

# INTRODUCTION TO NYSML

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# INTRODUCTION TO NYSML

This presentation is dedicated to the memory  
of our colleague and co-author

**Jan Siwanowicz**

who suddenly passed away in March 2023  
at the age of 46

# SHORT HISTORY OF NYSML

- NYSML = New York State Mathematics League
- Founded by Alfred Kalfus who wanted teams of all-stars to gather for friendly face-to-face competition, which he thought would foster a mathematically positive environment for all involved
- Began in 1973, held “each” spring since then
- Cancelled in 2020
- Held virtually in 2021 and 2022



# SHORT HISTORY OF NYSML

- Upstate/downstate site rotation and planning
- Teams usually represent a large (within NY state) geographic region (such as a county or several counties), but they can also represent an individual school or Math Circle
- One local league can be represented by several teams (four NYC teams, used to be six)
- DUSO team (Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan, Orange counties)

# SHORT HISTORY OF NYSML

- A team from Massachusetts asked to participate in the 1974 NYSML competition, and it took first place
- This led to the creation of the Atlantic Regions Mathematics League in 1976, which became the American Regions Mathematics League (ARML) in 1984
- The ARML competition is based on the format of the NYSML competition

# SHORT HISTORY OF NYSML

- The NYC team has been the best team in the state every year the contest was held
- The next annual spring championship will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024

# NYSML FORMAT

- Teams consist of up to 15 members who are usually high-school students
- Problems are the same for all students
- Problems cover a wide variety of mathematical topics including algebra, geometry, number theory, combinatorics, probability, inequalities
- Calculus knowledge is not required but could be handy



# NYSML FORMAT

- Calculators, phones, laptops, Internet-connected devices, etc. are banned
- Four main events that count toward overall team and individual results
- Team Round (short-answer based)
- Power Question (proof-based)
- Individual Round (short-answer based)
- Relay Round (short-answer based)

# NYSML FORMAT

- Types of answers: a single number; a pair or a triple of numbers; a set or a list of numbers
- Form of answers: predefined (e.g. decimal (1.5), fraction ( $\frac{3}{2}$ ), mixed number ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ ), an expression with radicals), free form
- All answers must be simplified
- Answers  $1 + 2$ ,  $\frac{6}{4}$ ,  $\sqrt{12}$  are incorrect, even if they could be simplified to the correct ones

# NYSML FORMAT

- One event (Individual Round) allows contestants to compete for individual awards; others are only for team awards
- Combined individual scores are also included in the total team score
- The maximum number of points a team can earn is 300, up to 150 in Individual Round and up to 50 in each of the other three events

# NYSML FORMAT

- Alternate contestants
- Reasons for bringing alternates
- Individual alternates
- Substitution and borrowing
- Incomplete teams
- Alternate teams
- Eligibility for awards

# NYSML FORMAT

- Four main events, grading, an optional Tiebreaker Round, and the Award Ceremony are all done in a day

# TEAM ROUND

- Teams of 15 students work collaboratively to solve ten problems in twenty minutes
- Problems are independent from each other
- Variety of topics and difficulty
- Each problem is worth 5 points, for a total of 50 points possible for the team
- Only answers (one team answer per problem) are scored

# TEAM ROUND

- Grading is binary: the answer is either correct (5 points) or incorrect (0 points)
- To be counted as correct, the answer must be written in a proper form
- Grading is more or less straightforward, no special skills are required

# TEAM ROUND

- Collaboration
- Topic preference
- Verification process
- Captain's role
- Seating arrangements
- Common strategies



# TEAM ROUND

Problem #	Answer	Solved By	✓	✓✓
1	2024	SK	OK	GR
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

# POWER QUESTION

- Teams of 15 students work collaboratively to solve a multiple-part (usually ten or more) question around a central theme in one hour (guided mini-research)
- This is often an unusual, unique, or invented topic so students are forced to deal with complex new mathematical ideas, including definitions, examples, facts, relationships, hints, etc.

# POWER QUESTION

- All written solutions provided by teams are scored
- Team solutions (not only answers!) must include answers, explanations and proofs with rigor, depending on the keywords used in question statements (compute, list, draw; determine, find, explain, show; prove, justify)
- Each problem is weighted (depending on its difficulty and the keyword used ) for a possible total of 50 points

# POWER QUESTION

- Even if not proved, earlier numbered items (only their statements!) may be used in solutions to later numbered items, but not vice versa
- Common lemmas
- Referencing the solution of one problem from the solution of another problem

# POWER QUESTION

- Grading is not binary (partial progress in each item could be awarded some points based on the rubric)
- Grading is really time-consuming and requires special skills including an ability to read a terrible handwriting
- Explanations and proofs provided by students can vary significantly
- Some of them may be really different from the official solutions

# POWER QUESTION

- Special procedure for grading multiple solutions for the same item provided by the same team

# POWER QUESTION

- Collaboration
- Question type (keyword) preference
- Verification process
- Captain's role
- Seating arrangements
- Common strategies
- Idea generators and solution writers

# INDIVIDUAL ROUND

- Students answer ten questions in five pairs, taking ten minutes for each pair
- There is no collaboration
- Problems are independent from each other
- Variety of topics and difficulty
- Each problem is worth 1 point per contestant, for a total of 10 points possible for the contestant, and a grand total of 150 points possible for the team



# INDIVIDUAL ROUND

- Only answers (one contestant answer per problem) are scored
- Grading is binary: the answer is either correct (1 point) or incorrect (0 points)
- To be counted as correct, the answer must be written in a proper form
- Grading is more or less straightforward, no special skills are required

# INDIVIDUAL ROUND

- Correct answers are announced after collecting student answer sheets for each problem pair, so contestants can easily keep track of their scores
- Possible strategies

# RELAY ROUND



# RELAY ROUND

- Teams are broken into five groups of three (relay teams) if possible
- Each relay team tries to answer a string of questions, where the answer to the first question is needed to solve the second, and the answer to the second question is needed to solve the third

# RELAY ROUND

- Within each relay team, the first team member solves a problem and passes the answer to the next team member, who plugs that answer into their question, and so on
- Only answers (one final answer per relay team submitted by the third team member) are scored

# RELAY ROUND

- The allotted time is six minutes, but extra points are given for solving the problem in three minutes and not providing ANY answer in six minutes
- Solving the relay in three minutes gives 5 points (per relay team), solving it in six minutes gives 3 points, for a sub-total of 25 points possible for the team

# RELAY ROUND

- The whole process is done twice (with different strings of problems), for a total of 50 points possible for the team

# RELAY ROUND

- Grading is binary: the answer is either correct (5 or 3 points depending on the time the final answer was provided) or incorrect (0 points)
- To be counted as correct, the answer must be written in a proper form
- Grading is more or less straightforward, no special skills are required



# RELAY ROUND

- Communication
- Changing the answer
- Confirming the answer
- Communicating uncertainty
- Communicating info about an answer
- Common strategies
- Special strategies

# RELAY ROUND

- Ability to work quickly and accurately under pressure
- Ability to communicate effectively with teammates
- Selecting roles (#1, #2, #3) within a relay team

# TIEBREAKER ROUND

- To break, or not to break, that is the question
- Top four students are recognized
- Examples of ties in individual scores:
  - 10, 10, 9, 9, 9
  - 10, 9, 9, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8
  - 50 students with score 10
  - Virtually impossible case: 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 6, 6

# TIEBREAKER ROUND

- All students are listed based on their individual scores in descending order
- The score of the person #4 from the top is the passing score
- All students with their scores at least as high as the passing score are invited to the Tiebreaker Round, even if such students do not have any score ties

# TIEBREAKER ROUND

- In the Tiebreaker Round, students with high Individual Round scores come to the front of the auditorium and answer questions one at a time, using their times to break ties (for individual scores only) and award final prizes
- The goal is to solve TB questions correctly, but time also matters

# TIEBREAKER ROUND

- Some ties can be broken (resolved) after the first TB problem (TB-1), some other ties can be broken after TB-2, etc.
- Usually there are up to 3 TB problems prepared for the competition, but in some cases additional TB questions may be required
- Ability to work quickly and accurately under significant pressure

# TEAM TIEBREAKER PROCEDURE

- Team score ties are broken (resolved) without an additional round, by first considering the sum of the Team and Power Question Rounds, then the Relay Round total

# INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- Top four students (based on their individual scores and the results of the Tiebreaker Round) are recognized
- The Individual Champion earns the Curt Boddie Award in memory of Curt, who was NYSML's President for many years
- Individual High Scorer Award is awarded to all other participants in the Tiebreaker Round



# INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- Team High Scorer Medal is awarded to all students with the highest scores in their teams (excluding scores of all students who participated in the Tiebreaker Round)
- Every team gets at least one individual award

# TEAM AWARDS

- Top three teams in Division A are recognized
- Top three teams in Division B are recognized

# DOMINANT TEAMS

- Teams with consistently high results year over year
- Unofficial Team Ranking at IMO
- Team China (since 1986): mostly in top 2, with few exceptions (#4, #8, #6, #3, #3)
- Team USA (since 1974): mostly in top 5, with few exceptions (#6, #7, #11, #10, #6)
- Team Ukraine (since 1993): mostly in top 20, few times in top 10, once in top 4

# IMAGINARY IMO RULE CHANGE

- Imagine that IMO Board allows LARGE provinces/states/territories (with a total population of 10 million or more) within a country to be represented at IMO by their own teams, in addition to the country team

# IMAGINARY IMO RULE CHANGE

- China: 22 provinces (excluding Taiwan), 5 autonomous regions, 4 municipalities, 2 Special Administrative Regions
- USA: 50 states, 1 federal district, 5 major territories
- Ukraine: 27 regions (including 2 cities with special status and 1 autonomous republic)

# IMAGINARY IMO RULE CHANGE

- China: 21 LARGE provinces (excluding Taiwan), 3 LARGE autonomous regions, 4 LARGE municipalities, 0 LARGE Special Administrative Regions
- USA: 10 LARGE states, 0 LARGE federal districts, 0 LARGE major territories
- Ukraine: 0 LARGE regions

# IMAGINARY IMO RULE CHANGE

- China:  $1 + 28 = 29$  teams
- USA:  $1 + 10 = 11$  teams
- Other countries with LARGE provinces/states/territories (e.g. India)
- Ukraine: 1 team

# IMAGINARY IMO RULE CHANGE

- How many IMO teams from China (out of 29) would appear in top 10 (20, 30, 40, 50), on average?
- How many IMO teams from USA (out of 11) would appear in top 10 (20, 30, 40, 50), on average?
- What are the chances for the only IMO team from Ukraine to appear in top 10 (20, 30, 40, 50)?



# BACK TO NYSML

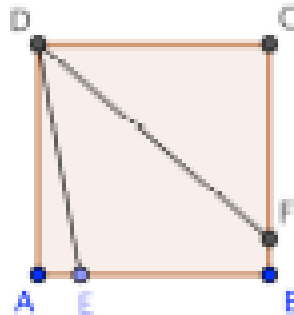
- NYC is usually represented at NYSML by several teams (between 4 and 6)
- In the past, it was not uncommon for NYC teams to get all three team awards in Division A
- NYSML changed Team Award rules to allow not more than one team award per year per member league

# NYSML 2015: TEAM ROUND

- T-1. For two positive numbers  $x$  and  $y$ , we define their arithmetic mean as  $\frac{x+y}{2}$ , their geometric mean as  $\sqrt{xy}$ , and their harmonic mean as  $\frac{2}{\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{y}}$ . Suppose that two positive numbers have a geometric mean of 24 and a harmonic mean of 22. Compute their arithmetic mean.
- T-2. If  $(x + 2z) : (2y + z) : (2x + y) = 1 : 3 : 5$  and  $x + y + z = 18$ , compute the value of  $z$ .
- T-3. There are 52 balls in a box. Each ball has a number. Four of the balls are numbered 0, four are numbered 1, and so on, such that the highest number on a ball is 12 (and this occurs for four balls). Three balls are chosen from the box without replacement. Compute the probability that at least one ball will have a two-digit number.
- T-4. The perimeter of regular dodecagon *DISCOUNTABLE* is 60. Compute its area in the form  $a + b\sqrt{c}$ , where  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  are integers, and  $c$  cannot be divided by the square of any prime.

# NYSML 2015: INDIVIDUAL ROUND

- I-8. In square  $ABCD$ ,  $E$  is on  $\overline{AB}$  and  $F$  is on  $\overline{BC}$  such that  $\overline{DF}$  is an angle bisector of  $\angle EDC$ . Given that  $DE = 20$  and  $AD = 15$ , compute  $AE + CF$ .



- I-9. Consider a sequence  $\{n_i\}$  for which  $n_1 = 2$ ,  $n_2 = 0$ ,  $n_3 = 1$ ,  $n_4 = 5$ ,  $n_5 = 20$ ,  $n_6 = 15$ , and  $n_i = n_{i-1} - n_{i-2} + n_{i-3} - n_{i-4} + n_{i-5} - n_{i-6}$  for  $i \geq 7$ . Compute  $n_{2015}$ .
- I-10. Compute the number of positive integers  $n$  such that  $n \leq 2015$  and  $n$  is divisible by  $\lfloor \sqrt{n} \rfloor$ , which is the greatest integer not exceeding  $\sqrt{n}$ .

# NYSML 2015: RELAY ROUND

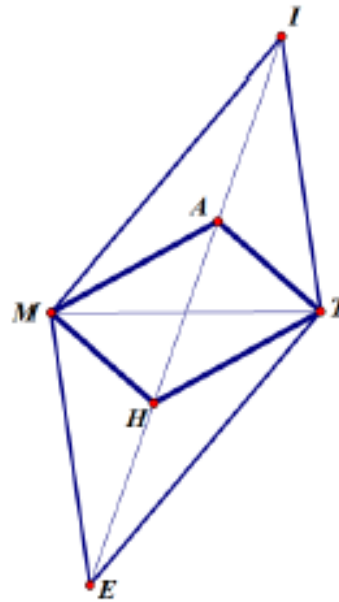
R1-1. Compute the two-digit number that is equal to one more than three times the sum of its digits.

R1-2. Let  $N$  be the two-digit prime you will receive. The four-digit number  $Y = \underline{20PQ}$  is divisible by  $N$ . Compute the number of distinct possible values of  $Y$ .

R1-3. Let  $N$  be the number you will receive. The solutions of  $x^3 - 4x^2 + 6x - N = 0$  are  $p$ ,  $q$ , and  $r$ . Compute the value of  $(p + q)(p + r)(q + r)$ .

# NYSML 2015: TIEBREAKER ROUND

TB-1. In parallelogram  $MATH$ ,  $MA = 11$  and  $AT = 9$ . In parallelogram  $TIME$ ,  $TI = 13$  and  $MI = 17$ . Vertices  $A$  and  $H$  of  $MATH$  trisect diagonal  $\overline{TE}$  of  $TIME$ . Compute the length  $IE$ .



TB-2. The three-digit octal (base-8) number  $N = \underline{ABC}$  is 5 times the two-digit octal number  $\underline{AC}$ . Compute the greatest possible value of  $N$ , giving your answer in base 8.

# NYSML 2015: POWER QUESTION

## Power Question 2015: Irregular Regular Polygons

### The Regulars:

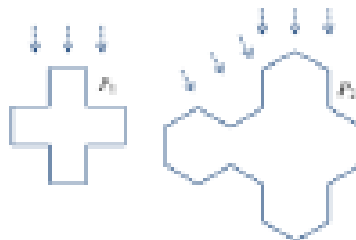
Recall that for any integer  $n \geq 3$  there exists a regular polygon having  $n$  sides with all sides congruent and all internal angles congruent. For the purpose of this question, we assume that all sides have length 1, making this (convex) polygon  $R_n$  unique for each  $n \geq 3$ .

For any regular polygon  $R$  we define  $\alpha(R)$  as the degree-measure of any internal angle of  $R$ .

- P-1.    a. Compute the areas of  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_8$ , and  $R_9$ . [4 pts]  
      b. Provide an explicit formula (in terms of  $n$ ) for  $\alpha(R_n)$ . [1 pt]

### The Irregulars:

Consider the polygons  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  below. All of their sides have length 1, and for each of these polygons all of the non-reflex angles are congruent, but some of these angles are internal and some others are not.  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are examples of **Irregular Regular Polygons (IRPs)**.



# NYSML 2015: POWER QUESTION

Before we formally define an IRP, let's consider any polygon  $P$ . As usual, we do not allow self-intersecting polygons or polygons with overlapping vertices, but we do allow non-convex polygons.



Each vertex of  $P$  and two sides of  $P$  sharing this vertex form two angles. One of them is an internal angle of  $P$  and the other one is the corresponding explementary angle. Note that exactly one of these two angles is a reflex angle. Therefore, any polygon  $P$  with  $n$  vertices has  $n$  pairs of explementary angles, or  $2n$  angles altogether –  $n$  reflex and  $n$  non-reflex ones.

A regular polygon could be defined as a convex polygon with all sides congruent and all non-reflex angles congruent. Now, we define an IRP as a non-convex polygon with all sides congruent and all non-reflex angles congruent. We continue to assume that all sides have length 1. Note that regular polygons  $R_n$ , because they are convex, are not IRPs.

For any regular polygon  $R$  we could define  $\alpha(R)$  as the degree-measure of any non-reflex angle

# NYSML 2015: POWER QUESTION

of  $R$ . Similarly, if  $P$  is an IRP, we define  $\alpha(P)$  as the degree-measure of any non-reflex angle of  $P$ , the IRP.

- P-2.    a. Compute the perimeters and areas of  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ . [4 pts]  
      b. Compute the least possible radius of a disk which fully covers  $P_2$ . [1 pt]
- P-3.    a. Show that for every IRP  $P$  there exists an integer  $n \geq 3$  such that  $\alpha(P) = \alpha(R_n)$ . [3 pts]  
      b. Show that every IRP has at least four internal non-reflex angles. [2 pts]

## The Families:

For any integer  $n \geq 3$  we define **IRP- $n$**  as the set (family) of all IRPs  $P$  such that  $\alpha(P) = \alpha(R_n)$ . The result of **P3-a** means that every IRP belongs to exactly one of these families. In the examples above,  $P_1 \in \text{IRP-4}$  and  $P_2 \in \text{IRP-6}$ .

*Hint: To solve some of the problems below, it might be useful to take a look at an IRP along a line parallel or perpendicular to one of the IRP's sides.*

- P-4.    a. Show that the family IRP-3 is empty. [1 pt]  
      b. Draw two IRPs,  $P_3 \in \text{IRP-4}$  and  $P_4 \in \text{IRP-6}$ , which have neither a line of symmetry nor a center of symmetry. [2 pts]  
      c. Draw two non-congruent IRPs,  $P_5$  and  $P_6$ , having the same perimeters and the same areas. [2 pts]



# NYSML 2015: POWER QUESTION

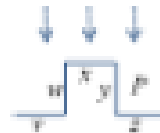
- P-5. a. Prove that every IRP from IRP- $n$  has  $n$  more internal non-reflex angles than internal reflex angles. [2 pts]  
b. Show that the perimeter of every IRP from IRP- $n$  has the same parity as  $n$ . [1 pt]  
c. Show that for every even integer  $p \geq 10$ , there exists an IRP from IRP-6 with perimeter  $p$ . [2 pts]
- P-6. a. Show that the perimeter of every IRP from IRP-4 is at least 12. [1 pt]  
b. Show that the perimeter of every IRP from IRP- $n$  is at least  $n + 2$ . [1 pt]  
c. Show that the perimeter of every IRP from IRP- $n$  is at least  $n + 4$ . [3 pts]
- P-7. a. Show that  $2\alpha(R_5) + \alpha(R_{10}) = 360^\circ$ . [1 pt]  
b. Draw an IRP from IRP-5 with perimeter 25. [2 pts]  
c. Draw an IRP from IRP-5 with perimeter not equal to 25. [2 pts]
- P-8. a. Prove that the perimeter of every IRP from IRP-5 is a multiple of 5. [3 pts]  
b. Draw the unique IRP with the least possible perimeter. [2 pts]

# NYSML 2015: POWER QUESTION

- P-9. a. Show that the family IRP-6 contains infinitely many different (non-congruent) IRPs. [1 pt]
- b. Show that the family IRP-5 contains infinitely many different (non-congruent) IRPs. [2 pts]
- c. Show that for every integer  $n \geq 4$ , the family IRP- $n$  contains infinitely many different (non-congruent) IRPs. [2 pts]
- P-10. Prove that there exists an IRP with a prime perimeter. [5 pts]

# NYSML 2015: POWER QUESTION

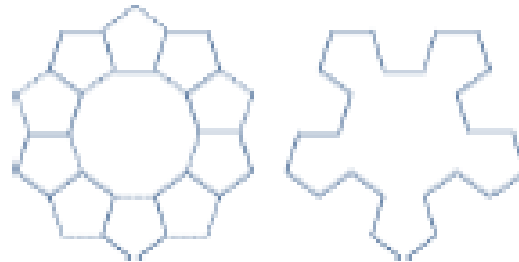
- P-6. a. Let  $P$  be an arbitrary IRP from IRP-4. Assume that  $P$  has only horizontal and vertical sides. Let  $x$  be one of the top horizontal sides of  $P$ . Two neighboring sides,  $w$  and  $y$ , are vertical, and their neighboring sides,  $v$  and  $z$ , are horizontal. Neither of these two horizontal sides appear directly below  $x$  to avoid a self-intersection.



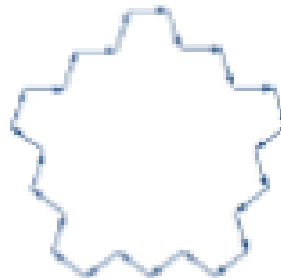
So if one looks at  $P$  from above along a vertical line, one will see at least three different horizontal sides (all of them differ from  $v$ ,  $x$ , and  $z$ ) not blocked by other sides. This means that  $P$  has at least six different horizontal sides. Similarly,  $P$  has at least six different vertical sides, and therefore its perimeter is at least 12.

# NYSML 2015: POWER QUESTION

- P-7. a. The answer to P1-b implies that  $\alpha(R_5) = 108^\circ$  and  $\alpha(R_{10}) = 144^\circ$ . Therefore,  $2\alpha(R_5) + \alpha(R_{10}) = 360^\circ$ .
- b. Draw  $R_{10}$  and then on each of its sides place an instance of  $R_5$  (externally). The result of P7-a implies that each of these ten regular pentagons will share a side with two neighboring regular pentagons. Now it is straightforward to highlight some of their sides to get a required (flower-like) IRP from IRP-5 with perimeter 25 (at the right in the figure below).



Alternatively, we can apply the vector-based method described in the solution to P7-c to get another IRP from IRP-5 with perimeter 25 (shown below).



# NYSML 2015: POWER QUESTION

- Selected and approved for NYSML 2016
- Shifted to NYSML 2015
- Why?

# LIVE RELAY ROUND SIMULATION

**R1.** Let the sequence  $\{T_n\}$  be the sequence of triangular numbers,  $T_1 = 1, T_n = T_{n-1} + n, n \geq 2$ .  
Let the sequence  $\{F_n\}$  be the Fibonacci sequence,  $F_1 = 1, F_2 = 1, F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}, n \geq 3$ .  
Compute the product of all common elements in both sequences that are less than 2024.

**R1.** Нехай послідовність  $\{T_n\}$  є послідовністю трикутних чисел,  $T_1 = 1, T_n = T_{n-1} + n, n \geq 2$ .  
Нехай послідовність  $\{F_n\}$  є послідовністю Фібоначчі,  $F_1 = 1, F_2 = 1, F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}, n \geq 3$ .  
Обчисліть добуток усіх спільних елементів в обох послідовностях, менших за 2024.

# LIVE RELAY ROUND SIMULATION

**R2.** *Let  $N$  be the number you will receive. Compute the least prime that doesn't divide  $\frac{N^N-1}{N-1}$ .*

**R2.** *Нехай  $N$  буде числом, яке ви отримуєте. Обчисліть найменше просте число, на яке не ділиться  $\frac{N^N-1}{N-1}$ .*

# LIVE RELAY ROUND SIMULATION

**R3.** *Let  $r$  be the even number you will receive. Compute the greatest possible perimeter of a right triangle with integer side lengths and inradius  $r$ .*

**R3.** *Нехай  $r$  буде парним числом, яке ви отримуєте. Обчисліть найбільший можливий периметр прямокутного трикутника з цілими довжинами сторін і радіусом вписаного кола  $r$ .*



# LIVE RELAY ROUND SOLUTIONS

**R1.** Let the sequence  $\{T_n\}$  be the sequence of triangular numbers,  $T_1 = 1, T_n = T_{n-1} + n, n \geq 2$ . Let the sequence  $\{F_n\}$  be the Fibonacci sequence,  $F_1 = 1, F_2 = 1, F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}, n \geq 3$ . Compute the product of all common elements in both sequences that are less than 2024.

**Solution.**  $T_n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}, n \geq 1; k = T_n \leftrightarrow 8k + 1 = 4n^2 + 4n + 1 = (2n + 1)^2$ .

$8k + 1 = m^2 \rightarrow 8k + 1 \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{3} \leftrightarrow 8k \equiv 2, 0 \pmod{3} \leftrightarrow -k \equiv 0, 2 \pmod{3}$   
 $\leftrightarrow k \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{3}$ ;

$8k + 1 = m^2 \rightarrow 8k + 1 \equiv 0, 1, 4 \pmod{5} \leftrightarrow 8k \equiv 4, 0, 3 \pmod{5} \leftrightarrow -2k \equiv 4, 0, 3 \pmod{5}$   
 $\leftrightarrow -4k \equiv 8, 0, 6 \pmod{5} \leftrightarrow k \equiv 0, 1, 3 \pmod{5}$ .

The elements of the Fibonacci sequence that are less than 2024 are:

1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89, 144, 233, 377, 610, 987, 1597.

$8 \cdot 610 + 1 = 4881 = 70^2 - 19 \in (69^2, 70^2); 8 \cdot 13 + 1 = 105 \in (10^2, 11^2)$ .

Numbers  $1 = T_1, 3 = T_2, 21 = T_6, 55 = T_{10}$  are indeed triangular numbers, so the answer is  $1 \cdot 1 \cdot 3 \cdot 21 \cdot 55 = 3465$ .

# LIVE RELAY ROUND SOLUTIONS

**R2.** Let  $N$  be the number you will receive. Compute the least prime that doesn't divide  $\frac{N^N-1}{N-1}$ .

**Solution.**  $\frac{N^N-1}{N-1} = N^{N-1} + N^{N-2} + \dots + N^2 + N + 1$  ( $N$  terms). Since  $N = 3465$  is odd, each term is odd, the number of terms is odd, so their sum is odd, and the answer is **2**.

# LIVE RELAY ROUND SOLUTIONS

**R3.** Let  $r$  be the even number you will receive. Compute the greatest possible perimeter of a right triangle with integer side lengths and inradius  $r$ .

**Solution.** WLOG we can assume that  $x \leq y$ . Note that  $x, y \in \mathbb{N}$ .

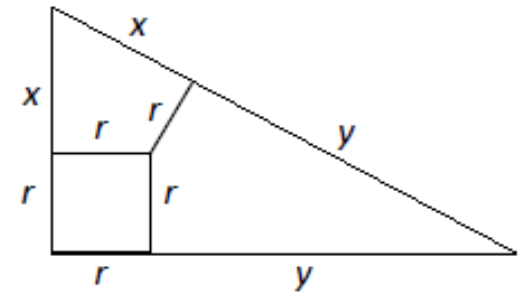
$$(r + x)^2 + (r + y)^2 = (x + y)^2 \Leftrightarrow r^2 + rx + ry = xy$$

$\Leftrightarrow (x - r)(y - r) = 2r^2$ . Plugging in  $r = 2$ , we can see that only the following cases are possible:

$x - 2 = 1, y - 2 = 8, x = 3, y = 10, r + x = 5, r + y = 12, x + y = 13$ ,  $(5, 12, 13)$  is indeed a right triangle with integer side lengths, inradius 2, and perimeter 30;

$x - 2 = 2, y - 2 = 4, x = 4, y = 6, r + x = 6, r + y = 8, x + y = 10$ ,  $(6, 8, 10)$  is indeed a right triangle with integer side lengths, inradius 2, and perimeter 24.

So the answer is  $\max(30, 24) = 30$ .



# LIVE RELAY ROUND DISCUSSION

- Common strategies for Relay Team members
- Additional smart strategy for Relay Team member #1
- Additional smart strategies for Relay Team member #2
- Additional smart strategy for Relay Team member #3

# POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS

- Using general relays and topic-focused relays
- Asking students to prepare their own relays
- Using student-prepared relays with different student groups
- Using Power Question topics for student research activities (for each Power Question, there are many related problems that for various reasons were not included in the event)

# REFERENCES

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