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 $f\colon \mathbb{R}^+ \to \mathbb{R}$ with the property that

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

(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 $xyz \ge 1$. Show that

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

- 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.)

- 8. A new problem, in two parts.
 - (a) Suppose \sim is an equivalence relation on a set S. Let G be the set of invertible functions f: S \rightarrow S with the property that

$$\forall x \in S \colon x \sim f(x)$$
.

Show that G forms a group under function composition.

(b) Suppose G is a group (under function composition) of functions on a set S. Define the relation ~ on S by

 $\forall x, y \in S \colon x \sim y \iff (\exists f \in G \colon x = f(y)).$

Show that \sim is an equivalence relation.

9. A new, open-ended problem: Can anything interesting be said about the solutions of the congruence

$$k^2 \equiv k \pmod{n}$$
?

For reference, the first few solutions are shown below.

```
0
                          10
9 10
                                         16
                                       15
                            1112
                                         16
                                 1314
                                                      21
                                       1516
                                                      21
                                                                25
                         10
                               12
                                                        22
                                           1718
                                       15
                                                      21
                                                                        28
```

Distinct solutions of $k^2 \equiv k \pmod{n}$