

Prob 9: Given a convex 101-gon which has an axis of symmetry, prove that the axis of symmetry passes through one of its vertices. What can you say about a 10-gon with the same properties?

Ans: An axis of symmetry divides the polygon into two similar halves.
 \therefore ~~In the case~~ We must have 50 vertices on one side and 50 vertices on the other side. The left out vertex will have the axis of symmetry passing through it.
 In case of a 10-gon, we will have 5 vertices on one side and 5 on the other. \therefore The axis of symmetry will not pass through any of the vertices.
 (I will prove it later in a more rigorous manner after enhancing my geometry skills)

Prob 13: Twenty-five checkers are placed on a 25×25 checkerboard in such a way that their positions are symmetric with respect to one of its diagonals. Prove that atleast one of the checkers is positioned on that diagonal.

Ans: Let, each square be denoted by (i, j) . (i th row, j th column)
 $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, 25\}$ $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, 25\}$.
 Since, the checkers are posn symmetrically with respect to the main diagonal (assume), if a checker has posn. (i, j) , there must exist one more checker in the posn. (j, i) .
 Since, the no. of checkers are odd, there must be atleast one checker which can't be paired off with another checker for the sake of symmetry.
 \therefore That checker must lie on the main diagonal at (i, i) probably.
 Suppose the checkers are posn symmetrically with respect to the other diagonal. If a checker has posn. (i, j) and the diagonal passes through (i, k) , if $(j > k)$, then the symmetric posn. is $(i - (j - k), k)$, if $(j < k)$, then the symmetric posn. is $(i + (j - k), k)$, else it ~~remains same~~ ^{posn. becomes (i, i) in} symmetry.