Solutions

Twentieth International Olympiad, 1978

1978/1. Since 1978" and 1978" agree in their last three digits, the difference

$$1978^{n} - 1978^{m} = 1978^{m}(1978^{n-m} - 1)$$

is divisible by $10^3 = 2^3 \cdot 5^3$; and since the second factor above is odd, 2^3 divides the first. Also

$$1978^{m} = 2^{m} \cdot 989^{m}$$

so $m \ge 3$.

We can write m + n = (n - m) + 2m; to minimize this sum, we take m = 3 and seek the smallest value of d = n - m, such that $1978^d - 1$ is divisible by $5^3 = 125$, i.e.

$$1978^d = 1 \pmod{125}$$
.

We shall twice make use of the following

LEMMA. Let d be the smallest exponent such that $a^d \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$. Then any other exponent g for which $a^g \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$ is a multiple of d.

PROOF: If d does not divide g, then g = qd + r with 0 < r < d, and $a^g = a^{qd}a^r \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$ implies $a^r \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$ with 0 < r < d, contradicting the minimality of d. So $d \mid g$.

Fermat's theorem states: \dagger For any prime p and any integer a not divisible by p,

$$a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}.$$

For example,

$$1978^4 = 1 \pmod{5}$$
.

†For a proof, see e.g. p. 126 of S. L. Greitzer, The International Mathematical Olympiads, vol. 27 in this NML series.

Math Olympiad Problems And Solutions

Huangqi Zhang

Math Olympiad Problems And Solutions:

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competition for places is particularly fierce This book is an amalgamation of the first 8 of 15 booklets originally produced to guide students intending to contend for placement on their country s IMO team The material contained in this book provides an introduction to the main mathematical topics covered in the IMO which are Combinatorics Geometry and Number Theory In addition there is a special emphasis on how to approach unseen questions in Mathematics and model the writing of proofs Full answers are given to all questions Though A First Step to Mathematical Olympiad Problems is written from the perspective of a mathematician it is written in a way that makes it easily comprehensible to adolescents This book is also a must read for coaches and instructors of mathematical competitions The Hard Mathematical Olympiad Problems and Their Solutions Steve Dinh, 2011 This book shows the approaches to solving many difficult Mathematical Olympiad and other international problems posted at the www mathlinks ro the largest mathematical webpage that has most of the problems used to select the talented students of the world At the time of this book s publication the solutions to many of these problems are not yet available This book is not only as much about methods of solving mathematical problems as it is about various approaches to solving the difficult problems in general It is a first step in examining the creativity that goes into problem solving The real points of the book are the enumeration of problem solving strategies and the tricks applied to solve the problems The approaches in the book build understanding and not just methods in solving problems This book is a must read for many math students and is useful for many teachers around the world Puzzle and Proof Samuel Dittmer, Hiram Golze, Grant Molnar, Caleb Stanford, 2024-08-13 Puzzle and Proof A Decade of Problems from the Utah Math Olympiad is a compilation of the problems and solutions for the first 10 years of the Utah Math Olympiad The problems are challenging but should be understandable at a high school level Besides putting all problems in one place 70 in total which have not previously appeared in print the book provides additional inspiration for many of the problems and will contain the first published solutions for 10 problems that were originally published on the contest flyer The book will be a fantastic resource for anyone who enjoys mathematical and or logic puzzles or is interested in studying for mathematics competitions Features 70 carefully designed high quality high school level math proof problems with full solutions Detailed pictures and diagrams throughout to aid understanding Suitable for anyone with high school level mathematics skills with an interest in furthering their understanding or just enjoying the puzzles Solutions in the back of the book sorting the problems by difficulty and topic The Colorado Mathematical Olympiad and Further Explorations Alexander Soifer, 2011-04-13 This updated printing of the first edition of Colorado Mathematical Olympiad the First Twenty Years and Further Explorations gives the interesting history of the competition as well as an outline of all the problems and solutions that have been created for the contest over the years Many of the essay problems were inspired by Russian mathematical folklore and written to suit the young audience for example the 1989 Sugar problem was written in a pleasant Lewis Carroll like story Some other entertaining problems involve olde Victorian map colourings King Authur and the knights of the round table

The Mathematical Olympiad Handbook Anthony Gardiner,1997 Mathematical Olympiad competitions started in Hungary at the end of the nineteenth century and are now held internationally They bring together able secondary school pupils who attempt to solve problems which develop their mathematical skills Olympiad problems are unpredictable and have no obvious starting point and although they require only the skills learnt in ordinary school problems they can seem much harder The Mathematical Olympiad Handbook introduces readers to these challenging problems and aims to convince them that Olympiads are not just for a select minority The book contains problems from the first 32 British Mathematical Olympiad BMO papers 1965 96 and gives hints and outline solutions to each problem from 1975 onwards An overview is given of the basic mathematical skills needed and a list of books for further reading is provided Working through the exercises provides a valuable source of extension and enrichment for all pupils and adults interested in mathematics

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