

Math Club Outstanding Problems: 2005 September 11

Actually, not just outstanding problems; also one or two new ones.

1. A problem from Ray: show that if $a \mid b - 1$ and $a \mid c - 1$ then $a \mid bc - 1$. (In fact any two of those statements implies the third.)

2. Express

$$\sum_k \binom{n}{3k}$$

in closed form as a function of n . (There's a hint in [the notes for August 8](#).)

3. (U of Waterloo contest) Find all functions $f: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with the property that

$$\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^+ : f(x + y) = f(x^2 + y^2).$$

(We noticed that constant functions have this property; I claimed that they are the only such functions.)

4. A problem I mentioned to Eileen once upon a time: Consider $M_2(\mathbb{Z})$, the set of 2×2 matrices with integer entries. It's easy to see that this set forms a ring under the usual matrix operations. What are the units of that ring?

5. (2005 IMO) Suppose x, y , and z are positive reals such that $xyz \geq 1$. Show that

$$\frac{x^5 - x^2}{x^5 + y^2 + z^2} + \frac{y^5 - y^2}{y^5 + z^2 + x^2} + \frac{z^5 - z^2}{z^5 + x^2 + y^2} \geq 0.$$

6. (2005 IMO) Given a convex quadrilateral $ABCD$ such that $BC = DA$ and BC is not parallel to DA . AC meets BD at P . E and F are variable points on BC and DA respectively such that $BE = DF$. EF meets BD at Q , and meet AC at R . Prove that the circumcircle of $\triangle PQR$ passes through a fixed point other than P .

7. (2005 IMO) A competition was held in which each contestant attempts to solve 6 problems. No contestant solved all 6. Every pair of problems was solved by more than $\frac{2}{5}$ of the contestants. Show that there are at least two contestants who solved exactly 5 of the problems. (A partial solution — showing there is at least *one* such contestant — appears in [the notes for August 22](#).)

