Northern Michigan University 4/6/19

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Problem 1 (Lines and Slopes)

Time (3 min)

Suppose the points (m, 3) and (1, m) lie on a line of slope m, where m is positive. Find the value of m.

Solution. Let $(x_1, y_1) = (m, 3)$ and $(x_2, y_2) = (1, m)$. The slope can be computed:

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{m - 3}{1 - m},$$

which yields:

$$m(1-m) = m-3$$
$$m-m^2 = m-3$$
$$m^2 = 3$$
$$m = \sqrt{3}.$$

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Problem 2 (Averages)

Time (4 min)

One class with M students got an average of 90% on a test. Another class with N students got an average of 80% on the same test.

The combined average of the two classes is 82%.

What is the value of $\frac{M}{N}$?

Solution. The total accumulated points from the two classes combined, can be written in two different ways:

$$90M + 80N = 82(M + N)$$
$$8M = 2N$$
$$\frac{M}{N} = \frac{2}{8} = \frac{1}{4}.$$

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Problem 3 (Reflections and Triangles)

Time (4 min)



The point A = (2, 3) is reflected about the *x*-axis to another point *B*. The point *B* is reflected about the line y = x to a third point *C*.

Find the area of the triangle *ABC*.

Solution. A = (2, 3), B = (2, -3), C = (-3, 2). To compute the area:

area
$$=$$
 $\frac{\text{base} \cdot \text{height}}{2} = \frac{5 \cdot 6}{2} = 15 \text{ units}^2.$

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Problem 4 (Ratios)

Time (3 min)

The ratio of a to b is 4:3.

The ratio of c to d is 2 : 1.

The ratio of d to b is 1: 6.

What is the ratio of *a* to *c*?

Solution. We have that $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{4}{3}$, $\frac{c}{d} = \frac{2}{1}$, and $\frac{d}{b} = \frac{1}{6}$. Therefore $\frac{a}{c} = \frac{a}{b} \cdot \frac{b}{d} \cdot \frac{d}{c} = \frac{4}{3} \cdot \frac{6}{1} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{4}{1}$.

This gives that the ratio of a to c is 4 : 1.

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Problem 5 (Geometry)

Time (4 min)

Six circles, each with a two foot diameter, are stacked tangent to each other as shown.



What is the height of the stack?

Solution. Draw an equilateral triangle between the three centers of the extreme outer circles. It will have a side length of 4. Let h be its height.

By the Pythagorean Theorem we have:

$$4^{2} = h^{2} + 2^{2}$$
$$h^{2} = 12$$
$$h = \sqrt{12}$$
$$h = 2\sqrt{3}.$$

Therefore the height of the stack is $1 + \sqrt{12} + 1 = 2 + \sqrt{12} = 2 + 2\sqrt{3}$ feet.

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Problem 6 (Solving Equations)

Time (4 min)

Consider the equation:

$$\frac{2y}{x} = \frac{y - 2x}{x - 3y}$$

for *x* and *y* positive numbers.

Find the value of $\frac{x}{y}$.

Solution. Let $a = \frac{x}{y}$. The equation can be rewritten:

$$2\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) = \frac{\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)(y-2x)}{\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)(x-3y)}$$
$$2\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) = \frac{\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)-2}{1-3\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)}$$
$$2\left(\frac{1}{a}\right) = \frac{\left(\frac{1}{a}\right)-2}{1-3\left(\frac{1}{a}\right)}$$
$$\frac{2}{a} = \frac{1-2a}{a-3}$$
$$2(a-3) = a(1-2a)$$
$$2a^2 + a - 6 = 0$$
$$2a^2 + 4a - 3a - 6 = 0$$
$$2a(a+2) - 3(a+2) = 0$$
$$(a+2)(2a-3) = 0.$$

We want the positive solution $a = \frac{x}{y} = \frac{3}{2}$.

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Problem 7 (Sum of a Sequence)

Time (4 min)

What is the sum of the first 100 odd numbers?

Solution. Adding up consecutive odd numbers always gives a perfect square.

$$1 + 3 = 2^{2}$$

$$1 + 3 + 5 = 3^{2}$$

$$1 + 3 + 5 + 7 = 4^{2}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + (2n - 1) = n^{2}.$$

Therefore $1 + 3 + 5 + 7 + \dots + 197 + 199 = 100^2 = 10,000$.

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Problem 8 (Exponents and Digits)

Time (4 min)

How many zeros are at the end of the number $20^{50} \times 50^{20}$?

Solution.

$$20^{50} \cdot 50^{20} = (2^2 \cdot 5)^{50} \cdot (2 \cdot 5^2)^{20}$$

= 2^{100} \cdot 5^{50} \cdot 2^{20} \cdot 5^{40}
= 2^{120} \cdot 5^{90}
= 2^{30} \cdot 2^{90} \cdot 5^{90}
= 2^{30} \cdot (2 \cdot 5)^{90}
= 2^{30} \cdot 10^{90}.

Therefore the number ends in 90 zeros.

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Problem 9 (More Sums of Sequences)

Time (4 min)

What is the numerical value of the expression?

$$100^2 - 99^2 + 98^2 - 97^2 + \dots + 2^2 - 1^2$$

Solution. Let the expression be *E*.

$$\begin{split} E &= (100 - 99)(100 + 99) + (98 - 97)(98 + 97) + \dots + (4 - 3)(4 + 3) + (2 - 1)(2 + 1) \\ &= 199 + 195 + 191 + \dots + 7 + 3 \\ &= (4(49) + 3) + (4(48) + 3) + \dots + (4(2) + 3) + (4 + 3) + 3 \\ &= 4(49 + 48 + \dots + 2 + 1) + 50(3) \\ &= 4\left(\frac{49 \cdot 50}{2}\right) + 50(3) \\ &= 51(50) \\ &= 5,050. \end{split}$$

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Problem 10 (Counting and Probability)

Time (5 min)

Three darts land in **three different** squares when thrown at the board below.

What is the probability that the three darts land in squares that form a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal line?



Solution. Since the three darts land in three different squares, there are

$$9C3 = \binom{9}{3} = \frac{9 \cdot 8 \cdot 7}{3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 7 = 84$$

possible ways this could happen. Of these 84 possibilities, there are only 8 lines (3 vertical, 3 horizontal, 2 diagonal). Therefore the probability is:

$$\frac{8}{84} = \frac{4}{42} = \frac{2}{21}.$$