

# Monthly Seminar - Session 1

Fall Semester, 2022-2023

- Be open minded.
- Ask anything.
- Enjoy.

- 1 A simple geometry problem
- 2 Digits of a number
- 3 Principles in Combinatorial Geometry

# A simple geometry problem

What to discuss?

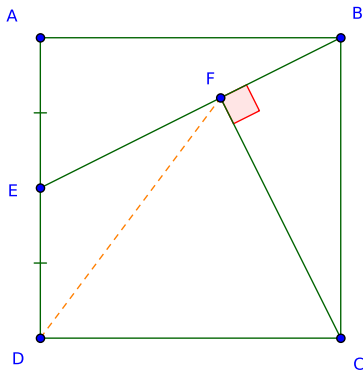
- Congruent triangles.
- Right triangles. Midpoint of the hypotenuse.
- Median segments in a triangle.
- Isosceles triangles.
- Angles, arcs, and chords in a circle.
- Triangle trigonometry. Law of cosines.
- Cyclic quadrilateral. Ptolemy theorem.

# An elementary geometry problem

In how many ways can you solve it?

## Example

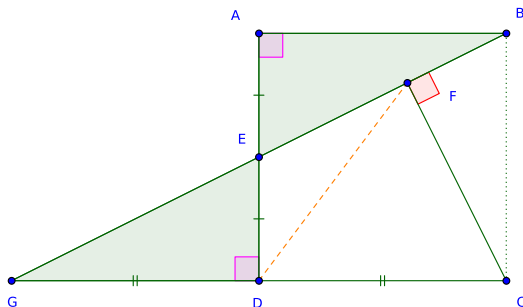
In the square  $ABCD$ ,  $E$  is the midpoint of side  $AD$ ,  $F$  is the foot of the altitude from  $C$  to  $BE$ . Prove that  $DF = DA$ .



# Solution One

## Congruent triangles

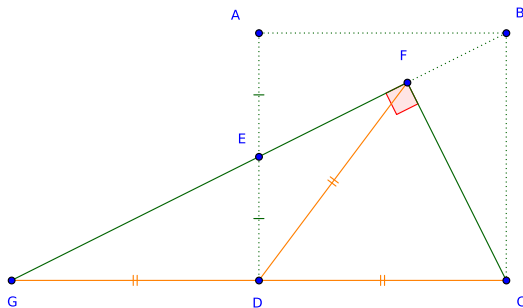
Extending  $FE$  to intersect  $CD$  at  $G$ .



By angle-side-angle (ASA)  $\triangle EAB \cong \triangle EDG \Rightarrow DG = AB = DC$ .

# Solution One

Midpoint of the hypotenuse



$$DG = DC, \angle GFC = 90^\circ \Rightarrow DF = DC.$$

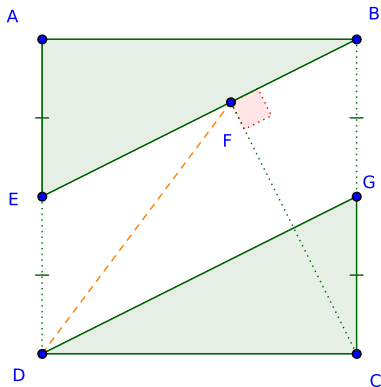
## Theorem

*The midpoint of the hypotenuse of a right triangle is at equidistance from all vertices.*

# Solution Two

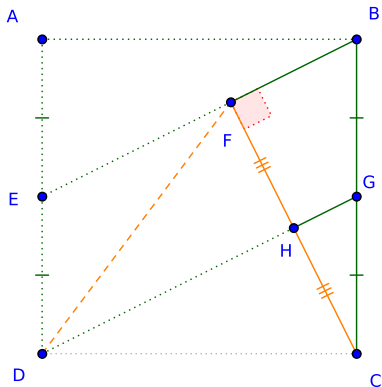
Congruent triangles and Median segment

$G$  is midpoint of  $BC$ .



By side-side-side (SSS)  $\triangle EAB \cong \triangle GCD$ ,  
so  $\angle ABE = \angle CDG \Rightarrow EB \parallel DG$ .

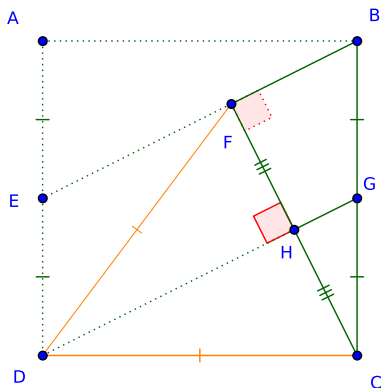
$DG$  intersects  $FC$  at  $H$ .



In  $\triangle FBC$ ,  $GH \parallel BF$ ,  $G$  is midpoint of  $BC$ ,  
so  $H$  is midpoint of  $FC$ .

# Solution Two

Isosceles triangle

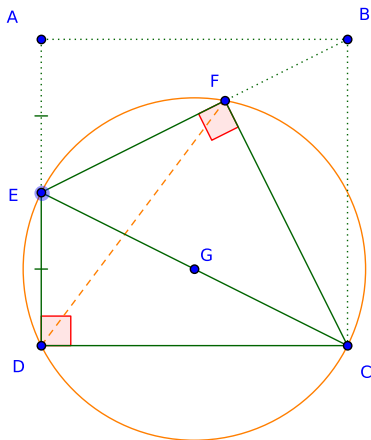


In  $\triangle DFC$ ,  $DH \perp FC$ ,  $H$  is midpoint of  $FC$ ,  
thus by side-angle-side (SAS)  $\triangle DHF \cong \triangle DHC$ , hence  $DF = DC$ .

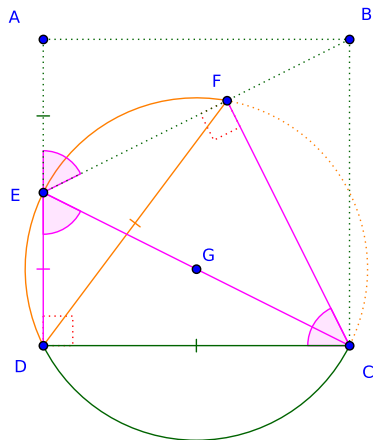


# Solution Three

Chords with the same length



Both  $\triangle EDC$  and  $\triangle EFC$  are right at  $D$  and  $F$ .  
 $C, D, E$ , and  $F$  are on the circle centred at  $G$ .

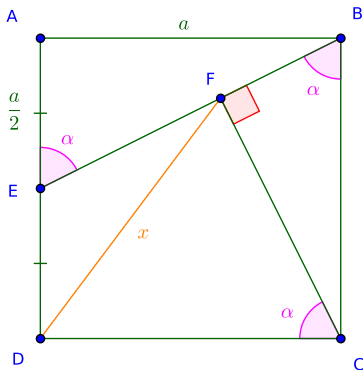


$\angle DEC = \angle AEB = 180^\circ - \angle DEF = \angle DCF$ .  
 $\angle DEC = \angle DFC$  (subtends arc  $DC$ ).  
 $\angle DCF = \angle DFC$ ,  $\triangle DCF$  is isosceles,  $DC = DF$ .

# Solution Four

## Triangle trigonometry

Let  $\alpha = \angle DCF = \angle FBC = \angle AEB$ .  $EB = \sqrt{AB^2 + AE^2} = \frac{a\sqrt{5}}{2}$ .  
 $\cos \alpha = \frac{AE}{EB} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$ ,  $\frac{FC}{BC} = \sin \alpha = \frac{AB}{EB} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}}$ , so  $FC = BC \sin \alpha = \frac{2a}{\sqrt{5}}$ .

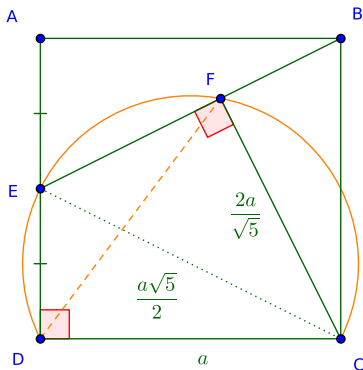


$$DF = \sqrt{DC^2 + FC^2 - 2(DC)(FC) \cos \alpha} = \sqrt{a^2 + \left(\frac{2a}{\sqrt{5}}\right)^2 - 2a \frac{2a}{\sqrt{5}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}} = a.$$

# Solution Five

Ptolemy theorem

$$\text{Let } DC = a \Rightarrow EB = EC = \frac{a\sqrt{5}}{2}. \quad \frac{FC}{BC} = \frac{AB}{EB} \Rightarrow FC = \frac{2a}{\sqrt{5}}. \quad \frac{FB}{BC} = \frac{AE}{EB} \Rightarrow FB = \frac{a}{\sqrt{5}}.$$



By Ptolemy theorem for the cyclic quadrilateral  $CDEF$ ,

$$DF \cdot EC = ED \cdot FC + EF \cdot DC = \frac{a}{2} \cdot \frac{2a}{\sqrt{5}} + \left( \frac{a\sqrt{5}}{2} - \frac{a}{\sqrt{5}} \right) \cdot a = \frac{a^2\sqrt{5}}{2} \Rightarrow DF = a.$$

# Digits of a number

What to discuss?

- Divisibility rules.
- Sum of the digits.
- Divisibility rules for perfect squares, cubes, and powers
- Variables and Diophantine equations.
- Algebraic identities.
- Modular arithmetic.

# Divisibility rules

Divisibility by 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, and 9

## Example

What is the greatest multiple of 8 whose digits are all different?

The *divisibility rule for 8* states that the last three digits of a multiple of 8 must be divisible by 8. To create the largest 8-digit number, the last three digits must be 0, 1, and 2. Thus, the largest 3-digit multiple of 8 with those digits is 120. Thus the desired number is 9876543120.

## Example

What is the least multiple of 36 that contains only digits 4 and 5.

Divisibility rule for 9 state that the sum of digits of the number must be 9, 18, . . . . Because 45 or 54 are not divisible by 4, so  $9 = 4 + 5$  is not a possible sum. For 18, the 2-digit multiple of 4 can be made from two pairs of 4 and 5 is 44. Thus the number is 5544.

## Example

Find a 7-digit number containing only digits 2 or digits 3 such that there are more of digits 2 than of digits 3 and the number is divisible by both 3 and 4.

By divisibility rule for 4, its last two digits must be 32. The sum of 5 remaining digits must have a remainder 1. Since there must be at least 3 digits of 2, hence all 5 remaining digits must be 2. The number is 2222232.

# Remainders of a perfect powers

Perfect squares, cubes, and powers

## Example

Is there a 5-digit perfect square whose sum of digits is 29?

A perfect square is divisible by 3 or has a remainder of 1 when divided by 3 (why?). Since the remainder of a number when divided by 3 is the same as the remainder of its sum of digits when divided by 3, and 29 has a remainder of 2 when divided by 3 so there is no such number.

## Example

Find the perfect cube  $n$  such that all digits of  $n$  are 9 except the unit digit, which is 5.

There is no such perfect cube since a perfect cube has a remainder 0, 1, or 8 when divided by 9.

## Example

Find  $n > 3$  such that the  $(n+1)$ -digit binary number  $\overline{10\dots 01_2}$  is a perfect power of 3.

Let  $\overline{10\dots 01_2} = 2^n + 1 = 3^m$ .

If  $m$  is odd, then  $2^n = 3^m - 1 = (3 - 1)(3^{m-1} + \dots + 1)$ , where  $3^{m-1} + \dots + 1$  is a sum of odd number of odd terms. Contradiction.

If  $m$  is even, then let  $m = 2k$ , thus since  $3^k$  is odd,  $3^k = 2a + 1$ , so  $3^{2k} = (2a + 1)^2$ , therefore  $2^n = 3^{2k} - 1 = 4a(a + 1)$ . This means  $a$  or  $a + 1$  odd. So  $a = 1$ ,  $2^n = 8 \Rightarrow n = 3$ . Contradiction.

# Algebra tools

Digits as variables

## Example

Digits **a**, **b**, and **c** are used to form 3-digit numbers  $\overline{abc}$ ,  $\overline{bca}$ , and  $\overline{cab}$ . The sum of these numbers is 1332, find  $a + b + c$ .

$\overline{abc} = 100a + 10b + c$ , similarly with others. Their sum is  $111(a + b + c) = 1332$ ,  $a + b + c = 12$ .

## Example

Find all 4-digit number **n** whose sum of digits is  $2010 - n$ .

Let  $n = \overline{abcd}$ . Then  $1001a + 101b + 11c + 2d = 2010$ . If  $a = 1$ , then  $b = 9$ , so  $11c + 2d = 100$ , so  $c = 8, d = 2$ . If  $a = 2$ , then  $b = c = 0, d = 4$ . The solutions are 1982, 2004.

## Example

Find a positive integer **a** such that  $(1 + 2 + \dots + a) - 1000a$  is a 3-digit number.

Let the 3-digit  $k = (1 + 2 + \dots + a) - 1000a$ . Then  $k = \frac{a(a+1)}{2} - 1000a = a \left( \frac{a+1}{2} - 1000 \right)$ . If  $a < 1999$ , then  $k < 0$ . If  $a \geq 2000$ , then  $k \geq 2000 \cdot \frac{1}{2} = 1000$ . Thus  $a =$ 1999.

# The last digits of a number

Modular Arithmetic

## Example

What is the last digit of  $\left(\dots((7^7)^7)\dots\right)^7$ ? There are 1001 digits 7.

By testing  $7 \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$ ,  $7^7 = (7)(7^2)^3 \equiv -7 \pmod{10}$ ,  $(7^7)^7 \equiv (-7)^7 \equiv 7 \pmod{10}$ , ... By Induction Principle, it can be proved that the last digit of the generic expression is 7 if it has an odd amount of 7, otherwise it is 3. The given one has an odd number of 7, so its last digit is 7.

## Example

In how many zeros can the number  $1^n + 2^n + 3^n + 4^n$  end for  $n$  positive integer?

For  $n = 1$ , and 2, the sum ends in one and two zeros. Now, for all  $n \geq 3$ ,  $2^n, 4^n$  are divisible by 8, and  $1^n + 3^n$  congruent to 2 or 4 modulo 8. Thus, the sum cannot end in three or more zeros.

## Example

Find the last five digit of  $5^{1981}$ .

Let  $n = 5^{1981} - 5^5 = 5^5(5^{1976} - 1)$ , since  $1976 = 8 \cdot 247$ , so  $5^8 - 1$  is a divisor of  $5^{1976} - 1$ .  $5^8 - 1 = (5 - 1)(5 + 1)(5^2 + 1)(5^4 + 1)$  is divisible by 32, so  $n$  is divisible by  $5^5 \cdot 2^5 = 100000$ . Note  $5^5 = 3125$ . Therefore  $5^{1981} = 100000 \cdot a + 3125$ . The last five digits are 03125.



# Principles in Combinatorial Geometry

What to discuss?

- The Pigeonhole Principle.
- The Extremal Principle.

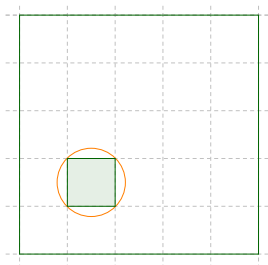
# The Pigeonhole Principle

Existential proof by contradiction

## Example

There are 101 points in a unit square. Prove that five of them can be covered by a circle radius  $\frac{1}{7}$ .

Lets divide the unit square into  $5 \times 5 = 25$  squares as shown below.



According to the Pigeonhole Principle, there exists a square where at least  $\lceil \frac{101}{25} \rceil = 5$  points reside. The circle centered at the center of the square radius  $\frac{1}{7}$  cover the whole square since,

$$\text{half of the diagonal of the square, } \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{2}}{5} < \boxed{\frac{1}{7}}.$$

# The Pigeonhole Principle

Greedy algorithm

## Example

For  $n \geq 1$ , on a  $2n \times 2n$  board,  $3n$  squares are marked. Prove that  $n$  rows and  $n$  columns can be selected so that they contain all marked squares.

In the example below, where  $n = 4$ , in a  $8 \times 8$  board we can choose rows 2, 5, 7 and 8; then columns  $d, f, g$  and  $h$  to cover all marked squares.

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
8	x							
7		x						x
6							x	
5			x		x			
4						x		
3				x				
2			x	x		x		
1								x

# The Pigeonhole Principle

Greedy algorithm

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
8	x							
7		x						x
6							x	
5			x		x			
4						x		
3				x				
2			x	x		x		
1								x

- Let's choose  $n$  rows such that **each of them cover as many squares as possible**. We prove that these rows cover at least  $2n$  marked squares. *In the example we choose rows 2, 5, 7, and 8. They covered 8 marked squares.*
- Assume that the number of marked squares covered by these square is less than  $2n$ , then there are more than  $3n - 2n = n$  squares *not covered* by them, therefore the *non-selected*  $n$  rows cover at least  $n + 1$  squares.
- According to the Pigeonhole Principle, there is one *non-selected* row that contains at least two marked squares. But by choice as above, **each of the selected rows should have at least as many marked squares as a non-selected row**, thus the selected ones should cover at least  $2n$  squares.
- Then the number of marked squares covered by all square is at least  $2n + (n + 1) = 3n + 1$ . This exceeds the number of marked squares, which is  $3n$ , thus it is impossible.

# The Pigeonhole Principle

Greedy algorithm

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
8	x							
7		x						x
6							x	
5			x		x			
4						x		
3				x				
2			x	x		x		
1								x

- Hence, at least  $2n$  marked squares are covered by  $n$  selected rows. For at most  $n$  remaining uncovered squares, it is easy to choose  $n$  columns.
- A **greedy algorithm** is any algorithm that follows the problem-solving heuristic of making the locally optimal choice at each stage. A greedy strategy might not produce an optimal solution, but a greedy heuristic can yield locally optimal solutions that is close to a globally optimal solution in a reasonable amount of time.
- For example, **the travelling salesman problem** "Given a list of cities and the distances between each pair of cities, what is the shortest possible route that visits each city exactly once and returns to the origin city?" is of high computational complexity.
- A solution uses the greedy algorithm with the following heuristic "At each step of the journey, visit the nearest unvisited city." This heuristic does not intend to find the best solution, but it terminates in a reasonable number of steps.

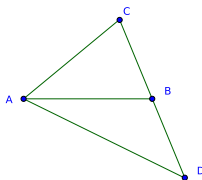
# The Extremal Principle

Existence of Infinity

## Example

$\Omega$  is a set of points on the plane. Every point in  $\Omega$  is a midpoint of two points in  $\Omega$ . Show that  $\Omega$  is infinite set.

- Suppose that  $\Omega$  is a finite set. According to the Extremal Principle, **there exists two points  $A, B \in \Omega$ , such that the distance  $AB$  is maximal.**
- Now, since  $B \in \Omega$ , there exist two points  $C, D \in \Omega$  so that  $B$  is the midpoint of  $CD$ .



- Since one of the angles  $\angle ABC, \angle ABD$ , says  $\angle ABD$  is at least  $90^\circ$ , thus in  $\triangle ABD$ ,  $AD > AB$ . This contradicts the assumption that  $A, B$  are the two points in  $\Omega$ , such that the distance  $AB$  is maximal.

Thus, there are no such two points  $A, B$ , so  $\Omega$  is infinite set.

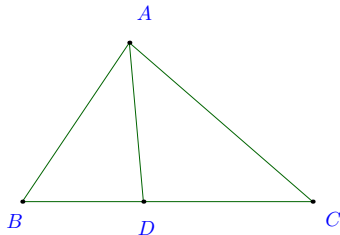
# The Extremal Principle

All elements have same property

## Example

There are  $n$  ( $n \geq 4$ ) red and blue points on a plane with the following interesting property: every line segment that joins two points of the same colour contains a point of another colour. Prove that all the points lie on a single straight line.

If the points were not a single straight line, different triangles can be formed with the points as vertices. By the Extremal Principle, let  $\triangle ABC$  be the triangle with smallest area.



At least two of the vertices of this triangle have the same colour, let them be  $B, C$ . Between them there exists a point  $D$  of different colour, see above. Both  $\triangle ABD$ ,  $\triangle BCD$  have smaller area than  $\triangle ABC$ . This is contradiction!

Therefore, Hence, all the points must lie on a single straight line.

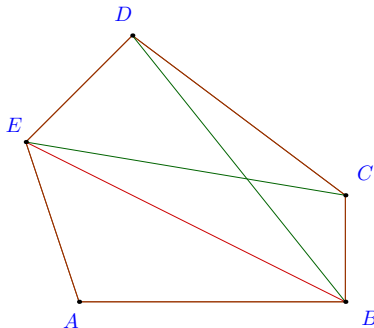
# The Extremal Principle

Constructive method

## Example

For a convex pentagon, three diagonals can be chosen to form a triangle.

By the Extremal Principle, let  $BE$  be the longest diagonal of the pentagon,  $F$  be the intersection of  $BD$  and  $CE$ .



$$BD + CE = (BF + FD) + (CF + FE) = (BF + FE) + (CF + FD) > BE + CD > BE.$$

Since  $BE$  is the largest among  $BD, CE, BE$ , these three diagonals form a triangle.



# Monthly Seminar - Session 1

Fall Semester, 2022-2023

There is no homework for this session. If you have enjoy the discussion, come next time.  
There is no need for preparation of anything for the next session.