

State Math Contest – Senior Exam

SOLUTIONS

3. Find the product of all real solutions to the equation $x^4 + 2x^2 - 35 = 0$.

a) 5

b) -5

c) 7

d) -7

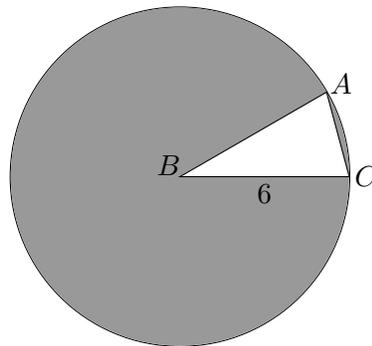
e) -35

Solution:

Correct answer: -5 (b)

$x^4 + 2x^2 - 35 = (x^2 - 5)(x^2 + 7) = 0$. If $x^2 - 5 = 0$, $x = \pm\sqrt{5}$. If $x^2 + 7 = 0$, there are no real solutions. The product of the real solutions is -5.

4. In the following diagram, which is not drawn to scale, the shaded area is 32π . The circle has radius $\overline{BC} = \overline{BA} = 6$. Find the measure of $\angle ABC$.



a) 30°

b) 40°

c) $\arcsin\left(\frac{2\pi}{9}\right)$

d) $\arcsin\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}\right)$

e) 45°

Solution:

Correct answer: $\arcsin\left(\frac{2\pi}{9}\right)$ (c)

The area of the circle is 36π .

The area of the triangle is $4\pi = (1/2)6 \cdot 6 \sin(\angle ABC)$.

So $\sin(\angle ABC) = 2\pi/9$. Thus the angle is $\arcsin(2\pi/9)$.

7. Use properties of logarithms to find the exact value of the expression

$$\log_5 2 \cdot \log_2 125.$$

a) 3

b) 2

c) 1

d) 0

e) -1

Solution:

Correct answer: 3 (a)

$$\log_5 2 \cdot \log_2 125 = \frac{\log_2 2}{\log_2 5} \log_2 5^3 = \frac{1}{\log_2 5} 3 \log_2 5 = 3$$

8. Let

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x & \text{for } 0 \leq x \leq 0.5 \\ 2(1-x) & \text{for } 0.5 < x \leq 1. \end{cases}$$

If $x_0 = \frac{6}{7}$ and $x_n = f(x_{n-1})$ for $n \geq 1$, find x_{100} .

a) $\frac{2}{7}$

b) $\frac{4}{7}$

c) $\frac{6}{7}$

d) $\frac{10}{7}$

e) $\frac{96}{7}$

Solution:

Correct answer: $\frac{2}{7}$ (a)

$$x_0 = 6/7, x_1 = 2/7, x_2 = 4/7, x_3 = 6/7, x_4 = 2/7, x_5 = 4/7.$$

The sequence repeats every three terms.

$$x_{100} = x_{97} = \dots = x_1 = 2/7.$$

9. When $3x^{12} - x^3 + 5$ is divided by $x + 1$ the remainder is:

a) 1

b) 3

c) 5

d) 7

e) 9

Solution:

Correct answer: 9 (e)

By the Remainder Theorem, the answer is the polynomial evaluated at $x = -1$.

$$3(-1)^{12} - (-1)^3 + 5 = 3 + 1 + 5 = 9.$$

26. Begin with 63, and keep repeating the following pair of operations: *Add 1, then take the square root.* Thus we generate the following sequence of numbers: 63, 8, 3, 2, $\sqrt{3}$, $\sqrt{1 + \sqrt{3}}$, etc. Eventually, those numbers settle down to a *limit*. What is the limit?

a) $1 + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}$

b) $\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$

c) $\sqrt{1 + \sqrt{2}}$

d) $\frac{1 + \sqrt{2}}{2}$

e) 1

Solution:

Correct answer: $\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$ (b)

As the numbers settle down to the limit, each number is very close to its successor. In the limit, we may assume each number equal to its successor, thus $x = \sqrt{x + 1}$. That leads to the equation $x^2 = x + 1$ which can be solved by quadratic formula to give answer (b).

27. A square and an equilateral triangle have the same area. Let A be the area of the circle circumscribed around the square and B be the area of the circle circumscribed around the triangle. Find $\frac{A}{B}$.

a) $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{8}$

b) $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{6}$

c) $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{4}$

d) $\frac{3}{8}$

e) $\frac{3}{4}$

Solution:

Correct answer: $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{8}$ (a)

The \mathcal{A} be the common area. Let e be the edge length of the square, then $\mathcal{A} = e^2$. Let s be the side length of the triangle, then $\mathcal{A} = \frac{s^2\sqrt{3}}{4}$.

The center of the square is the point where the two diagonals meet. The radius r of the circle circumscribed around the square is the distance from the center of the square to the four vertices which is $\frac{e}{\sqrt{2}}$.

The circumcenter of the triangle is the point where the perpendicular bisectors meet which, in this case, is the same as the centroid or the point where the medians meet. The centroid lies on the medians two-thirds the distance from the vertex to the midpoint of the opposite side. The length of a median is $\frac{s\sqrt{3}}{2}$. So the radius R of the circle circumscribed

about the triangle is $\frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{s\sqrt{3}}{2} = \frac{s}{\sqrt{3}}$

$$\frac{A}{B} = \frac{\pi r^2}{\pi R^2} = \frac{r^2}{R^2} = \frac{e^2}{2} \div \frac{s^2}{3} = \frac{\mathcal{A}}{2} \div \frac{4\mathcal{A}}{3\sqrt{3}} = \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{8}.$$

28. Find the number of diagonals that can be drawn in a convex polygon with 200 sides.

Note: A *diagonal* of a polygon is any line segment between non-adjacent vertices.

- a) 1,969 b) 1,970 c) 20,000
d) 19,700 e) 19,699

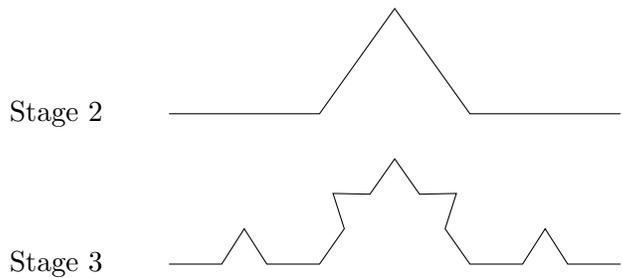
Solution:

Correct answer: 19,700 (d)
Each vertex has 197 diagonals, but each diagonal gets counted twice.
 $200 \cdot 197/2 = 100 \cdot 197 = 19,700$.

29. Koch's curve is created by starting with a line segment of length one. Call this stage 1.

Stage 1 

To get from one stage to the next we divide each line segment into thirds and replace the middle third by two line segments of the same length.



What is the length of Koch's curve at Stage 6?

- a) 16/9 b) 16/27 c) 16/81
d) 1024/81 e) 1024/243

Solution:

Correct answer: 1024/243 (e)
Stage 1 has length 1. Stage $n + 1$ is $4/3$ as long as Stage n . Stage 6 the answer would be $(4/3)^5 = 1024/243$.

30. For a certain baseball team the probability of winning any game is P , (the probability of winning a particular game is independent of any other games). What is the probability the team wins 3 out of 5 games?

a) $10P^2(1 - P)^3$

b) $10P^3(1 - P)^2$

c) $5P^3(1 - P)^2$

d) $5P^2(1 - P)^3$

e) $P^3(1 - P)^2$

Solution:

Correct answer: $10P^3(1 - P)^2$ (b)

The number of possible outcomes from playing 5 games is 2^5 . There are 5 choose 3 or 10 ways of winning 3 games and losing 2; e.g. winning the first three and losing the last two, winning the first two and fourth game and losing the other two, etc. Each of these ways of winning 3 and losing 2 games has probability $P^3(1 - P)^2$. So the total probability of winning 3 games and losing 2 is $10P^3(1 - P)^2$.

31. If x is the *fraction* of numbers between 1 and 1,000, inclusive, which contain 4 as a digit, and y is the *fraction* of numbers between 1 and 10,000, inclusive which contain 4 as a digit, what is x/y ?

a) $2/3$

b) $3/4$

c) $27/34$

d) $271/3439$

e) $2710/3439$

Solution:

Correct answer: $2710/3439$ (e)

We can count how many numbers in $\{1, 2, \dots, 1,000\}$ contain 4 as a digit using the inclusion exclusion principle: If one digit is a 4, there are 10^2 possibilities for the other three digits, and we can do this allowing the 4 to be in the ones, the tens, and the hundreds digit, but we've overcounted. We need to subtract off the number of ways to get *two* 4's. But then we've undercounted, and we need to add back the number of ways to get *three* 4's:

$$3 \cdot (100) - 3 \cdot (10) + 1 = 271.$$

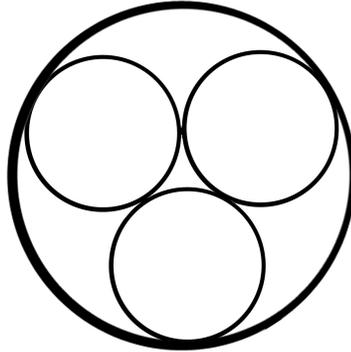
So, $x = 271/1000$. We calculate y similarly: there are

$$4 \cdot (1,000) - 6(100) + 4(10) - 1 = 3439$$

numbers in $\{1, 2, \dots, 10,000\}$ containing 4 as a digit, so $y = 3439/10,000$. Thus,

$$\frac{x}{y} = \frac{\frac{271}{1,000}}{\frac{3439}{10,000}} = \frac{2710}{3439}.$$

32. Given that the area of the outer circle is ten square units, find the area of any one of the three equal circles which are tangent to each other and to the outer circle, and inscribed inside the circle of ten square units.



- a) $30(7 - 4\sqrt{3})$ square units. b) 2.5 square units.
 c) $\frac{10}{(3 + \sqrt{2})}$ square units. d) $\sqrt[3]{10}$ square units.
 e) 2 square units.

Solution:

Correct answer: $30(7 - 4\sqrt{3})$ square units (a)
 The radius of the outer circle is $R = r + r \csc(\pi/3)$ where r is the radius of an inner circle.

33. Find the product of the zeros of $z^8 + 4z^4 + 16$ that lie in the first quadrant of the complex plane.
- a) $\sqrt{3}$ b) $\sqrt{3}i$ c) $1 + i$
 d) 2 e) $2i$

Solution:

Correct answer: $2i$ (e)
 Notice that $(z^4 - 4)(z^8 + 4z^4 + 16) = z^{12} - 64 = z^{12} - 2^6$. The zeros of $z^4 - 4$ are $\pm\sqrt{2}$ and $\pm\sqrt{2}i$. By De Moivre's Theorem, the zeros of $z^{12} - 64$ are $z = \sqrt{2}(\cos \frac{n\pi}{6} + i \sin \frac{n\pi}{6})$ for $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 11$. So the zeros of $z^8 + 4z^4 + 16$ that lie in the first quadrant are $\sqrt{2}(\cos \frac{\pi}{6} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{6}) = \sqrt{2}(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} + \frac{1}{2}i)$ and $\sqrt{2}(\cos \frac{\pi}{3} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{3}) = \sqrt{2}(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}i)$.

34. The natives of Wee-jee Islands rate 2 spears as worth 3 fishhooks and a knife, and will give 25 coconuts for 3 spears, 2 knives, and a fishhook together. Assuming each item is worth a whole number of coconuts, how many coconuts will the natives give for each article separately?

	Item	Worth in Coconuts
a)	fishhook	1
	knife	3
	spear	3

	Item	Worth in Coconuts
b)	fishhook	1
	knife	5
	spear	4

	Item	Worth in Coconuts
c)	fishhook	2
	knife	2
	spear	4

	Item	Worth in Coconuts
d)	fishhook	2
	knife	4
	spear	5

	Item	Worth in Coconuts
e)	fishhook	3
	knife	3
	spear	6

Solution:

Correct Ans: (d)

Let S , F , and K be the value of a spear, knife and fishhook in coconuts. Then

$$2S = 3F + K$$

and

$$25 = 3S + 2K + F.$$

Multiply the second equation above by 2 and the first equation by 3 to find

$$50 = 6S + 4K + 2F$$

$$6S = 9F + 3K.$$

Substituting the second equation into the first gives:

$$50 = 11F + 7K.$$

We know that F and K are nonnegative integers. If $F \geq 5$ then $11F + 7K \geq 55$, hence $F = 0, 1, 2, 3$, or 4 . We try each of these four cases, and only $F = 2$, $K = 4$ works, and in this case $S = 5$.

37. A square number is an integer number which is the square of another integer.

Positive square numbers satisfy the following properties:

- The units digit of a square number can only be 0, 1, 4, 5, 6, or 9.
- The digital root of a square number can only be 1, 4, 7, or 9.

The *digital root* is found by adding the digits of the number. If you get more than one digit you add the digits of the new number. Continue this until you get to a single digit. This digit is the digital root.

One of the following numbers is a square. Which one is it?

- a) 4, 751, 006, 864, 295, 101
- b) 3, 669, 517, 136, 205, 224
- c) 2, 512, 339, 789, 576, 516
- d) 1, 898, 732, 825, 398, 318
- e) 5, 901, 643, 220, 186, 107

Solution:

Correct Ans: 2, 512, 339, 789, 576, 516 (c)
(d), and (e) are ruled out because of the first property.
(a) and (b) are ruled out because their digit roots are 5 and 8.
(c) has a digit root of 7 thus it is the square number.

38. Let $f(x) = 9x^2 + dx + 4$. For certain values of d , the equation $f(x) = 0$ has only one solution. For such a value of d , which value of x could be a solution to $f(x) = 0$?

- a) $\frac{2}{3}$
- b) 1
- c) $\frac{4}{3}$
- d) 3
- e) 12

Solution:

Correct answer: $\frac{2}{3}$ (a)
Using the quadratic equation gives $d = \pm 12$ as the only values for one real solution.

