

Saginaw Valley State University  
2006 Math Olympics – Level II Solutions

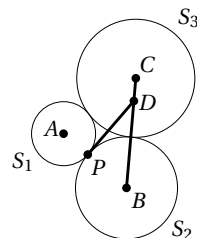
1. How many zeros are at the end of  $79!$

(Recall,  $n!$  is the product  $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times \cdots \times (n-1) \times n$ .)

- (a) none      (b) 18      (c) 15      (d) 7      (e) None of the above

SOLUTION (b): A zero comes from a factor of 10. A factor of 10 comes from a factor of 2 and a factor of 5. There are plenty of factors of 2 (every other number has at least one), so the only question is how many factors of 5 are there. Counting by 5's there are 15 multiples of 5, but 3 of these, 25, 50, 75, have 2 factors of 5. This makes 18 total.

2. Three circles,  $S_1, S_2$  and  $S_3$ , of different radii with centers  $A, B, C$ , respectively, are drawn so that any two touch each other. The point  $P$  is the intersection of the smaller circles  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ . The common tangent to  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  is extended from  $P$  and meets  $BC$  at  $D$ . If the radii of  $S_1, S_2$  and  $S_3$  are 2, 3, and 10, respectively, find the length of  $CD$ .



- (a) 6      (b)  $\frac{26}{5}$       (c)  $\frac{13}{3}$       (d)  $\frac{13}{5}$       (e) None of the above

SOLUTION (b): The sides of the triangle  $ABC$  are (13, 12, 5), hence by the converse of the Pythagorean theorem, the angle  $BAC$  is  $90^\circ$ . Since  $PD$  is a tangent to the circles  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ , the angle  $DPB$  is also  $90^\circ$ . Now, by the similarity of the triangles  $ABC$  and  $PBD$ , we have  $BD = (BC)(PB)/(AB) = (13)(3)/(5) = \frac{39}{5}$ . Thus  $CD = BC - BD = 13 - \frac{39}{5} = \frac{26}{5}$ .

3. Let  $n = \sqrt{6 + \sqrt{11}} + \sqrt{6 - \sqrt{11}} - \sqrt{22}$ . Then

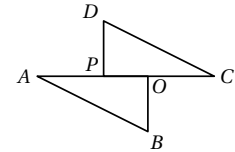
- (a)  $n \geq 1$       (b)  $0 < n < 1$       (c)  $n = 0$       (d)  $-1 < n < 0$       (e)  $n \leq -1$

SOLUTION (c): We need to compare the numbers  $a = \sqrt{6 + \sqrt{11}} + \sqrt{6 - \sqrt{11}}$  and  $b = \sqrt{22}$ . Since both numbers are obviously positive, we can compare their squares instead.

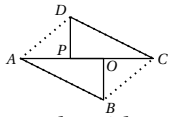
$$\begin{aligned} a^2 &= \left( \sqrt{6 + \sqrt{11}} + \sqrt{6 - \sqrt{11}} \right)^2 \\ &= 6 + \sqrt{11} + 2\sqrt{6 + \sqrt{11}}\sqrt{6 - \sqrt{11}} + 6 - \sqrt{11} \\ &= 12 + 2\sqrt{(6 + \sqrt{11})(6 - \sqrt{11})} \\ &= 12 + 2\sqrt{36 - 11} \\ &= 22 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $a^2 = 22 = b^2$ , therefore  $a = b$  and  $n = 0$ .

4. In the figure two congruent  $30^\circ$ - $60^\circ$  right triangles,  $AOB$  and  $CPD$  are drawn so that  $AO$  is opposite to the  $60^\circ$  angle in  $AOB$  and so that the points  $O$  and  $P$  trisect the segment  $\overline{AC}$ . If the length of  $\overline{DP}$  is one unit, find the perimeter of the quadrilateral  $ABCD$  (not drawn).



- (a)  $2(2 + \sqrt{3})$     (b)  $2(3 + \sqrt{2})$     (c)  $4 + 2\sqrt{2}$     (d)  $4 + \sqrt{7}$     (e) None of the above



**SOLUTION (d):** Since the triangles  $AOB$  and  $CPD$  are congruent and the points  $O$  and  $P$  trisect the segment  $\overline{AC}$ , the side  $CP$  is opposite to the  $60^\circ$  angle in the triangle  $CPD$ . Recall that the ratios of the sides of a  $30^\circ$ - $60^\circ$ -right triangle are  $(1 : \sqrt{3} : 2)$ . So, the side  $AB$  is 2 units and  $CP$  is  $\sqrt{3}$  units. Hence  $AP = \sqrt{3}/2$ . Therefore, the hypotenuse  $AD$  in the right triangle  $APD$  is  $\sqrt{7}/2$  units. Thus the perimeter of  $ABCD$  is  $2(2 + \sqrt{7}/2)$ .

5. Find the number of 6-digit numbers that use only the digits 1 and 9, but do not have two 1's next to each other.

- (a) 19    (b) 21    (c) 49    (d) 14    (e) None of the above

**SOLUTION (b):** You can reason as follows:

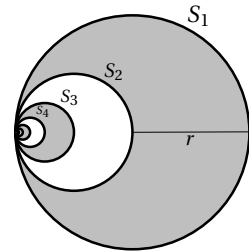
- The number of such 6-digit numbers with no 1's is 1.
- The number of such 6-digit numbers with exactly one 1 is 6.
- The number of such 6-digit numbers with exactly two 1's can be found as follows: If the first 1 is the first digit, the second 1 can be the third, fourth, fifth, or sixth digit. If the first 1 is the second digit, the second 1 can be the fourth, fifth, or sixth digit. If the first 1 is the third digit, the second 1 can be the fifth or sixth digit; and if the first 1 is the fourth digit, the second 1 must be the sixth digit. The first 1 can't be the fifth digit. So there are  $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = 10$  such 6-digit numbers.
- The number of such 6-digit numbers with exactly three 1's can be found in the same way. If the first 1 is the first digit, and the second 1 is the third digit, the third 1 can be the fifth or sixth digit. If the first 1 is the first digit, and the second 1 is the fourth digit, the third 1 must be the sixth digit. It is impossible for the second 1 to be the fifth digit. If the first 1 is the second digit, the second must be the fourth digit and the third must be the sixth digit. It is impossible for the first 1 to be later than the second digit, so there are only these 4 choices.
- It is impossible for there to be more than three 1's without having two of them next to each other so there are  $1 + 6 + 10 + 4 = 21$ .

6. The sum of the solutions of the equation  $\log_2(x^2 - 8x - 8) = 0$  is

- (a) 9    (b) 10    (c) -8    (d) 8    (e) None of the above

**SOLUTION (d):** Taking the exponential function of base 2 of both sides, we get  $x^2 - 8x - 8 = 1$ . That's a quadratic equation with leading coefficient 1, so the sum of the two solutions is the opposite of the coefficient for  $x$ , which is 8.

7. Let  $S_1, S_2, S_3, \dots$  be a sequence of nested circles such that  $S_{i+1}$  is inside  $S_i$  and the radius of  $S_{i+1}$  is half of that of  $S_i$ . Let  $r$  denote the radius of  $S_1$ . For  $i = 1, 3, 5, \dots$  (i.e. for odd  $i$ 's), the region inside  $S_i$  and outside  $S_{i+1}$  is shaded. Find the sum of the shaded areas.



- (a)  $\frac{3\pi r^2}{4}$   
 (b)  $\frac{\pi r^2}{4}$       (c)  $\frac{4\pi r^2}{5}$       (d)  $3\pi r^2$       (e) None of the above

SOLUTION (c): The circle  $S_k$  has radius  $\frac{r}{2^{k-1}}$  and its area is  $\frac{\pi r^2}{2^{2(k-1)}}$ . Thus the shaded region has area equal to the sum of the infinite series

$$\pi r^2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{2^{2(k-1)}} = \pi r^2 \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^l}{2^{2l}} = \pi r^2 \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{-1}{4}\right)^l.$$

Clearly, the last infinite sum is a geometric series with first term 1 and ratio  $-1/4$ ; hence the shaded area converges to  $\pi r^2 \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{4}} = \frac{4\pi r^2}{5}$ .

8. For which values of  $a$  is  $(\log_a 7)(\log_7 6) = \ln 36$ ?

- (a)  $\frac{1}{e}$       (b) 6      (c)  $\sqrt{e}$       (d) 2      (e) None of the above

SOLUTION (c): According to the base change formula,

$$(\log_a 7)(\log_7 6) = \frac{\ln 7}{\ln a} \cdot \frac{\ln 6}{\ln 7} = \frac{\ln 6}{\ln a}$$

which means that

$$\ln a = \frac{\ln 6}{\ln 36} = \frac{\ln 6}{2 \ln 6} = \frac{1}{2}$$

which means  $a = e^{1/2}$ .

9. For which  $x$  is  $2 \sin^{-1}\left(\sin \frac{x}{2}\right) = x$ ?

- (a) For all real  $x$       (b) For  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$       (c) For  $-\pi \leq x \leq \pi$   
 (d) For  $-\frac{\pi}{4} \leq x \leq \frac{\pi}{4}$       (e) None of the above

SOLUTION (c): The range of  $\sin^{-1}$  is the interval  $[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ . Therefore

$$\sin^{-1}\left(\sin \frac{x}{2}\right) = \frac{x}{2} \text{ if } -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \frac{x}{2} \leq \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

So  $2 \sin^{-1}\left(\sin \frac{x}{2}\right) = x$  if  $-\pi \leq x \leq \pi$ .

10. At exactly 3:22, what is the angle between the hour hand and the minute hand of a clock? (Assume that both hands rotate in smooth continuous motion without jumps.)

(a)  $35^\circ$     (b)  $7^\circ$     (c)  $31^\circ$     (d)  $42^\circ$     (e) None of the above

SOLUTION (c): Each minute, the hour hand rotates by  $1/2^\circ$ , while minute hand rotates by  $6^\circ$ . Hence at 3:22, the angle between the hour hand and 3 o'clock is  $11^\circ$ , while the angle between the minute hand and 3 o'clock is  $6(22 - 15) = 42^\circ$ . Therefore the angle between hour hand and minute hand at 3:22 is  $42^\circ - 11^\circ = 31^\circ$ .

11. For which real values of  $p$  does the graph of  $y = x^2 - 2px + p + 1$  have exactly one  $x$ -intercept?

(a) No such  $p$  exists    (b)  $p = 0$     (c)  $p = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$  only  
 (d)  $p = \frac{1}{2}$     (e) None of the above

SOLUTION (e): In order for the graph to have exactly one intercept, the polynomial  $x^2 - 2px + p + 1$  would have to be a perfect square. Therefore  $p^2 = p + 1$ , or  $p^2 - p - 1 = 0$ , which means that

$$p = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}.$$

12. A committee of 4 people is to be randomly chosen from a group of 7 people, including Mr. and Mrs. Smith. What is the probability that a committee will not contain both Mr. Smith and Mrs. Smith?

(a)  $\frac{5}{7}$     (b)  $\frac{1}{3}$     (c)  $\frac{4}{7}$     (d)  $\frac{2}{3}$     (e) None of the above

SOLUTION (a): The number of possible committees is  $\frac{7 \cdot 6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4}{4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2} = 35$ . The number of committees that contain both Mr. and Mrs. Smith is given by the number of ways to choose the other two people on the committee, which is  $\frac{5 \cdot 4}{2} = 10$ . So the number of committees that do not contain both Mr. and Mrs. Smith is  $35 - 10 = 25$ . So the probability that a committee will not contain both Mr. and Mrs. Smith is  $\frac{25}{35} = \frac{5}{7}$ .

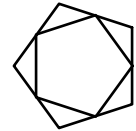
13.  $\cos(2 \cos^{-1}(-\frac{12}{13})) =$

(a) Undefined    (b)  $\frac{119}{169}$     (c)  $-\frac{24}{13}$   
 (d)  $-\frac{119}{169}$     (e) None of the above

SOLUTION (b): Let  $\alpha = \cos^{-1}(-\frac{12}{13})$ . Then  $\cos(\alpha) = -\frac{12}{13}$ , and

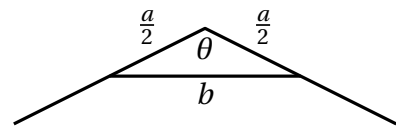
$$\cos(2\alpha) = 2 \cos^2 \alpha - 1 = 2 \frac{144}{169} - 1 = \frac{119}{169}$$

14. Let  $\theta$  be the angle measure of a regular polygon with  $n$  vertices, where  $n$  is a fixed natural number larger than 2. One such polygon is inscribed in another so that the vertices of the inner polygon are the midpoints of the edges of the outer one (the figure gives an example for  $n = 5$ ). If the side of the outer polygon is  $a$  units and that of the inner polygon is  $b$  units, which of the following is true?

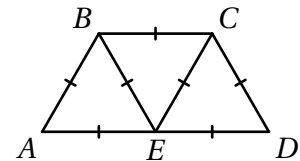


- (a)  $\cos \theta = \frac{a^2 - 2b^2}{a^2}$       (b)  $\cos \theta = \frac{2a^2 - b^2}{2a^2}$       (c)  $\sin(\theta/2) = \frac{a}{2b}$
- (d)  $\tan \theta = \frac{b}{\sqrt{a^2 - b^2}}$       (e) None of the above

SOLUTION (a): Drawing one vertex of the outer polygon and the surrounding two vertices of the inner polygon we get an isosceles triangle with two sides of length  $a/2$  surrounding the angle  $\theta$  and a side of length  $b$  opposite to  $\theta$ . By the law of cosines, we have  $2\left(\frac{a}{2}\right)\left(\frac{a}{2}\right)\cos \theta = \left(\frac{a}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{a}{2}\right)^2 - b^2$ . Hence  $\cos \theta = \frac{a^2 - 2b^2}{a^2}$ .



15. Given that the trapezoid  $ABCD$  has area 12, find the length of the segment  $\overline{AE}$ . (Congruent line segments are marked with small perpendicular dashes through the middle of the segment).



- (a)  $\sqrt{6}$       (b)  $\frac{4}{\sqrt{3}}$       (c)  $\frac{4}{\sqrt[3]{3}}$       (d) 6      (e) None of the above

SOLUTION (c): Let  $x$  be the length of the segment  $\overline{AE}$ . The height of the trapezoid is the height of the equilateral triangle  $ABE$ , which is  $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}x$ . The area of the trapezoid is then  $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{4}x^2$ , which has to be equal to 12.

16. Suppose  $f(1) = 2$  and  $f(5) = 3$ . If for every  $k \geq 3$ ,  $f(k) = f(k-2) - f(k-1)$ , find  $f(2)$ .

- (a)  $\frac{7}{5}$       (b)  $\frac{5}{2}$       (c)  $-3$       (d)  $\frac{1}{3}$       (e) None of the above

SOLUTION (d): Let  $f(2) = y$ . Then

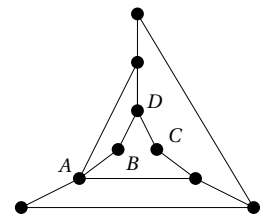
$$f(3) = f(1) - f(2) = 2 - y$$

$$f(4) = f(2) - f(3) = y - (2 - y) = 2y - 2$$

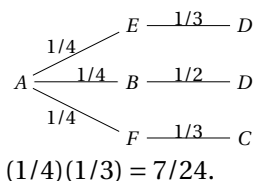
$$f(5) = f(3) - f(4) = 2 - y - (2y - 2) = 4 - 3y$$

But  $f(5) = 3$  so we have  $4 - 3y = 3$ , or  $y = 1/3$ .

17. A peg located at one vertex on the corresponding graph will be moved to another vertex that is connected to its current location by an edge; the selection of the new position is otherwise totally random. If the peg is currently at the vertex  $A$ , what is the probability that it will end up after two moves at an interior vertex (one of vertices  $B$ ,  $C$  or  $D$ )?



- (a)  $7/24$       (b)  $1/2$       (c)  $3/10$       (d)  $5/24$
- (e) None of the above



**SOLUTION (a):** Denote the vertex directly above  $D$  as  $E$ , and the vertex directly to the right of  $A$  as  $F$ . The adjacent tree diagram shows all possible two moves that start from  $A$  and end at  $B$ ,  $C$  or  $D$ , together with the probability of each. Hence the total probability is  $(1/4)(1/3) + (1/4)(1/2) +$

$$(1/4)(1/3) = 7/24.$$

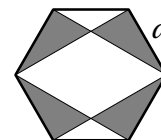
18. Suppose that  $f(x) \geq 0$  for all  $x$ , and  $a, b$  are positive numbers. Given that the area of the region bounded by the graph of  $y = f(x)\sin(x)$ ,  $0 \leq x \leq \pi$ , and the  $x$ -axis is 2 units, and that the area bounded by the graph  $y = af(bx)\sin(bx)$ ,  $0 \leq x \leq \pi/b$ , and the  $x$ -axis is 8 units, which of the following holds?

- (a)  $a = 4$       (b)  $a = 2$       (c)  $\frac{a}{b} = 4$       (d)  $\frac{b}{a} = 4$       (e) None of the above

**SOLUTION (c):** The area under  $y = af(bx)\sin(bx)$  is obtained from that under  $y = f(x)\sin(x)$  by stretching vertically by factor  $a$  and shrinking horizontally by factor  $b$ . Hence we have  $8 = (\frac{a}{b})(2)$ .

19. In the figure is a regular hexagon of side length  $a$ . The ratio of the shaded area to that of the entire hexagon is equal to

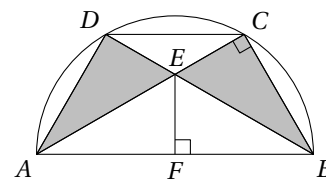
- (a)  $\frac{1}{3}$       (b)  $\frac{2}{3}$       (c)  $\frac{4}{9}$       (d)  $\frac{1}{4}$       (e) None of the above



**SOLUTION (c):** The area of the hexagon can be computed by dividing it into six congruent triangles (by joining the center to the vertices). Each triangle will be equilateral of side length  $a$ . Hence the area of the hexagon is  $6(\frac{1}{2})(a)(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}a) = \frac{3\sqrt{3}a^2}{2}$ . The shaded region consists of four congruent triangles, and can be realized from the symmetry (or by simple angle geometry) that each is  $60^\circ$ - $30^\circ$  right triangle with the side  $a$  opposite to the  $60^\circ$  angle. Hence the shaded region has area  $4(\frac{1}{2})(a)(\frac{a}{\sqrt{3}}) = \frac{2a^2}{\sqrt{3}}$ . Thus the ratio of the areas is  $\frac{2a^2}{\sqrt{3}} \div \frac{3\sqrt{3}a^2}{2} = \frac{4}{9}$ .

**Alternative solution:** The ratio of the shaded area to the area of the hexagon is the same as the ratio of the shaded area in the upper half of the hexagon to the area of the upper half (see the picture).

The triangles  $AEB$  and  $CED$  are similar, with the length of  $AB$  being twice the length of  $CD$ , and so the area of the triangle  $AEB$  is 4 times the area of  $CDE$ . Since the triangle  $BCD$  is isosceles, the angle  $CBD$  is congruent to  $CDB$  which is congruent to  $ABD$ . The point  $C$  lies on a circle with diameter  $AB$ , which makes the angle  $ACB$  a right angle. Therefore the triangles  $BCE$  and  $BEF$  are congruent. In a similar way you can show that the triangle  $ADE$  is congruent to  $AEF$ . Therefore the shaded area is the same as the area of triangle  $AEB$ .



So the area of the upper half of the hexagon is 9 times the area of triangle  $CDE$ , while the shaded area is only 4 times the area of  $DCE$ . Therefore the ratio is  $4/9$ .

20. Let  $a$  be a positive real number and  $k$  a natural number. Let  $f$  be a polynomial of degree 11 with a positive leading coefficient whose roots are  $a, a \pm 1, a \pm 2, a \pm 3, a \pm 4, a \pm 5$ , and let  $g(T) = (f(T))^2$ . If the leading coefficient of  $g$  is  $a$  while the coefficient of  $T^{21}$  in  $g$  is  $-44a$ , what is  $f(0)$ ?

- (a) 0      (b) 11      (c) 1      (d) 11!      (e) None of the above

SOLUTION (a): The leading coefficient of  $f$  is  $\sqrt{a}$ . Thus  $f(T) = \sqrt{a} \prod_{i=-5}^5 (T - (a + i))$ . Thus the  $T^{21}$  coefficient of  $g$  is  $-2a$  times the sum of the roots of  $f$ ; i.e.  $(-2a)(11a) = -22a^2$ . Equating this to  $-44a$ , we get  $a = 2$ . In particular, 0 (which is  $a - 2$ ) is a root of  $f$ . Now  $f(0)$  is  $\sqrt{a}$  times the product of the roots of  $f$ . Hence  $f(0) = 0$ .

21. Let  $a = 5^{39}$ ,  $b = 2^{62}$ ,  $c = 6^{26}$ , and  $d = 3^{52}$ . Which of the following inequalities holds?

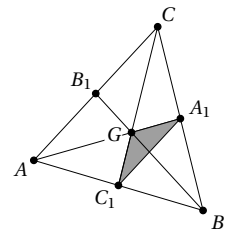
- (a)  $b < c < a < d$       (b)  $c < a < d < b$       (c)  $c < d < b < a$   
 (d)  $b < c < d < a$       (e) None of the above

SOLUTION (d): The answer is justifiable by the following sequence of inequalities.

$$\begin{aligned} b &= 2^{62} = 2^{26} \cdot 2^{36} = 2^{26} \cdot 8^{12} < 2^{26} \cdot 9^{12} = 2^{26} \cdot 3^{24} < 2^{26} \cdot 3^{26} = c \\ &< 3^{26} \cdot 3^{26} = 3^{52} = d = 9^{26} < 10^{26} = 2^{26} \cdot 5^{26} = 4^{13} \cdot 5^{26} < 5^{13+26} = a \end{aligned}$$

22. Assume that the area of triangle  $ABC$  is  $4\text{ft}^2$ . Let  $A_1, B_1$  and  $C_1$  be the midpoints of the sides  $BC, AC$  and  $AB$ , respectively, and let  $G$  be the point of intersection of  $AA_1, BB_1$  and  $CC_1$ . Then the area of triangle  $A_1C_1G$  is

- (a)  $\frac{4}{9}$       (b)  $\frac{1}{3}$       (c)  $\frac{1}{12}$       (d)  $\frac{1}{16}$       (e) None of the above



SOLUTION (b): Since  $\overline{CC_1}$  is a median in the triangle  $ABC$ , the triangles  $C_1BC$  and  $ABC$  have the same height, and the base of  $C_1BC$  is half of the base  $ABC$ . Therefore  $A_{\Delta C_1BC} = \frac{1}{2}A_{\Delta ABC}$ . Similarly, since  $\overline{A_1C_1}$  is a median in the triangle  $C_1BC$ ,  $A_{\Delta C_1A_1C} = \frac{1}{2}A_{\Delta C_1BC}$ . Since  $CG : GC_1 = 2 : 1$ ,  $A_{\Delta A_1GC_1} = \frac{1}{3}A_{\Delta C_1A_1C}$ . Altogether

$$A_{\Delta A_1GC_1} = \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} A_{\Delta ABC} = \frac{1}{12}(4) = \frac{1}{3}.$$

**Alternative solution:** Let  $x = A_{\Delta A_1C_1G}$ . Note that the segments  $\overline{AC}$  and  $\overline{A_1C_1}$  are parallel, which implies that the triangles  $CAG$  and  $C_1A_1G$  are similar. This together with the fact that  $AC = 2A_1C_1$  implies that the area of the triangle  $ACG$  is  $4x$ .

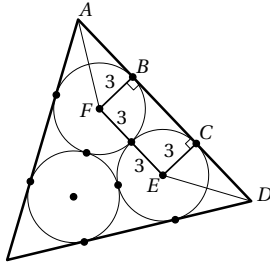
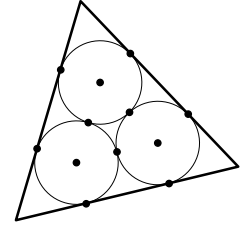
The area of the trapezoid  $AC_1A_1C$  is 3 (it is  $3/4$  of the area of the triangle  $ABC$ ), and the area of each of the triangles  $ACC_1$  and  $ACA_1$  is 2 (half of the area of the triangle  $ABC$ ). The triangle  $ACG$  is exactly the overlap of the triangles  $ACC_1$  and  $ACA_1$ , therefore the area of the trapezoid  $AC_1A_1C$  can be expressed as the sum of the areas of the triangles  $ACC_1$ ,  $ACA_1$  and  $A_1C_1G$  minus the area of the triangle  $ACG$ . This gives us an equation

$$3 = 2 + 2 + x - 4x$$

which means that  $x = 1/3$ .

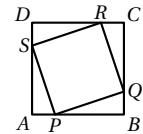
23. Three circles with radius 3 are inscribed in an equilateral triangle as shown in the picture. The side of the triangle is

- (a) 12                      (b)  $6(1 + \sqrt{3})$   
 (c)  $3 + 3\sqrt{3}$         (d) 18                      (e) None of the above



SOLUTION (b): Because  $ECBF$  is a rectangle, the length  $BC$  is 6. The triangles  $ABF$  and  $CDE$  are  $30^\circ$ - $60^\circ$ - $90^\circ$  triangles, therefore the lengths of  $AB$  and  $CD$  are both  $3\sqrt{3}$ . Together, the length  $AD$  is  $3\sqrt{3} + 6 + 3\sqrt{3}$ .

24. Let  $ABCD$  be a square with a side  $a$  and let the points  $P, Q, R, S$  be on the sides  $AB, BC, CD, DA$  respectively, and such that  $AP = BQ = CR = DS = \frac{1}{3}a$ . Let  $PQ = b$ . Then  $\frac{a}{b}$  is



- (a)  $\frac{3}{5}$                       (b)  $\frac{1}{3\sqrt{5}}$                       (c)  $\frac{5}{\sqrt{3}}$                       (d)  $\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}$                       (e) None of the above

SOLUTION (d): Denote the length of  $AP$  by  $x$ . Then the length of  $PB$  is  $2x$ ,  $a = 3x$  and, using Pythagorean theorem,  $b = \sqrt{(2x)^2 + x^2} = x\sqrt{5}$ . Thus

$$\frac{a}{b} = \frac{3x}{x\sqrt{5}} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}.$$

25. The expression  $4\sin^3\alpha - 3\sin\alpha + \sin 3\alpha$  equals

- (a)  $-2$                       (b)  $0$                       (c)  $2$                       (d)  $6\sin\alpha$                       (e) None of the above

SOLUTION (b): Using addition and double angle formulas together with the Pythagorean identity  $\sin^2\alpha + \cos^2\alpha = 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \sin 3\alpha &= \sin(2\alpha + \alpha) \\ &= \sin\alpha \cos 2\alpha + \cos\alpha \sin 2\alpha \\ &= \sin\alpha (1 - 2\sin^2\alpha) + \cos\alpha 2\sin\alpha \cos\alpha \\ &= \sin\alpha - 2\sin^3\alpha + 2\sin\alpha \cos^2\alpha \\ &= \sin\alpha - 2\sin^3\alpha + 2\sin\alpha(1 - \sin^2\alpha) \\ &= \sin\alpha - 2\sin^3\alpha + 2\sin\alpha - 2\sin^3\alpha \\ &= 3\sin\alpha - 4\sin^3\alpha \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $4\sin^3\alpha - 3\sin\alpha + \sin 3\alpha = 4\sin^3\alpha - 3\sin\alpha + 3\sin\alpha - 4\sin^3\alpha = 0$ .