

31st Indian National Mathematical Olympiad-2016

Time: 4 hours

January 17, 2016

Instructions:

- Calculators (in any form) and protractors are not allowed.
- Rulers and compasses are allowed.
- Answer all the questions. Maximum marks: 100.
- Answer to each question should start on a new page. Clearly indicate the question number.

1. Let ABC be triangle in which $AB = AC$. Suppose the orthocentre of the triangle lies on the incircle. Find the ratio AB/BC .
2. For positive real numbers a, b, c , which of the following statements necessarily implies $a = b = c$: (I) $a(b^3 + c^3) = b(c^3 + a^3) = c(a^3 + b^3)$, (II) $a(a^3 + b^3) = b(b^3 + c^3) = c(c^3 + a^3)$? Justify your answer.
3. Let $\mathbb{N}$ denote the set of all natural numbers. Define a function $T : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ by $T(2k) = k$ and $T(2k + 1) = 2k + 2$. We write $T^2(n) = T(T(n))$ and in general $T^k(n) = T^{k-1}(T(n))$ for any $k > 1$.
 - (i) Show that for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists k such that $T^k(n) = 1$.
 - (ii) For $k \in \mathbb{N}$, let c_k denote the number of elements in the set $\{n : T^k(n) = 1\}$. Prove that $c_{k+2} = c_{k+1} + c_k$, for $k \geq 1$.
4. Suppose 2016 points of the circumference of a circle are coloured red and the remaining points are coloured blue. Given any natural number $n \geq 3$, prove that there is a regular n -sided polygon all of whose vertices are blue.
5. Let ABC be a right-angled triangle with $\angle B = 90^\circ$. Let D be a point on AC such that the inradii of the triangles ABD and CBD are equal. If this common value is r' and if r is the inradius of triangle ABC , prove that

$$\frac{1}{r'} = \frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{BD}.$$

6. Consider a nonconstant arithmetic progression $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, \dots$. Suppose there exist relatively prime positive integers $p > 1$ and $q > 1$ such that a_1^2, a_{p+1}^2 and a_{q+1}^2 are also the terms of the same arithmetic progression. Prove that the terms of the arithmetic progression are all integers.

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INMO-2016 problems and solutions

1. Let ABC be triangle in which $AB = AC$. Suppose the orthocentre of the triangle lies on the in-circle. Find the ratio AB/BC .

Solution: Since the triangle is isosceles, the orthocentre lies on the perpendicular AD from A on to BC . Let it cut the in-circle at H . Now we are given that H is the orthocentre of the triangle. Let $AB = AC = b$ and $BC = 2a$. Then $BD = a$. Observe that $b > a$ since b is the hypotenuse and a is a leg of a right-angled triangle. Let BH meet AC in E and CH meet AB in F . By Pythagoras theorem applied to $\triangle BDH$, we get

$$BH^2 = HD^2 + BD^2 = 4r^2 + a^2,$$

where r is the in-radius of ABC . We want to compute BH in another way. Since A, F, H, E are con-cyclic, we have

$$BH \cdot BE = BF \cdot BA.$$

But $BF \cdot BA = BD \cdot BC = 2a^2$, since A, F, D, C are con-cyclic. Hence $BH^2 = 4a^4/BE^2$. But

$$BE^2 = 4a^2 - CE^2 = 4a^2 - BF^2 = 4a^2 - \left(\frac{2a^2}{b}\right)^2 = \frac{4a^2(b^2 - a^2)}{b^2}.$$

This leads to

$$BH^2 = \frac{a^2 b^2}{b^2 - a^2}.$$

Thus we get

$$\frac{a^2 b^2}{b^2 - a^2} = a^2 + 4r^2.$$

This simplifies to $(a^4/(b^2 - a^2)) = 4r^2$. Now we relate a, b, r in another way using area. We know that $[ABC] = rs$, where s is the semi-perimeter of ABC . We have $s = (b + b + 2a)/2 = b + a$. On the other hand area can be calculated using Heron's formula::

$$[ABC]^2 = s(s - 2a)(s - b)(s - b) = (b + a)(b - a)a^2 = a^2(b^2 - a^2).$$

Hence

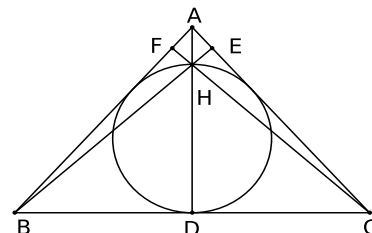
$$r^2 = \frac{[ABC]^2}{s^2} = \frac{a^2(b^2 - a^2)}{(b + a)^2}.$$

Using this we get

$$\frac{a^4}{b^2 - a^2} = 4 \left(\frac{a^2(b^2 - a^2)}{(b + a)^2} \right).$$

Therefore $a^2 = 4(b - a)^2$, which gives $a = 2(b - a)$ or $2b = 3a$. Finally,

$$\frac{AB}{BC} = \frac{b}{2a} = \frac{3}{4}.$$



Alternate Solution 1:

We use the known facts $BH = 2R \cos B$ and $r = 4R \sin(A/2) \sin(B/2) \sin(C/2)$, where R is the circumradius of $\triangle ABC$ and r its in-radius. Therefore

$$HD = BH \sin \angle HBD = 2R \cos B \sin \left(\frac{\pi}{2} - C \right) = 2R \cos^2 B,$$

since $\angle C = \angle B$. But $\angle B = (\pi - \angle A)/2$, since ABC is isosceles. Thus we obtain

$$HD = 2R \cos^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{A}{2} \right).$$

However HD is also the diameter of the in circle. Therefore $HD = 2r$. Thus we get

$$2R \cos^2 \left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{A}{2} \right) = 2r = 8R \sin(A/2) \sin^2((\pi - A)/4).$$

This reduces to

$$\sin(A/2) = 2(1 - \sin(A/2)).$$

Therefore $\sin(A/2) = 2/3$. We also observe that $\sin(A/2) = BD/AB$. Finally

$$\frac{AB}{BC} = \frac{AB}{2BD} = \frac{1}{2 \sin(A/2)} = \frac{3}{4}.$$

Alternate Solution 2:

Let D be the mid-point of BC . Extend AD to meet the circumcircle in L . Then we know that $HD = DL$. But $HD = 2r$. Thus $DL = 2r$. Therefore $IL = ID + DL = r + 2r = 3r$. We also know that $LB = LI$. Therefore $LB = 3r$. This gives

$$\frac{BL}{LD} = \frac{3r}{2r} = \frac{3}{2}.$$

But $\triangle BLD$ is similar to $\triangle ABD$. So

$$\frac{AB}{BD} = \frac{BL}{LD} = \frac{3}{2}.$$

Finally,

$$\frac{AB}{BC} = \frac{AB}{2BD} = \frac{3}{4}.$$

Alternate Solution 3:

Let D be the mid-point of BC and E be the mid-point of DC . Since $DI = IH (= r)$ and $DE = EC$, the mid-point theorem implies that $IE \parallel CH$. But $CH \perp AB$. Therefore $IE \perp AB$. Let IE meet AB in F . Then F is the point of tangency of the incircle of $\triangle ABC$ with AB . Since the incircle is also tangent to BC at D , we have $BF = BD$. Observe that $\triangle BFE$ is similar to $\triangle BDA$. Hence

$$\frac{AB}{BD} = \frac{BE}{BF} = \frac{BE}{BD} = \frac{BD + DE}{BD} = 1 + \frac{DE}{BD} = \frac{3}{2}.$$

This gives

$$\frac{AB}{BC} = \frac{3}{4}.$$

2. For positive real numbers a, b, c , which of the following statements necessarily implies $a = b = c$: (I) $a(b^3 + c^3) = b(c^3 + a^3) = c(a^3 + b^3)$,
(II) $a(a^3 + b^3) = b(b^3 + c^3) = c(c^3 + a^3)$? Justify your answer.

Solution: We show that (I) need not imply that $a = b = c$ where as (II) always implies $a = b = c$.

Observe that $a(b^3 + c^3) = b(c^3 + a^3)$ gives $c^3(a - b) = ab(a^2 - b^2)$. This gives either $a = b$ or $ab(a + b) = c^3$. Similarly, $b = c$ or $bc(b + c) = a^3$. If $a \neq b$ and $b \neq c$, we obtain

$$ab(a + b) = c^3, \quad bc(b + c) = a^3.$$

Therefore

$$b(a^2 - c^2) + b^2(a - c) = c^3 - a^3.$$

This gives $(a - c)(a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + ab + bc + ca) = 0$. Since a, b, c are positive, the only possibility is $a = c$. We have therefore 4 possibilities: $a = b = c$; $a \neq b$, $b \neq c$ and $c = a$; $b \neq c$, $c \neq a$ and $a = b$; $c \neq a$, $a \neq b$ and $b = c$.

Suppose $a = b$ and $b, a \neq c$. Then $b(c^3 + a^3) = c(a^3 + b^3)$ gives $ac^3 + a^4 = 2ca^3$. This implies that $a(a - c)(a^2 - ac - c^2) = 0$. Therefore $a^2 - ac - c^2 = 0$. Putting $a/c = x$, we get the quadratic equation $x^2 - x - 1 = 0$. Hence $x = (1 + \sqrt{5})/2$. Thus we get

$$a = b = \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right) c, \quad c \text{ arbitrary positive real number.}$$

Similarly, we get other two cases:

$$b = c = \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right) a, \quad a \text{ arbitrary positive real number;}$$

$$c = a = \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \right) b, \quad b \text{ arbitrary positive real number.}$$

And $a = b = c$ is the fourth possibility.

Consider (II): $a(a^3 + b^3) = b(b^3 + c^3) = c(c^3 + a^3)$. Suppose a, b, c are mutually distinct. We may assume $a = \max\{a, b, c\}$. Hence $a > b$ and $a > c$. Using $a > b$, we get from the first relation that $a^3 + b^3 < b^3 + c^3$. Therefore $a^3 < c^3$ forcing $a < c$. This contradicts $a > c$. We conclude that a, b, c cannot be mutually distinct. This means some two must be equal. If $a = b$, the equality of the first two expressions give $a^3 + b^3 = b^3 + c^3$ so that $a = c$. Similarly, we can show that $b = c$ implies $b = a$ and $c = a$ gives $c = b$.

Alternate for (II) by a contestant: We can write

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{a^3}{c} + \frac{b^3}{c} &= \frac{c^3}{a} + a^2, \\ \frac{b^3}{a} + \frac{c^3}{a} &= \frac{a^3}{b} + b^2, \\ \frac{c^3}{b} + \frac{a^3}{b} &= \frac{b^3}{c} + c^2. \end{aligned}$$

Adding, we get

$$\frac{a^3}{c} + \frac{b^3}{a} + \frac{c^3}{b} = a^2 + b^2 + c^2.$$

Using C-S inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned}(a^2 + b^2 + c^2)^2 &= \left(\frac{\sqrt{a^3}}{\sqrt{c}} \cdot \sqrt{ac} + \frac{\sqrt{b^3}}{\sqrt{a}} \cdot \sqrt{ba} + \frac{\sqrt{c^3}}{\sqrt{b}} \cdot \sqrt{cb} \right)^2 \\ &\leq \left(\frac{a^3}{c} + \frac{b^3}{a} + \frac{c^3}{b} \right) (ac + ba + cb) \\ &= (a^2 + b^2 + c^2)(ab + bc + ca).\end{aligned}$$

Thus we obtain

$$a^2 + b^2 + c^2 \leq ab + bc + ca.$$

However this implies $(a - b)^2 + (b - c)^2 + (c - a)^2 \leq 0$ and hence $a = b = c$.

3. Let $\mathbb{N}$ denote the set of all natural numbers. Define a function $T : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ by $T(2k) = k$ and $T(2k + 1) = 2k + 2$. We write $T^2(n) = T(T(n))$ and in general $T^k(n) = T^{k-1}(T(n))$ for any $k > 1$.
- (i) Show that for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists k such that $T^k(n) = 1$.
- (ii) For $k \in \mathbb{N}$, let c_k denote the number of elements in the set $\{n : T^k(n) = 1\}$. Prove that $c_{k+2} = c_{k+1} + c_k$, for $k \geq 1$.

Solution:

(i) For $n = 1$, we have $T(1) = 2$ and $T^2(1) = T(2) = 1$. Hence we may assume that $n > 1$.

Suppose $n > 1$ is even. Then $T(n) = n/2$. We observe that $(n/2) \leq n - 1$ for $n > 1$.

Suppose $n > 1$ is odd so that $n \geq 3$. Then $T(n) = n + 1$ and $T^2(n) = (n + 1)/2$. Again we see that $(n + 1)/2 \leq (n - 1)$ for $n \geq 3$.

Thus we see that in at most $2(n - 1)$ steps T sends n to 1. Hence $k \leq 2(n - 1)$. (Here $2(n - 1)$ is only a bound. In reality, less number of steps will do.)

(ii) We show that $c_n = f_{n+1}$, where f_n is the n -th Fibonacci number.

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ be such that $T^k(n) = 1$. Here n can be odd or even. If n is even, it can be either of the form $4d + 2$ or of the form $4d$.

If n is odd, then $1 = T^k(n) = T^{k-1}(n + 1)$. (Observe that $k > 1$; otherwise we get $n + 1 = 1$ which is impossible since $n \in \mathbb{N}$.) Here $n + 1$ is even.

If $n = 4d + 2$, then again $1 = T^k(4d + 2) = T^{k-1}(2d + 1)$. Here $2d + 1 = n/2$ is odd.

Thus each solution of $T^{k-1}(m) = 1$ produces exactly one solution of $T^k(n) = 1$ and n is either odd or of the form $4d + 2$.

If $n = 4d$, we see that $1 = T^k(4d) = T^{k-1}(2d) = T^{k-2}(d)$. This shows that each solution of $T^{k-2}(m) = 1$ produces exactly one solution of $T^k(n) = 1$ of the form $4d$.

Thus the number of solutions of $T^k(n) = 1$ is equal to the number of solutions of $T^{k-1}(m) = 1$ and the number of solutions of $T^{k-2}(l) = 1$ for $k > 2$. This shows that $c_k = c_{k-1} + c_{k-2}$ for $k > 2$. We also observe that 2 is the only number which goes to 1 in one step and 4 is the only number which goes to 1 in two steps. Hence $c_1 = 1$ and $c_2 = 2$. This proves that $c_n = f_{n+1}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

4. Suppose 2016 points of the circumference of a circle are coloured red and the remaining points are coloured blue. Given any natural number $n \geq 3$, prove that there is a regular n -sided polygon all of whose vertices are blue.

Solution: Let $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_{2016}$ be 2016 points on the circle which are coloured red and the remain-

ing blue. Let $n \geq 3$ and let $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n$ be a regular n -sided polygon inscribed in this circle with the vertices chosen in anti-clock-wise direction. We place B_1 at A_1 . (It is possible, in this position, some other B 's also coincide with some other A 's.) Rotate the polygon in anti-clock-wise direction gradually till some B 's coincide with (an equal number of) A 's second time. We again rotate the polygon in the same direction till some B 's coincide with an equal number of A 's third time, and so on until we return to the original position, i.e., B_1 at A_1 . We see that the number of rotations will not be more than $2016 \times n$, that is, at most these many times some B 's would have coincided with an equal number of A 's. Since the interval $(0, 360^\circ)$ has infinitely many points, we can find a value $\alpha^\circ \in (0, 360^\circ)$ through which the polygon can be rotated from its initial position such that no B coincides with any A . This gives a n -sided regular polygon having only blue vertices.

Alternate Solution: Consider a regular $2017 \times n$ -gon on the circle; say, $A_1 A_2 A_3 \dots A_{2017n}$. For each j , $1 \leq j \leq 2017$, consider the points $\{A_k : k \equiv j \pmod{2017}\}$. These are the vertices of a regular n -gon, say S_j . We get 2017 regular n -gons; $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_{2017}$. Since there are only 2016 red points, by pigeon-hole principle there must be some n -gon among these 2017 which does not contain any red point. But then it is a blue n -gon.

5. Let ABC be a right-angled triangle with $\angle B = 90^\circ$. Let D be a point on AC such that the in-radii of the triangles ABD and CBD are equal. If this common value is r' and if r is the in-radius of triangle ABC , prove that

$$\frac{1}{r'} = \frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{BD}.$$

Solution: Let E and F be the incentres of triangles ABD and CBD respectively. Let the incircles of triangles ABD and CBD touch AC in P and Q respectively. If $\angle BDA = \theta$, we see that

$$r' = PD \tan(\theta/2) = QD \cot(\theta/2).$$

Hence

$$PQ = PD + QD = r' \left(\cot \frac{\theta}{2} + \tan \frac{\theta}{2} \right) = \frac{2r'}{\sin \theta}.$$

But we observe that

$$DP = \frac{BD + DA - AB}{2}, \quad DQ = \frac{BD + DC - BC}{2}.$$

Thus $PQ = (b - c - a + 2BD)/2$. We also have

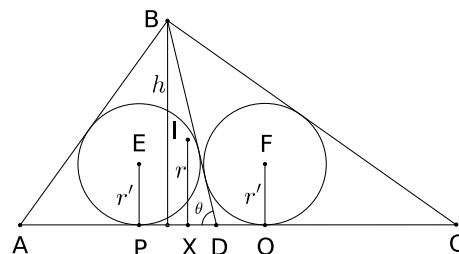
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{ac}{2} &= [ABC] = [ABD] + [CBD] = r' \frac{(AB + BD + DA)}{2} + r' \frac{(CB + BD + DC)}{2} \\ &= r' \frac{(c + a + b + 2BD)}{2} = r'(s + BD). \end{aligned}$$

But

$$r' = \frac{PQ \sin \theta}{2} = \frac{PQ \cdot h}{2BD},$$

where h is the altitude from B on to AC . But we know that $h = ac/b$. Thus we get

$$ac = 2 \times r'(s + BD) = 2 \times \frac{PQ \cdot h}{2 \times BD} (s + BD) = \frac{(b - c - a + 2BD)ca(s + BD)}{2 \times BD \times b}.$$



Thus we get

$$2 \times BD \times b = 2 \times (BD - (s - b))(s + BD).$$

This gives $BD^2 = s(s - b)$. Since ABC is a right-angled triangle $r = s - b$. Thus we get $BD^2 = rs$.
On the other hand, we also have $[ABC] = r'(s + BD)$. Thus we get

$$rs = [ABC] = r'(s + BD).$$

Hence

$$\frac{1}{r'} = \frac{1}{r} + \frac{BD}{rs} = \frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{BD}.$$

Alternate Solution 1: Observe that

$$\frac{r'}{r} = \frac{AP}{AX} = \frac{CQ}{CX} = \frac{AP + CQ}{AC},$$

where X is the point at which the incircle of ABC touches the side AC . If s_1 and s_2 are respectively the semi-perimeters of triangles ABD and CBD , we know $AP = s_1 - BD$ and $CQ = s_2 - BD$.
Therefore

$$\frac{r'}{r} = \frac{(s_1 - BD) + (s_2 - BD)}{AC} = \frac{s_1 + s_2 - 2BD}{b}.$$

But

$$s_1 + s_2 = \frac{AD + BD + c}{2} + \frac{CD + BD + a}{2} = \frac{(a + b + c) + 2BD}{2} = \frac{s + BD}{2}.$$

This gives

$$\frac{r'}{r} = \frac{s + BD - 2BD}{b} = \frac{s - BD}{b}.$$

We also have

$$r' = \frac{[ABD]}{s_1} = \frac{[CBD]}{s_2} = \frac{[ABD] + [CBD]}{s_1 + s_2} = \frac{[ABC]}{s + BD} = \frac{rs}{s + BD}.$$

This implies that

$$\frac{r'}{r} = \frac{s}{s + BD}.$$

Comparing the two expressions for r'/r , we see that

$$\frac{s - BD}{b} = \frac{s}{s + BD}.$$

Therefore $s^2 - BD^2 = bs$, or $BD^2 = s(s - b)$. Thus we get $BD = \sqrt{s(s - b)}$.

We know now that

$$\frac{r'}{r} = \frac{s}{s + BD} = \frac{s - BD}{b} = \frac{BD}{(s - b) + BD} = \frac{\sqrt{s(s - b)}}{(s - b) + \sqrt{s(s - b)}} = \frac{\sqrt{s}}{\sqrt{s - b} + \sqrt{s}}.$$

Therefore

$$\frac{r}{r'} = 1 + \sqrt{\frac{s - b}{s}}.$$

This gives

$$\frac{1}{r'} = \frac{1}{r} + \left(\sqrt{\frac{s - b}{s}} \right) \frac{1}{r}.$$

But

$$\left(\sqrt{\frac{s-b}{s}}\right) \frac{1}{r} = \left(\frac{s-b}{\sqrt{s(s-b)}}\right) \frac{1}{r} = \left(\frac{s-b}{BD}\right) \frac{1}{r}.$$

If $\angle B = 90^\circ$, we know that $r = s - b$. Therefore we get

$$\frac{1}{r'} = \frac{1}{r} + \left(\frac{s-b}{BD}\right) \frac{1}{r} = \frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{BD}.$$

Alternate Solution 2 by a contestant: Observe that $\angle EDF = 90^\circ$. Hence $\triangle EDP$ is similar to $\triangle DFQ$. Therefore $DP \cdot DQ = EP \cdot FQ$. Taking $DP = y_1$ and $DQ = x_1$, we get $x_1 y_1 = (r')^2$. We also observe that $BD = x_1 + x_2 = y_1 + y_2$. Since $\angle EBF = 45^\circ$, we get

$$1 = \tan 45^\circ = \tan(\beta_1 + \beta_2) = \frac{\tan \beta_1 + \tan \beta_2}{1 - \tan \beta_1 \tan \beta_2}.$$

But $\tan \beta_1 = r'/y_2$ and $\tan \beta_2 = r'/x_2$. Hence we obtain

$$1 = \frac{(r'/y_2) + (r'/x_2)}{1 - (r')^2/x_2 y_2}.$$

Solving for r' , we get

$$r' = \frac{x_2 y_2 - x_1 y_1}{x_2 + y_2}.$$

We also know

$$r = \frac{AB + BC - AC}{2} = \frac{x_2 + y_2 - (x_1 + y_1)}{2} = \frac{(x_2 - x_1) + (y_2 - y_1)}{2}.$$

Finally,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{BD} &= \frac{2}{(x_2 - x_1) + (y_2 - y_1)} + \frac{1}{x_1 + x_2} \\ &= \frac{2x_1 + 2x_2 + (x_2 - x_1) + (y_2 - y_1)}{(x_1 + x_2)((x_2 - x_1) + (y_2 - y_1))}. \end{aligned}$$

But we can write

$$2x_1 + 2x_2 + (x_2 - x_1) + (y_2 - y_1) = (x_1 + x_2 + x_2 - x_1) + (y_1 + y_2 + y_2 - y_1) = 2(x_2 + y_2),$$

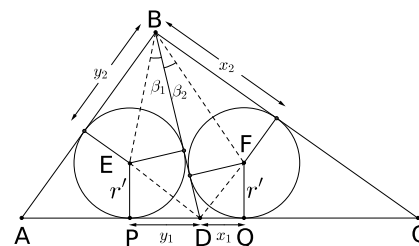
and

$$\begin{aligned} (x_1 + x_2)((x_2 - x_1) + (y_2 - y_1)) &= 2(x_1 + x_2)(x_2 - y_1) \\ &= 2(x_2(x_2 + x_1 - y_1) - x_1 y_1) = 2(x_2 y_2 - x_1 y_1). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{BD} = \frac{2(x_2 + y_2)}{2(x_2 y_2 - x_1 y_1)} = \frac{1}{r'}.$$

Remark: One can also choose $B = (0, 0)$, $A = (0, a)$ and $C = (1, 0)$ and the coordinate geometry proof gets reduced considerably.



6. Consider a non-constant arithmetic progression $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, \dots$. Suppose there exist relatively prime positive integers $p > 1$ and $q > 1$ such that a_1^2, a_{p+1}^2 and a_{q+1}^2 are also the terms of the same arithmetic progression. Prove that the terms of the arithmetic progression are all integers.

Solution: Let us take $a_1 = a$. We have

$$a^2 = a + kd, \quad (a + pd)^2 = a + ld, \quad (a + qd)^2 = a + md.$$

Thus we have

$$a + ld = (a + pd)^2 = a^2 + 2pad + p^2d^2 = a + kd + 2pad + p^2d^2.$$

Since we have non-constant AP, we see that $d \neq 0$. Hence we obtain $2pa + p^2d = l - k$. Similarly, we get $2qa + q^2d = m - k$. Observe that $p^2q - pq^2 \neq 0$. Otherwise $p = q$ and $\gcd(p, q) = p > 1$ which is a contradiction to the given hypothesis that $\gcd(p, q) = 1$. Hence we can solve the two equations for a, d :

$$a = \frac{p^2(m - k) - q^2(l - k)}{2(p^2q - pq^2)}, \quad d = \frac{q(l - k) - p(m - k)}{p^2q - pq^2}.$$

It follows that a, d are rational numbers. We also have

$$p^2a^2 = p^2a + kp^2d.$$

But $p^2d = l - k - 2pa$. Thus we get

$$p^2a^2 = p^2a + k(l - k - 2pa) = (p - 2k)pa + k(l - k).$$

This shows that pa satisfies the equation

$$x^2 - (p - 2k)x - k(l - k) = 0.$$

Since a is rational, we see that pa is rational. Write $pa = w/z$, where w is an integer and z is a natural numbers such that $\gcd(w, z) = 1$. Substituting in the equation, we obtain

$$w^2 - (p - 2k)wz - k(l - k)z^2 = 0.$$

This shows z divides w . Since $\gcd(w, z) = 1$, it follows that $z = 1$ and $pa = w$ an integer. (In fact any rational solution of a monic polynomial with integer coefficients is necessarily an integer.) Similarly, we can prove that qa is an integer. Since $\gcd(p, q) = 1$, there are integers u and v such that $pu + qv = 1$. Therefore $a = (pa)u + (qa)v$. It follows that a is an integer.

But $p^2d = l - k - 2pa$. Hence p^2d is an integer. Similarly, q^2d is also an integer. Since $\gcd(p^2, q^2) = 1$, it follows that d is an integer. Combining these two, we see that all the terms of the AP are integers.

Alternatively, we can prove that a and d are integers in another way. We have seen that a and d are rationals; and we have three relations:

$$a^2 = a + kd, \quad p^2d + 2pa = n_1, \quad q^2d + 2qa = n_2,$$

where $n_1 = l - k$ and $n_2 = m - k$. Let $a = u/v$ and $d = x/y$ where u, x are integers and v, y are natural numbers, and $\gcd(u, v) = 1, \gcd(x, y) = 1$. Putting this in these relations, we obtain

$$u^2y = uvx + kxv^2, \tag{1}$$

$$2puy + p^2vx = vyn_1, \tag{2}$$

$$2quy + q^2vx = vyn_2. \tag{3}$$

Now (1) shows that $v|u^2y$. Since $\gcd(u, v) = 1$, it follows that $v|y$. Similarly (2) shows that $y|p^2vx$. Using $\gcd(y, x) = 1$, we get that $y|p^2v$. Similarly, (3) shows that $y|q^2v$. Therefore y divides $\gcd(p^2v, q^2v) = v$. The two results $v|y$ and $y|v$ imply $v = y$, since both v, y are positive.

Substitute this in (1) to get

$$u^2 = uv + kxv.$$

This shows that $v|u^2$. Since $\gcd(u, v) = 1$, it follows that $v = 1$. This gives $v = y = 1$. Finally $a = u$ and $d = x$ which are integers.

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