

Real Quiz # 7 for Dr. Z.'s MathHistory

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Email DrZlinear@gmail.com as soon as I tell you (around 3:15pm)

Subject: q7

with an attachment called

q7FirstLast.pdf (e.g. q7PaulErdos.pdf)

1. (2 points) Who "proved" that

$$1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + \dots$$

equals $\frac{1}{2}$? Briefly describe his "proof".

Guido Drandi
He thought of if 2 siblings share a inheritance switching every year then each sibling would have it $\frac{1}{2}$ the time

2. (2 points) Who translated Newton's *Principia* into French, and who wrote *Lettres sur les Anglais*?

Marquise du Chatelet

Voltaire

3. (1 point) Who proved that every integer is a sum of four or less squares?

Lagrange

4. (2 point) Express the permutation

$$\begin{pmatrix} \cancel{1} & \cancel{2} & \cancel{3} & \cancel{4} & 5 & 6 & 7 & \cancel{8} & \cancel{9} \\ 9 & 8 & 7 & 5 & 6 & 4 & 3 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

as a product of disjoint cycles. What is the smallest i such that π^i is the identity permutation?

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 9 \\ 9 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 8 \\ 8 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 7 \\ 7 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 5 & 6 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$i = \text{lcm}(2, 3) = 6$$

5. (3 points) Prove that in the nine puzzle, if you start with

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & \end{pmatrix} \text{ it is impossible to get to } \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & \end{pmatrix} = B$$

by sliding.

Note: You can use (without proving) the lemma that whenever two elements of a permutation trade places, and all the other elements stay where they are, the number of inversions changes by an odd integer (i.e. is $\pm 1, \pm 3, \pm 5, \pm 7, \dots$ of what it used to be.

The invariant is defined as the sum of number of inversions and the taxicab distance of the blank from the top ~~right~~ left corner.

From the LEMMA the ~~number~~ change in the number of inversions will always be odd for every move

The taxicab distance will always change by ± 1 for every move

From this, at any given move the invariant will change by an even number because an odd number ± 1 will always be even.

If the invariant always changes by an even number then the parity of Invariant will never change if all moves made are legal moves

$$\text{Invariant (A)} = \begin{array}{ccc} & \text{Inversions} & \text{Taxi cab} \\ = & 0 & + 4 \\ & & = 4 \Rightarrow \text{Even} \end{array}$$

$$\text{Invariant (B)} = 3 + 4 = 7 \Rightarrow \text{Odd}$$

Because the Invariant's ~~changes~~ parity changes from even to odd when it moves from A to B, this is impossible to occur by the legal moves.