52nd International Mathematical Olympiad

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Problems (Day 1)

1. Given any set \( A = \{a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4\} \) of four distinct positive integers, we denote the sum \( a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4 \) by \( s_A \). Let \( n_A \) denote the number of pairs \((i, j)\) with \( 1 \leq i < j \leq 4 \) for which \( a_i + a_j \) divides \( s_A \). Find all sets \( A \) of four distinct positive integers which achieve the largest possible value of \( n_A \).

2. Let \( S \) be a finite set of at least two points in the plane. Assume that no three points of \( S \) are collinear. A windmill is a process that starts with a line \( \ell \) going through a single point \( P \in S \). The line rotates clockwise about the pivot \( P \) until the first time that the line meets some other point belonging to \( S \). This point, \( Q \), takes over as the new pivot, and the line now rotates clockwise about \( Q \), until it next meets a point of \( S \). This process continues indefinitely, with the pivot always being a point from \( S \).

Show that we can choose a point \( P \) in \( S \) and a line \( \ell \) going through \( P \) such that the resulting windmill uses each point of \( S \) as a pivot infinitely many times.

3. Let \( f \) be a real-valued function defined on the set of real numbers that satisfies

\[
    f(x + y) \leq y f(x) + f(f(x))
\]

for all real numbers \( x \) and \( y \). Prove that \( f(x) = 0 \) for all \( x \leq 0 \).

Problems (Day 2)

4. Let \( n > 0 \) be an integer. We are given a balance and \( n \) weights of weight \( 2^0, 2^1, \ldots, 2^{n-1} \). We are to place each of the \( n \) weights on the balance, one after another, in such a way that the right pan is never heavier than the left pan. At each step we choose one of the weights that has not yet been placed on the balance, and place it on either the left pan or the right pan, until all of the weights have been placed.

Determine the number of ways in which this can be done.

5. Let \( f \) be a function from the set of integers to the set of positive integers. Suppose that, for any two integers \( m \) and \( n \), the difference \( f(m) - f(n) \) is divisible by \( f(m - n) \). Prove that, for all integers \( m \) and \( n \) with \( f(m) \leq f(n) \), the number \( f(n) \) is divisible by \( f(m) \).

6. Let \( ABC \) be an acute triangle with circumcircle \( \Gamma \). Let \( \ell \) be a tangent line to \( \Gamma \), and let \( \ell_a, \ell_b \) and \( \ell_c \) be the lines obtained by reflecting \( \ell \) in the lines \( BC, CA \) and \( AB \), respectively. Show that the circumcircle of the triangle determined by the lines \( \ell_a, \ell_b \) and \( \ell_c \) is tangent to the circle \( \Gamma \).
Solutions

1. For any positive integer $k$, the sets $\{k, 5k, 7k, 11k\}$ and $\{k, 11k, 19k, 29k\}$ achieve the maximum value of $n_A = 4$.

In general, let $A = \{a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4\}$ be labeled so that $0 < a_1 < a_2 < a_3 < a_4$. Then $a_2 + a_4$ and $a_3 + a_4$ are both strictly between $s_A/2$ and $s_A$, and so cannot divide $s_A$. Thus $n_A = 4$ is maximal. If the other pair-sums all divide $s_A$ we must have

$$\begin{align*}
a_2 + a_3 &= (1/2) s_A \\
a_1 + a_3 &= (1/n) s_A \\
a_1 + a_2 &= (1/m) s_A
\end{align*}$$

where $2 < n < m$ (if $2 = n$ then $a_2 = a_1$ and if $n = m$ then $a_3 = a_2$). Subtracting the first equation from the sum of the last two gives $(1/n + 1/m - 1/2) s_a = 2a_1$, so that $1/n + 1/m > 1/2$. This equation can hold only if $n = 3$ and either $m = 4$ or $m = 5$. Now if $m = 4$ then $a_1 = (1/24)s_A$ and $A = \{k, 5k, 7k, 11k\}$; if $m = 5$, we have $a_1 = (1/60)s_A$ and $A = \{k, 11k, 19k, 29k\}$.

This problem was proposed by Fernando Campos García of Mexico.

2. Call a point in $S$ a vertex, and direct all lines so that they have right and left sides. Call a direction ordinary if no line with that direction passes through two vertices, and call a line ordinary if it has an ordinary direction. Let $n = |S|$. Call a line a balancing line if it passes through exactly one vertex and has exactly $\lfloor (n - 1)/2 \rfloor$ other vertices to its right.

We first show that there exists an ordinary balancing line through any vertex $P$. Start with any ordinary directed line through $P$ with, say, $k$ points to its right. Rotating it $180^\circ$ about $P$ gives a line with $n - 1 - k$ points to its right. The number of points to the right of the ordinary lines in this process changes in increments of 1, so some ordinary line which occurs has exactly $\lfloor (n - 1)/2 \rfloor$ points to its right. This is the desired ordinary balancing line.

Now, choose any ordinary balancing line $\ell$; we claim that the windmill starting from $\ell$ uses each vertex as a pivot infinitely often. In any windmill, the number of points to the right of the ordinary lines remains fixed, as at each pivot change the old and new pivots switch sides. Thus, because $\ell$ was balancing, each ordinary line in the windmill is balancing. Now, by definition, lines of each ordinary direction (which are hence balancing) occur infinitely often in this windmill. But there can be at most one balancing line in any direction, so the balancing lines we constructed through each vertex are the unique ones in their respective directions and must appear infinitely often, as needed.

This problem was proposed by Geoff Smith of the United Kingdom.

3. Let $f(0) = a$ and $f(f(0)) = b$. Setting $x = 0$ in the given identity we obtain $f(y) \leq ay + b$. Applying this to the last term of the given yields

$$f(x + y) \leq yf(x) + af(x) + b. \quad (1)$$

Substituting $x = z + a$, $y = -a$ gives $f(z) \leq b$ for all $z \in \mathbb{R}$. Now applying this to the last term of the identity gives

$$f(x + y) \leq yf(x) + b. \quad (2)$$

Replacing $x$ and $y$ in (2) with $x + y$ and $-y$ gives $f(x) \leq -yf(x + y) + b$. For $y < 0$, we can multiply (2) by $-y$ and add it to the last inequality, giving $f(x) \leq -y^2 f(x) + b - yb$, or $f(x) \leq b \left(\frac{1-y}{1+y^2}\right)$ when $y < 0$. As $y \to -\infty$ the last expression gets arbitrarily close to zero, so we have $f(x) \leq 0$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$. 

Setting $x = 2a - 1$ and $y = 1 - a$ in (1) gives $f(2a - 1) \geq 0$. Since $f(x) \leq 0$ always, this means $f(2a - 1) = 0$. The given identity with $y = 0$ forces $f(x) \leq f(f(x))$ always, so $0 = f(2a - 1) \leq f(f(2a - 1)) = a$. This means that $a = f(0) = 0$ and thus $b = 0$ as well. Setting $y = -x$ in (2) and using these facts gives $0 \leq -xf(x)$ for all $x$. For $x < 0$, this implies that $f(x) \geq 0$; but we know $f(x) \leq 0$ always and $f(0) = 0$, so in fact $f(x) = 0$ whenever $x \leq 0$.

This problem was proposed by Igor Voronovich of Belarus. This solution is based on one by Oleg Golberg. (There are non-constant functions that satisfy the identity.)

4. The answer is $(2n - 1)!! = 1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdots (2n - 1)$.

Call a sequence of moves valid if the right pan is never heavier than the left pan when making these moves. It suffices to give a $(2n + 1)$-to-1 mapping between valid sequences for weights $2^0, \ldots, 2^n$ and weights $2^0, \ldots, 2^{n-1}$.

For a valid sequence of moves of weights $2^0, 2^1, \ldots, 2^n$, if we remove the move of putting weight $2^0$ in this sequence and divide the remaining weights by 2, we obtain a valid sequence of moves of weights $2^0, \ldots, 2^{n-1}$. On the other hand, for a valid sequence $S$ of weights $2^0, \ldots, 2^{n-1}$, doubling each weight gives a valid sequence $S'$ of weights $2^1, \ldots, 2^n$. Note that the difference in weight between the left and right pans is always at least 2 after the first move in $S'$. Therefore, modifying $S'$ by adding weight $2^0$ to the left pan on the first move or to either pan on any move after the first yields $2n + 1$ valid sequences of weights $2^0, \ldots, 2^n$. These two constructions give the desired mapping.

This problem was proposed by Morteza Saghafian of Iran.

5. Setting $n = 0$ in the given gives $f(m) | f(m) - f(0)$, hence $f(m) | f(0)$ for all $m$, while taking $m = 0$ yields $f(-n) | f(0) - f(n)$ for all $n$. Together, these show that $f(-n) | f(n)$ for all $n$, implying $f(n) = f(-n)$. It therefore suffices to show that for all $m, n > 0$ either $f(m) | f(n)$ or $f(n) | f(m)$.

Assume the contrary and pick $m > n > 0$ violating the desired with $m + n$ minimal. Since $m - n > 0$ and $(m - n) + n = m < m + n$, the minimality of $m + n$ implies that either $f(n) | f(m - n)$ or $f(m - n) | f(n)$. If $f(n) | f(m - n)$, then $f(n) | f(m) - f(m - n)$ implies $f(n) | f(m)$, a contradiction. Therefore, $f(n) | f(m - n)$, hence $f(m - n) | f(n)$ and $f(m - n) < f(n)$. Note that $f(m) | f(n) - f(n - m) = f(n) - f(m - n)$. Since $f(n) - f(m - n) > 0$, this means $f(m) < f(n)$. Now, by the given, we have $f(n) | f(m) - f(m - n)$, where $|f(m) - f(m - n)| < f(n)$ because $f(m), f(m - n) < f(n)$. Hence, it must be that $f(m) = f(m - n)$, implying $f(m) | f(n)$, a contradiction.

This problem was proposed by Mahyar Sefidgaran of Iran. This solution is by Oleg Golberg.

6. Let $A_1, B_1, C_1$ be the intersections of $\ell_b$ and $\ell_c$, $\ell_c$, and $\ell_a$, and $\ell_a$ and $\ell_b$. Let $\ell$ be tangent to $\Gamma$ at $T$. Define points $A_2, B_2, C_2$ (distinct from $A, B, C$) on $\Gamma$ so that $\overline{T A} = \overline{A_2 A}, \overline{T B} = \overline{B_2 B},$ and $\overline{T C} = \overline{C_2 C}.$ Let lines $A B, B C, C A$ meet $\ell$ at $C_3, A_3, B_3,$ respectively. Without loss of generality, we suppose that $\ell$ is such that $B$ lies inside triangle $B_1 A_3 C_3$; other configurations are analogous. Let $B_1 B_2$ intersect $\Gamma$ again at $H$. We claim there is a homothety $H$ centered at $H$ sending $A_2 B_2 C_2$ to $A_1 B_1 C_1$ and $\Gamma$ to the circumcircle $G_1$ of triangle $A_1 B_1 C_1$. Since $H$ lies on $\Gamma$, such an $H$ would show that $\Gamma$ and $G_1$ are tangent.

We first show that corresponding sides of $A_1 B_1 C_1$ and $A_2 B_2 C_2$ are parallel; by symmetry, it suffices to show that $B_2 C_2 \parallel B_1 C_1$. Let $S$ be the intersection of lines $B_2 C_2$ and $\ell$. Since $B_2 T = 2BT$ and $\overline{T C} = 2TC$, we have $\angle B_2 S T = \angle B_2 C_2 T - \angle ST C_2 = 2(\angle B C_2 T - \angle C T C_2)$. Because $B C_2 C T$ is cyclic, we have $2(\angle B C_2 T - \angle C T C_2) = 2(\angle B C T - \angle C T C_2) = 2\angle B A_3 T$. Because $B_1 A_3$ and $\ell$ are
reflections of each other across line $BC$, we have $2\angle BA_3T = \angle B_1A_3T$. Combining these equalities gives $\angle B_2ST = \angle B_1A_3T$, hence $B_2C_2 \parallel B_1C_1$.

It remains to show that $A_1A_2$ and $C_1C_2$ pass through $H$; by symmetry, it suffices to do so for $C_1C_2$. We claim first that the intersection $I$ of $B_1B$ and $C_1C$ lies on $\Gamma$. Indeed, by definition $A_1B_1, AB, \ell$ concur at $C_3$, $B_1C_1, BC, \ell$ concur at $A_3$, and $C_1A_1, CA, \ell$ concur at $B_3$. By reflection properties, line $AB$ (through $C_3$) bisects $\angle A_3C_3B_1$, and line $BC$ (through $A_3$) bisects $\angle B_1A_3C_3$, so $B$ is the incenter of triangle $B_1C_3A_3$ in our configuration. We see similarly that $C$ is the excenter of triangle $C_1A_3B_3$. Computing, we see $\angle ABI = 180^\circ - \angle B_2BC_3 = 180^\circ - \left(90^\circ + \frac{\angle B_1A_3C_1}{2}\right) = 90^\circ - \frac{\angle B_1A_3C_3}{2}$ and $\angle ACI = \angle CB_3A_1 - \angle CC_1B_3 = \frac{\angle A_3B_3A_1}{2} - \frac{\angle A_3C_3B_3}{2} = \frac{\angle B_1A_3C_1}{2} = \frac{180^\circ - \angle B_1A_3C_3}{2} = 90^\circ - \frac{\angle B_1A_3C_3}{2}$.

Hence, $\angle ACI = \angle ABI$, and $\triangle ABI$ is cyclic, so $I$ lies on $\Gamma$.

By Pascal’s theorem on the (self-intersecting) cyclic hexagon $B_2HC_2BIC$, the intersection $B_1$ of $B_2H$ and $BI$, the intersection $X$ of $C_2B$ and $CB_2$, and the intersection of $HC_2$ and $IC$ all lie on $B_1X$. Now, because $B_2B = BT$ and $C_2C = CT$, $CB_2$ and $BC_2$ are the reflections of $CT$ and $BT$ across $BC$. Thus, their intersection $X$ is the reflection of $T$ across $BC$ and lies on the reflection $B_1C_1$ of $TS$ across $BC$. This means that $B_1X$ is the same line as $B_1C_1$. Therefore, $HC_2$ passes through the intersection of $IC$ and $B_1C_1$, which is $C_1$ because $I$ lies on $CC_1$. Thus, $C_1C_2$ passes through $H$, as needed.

This problem was proposed by the Olympiad problem committee of Japan.

Results.

The IMO was held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on July 18–19, 2011. There were 564 competitors from 101 countries and regions. On each day contestants were given four and a half hours for three problems.

On this challenging exam, a perfect score was achieved by only one student, Lisa Sauermann (Germany). With this result, she becomes the most successful IMO participant of all time, having won 4 gold medals and 1 silver medal in her 5 participations. Each member of the USA team won a gold medal, ranking the USA 2nd among all 101 participating countries, behind China. This impressive performance is only the second time the entire USA team has won gold medals. The students’ individual results were as follows.

- Wenyu Cao, who finished 12th grade at Phillips Academy in Andover, MA, won a gold medal.
- Ben Gunby, who finished 11th grade at Georgetown Day School in Washington, DC, won a gold medal.
- Xiaoyu He, who finished 11th grade at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School in Acton, MA, won a gold medal.
- Mitchell Lee, who finished 11th grade at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, VA, won a gold medal.
- Evan O’Dorney from Danville, CA, who finished 12th grade (homeschooled through Venture School), won a gold medal.
- David Yang, who finished 10th grade at Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, NH, won a gold medal.