

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 4 – JANUARY 2007  
ROUND 1 ANALYTIC GEOMETRY: ANYTHING**

**ANSWERS**

A) \_\_\_\_\_

B) ( \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ )

C) \_\_\_\_\_ %

A) Find the distance between the parallel lines  $3x + 4y = 5$  and  $3x + 4y = 9$ .

B) A quadratic function  $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ , has  $x$ -intercepts 1 and 5 and  $y$ -intercept 2.  
Determine the ordered triple  $(a, b, c)$ .

C) The area of the ellipse  $4(x-1)^2 + 2500(y+2)^2 = 10000$  is approximated by a rectangle whose sides are tangent to the ellipse at the endpoints of its major and minor axes.  
To the nearest tenth of a percent, what is the percent error in this overestimate?

Recall: The area of an ellipse is given by the formula  $\pi ab$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are the distances from the center to the endpoints of the major and minor axes, respectively.

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE**  
**CONTEST 4 – JANUARY 2007**  
**ROUND 2 ALG 1: FACTORING AND/OR EQUATIONS INVOLVING FACTORING**

**ANSWERS**

A) \_\_\_\_\_

B) \_\_\_\_\_

C) \_\_\_\_\_

A) 1741 is a prime number.

It does not factor as the product of two integers (except the trivial  $(1 \cdot 1741)$ ).

Find the ordered pair of consecutive positive integers  $(a, b)$ , where  $a > b$ , for which the product  $ab$  is closest to 1741.

B) Mersenne Numbers are numbers of the form  $2^n - 1$ , for integers  $n > 2$ . If  $n$  is even, this formula always generates numbers that are composite. If  $n$  is odd, this is not necessarily the case. Find the sum of all prime factors of the smallest composite Mersenne number generated by an odd value of  $n$ .

**Note:** 1 is neither prime nor composite.

C) Determine all values of  $x$  for which  $\left(6\left(\frac{x-3}{x-7}\right)-4\right)^2 - 5\left(2-3\left(\frac{x-3}{x-7}\right)\right) = 21$

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 4 – JANUARY 2007  
ROUND 3 TRIG: EQUATIONS WITH A REASONABLE NUMBER OF SOLUTIONS**

**ANSWERS**

A) \_\_\_\_\_

B) \_\_\_\_\_

C) \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\*\* NO CALCULATORS ON THIS ROUND \*\*\*\*\***

A) Solve for  $x$ , where  $0 \leq x < 360^\circ$ :  $3\cos(x) + 3 = 2\sin^2(x)$

B) Solve for  $\theta$ , where  $0^\circ \leq \theta < 360^\circ$ :  $2\sin\theta \tan\theta + \sqrt{3} \tan\theta = 2\sqrt{3} \sin\theta + 3$

C) How many solutions does the equation  $4\sin^2(2007x) - 1 = 0$  have over the interval  $0 \leq x < \pi/4$ ?

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 4 – JANUARY 2007  
ROUND 4 ALG 2: QUADRATIC EQUATIONS**

**ANSWERS**

A) ( \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ )

B) a      b      c      d      e      f

C) \_\_\_\_\_ oz.

A) The vertex of the parabola  $y = (x - 1)(x - a) + b$  is located at  $(3, 7)$ .  
Determine the ordered pair  $(a, b)$ .

B) Let  $a, b,$  and  $c,$  in some order, denote three consecutive positive integers.  
Indicate which of the following orders of  $(a, b, c)$  guarantees that the sum of the roots of  $ax^2 - bx + c = 0$  is as large as possible.  
(S, M and L denote the smallest, the middle and the largest integer.)

a) (S, M, L)      b) (S, L, M)      c) (M, S, L)      d) (M, L, S)      e) (L, M, S)      f) (L, S, M)

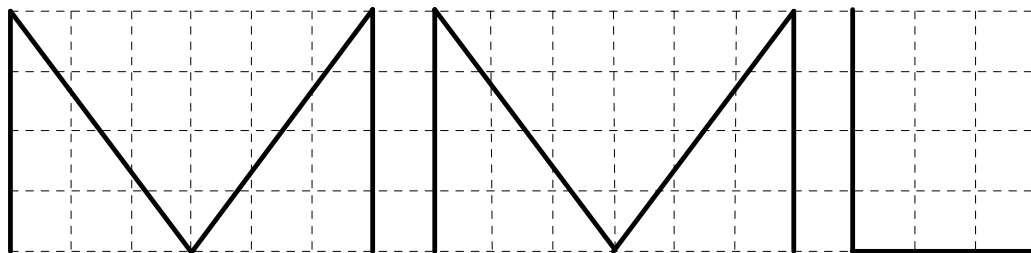
C) 24 ounces of copper are drawn into a wire of uniform cross section. If the wire had been one foot longer (and still of the same uniform cross section), the wire would have weighed 0.1 oz. less per foot.

This wire is used to make 4" high letters, as shown below.

The grid squares are 1 inch on side.

If no extra wire is used to make the bends, find the weight of the wire used.

Give an exact answer or an approximation accurate to the nearest 0.01 ounce.



**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 4 – JANUARY 2007  
ROUND 5 GEOMETRY: SIMILARITY OF POLYGONS**

**ANSWERS**

A) \_\_\_\_\_ units<sup>2</sup>

B) \_\_\_\_\_ feet

C) \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

- A) A segment connects the midpoints of the legs of a right triangle with sides of length 3, 4 and 5, dividing the right triangle into a triangle and a trapezoid. What is the area of the trapezoid?
- B) A building has a light mounted 15 feet above the ground. A person 6 feet tall is standing 10 feet from the base of the building.  
Exactly how long is the person's shadow?  
(Assume the person and the building are perpendicular to level ground.)
- C) Given:  $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle CAD$ ,  $AB = 12$  and  $CD = 27$ . Determine the simplified ratio of the area of the circle inscribed in  $\triangle ABC$  to area of the circle inscribed in  $\triangle CAD$ .

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 4 – JANUARY 2007  
ROUND 6 ALG 1: ANYTHING**

**ANSWERS**

A) \_\_\_\_\_ oz

B) \_\_\_\_\_

C) \_\_\_\_\_

A) A chemist needs to make 30 oz. of a 25% alcohol solution by mixing together a 15% alcohol solution and a 40% alcohol solution. How many ounces of the 40% solution should be used?

B) Determine the sum of all values of  $x$  for which  $|x| = \frac{6}{|x+5|}$ .

C) Find the product of all possible solutions over the reals:

$$(x^2 - 7x + 11)^{2x^2 + 11x - 6} = 1$$

Consider 3 cases:  $N^0 = 1$ , provided  $N \neq 0$   
 $1^N = 1$ , for all real values of  $N$   
 $(-1)^N = 1$  for all even values of  $N$

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 4 – JANUARY 2007  
ROUND 7 TEAM QUESTIONS**

**ANSWERS**

- A) \_\_\_\_\_ D) \_\_\_\_\_  
 B) \_\_\_\_\_ E)  $h =$  \_\_\_\_\_  
 C) \_\_\_\_\_ F) \_\_\_\_\_ years

A) Find the equation of the line through  $P(7, 2)$  perpendicular to the segment connecting the points of intersection of the line  $2x - 5y + 3 = 0$  and the parabola  $y = x^2$ . Express your answer as a simplified equation in the form  $ax + by = c$ , where  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$  are integers and  $a > 0$ .

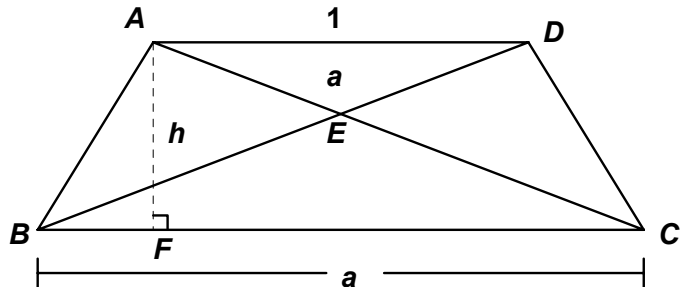
B) Find the sum of all integer values of  $k$  for which the quadratic  $x^2 + kx + k + 11$  can be expressed as the product of two linear binomials with integer coefficients.

C) Find the maximum value of  $k$  for which  $5\sin(x) + 12\cos(x) = k^2 - k + 1$  has a real solution. If necessary, express your answer in terms of a simplified radical.

D) Let  $x = 2 + \frac{1}{a + \frac{1}{2 + \frac{1}{a + \dots}}}$ , where  $a$  is an integer.

Determine the integer value of  $a$  for which  $x$  is a rational number.

E)  $ABCD$  is an isosceles trapezoid. If  $AD = 1$  unit,  $BC = a$  units and the area of  $\triangle ADE$  is  $a$  units<sup>2</sup>, determine the value of  $h$ , the height of the trapezoid, in terms of  $a$ .



F) A man and his grandson have the same birthday. For the grandson's first six birthdays, his grandfather was an integral number of times as old as he was. How old was the grandfather on the grandson's sixth birthday? Assume the grandfather has not yet celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 4 - JANUARY 2007 ANSWERS**

**Round 1 Analytic Geometry: Anything**

- A)  $4/5$  or  $0.8$       B)  $\left(\frac{2}{5}, \frac{-12}{5}, 2\right)$       C)  $27.3\%$

**Round 2 Alg1: Factoring**

- A)  $(42, 41)$       B)  $80$       C)  $4, 23$

**Round 3 Trig: Equations**

- A)  $120^\circ, 240^\circ, 180^\circ$       B)  $60^\circ, 240^\circ, 300^\circ$       C)  $1003$

**Round 4 Alg 2: Quadratic Equations**

- A)  $(5, 11)$       B)  $b$       C)  $5\frac{11}{15}$  or  $5.73$  oz.

**Round 5 Geometry: Similarity**

- A)  $4.5$       B)  $6\frac{2}{3}$       C)  $4 : 9$

**Round 6 Alg 1: Anything**

- A)  $12$       B)  $-10$       C)  $-120$

**Team Round**

- A)  $5x + 2y = 39$       B)  $12$       C)  $4$   
D)  $-2$       E)  $h = 2a(a + 1)$       F)  $66$



**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 4 - JANUARY 2007 SOLUTION KEY**

**Round 1**

A) Method 1 is straightforward (but tedious).

Pick a point on one of the lines  $\rightarrow P(3,0)$  is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> line  $3x + 4y = 9$

Determine the slope of the perpendicular line through this point (negative reciprocal)  $\rightarrow +\frac{4}{3}$

Determine the equation of this perpendicular line  $\rightarrow 4x - 3y = 12$

Determine point of intersection of this line and the first line  $\rightarrow Q\left(\frac{63}{25}, \frac{-16}{25}\right) = Q(2.52, -0.64)$

Using the distance formula, find the distance between  $P$  and  $Q$

$$\sqrt{(3 - 2.52)^2 + (0 + 0.64)^2} = \sqrt{.48^2 + .64^2} = \sqrt{.16^2(3^2 + 4^2)} = .16(5) = \underline{\mathbf{0.8 \text{ or } 4/5}}$$

Method 2 uses the point to line distance formula .

The distance from point  $P(x_1, y_1)$  to the line  $Ax + By + C = 0$  is  $\frac{|Ax_1 + By_1 + C|}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}$

Note that all terms in the equation must be on the same side.

Thus, using  $(3, 0)$  as the point and  $3x + 4y - 5 = 0$  as the line we have

$$d = \frac{|3(3) + 4(0) - 5|}{\sqrt{3^2 + 4^2}} = \underline{\mathbf{4/5 \text{ or } 0.8}}$$

Method 3: Determine the hypotenuse of a triangle with legs given by  $A$  and  $B$ , the coefficients of  $x$  and  $y$ . [ $3, 4 \rightarrow 5$ ] Subtract this value from  $C$ , the constant term. [ $9 - 5 = 4$ ] Divide this value by the hypotenuse [ $4/5$ ] That's all folks!  
The proof is left to you!

B) The coordinates  $(1, 0)$ ,  $(5, 0)$  and  $(0, 2)$  must satisfy the equation  $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ .

The last ordered pair implies  $c = 2$ .

$$(5, 0) \rightarrow 25a + 5b + 2 = 0$$

$$(1, 0) \rightarrow a + b + 2 = 0 \rightarrow 5a + 5b + 10 = 0$$

Subtracting, we have  $20a - 8 = 0 \rightarrow a = 2/5$

Substituting,  $2/5 + b + 2 = 0 \rightarrow b = -12/5$

Alternately,  $x$ -intercepts of 1 and 5  $\rightarrow y = k(x - 1)(x - 5)$

A  $y$ -intercept of 2  $\rightarrow$  constant terms  $5k = 2 \rightarrow k = 2/5$  Multiplying,  $y = \frac{2}{5}x^2 - \frac{12}{5}x + 2$

$$\text{Thus, } (a, b, c) = \underline{\underline{\left(\frac{2}{5}, \frac{-12}{5}, 2\right)}}$$

$$\text{C) } 4(x-1)^2 + 2500(y+2)^2 = 10000 \rightarrow \frac{(x-1)^2}{2500} + \frac{(y+2)^2}{4} = 1 \rightarrow a = 50, b = 2$$

Thus, the exact area is  $100\pi$  and the overestimate is  $LW = 100(4) = 400$

The percent error is  $(400 - 100\pi)/100\pi = (4 - \pi)/\pi \approx 0.2732 \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{27.3\%}}$

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 4 - JANUARY 2007 SOLUTION KEY**

**Round 2**

A) Taking the square root of 1741  $\rightarrow 41.7^+$

The product  $40(41) = 1640$  is obviously smaller than 1741, since both factors are smaller than the square root of 1741. Likewise  $42(43) = 1806$  is obviously larger than 1741, since both factors are larger than the square root of 1741. Thus, the product closest to 1741 is produced by the pair of integers that sandwich the square root,  $41(42) = 1722$ .  $a > b \rightarrow (a, b) = \underline{(42, 41)}$ .

B)  $n = 3, 5$  and  $7$  produces  $7, 31$  and  $127$  respectively, all of which are primes.

$$n = 9 \rightarrow 511 = 7(73)$$

$$7 + 73 = \underline{80}$$

C) Let  $A = \frac{x-3}{x-7}$ . Then  $\left(6\left(\frac{x-3}{x-7}\right) - 4\right)^2 - 5\left(2 - 3\left(\frac{x-3}{x-7}\right)\right) = 21$  simplifies to

$$(2(3A - 2))^2 + 5(3A - 2) - 21 = 0$$

Letting  $B = 3A - 2$ , we have  $4B^2 + 5B - 21 = (4B - 7)(B + 3) = 0$  or substituting back

$$(4(3A - 2) - 7)(3A - 2 + 3) = (12A - 15)(3A + 1) = 0 \rightarrow A = 5/4 \text{ or } -1/3$$

Finally, substituting for  $A$ ,

$$\frac{x-3}{x-7} = \frac{5}{4} \rightarrow 4x - 12 = 5x - 35 \rightarrow x = \underline{23}$$

$$\frac{x-3}{x-7} = \frac{-1}{3} \rightarrow 3x - 9 = -x + 7 \rightarrow 4x = 16 \rightarrow x = \underline{4}$$

**Round 3**

A)  $3\cos(x) + 3 = 2(1 - \cos^2(x)) \rightarrow 2\cos^2(x) + 3\cos(x) + 1 = (2\cos x + 1)(\cos x + 1) = 0$

$$\rightarrow \cos x = -1/2 \rightarrow x = \underline{120^\circ, 240^\circ}$$

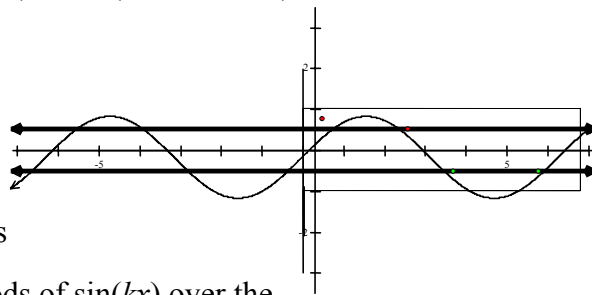
$$\rightarrow \cos x = -1 \rightarrow x = \underline{180^\circ}$$

B)  $2\sin\theta \tan\theta + \sqrt{3} \tan\theta - 2\sqrt{3} \sin\theta + 3 = \tan\theta(2\sin\theta + \sqrt{3}) - \sqrt{3}(2\sin\theta + \sqrt{3}) = 0$

$$\rightarrow (\tan\theta - \sqrt{3})(2\sin\theta + \sqrt{3}) = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \tan\theta = \sqrt{3} \rightarrow \theta = \underline{60^\circ, 240^\circ}$$

$$\rightarrow \sin\theta = -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \rightarrow \theta = 240^\circ, \underline{300^\circ}$$



C) Let  $k = 2007$ . We need  $\sin(kx) = \pm \frac{1}{2}$ . The sine function is

periodic with period  $2\pi$ . This implies there will be  $k$  periods of  $\sin(kx)$  over the

given interval  $[0, 2\pi)$  or  $k/8$  periods over  $[0, \pi/4)$ . Both  $y = +\frac{1}{2}$  and  $y = -\frac{1}{2}$  cross one cycle of

$\sin(kx)$  twice. Thus, there are  $[k/2] = [2007/2] = \underline{1003}$  points of intersection.

[  $2007/8 = 250.875$  cycles  $\rightarrow 4(250) + 3$ , the last three points of intersection occurring at the one quarter, halfway and three quarters points in the 251<sup>st</sup> cycle ]

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 4 - JANUARY 2007 SOLUTION KEY**

**Round 4**

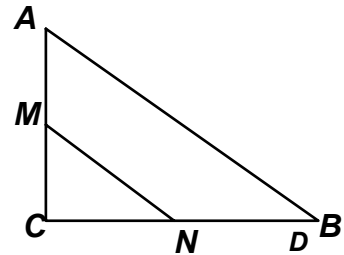
- A) The minimum occurs at the vertex which lies on the axis of symmetry of this upward opening parabola. The axis of symmetry occurs at  $x = \frac{1+a}{2} = 3 \rightarrow a = 5$   
 Substituting,  $7 = (3 - 1)(3 - 5) + b \rightarrow 7 = -4 + b \rightarrow b = 11$   
 Thus  $(a, b) = \underline{(5, 11)}$ .
- B) The sum of the roots is  $b/a$ . To maximize the value of this fraction you need to maximize the numerator and minimize the denominator. Thus,  $b = L$ ,  $a = S$  and  $c = M \rightarrow \underline{\mathbf{b) (S, L, M)}}$
- C) Assume the wire is  $x$  feet long. Thus, the weight per foot is  $\frac{24}{x}$  and  

$$\frac{24}{x+1} = \frac{24}{x} - \frac{1}{10} \rightarrow 240x = 240(x+1) - x(x+1) \rightarrow 0 = 240 - x^2 - x$$

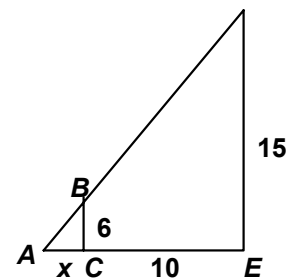
$$\rightarrow x^2 + x - 240 = (x+16)(x-15) = 0 \rightarrow x = 15$$
 Therefore, 15 feet of wire weighs 24 ounces  $\rightarrow 2/15$  oz per inch.  
 Wire needed is  $5(4) + 4(5) + 3 = 43$  inches  $\rightarrow 86/15 = 5\frac{11}{15}$  or 5.73

**Round 5**

- A) The area of the 3-4-5 triangle is 6 units<sup>2</sup>. The line connecting the midpoints of the legs is parallel to the hypotenuse and cuts off a triangle similar to the original 3-4-5. Since the ratio of their corresponding sides is 1 : 2, their areas are in a ratio of 1 : 4. Since the area of  $\triangle MNC$  is  $\frac{1}{4}$  the area of  $\triangle ABC$ , the area of the trapezoid is  $\frac{3}{4}$  the area of  $\triangle ABC = \underline{4.5}$ .



- B) Since  $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle ADE$ ,  $\frac{x}{x+10} = \frac{6}{15} = \frac{2}{5} \rightarrow 5x = 2x + 20$   
 $\rightarrow 3x = 20 \rightarrow x = \boxed{6\frac{2}{3}}$



- C)  $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle CAD \rightarrow \frac{AB}{CA} = \frac{AC}{CD} \rightarrow AC^2 = AB(CD) = 12(27) = 18^2 \rightarrow AC = 18$ .

Since the ratio of the radii of the inscribed circles is the same as the ratio of the corresponding sides,

$$\frac{r_1}{r_2} = \frac{AB}{AC} = \frac{12}{18} = \frac{2}{3} \rightarrow \frac{A_1}{A_2} = \boxed{\frac{4}{9}}$$

MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
CONTEST 4 - JANUARY 2007 SOLUTION KEY

Round 6

A) Assume  $x$  ounces of the 40% solution are required.

$$\text{Then } 0.40x + 0.15(30 - x) = 0.25(30) \rightarrow 40x + 15(30 - x) = 25(30)$$

$$\rightarrow 25x = 750 - 450 = 300 \rightarrow x = \underline{12}$$

B) Cross multiplying,  $|x||x + 5| = 6 \rightarrow |x(x + 5)| = 6 \rightarrow x^2 + 5x = \pm 6$

$$x^2 + 5x + 6 = (x + 3)(x + 2) = 0 \rightarrow x = -3, -2$$

$$x^2 + 5x - 6 = (x + 6)(x - 1) = 0 \rightarrow x = -6, 1 \rightarrow \text{sum} = \underline{-10}.$$

C)  $a^b = 1$  if and only if

$$\text{Case 1: } (a = 1) \quad x^2 - 7x + 11 = 1 \rightarrow x^2 - 7x + 10 = (x - 2)(x - 5) = 0 \rightarrow x = 2, 5$$

$$\text{Case 2: } (b = 0 \text{ (and } a \neq 0)) \quad 2x^2 + 11x - 6 = 0 \rightarrow (2x - 1)(x + 6) = 0$$

Since any real number raised to the zero power is 1, except 0,

$$x = 1/2 \text{ (checks since } (1/2)^2 - 7(1/2) + 11 \neq 0) \text{ and}$$

$$x = -6 \text{ (checks since } (-6)^2 - 7(-6) + 11 \neq 0)$$

$$\text{Case 3: } (a = -1 \text{ and } b \text{ is an even integer)} \quad x^2 - 7x + 11 = -1 \rightarrow x^2 - 7x + 12 = (x - 3)(x - 4) = 0$$

$$x = 3 \text{ (fails, since } 2(3)^2 + 11(3) - 6 = 45 \text{ which is not an even integer exponent)}$$

$$x = 4 \text{ (checks, since } 2(4)^2 + 11(4) - 6 = 70 \text{ which is an even integer exponent)}$$

Thus, the product of the solutions is  $2(5)(1/2)(-6)(4) = \underline{-120}$

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
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**Team Round**

- A) To find the points of intersection, substitute  $x^2$  for  $y$ :  $2x - 5x^2 + 3 = 0$   
 $\rightarrow 5x^2 - 2x - 3 = (5x + 3)(x - 1) = 0 \rightarrow x = -3/5$  or  $+1$ .

Thus, the points of intersection are:  $A\left(\frac{-3}{5}, \frac{9}{25}\right)$  and  $B(1, 1)$ .

The slope of the segment  $\overline{AB}$  is  $\frac{\frac{9}{25} - 1}{\frac{-3}{5} - 1} = \frac{-16/25}{-8/5} = \frac{16}{40} = \frac{2}{5}$ .

The slope of the perpendicular is  $+\frac{-5}{2}$ .

The equation of the perpendicular line is of the form  $5x + 2y = c$ , for some constant  $c$ .  
 Since the point  $P(7, 2)$  is on this line, its coordinates must satisfy the equation and we have  
 $5(7) + 2(2) = c \rightarrow c = 39 \rightarrow$  equation:  **$5x + 2y = 39$**

- B) Assume  $x^2 + kx + k + 11$  factors to  $(x + a)(x + b)$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are integers.

By the quadratic formula,  $x = \frac{-k \pm \sqrt{k^2 - 4k - 44}}{2}$

To insure rational roots,  $k^2 - 4k - 44 = (k - 2)^2 - 48$  must denote the perfect square of an integer, say  $t^2$ .

Thus,  $(k - 2)^2 = t^2 + 48 = r^2 \rightarrow r^2 - t^2 = (r + t)(r - t) = 48$

$(r + t)$	=	48	24	16	12	8
$(r - t)$	=	1	2	3	4	6

Adding/dividing by 2  $\rightarrow r =$  imposs      13      imposs      8      7  $\rightarrow t = 11, 4$  and 1

Thus,  $(k - 2)^2 = 169, 64$  or  $49 \rightarrow k = 2 \pm 13, 2 \pm 8$  or  $2 \pm 7 \rightarrow k = 15, -11, 10, -6, 9, -5$

Adding these 6 possible values  $\rightarrow$  **12**

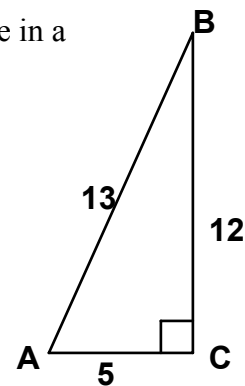
- C)  $5\sin(x) + 12\cos(x) = 13\left(\frac{5}{13}\sin x + \frac{12}{13}\cos x\right)$ . Let  $A$  denote the larger acute angle in a

5-12-13 triangle (see diagram). Using the  $\sin(A + B)$  expansion, this simplifies to  $13\sin(x + A)$  which has a maximum value of 13, when  $x + A = 90^\circ$  (or any coterminal value)

If  $-13 \leq k^2 - k + 1 \leq 13$ , there will be a solution.

To determine the maximum value of  $k$ , we need only solve  $k^2 - k + 1 \leq 13$ , since  $-13 \leq k^2 - k + 1 \rightarrow k^2 - k + 14 \geq 0 \rightarrow (k - \frac{1}{2})^2 + 55/4 \geq 0$  which is true for all real values of  $k$ .

$k^2 - k - 12 = (k + 3)(k - 4) \leq 0 \rightarrow -3 \leq k \leq 4$  and the maximum value of  $k$  is **4**.



**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE  
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**Team Round - continued**

$$D) \quad x = 2 + \frac{1}{a + \frac{1}{2 + \frac{1}{a + \dots}}} \rightarrow x = 2 + \frac{1}{a + \frac{1}{x}} \rightarrow x - 2 = \frac{x}{ax + 1}$$

$$\rightarrow ax^2 - 2ax - 2 = 0 \rightarrow x = \frac{2a \pm \sqrt{4a^2 + 8a}}{2a} \rightarrow x = 1 \pm \frac{\sqrt{a^2 + 2a}}{a}$$

To be rational, the radicand  $a^2 + 2a$  must be a perfect square.

Thus,  $a^2 + 2a = k^2$  for some integer  $k$ .

Then  $a^2 + 2a + 1 = (a + 1)^2 = k^2 + 1$  or  $(a + 1)^2 - k^2 = 1$

The only integer perfect squares that differ by 1 are 0 and 1.

$a = -1 \rightarrow k^2 = -1$  which contradicts the condition that  $k$  is an integer.

$a = 0$  causes division by 0

$a = -2 \rightarrow k = 0 \rightarrow x = 1$

Therefore, the only value of  $a$  for which the given continued fraction is rational is -2.

E)  $A_{\text{trap}} = \frac{h}{2}(1+a)$  Since  $\triangle ADE \sim \triangle CBE$ ,

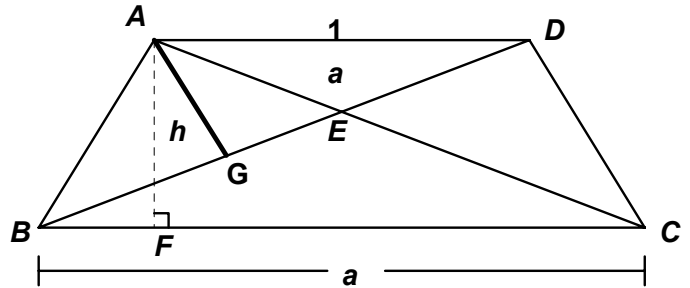
$BE : DE = a : 1$  and

$$\frac{a}{\text{Area}(\triangle CBE)} = \left(\frac{1}{a}\right)^2 \rightarrow \text{Area}(\triangle CBE) = a^3$$

Since  $\triangle ADE$  and  $\triangle ABE$  share a common altitude from point  $A$ , namely  $\overline{AG}$ , their areas are in the same ratio as their bases.

Thus,  $\frac{\text{Area}(\triangle ABE)}{a} = \frac{a}{1} \rightarrow \text{Area}(\triangle ABE) = \text{Area}(\triangle DCE) = a^2$

and  $\frac{h}{2}(1+a) = a + 2a^2 + a^3 = a(a+1)^2 \rightarrow \underline{h = 2a(a+1)}$



Alternate: Draw altitude  $\overline{HI}$  through  $E$  ( $H$  on  $\overline{AD}$  and  $I$  on  $\overline{BC}$ ), and let  $HE = x$  and  $EI = h - x$

Then  $\frac{x}{h-x} = \frac{1}{a} \rightarrow x = \frac{h}{a+1}$  and the area of  $\triangle AED = a = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 1 \cdot \frac{h}{a+1} \rightarrow \underline{h = 2a(a+1)}$

F) Assume the grandfather (GF) was  $x$  years old on his grandson's first birthday.

Next birthday: GF =  $(x + 1)$  must be divisible by 2  $\rightarrow x$  is odd.

3<sup>rd</sup> birthday: GF =  $(x + 2)$  must be divisible by 3.

(The only possibilities are:  $x = 3n, 3n + 1$  or  $3n + 2$ ) Only  $x = 3n + 1$  works  $\rightarrow$  GF =  $3n + 3$

4<sup>th</sup> birthday: GF =  $3n + 4$  which must be divisible by 4 and, in turn, this implies  $n$  must be divisible by 4.  $n$  must be of the form  $4k \rightarrow$  GF =  $12k + 4$

5<sup>th</sup> birthday: GF =  $12k + 5$  which must be divisible by 5  $\rightarrow k = 5j \rightarrow$  GF =  $60j + 5$

6<sup>th</sup> birthday  $60j + 6$ . Only  $j = 1$  produces a possible age for the grandfather that is less than 100, namely 66.

## **Addendum**

No revisions were made to this contest.