

15<sup>th</sup> Everyone Lives at Most Once

ELMO 2013

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OFFICIAL SOLUTIONS

1. Let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_9$  be nine real numbers, not necessarily distinct, with average  $m$ . Let  $A$  denote the number of triples  $1 \leq i < j < k \leq 9$  for which  $a_i + a_j + a_k \geq 3m$ . What is the minimum possible value of  $A$ ?

*Proposed by Ray Li.*

**Answer.**  $A \geq 28$ .

**Solution 1.** Call a 3-set *good* iff it has average at least  $m$ , and let  $S$  be the family of good sets.

The equality case  $A = 28$  can be achieved when  $a_1 = \dots = a_8 = 0$  and  $a_9 = 1$ . Here  $m = \frac{1}{9}$ , and the good sets are precisely those containing  $a_9$ . This gives a total of  $\binom{8}{2} = 28$ .

To prove the lower bound, suppose we have exactly  $N$  good 3-sets, and let  $p = \frac{N}{\binom{9}{3}}$  denote the probability that a randomly chosen 3-set is good. Now, consider a random permutation  $\pi$  of  $\{1, 2, \dots, 9\}$ . Then the corresponding partition  $\bigcup_{i=0}^2 \{\pi(3i+1), \pi(3i+2), \pi(3i+3)\}$  has at least 1 good 3-set, so by the linearity of expectation,

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &\leq \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{i=0}^2 [\{\pi(3i+1), \pi(3i+2), \pi(3i+3)\} \in S] \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^2 [\mathbb{E}[\{\pi(3i+1), \pi(3i+2), \pi(3i+3)\} \in S]] \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^2 1 \cdot p = 3p. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $N = p \binom{9}{3} \geq \frac{1}{3} \binom{9}{3} = 28$ , establishing the lower bound. ■

This problem and solution were proposed by Ray Li.

**Remark.** One can use double-counting rather than expectation to prove  $N \geq 28$ . In any case, this method generalizes effortlessly to larger numbers.

**Solution 2.** Proceed as above to get an upper bound of 28.

On the other hand, we will show that we can partition the  $\binom{9}{3} = 84$  3-sets into 28 groups of 3, such that in any group, the elements  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_9$  all appear. This will imply the conclusion, since if  $A < 28$ , then there are at least 57 sets with average at most  $m$ , but by pigeonhole three of them must be in such a group, which is clearly impossible.

Consider a 3-set and the following array:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ a_4 & a_5 & a_6 \\ a_7 & a_8 & a_9 \end{array}$$

Consider a set  $|S| = 3$ . We obtain the other two 3-sets in the group as follows:

- If  $S$  contains one element in each column, then shift the elements down cyclically mod 3.
- If  $S$  contains one element in each row, then shift the elements right cyclically mod 3. Note that the result coincides with the previous case if both conditions are satisfied.
- Otherwise, the elements of  $S$  are “constrained” in a  $2 \times 2$  box, possibly shifted diagonally. In this case, we get an L-tromino. Then shift diagonally in the direction the L-tromino points in.

One can verify that this algorithm creates such a partition, so we conclude that  $A \geq 28$ . ■  
This second solution was suggested by Lewis Chen.

2. Let  $a, b, c$  be positive reals satisfying  $a + b + c = \sqrt[7]{a} + \sqrt[7]{b} + \sqrt[7]{c}$ . Prove that  $a^a b^b c^c \geq 1$ .  
Proposed by Evan Chen.

**Solution 1.** By weighted AM-GM we have that

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \sum_{\text{cyc}} \left( \frac{\sqrt[7]{a}}{a + b + c} \right) \\ &= \sum_{\text{cyc}} \left( \frac{a}{a + b + c} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt[7]{a^6}} \right) \\ &\geq \left( \frac{1}{a^a b^b c^c} \right)^{\frac{6/7}{a+b+c}}. \end{aligned}$$

Rearranging yields  $a^a b^b c^c \geq 1$ . ■

This problem and solution were proposed by Evan Chen.

**Remark.** The problem generalizes easily to  $n$  variables, and exponents other than  $\frac{1}{7}$ . Specifically, if positive reals  $x_1 + \dots + x_n = x_1^r + \dots + x_n^r$  for some real number  $r \neq 1$ , then  $\prod_{i \geq 1} x_i^{x_i} \geq 1$  if and only if  $r < 1$ . When  $r \leq 0$ , a Jensen solution is possible using only the inequality  $a + b + c \geq 3$ .

**Solution 2.** First we claim that  $a, b, c < 5$ . Assume the contrary, that  $a \geq 5$ . Let  $f(x) = x - \sqrt[7]{x}$ . Since  $f'(x) > 0$  for  $x \geq 5$ , we know that  $f(a) \geq 5 - \sqrt[7]{5} > 3$ . But this means that WLOG  $b - \sqrt[7]{b} < -1.5$ , which is clearly false since  $b - \sqrt[7]{b} \geq 0$  for  $b \geq 1$ , and  $b - \sqrt[7]{b} \geq -\sqrt[7]{b} \geq -1$  for  $0 < b < 1$ . So indeed  $a, b, c < 5$ .

Now rewrite the inequality as

$$\sum a \ln a \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow \sum \left( \frac{a^{\frac{1}{7}}}{a^{\frac{1}{7}} + b^{\frac{1}{7}} + c^{\frac{1}{7}}} \right) (a^{\frac{6}{7}} \ln a) \geq 0.$$

Now note that if  $g(x) = x^{\frac{6}{7}} \ln x$ , then  $g''(x) = \frac{35-6 \ln x}{49x^{\frac{8}{7}}} > 0$  for  $x \in (0, 5)$ . Therefore  $g$  is convex and we can use Jensen's Inequality to get

$$\sum \left( \frac{a^{\frac{1}{7}}}{a^{\frac{1}{7}} + b^{\frac{1}{7}} + c^{\frac{1}{7}}} \right) (a^{\frac{6}{7}} \ln a) \geq \left( \sum \frac{a^{\frac{8}{7}}}{a^{\frac{1}{7}} + b^{\frac{1}{7}} + c^{\frac{1}{7}}} \right)^{\frac{6}{7}} \ln \left( \sum \frac{a^{\frac{8}{7}}}{a^{\frac{1}{7}} + b^{\frac{1}{7}} + c^{\frac{1}{7}}} \right).$$

Since  $\sum a = \sum a^{\frac{1}{7}}$ , it suffices to show that  $\sum a^{\frac{8}{7}} \geq \sum a$ . But by weighted AM-GM we have

$$6a^{\frac{8}{7}} + a^{\frac{1}{7}} \geq 7a \implies a^{\frac{8}{7}} - a \geq \frac{1}{6}(a - \sqrt[7]{a}).$$

Adding up the analogous inequalities for  $b, c$  gives the desired result. ■

This second solution was suggested by David Stoner.

**Solution 3.** Here we unify the two solutions above.

It's well-known that weighted AM-GM follows from (and in fact, is equivalent to) the convexity of  $e^x$  (or equivalently, the concavity of  $\ln x$ ), as  $\sum w_i e^{x_i} \geq e^{\sum w_i x_i}$  for reals  $x_i$  and nonnegative weights  $w_i$  summing to 1. However, it also follows from the convexity of  $y \ln y$  (or equivalently, the concavity of  $ye^y$ ) for  $y > 0$ . Indeed, letting  $y_i = e^{x_i} > 0$ , and taking logs, weighted AM-GM becomes

$$\sum w_i y_i \cdot \frac{1}{y_i} \log \frac{1}{y_i} \geq \left( \sum w_i y_i \right) \frac{\sum w_i y_i \cdot \frac{1}{y_i}}{\sum w_i y_i} \log \frac{\sum w_i y_i \cdot \frac{1}{y_i}}{\sum w_i y_i},$$

which is clear.

To find Evan's solution, we can use the concavity of  $\ln x$  to get  $\sum a \ln a^{-s} \leq (\sum a) \ln \sum \frac{a \cdot a^{-s}}{\sum a} = 0$ . (Here we take  $s = 6/7 > 0$ .)

For a cleaner version of David's solution, we can use the convexity of  $x \ln x$  to get

$$\sum a \ln a^s = \sum a^{1-s} \cdot a^s \ln a^s \geq \left( \sum a^{1-s} \right) \frac{\sum a^{1-s} \cdot a^s}{\sum a^{1-s}} \ln \frac{\sum a^{1-s} \cdot a^s}{\sum a^{1-s}} = 0$$

(where we again take  $s = 6/7 > 0$ ).

Both are pretty intuitive (but certainly not obvious) solutions once one realizes direct Jensen goes in the wrong direction. In particular,  $s = 1$  doesn't work since we have  $a + b + c \leq 3$  from the power mean inequality. ■

This third solution was suggested by Victor Wang.

**Solution 4.** From  $e^t \geq 1 + t$  for  $t = \ln x^{-\frac{6}{7}}$ , we find  $\frac{6}{7} \ln x \geq 1 - x^{-\frac{6}{7}}$ . Thus

$$\frac{6}{7} \sum a \ln a \geq \sum a - a^{\frac{1}{7}} = 0,$$

as desired. ■

This fourth solution was suggested by chronodecay.

**Remark.** Polya once dreamed a similar proof of  $n$ -variable AM-GM:  $x \geq 1 + \ln x$  for positive  $x$ , so  $\sum x_i \geq n + \ln \prod x_i$ . This establishes AM-GM when  $\prod x_i = 1$ ; the rest follows by homogenizing.

3. Let  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{2013} > 1$  be 2013 pairwise relatively prime positive integers and  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{2013}$  be 2013 (possibly empty) sets with  $A_i \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m_i - 1\}$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, 2013$ . Prove that there is a positive integer  $N$  such that

$$N \leq (2|A_1| + 1)(2|A_2| + 1) \cdots (2|A_{2013}| + 1)$$

and for each  $i = 1, 2, \dots, 2013$ , there does *not* exist  $a \in A_i$  such that  $m_i$  divides  $N - a$ .

*Proposed by Victor Wang.*

**Remark.** As Solution 3 shows, the bound can in fact be tightened to  $\prod_{i=1}^{2013} (|A_i| + 1)$ .

**Solution 1.** We will show that the smallest integer  $N$  such that  $N \notin A_i \pmod{m_i}$  is less than the bound provided.

The idea is to use pigeonhole and the "Lagrange interpolation"-esque representation of CRT systems. Define integers  $t_i$  satisfying  $t_i \equiv 1 \pmod{m_i}$  and  $t_i \equiv 0 \pmod{m_j}$  for  $j \neq i$ . If we

find nonempty sets  $B_i$  of distinct residues mod  $m_i$  with  $B_i - B_i \pmod{m_i}$  and  $A_i \pmod{m_i}$  disjoint, then by pigeonhole, a positive integer solution with  $N \leq \frac{m_1 m_2 \cdots m_{2013}}{|B_1| \cdot |B_2| \cdots |B_{2013}|}$  must exist (more precisely, since

$$b_1 t_1 + \cdots + b_{2013} t_{2013} \pmod{m_1 m_2 \cdots m_{2013}}$$

is injective over  $B_1 \times B_2 \times \cdots \times B_{2013}$ , some two consecutively ordered solutions must differ by at most  $\frac{m_1 m_2 \cdots m_{2013}}{|B_1| \cdot |B_2| \cdots |B_{2013}|}$ ).

On the other hand, since  $0 \notin A_i$  for every  $i$ , we know such nonempty  $B_i$  must exist (e.g. take  $B_i = \{0\}$ ). Now suppose  $|B_i|$  is maximal; then every  $x \pmod{m_i}$  lies in at least one of  $B_i$ ,  $B_i + A_i$ ,  $B_i - A_i$  (note that  $x - x = 0$  is not an issue when considering  $(B_i \cup \{x\}) - (B_i \cup \{x\})$ ), or else  $B_i \cup \{x\}$  would be a larger working set. Hence  $m_i \leq |B_i| + |B_i + A_i| + |B_i - A_i| \leq |B_i|(1 + 2|A_i|)$ , so we get an upper bound of  $\prod_{i=1}^{2013} \frac{m_i}{|B_i|} \leq \prod_{i=1}^{2013} (2|A_i| + 1)$ , as desired.  $\blacksquare$

**Remark.** We can often find  $|B_i|$  significantly larger than  $\frac{m_i}{2|A_i|+1}$  (the bounds  $|B_i + A_i|, |B_i - A_i| \leq |B_i| \cdot |A_i|$  seem really weak, and  $B_i + A_i, B_i - A_i$  might not be that disjoint either). For instance, if  $A_i \equiv -A_i \pmod{m_i}$ , then we can get (the ceiling of)  $\frac{m_i}{|A_i|+1}$ .

**Remark.** By translation and repeated application of the problem, one can prove the following slightly more general statement: “Let  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{2013} > 1$  be 2013 pairwise relatively prime positive integers and  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{2013}$  be 2013 (possibly empty) sets with  $A_i$  a proper subset of  $\{1, 2, \dots, m_i\}$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, 2013$ . Then for every integer  $n$ , there exists an integer  $x$  in the range  $(n, n + \prod_{i=1}^{2013} (2|A_i| + 1)]$  such that  $x \notin A_i \pmod{m_i}$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, 2013$ . (We say  $A$  is a *proper subset* of  $B$  if  $A$  is a subset of  $B$  but  $A \neq B$ .)”

**Remark.** Let  $f$  be a non-constant integer-valued polynomial with  $\gcd(\dots, f(-1), f(0), f(1), \dots) = 1$ . Then by the previous remark, we can easily prove that there exist infinitely many positive integers  $n$  such that the smallest prime divisor of  $f(n)$  is at least  $c \log n$ , where  $c > 0$  is any constant. (We take  $m_i$  the  $i$ th prime and  $A_i \equiv \{n : m_i \mid f(n)\} \pmod{m_i}$ —if  $f = \frac{a}{b}x^d + \dots$ , then  $|A_i| \leq d$  for all sufficiently large  $i$ .)

**Solution 2.** We will mimic the proof of 2010 RMM Problem 1.

Suppose  $1, 2, \dots, N$  (for some  $N \geq 1$ ) can be covered by the sets  $A_i \pmod{m_i}$ .

Observe that for fixed  $m$  and  $1 \leq a \leq m$ , exactly  $1 + \lfloor \frac{N-a}{m} \rfloor$  of  $1, 2, \dots, N$  are  $a \pmod{m}$ . In particular, we have lower and upper bounds of  $\frac{N-m}{m}$  and  $\frac{N+m}{m}$ , respectively, so PIE yields

$$N \leq \sum_i |A_i| \frac{N + m_i}{m_i} - \sum_{i < j} |A_i| \cdot |A_j| \frac{N - m_i m_j}{m_i m_j} \pm \dots$$

It follows that

$$N \prod_i \left(1 - \frac{|A_i|}{m_i}\right) \leq \prod_i (1 + |A_i|),$$

so  $N \leq \prod_i \frac{m_i}{m_i - |A_i|} (1 + |A_i|)$ .

Note that  $\frac{m_i}{m_i - |A_i|} \leq \frac{2|A_i|+1}{|A_i|+1}$  iff  $m_i \geq 2|A_i| + 1$ , so we're done unless  $m_i \leq 2|A_i|$  for some  $i$ .

In this case, there exists (by induction)  $1 \leq N \leq \prod_{j \neq i} (2|A_j| + 1)$  such that  $N \notin m_i^{-1} A_j \pmod{m_j}$  for all  $j \neq i$ . Thus  $m_i N \notin A_j \pmod{m_j}$  and we trivially have  $m_i N \equiv 0 \notin A_i \pmod{m_i}$ , so  $m_i N \leq \prod_k (2|A_k| + 1)$ , as desired.  $\blacksquare$

This problem and the above solutions were proposed by Victor Wang.

**Solution 3.** We can in fact get a bound of  $\prod (|A_k| + 1)$  directly.

Let  $t = 2013$ . Suppose  $1, 2, \dots, N$  are covered by the  $A_k \pmod{m_k}$ ; then

$$z_n = \prod_{1 \leq k \leq t, a \in A_k} \left(1 - e^{\frac{2\pi i}{m_k}(n-a)}\right)$$

is a linear recurrence in  $e^{2\pi i \sum_{k=1}^t \frac{j_k}{m_k}}$  (where each  $j_k$  ranges from 0 to  $|A_k|$ ). But  $z_0 \neq 0 = z_1 = \dots = z_N$ , so  $N$  must be strictly less than the degree  $\prod (|A_k| + 1)$  of the linear recurrence. Thus  $1, 2, \dots, \prod (|A_k| + 1)$  cannot all be covered, as desired. ■

This third solution was suggested by Zhi-Wei Sun.

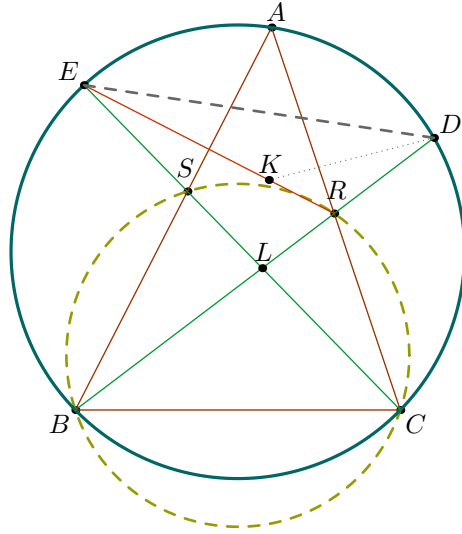
**Remark.** Solution 3 doesn't require the  $m_k$  to be coprime. Note that if  $|A_1| = \dots = |A_t| = b - 1$ , then a base  $b$  construction shows the bound of  $\prod (b - 1 + 1) = b^t$  is "tight" (if we remove the restriction that the  $m_k$  must be coprime).

However, Solutions 2 and 3 "ignore" the additive structure of CRT solution sets encapsulated in Solution 1's Lagrange interpolation representation.

4. Triangle  $ABC$  is inscribed in circle  $\omega$ . A circle with chord  $BC$  intersects segments  $AB$  and  $AC$  again at  $S$  and  $R$ , respectively. Segments  $BR$  and  $CS$  meet at  $L$ , and rays  $LR$  and  $LS$  intersect  $\omega$  at  $D$  and  $E$ , respectively. The internal angle bisector of  $\angle BDE$  meets line  $ER$  at  $K$ . Prove that if  $BE = BR$ , then  $\angle ELK = \frac{1}{2}\angle BCD$ .

*Proposed by Evan Chen.*

**Solution 1.**



First, we claim that  $BE = BR = BC$ . Indeed, construct a circle with radius  $BE = BR$  centered at  $B$ , and notice that  $\angle ECR = \frac{1}{2}\angle EBR$ , implying that it lies on the circle.

Now,  $CA$  bisects  $\angle ECD$  and  $DB$  bisects  $\angle EDC$ , so  $R$  is the incenter of  $\triangle CDE$ . Then,  $K$  is the incenter of  $\triangle LED$ , so  $\angle ELK = \frac{1}{2}\angle ELD = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\widehat{ED} + \widehat{BC}}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\widehat{BED}}{2} = \frac{1}{2}\angle BCD$ . ■

This problem and solution were proposed by Evan Chen.

**Solution 2.** Note  $\angle EBA = \angle ECA = \angle SCR = \angle SBR = \angle ABR$ , so  $AB$  bisects  $\angle EBR$ . Then by symmetry  $\angle BEA = \angle BRA$ , so  $\angle BCR = \angle BCA = 180 - \angle BEA = 180 - \angle BRA = \angle BRC$ , so  $BE = BR = BC$ . Proceed as above. ■

This second solution was suggested by Michael Kural.

5. For what polynomials  $P(n)$  with integer coefficients can a positive integer be assigned to every lattice point in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  so that for every integer  $n \geq 1$ , the sum of the  $n^3$  integers assigned to any  $n \times n \times n$  grid of lattice points is divisible by  $P(n)$ ?

*Proposed by Andre Arslan.*

**Answer.** All  $P$  of the form  $P(x) = cx^k$ , where  $c$  is a nonzero integer and  $k$  is a nonnegative integer.

**Solution.** Suppose  $P(x) = x^k Q(x)$  with  $Q(0) \neq 0$  and  $Q$  is nonconstant; then there exist infinitely many primes  $p$  dividing some  $Q(n)$ ; fix one of them not dividing  $Q(0)$ , and take a sequence of pairwise coprime integers  $m_1, n_1, m_2, n_2, \dots$  with  $p \mid Q(m_i), Q(n_i)$  (we can do this with CRT).

Let  $f(x, y, z)$  be the number written at  $(x, y, z)$ . Note that  $P(m)$  divides every  $mn \times mn \times m$  grid and  $P(n)$  divides every  $mn \times mn \times n$  grid, so by Bezout's identity,  $(P(m), P(n))$  divides every  $mn \times mn \times (m, n)$  grid. It follows that  $p$  divides every  $m_i n_i \times m_i n_i \times 1$  grid. Similarly, we find that  $p$  divides every  $m_i n_i m_j n_j \times 1 \times 1$  grid whenever  $i \neq j$ , and finally, every  $1 \times 1 \times 1$  grid. Since  $p$  was arbitrarily chosen from an infinite set,  $f$  must be identically zero, contradiction.

For the other direction, take a solution  $g$  to the one-dimensional case using repeated CRT (the key relation  $\gcd(P(m), P(n)) = P(\gcd(m, n))$  prevents "conflicts"): start with a positive multiple of  $P(1) \neq 0$  at zero, and then construct  $g(1), g(-1), g(2), g(-2)$ , etc. in that order using CRT. Now for the three-dimensional version, we can just let  $f(x, y, z) = g(x)$ . ■

This problem and solution were proposed by Andre Arslan.

**Remark.** The crux of the problem lies in the 1D case. (We use the same type of reasoning to "project" from  $d$  dimension to  $d - 1$  dimensions.) Note that the condition  $P(n) \mid g(i) + \dots + g(i + n - 1)$  (for the 1D case) is "almost" the same as  $P(n) \mid g(i) - g(i + n)$ , so we immediately find  $\gcd(P(m), P(n)) \mid g(i) - g(i + \gcd(m, n))$  by Bezout's identity. In particular, when  $m, n$  are coprime, we will intuitively be able to get  $\gcd(P(m), P(n))$  as large as we want unless  $P$  is of the form  $cx^k$  (we formalize this by writing  $P = x^k Q$  with  $Q(0) \neq 0$ ).

Conversely, if  $P = cx^k$ , then  $\gcd(P(m), P(n)) = P(\gcd(m, n))$  renders our derived restriction  $\gcd(P(m), P(n)) \mid g(i) - g(i + \gcd(m, n))$  superfluous. So it "feels easy" to find *nonconstant*  $g$  with  $P(n) \mid g(i) - g(i + n)$  for all  $i, n$ , just by greedily constructing  $g(0), g(1), g(-1), \dots$  in that order using CRT. Fortunately,  $g(i) + \dots + g(i + m - 1) - g(i) - \dots - g(i + n - 1) = g(i + n) + \dots + g(i + n + (m - n) - 1)$  for  $m > n$ , so the inductive approach still works for the stronger condition  $P(n) \mid g(i) + \dots + g(i + n - 1)$ .

**Remark.** Note that polynomial constructions cannot work for  $P = cx^{d+1}$  in  $d$  dimensions. Suppose otherwise, and take a minimal degree  $f(x_1, \dots, x_d)$ ; then  $f$  isn't constant, so  $f'(x_1, \dots, x_d) = f(x_1 + 1, \dots, x_d + 1) - f(x_1, \dots, x_d)$  is a working polynomial of strictly smaller degree.

6. Consider a function  $f : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  such that for every integer  $n \geq 0$ , there are at most  $0.001n^2$  pairs of integers  $(x, y)$  for which  $f(x + y) \neq f(x) + f(y)$  and  $\max\{|x|, |y|\} \leq n$ . Is it possible that for some integer  $n \geq 0$ , there are more than  $n$  integers  $a$  such that  $f(a) \neq a \cdot f(1)$  and  $|a| \leq n$ ?

*Proposed by David Yang.*

**Answer.** No.

**Solution.** Call an integer conformist if  $f(n) = n \cdot f(1)$ . Call a pair  $(x, y)$  good if  $f(x + y) = f(x) + f(y)$  and bad otherwise. Let  $h(n)$  denote the number of conformist integers with absolute value at most  $n$ .

Let  $\epsilon = 0.001$ ,  $S$  be the set of conformist integers,  $T = \mathbb{Z} \setminus S$  be the set of non-conformist integers, and  $X_n = [-n, n] \cap X$  for sets  $X$  and positive integers  $n$  (so  $|S_n| = h(n)$ ); clearly  $|T_n| = 2n + 1 - h(n)$ .

First we can easily get  $h(n) = 2n + 1$  ( $-n$  to  $n$  are all conformist) for  $n \leq 10$ .

**Lemma 1.** *Suppose  $a, b$  are positive integers such that  $h(a) > a$  and  $b \leq 2h(a) - 2a - 1$ . Then  $h(b) \geq 2b(1 - \sqrt{\epsilon}) - 1$ .*

*Proof.* For any integer  $t$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |S_a \cap (t - S_a)| &= |S_a| + |t - S_a| - |S_a \cup (t - S_a)| \\ &\geq 2h(a) - (\max(S_a \cup (t - S_a)) - \min(S_a \cup (t - S_a)) + 1) \\ &\geq 2h(a) - (\max(a, t + a) - \min(-a, t - a) + 1) \\ &= 2h(a) - (|t| + 2a + 1) \\ &\geq b - |t|. \end{aligned}$$

But  $(x, y)$  is bad whenever  $x, y \in S$  yet  $x + y \in T$ , so summing over all  $t \in T_b$  (assuming  $|T_b| \geq 2$ ) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon b^2 \geq g(b) &\geq \sum_{t \in T_b} |S_a \cap (t - S_a)| \\ &\geq \sum_{t \in T_b} (b - |t|) \geq \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor |T_b|/2 \rfloor - 1} k + \sum_{k=0}^{\lceil |T_b|/2 \rceil - 1} k \geq 2 \frac{1}{2} (|T_b|/2) (|T_b|/2 - 1), \end{aligned}$$

where we use  $\lfloor r/2 \rfloor + \lceil r/2 \rceil = r$  (for  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ ) and the convexity of  $\frac{1}{2}x(x-1)$ . We conclude that  $|T_b| \leq 2 + 2b\sqrt{\epsilon}$  (which obviously remains true without the assumption  $|T_b| \geq 2$ ) and  $h(b) = 2b + 1 - |T_b| \geq 2b(1 - \sqrt{\epsilon}) - 1$ .  $\square$

Now we prove by induction on  $n$  that  $h(n) \geq 2n(1 - \sqrt{\epsilon}) - 1$  for all  $n \geq 10$ , where the base case is clear. If we assume the result for  $n - 1$  ( $n > 10$ ), then in view of the lemma, it suffices to show that  $2h(n - 1) - 2(n - 1) - 1 \geq n$ , or equivalently,  $2h(n - 1) \geq 3n - 1$ . But

$$2h(n - 1) \geq 4(n - 1)(1 - \sqrt{\epsilon}) - 2 \geq 3n - 1,$$

so we're done. (The second inequality is equivalent to  $n(1 - 4\sqrt{\epsilon}) \geq 5 - 4\sqrt{\epsilon}$ ;  $n \geq 11$  reduces this to  $6 \geq 40\sqrt{\epsilon} = 40\sqrt{0.001} = 4\sqrt{0.1}$ , which is obvious.)  $\blacksquare$

This problem and solution were proposed by David Yang.