

Berkeley Math Circle: Monthly Contest 7 Solutions

1. Lisa considers the number

$$x = \frac{1}{1^1} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{100^{100}}.$$

Lisa wants to know what x is when rounded to the nearest integer. Help her determine its value.

Solution. The answer is 1. Indeed, note that

$$x \leq 1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{2^3} + \cdots + \frac{1}{2^{100}}.$$

By the formula for the sum of a geometric series, we see that

$$x \leq 1 + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2^{101}}.$$

Thus $x < 3/2$, and the closest integer to x is 1. □

2. A number is called *cool* if it is the sum of two nonnegative perfect squares. For example the numbers 17 and 25 are cool because $17 = 4^2 + 1^2$ and $25 = 5^2 + 0^2$, but the number 15 is not cool.

Show that if k is cool, then $2k$ is cool.

Solution. Observe that if $k = a^2 + b^2$, then $2k = (a - b)^2 + (a + b)^2$. □

3. Victoria paints every positive integer either pink or blue. Is it possible that both conditions below are satisfied?

- For every positive integer n , the numbers n and $n + 5$ are different colors.
- For every positive integer n , the numbers n and $2n$ are different colors.

Solution. The answer is no.

Assume for contradiction that such a coloring exists. Let's say 10 was colored pink. Then $10 + 5 = 15$ must be blue, and $15 + 5 = 20$ must be pink. But now $20 = 10 \cdot 2$, violating the second condition.

Now if 10 was colored blue, the same argument works with "pink" and "blue" switched. □

4. Let H be the orthocenter of an acute triangle ABC . The circumcircle ω of triangle HAB intersects line BC at the point $D \neq B$. Let P be the intersection of the line DH and the line segment AC , and let Q be the circumcenter of triangle ADP . Show that the center of ω lies on the circumcircle of triangle BDQ .

Solution. Reflect D across AB to E . Thus the point A' diametrically opposite A is the midpoint of arc EC . Call P' the second intersection of (ADE) with AC . Let AA' meet BC at F .

As $AD = AE = AC$, we have $\angle EAF = \angle EDC$ (both $\frac{1}{2}\angle EAC$). So points $ADEF$ are cyclic. In light of this, $\angle FDP' = \angle FAP' = \angle OAC = \angle BAH = \angle BDH = \angle FDH$, thus $P' = P$. So $ADEFP$ is cyclic and Q is its center, which naturally lies on AB . By reflection, we just need to show $BQOE$ is cyclic.

Since OQ is the perpendicular bisector of segment AE , while $AH \perp BC$, and finally $\angle BAH = \angle EAO$, we deduce that $BQOF$ is cyclic. Finally $\angle EBF = \angle ECF = \angle EAC = \angle EOA' = \angle EOF$, so pentagon $BQOFE$ is cyclic, as desired. \square

5. Prove that

$$64 \frac{abcd + 1}{(a + b + c + d)^2} \leq a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2 + \frac{1}{a^2} + \frac{1}{b^2} + \frac{1}{c^2} + \frac{1}{d^2}$$

for $a, b, c, d > 0$.

Solution. By Holder inequality, we have

$$\left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^{-2} \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right)^2 \geq (1 + 1 + 1 + 1)^3 = 64.$$

Also, we have

$$\left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right)^2 \geq \left(4\sqrt[4]{(abcd)^2} \right) \left(4\sqrt[4]{abcd} \right)^2 = 64abcd$$

by AM-GM. Summing these two gives the conclusion. \square

6. Let $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{1000}$ be real numbers such that

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 \cdot 1 + a_2 \cdot 2 + a_3 \cdot 3 + \dots + a_{1000} \cdot 1000 &= 0 \\ a_1 \cdot 1^2 + a_2 \cdot 2^2 + a_3 \cdot 3^2 + \dots + a_{1000} \cdot 1000^2 &= 0 \\ a_1 \cdot 1^3 + a_2 \cdot 2^3 + a_3 \cdot 3^3 + \dots + a_{1000} \cdot 1000^3 &= 0 \\ &\vdots \\ a_1 \cdot 1^{999} + a_2 \cdot 2^{999} + a_3 \cdot 3^{999} + \dots + a_{1000} \cdot 1000^{999} &= 0 \\ a_1 \cdot 1^{1000} + a_2 \cdot 2^{1000} + a_3 \cdot 3^{1000} + \dots + a_{1000} \cdot 1000^{1000} &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

What is the value of a_1 ?

Solution. The key idea is to multiply on weights which are polynomial coefficients. Specifically, let $P(n) = n(n-2)(n-3)\dots(n-1000) = \sum_{k=0}^{1000} c_k n^k$, say. Note that $c_1 = 0$ and $c_{1000} = 1$.

Now take the k th equation and multiply it by c_k , then add all equations together. From this we obtain

$$a_1P(1) + a_2P(2) + \cdots + a_{1000}P(1000) = c_{1000} = 1.$$

But $P(1) = (-1)^{999} \cdot 999!$ and $P(2) = \cdots = P(1000) = 0$. Therefore, $a_1 = \frac{-1}{999!}$. \square

7. Determine all primes p such that there exists an integer x satisfying $x^{2010} + x^{2009} + \cdots + 1 \equiv p^{2010} \pmod{p^{2011}}$.

Solution. The answer is all $p \equiv 1 \pmod{2011}$.

First, note that if x satisfies the problem condition, then we in particular have $\Phi_{2011}(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ which implies $p \equiv 1 \pmod{2011}$.

Conversely, suppose $p \equiv 1 \pmod{2011}$ and fix an $a \pmod{p}$ with order 2011 (hence $a \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p}$). Let $A = \{x \pmod{p^{2011}} \mid x \equiv a \pmod{p}\}$ and $B = \{x \pmod{p^{2011}} \mid x \equiv 0 \pmod{p}\}$.

We claim $\Phi_{2011} : A \rightarrow B$ is injective: indeed if $\Phi_{2011}(x) \equiv \Phi_{2011}(y) \pmod{p^{2011}}$ then

$$(x^{2011} - 1)(y - 1) \equiv (y^{2011} - 1)(x - 1) \pmod{p^{2011}}$$

hence

$$(x - y) \left(xy \sum_k x^{2010-k} y^k - \sum_k x^{2011-k} y^k + 1 \right) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^{2011}}.$$

The sum in parentheses is nonzero modulo p because it equals

$$\begin{aligned} a^2 \cdot 2011a^{2010} - 2012a^{2011} + 1 &= 2011a^{2012} - 2012a^{2011} + 1 \\ &\equiv 2011a - 2012 + 1 \pmod{p} \\ &= 2011(a - 1) \\ &\not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}. \end{aligned}$$

This proves $\Phi_{2011} : A \rightarrow B$ is injective; but now $|A| = |B|$ implies surjectivity too. Since $p^{2010} \in B$, this completes the proof. \square