

MATHEMATICS ENRICHMENT CLUB.
Solutions Sheet 8, June 16, 2015¹

1. We have

$$\begin{aligned}x^2 - y^2 &= 1999 \\(x - y)(x + y) &= 1999;\end{aligned}$$

and since 1999 is prime, either $(x - y) = -1$, $(x + y) = 1999$ or $(x + y) = -1$, $(x - y) = 1999$; there is a total of four integral solutions to both cases.

2. There are two solutions to this problem: One uses the perimeter of $\triangle ABC$, the other uses the area of $\triangle ABC$.

(a) Hint: Let the point of intersection between the circle and the side AB be P . Then the radius of the inscribed circle is $|AP|$, and the line BP is tangent to the circle at the point P .

(b) Hint: Let M be the middle of the inscribed circle. Then the triangles $\triangle ABM$, $\triangle BCM$ and $\triangle CAM$ all have height equal to the radius of the inscribed circle.

3. A neat trick is to express N as

$$\underbrace{333 \dots 333}_{61 \text{ 3's}} = \frac{3}{9} \underbrace{999 \dots 999}_{61 \text{ 9's}} = \frac{3}{9}(10^{61} - 1):$$

Similarly, $M = \underbrace{666 \dots 666}_{62 \text{ 6's}} = \frac{6}{9}(10^{62} - 1)$. Now

$$\begin{aligned}N - M &= \frac{2}{9}(10^{61} - 1)(10^{62} - 1) \\&= \frac{2}{9}(10^{61} - 1) - 10^{62} + \frac{2}{9}(10^{61} - 1) \\&= \underbrace{222 \dots 222}_{61 \text{ 2's}} - \underbrace{1000 \dots 000}_{62 \text{ 0's}} + \underbrace{222 \dots 222}_{61 \text{ 2's}} \\&= \underbrace{222 \dots 222}_{60 \text{ 2's}} - \underbrace{19777 \dots 777}_{60 \text{ 7's}} + 8.\end{aligned}$$

¹Some problems from UNSW's publication Parabola

It is easy to compute the sum of digits on the last line of the above equation; it is 558.

4. First we note that for positive integers $m; n; k$ and r , if $a = mk + r$, then $a^x = nk + r^x$ (you may want to show this is true). Now, since $a = x$

then by using the assumption that $x < y$, we have

$$d \frac{x-y}{2} + 1 - \frac{y}{x} = \frac{x}{2}$$

$$d \frac{x-y}{2} + 1 - \frac{x}{y} = \frac{y}{2}$$

The last system of inequality does not hold because $x < y$, so we have a contradiction to the advertisement's claim.

Senior Questions

1. Since $c > 0$, $x^2 + 1 = x^2 + \frac{1}{2} + 2$ 2. Similarly, $x^2 + 1 = x^2 + \frac{1}{2} + 2$. Therefore, if r_1 and r_2 are the roots of f (assuming $r_1 > r_2$ wlog). Then $r_1 > 2$ and $r_2 < 0$, so that $r_1 r_2 = c - 3 < 0$, which implies $c < 3$.

To get the lower bound on c , we use the quadratic formula $r_1 = \frac{(c+1) + \sqrt{(c+1)^2 - 4(c-3)}}{2}$. Solving gives $c \geq 3$.

2. Lets start by looking at the extreme case $BX = XC; CY = YA; AZ = ZB$; as shown below. By the Midpoint Theorem, the line BC is parallel to ZY , and the line AC is parallel to ZX .

Since the RHS of the above equation is rational, $\sqrt[p]{c}$ must be rational. Write $\sqrt[p]{c} = \frac{x}{y}$, where x and y are integers with greatest common multiplier one. Then $c = \frac{x^p}{y^p}$, and greatest common multiplier between x^p and y^p is one. Since c is an integer, x^p must