MATH 642:491–Fall, 2012

Problems

1. How many 0's does 400! end with?
2. Find the smallest positive integer having exactly 100 positive divisors.
3. You have a 7 gallon jug and a 10 gallon hat (both the jug and the hat have no markings). You have access to an infinite supply of water. Can you measure out 1 gallon of water?
4. If S is a set of real numbers let $S+S$ be the set of all sums of the form $a+b$ where $a \in S$ and $b \in S$ (where a, b are allowed to be the same number). For each positive integer n, how should you choose S of size n if you want to minimize the size of $S+S$?
5. Among all lists of positive integers that sum to 1000, what is the most their product can be?
6. Find all integers a, b such that $a^b = b^a$.
7. Determine all polynomials $P(x)$ that satisfy the equations $P(x^2+1) = (P(x))^2 + 1$ and $P(0) = 0$.
8. Let us say that a positive real number x is a *Fermat number* if there are three distinct positive integers a, b, c such that $a^x + b^x = c^x$. Prove that there exist arbitrarily large Fermat numbers (which means that for every real number M there is a fermat number x that is bigger than M).
9. Suppose we define the *linear size* of a box B, denote $LS(B)$ to be the sum of its length, width and height. Is it possible to construct two boxes B, C where $LS(B) < LS(C)$ and C fits inside of B?
10. Given 6 points in the plane, show that the ratio of the maximum distance between two of them to the minimum distance between two of them is at least $\sqrt{3}$.
11. Suppose we color the points of the x–y plane with three colors. Prove that there must be two points at distance one from each other that get the same color.
12. Evaluate $\sqrt{2}^{\sqrt{2}^{\sqrt{2}^{\cdots}}}$. (More formally, let $x_1 = \sqrt{2}$, and let $x_{n+1} = \sqrt{2}^{x_n}$ for each $n \geq 1$. Find $\lim_{n\to\infty} x_n$, if it exists.)
13. Standard U.S. coins are pennies (1 cent), nickels (5 cents), dimes (10 cents), quarters (25 cents), half dollars (50 cents) and dollars (100 cents). Say that an integer k is *convertible* provided that it is possible to find a collection of k coins that adds up to a dollar. What is the smallest positive integer that is not convertible?
14. Evaluate the determinant of the $n \times n$ matrix whose (i, j)th entry is $a^{|i-j|}$.
15. For a nonnegative integer n, let $f(n)$ be the number of ways to express n as a sum of powers of 2, where each power of 2 is used at most twice. For example, $f(6) = 3$ since $6 = 4+2 = 4+1+1 = 2+2+1+1$. (We define $f(0) = 1$). For a positive integer n. let $r(n) = f(n)/f(n-1)$. The function r is a rather amazing function: it is a bijection from the set of positive integers to the set of the positive rational numbers! Prove this.