

OpenPOTD

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This is a temporary document to let people who have alternative solutions contribute to the end of season write up. Solutions have already been written up for the entire season, and where possible I have tried to include the officially provided solution, adapted them if the problem statement is changed, and filled in the gaps as best I could. In many circumstances problems for this season 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. Similarly, if you would like to contribute an alternate solution to whatever is in this document, again, feel free to submit a push or just DM me a solution and I can type it up.

At the end of each day I'll add the question and solution to the document - the end of each day naturally being such that the question and solution being added is no longer an active one.

Thank you to:

AiYa#2278 (675537018868072458)

For contributing to solutions!

§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. □

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. □

§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

§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° , and **R** to turn right 90° .

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 $|P_{24}| = \boxed{4096}$ □

§4 Sides of a Polygon

Source: Folkław¹

Proposer: .19#9839 (434767660182405131)

Problem ID: 53

Date: 2020-11-19

Points A, B, C, D are the consecutive vertices of a regular polygon, and the following relation holds:

$$\frac{1}{AB} = \frac{1}{AC} + \frac{1}{AD}$$

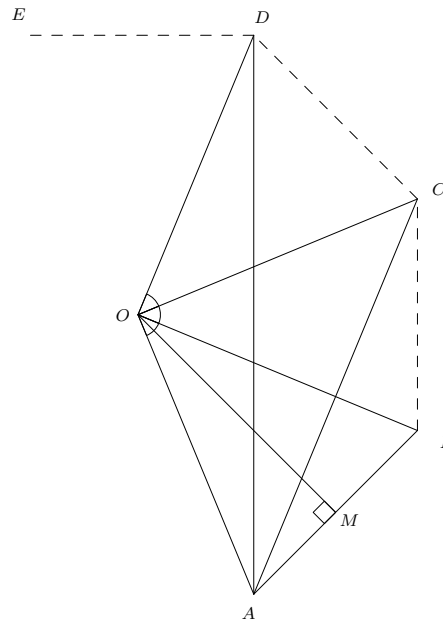
How many sides does this polygon have?

Solution.

Drawing out the general shape of an n -gon - as seen in the figure - and letting $OA = OB = OC = OD \dots = 1$, and $\angle MOA = x$. By the sine rule on $\triangle AMO$, and noting $AM = \frac{1}{2}AB$, we get $\frac{1}{AB} = \frac{2}{\sin x}$. By a similar procedure, this time on $\triangle ACO$, we see $\frac{1}{AC} = \frac{2}{\sin 2x}$, and again on $\triangle ADO$, we have $\frac{1}{AD} = \frac{2}{\sin 3x}$. Therefore we have the equality:

$$\frac{1}{\sin x} = \frac{1}{\sin 2x} + \frac{1}{\sin 3x}$$

Simplifying this yields $\sin x \sin \frac{x}{2} \sin \frac{7x}{2} = 0$. However, note that $x \neq \frac{k\pi}{2}, \frac{k\pi}{3}$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, otherwise, we have the issue of dividing by 0. Hence it must be the case that $\sin \frac{7x}{2} = 0 \Rightarrow x = \frac{\pi}{7} + \frac{2k\pi}{7}$. Clearly the n -gon is not a square, so trivially it must be the case that $x = \frac{\pi}{7}$. Therefore, the polygon must have $\boxed{7}$ sides. \square



A regular n -gon

¹This has appeared on a Polish MO, British MO 1966 P4, an 2018 NZ IMO handout, a WOOT handout, to name a few...

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

Let d_k represent the diagonal from a point to the k th vertex adjacent to it. For example, d_1 is a side of the polygon, d_2 is \overline{AC} , d_3 is \overline{AD} and note that $d_k = d_{n-k}$ where n is the number of sides of the polygon. Reassign D to be the vertex three vertices away from A but on the opposite side of B and C ; in other words, reflect D over \overline{OA} . Then, $AB = BC = d_1$, $AC = d_2$, $AD = d_3$, $BD = d_4$, and $CD = d_5$. By Ptolemy's Theorem, we get

$$AB \cdot CD + BC \cdot AD = AC \cdot BD \iff d_1(d_5 + d_3) = d_2d_4.$$

Rearrange our given equation to get

$$\frac{1}{d_1} = \frac{1}{d_2} + \frac{1}{d_3} \iff d_1(d_2 + d_3) = d_2d_3.$$

For both of these equations to be true, we can have $d_5 + d_3 = d_2 + d_3 \iff d_5 = d_2$ and $d_3 = d_4$; this is true if $n = \boxed{7}$. □