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USA Mathematical Talent Search

Yr	Round	Problem
36	2	1

Solution is shown below:

3	1	7	6	2	^R 4	5
4	7	2	5	6	1	3
7	3	5	2	1	6	^A 4
1	2	6	4	^R 5	3	7
2	^R 5	1	3	4	7	6
6	4	3	1	^A 7	5	2
^A 5	6	4	7	3	2	1

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USA Mathematical Talent Search

Yr	Round	Problem
36	2	2

Examining the problem, we notice that it would likely take very complex casework and proofs to solve this problem. Also, I could potentially leave out many cases due to human error. However, since use of computer programs is allowed on this contest, I wrote a Python program to exhaustively search all possible grids. The program utilizes backtracking, which is a well-known algorithm used in constraint satisfaction problems such as this one.

```
1  from time import time
2
3  start = time()
4
5  """
6  I used
7  Python 3.11.2 (v3.11.2:878ead1ac1, Feb  7 2023, 10:02:41)
8  [Clang 13.0.0 (clang-1300.0.29.30)] on darwin
9  """
10
11 def isMagic(grid, target):
12     #Checks whether grid is magic square
13     lis = [sum(grid[0:3]),sum(grid[3:6]),sum(grid[6:9]),
14            sum(grid[:,3]),sum(grid[1::3]),sum(grid[2::3]),
15            sum(grid[:,4]),grid[2]+grid[4]+grid[6]]
16     return len(set(lis)) == 1 and lis[0] == target
17
18 def toStr(grid):
19     return 'skibidi'.join(map(str, grid))
20     #creates unique representation for each grid
21     #since lists are unhashable
```

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USA Mathematical Talent Search

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36	2	2

```
22
23 def atMost8(grid):
24     return len(set(grid)) < 9
25     #Checks whether at most 8 distinct values in grid
26
27 def rotate(grid): #Rotate 90 clockwise
28     return [grid[6], grid[3], grid[0],
29             grid[7], grid[4], grid[1],
30             grid[8], grid[5], grid[2]]
31
32 def reflect(grid): #switch cols 1 and 3
33     return [grid[2], grid[1], grid[0],
34             grid[5], grid[4], grid[3],
35             grid[8], grid[7], grid[6]]
36
37 def syms(grid): #Generates all possible symmetric variations of grid
38     s = []
39     current = grid
40     for i in range(4):
41         s.append(current)
42         s.append(reflect(current))
43         current = rotate(current)
44     return s
45
46 def search(ind, left, grid, dist_vals, target, sols, seen):
47     if ind == len(left): #If grid is filled already
48         if isMagic(grid, target):
49             #appends solution if it has not been discovered
```

Student: Raine Ma
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USA Mathematical Talent Search

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36	2	2

```
50         symmetries = syms(grid)
51         s = min(toStr(sym) for sym in symmetries)
52         #Distinct string representation for each grid
53         #Ensures we are not overcounting
54         if s not in seen:
55             seen.add(s)
56             sols.append(grid[:])
57         return
58         #else, if grid is not filled keep going
59     pos = left[ind]
60     for val in range(1, 13): #Iterates 1-12
61         if val not in dist_vals or len(dist_vals) < 8:
62             #Checking whether value is distinct in grid
63             #Whether adding another distinct value would violate at most 8
64             grid[pos] = val #If it can be added set current pos to val
65             new = val not in dist_vals #If val is not previously used in grid
66             if new: #Add to distinct values tracker if new
67                 dist_vals.add(val)
68
69         row, col = pos // 3, pos % 3
70         #bools that check whethers any constraints set by problem are violated
71         #this check before helps reduce the amount of times the code runs
72         #will save some execution time
73         bool1 = (all(grid[3 * row + c] != 0 for c in range(3)) and
74                 sum(grid[3 * row + c] for c in range(3)) != target)
75         bool2 = (all(grid[r * 3 + col] != 0 for r in range(3))
76                 and sum(grid[r * 3 + col] for r in range(3)) != target)
77         #Checks rows and columns
```

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USA Mathematical Talent Search

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```
78         bool3 = (pos in [0, 4, 8] and all(grid[i] != 0 for i in [0, 4, 8])
79                 and sum(grid[i] for i in [0, 4, 8]) != target)
80         bool4 = (pos in [2, 4, 6] and all(grid[i] != 0 for i in [2, 4, 6]) and
81                 sum(grid[i] for i in [2, 4, 6]) != target)
82         #checks diagonals
83         valid = not bool1 and not bool2 and not bool3 and not bool4
84         #whether grid satisfies conditions
85
86         if valid: #Moves on to next position if grid is valid
87             search(ind + 1, left, grid, dist_vals, target, sols, seen)
88
89         if new: #Remove if it is new
90             dist_vals.remove(val)
91         grid[pos] = 0 #reset for next iteration
92
93     sols = []
94     seen = set()
95
96     for target in range(3,37):
97         """
98         Sum of integers 1-12 = 108, so strong upper bound
99         on sums not exceeding 108/3 = 36.
100        If grid contains all 1s, sum is 9, so strong lower
101        bound of sum being greater than or equal to 3.
102        """
103        for center in range(1, 13):
104            #Grid can contain ints 1-12, center can be 1-12
105            grid = [0] * 9
```

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USA Mathematical Talent Search

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36	2	2

```
106         grid[4] = center #set center
107
108         blanks = [i for i in range(9)]
109         #Iterate based on positions of 1 and 2
110         #assign 1 and 2 to distinct positions
111         for i in range(len(blanks)):
112             for j in range(i + 1, len(blanks)):
113                 for pair in [(1, 2), (2, 1)]:
114                     temp = grid[:]
115                     temp[blanks[i]] = pair[0] #Check all possible positions of 1 and 2
116                     temp[blanks[j]] = pair[1]
117                     #initialize positions left
118                     left = [p for p in blanks if p not in [blanks[i], blanks[j]]]
119                     dist_vals = {1, 2, center}
120                     #tracks how many distinct vals left
121                     #begin backtracking from index 0
122                     search(0, left, temp, dist_vals, target, sols, seen)
123
124     for sol in sols:
125         if not atMost8(sol):
126             sols = list(filter((sol).__ne__, sols))
127             #Removes sols with more than 8 distinct values
128
129     for sol in sols:
130         print(sol) #prints distinct solutions
131
132     print("The program took " + str(time()-start) + " seconds") #runtime check (for fun)
```

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USA Mathematical Talent Search

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36	2	2

Note that the program exhaustively tries every single possible grid, calculating all 5 sums for each. The program also ensures no grid has its rotations and reflections overcounted. It also filters through solutions to ensure they only have at most eight distinct values. Therefore, this program has searched through all possible grids. The output is shown below:

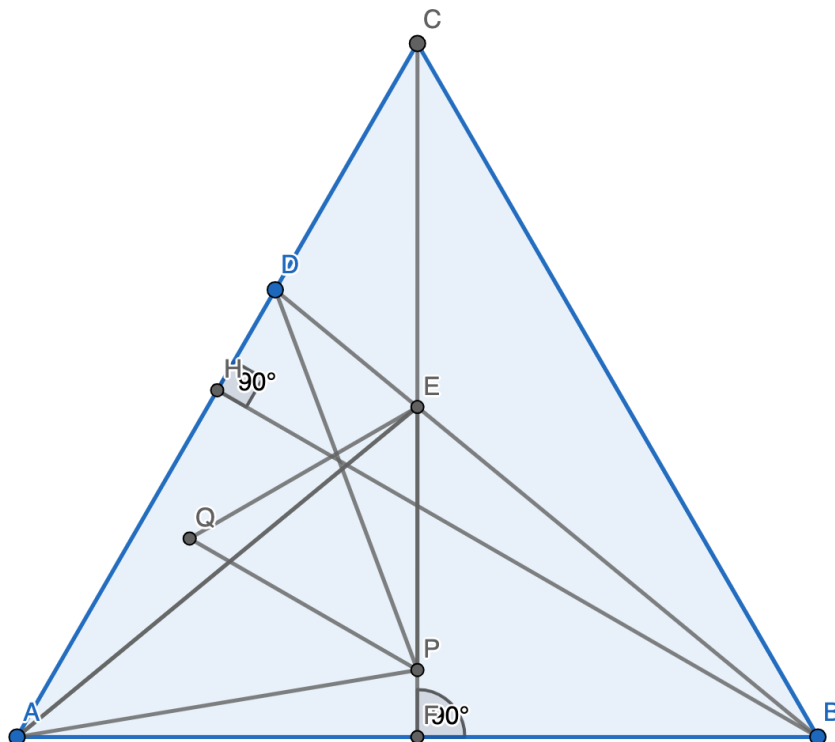
```
1  [2, 1, 3, 3, 2, 1, 1, 3, 2]
2  [2, 3, 4, 5, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4]
3  [2, 5, 5, 7, 4, 1, 3, 3, 6]
4  The program took 104.74400997161865 seconds
```

Therefore, there are $\boxed{3}$ distinct solutions, namely:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 5 & 3 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 & 5 \\ 7 & 4 & 1 \\ 3 & 3 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$



We first prove "If \overline{AB} is perpendicular to \overline{CE} , then $\triangle EPQ$ is equilateral."
 Choose D arbitrarily.

First, let us begin angle chasing. Let $m\angle DBA = \theta$. By definition of a circumcircle, $m\angle DPA = 2\theta$. By triangle angle sum, $m\angle BEP = 90 - \theta$. $\overline{AE} = \overline{EB}$, and $m\angle AFE = m\angle BEF = 90^\circ$, so $m\angle AEP = m\angle BEP = 90 - \theta$ by the perpendicular bisector theorem and isosceles triangle theorem. $m\angle AEP + m\angle DEA = 90 + \theta$, therefore $m\angle DEA = 2\theta$. Notice

$$m\angle DEA = m\angle DPA$$

Therefore, $ADEP$ is cyclic. Since $\triangle DEA$ is inside $ADEP$, it follows that

Student: Raine Ma
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USA Mathematical Talent Search

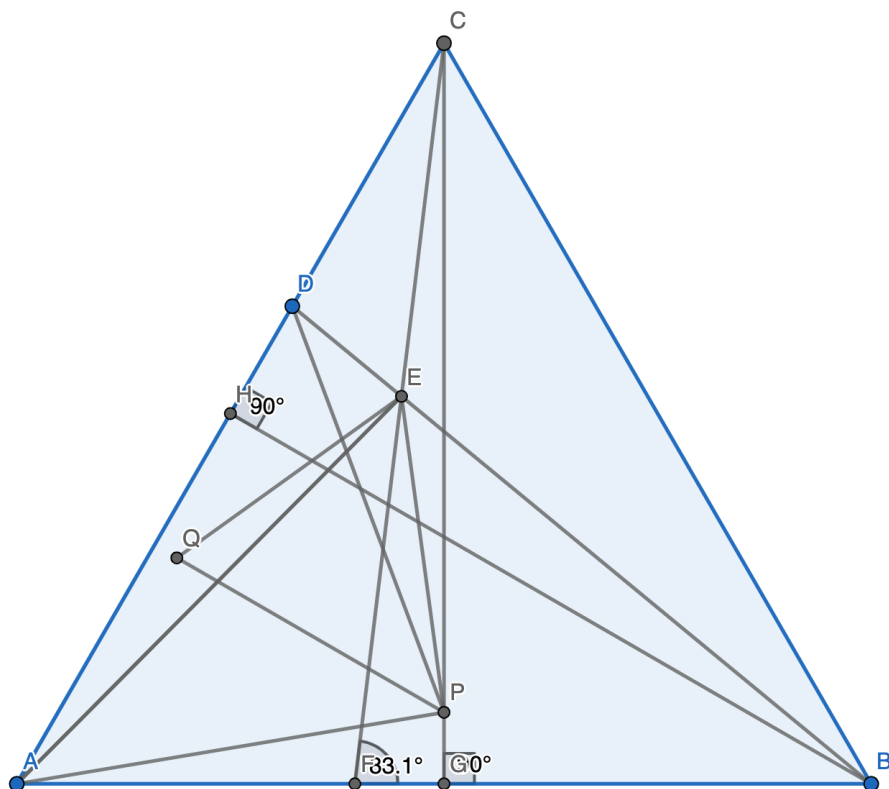
Yr	Round	Problem
36	2	3

the center of $ADEP$ is Q , since Q is the circumcenter of $\triangle DEA$. Since P and E both lie on a circle with center Q , $\overline{PQ} = \overline{QE}$. By the isosceles triangle theorem, $m\angle QPE = m\angle QEP$.

Observe that both P and Q are equidistant from both A and D by definition of a circumcenter. By the converse of the perpendicular bisector theorem, both P and Q must lie on the perpendicular bisector of \overline{AD} . Note that the perpendicular bisector of \overline{AD} is parallel to \overrightarrow{BH} , since they both form 90° angles with \overrightarrow{AC} . Therefore, $\overrightarrow{PQ} \parallel \overrightarrow{BH}$.

P lies on \overline{CF} , as it must be equidistant from both A and B . Since $CE \perp AB$, E lies on CF . Therefore, $\overrightarrow{PE} \parallel \overrightarrow{CF}$. Since \overrightarrow{BH} makes a 60° angle with \overrightarrow{CF} it follows that \overrightarrow{PQ} also makes a 60° angle with \overrightarrow{PE} . By this, $m\angle QPE = 60^\circ$. Therefore, $m\angle QPE = m\angle QEP = 60^\circ$. By triangle angle sum, $m\angle QPE = m\angle QEP = m\angle EQP = 60^\circ$. Therefore, $\triangle EPQ$ is equilateral.

Yr	Round	Problem
36	2	3



Now we prove: "If \overleftrightarrow{AB} is not perpendicular to \overleftrightarrow{CE} , then $\triangle EPQ$ is not equilateral."

Consider $\angle QPE$. We have proved that $\overleftrightarrow{PQ} \parallel \overleftrightarrow{BH}$, by the definition of a circumcenter. For \overleftrightarrow{PE} to make a 60° angle with \overleftrightarrow{QP} , it must be that $\overleftrightarrow{PE} \parallel \overleftrightarrow{CG}$. P lies on \overleftrightarrow{CG} by definition of a circumcenter. Therefore, $\overleftrightarrow{PE} \parallel \overleftrightarrow{CG}$ if and only if E lies on \overleftrightarrow{CG} . If E was on \overleftrightarrow{CG} , $\overline{CE} \perp \overline{AB}$, violating our assumption that $\overline{AB} \not\perp \overline{CE}$. Since $PE \not\parallel CG$, this means that \overleftrightarrow{PE} will form some angle other than 60° with \overleftrightarrow{PQ} . Therefore, $m\angle QPE \neq 60^\circ$ in this case. Therefore, if $\overline{AB} \not\perp \overline{CD}$, $\triangle EPQ$ is not an equilateral triangle. We conclude that $\triangle EPQ$ is equilateral triangle if and only if $\overline{AB} \perp \overline{CD}$.

Yr	Round	Problem
36	2	4

Observe that for x_i to occupy position k in T , exactly $k - 1$ elements from x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{i-1} must precede x_k . There are $\binom{i-1}{k-1}$ ways to select these elements. For the other $n - i$ elements, they do not affect the position, but we must consider them. Hence, the probability that x_i occupies position k is

$$\frac{\binom{i-1}{k-1} \cdot 2^{n-i}}{2^n} = \frac{\binom{i-1}{k-1}}{2^i}$$

This holds for all $i \neq 1$, we will consider this case later. Denote $E[x_i]$ the expected contribution of x_i , where $i \neq 1$. Then

$$E[x_i] = \sum_{k=1}^i (-1)^{k+1} \cdot k \cdot x_i \cdot \frac{\binom{i-1}{k-1}}{2^i}$$

Define the inner sum

$$S_i = \sum_{k=1}^i (-1)^{k+1} \cdot k \cdot \binom{i-1}{k-1}$$

Then

$$E[x_i] = \frac{x_i}{2^i} \cdot S_i$$

We can rewrite S_i as

$$S_i = \sum_{k=1}^i (-1)^{k+1} \cdot (i-1) \cdot \binom{i-2}{k-2}$$

Let $j = k - 2$. $\binom{i-2}{j} = 0$ for $j < 0$, so the sum effectively starts at $j = 0$.

$$S_i = -(i-1) \sum_{j=0}^{i-2} (-1)^j \cdot \binom{i-2}{j}$$

By the binomial theorem, this equals

$$-(i-1) \cdot (1-1)^{i-2} = -(i-1) \cdot 0^{i-2}$$

Student: Raine Ma
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USA Mathematical Talent Search

Yr	Round	Problem
36	2	4

This evaluates to -1 for $i = 2$, and 0 for all $i > 2$. Substituting S_i back into $E[x_i]$, we obtain

$$E[x_i] = x_i \cdot \frac{\begin{cases} 0 & x > 2 \\ -1 & x = 2 \end{cases}}{2^i}$$

Using this formula, we see that x_2 has an expected contribution of $-\frac{x_2}{4}$ and all x_i where $i > 2$ have a contribution of zero. We now consider x_1 . Note that x_1 will appear in exactly half of the subsets, and when it does, it will always be the first element. Therefore, the expected contribution of x_1 is $\frac{x_1}{2}$. Summing all cases, the expected value of T is

$$\boxed{\frac{x_1}{2} - \frac{x_2}{4}}$$

.

Student: Raine Ma
Username: 433mea
ID#: 43191

USA Mathematical Talent Search

Yr	Round	Problem
36	2	5

Define

$$\alpha = \sqrt[3]{5} + \sqrt[3]{25}$$

Observe that the following equation holds:

$$\alpha^3 = 15\alpha + 30$$

We prove that any powers of α greater than or equal to 3 can be expressed in terms of $1, \alpha$, and α^2 . We proceed with induction. Assume that

$$z \cdot \alpha^k = b_0 + b_1\alpha + b_2\alpha^2$$

for some $k \geq 0$, where $z, b_0, b_1, b_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then

$$z \cdot \alpha^{k+1} = b_0\alpha + b_1\alpha^2 + b_2\alpha^3$$

Substitute $\alpha^3 = 15\alpha + 30$ and simplify to obtain

$$z \cdot \alpha^{k+1} = 30b_2 + (b_0 + 15b_2)\alpha + b_1\alpha^2$$

Therefore, if $z \cdot \alpha^k$ can be expressed as $b_0 + b_1\alpha + b_2\alpha^2$, where $z, b_0, b_1, b_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$, then $z \cdot \alpha^{k+1}$ can as well. Since the base case $k = 0$ holds, this result holds for all z, k we are interested in.

We now prove that $2\sqrt[3]{5} + 3\sqrt[3]{25}$ cannot be expressed in terms of α^0, α^1 , or α^2 with integer coefficients. For the sake of contradiction, assume that some $c_0, c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ satisfy

$$2\sqrt[3]{5} + 3\sqrt[3]{25} = c_0 + c_1\alpha + c_2\alpha^2$$

Student: Raine Ma
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USA Mathematical Talent Search

Yr	Round	Problem
36	2	5

Substituting $\alpha = \sqrt[3]{5} + \sqrt[3]{25}$, we obtain

$$c_0 + c_1\alpha + c_2\alpha^2 = c_0 + c_1\sqrt[3]{5} + c_1\sqrt[3]{25} + c_2\sqrt[3]{25} + 10c_2 + 5c_2\sqrt[3]{5}$$

Group like terms:

$$(c_0 + 10c_2) + (c_1 + 5c_2)\sqrt[3]{5} + (c_1 + c_2)\sqrt[3]{25} = 2\sqrt[3]{5} + 3\sqrt[3]{25}$$

We obtain a system of equations

$$\begin{cases} (1) & c_0 + 10c_2 = 0 \\ (2) & c_1 + 5c_2 = 2 \\ (3) & c_1 + c_2 = 3 \end{cases}$$

From equation (3):

$$c_1 + c_2 = 3 \implies c_1 = 3 - c_2$$

Substitute this result into equation (2):

$$3 + 4c_2 = 2$$

We find that $c_2 = -\frac{1}{4}$, which is not an integer. This violates our assumption that c_0, c_1 , and c_2 are integers. Therefore, $2\sqrt[3]{5} + 3\sqrt[3]{25}$ cannot be expressed in terms of $c_0 + c_1\alpha + c_2\alpha^2$, where $c_0, c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$. Our previous result found that any $z \cdot \alpha^k$ can be expressed in terms of $1, \alpha, \alpha^2$, and therefore any sum of $z \cdot \alpha^k$, where $z \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Therefore, $2\sqrt[3]{5} + 3\sqrt[3]{25}$ cannot be expressed as a sum of integer multiples of powers of α , meaning that no polynomial with integer coefficients exists such that $P(\alpha) = 2\sqrt[3]{5} + 3\sqrt[3]{25}$.