

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018  
ROUND 1 ALGEBRA 2: SIMULTANEOUS EQUATIONS AND DETERMINANTS**

**ANSWERS**

A) \_\_\_\_\_

B) \_\_\_\_\_

C) ( \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ )

A) Given: 
$$\begin{cases} y = 3x + c \\ x + 2y = c - 1 \end{cases}$$

Compute the smallest positive integer value of  $c$  for which both  $x$  and  $y$  are integers.

B) Given: 
$$\begin{vmatrix} 20 & 3.5 & A & \sqrt{6} \\ 24 & -12 & 15 & 21 \\ -4 & 7 & 2 & 6 \\ -8 & y & x & -7 \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

Solve for  $w$ :

$$w \begin{vmatrix} 2 & x & 1 \\ 0 & 5 & 7 \\ 2 & y & 1 \end{vmatrix} + 6w = 40$$

C) We are assured in Euclidean Geometry that “Three non-collinear points determine exactly one plane.”. Assume that a plane is defined by an equation of the form  $Ax + By + Cz = N$ . Compute the ordered quadruple  $(A, B, C, N)$ , where  $A > 0$  and  $A, B, C$  and  $N$  are relatively prime integers, for the plane that contains the points  $P(1, 0, 2)$ ,  $Q(3, -1, -1)$ , and  $R(-2, 3, 7)$ .

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018 SOLUTION KEY**

**Round 1**

A) Substituting for  $y$  in the second equation,  $x + 2(3x + c) = c - 1 \Rightarrow x = \frac{-1 - c}{7}$

$c = \underline{6} \Rightarrow (x, y) = (-1, 3).$

B) For the given 4 x 4 determinant  $\begin{vmatrix} 20 & 3.5 & A & \sqrt{6} \\ 24 & -12 & 15 & 21 \\ -4 & 7 & 2 & 6 \\ -8 & y & x & -7 \end{vmatrix}$  to be zero, two rows (or 2 columns) must

be dependent, i.e. one must be a multiple of the other. Comparing rows 2 and 4, we have row 2 equals row 4 times  $-3$  and, consequently,  $(x, y) = (-5, 4).$

Expanding by column 1,

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 & -5 & 1 \\ 0 & 5 & 7 \\ 2 & 4 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = 2 \begin{vmatrix} 5 & 7 \\ 4 & 1 \end{vmatrix} + 2 \begin{vmatrix} -5 & 1 \\ 5 & 7 \end{vmatrix} = 2(5 - 28) + 2(-35 - 5) = 2(-23 - 40) = -126$$

Therefore,  $-120w = 40 \Rightarrow w = \underline{\underline{-\frac{1}{3}}}.$

$P(1, 0, 2) \Rightarrow (1) A + 2C = N$

C)  $Q(3, -1, -1) \Rightarrow (2) 3A - B - C = N$

$R(-2, 3, 7) \Rightarrow (3) -2A + 3B + 7C = N$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} 2(2) + (1) \Rightarrow 7A - 2B = 3N \\ 7(2) + (3) \Rightarrow 19A - 4B = 8N \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow 5A = 2N \Rightarrow A = \frac{2}{5}N.$$

$$(1) \Rightarrow C = \frac{N - A}{2} = \frac{N - \frac{2}{5}N}{2} = \frac{3}{10}N,$$

$$(2) \Rightarrow B = 3A - C - N \Rightarrow B = \frac{6}{5}N - \frac{3}{10}N - N = -\frac{1}{10}N$$

Thus,  $(A, B, C, N) = \left( \frac{2}{5}N, -\frac{1}{10}N, \frac{3}{10}N, N \right).$

Taking  $N$  to be the least common multiple of 5 and 10, we have  $(A, B, C, N) = \underline{\underline{(4, -1, 3, 10)}}.$

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018  
ROUND 2 ALGEBRA 1: EXPONENTS AND RADICALS**

**ANSWERS**

A) \_\_\_\_\_

B) \_\_\_\_\_

C) \_\_\_\_\_

A) Compute all real values of  $x$  for which  $4^x - 17(2^x) + 2^4 = 0$ .

B)  $64^{\frac{P}{Q}}$  has an integer value strictly between 1 and 64, where  $\frac{P}{Q}$  is a reduced proper fraction.

Let  $S = P + Q$ . Compute the sum of all possible distinct values of  $S$ .

C) If both sides of the equation  $\sqrt{11 - 7x} - \sqrt{5 - 2x} = 14$  are squared, two solutions over the real numbers are obtained for this *derived* quadratic equation. One solution is extraneous and one solves the original equation. If the extraneous solution is  $x = -10$ , determine the other solution and express it as a decimal accurate to the nearest hundredth.

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018 SOLUTION KEY**

**Round 2**

A) Let  $y = 2^x \Leftrightarrow y^2 = (2^x)^2 = (2^2)^x = 4^x$

$$4^x - 17(2^x) + 2^4 = 0 \Leftrightarrow y^2 - 17y + 16 = (y-16)(y-1) = 0$$

$$y = 2^x = 1, 16 \Rightarrow x = \underline{0, 4}.$$

The following should also be accepted: 0 or 4, 0 and 4.

B) Since  $64^{\frac{1}{6}} = (2^6)^{\frac{1}{6}} = 2^1 = 2$ , the largest possible integer value of  $Q$  is 6.

$P$  can be any integer value from 1 through 5 and  $\frac{P}{Q} = \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{5}{6}$ , resulting in

$S = 7, 4, 3, 5$  and 11. The required sum is **30**.

C) Given:  $\sqrt{11-7x} - \sqrt{5-2x} = 14$

Squaring both sides,  $11-7x - 2\sqrt{11-7x} \cdot \sqrt{5-2x} + 5-2x = 196$

$$\Leftrightarrow 16-9x - 2\sqrt{11-7x} \cdot \sqrt{5-2x} = 196 \Leftrightarrow -2\sqrt{11-7x} \cdot \sqrt{5-2x} = 9x+180 = 9(x+20)$$

Squaring both sides again,  $4(11-7x)(5-2x) = 81(x+20)^2$

$$\Leftrightarrow 220 - 228x + 56x^2 = 81x^2 + 3240x + 32400$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 25x^2 + 3468x + 32180 = 0$$

Since we know  $x = -10$  is the extraneous solution, factoring the trinomial is easy.

It must be  $(x+10)(25x+3218)$ . Setting the second factor equal to zero, we have

$$x = -\frac{3218}{25} = -\frac{4 \cdot 3218}{4 \cdot 25} = -\frac{12872}{100} = \underline{\underline{-128.72}} \text{ (exactly).}$$

Notice:

Multiplying by the single digit 4 is always easier than dividing by the two-digit number 25.

Check:  $\sqrt{11+7(128.72)} = \sqrt{912.04} = 30.2$  (exactly)

$$\sqrt{5+2(128.72)} = \sqrt{262.44} = 16.2 \text{ (exactly)} \Rightarrow \text{difference: } 14$$

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018  
ROUND 3 TRIGONOMETRY: ANYTHING**

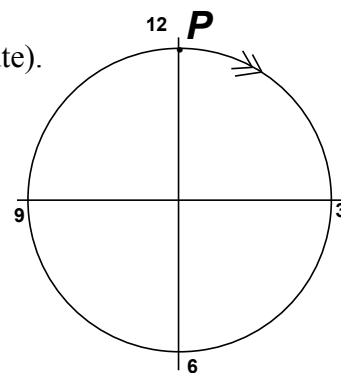
**ANSWERS**

A) \_\_\_\_\_

B) \_\_\_\_\_

C) ( \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ )

- A) Initially, point  $P$  on the shaft of a motor is at the 12:00 position. The shaft is spinning clockwise at 10,000 RPM (revolutions per minute). In one second, how many times does point  $P$  pass the 9:00 position?



- B)  $z = x + yi$ , where  $i = \sqrt{-1}$ , is the solution of the following equation

$$|30 - 72i|z - (2 \cos \pi)z = |-21 + 72i| - \left( 5 \tan \left( -\frac{7\pi}{4} \right) \right) z$$

Compute all possible ordered pairs  $(x, y)$ .

- C) In trigonometric form,  $(-16 + 30i)^{50}$  is equivalent to  $A^B \operatorname{cis}(B\theta)$ . Compute the ordered triple  $(A, B, \theta)$ , where  $\theta$  is in radians and both  $A$  and  $B$  are positive. If necessary, express  $\theta$  in terms of  $\operatorname{Tan}^{-1}(x)$ , where  $x > 0$ .

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018 SOLUTION KEY**

**Round 3**

A)  $\frac{10,000}{60} = 166.\bar{6} = 166\frac{2}{3}$  rev / sec . Since  $\frac{2}{3} < \frac{3}{4}$ ,  $P$  has passed the 9:00 position only **166** times.

B) The absolute value of the complex number  $a + bi$  is  $\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$ .

Trying to avoid tedious arithmetic, let's determine whether  $(30, 72, n)$  is a Pythagorean triple.

$$(30, 72, n) = 6(5, 12, ?) \Rightarrow ? = 13 \text{ and } n = 78 \Rightarrow |30 - 72i| = 78$$

$$\text{Similarly, } |-21 + 72i| = 75. \quad [(21, 72, 75) = 3(7, 24, 25)]$$

Thus, the intimidating equation simplifies to  $78z + 2z = 75 - 5z$  or  $85z = 75$

$$\Rightarrow z = \frac{15}{17} = \frac{15}{17} + 0i \Rightarrow (x, y) = \left( \frac{15}{17}, 0 \right).$$

C) Converting  $(-16 + 30i)$  to trigonometric form, we notice the real and imaginary parts of the complex number are twice the legs of the Pythagorean Triple  $(8, 15, 17)$ , so  $r = 34$  and  $\theta$  is an angle in the second quadrant whose tangent has a value of  $-15/8$ .  $\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{15}{8}\right)$  is in

quadrant 1, so  $\theta = \pi - \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{15}{8}\right)$ .

$$\text{Thus, } (rcis\theta)^{50} = r^{50}cis(50\theta) \Rightarrow (A, B, \theta) = \left( \underline{34, 50, \pi - \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{15}{8}\right)} \right).$$

However,  $50\theta = 50\left(\pi - \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{15}{8}\right)\right) = 50\pi + 50 \cdot -\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{15}{8}\right)$  and  $50\pi$  just denotes 25

revolutions around the unit circle, so  $(A, B, \theta) = \left( \underline{34, 50, -\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{15}{8}\right)} \right)$  is also acceptable.

FYI: Interestingly, if the required equivalent expression were of the form  $A^B cis(C\theta)$ , where  $B$  and  $C$  could be different values, then many other equivalent expressions would have been possible. With some difficulty, it can be shown that  $100 \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{5}{3}\right) = 50\pi - 50 \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{18}{5}\right)$ .

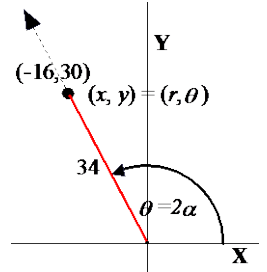
Evaluation with a calculator will give convincing evidence that the two expressions are equal.

Brandon Pho (Canton): Let  $\theta = 2\alpha$ . Then:  $\tan 2\alpha = \frac{2 \tan \alpha}{1 - \tan^2 \alpha} = -\frac{15}{8}$

Cross multiplying,  $16 \tan \alpha = -15 + 15 \tan^2 \alpha \Rightarrow (5 \tan \alpha + 3)(3 \tan \alpha - 5) = 0$

Since the argument of  $\tan^{-1}$  was required to be positive, we have  $\tan \alpha = \frac{5}{3}$ .

Therefore,  $C\theta = 50(2\alpha) = 100\alpha = 100 \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{5}{3}\right)$ .



The original question opened a can of worms in terms of potential alternative answers, since no restrictions were put on  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$ .

**In trigonometric form,  $(-16 + 30i)^{50}$  is equivalent to  $A^B cis(C\theta)$ . Compute the ordered quadruple  $(A, B, C, \theta)$ , where  $\theta$  is in radians. If necessary, express  $\theta$  in terms of  $Tan^{-1}(x)$ , where  $x > 0$ .**

Converting a complex number in  $a + bi$  form to trigonometric form  $r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$  - frequently abbreviated  $rcis\theta$ , where  $r$  denotes the distance of the point from the origin and  $\theta$  denotes the angle formed by the ray with an endpoint at the origin and passing through the given point and the positive  $X$ -axis. Note that different  $rcis\theta$  values can represent the same  $a + bi$  value because of coterminal values of  $\theta$ . The conversion is accomplished using the Pythagorean Theorem and SOHCAHTOA.

Specifically,  $\begin{cases} r^2 = a^2 + b^2 \\ \tan \theta = \frac{b}{a} \end{cases}$ . By inspection, we know what quadrant  $a + bi$  is in, so we know in what

quadrant the terminal side of the angle must be in. We chose  $\theta$  accordingly.

Secondly, by DeMoivre's theorem we know  $(rcis\theta)^n = r^n \cdot cis(n\theta)$ . That is, the original radius is raised to the  $n^{\text{th}}$  power and the original angle is multiplied by  $n$ .

First base:  $(-16 + 30i) = 34cis\theta$ , where  $\tan \theta = -\frac{30}{16} = -\frac{15}{8}$

Second base - Representing  $\theta$ :

$Tan^{-1}(x)$  denotes the principal inverse tangent. It always denotes an angle in either Q1 or Q4.

Specifically,  $y = Tan^{-1}(x) \Leftrightarrow x = \tan(y)$ , where the following conventions are adopted.

For  $x \geq 0$ ,  $0 \leq y < \frac{\pi}{2}$  (in radians) or  $0^\circ \leq y < 90^\circ$  (in degrees), i.e. Quadrant 1.

If necessary, add or subtract  $2\pi$  (or  $360^\circ$ ) until  $y$  is in the required interval.

For  $x < 0$ ,  $-\frac{\pi}{2} < y < 0$  (in radians) or  $-90^\circ < y < 0^\circ$  (in degrees),

i.e. Quadrant 4.

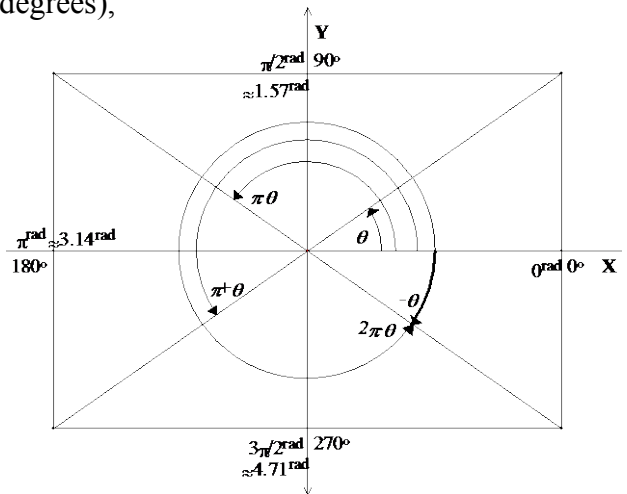
If necessary, add or subtract  $2\pi$  (or  $360^\circ$ ) until  $y$  is in the required interval.

$Tan^{-1}\left(\frac{15}{8}\right)$  denotes a Q1 angle. We require the related angle in Q2.

In radians, that's  $\theta = \pi - Tan^{-1}\left(\frac{15}{8}\right)$ . [In degrees, it

would be  $180^\circ - Tan^{-1}\left(\frac{15}{8}\right)$ .] By travelling around the

unit circle in the clockwise direction, you might see other equivalent expressions for  $\theta$ .



Third base: Raise the trig form of the complex number to the required power.

$$\left( 34 \operatorname{cis} \left( \pi - \operatorname{Tan}^{-1} \left( \frac{15}{8} \right) \right) \right)^{50} = 34^{50} \operatorname{cis} \left( 50 \left( \pi - \operatorname{Tan}^{-1} \left( \frac{15}{8} \right) \right) \right)$$

Homerun:

$$34^{50} = (-34)^{50} \Rightarrow B = 50, A = \pm 50$$

But what about  $C\theta$ ?

Let's compare several possibilities, using numerical approximations.

The most straightforward answer was

$$C\theta = 50 \left( \pi - \operatorname{Tan}^{-1} \frac{15}{8} \right). \text{ Plugging into a calculator, this is approximately } 103.0376827 \text{ radians.}$$

We can subtract multiples of  $2\pi$  until we get a coterminal value between 0 and  $2\pi$  (i.e.,  $2\pi$ )

Subtracting  $32\pi$ , we get **2.506717738** radians which is in quadrant 3.

So any equivalent answer must have a reference angle coterminal with this value.

$$\text{Let's check out } -50 \operatorname{Tan}^{-1} \left( \frac{15}{8} \right) \approx -54.04195003 \text{ radians.}$$

Adding  $18\pi$ , we get the bolded quantity above.

Checking the least likely candidate (The origin of this answer was included in the comments with the original solution to 3C. Thank you – Brandon):

$$100 \operatorname{Tan}^{-1} \left( \frac{5}{3} \right) \approx 103.0376827 \text{ which was our first approximation}$$

If you feel really motivated perhaps you'd like to tackle establishing the following equality:

$$100 \operatorname{Tan}^{-1} \left( \frac{5}{3} \right) - 50 \operatorname{Tan}^{-1} \left( \frac{15}{8} \right) = 50\pi \text{ (without appealing to approximations!).}$$

Another possibility might be  $-100 \operatorname{Tan}^{-1} \left( \frac{3}{5} \right) \approx -54.04195003$  and again we have equivalency.

If we had represented  $\theta$  as  $3\alpha$  (instead of  $2\alpha$ ) and we happened to know the expansion for  $\tan(3\alpha)$  and felt ambitious we might find three more equivalent answers, if the resulting cubic equation has 3 real roots. Dare I suggest  $\theta = n\alpha$  might give us more equivalent answers as well as a serious migraine. I trust no one took this route, but I love to see what further investigation might turn up, just not tonight.

This question has forced all of us to take a much closer look to the representation of complex numbers in trigonometric form. Can we call this a fortunate mistake?



**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018  
ROUND 4 ALGEBRA 1: ANYTHING**

**ANSWERS**

A) \_\_\_\_\_

B) \_\_\_\_\_ hours

C) \_\_\_\_\_

A) I'm thinking of a number.

Subtract 1 from the number and the resulting number (which is also positive) is then divisible by each of the nonzero digits (in base 10). What is the smallest positive integer with this property?

B) Let  $\mathcal{L}$ , a line through the center of a sphere, be an axis of rotation.

A sphere turns through  $15^\circ$  in 1 hour, making a complete revolution in 24 hours.

This sphere models Earth, where 1 day is equivalent to 24 hours.

How long (to the nearest 0.1 hour) is a day on Saturn, if Saturn turns through 150% more degrees than Earth does in one hour?

C) The inequality  $k \leq |2x - 1| \leq 11$ , where  $k$  is an integer, has exactly 10 integer solutions.

Compute all possible values of  $k$ .

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018 SOLUTION KEY**

**Round 4**

- A) If the original number were 1, then, after subtracting 1, the resulting number would be 0, which is divisible by all numbers (except 0), but this possibility is eliminated, since both numbers had to be positive.

The required number is 1 more than the least common multiple of the digits from 2 to 9. (1 is ignored, since every integer is divisible by 1).

Looking at the prime factorization of these digits  $(2, 3, 2^2, 5, 2 \cdot 3, 7, 2^3, 3^2)$ , the only primes

occurring are 2, 3, 5 and 7. The smallest integer divisible by all of the digits is  $2^3 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 = 2520$ . Adding 1, we have 2521, the number I was thinking of.

- B) Saturn turns  $15 + 15 \cdot \frac{3}{2} = 37\frac{1}{2}^\circ$  in 1 hour.

Thus, a full revolution takes  $\frac{360}{37.5} = \frac{720}{75} = \frac{48}{5} = \underline{9.6}$  hours.

FYI: The currently accepted length of a “day” on Saturn is 10.2 hours – the time it takes for a complete revolution around its axis.

- C)  $k \leq |2x - 1| \leq 11 \Rightarrow |2x - 1| \geq k$  and  $|2x - 1| \leq 11$

$$|2x - 1| \geq k \Rightarrow 2x - 1 \leq -k \text{ or } 2x - 1 \geq +k \Rightarrow x \leq \frac{1-k}{2} \text{ or } x \geq \frac{1+k}{2} \text{ (inner limits)}$$

$$|2x - 1| \leq 11 \Rightarrow -11 \leq 2x - 1 \leq +11 \Rightarrow -5 \leq x \leq 6 \text{ (outer limits)}$$



Therefore, the solution in general consists of two segments of length  $(11 - k)/2$ .

There will be the same number of solutions on both segments. Thus, there will be exactly 5 integer solutions on each closed interval.

On the right, solutions must be 2...6 which implies that

$$1 < \frac{1+k}{2} \leq 2 \Rightarrow 2 < 1+k \leq 4 \Rightarrow 1 < k \leq 3 \Rightarrow k = \underline{2, 3}$$

You should verify that for these two values of  $k$ , there are exactly 5 integer solutions.

If we started on the left side, we would require that  $-1 \leq \frac{1-k}{2} < 0$ .

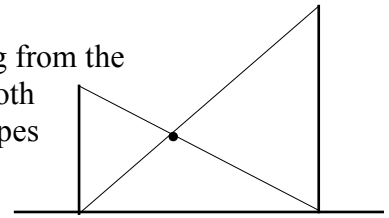
Show that this is true if and only if  $1 < k \leq 3$ , i.e.,  $k = 2, 3$ .

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018  
ROUND 5 PLANE GEOMETRY: ANYTHING**

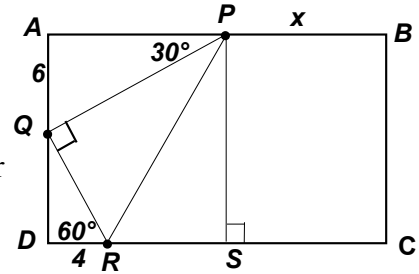
**ANSWERS**

- A) \_\_\_\_\_
- B) \_\_\_\_\_
- C) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) Two buildings of heights 60 feet and 40 feet have taut ropes running from the top of one to the bottom of the other. Assuming the buildings are both perpendicular to level ground, how high above the ground do the ropes intersect?

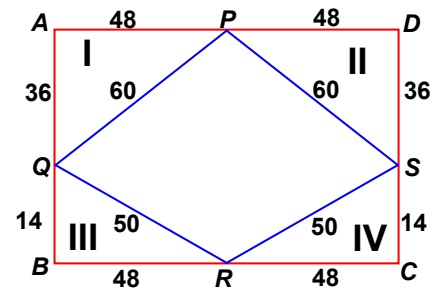


- B) In rectangle  $ABCD$ ,  $\overline{PQ} \perp \overline{QR}$ ,  $\overline{PS} \perp \overline{DC}$ ,  $AQ = 6$ ,  $DR = 4$ ,  $m\angle APQ = 30^\circ$ ,  $m\angle DRQ = 60^\circ$ , and  $PB = x$ , as indicated in the diagram at the right. For a specific value of  $x$ , the perimeter of rectangle  $PBCS$  equals the perimeter of  $\triangle PQR$ . Compute  $\lfloor x \rfloor$ .



Note:  $\lfloor x \rfloor$  denote the *largest* integer which is less than or equal to  $x$ .

- C) Two congruent *scaled* copies of the 3-4-5 right triangle (I and II) and two congruent *scaled* copies of the 7-24-25 (III and IV) right triangle are to be laid out with legs on the sides of rectangle  $ABCD$  so that a rhombus is formed inside the rectangle by the 4 hypotenuses. The diagram at the right is a **failed** attempt. Although  $ABCD$  is a rectangle,  $PQRS$  is not a rhombus.



The scale factors are both integers, both greater than 1, but not necessarily equal. If  $ABCD$  must have a minimum area, compute the area of the rhombus  $PQRS$ .

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018 SOLUTION KEY**

**Round 5**

A) The distance between the bases of the buildings is irrelevant.

So, let  $BD = 1$ .

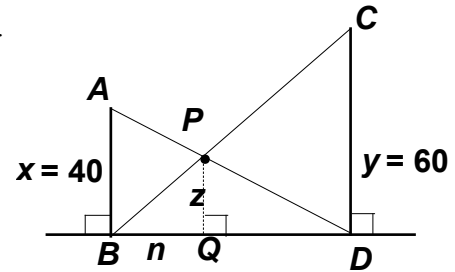
$$\triangle BPQ \sim \triangle BCD \Rightarrow \frac{z}{60} = \frac{n}{1}$$

$$\triangle DPQ \sim \triangle DAB \Rightarrow \frac{z}{40} = \frac{1-n}{1} \Leftrightarrow n = 1 - \frac{z}{40}$$

$$\text{Thus, } \frac{z}{60} = 1 - \frac{z}{40} \Leftrightarrow 2z = 120 - 3z \Rightarrow z = \frac{120}{5} = \underline{24}.$$

In general, it is easy to show that if  $\overline{PQ} \parallel \overline{AB} \parallel \overline{CD}$ ,  $\frac{1}{z} = \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{y}$ .

$$\frac{1}{z} = \frac{1}{60} + \frac{1}{40} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{z} = \frac{40+60}{40 \cdot 60} = \frac{100}{2400} \Rightarrow z = \underline{24}.$$



B) In  $\triangle APQ$ ,  $PQ = 12$  and  $AP = 6\sqrt{3}$ .

In  $\triangle DRQ$ ,  $QR = 8$  and  $DQ = 4\sqrt{3}$ .

In  $\triangle PQR$ ,  $PR = \sqrt{12^2 + 8^2} = \sqrt{208} = \sqrt{16 \cdot 13} = 4\sqrt{13}$

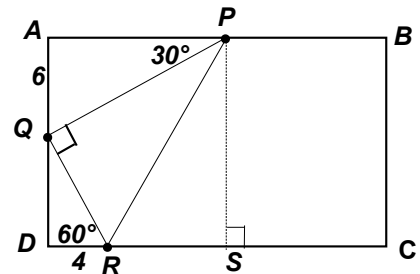
Thus, perimeter of  $\triangle PQR$  is  $20 + 4\sqrt{13}$  and

$$20 + 4\sqrt{13} = 2(6 + 4\sqrt{3}) + 2x \Rightarrow$$

$$x = 10 + 2\sqrt{13} - 6 - 4\sqrt{3} = 4 + 2(\sqrt{13} - 2\sqrt{3}) = 4 + 2(\sqrt{13} - \sqrt{12}).$$

Clearly, the quantity in parentheses is between 0 and 1 and much closer to 0.

Thus,  $\lfloor x \rfloor = 4 + 0 = \underline{4}$ .



C) In the arrangement to the right, let  $x$  and  $y$  denote the scale factors.

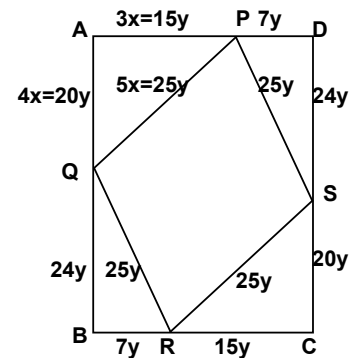
To insure a  $PQRS$  is a rhombus, we require  $5x = 25y \Rightarrow x = 5y$

Note that with a fixed perimeter, as a rectangle becomes more like a square, its area increases; and, conversely, as the rectangle becomes less like a square, its area decreases. Thus, we require that the *shorter* sides of each right triangle lie along the same side of the rectangle. The lengths of all segments can now be expressed in terms of  $y$ , as indicated. The minimum possible value of  $y$  is 2.

The area of  $ABCD$  is  $44 \times 88 = 3872$ .

The area of the triangular cutoffs is  $30(40) + 14(48) = 1872$

$$\Rightarrow 3872 - 1872 = \underline{2000}.$$



**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018  
ROUND 6 ALGEBRA 2: PROBABILITY AND THE BINOMIAL THEOREM**

**ANSWERS**

A) \_\_\_\_\_

B) \_\_\_\_\_

C) \_\_\_\_\_

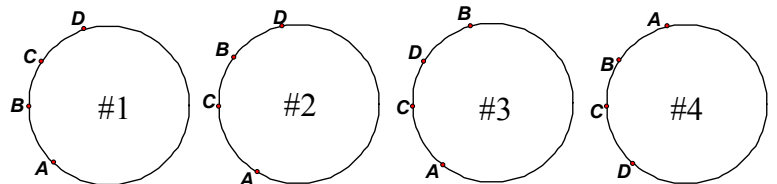
A) Small sheets of paper are numbered 1 through 15, inclusive, and placed in a hat. Five sheets are drawn simultaneously at random. Compute the probability that the page number of exactly two sheets will be prime. Express your answer as a reduced fraction.

B) Compute the sum of the exponents in the two middle terms in the expansion of  $(5M^{2x} - N^{-3x})^9$ .

C) Aside:

Consider the problem of arranging 4 charms on a Pandora bracelet.

Bracelets #1, #2 and #3 are identical, but #4 is identical to #1, if the bracelet is flipped over, i.e., if the charms on #1 are read clockwise (CW) and the charms on #4 are read counterclockwise (CCW). Thus, there



are only 3 distinct arrangements of a bracelet with 4 charms. This is a variation of a circular permutation, where *flipping over is permitted*.

The problem:

A burglar was stealing a bracelet with 5 different charms when he inadvertently dropped it. The clasp opened, and the charms fell off. Considering this a bad omen, he put the charms back on the bracelet and returned it to the jewelry box. In how many ways could the charms have been put back on the bracelet in the wrong order, that is, in an order different from the original?

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018 SOLUTION KEY**

**Round 6**

A) There are 6 primes, namely, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11 and 13, and 9 non-primes.

Five sheets can be drawn in  $\binom{15}{5}$  different ways.

Two sheets with a prime number and 3 sheets with a non-prime number must be drawn.

This can be done in  $\binom{6}{2} \cdot \binom{9}{3}$  ways.

Thus, the required probability is  $\frac{\binom{6}{2} \cdot \binom{9}{3}}{\binom{15}{5}} = \frac{\frac{6 \cdot 5}{1 \cdot 2} \cdot \frac{9 \cdot 8 \cdot 7}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3}}{\frac{\cancel{15}^5 \cdot 14 \cdot 13 \cdot 12 \cdot 11}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot \cancel{4} \cdot \cancel{4} \cdot \cancel{4}}} = \frac{\cancel{15}^5 \cdot 12 \cdot 7}{7 \cdot 13 \cdot \cancel{11} \cdot 11} = \frac{\mathbf{60}}{\mathbf{143}}$ .

B) There are 10 terms in the expansion. The middle terms are 5<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup>.

In general, the  $k^{\text{th}}$  term in the expansion of  $(A+B)^n$  is  $\binom{n}{k} A^{n-k} B^k$ , but this assumes that the

terms are indexed 0 to 9. Thus, we must use  $k=4$  and  $k=5$ .

Substituting  $n=9$ ,  $A=5M^{2x}$ , and  $B=-N^{-3x}$

The sum of the middle terms is  $\binom{9}{4} (5M^{2x})^5 (-N^{-3x})^4 + \binom{9}{5} (5M^{2x})^4 (-N^{-3x})^5$ .

Focusing on the exponents only,

$$(2x)5 + (-3x)4 + (2x)4 + (-3x)5 \Rightarrow 10x - 12x + 8x - 15x = \underline{\underline{-9x}}.$$

C) In a straight line,  $n$  objects can be arranged in  $n!$  distinct ways. However, when arranging the same  $n$  objects around a circle, any single object could be the “starting” point. Different arrangements are determined by how the remaining  $(n-1)$  objects are arranged. This can be done in  $(n-1)!$  ways. By simply flipping the charm bracelet over, a clockwise ordering becomes a counterclockwise ordering. Thus, total number of different arrangements of a

5-charm bracelet is  $\frac{(5-1)!}{2} = \frac{24}{2} = 12$ , one of which is correct.

Thus, there are 11 arrangements different from the original.

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018  
ROUND 7 TEAM QUESTIONS**

**ANSWERS**

- A ( \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ )    D) ( \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 B) \_\_\_\_\_    E) \_\_\_\_\_  
 C) ( \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ )    F) \_\_\_\_\_

- A) My new cereal will have blueberries ( $B$ ), strawberries ( $S$ ), and peaches ( $P$ ). I have three suppliers who have proposed supplying 18-pound bags of dried fruit mixes in the following ratios:  
 Mix #1:  $B : S : P = 1 : 2 : 3$     Mix #2:  $B : S : P = 2 : 3 : 4$     Mix #3:  $B : S : P = 5 : 6 : 7$   
 My preferred mix would be  $B : S : P = 3 : 4 : 5$ .  
 Since time is short, I decide to place orders for bags of dried fruit from each of the suppliers and re-mix them to achieve my desired ratio. My order is for fifty 18-pound bags. Let  $(x_1, x_2, x_3)$  denote the number of 18-pound bags of each mix I order, where  $x_1, x_2$ , and  $x_3$  are relatively prime. Let  $k$  denote the number of ordered triples  $(x_1, x_2, x_3)$  which allow me to produce my desired mix, and  $(M, m)$ , the maximum and minimum values, respectively, of  $x_3$ . Compute the ordered triple  $(k, M, m)$ .
- B) For positive integer values of the constant  $k$ , suppose the inequality  $\sqrt{3x} - \sqrt{3x - k} > 1$  has  $n$  distinct integer solutions. Determine the minimum value of  $n$  for which having  $n$  integer solutions is impossible.
- C)  $\triangle ABC$  has sides of integer length, a perimeter of 24, and its sides and angles satisfy the proportion  $\frac{\cos A}{b} = \frac{\cos B}{a}$ . There are  $n$  such triangles. The maximum and minimum areas of one of these triangles are  $M$  and  $m$ , respectively. Compute the ordered triple  $(n, M, m)$ .
- D) Let the ordered triple  $(o, d, h)$  be the solutions to the equation  $2x - 7 = AB5$ , in octal (base 8), decimal (base 10), and hexadecimal (base 16), respectively. The constant on the right-hand side of the equation is a three-digit hexadecimal integer. Compute the ordered triple  $(o, d, h)$ .  
 Remember: In base 16, the “extra” digits  $A, B, C, D, E$ , and  $F$  denote 10 ... 15, respectively.
- E) The perimeter of a rectangle with integer dimensions is 238 units. If a diagonal of the rectangle also has integer length, compute all possible radii of the circle circumscribed about this rectangle.
- F) Compute all possible constant terms in the expansion of  $\left(x^m + \frac{1}{x^2}\right)^6$ , where  $m$  is a positive integer.

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018 SOLUTION KEY**

**Team Round**

A) We require that  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 50$ .

Since  $50 \cdot 18 = 900 = 3n + 4n + 5n = 12n$ ,  $n = 75$ , and we must have 225, 300 and 375 lbs. of blueberries, strawberries, and peaches, respectively, in the final mix. Mixes #1, #2 and #3 contain (3,6,9), (4,6,8), and (5,6,7) lbs. of (B,S,P), respectively.

(1) Blue:  $3x_1 + 4x_2 + 5x_3 = 225$

Then: (2) Straw:  $6x_1 + 6x_2 + 6x_3 = 300 \Leftrightarrow \boxed{x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 50}$

(3) Peach:  $9x_1 + 8x_2 + 7x_3 = 375$

(3) - (1) and dividing by 2  $\Rightarrow$  (4)  $3x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 = 75$

(4) - (2)  $\Rightarrow 2x_1 + x_2 = 25 \Rightarrow \boxed{x_2 = 25 - 2x_1} \Rightarrow 1 \leq x_1 \leq 12$

Substituting in the boxed expression,  $x_1 + (25 - x_1) + x_3 = 50 \Rightarrow \boxed{x_3 = 25 + x_1} \Rightarrow 26 \leq x_3 \leq 37$ .

On first glance, it might appear that  $k = 12$ , but for  $k = 5, 10$ ,  $x_1, x_2$ , and  $x_3$  are not relatively prime.

Thus,  $(k, M, m) = \underline{(10, 37, 26)}$ .

$$\text{Check: } (1, 23, 26) \Rightarrow \begin{cases} B: 3 + 23(4) + 26(5) = 225 \\ S: 6(1 + 23 + 26) = 300 \\ P: 9 + 23(8) + 26(7) = 375 \end{cases}, (12, 1, 37) \Rightarrow \begin{cases} B: 12(3) + 4 + 37(5) = 225 \\ S: 6(12 + 1 + 37) = 300 \\ P: 12(9) + 8 + 37(7) = 375 \end{cases}$$

B) Solutions of  $\sqrt{3x} - \sqrt{3x-k} > 1$  require that  $3x - k \geq 0 \Rightarrow x \geq \frac{k}{3}$ .

Transposing  $\sqrt{3x-k}$  to the right-hand side of the inequality,  $\sqrt{3x} > 1 + \sqrt{3x-k}$ , we note that both sides represent nonnegative quantities, so squaring both sides will preserve the inequality.

$\Rightarrow \cancel{3x} > 1 + 2\sqrt{3x-k} + \cancel{3x} - k \Leftrightarrow \boxed{k-1 > 2\sqrt{3x-k}}$

Since we know  $k \geq 1$ , we can square both sides again.

$k^2 - 2k + 1 > 4(3x - k) = 12x - 4k \Leftrightarrow 12x < k^2 + 2k + 1 \Leftrightarrow x < \frac{(k+1)^2}{12}$ .

Thus, solutions are bounded. Specifically,  $\frac{k}{3} \leq x < \frac{(k+1)^2}{12}$ .

A table is a good way to correlate various  $k$ -values with the number of integer solutions.

$k =$	1	2	3	4	5	6
Interval	$\frac{1}{3} \leq x < \frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3} \leq x < \frac{3}{4}$	$1 \leq x < \frac{4}{3}$	$\frac{4}{3} \leq x < \frac{25}{12}$	$\frac{5}{3} \leq x < 3$	$2 \leq x < \frac{49}{12}$
# solutions	0	0	1	1	1	3

Thus, there are never exactly 2 integer solutions.



**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018 SOLUTION KEY**

**Team Round - continued**

C) Besides satisfying the proportion  $\frac{\cos A}{b} = \frac{\cos B}{a}$ , we know that the sides and angles in  $\triangle ABC$  satisfy the proportion  $\frac{\sin A}{a} = \frac{\sin B}{b} \Rightarrow b = \frac{a \sin B}{\sin A}$ . Substituting for  $b$  in the given

proportion, we have  $\frac{\cos A}{\frac{a \sin B}{\sin A}} = \frac{\cos B}{a} \Rightarrow \cancel{a} \sin A \cos A = \cancel{a} \sin B \cos B \Rightarrow \sin 2A = \sin 2B$ .

Therefore, the arguments are either equal or supplementary (since  $\sin(180^\circ - \theta) = \sin \theta$ )

$$\Rightarrow 2A = 2B \text{ or } 2A + 2B = 180$$

$\Rightarrow A = B$  ( $\Delta$ s are equilateral or isosceles) or  $A + B = 90$  ( $ABC$  is a right triangle)

The possibilities are - Equilateral: 8-8-8 Isosceles: 11-11-2, 10-10-4, 9-9-6, Right: 6-8-10

The equilateral triangle has the maximum area of  $M = \frac{8^2 \sqrt{3}}{4} = 16\sqrt{3}$ .

The isosceles triangle with the shortest base has minimum area.

$$m = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2 \cdot \sqrt{11^2 - 1^2} = \sqrt{120} = 2\sqrt{30}.$$

Thus,  $(n, M, m) = \underline{(5, 16\sqrt{3}, 2\sqrt{30})}$ .

D) Rather than just converting everything to decimal, doing the computations in base 10, and converting the results back into the two other bases, let's do the computations in the given base and take advantage of the fact that all digits in base 16 can be written in terms of 4 binary digits, namely 0000 .... 1111, and that all octal digits can be written in terms of 3 binary digits, namely 000...111.

Working in base 16,  $2x - 7 = AB5 \Leftrightarrow 2x = AB5 + 7 = ABC$

Dividing by 2,  $2 \overline{)AB^1C}$  Recall:  $1C_{16} = (16 + 12)_{10} = 28$  and  $\frac{28}{2} = 14 = E_{16}$

$55E_{16} = 0101 0101 1110_2$  Regrouping in blocks of 3 binary digits,

$$0101 0101 1110_2 = 010 | 1 01 | 011 | 110_2 = 2536_8$$

Converting  $55E_{16}$  to decimal, we have  $5(16^2) + 5(16) + 14 = 5(256) + 80 + 14 = 1280 + 94 = 1374$ .

Thus,  $(o, d, h) = \underline{(2536, 1374, 55E)}$ .

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018 SOLUTION KEY**

**Team Round - continued**

E) The semi-perimeter of the rectangle is 119.

The diameter  $d$  of the circumcircle is the diagonal of the rectangle

Clearly, there are 119 integer ordered pairs  $(L, W)$  for which  $L + W = 119$ , but the requirement that the diagonal also have integer length narrows down the list of possibilities significantly. We require that  $d^2 = L^2 + W^2$ . Since  $119 = 7 \cdot 17$ , if we can find a right triangle with integer dimensions in which the sum of the lengths of the legs is 7, then scaling that right triangle by a factor of 17 will produce the correct perimeter for the rectangle.

If the sum of the legs is 17, scale by a factor of 7.

Two common Pythagorean Triples fill the bill: 3-4-5 and 5-12-13.

$$17(3-4-5) = (57-68-85), [51+68=119] \text{ and } r = \frac{85}{2} = \underline{\underline{42.5}}$$

$$7(5-12-13) = (35-84-91), [35+84=119] \text{ and } r = \frac{91}{2} = \underline{\underline{45.5}}$$

Are there others? Yes! Here's why. Pythagorean Triples are generated by:

$$\begin{cases} a = m^2 - n^2 \\ b = 2mn \\ c = m^2 + n^2 \end{cases}, \text{ where } c \text{ is the hypotenuse, and } a \text{ and } b \text{ are legs.}$$

Of course,  $m$  must be greater than  $n$ . \*\*\*

We require that  $a + b = m^2 - n^2 + 2mn = (m^2 + 2mn + n^2) - 2n^2 = (m + n)^2 - 2n^2 = 119$ , i.e.,

$119 + 2n^2$  must be a perfect square; so, a chart is a perfect way to organize our quest.

$n$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
$2n^2$	2	8	18	32	50	72	98	128	162	200	242
$119 + 2n^2$	<u>121</u>	127	137	151	<u>169</u>	191	217	247	281	319	<u>361</u>
$m + n$	11				13						19
$m$	10				8						8, rejected
Triple	99-20-101				39-80-89						***

Thus, the remaining possibilities are  $r = \frac{101}{2} = \underline{\underline{50.5}}$  and  $r = \frac{89}{2} = \underline{\underline{44.5}}$ .

F) The  $k^{\text{th}}$  term in the expansion of  $\left(x^m + \frac{1}{x^2}\right)^6$  is  $\binom{6}{k}(x^m)^{6-k}(x^{-2})^k = \binom{6}{k}x^{6m-(m+2)k}$ .

$$\text{Thus, } 6m - (m+2)k = 0 \Leftrightarrow k = \frac{6m}{m+2} = 6 - \frac{12}{m+2}$$

$$m = 1 \Rightarrow k = 2 \Rightarrow \binom{6}{2} = \underline{\underline{15}} \quad m = 4 \Rightarrow k = 4 \Rightarrow \binom{6}{4} = 15$$

$$m = 2 \Rightarrow k = 3 \Rightarrow \binom{6}{3} = \underline{\underline{20}} \quad m = 10 \Rightarrow k = 5 \Rightarrow \binom{6}{5} = \underline{\underline{6}}$$

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 6 - MARCH 2018 ANSWERS**

**Round 1 Algebra 2: Simultaneous Equations and Determinants**

- A) 6                                      B)  $-\frac{1}{3}$                                       C) (4, -1, 3, 10)

**Round 2 Algebra 1: Exponents and Radicals**

- A) 0, 4                                      B) 30                                      C) -128.72

**Round 3 Trigonometry: Anything**

- A) 166                                      B)  $\left(\frac{15}{17}, 0\right)$                                       C)  $\left(34, 50, -\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{15}{8}\right)\right)$   
 $\theta = \pi - \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{15}{8}\right)$  is acceptable  
1.875 for  $\frac{15}{8}$  is acceptable.

**Round 4 Algebra 1: Anything**

- A) 2521                                      B) 9.6 hours                                      C) 2, 3

**Round 5 Plane Geometry: Anything**

- A) 24                                      B) 4                                      C) 2000

**Round 6 Algebra 2: Probability and the Binomial Theorem**

- A)  $\frac{60}{143}$                                       B)  $-9x$                                       C) 11

**Team Round**

- A) (10, 37, 26)                                      D) (2536, 1374, 55E)  
B) 2                                      E) 42.5, 44.5, 45.5, 50.5  
C)  $(5, 16\sqrt{3}, 2\sqrt{30})$                                       F) 6, 15, 20