Solutions, 2010 NCS/MAA TEAM COMPETITION, page 1 of 4

Each problem number is followed by an 11-tuple $(a_{10}, a_9, a_8, a_7, a_6, a_5, a_4, a_3, a_2, a_1, a_0)$, where a_k is the number of teams that scored k points on the problem.

1. $\lfloor \log_3 n \rfloor$ is a multiple of **3.** (28,7,13,3,5,2,0,1,2,3,9,12)

The answer is 1338/2010 = 223/335. From the definitions of greatest integer function and of logarithm, we have

 $\lfloor \log_3 n \rfloor = 3k \iff 3k \le \log_3 n < 3k + 1 \iff 3^{3k} \le n < 3^{3k+1}.$

For k = 0 we get the integers $\{1, 2\}$, and for k = 1 we get $\{n : 27 \le n < 81\}$. With k = 2 and the restriction that n be no greater than 2010, we obtain $\{n : 729 \le n \le 2010\}$. Thus there are 2 + (80 - 26) + (2010 - 728) = 1338 integers satisfying the condition, giving a probability of 1338/2010=223/335.

2. Find vertices given midpoints. (55,0,0,0,2,1,1,0,1,1,24)

The vertices are A = (-7, -10), B = (9, -4), C = (7, 12), D = (-1, 8), E = (3, 0). Regarding points as vectors in the plane, we have

$$A + B = 2P$$
$$B + C = 2Q$$
$$C + D = 2R$$
$$D + E = 2S$$
$$A + E = 2T.$$

The augmented matrix of this system is

/1	1	0	0	0	2P
0	1	1	0	0	2Q
0	0	1	1	0	2R
0	0	0	1	1	2S
$\backslash 1$	0	0	0	1	2T /

Using standard Gaussian elimination on this system we obtain the triangularized matrix

/1	1	0	0	0	2P
0	1	1	0	0	2Q
0	0	1	1	0	2R
0	0	0	1	1	2S
$\int 0$	0	0	0	2	2S - 2R + 2Q - 2P + 2T /

Thus

$$E = S - R + Q - P + T = (3,0)$$

$$D = 2S - E = (-1,8)$$

$$C = 2R - D = (7,12)$$

$$B = 2Q - C = (9,-4)$$

$$A = 2P - B = (-7,-10).$$

3 Real part of 1/(1-z). (42,1,0,0,0,0,2,0,0,1,39)

The real part has constant value 1/2. For z = x + yi with x and y real, let

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{1-z} = \frac{1}{1-x-yi} = \frac{1-x+yi}{(1-x-yi)(1-x+yi)} = \frac{1-x+yi}{1-2x+x^2+y^2}$$

1 then $x^2 + x^2 = 1$ and the real part of $f(z)$ is $(1-x)/(2-2x) = 1/2$

If |z| = 1 then $x^2 + y^2 = 1$, and the real part of f(z) is (1 - x)/(2 - 2x) = 1/2.

4. Length of a segment. (53,1,0,1,2,1,0,2,7,5,13)

The length $|BE| = \sqrt{3} - 1$. Each side of the equilateral triangle has length $2\sqrt{3}$. Let O be the center of the circle, and F the point of tangency of side AB, and K the point of tangency on line DE. Then OKEF is a square of side 1, so $|BE| = |BF| - 1 = \sqrt{3} - 1$.



5. Sum is 1/2010. (18,0,1,2,6,2,2,3,0,3,48)

Two of the several solutions are (m, n) = (1005, 2009) and (1340, 4019). We use the identity

$$\frac{1}{k(k+1)} = \frac{1}{k} - \frac{1}{k+1}$$

to telescope the desired sum:

$$\sum_{k=m}^{n} \frac{1}{k(k+1)} = \sum_{k=m}^{n} \left(\frac{1}{k} - \frac{1}{k+1}\right) = \frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{n+1}$$

Thus we seek integers m, n satisfying

$$\frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{1}{2010}.$$

Clearing of fractions, collecting terms and rearranging yields the equivalent equation

$$mn + 2011m - 2010n = 2010.$$

and thus

$$(m - 2010)(n + 2011) = 2010 - 2010 \cdot 2011 = -2010^{2}$$

so each factorization of -2010^2 into a product of two integers yields a solution for (m, n) in integers. The solutions given above come from m - 2010 = -1005 and -670, respectively. Any of the negative factors of 2010^2 from -1 to -1675 are suitable choices for m - 2010.

6. Both have value 7. (28,0,1,1,0,1,0,1,2,0,51)

It is well-known that f is continuous, and we want to show that there is a number r such that f(r) + f(7 - r) = 7. Let g(x) = f(x) + f(7 - x). Then g is continuous and g(2) = f(2) + f(5) < 7 < f(3) + f(4) = g(3), so by the Intermediate Value Theorem there is a number r between 2 and 3 such that g(r) = 7; i.e., f(r) + f(7 - r) = 7.

7. Limit of a sequence. (4,0,1,0,0,2,5,18,4,3,48)

The limit is $\frac{\pi}{2}(\sin 2 - \sin 1)$. Integrate by parts using

$$u = \operatorname{Arctan} nx, \ du = \frac{n}{1 + n^2 x^2} dx, \ dv = \cos x \, dx, \ v = \sin x$$

to get

$$\int_{1}^{2} (\cos x) (\operatorname{Arctan} nx) dx = (\operatorname{Arctan} nx) (\sin x) |_{1}^{2} - \int_{1}^{2} (\sin x) \frac{n}{1 + n^{2} x^{2}} dx$$
$$= (\operatorname{Arctan} 2n) (\sin 2) - (\operatorname{Arctan} n) (\sin 1) - \int_{1}^{2} (\sin x) \frac{n}{1 + n^{2} x^{2}} dx.$$

Now

$$\left| \int_{1}^{2} (\sin x) \frac{n}{1+n^{2}x^{2}}) dx \right| \leq \int_{1}^{2} |\sin x| \frac{n}{1+n^{2}x^{2}} dx \leq \int_{1}^{2} \frac{n}{1+n^{2}x^{2}} dx$$
$$\leq \int_{1}^{2} \frac{1}{n} dx = \frac{1}{n} \to 0 \text{ as } n \to \infty.$$

Also,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \operatorname{Arctan} 2n = \lim_{n \to \infty} \operatorname{Arctan} n = \frac{\pi}{2},$$

so the desired limit is

$$\frac{\pi}{2}(\sin 2 - \sin 1).$$

8. An unbounded sequence. (19,0,1,1,2,4,2,2,2,3,49)

If $a_0 = 7$ the sequence begins 7, 44, 22, 11, 116, 58, 29, and one may notice that every third term is odd. We show by induction that a_{3n} is odd for all n, and that $a_{3n+3} > a_{3n}$ for all n. As all terms are evidently integers, this will show that the sequence is unbounded.

That a_0 is odd is given. Suppose that $a_{3n} = 2k + 1$, with $k \ge 3$. Then $a_{3n+1} = 4k^2 + 4k - 4$, $a_{3n+2} = 2k^2 + 2k - 2$ and $a_{3n+3} = k^2 + k - 1$, which is odd because k(k+1) is even. It remains to show that $k^2 + k - 1 > 2k + 1$, and this is equivalent to k(k-1) > 2, which is true for all $k \ge 3$.

9. Divisible by 2010. (16,0,3,0,0,1,0,0,1,1,63)

We use the fact that $x^n - y^n$ is always divisible by x - y. Observe that 2013 - 1827 = 1678 - 1492 = 186, from which it follows that $(2013^n - 1827^n) - (1678^n - 1492^n)$ is divisible by $186 = 31 \cdot 6$, and therefore by 6. Also, 2013 - 1678 = 1827 - 1492 = 335, whence $(2013^n - 1678^n) - (1827^n - 1492^n)$ is divisible by 335. As 6 and 335 are relatively prime, it follows that $1492^n - 1678^n - 1827^n + 2013^n$ is divisible by (6)(335) = 2010.

SECOND SOLUTION

The prime factorization of 2010 is $2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 67$. Modulo 2, $1492^n - 1678^n - 1827^n + 2013^n \equiv 0 - 0 - 1 + 1 = 0$. Mod 3 we have $1^n - 1^n - 0^n + 0^n = 0$. Mod 5 we have $2^n - 3^n - 2^n + 3^n = 0$, and mod 67 we have $18^n - 3^n - 18^n + 3^n = 0$. It follows that $1492^n - 1678^n - 1827^n + 2012^n$ is divisible by $2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 67 = 2010$.

Because c/a < 0, $ax^2 + c = 0$ has two real roots, $x_1 = -\sqrt{-c/a} < 0$ and $x_2 = \sqrt{-c/a} > 0$. Then $P(x_1) = x_1(x_1^2 + b) = x_1(b - c/a) > 0$, and $P(x_2) = x_2(b - c/a) < 0$. Thus P(x) has zeros in $(-\infty, x_1), (x_1, x_2)$ and (x_2, ∞) .

SECOND SOLUTION

Note that P(0) = c and P(-a) = c - ab. If a > 0, then c < 0, and ab < c < 0 so c - ab > 0. Thus -a < 0 while P(-a) > 0 and P(0) = c < 0, so there are roots in $(-\infty, -a), (-a, 0)$ and $(0, \infty)$.

If a < 0, then ab > c > 0 and -a > 0. Thus we have P(-a) = c - ab < 0 while -a > 0 and p(0) = c > 0, so there are roots in $(-\infty, 0), (0, -a)$ and $(-a, \infty)$.