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57th Annual UNSW School Mathematics Competition: Competition Problems

Solutions by Denis Potapov[1]

A Junior Division – Problems

Problem A1:
Prove that a positive integer has an odd number of divisors if and only if it is the square of another integer.

Problem A2:
Is it possible to draw five straight lines on the plane such that every line intersects exactly three other lines?

Problem A3:
You are given six coins and you know that two of the coins are counterfeit. You also know that the counterfeit coins are lighter but you do not know that the counterfeit coins are of identical weight. Find the strategy which identifies the counterfeit coins with a balance scale using at most three weighings.

Problem A4:
Find the positive integer A such that exactly two of the following statements are true:

(a) $A + 82$ is the square of an integer;

(b) the last digit of A is 5;

(c) A 7 is the square of an integer.

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Problem B5:
Two players, Alice and Bob are given a piece of paper with the number 1023 written on it. Each player makes a move by writing a smaller integer which is greater or equal to half of the preceding number. The game ends when the number 1 is written. The player who writes 1 is the winner. Find the winner and a winning strategy.

Problem B6:
Let $\triangle ABC$ be a triangle and S be the corresponding circumscribed circle. Let Q be a point on S. Prove that the bases of perpendiculars dropped from Q to the sides of the triangle $\triangle ABC$ lie on a straight line.

A Junior Division – Solutions

Solution A1.

Any divisor $d < \sqrt{n}$ of an integer n corresponds to the divisor $n/d > \sqrt{n}$. Hence, an integer has en even number of divisors unless $\sqrt{n}$ is an integer. □

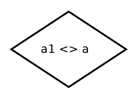
Solution A2.

Answer: *No*.

Assume that the answer is yes, and consider the ordered pairs (ℓ_1, ℓ_2) of line segments ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 that intersect. There are $3 \cdot 5 = 15$ such pairs since each of the five line segments ℓ_1 intersect exactly three other line segments ℓ_2. However, whenever (ℓ_1, ℓ_2) is a pair of line segments ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 that intersect, then so is (ℓ_2, ℓ_1), so the number of these pairs must be even, a contradiction. □

Solution A3.

Answer: A brief solution is explained by the following diagram:



Solution A4.

Answer: 1943. The last digit of a square of an integer is either

$$0, \quad 1, \quad 4, \quad 5, \quad 6 \quad \text{or} \quad 9.$$

Hence, if the second statement is true, then the first statement is false (the last digit of $A + 82$ is 7); and the last statement is false (the last digit of $A - 7$ is 8). Therefore, the second statement is false and the other two are true.

Assume that

$$A + 82 = p^2 \quad \text{and} \quad A - 7 = q^2.$$

We then have

$$(p-q)(p+q)=p^2-q^2=82+7=89.$$

Since 89 is prime,

$$p-q=1 \quad \text{and} \quad p+q=89$$

or

$$p=45 \quad \text{and} \quad q=44.$$

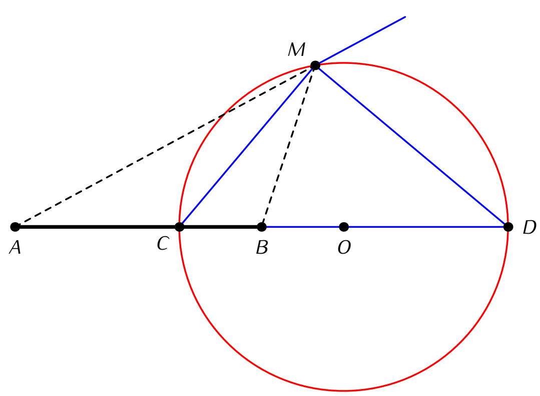
Solution A5.
Only the numbers less than or equal to 36 of the following format can appear on the paper

$$25m+36n, \quad m,n\in\mathbb{Z}.$$

Hence, $\gcd(36,25)$ will appear on the paper at some stage; hence, every positive multiple of $\gcd(36,25)$ which is less or equal to 36 will appear on the paper.

Since $\gcd(36,25)=1$, every integer between 1 and 36 will appear on the paper eventually. That is, the rule of the game allows 34 moves all together, and the second player is the last to make the move. □

Solution A6.
Answer: The set is a circle with centre on the line AB.



The solution below works for $AM:BM=a:1$. Let MC be the bisector of the angle $\angle AMB$ and C be the point on AB, and let MD be the bisector of the angle between the extension of AM beyond M and MB. The angle $\angle CMD$ is 90°.

Let us show that the intersection points C and D are independent of the point M. By using the *Law of Sines* applied to the triangle $\triangle AMC$ and using the fact that

$$\frac{AM}{BM}=a \quad \text{and} \quad \angle AMC=\angle BMC$$

we see that

$$\frac{AC}{BC} = a.$$

Similarly, by using the *Law of Sines* on the triangles $\triangle BMD$ and $\triangle AMD$, and using the fact that

$$\angle AMD + \angle BMD = 180^\circ;$$

we see that

$$\frac{AD}{BD} = a.$$

B Senior Division – Solutions

Solution B1.

If $p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_s$ is the list of divisors in ascending order and $q_1, q_2, \ldots, q_s$ is the list of the same divisors in descending order, then

$$n^s = (p_1 q_1) \cdot (p_2 q_2) \cdots (p_s q_s).$$

Solution B2.

Answer: *No*.

Assume that the answer is yes, and consider the ordered pairs (ℓ_1, ℓ_2) of line segments ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 that intersect. There are $3 \cdot 5 = 15$ such pairs since each of the five line segments ℓ_1 intersect exactly three other line segments ℓ_2. However, whenever (ℓ_1, ℓ_2) is a pair of line segments ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 that intersect, then so is (ℓ_2, ℓ_1), so the number of these pairs must be even, a contradiction. □

Solution B3.

The only true statement is the one before the last one.

Solution B4.

Assume that the coins are indexed $1, 2, \ldots, 6$. The first two weighings are

$$1, 2, 3 \quad [A] \quad 4, 5, 6 \quad \text{and} \quad 1, 2, 4 \quad [B] \quad 3, 5, 6;$$

where each relation [A] and [B] is either $[<], [>], [=]$. Consider all possible outcomes.

In the case that $[A] = [<]$ and $[B] = [<]$, the counterfeit coins are $1, 2$.

The other three cases in which both [A] and [B] register weight difference are similar.

In the case that $[A] = [<]$ and $[B] = [=]$, the counterfeit coins are either $1;3$ or $2;3$. To find out which of the latter is the counterfeit pair, we use another two weighings:

$$1;3 \quad [C] \quad 4;5 \quad \text{and} \quad 2;3 \quad [D] \quad [4;5]$$

with the known genuine coins $4;5$. The other three cases when one of the weighings $[A]$ or $[B]$ registers difference are similar.

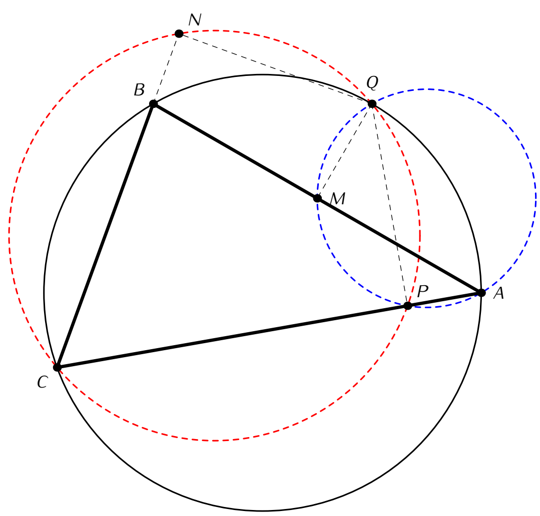
In the case that $[A] = [=]$ and $[B] = [=]$, every possible pair which appeared on one side in one of the weighings [A] or [B] is *not* a pair of two counterfeit coins. We cross integer from the range $[a_{k\ 1} + 1; a_k \quad 1]$ only. Hence, the following move allows the number $a_{k\ 1}$ to be written and so on, leading such player to the winning move $a_1 = 1$.

If Alice plays first and the game starts with $a_{10} = 1023$, then Bob is the winner. □

Solution B6.

Let $M; N; P$ be the bases of the perpendiculars as shown on the diagram below.

Note first that the triangles $4PQA$ and $4QMA$ are right triangles and share their hypotenuse. That is, the quadrangle $QAPM$ is inscribed. The quadrangle $NQPC$ is inscribed for a similar reason.



Let $_B$ and $_R$ be the corresponding circles (blue and red) on the diagram below, and let us show that

$$\backslash QPM = \backslash QPN :$$

Note that $\backslash QPM = \backslash QAM$ since the both angles rest on the same arc of the circle $_B$. Furthermore, $\backslash MAQ = \backslash BAQ = \backslash BCQ$ since the last two rest on the same arc of the circle S. Finally, $\backslash NCQ = \backslash NPQ$ since the latter two rest on the same arc of the circle $_R$.