

JMO 2014 Solution Notes

EVAN CHEN 《陳誼廷》

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This is a compilation of solutions for the 2014 JMO. The ideas of the solution are a mix of my own work, the solutions provided by the competition organizers, and solutions found by the community. However, all the writing is maintained by me.

These notes will tend to be a bit more advanced and terse than the “official” solutions from the organizers. In particular, if a theorem or technique is not known to beginners but is still considered “standard”, then I often prefer to use this theory anyways, rather than try to work around or conceal it. For example, in geometry problems I typically use directed angles without further comment, rather than awkwardly work around configuration issues. Similarly, sentences like “let \mathbb{R} denote the set of real numbers” are typically omitted entirely.

Corrections and comments are welcome!

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§0 Problems

1. Let a, b, c be real numbers greater than or equal to 1. Prove that

$$\min \left(\frac{10a^2 - 5a + 1}{b^2 - 5b + 10}, \frac{10b^2 - 5b + 1}{c^2 - 5c + 10}, \frac{10c^2 - 5c + 1}{a^2 - 5a + 10} \right) \leq abc.$$

2. Let $\triangle ABC$ be a non-equilateral, acute triangle with $\angle A = 60^\circ$, and let O and H denote the circumcenter and orthocenter of $\triangle ABC$, respectively.

(a) Prove that line OH intersects both segments AB and AC at two points P and Q , respectively.

(b) Denote by s and t the respective areas of triangle APQ and quadrilateral $BPQC$. Determine the range of possible values for s/t .

3. Find all $f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$xf(2f(y) - x) + y^2f(2x - f(y)) = \frac{f(x)^2}{x} + f(yf(y))$$

for all $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $x \neq 0$.

4. Let $b \geq 2$ be a fixed integer, and let $s_b(n)$ denote the sum of the base- b digits of n . Show that there are infinitely many positive integers that cannot be represented in the form $n + s_b(n)$ where n is a positive integer.

5. Let k be a positive integer. Two players A and B play a game on an infinite grid of regular hexagons. Initially all the grid cells are empty. Then the players alternately take turns with A moving first. In her move, A may choose two adjacent hexagons in the grid which are empty and place a counter in both of them. In his move, B may choose any counter on the board and remove it. If at any time there are k consecutive grid cells in a line all of which contain a counter, A wins. Find the minimum value of k for which A cannot win in a finite number of moves, or prove that no such minimum value exists.

6. Let ABC be a triangle with incenter I , incircle γ and circumcircle Γ . Let M, N, P be the midpoints of $\overline{BC}, \overline{CA}, \overline{AB}$ and let E, F be the tangency points of γ with \overline{CA} and \overline{AB} , respectively. Let U, V be the intersections of line EF with line MN and line MP , respectively, and let X be the midpoint of arc BAC of Γ .

(a) Prove that I lies on ray CV .

(b) Prove that line XI bisects \overline{UV} .

§1 Solutions to Day 1

§1.1 JMO 2014/1, proposed by Titu Andreescu

Available online at <https://aops.com/community/p3477681>.

Problem statement

Let a, b, c be real numbers greater than or equal to 1. Prove that

$$\min \left(\frac{10a^2 - 5a + 1}{b^2 - 5b + 10}, \frac{10b^2 - 5b + 1}{c^2 - 5c + 10}, \frac{10c^2 - 5c + 1}{a^2 - 5a + 10} \right) \leq abc.$$

Notice that

$$\frac{10a^2 - 5a + 1}{a^2 - 5a + 10} \leq a^3$$

since it rearranges to $(a - 1)^5 \geq 0$. Cyclically multiply to get

$$\prod_{\text{cyc}} \left(\frac{10a^2 - 5a + 1}{b^2 - 5b + 10} \right) \leq (abc)^3$$

and the minimum is at most the geometric mean.

§1.2 JMO 2014/2, proposed by Zuming Feng

Available online at <https://aops.com/community/p3477702>.

Problem statement

Let $\triangle ABC$ be a non-equilateral, acute triangle with $\angle A = 60^\circ$, and let O and H denote the circumcenter and orthocenter of $\triangle ABC$, respectively.

- Prove that line OH intersects both segments AB and AC at two points P and Q , respectively.
- Denote by s and t the respective areas of triangle APQ and quadrilateral $BPQC$. Determine the range of possible values for s/t .

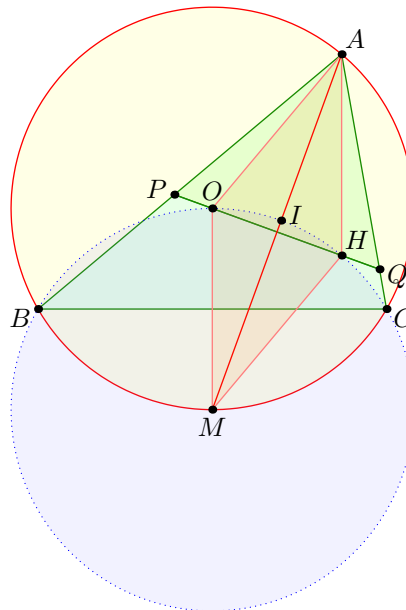
We begin with some synthetic work. Let I denote the incenter, and recall (“fact 5”) that the arc midpoint M is the center of (BIC) , which we denote by γ .

Now we have that

$$\angle BOC = \angle BIC = \angle BHC = 120^\circ.$$

Since all three centers lie inside ABC (as it was acute), and hence on the opposite side of \overline{BC} as M , it follows that O, I, H lie on minor arc BC of γ .

We note this implies (a) already, as line OH meets line BC outside of segment BC .



Claim — Triangle APQ is equilateral with side length $\frac{b+c}{3}$.

Proof. Let R be the circumradius. We have $R = OM = OA = MH$, and even $AH = 2R \cos A = R$, so $AOMH$ is a rhombus. Thus $\overline{OH} \perp \overline{AM}$ and in this way we derive that $\triangle APQ$ is isosceles, hence equilateral.

Finally, since $\angle PBH = 30^\circ$, and $\angle BPH = 120^\circ$, it follows that $\triangle BPH$ is isosceles and $BP = PH$. Similarly, $CQ = QH$. So $b+c = AP+BP+AQ+QC = AP+AQ+PQ$ as needed. \square

Finally, we turn to the boring task of extracting the numerical answer. We have

$$\frac{s}{s+t} = \frac{[APQ]}{[ABC]} = \frac{\frac{\sqrt{3}}{4} \left(\frac{b+c}{3}\right)^2}{\frac{\sqrt{3}}{4} bc} = \frac{b^2 + 2bc + c^2}{9bc} = \frac{1}{9} \left(2 + \frac{b}{c} + \frac{c}{b}\right).$$

So the problem is reduced to analyzing the behavior of b/c . For this, we imagine fixing Γ the circumcircle of ABC , as well as the points B and C . Then as we vary A along the “topmost” arc of measure 120° , we find b/c is monotonic with values $1/2$ and 2 at endpoints, and by continuity all values $b/c \in (1/2, 2)$ can be achieved.

So

$$\frac{1}{2} < \frac{b}{c} < 2 \implies \frac{4}{9} < \frac{s}{s+t} < \frac{1}{2} \implies \frac{4}{5} < \frac{s}{t} < 1$$

as needed.

§1.3 JMO 2014/3, proposed by Titu Andreescu

Available online at <https://aops.com/community/p3477690>.

Problem statement

Find all $f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$xf(2f(y) - x) + y^2f(2x - f(y)) = \frac{f(x)^2}{x} + f(yf(y))$$

for all $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $x \neq 0$.

The answer is $f(x) \equiv 0$ and $f(x) \equiv x^2$. Check that these work.

Now let's prove these are the only solutions. Put $y = 0$ to obtain

$$xf(2f(0) - x) = \frac{f(x)^2}{x} + f(0).$$

The nicest part of the problem is the following step:

Claim — We have $f(0) = 0$.

Proof. If not, select a prime $p \nmid f(0)$ and put $x = p \neq 0$. In the above, we find that $p \mid f(p)^2$, so $p \mid f(p)$ and hence $p \mid \frac{f(p)^2}{p}$. From here we derive $p \mid f(0)$, contradiction. Hence

$$f(0) = 0.$$

□

Claim — We have $f(x) \in \{0, x^2\}$ for each individual x .

Proof. The above then implies that

$$x^2f(-x) = f(x)^2$$

holds for all nonzero x , but also for $x = 0$. Let us now check that f is an even function. In the above, we may also derive $f(-x)^2 = x^2f(x)$. If $f(x) \neq f(-x)$ (and hence $x \neq 0$), then subtracting the above and factoring implies that $f(x) + f(-x) = -x^2$; we can then obtain by substituting the relation

$$\left[f(x) + \frac{1}{2}x^2\right]^2 = -\frac{3}{4}x^4 < 0$$

which is impossible. This means $f(x)^2 = x^2f(x)$, thus

$$f(x) \in \{0, x^2\} \quad \forall x.$$

□

Now suppose there exists a nonzero integer t with $f(t) = 0$. We will prove that $f(x) \equiv 0$. Put $y = t$ in the given to obtain that

$$t^2 f(2x) = 0$$

for any integer $x \neq 0$, and hence conclude that $f(2\mathbb{Z}) \equiv 0$. Then selecting $x = 2k \neq 0$ in the given implies that

$$y^2 f(4k - f(y)) = f(yf(y)).$$

Assume for contradiction that $f(m) = m^2$ now for some odd $m \neq 0$. Evidently

$$m^2 f(4k - m^2) = f(m^3).$$

If $f(m^3) \neq 0$ this forces $f(4k - m^2) \neq 0$, and hence $m^2(4k - m^2)^2 = m^6$ for arbitrary $k \neq 0$, which is clearly absurd. That means

$$f(4k - m^2) = f(m^2 - 4k) = f(m^3) = 0$$

for each $k \neq 0$. Since m is odd, $m^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, and so $f(n) = 0$ for all n other than $\pm m^2$ (since we cannot select $k = 0$).

Now $f(m) = m^2$ means that $m = \pm 1$. Hence either $f(x) \equiv 0$ or

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x = \pm 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

To show that the latter fails, we simply take $x = 5$ and $y = 1$ in the given.

Hence, the only solutions are $f(x) \equiv 0$ and $f(x) \equiv x^2$.

§2 Solutions to Day 2

§2.1 JMO 2014/4, proposed by Palmer Mebane

Available online at <https://aops.com/community/p3478579>.

Problem statement

Let $b \geq 2$ be a fixed integer, and let $s_b(n)$ denote the sum of the base- b digits of n . Show that there are infinitely many positive integers that cannot be represented in the form $n + s_b(n)$ where n is a positive integer.

For brevity let $f(n) = n + s_b(n)$. Select any integer M . Observe that $f(x) \geq b^{2M}$ for any $x \geq b^{2M}$, but also $f(b^{2M} - k) \geq b^{2M}$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots, M$, since the base- b expansion of $b^{2M} - k$ will start out with at least M digits $b - 1$.

Thus f omits at least M values in $[1, b^{2M}]$ for any M .

§2.2 JMO 2014/5, proposed by Palmer Mebane

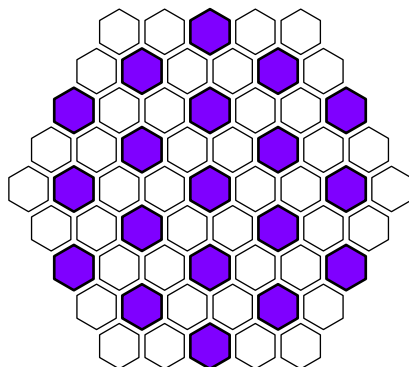
Available online at <https://aops.com/community/p3478584>.

Problem statement

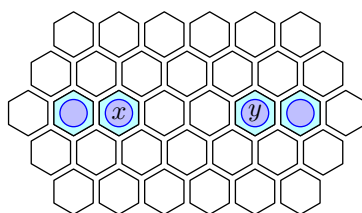
Let k be a positive integer. Two players A and B play a game on an infinite grid of regular hexagons. Initially all the grid cells are empty. Then the players alternately take turns with A moving first. In her move, A may choose two adjacent hexagons in the grid which are empty and place a counter in both of them. In his move, B may choose any counter on the board and remove it. If at any time there are k consecutive grid cells in a line all of which contain a counter, A wins. Find the minimum value of k for which A cannot win in a finite number of moves, or prove that no such minimum value exists.

The answer is $k = 6$.

¶ **Proof that A cannot win if $k = 6$.** We give a strategy for B to prevent A 's victory. Shade in every third cell, as shown in the figure below. Then A can never cover two shaded cells simultaneously on her turn. Now suppose B always removes a counter on a shaded cell (and otherwise does whatever he wants). Then he can prevent A from ever getting six consecutive counters, because any six consecutive cells contain two shaded cells.



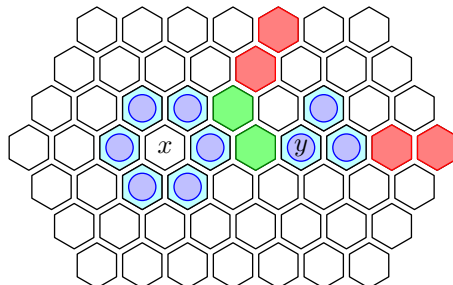
¶ **Example of a strategy for A when $k = 5$.** We describe a winning strategy for A explicitly. Note that after B 's first turn there is one counter, so then A may create an equilateral triangle, and hence after B 's second turn there are two consecutive counters. Then, on her third turn, A places a pair of counters two spaces away on the same line. Label the two inner cells x and y as shown below.



Now it is B 's turn to move; in order to avoid losing immediately, he must remove either x or y . Then on any subsequent turn, A can replace x or y (whichever was removed) and add one more adjacent counter. This continues until either x or y has all its neighbors

filled (we ask A to do so in such a way that she avoids filling in the two central cells between x and y as long as possible).

So, let's say without loss of generality (by symmetry) that x is completely surrounded by tokens. Again, B must choose to remove x (or A wins on her next turn). After x is removed by B , consider the following figure.



We let A play in the two marked green cells. Then, regardless of what move B plays, one of the two choices of moves marked in red lets A win. Thus, we have described a winning strategy when $k = 5$ for A .

§2.3 JMO 2014/6, proposed by Titu Andreescu, Cosmin Pohoata

Available online at <https://aops.com/community/p3478583>.

Problem statement

Let ABC be a triangle with incenter I , incircle γ and circumcircle Γ . Let M, N, P be the midpoints of $\overline{BC}, \overline{CA}, \overline{AB}$ and let E, F be the tangency points of γ with \overline{CA} and \overline{AB} , respectively. Let U, V be the intersections of line EF with line MN and line MP , respectively, and let X be the midpoint of arc BAC of Γ .

- (a) Prove that I lies on ray CV .
- (b) Prove that line XI bisects \overline{UV} .

The fact that $I = \overline{BU} \cap \overline{CV}$ and is Lemma 1.45 from EGMO.

As for (b), we note:

Claim — Line IX is a symmedian of $\triangle IBC$.

Proof. Recall that (BIC) has circumcenter coinciding with the antipode of X (by “Fact 5”). So this follows from the fact that \overline{XB} and \overline{XC} are tangent. \square

Since $BVUC$ is cyclic with diagonals intersecting at I , and IX is symmedian of $\triangle IBC$, it is median of $\triangle IUV$, as needed.

Remark (Alternate solution to (b) by Gunmay Handa). It’s well known that X is the midpoint of $\overline{I_b I_c}$ (by considering the nine-point circle of the excentral triangle). However, $\overline{UV} \parallel \overline{I_b I_c}$ and $I = \overline{I_b U} \cap \overline{I_c V}$, implying the result.