

2013 Leo Schneider Student Team Competition

1. For the arithmetic sequence a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{16} , it is known that $a_7 + a_9 = a_{16}$. Find each subsequence of three terms that forms a geometric sequence.

Solution:

$a_{16} = a_1 + 15d$, where d is the common difference, $a_7 = a_1 + 6d$ and $a_9 = a_1 + 8d$. Since $a_7 + a_9 = a_{16}$, $a_1 + 6d + a_1 + 8d = a_1 + 15d$. Therefore, $d = a_1$. Therefore, the i -th term of the sequence $a_i = a_1 + (i-1)d$, where $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, 16$. Since $d = a_1$, $a_i = a_1 + ia_1 - a_1 = ia_1$ so that $a_1 = 1a_1, a_2 = 2a_1, a_3 = 3a_1, \dots$

Consequently, one subsequence forming a geometric sequence is a_1, a_2, a_4 (with a common ratio $r=2$). A second subsequence is a_1, a_3, a_9 (with a common ratio $r=3$). A third subsequence is a_1, a_4, a_{16} (with common ratio $r=4$). The fourth, fifth, and sixth subsequences are a_2, a_4, a_8 ($r=2$); a_3, a_6, a_{12} ($r=2$); a_4, a_8, a_{16} ($r=2$);

For non-integer values of r such that $1 < r < 4$, we have only $r = \frac{3}{2}$ and $r = \frac{4}{3}$, so that additional sequences are a_4, a_6, a_9 and a_9, a_{12}, a_{16}

2. Compute the limit:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{xe^x} \int_{x^2}^{(x+1)^2} e^{\sqrt{t}} dt.$$

Solution:

Applying L'Hospital's Rule, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and the Chain Rule, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\int_{x^2}^{(x+1)^2} e^{\sqrt{t}} dt}{xe^x} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{d}{dx} \int_{x^2}^{(x+1)^2} e^{\sqrt{t}} dt}{\frac{d}{dx}(xe^x)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2(x+1)e^{x+1} - 2xe^x}{xe^x + e^x} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2e(x+1) - 2x}{x+1} \\ &= 2e - 2. \end{aligned}$$

3. Part a. Let $f(x) = e^x \sin x$. Find $f^{(10)}(0)$, the 10th derivative of f evaluated at $x = 0$.

Part b. Let $f(x) = e^x \sin x$. Find $f^{(2013)}(0)$, the 2013th derivative of f evaluated at $x = 0$.

Solution to part a. If $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$ is the Maclaurin series for f , then $f^{(10)}(0) = 10! \cdot a_{10}$. One way to find a_{10} is to multiply the Maclaurin series for $y = e^x$ and $y = \sin x$ together and keep track of the coefficient of x^{10} . In this way, we see that

$$a_{10} = \frac{2}{9!} - \frac{2}{3!7!} + \frac{1}{5!5!}.$$

Thus, $f^{(10)}(0) = 10!a_{10} = \boxed{32}$.

Solution to part b. It is easy to verify that $f(0) = 0$, $f'(0) = 1$, $f''(0) = 2$, $f'''(0) = 2$, and $f^{(4)}(x) = -4f(x)$. Thus, $f^{(2013)}(0) = (-4)^{2012/4} = -2^{1006}$. (Also, this gives us another way to solve part a: $f^{(10)}(0) = 2(-4)^{8/4} = 32$.)

4. Find, with explanation, the maximum value of $f(x) = x^3 - 3x$ on the set of all real numbers x satisfying $x^4 + 36 \leq 13x^2$.

Solution:

The condition $x^4 + 36 \leq 13x^2$ is equivalent to

$$x^4 - 13x^2 + 36 = (x^2 - 9)(x^2 - 4) = (x + 3)(x - 3)(x + 2)(x - 2) \leq 0,$$

which is satisfied only on $[-3, -2]$ and on $[2, 3]$. Since $f'(x) = 3x^2 - 3 = 3(x + 1)(x - 1) > 0$ on $[-3, -2]$ and on $[2, 3]$, the function f is increasing on both intervals. It follows that the maximum value is $\max\{f(-2), f(3)\} = 18$.

5. Let N be a positive integer containing exactly 2013 digits none of whose digits is zero. Show that N is either divisible by 2012 or N can be changed to an integer that is divisible by 2013 by replacing some but not all of its digits by zero.

Solution:

Let $N = b_1 b_2 \dots b_{2013}$ be an integer where each digit $b_i > 0$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, 2013$). Let $N_0 = 0$, and for any $1 \leq k \leq 2013$, let N_k denote the number obtained by replacing all but the first k digits of N by the digit 0. By the pigeon hole principle, there exists $0 \leq k_1 < k_2 \leq 2013$ such that N_{k_1} and N_{k_2} are congruent modulo 2013. So the difference $N_{k_1} - N_{k_2}$ is divisible by 2013. Since $N_{k_1} - N_{k_2}$ is obtained from N by replacing some but not all of the digits of N by zero, we are done.

6. Prove that $2^{2013} + 3$ is a multiple of 11.

Solution. Working mod 11, we have that

$$\begin{aligned}2^{2013} + 3 &= 2^3 \cdot 2^{2010} + 3 \\&= 8(2^5)^{402} + 3 \\&= 8(32)^{402} + 3 \\&\equiv 8(-1)^{402} + 3 \\&\equiv 0.\end{aligned}$$

7. A random number generator randomly generates integers from the set $\{1, 2, \dots, 9\}$ with equal probability. Find the probability (with explanation) that after n numbers are generated, their product is a multiple of 10.

Solution:

The product is a multiple of 10 if and only if at least one 5 and at least one even integer have been generated. If A is the event that a 5 has been generated, and B is the event that at least one even integer has been generated, then we are looking for $\Pr(A \cap B)$. Letting E' denote the complement of an event E , we know that

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr((A \cap B)') &= \Pr(A' \cup B') \\&= \Pr(A') + \Pr(B') - \Pr(A' \cap B').\end{aligned}$$

The event $A' \cap B'$ represents the case in which neither a 5 nor an even integer has been generated, and consequently $\Pr(A' \cap B') = \left(\frac{4}{9}\right)^n$. Since $\Pr(A') = \left(\frac{8}{9}\right)^n$ and $\Pr(B') = \left(\frac{5}{9}\right)^n$, it follows that

$$\Pr((A \cap B)') = \left(\frac{8}{9}\right)^n + \left(\frac{5}{9}\right)^n - \left(\frac{4}{9}\right)^n,$$

and

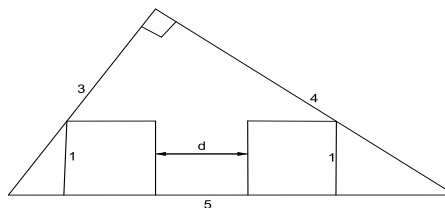
$$\Pr(A \cap B) = 1 - \Pr((A \cap B)') = 1 - \left(\frac{8}{9}\right)^n - \left(\frac{5}{9}\right)^n + \left(\frac{4}{9}\right)^n.$$

8. Planet A is going to launch n missiles at Planet B, which has n cities. Each missile will hit exactly one city. For each missile, the Planet B city that gets hit is completely random. Find the probability that exactly one city on Planet B will not get hit with any of the n missiles.

Solution:

The probability is $\frac{\binom{n}{2}n!}{n^n} = \frac{(n-1)(n-1)!}{2n^{n-2}}$. There are many ways to obtain this. Here is one. The denominator is n^n because this is the number of ways to place n missiles in n cities. The numerator is the number of ways of placing the missiles such that exactly one city is not hit. There are n ways to specify the city that does not get hit. There are $n - 1$ ways of choosing the city that gets hit with two missiles. There are $\binom{n}{2}$ ways of picking the 2 missiles to hit this city. And there are $(n - 2)!$ ways of placing the remaining $n - 2$ missiles into the $n - 2$ cities, one missile in each city. The product of these is the numerator $n(n - 1)\binom{n}{2}(n - 2)! = \binom{n}{2}n!$.

9. Two unit squares stand on the hypotenuse of a (3,4,5) triangle in such a way that they line inside the triangle, and a corner of one touches the side of length 3 and a corner of the other touches the side of length 4, as shown in the figure to the right. What is the distance d between the squares?



Solution:

Because the small triangle in the lower left is similar to the (3,4,5) triangle, we know that the side of length 3 in the figure has slope $\frac{4}{3}$, so the base of the small triangle in the lower left is $\frac{3}{4}$. The side of length 4 has slope $-\frac{3}{4}$, so the base of the small triangle in the lower right is $\frac{4}{3}$. Then

$$d = 5 - \frac{3}{4} - \frac{4}{3} - 2 = \frac{11}{12}.$$

10. Let A and B be 3×3 matrices with integer entries, such that $AB = A + B$. Find all possible values of $\det(A - I)$. Note: The symbol I represents the 3×3 identity matrix.

Solution:

The given equation is equivalent to

$$AB - A - B + I = I \quad \text{or to} \quad (A - I)(B - I) = I.$$

Since the matrices have integer entries, the determinants of $A - I$ and $B - I$ are integers, and the last equation implies that $\det(A - I) = \det(B - I) = \pm 1$. Both cases are possible: if $A = B = O$, then $\det(A - I) = \det(-I) = -1$, and if $A = B = 2I$, then $\det(A - I) = \det(I) = 1$.