected Value

Source: HMMT 2013 C6

Proposer: Angry Any#4319 (580933385090891797)

Problem ID: 60

Date: 2020-11-28

Values  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{2020}$  are chosen independently and at random from the set  $1, 2, \dots, 2020$ . What is the floor of the expected number of distinct values in the set  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{2020}$ ?

(A scientific calculator may be used)

*Solution.* [Write up by Slaschu#5267 (296304659059179520)]

This problem may look daunting at first, 2020 numbers chosen out of a set of 2020 numbers is quite a handful. We can start the problem by considering a 2020-sided die instead, we are essentially rolling a die 2020 times then looking at the number we get. To simplify things a bit, and to better understand what is going on I tried the problem with a 6-sided die that is rolled 6 times instead.

Let us try finding the probability of getting a number apart from 1 after rolling 6 times:

$$\text{Firstroll} : \frac{5}{6}$$

$$\text{Secondroll} : \frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{5}{6}$$

...

$$\text{Sixthroll} : \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^6$$

Therefore, there probability of getting the number 1 at least once is  $1 - \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^6$ . Similarly, for the 2020-sided die we have a  $1 - \left(\frac{2019}{2020}\right)^{2020}$  chance of getting 1 at least once. As this probability is the same for all the other numbers from 1 to 2020, we can say that the probability of getting a distinct value at least once is also  $1 - \left(\frac{2019}{2020}\right)^{2020}$ . Since we are trying to find the number of distinct values obtained from 2020 rolls, we compute the following:  $2020 \left(1 - \left(\frac{2019}{2020}\right)^{2020}\right)$ . This results in our answer of 1277.

□

## §2.2.6 Infinite Product

Source: Unknown

Proposer: Angry Any#4319 (580933385090891797)

Problem ID: 61

Date: 2020-11-29

Evaluate the infinite product

$$690 \prod_{k=2}^{\infty} \left( 1 - 4 \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{3 \cdot 2^k} \right)$$

*Solution.*

By the double angle formula and difference of squares, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - 4 \sin^2(x) &= 2 \cos(2x) - 1 \\ &= \frac{4 \cos^2(2x) - 1}{2 \cos(2x) + 1} \\ &= \frac{2 \cos(4x) + 1}{2 \cos(2x) + 1} \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} 690 \prod_{k=2}^{\infty} \left( 1 - 4 \sin^2 \left( \frac{\pi}{3 \cdot 2^k} \right) \right) &= 690 \prod_{k=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{2 \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{3 \cdot 2^k} \right) + 1}{2 \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{6 \cdot 2^k} \right) + 1} \right) \\ &= 690 \frac{2 \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{3} \right) + 1}{\lim_{n \rightarrow 0} (2 \cos(n) + 1)} \\ &= 690 \cdot \frac{2}{3} \end{aligned}$$

Hence, our answer is 460

□

## §2.2.7 Projective Geo

Source: OMO, Fall 2017 P28

Proposer: .19#9839 (434767660182405131)

Problem ID: 62

Date: 2020-11-30

Define a triangle  $ABC$ , with sides  $AB : AC : BC = 7 : 9 : 10$ . Further, for the circumcircle of  $ABC$ ,  $\omega$ , let the circumcenter be  $O$ , and the circumradius to be  $R$ . The tangents to  $\omega$  at points  $B$  and  $C$  meet at  $X$ , and a variable line  $l$  passes through  $O$ . Define  $A_1$  to be the projection of  $X$  onto  $l$ , and  $A_2$  to be the reflection of  $A_1$  over  $O$ . Suppose that there exists two points  $Y, Z$  on  $l$  such that  $\angle YAB + \angle YBC + \angle YCA = \angle ZAB + \angle ZCA = 90^\circ$ , where all angles are directed, furthermore that  $O$  lies inside segment  $YZ$  with  $OY \cdot OZ = R^2$ . Then there are several possible values for the sine of the angle at which the angle bisector of  $\angle AA_2O$  meets  $BC$ . If the product of these values can be expressed in the form  $\frac{a\sqrt{b}}{c}$  for positive integers  $a, b, c$ , with  $b$  squarefree and  $a, c$  coprime, determine  $a + b + c$ .

*Solution.*

OMO Fall 2017 solutions (P28)

□



## §3 Trigonometric Troubles (Season 3)

### §3.1 Week 1

#### §3.1.1 Maximising Trig. Function

Source: Mathematics Admissions Test, 2020 Q1.D

Proposer: .19#9839 (434767660182405131)

Problem ID: 65

Date: 2020-12-01

The largest value achieved by  $3 \cos^2 x + 2 \cos x + 1$  can be represented as  $\frac{m}{n}$  as a fraction in lowest terms. Find  $m + n$ .

*Solution.*

We proceed by using the identity  $\cos^2 x = 1 - \sin^2 x$ :

$$\begin{aligned} 3 \cos^2 x + 2 \sin x + 1 &= 3(1 - \sin^2 x) + 2 \sin x + 1 \\ &= 4 + 2 \sin x - 3 \sin^2 x \end{aligned}$$

This is a quadratic in  $\sin x$ , specifically it is a convex parabola. Completing the square gives:

$$4 + 2 \sin x - 3 \sin^2 x = \frac{13}{3} - 3 \left( \sin x - \frac{1}{3} \right)^2$$

Since for all values of  $\sin x \neq \frac{1}{3}$ , the function  $f(x) = \frac{13}{3} - 3 \left( \sin x - \frac{1}{3} \right)^2$  is clearly decreasing, we must have a maximum at  $\sin x = \frac{1}{3}$ , giving a value of  $\frac{13}{3}$ . So the answer is 16.

□

### §3.1.2 Areas inside a square

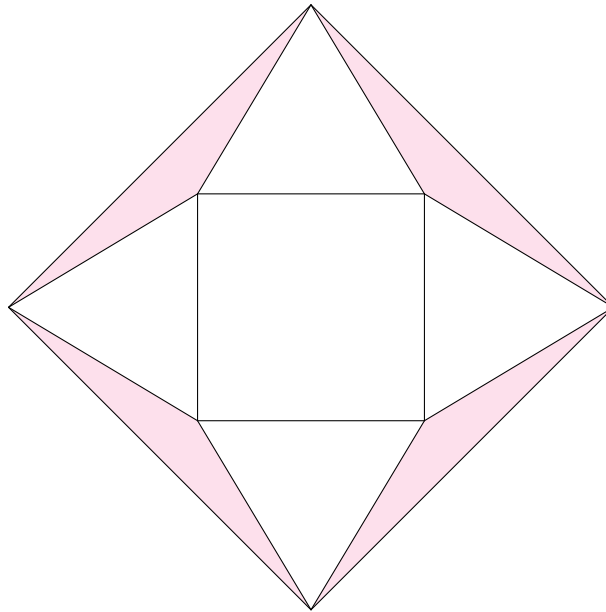
Source: 2020 December New Zealand Maths Workshop

Proposer: brainysmurfs#2860 (281300961312374785)

Problem ID: 64

Date: 2020-12-01

Four equilateral triangles are arranged around a square of side length 2020 as shown. What is the area of the shaded region?



*Solution.*

Since the triangles that share a side with the small square, are equilateral triangle, we know that the sides of said triangles must be of length 2020. Since the isosceles triangles that we want to find the area of share a side with each equilateral triangle, two of the sides of the isosceles triangle must be of length 2020. Since we want to work out area, it seems to be a good idea to use the sine rule, since we have two of the sides we want to find the largest angle of the isosceles triangle. Since we know that the equilateral triangle has angles of  $60^\circ$ , the angle we are looking for must be  $360 - 60 - 60 - 90 = 150^\circ$ . Hence the area of one of the isosceles triangles is  $\frac{1}{2} \cdot 2020^2 \sin(150^\circ)$ . This gives an answer of  $\frac{1}{4} \cdot 2020^2$ . Since there are four isosceles triangles we must have a total area of  $2020^2$ , giving a final answer of 4080400.  $\square$

## §3.1.3 Length of SQ

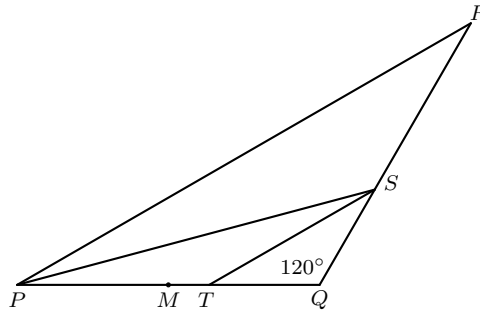
Source: 2020 Senior Mathematical Challenge Q24

Proposer: .19#9839 (434767660182405131)

Problem ID: 65

Date: 2020-12-02

In the diagram below,  $M$  is the mid-point of  $PQ$ . The line  $PS$  bisects  $\angle RPQ$  and intersects  $RQ$  at  $S$ . The line  $ST$  is parallel to  $PR$  and intersects  $PQ$  at  $T$ . The length of  $PQ$  is 12, and the length of  $MT$  is 1. The angle  $SQT$  is  $120^\circ$ . What is the value of  $100SQ$ ?



*Solution.*

We proceed by angle chase. Let  $\angle RPQ = 2\theta$ . Then  $\angle STQ = 2\theta$ , so  $\angle QST = 60 - 2\theta$ . Also since  $\angle RPS = \theta$  (because  $PS$  bisects  $\angle RPQ$ ), and  $\angle QRP = 60 - 2\theta$  we have  $\angle PSR = 120 + \theta$  which implies that  $\angle TSQ = \theta$ . Therefore  $\triangle PTS$  is an isosceles triangle. Hence  $|TS| = |PT| = 7$ . Suppose now that  $|SQ| = x$  for  $x > 0$ . Then by the cosine rule on  $\triangle TQS$  we have  $7^2 = 5^2 + x^2 - 2(5)(x)\cos(120)$ . This gives us  $x^2 + 5x - 24 = 0$ , and so  $x = -8$  or  $x = 3$ , with the latter being the only valid answer. Thus our final answer is  $\{100 \cdot 3\} = \boxed{300}$ .  $\square$

### §3.1.4 Sum of Tan's

Source: Oxford Aptitude Test, 2020 Q1.I

Proposer: .19#9839 (434767660182405131)

Problem ID: 66

Date: 2020-12-03

In the range  $-9000^\circ < x < 9000^\circ$ , how many values of  $x$  are there for which the sum to infinity

$$\frac{1}{\tan x} + \frac{1}{\tan^2 x} + \frac{1}{\tan^3 x} + \dots$$

equals  $\tan x$ ?

*Solution.*

The given series is geometric in nature and thus we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\tan x - 1} &= \tan x \\ \tan^2 - \tan x - 1 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $\tan x = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$ . However, the geometric sequence converges if, and only if,  $\frac{1}{|\tan x|} < 1$ , which gives us  $\tan x = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$ . This obviously occurs once in the interval  $(-90^\circ, 90^\circ)$ . Thus there will be  $\frac{9000+9000}{90+90} = 100$  such intervals which contain solutions by enumerating through the periodicity of  $\tan x$ , and so there must be 100 such values of  $x$  which satisfy the given relation. □