

USAMO 2011 Solution Notes

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February 2, 2019

This is an unofficial solutions packet for the 2011 USAMO. In general, they are a combination of my own work, as well as the official solutions provided by the organizers (for which they hold any copyrights), and solutions found on the Art of Problem Solving forums.

Corrections and comments are welcome!

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§0 Problems

1. Let a, b, c be positive real numbers such that $a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + (a + b + c)^2 \leq 4$. Prove that

$$\frac{ab + 1}{(a + b)^2} + \frac{bc + 1}{(b + c)^2} + \frac{ca + 1}{(c + a)^2} \geq 3.$$

2. An integer is assigned to each vertex of a regular pentagon so that the sum of the five integers is 2011. A turn of a solitaire game consists of subtracting an integer m from each of the integers at two neighboring vertices and adding $2m$ to the opposite vertex, which is not adjacent to either of the first two vertices. (The amount m and the vertices chosen can vary from turn to turn.) The game is won at a certain vertex if, after some number of turns, that vertex has the number 2011 and the other four vertices have the number 0. Prove that for any choice of the initial integers, there is exactly one vertex at which the game can be won.
3. In hexagon $ABCDEF$, which is nonconvex but not self-intersecting, no pair of opposite sides are parallel. The internal angles satisfy $\angle A = 3\angle D$, $\angle C = 3\angle F$, and $\angle E = 3\angle B$. Furthermore $AB = DE$, $BC = EF$, and $CD = FA$. Prove that diagonals \overline{AD} , \overline{BE} , and \overline{CF} are concurrent.
4. Consider the assertion that for each positive integer $n \geq 2$, the remainder upon dividing 2^{2^n} by $2^n - 1$ is a power of 4. Either prove the assertion or find (with proof) a counterexample.
5. Let P be a point inside convex quadrilateral $ABCD$. Points Q_1 and Q_2 are located within $ABCD$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \angle Q_1BC &= \angle ABP, & \angle Q_1CB &= \angle DCP, \\ \angle Q_2AD &= \angle BAP, & \angle Q_2DA &= \angle CDP. \end{aligned}$$

Prove that $\overline{Q_1Q_2} \parallel \overline{AB}$ if and only if $\overline{Q_1Q_2} \parallel \overline{CD}$.

6. Let A be a set with $|A| = 225$, meaning that A has 225 elements. Suppose further that there are eleven subsets A_1, \dots, A_{11} of A such that $|A_i| = 45$ for $1 \leq i \leq 11$ and $|A_i \cap A_j| = 9$ for $1 \leq i < j \leq 11$. Prove that $|A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_{11}| \geq 165$, and give an example for which equality holds.

§1 USAMO 2011/1

Let a, b, c be positive real numbers such that $a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + (a + b + c)^2 \leq 4$. Prove that

$$\frac{ab+1}{(a+b)^2} + \frac{bc+1}{(b+c)^2} + \frac{ca+1}{(c+a)^2} \geq 3.$$

The condition becomes $2 \geq a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + ab + bc + ca$. So it suffices to prove

$$\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{2ab + (a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + ab + bc + ca)}{(a+b)^2} \geq 6$$

which is seen to be the same as

$$\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{c^2 + ab + bc + ca}{(a+b)^2} \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{(c+a)(c+b)}{(a+b)^2} \geq 3$$

which is evident by AM-GM.

§2 USAMO 2011/2, proposed by Sam Vandervelde

An integer is assigned to each vertex of a regular pentagon so that the sum of the five integers is 2011. A turn of a solitaire game consists of subtracting an integer m from each of the integers at two neighboring vertices and adding $2m$ to the opposite vertex, which is not adjacent to either of the first two vertices. (The amount m and the vertices chosen can vary from turn to turn.) The game is won at a certain vertex if, after some number of turns, that vertex has the number 2011 and the other four vertices have the number 0. Prove that for any choice of the initial integers, there is exactly one vertex at which the game can be won.

Call the vertices 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 in order. First, notice that the quantity $N_1 + 2N_2 + 3N_3 + 4N_4 \pmod{5}$ is invariant, where N_i is the amount at vertex i . This immediately implies that at most one vertex can win, since in a winning situation all N_i are 0 except for one, which is 2011.

Now we prove we can win on this unique vertex. Let a_i, x_i denote the number initially at i and x_i denote $\sum m$ over all m where vertex i gains $2m$. WLOG the possible vertex is 0, meaning $a_1 + 2a_2 + 3a_3 + 4a_4 \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$. Moreover we want

$$\begin{aligned} 2011 &= a_0 + 2x_0 - x_2 - x_3 \\ 0 &= a_1 + 2x_1 - x_3 - x_4 \\ 0 &= a_2 + 2x_2 - x_4 - x_0 \\ 0 &= a_3 + 2x_3 - x_0 - x_1 \\ 0 &= a_4 + 2x_4 - x_1 - x_2. \end{aligned}$$

We can ignore the first equation since it's the sum of the other four. Moreover, we can WLOG shift $x_0 \rightarrow 0$ by shifting each x_i by a fixed amount. Then

$$x_4 = 2x_2 + a_2 \text{ and } x_1 = 2x_3 + a_3.$$

We let p and q denote x_2 and x_3 (noting that $p, q \in \mathbb{Z} \implies x_1, x_4 \in \mathbb{Z}$). Anyways the system now expands as

$$2p - 3q = 2a_3 + a_1 - a_2 \text{ and } 2q - 3p = 2a_2 + a_4 - a_3$$

whence we have a two-var system, easy! We compute

$$p - q = \frac{1}{5} [a_1 - 3a_2 + 3a_3 - a_4].$$

This is an integer by the condition, whence so are p and q , QED.

§3 USAMO 2011/3

In hexagon $ABCDEF$, which is nonconvex but not self-intersecting, no pair of opposite sides are parallel. The internal angles satisfy $\angle A = 3\angle D$, $\angle C = 3\angle F$, and $\angle E = 3\angle B$. Furthermore $AB = DE$, $BC = EF$, and $CD = FA$. Prove that diagonals \overline{AD} , \overline{BE} , and \overline{CF} are concurrent.

We say a hexagon is *satisfying* if it obeys the six conditions; note that intuitively we expect three degrees of freedom for satisfying hexagons.

Main idea:

Claim — In a satisfying hexagon, B, D, F are reflections of A, C, E across the sides of $\triangle ACE$.

(This claim looks plausible because every excellent hexagon is satisfying, and both configuration spaces are three-dimensional.) Call a hexagon of this shape “excellent”; in a excellent hexagon the diagonals clearly concur (at the orthocenter).

Set $\beta = \angle B$, $\delta = \angle D$, $\varphi = \angle F$. Then it would suffice to prove that:

Lemma

A satisfying hexagon is uniquely determined by its angles up to similarity. That is, at most one hexagon (up to similarity) has angles β, δ, γ as above.

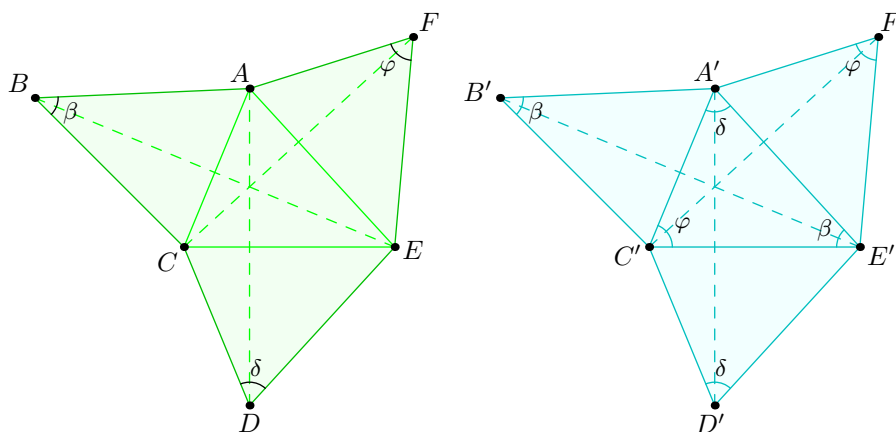
Proof. Consider two satisfying hexagons $ABCDEF$ and $A'B'C'D'E'F'$ with the same angles.

To do this, consider a unit complex number z_1 in the direction $\overrightarrow{BA} + \overrightarrow{DE}$ (this uses the fact that \overrightarrow{BA} and \overrightarrow{DE} are not parallel). Define z_2, z_3 similarly. Note that the condition $\overline{AB} \parallel \overline{DE}$ implies $z_1 \neq 0$, and similarly. Then we have the identities

$$ABz_1 + CDz_2 + EFz_3 = A'B'z_1 + C'D'z_2 + E'F'z_3 = 0.$$

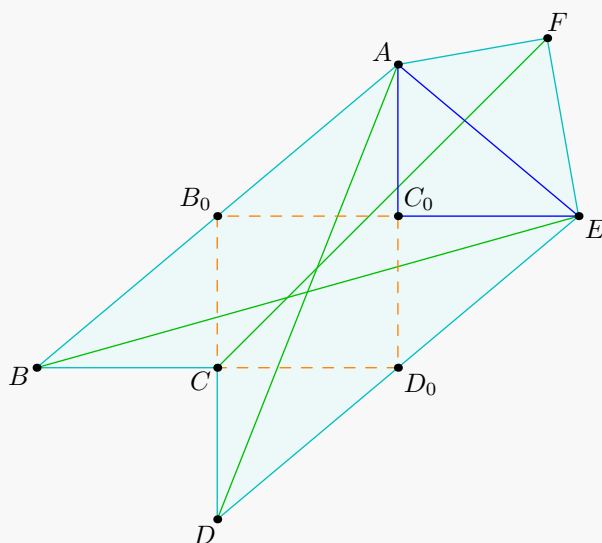
So we would obtain $AB : CD : EF = A'B' : C'D' : E'F'$ if only we could show that z_1, z_2, z_3 are not multiples of each other (linear dependency reasons). This is a tiresome computation, and thus omitted; see official USAMO solutions. \square

Now given a satisfying hexagon $ABCDEF$, construct a “phantom hexagon” $A'B'C'D'E'F'$ with the same angles which is excellent (see figure). This is possible since $\beta + \delta + \varphi = 180^\circ$.



Then the lemma implies $ABCDEF \sim A'B'C'D'E'F'$ and we're done.

Remark. The vector perspective also shows the condition about parallel sides cannot be dropped. Here is a counterexample from Ryan Kim in the event that it is.



By adjusting the figure above so that the triangles are right isosceles (instead of just right), one also finds an example of a hexagon which is satisfying and whose diagonals are concurrent, but which is *not* excellent.

§4 USAMO 2011/4, proposed by Zuming Feng

Consider the assertion that for each positive integer $n \geq 2$, the remainder upon dividing 2^{2^n} by $2^n - 1$ is a power of 4. Either prove the assertion or find (with proof) a counterexample.

We claim $n = 25$ is a counterexample. Indeed, note that $2^{2^{25}} \equiv 2^{2^{25} \pmod{2}5} \pmod{2^{25}}$. Now, one can compute $2^{25} \equiv 7 \pmod{25}$ and hence we conclude

$$2^{2^{25}} \equiv 2^7 \pmod{2^{25}}$$

which isn't a power of 4.

§5 USAMO 2011/5

Let P be a point inside convex quadrilateral $ABCD$. Points Q_1 and Q_2 are located within $ABCD$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}\angle Q_1BC &= \angle ABP, & \angle Q_1CB &= \angle DCP, \\ \angle Q_2AD &= \angle BAP, & \angle Q_2DA &= \angle CDP.\end{aligned}$$

Prove that $\overline{Q_1Q_2} \parallel \overline{AB}$ if and only if $\overline{Q_1Q_2} \parallel \overline{CD}$.

If $\overline{AB} \parallel \overline{CD}$ there is nothing to prove. Otherwise let $X = \overline{AB} \cap \overline{CD}$. Then the Q_i are isogonal conjugates of P with respect to triangles XAD , XBC . Thus X , Q_1 , Q_2 are collinear, on the isogonal of \overline{XY} with respect to $\angle DXA = \angle CXB$.

§6 USAMO 2011/6

Let A be a set with $|A| = 225$, meaning that A has 225 elements. Suppose further that there are eleven subsets A_1, \dots, A_{11} of A such that $|A_i| = 45$ for $1 \leq i \leq 11$ and $|A_i \cap A_j| = 9$ for $1 \leq i < j \leq 11$. Prove that $|A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_{11}| \geq 165$, and give an example for which equality holds.

Ignore the 225 — it is irrelevant.

Denote the elements of $A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_{11}$ by a_1, \dots, a_n , and suppose that a_i appears x_i times among A_i for each $1 \leq i \leq n$ (so $1 \leq x_i \leq 11$). Then we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^{11} x_i = \sum_{i=1}^{11} |A_i| = 45 \cdot 11$$

and

$$\sum_{i=1}^{11} \binom{x_i}{2} = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq 11} |A_i \cap A_j| = \binom{11}{2} \cdot 9.$$

Therefore, we deduce that $\sum x_i = 495$ and $\sum_i x_i^2 = 1485$. Now, by Cauchy Schwarz

$$n \left(\sum_i x_i^2 \right) \geq \left(\sum x_i \right)^2$$

which implies $n \geq \frac{495^2}{1485} = 165$.

Equality occurs if we let A consist of the 165 three-element subsets of $\{1, \dots, 11\}$ (plus 60 of your favorite reptiles). Then we let A_i denote those subsets containing i , of which there are $\binom{10}{2} = 45$, and so that $|A_i \cap A_j| = \binom{9}{1} = 9$.