

JMO 2016 Solution Notes

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This is a compilation of solutions for the 2016 JMO. Some of the solutions are my own work, but many are from the official solutions provided by the organizers (for which they hold any copyrights), and others were found by users on the Art of Problem Solving forums.

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. The isosceles triangle $\triangle ABC$, with $AB = AC$, is inscribed in the circle ω . Let P be a variable point on the arc BC that does not contain A , and let I_B and I_C denote the incenters of triangles $\triangle ABP$ and $\triangle ACP$, respectively. Prove that as P varies, the circumcircle of triangle $\triangle PI_B I_C$ passes through a fixed point.
2. Prove that there exists a positive integer $n < 10^6$ such that 5^n has six consecutive zeros in its decimal representation.
3. Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_{100} be a sequence of mutually distinct nonempty subsets of a set S . Any two sets X_i and X_{i+1} are disjoint and their union is not the whole set S , that is, $X_i \cap X_{i+1} = \emptyset$ and $X_i \cup X_{i+1} \neq S$, for all $i \in \{1, \dots, 99\}$. Find the smallest possible number of elements in S .
4. Find, with proof, the least integer N such that if any 2016 elements are removed from the set $\{1, 2, \dots, N\}$, one can still find 2016 distinct numbers among the remaining elements with sum N .
5. Let $\triangle ABC$ be an acute triangle, with O as its circumcenter. Point H is the foot of the perpendicular from A to line BC , and points P and Q are the feet of the perpendiculars from H to the lines AB and AC , respectively.

Given that

$$AH^2 = 2AO^2,$$

prove that the points O , P , and Q are collinear.

6. Find all functions $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that for all real numbers x and y ,

$$(f(x) + xy) \cdot f(x - 3y) + (f(y) + xy) \cdot f(3x - y) = (f(x + y))^2.$$

§1 Solutions to Day 1

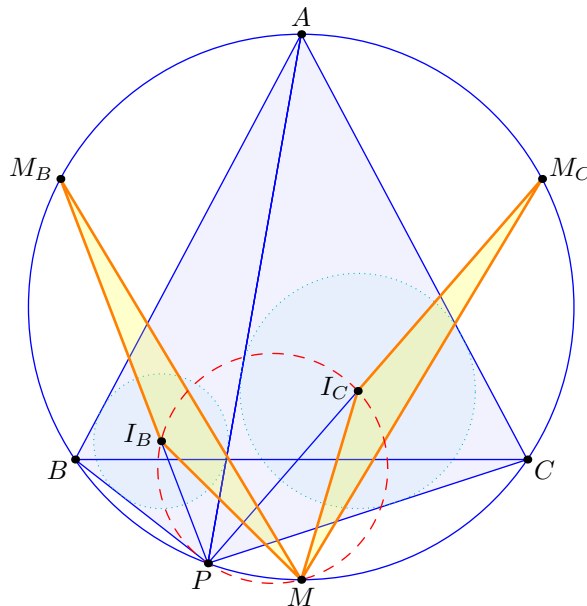
§1.1 JMO 2016/1, proposed by Ivan Borsenco, Zuming Feng

Available online at <https://aops.com/community/p6213607>.

Problem statement

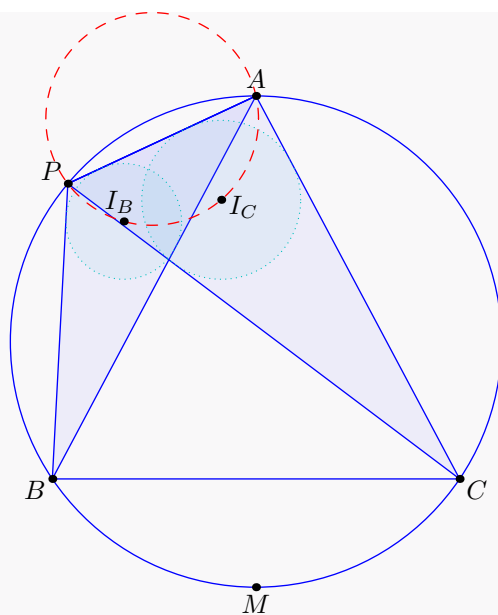
The isosceles triangle $\triangle ABC$, with $AB = AC$, is inscribed in the circle ω . Let P be a variable point on the arc BC that does not contain A , and let I_B and I_C denote the incenters of triangles $\triangle ABP$ and $\triangle ACP$, respectively. Prove that as P varies, the circumcircle of triangle $\triangle PI_BI_C$ passes through a fixed point.

Let M be the midpoint of arc BC not containing A . We claim M is the desired fixed point.



Since $\angle MPA = 90^\circ$ and ray PA bisects $\angle I_B P I_C$, it suffices to show that $M I_B = M I_C$. Let M_B, M_C be the second intersections of $P I_B$ and $P I_C$ with circumcircle. Now $M_B I_B = M_B B = M_C C = M_C I_C$, and moreover $M M_B = M M_C$, and $\angle I_B M_B M = \frac{1}{2} \widehat{P M} = \angle I_C M_C M$, so triangles $\triangle I_B M_B M \cong \triangle I_C M_C M$.

Remark 1.1. Complex in the obvious way DOES NOT WORK, because the usual claim (“the fixed point is arc midpoint”) is FALSE if the hypothesis that P lies in the interior of the arc is dropped. See figure below.



Fun story, I pointed this out to Zuming during grading; I was the only one that realized the subtlety.

§1.2 JMO 2016/2, proposed by Evan Chen

Available online at <https://aops.com/community/p6213569>.

Problem statement

Prove that there exists a positive integer $n < 10^6$ such that 5^n has six consecutive zeros in its decimal representation.

We will prove that $n = 20 + 2^{19} = 524308$ fits the bill.

First, we claim that

$$5^n \equiv 5^{20} \pmod{5^{20}} \quad \text{and} \quad 5^n \equiv 5^{20} \pmod{2^{20}}.$$

Indeed, the first equality holds since both sides are $0 \pmod{5^{20}}$, and the second by $\varphi(2^{20}) = 2^{19}$ and Euler's theorem. Hence

$$5^n \equiv 5^{20} \pmod{10^{20}}.$$

In other words, the last 20 digits of 5^n will match the decimal representation of 5^{20} , with leading zeros. However, we have

$$5^{20} = \frac{1}{2^{20}} \cdot 10^{20} < \frac{1}{1000^2} \cdot 10^{20} = 10^{-6} \cdot 10^{20}$$

and hence those first six of those 20 digits will all be zero. This completes the proof! (To be concrete, it turns out that $5^{20} = 95367431640625$ and so the last 20 digits of 5^n will be 00000095367431640625.)

Remark. Many of the first posts in the JMO 2016 discussion thread (see <https://aops.com/community/c5h1230514>) claimed that the problem was “super easy”. In fact, the problem was solved by only about 10% of contestants.

¶ **Authorship comments** This problem was inspired by the observation $5^8 \equiv 5^4 \pmod{10^4}$, i.e. that 5^8 ended with 0625.

I noticed this one day back in November, when I was lying on my bed after a long afternoon and was mindlessly computing powers of 5 in my head because I was too tired to do much else. When I reached 5^8 I noticed for the first time that the ending 0625 was actually induced by 5^4 . (Given how much MathCounts I did, I really should have known this earlier!)

Thinking about this for a few more seconds, I realized one could obtain arbitrarily long strings of 0's by using a similar trick modulo larger powers of 10. This surprised me, because I would have thought that if this was true, then I would have learned about it back in my contest days. However, I could not find any references, and I thought the result was quite nice, so I submitted it as a proposal for the JMO, where I thought it might be appreciated.

The joke about six consecutive zeros is due to Zuming Feng.

§1.3 JMO 2016/3, proposed by Iurie Boreico

Available online at <https://aops.com/community/p6213589>.

Problem statement

Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_{100} be a sequence of mutually distinct nonempty subsets of a set S . Any two sets X_i and X_{i+1} are disjoint and their union is not the whole set S , that is, $X_i \cap X_{i+1} = \emptyset$ and $X_i \cup X_{i+1} \neq S$, for all $i \in \{1, \dots, 99\}$. Find the smallest possible number of elements in S .

Solution with Danielle Wang: the answer is that $|S| \geq 8$.

Proof of sufficiency Since we must have $2^{|S|} \geq 100$, we must have $|S| \geq 7$.

To see that $|S| = 8$ is the minimum possible size, consider a chain on the set $S = \{1, 2, \dots, 7\}$ satisfying $X_i \cap X_{i+1} = \emptyset$ and $X_i \cup X_{i+1} \neq S$. Because of these requirements any subset of size 4 or more can only be neighbored by sets of size 2 or less, of which there are $\binom{7}{1} + \binom{7}{2} = 28$ available. Thus, the chain can contain no more than 29 sets of size 4 or more and no more than 28 sets of size 2 or less. Finally, since there are only $\binom{7}{3} = 35$ sets of size 3 available, the total number of sets in such a chain can be at most $29 + 28 + 35 = 92 < 100$.

Construction We will provide an inductive construction for a chain of subsets $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_{2^{n-1}+1}$ of $S = \{1, \dots, n\}$ satisfying $X_i \cap X_{i+1} = \emptyset$ and $X_i \cup X_{i+1} \neq S$ for each $n \geq 4$.

For $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, the following chain of length $2^3 + 1 = 9$ will work:

$$34 \quad 1 \quad 23 \quad 4 \quad 12 \quad 3 \quad 14 \quad 2 \quad 13 .$$

Now, given a chain of subsets of $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ the following procedure produces a chain of subsets of $\{1, 2, \dots, n+1\}$:

1. take the original chain, delete any element, and make two copies of this chain, which now has even length;
2. glue the two copies together, joined by \emptyset in between; and then
3. insert the element $n+1$ into the sets in alternating positions of the chain starting with the first.

For example, the first iteration of this construction gives:

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc} 345 & 1 & 235 & 4 & 125 & 3 & 145 & 2 & 5 \\ 34 & 15 & 23 & 45 & 12 & 35 & 14 & 25 & \end{array}$$

It can be easily checked that if the original chain satisfies the requirements, then so does the new chain, and if the original chain has length $2^{n-1} + 1$, then the new chain has length $2^n + 1$, as desired. This construction yields a chain of length 129 when $S = \{1, 2, \dots, 8\}$.

Remark. Here is the construction for $n = 8$ in its full glory.

345678	1	235678	4	125678	3	145678	2	5678
34	15678	23	45678	12	35678	14	678	
345	1678	235	4678	125	3678	145	2678	5
34678	15	23678	45	12678	35	78		
3456	178	2356	478	1256	378	1456	278	56
3478	156	2378	456	1278	356	1478	6	
34578	16	23578	46	12578	36	14578	26	578
346	1578	236	4578	126	8			
34567	18	23567	48	12567	38	14567	28	567
348	1567	238	4567	128	3567	148	67	
3458	167	2358	467	1258	367	1458	267	58
3467	158	2367	458	1267	358	7		
34568	17	23568	47	12568	37	14568	27	568
347	1568	237	4568	127	3568	147	68	
3457	168	2357	468	1257	368	1457	268	57
3468	157	2368	457	1268				

§2 Solutions to Day 2

§2.1 JMO 2016/4, proposed by Gregory Galperin

Available online at <https://aops.com/community/p6220314>.

Problem statement

Find, with proof, the least integer N such that if any 2016 elements are removed from the set $\{1, 2, \dots, N\}$, one can still find 2016 distinct numbers among the remaining elements with sum N .

The answer is

$$N = 2017 + 2018 + \dots + 4032 = 1008 \cdot 6049 = 6097392.$$

To see that N must be at least this large, consider the situation when $1, 2, \dots, 2016$ are removed. Among the remaining elements, any sum of 2016 elements is certainly at least $2017 + 2018 + \dots + 4032$.

Now we show this value of N works. Consider the 3024 pairs of numbers $(1, 6048)$, $(2, 6047)$, \dots , $(3024, 3025)$. Regardless of which 2016 elements of $\{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ are deleted, at least $3024 - 2016 = 1008$ of these pairs have both elements remaining. Since each pair has sum 6049, we can take these pairs to be the desired numbers.

§2.2 JMO 2016/5, proposed by Zuming Feng, Jacek Fabrykowski

Available online at <https://aops.com/community/p6220305>.

Problem statement

Let $\triangle ABC$ be an acute triangle, with O as its circumcenter. Point H is the foot of the perpendicular from A to line BC , and points P and Q are the feet of the perpendiculars from H to the lines AB and AC , respectively.

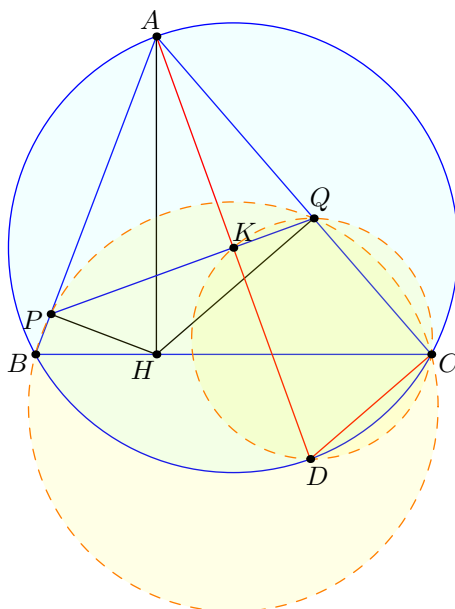
Given that

$$AH^2 = 2AO^2,$$

prove that the points O , P , and Q are collinear.

We present two approaches.

¶ **First approach (synthetic)** First, since $AP \cdot AB = AH^2 = AQ \cdot AC$, it follows that $PQCB$ is cyclic. Consequently, we have $AO \perp PQ$.



Let K be the foot of A onto PQ , and let D be the point diametrically opposite A . Thus A, K, O, D are collinear.

Since quadrilateral $KQCD$ is cyclic ($\angle QKD = \angle QCD = 90^\circ$), we have

$$AK \cdot AD = AQ \cdot AC = AH^2 \implies AK = \frac{AH^2}{AD} = \frac{AH^2}{2AO} = AO$$

so $K = O$.

¶ **Second approach (coordinates), with Joshua Hsieh** We impose coordinates with H at the origin and $A = (0, a)$, $B = (-b, 0)$, $C = (c, 0)$, for $a, b, c > 0$.

Claim — The circumcenter has coordinates $(\frac{c-b}{2}, \frac{a}{2} - \frac{bc}{2a})$.

Proof. This is a known lemma but we reproduce its proof for completeness. It uses the following steps:

- By power of a point, the second intersection of line AH with the circumcircle is $(0, -\frac{bc}{a})$.
- Since the orthocenter is the reflection of this point across line BC , the orthocenter is given exactly by $(0, \frac{bc}{a})$.
- The centroid is $\frac{\vec{A}+\vec{B}+\vec{C}}{3} = (\frac{c-b}{3}, \frac{a}{3})$.
- Since $\vec{H} - \vec{O} = 3(\vec{G} - \vec{O})$ according to the Euler line, we have $\vec{O} = \frac{3}{2}\vec{G} - \frac{1}{2}\vec{H}$. This gives the desired formula. \square

Note that $HQ = \frac{HA \cdot HC}{AC} = \frac{ac}{\sqrt{a^2+c^2}}$. If we let T be the foot from Q to BC , then $\triangle HQT \sim \triangle AHC$ and so the x -coordinate of Q is given by $HQ \cdot \frac{AH}{AC} = \frac{a^2c}{a^2+c^2}$. Repeating the analogous calculation for Q and P gives

$$Q = \left(\frac{a^2c}{a^2+c^2}, \frac{ac^2}{a^2+c^2} \right)$$

$$P = \left(-\frac{a^2b}{a^2+b^2}, \frac{ab^2}{a^2+b^2} \right).$$

Then, O, P, Q are collinear if and only if the following shoelace determinant vanishes (with denominators cleared out):

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \det \begin{bmatrix} -a^2b & ab^2 & a^2+b^2 \\ a^2c & ac^2 & a^2+c^2 \\ a(c-b) & a^2-bc & 2a \end{bmatrix} = a \det \begin{bmatrix} -ab & ab^2 & a^2+b^2 \\ ac & ac^2 & a^2+c^2 \\ c-b & a^2-bc & 2a \end{bmatrix} \\ &= a \det \begin{bmatrix} -a(b+c) & a(b^2-c^2) & b^2-c^2 \\ ac & ac^2 & a^2+c^2 \\ c-b & a^2-bc & 2a \end{bmatrix} = a(b+c) \det \begin{bmatrix} -a & a(b-c) & b-c \\ ac & ac^2 & a^2+c^2 \\ c-b & a^2-bc & 2a \end{bmatrix} \\ &= a(b+c) \cdot [-a(a^2c^2 - a^4 + bc(a^2+c^2)) + ac(b-c)(-a^2-bc) - (b-c)^2 \cdot a^3] \\ &= a^2(b+c)(a^4 - a^2b^2 - b^2c^2 - c^2a^2). \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} AH^2 &= a^2 \\ 2AO^2 &= 2 \left[\left(\frac{c-b}{2} \right)^2 + \left(-\frac{a}{2} - \frac{bc}{2a} \right)^2 \right] = \frac{a^2+b^2+c^2 + \frac{b^2c^2}{a^2}}{2} \\ \implies AH^2 - 2AO^2 &= \frac{1}{2} \left(a^2 - b^2 - c^2 - \frac{b^2c^2}{a^2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

So the conditions are equivalent.

§2.3 JMO 2016/6, proposed by Titu Andreescu

Available online at <https://aops.com/community/p6220308>.

Problem statement

Find all functions $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that for all real numbers x and y ,

$$(f(x) + xy) \cdot f(x - 3y) + (f(y) + xy) \cdot f(3x - y) = (f(x + y))^2.$$

We claim that the only two functions satisfying the requirements are $f(x) \equiv 0$ and $f(x) \equiv x^2$. These work.

First, taking $x = y = 0$ in the given yields $f(0) = 0$, and then taking $x = 0$ gives $f(y)f(-y) = f(y)^2$. So also $f(-y)^2 = f(y)f(-y)$, from which we conclude f is even. Then taking $x = -y$ gives

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R} : \quad f(x) = x^2 \quad \text{or} \quad f(4x) = 0 \quad (\star)$$

for all x .

Remark. Note that an example of a function satisfying (\star) is

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & \text{if } |x| < 1 \\ \log(x^{42} + 2016^{\cos(x)}) & \text{if } 1 \leq |x| < 4 \\ 0 & \text{if } |x| \geq 4. \end{cases}$$

So, yes, we are currently in a world of trouble, still.

Now we claim

$$\text{Claim — } f(z) = 0 \iff f(2z) = 0 \quad (\spadesuit).$$

Proof. Let $(x, y) = (3t, t)$ in the given to get

$$(f(t) + 3t^2) f(8t) = f(4t)^2.$$

Now if $f(4t) \neq 0$ (in particular, $t \neq 0$), then $f(8t) \neq 0$. Thus we have (\spadesuit) in the reverse direction.

Then $f(4t) \neq 0 \xrightarrow{(\star)} f(t) = t^2 \neq 0 \xrightarrow{(\spadesuit)} f(2t) \neq 0$ implies the forwards direction, the last step being the reverse direction (\spadesuit) . \square

By putting together (\star) and (\spadesuit) we finally get

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R} : \quad f(x) = x^2 \quad \text{or} \quad f(x) = 0 \quad (\heartsuit)$$

We are now ready to approach the main problem. Assume there's an $a \neq 0$ for which $f(a) = 0$; we show that $f \equiv 0$.

Let $b \in \mathbb{R}$ be given. Since f is even, we can assume without loss of generality that $a, b > 0$. Also, note that $f(x) \geq 0$ for all x by (\heartsuit) . By using (\spadesuit) we can generate $c > b$ such that $f(c) = 0$ by taking $c = 2^n a$ for a large enough integer n . Now, select $x, y > 0$ such that $x - 3y = b$ and $x + y = c$. That is,

$$(x, y) = \left(\frac{3c + b}{4}, \frac{c - b}{4} \right).$$

Substitution into the original equation gives

$$0 = (f(x) + xy) f(b) + (f(y) + xy) f(3x - y) \geq (f(x) + xy) f(b).$$

But since $f(b) \geq 0$, it follows $f(b) = 0$, as desired.