

1. Find the remainder when x^6 is divided by $x^2 - 3x + 2$.

Answer: $63x - 62$

Solution: Let $q(x)$ be the quotient and $r(x)$ be the remainder. Since $x^2 - 3x + 2$ is quadratic, we know $r(x) = ax + b$. We can then write

$$x^6 = q(x)(x^2 - 3x + 2) + ax + b.$$

The roots of $x^2 - 3x + 2$ are 1, 2, so plugging these in we have $1^6 = a + b$ and $2^6 = 2a + b$. Solving this system of equations gives us $a = 63$ and $b = -62$. Thus, the remainder is $r(x) = \boxed{63x - 62}$.

2. Compute the sum of possible integers such that $x^4 + 6x^3 + 11x^2 + 3x + 16$ is a square number.

Answer: 2

Solution: We claim that $x = 10$ is the only solution. We will use the fact that for $|n| > |m|$, $n^2 - m^2 \geq 2n - 1$. Consider that the polynomial is $(x^2 + 3x + 1)^2 - 3(x - 5)$. We clearly have a solution at $x = 5$. Then, if y is the root of the square, $(x^2 + 3x + 1)^2 - 3(x - 5) = y^2$. Now we split into cases. If $3(x - 5) > 0$, (i.e. $x > 5$), then $3(x - 5) = (x^2 + 3x + 1)^2 - y^2 \geq 2|x^2 + 3x + 1| - 1$. For $x \geq 5$, we can see that this is false and there are no solutions for $x \geq 5$. Then for $x \leq 5$, we have that $y \geq x^2 + 3x + 1$ and hence $3(5 - x) \geq 2|x^2 + 3x + 1| - 1$ again, we will not hold for $x < -5$. Then we can test all of the intermediate values to see that only $x = 5, 0, -3$ holds. So, we have a sum of $\boxed{2}$.

3. Suppose $f(x) = \sqrt{x^2 - 102x + 2018}$. Let A and B be the smallest integer values of the function that can be derived from integer inputs. Given $A < B$, find A and B .

Answer: $A = 21, B = 291$

Solution: If $\sqrt{x^2 - 102x + 2018}$ is an integer, then $x^2 - 102x + 2018 = m^2$ for some positive integer m . The integers A and B are the two smallest possible values for m . Completing the square, we have the following equation:

$$(x - 51)^2 + (2018 - 51^2) = m^2 \implies (x - 51)^2 - m^2 = 583$$

The left expression is a difference of squares, so $((x - 51) + m)((x - 51) - m) = 583$. Since $583 = 11 \times 53$ has 4 factors, the positive difference between the factors, which is represented by $((x - 51) + m) - ((x - 51) - m) = 2m$, is either $53 - 11 = 42$ or $583 - 1 = 582$. Therefore $m = 21, 291 \implies A = 21, B = 291$.

4. Let x and y be complex numbers such that $x^2 + y^2 = 31$ and $x^3 + y^3 = 154$. Find the maximum possible real value of $x + y$.

Answer: 7

Solution: Let $a = x + y, b = xy$. We have:

$$a^2 = x^2 + 2xy + y^2 = 31 + 2b$$

$$a^3 = x^3 + 3x^2y + 3xy^2 + y^3 = 154 + 3ab$$

From here, we get $b = \frac{a^2 - 31}{2}$, and substituting this in gives:

$$a^3 = 154 + \frac{3}{2}a^3 - \frac{93}{2}a$$

$$a^3 - 93a + 308 = 0$$

We can see that 4 is a root of this cubic, so we can factorize it completely into:

$$(a - 4)(a - 7)(a + 11) = 0$$

We want the maximum value of a , so our answer is $\boxed{7}$.

5. The function $y = x^2$ does not include the point $(5, 0)$. Let θ be the absolute value of the smallest angle the curve needs to be rotated around the origin so that it includes $(5, 0)$?. Find $\tan(\theta)$

Answer: $\sqrt{\frac{-1+\sqrt{101}}{2}}$

Solution: When Abel drives due east along the Cartesian plane, he begins at $(0, 0)$ and travels 1 mile east and 1 mile left (north/positive y) to the point $(1, 1)$. Then, he travels 1 more mile east and 3 miles north, to the point $(2, 4)$. Similarly, he travels 1 more mile east and 5 miles north, to the point $(3, 9)$. This process can be repeated indefinitely, but ultimately shows that Abel drives along the curve $f(x) = x^2$ relative to his starting direction (east).

We know that Abel wants to eventually reach five miles away from his starting location. Therefore, we need to find a point on the curve that is five miles from $(0, 0)$.

$$\sqrt{(x - 0)^2 + (x^2 - 0)^2} = 5$$

$$\sqrt{x^2 + x^4} = 5$$

$$x^2 + x^4 = 25$$

Replacing x^2 with $z > 0$ for simplicity,

$$z^2 + z - 25 = 0$$

$$z = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1 + 100}}{2}$$

Because $z > 0$,

$$z = \frac{1 + \sqrt{101}}{2} \Rightarrow x = \sqrt{\frac{1 + \sqrt{101}}{2}}$$

Therefore, the value of x where Abel is five miles from where he started is the value above. Abel's y position for this x value is simply the square of the value above. Therefore, if Abel starts by heading due east, he ends up at an angle of

$$\arctan \frac{\frac{1+\sqrt{101}}{2}}{\sqrt{\frac{1+\sqrt{101}}{2}}} = \arctan \sqrt{\frac{1 + \sqrt{101}}{2}}$$

relative to the horizontal.

If he begins his journey heading at the angle $-\arctan \sqrt{\frac{1+\sqrt{101}}{2}}$ relative to horizontal positive x axis (east), he will arrive at his intended destination.

$\boxed{\arctan \sqrt{\frac{1 + \sqrt{101}}{2}}}$. Other acceptable answers include anything equivalent, perhaps using arcsin or arccos.

6. The polynomial $1 - 2x + 4x^2 - 8x^3 + \dots + 2^{20}x^{20} - 2^{21}x^{21}$ can be expressed as $c_0 + c_1y + \dots + c_{20}y^{20} + c_{21}y^{21}$ where $y = x + \frac{1}{2}$. Find c_2 .

Answer: 6160

Solution: We have $1 - 2x + 4x^2 - 8x^3 + \dots + 2^{20}x^{20} - 2^{21}x^{21} = \frac{1-(2x)^{22}}{1+2x}$. Substituting $y = x + \frac{1}{2}$ gives $\frac{1-(2x)^{22}}{1+2x} = \frac{1-(2y-1)^{22}}{2y}$. We want the coefficient of y^2 in the polynomial, so we need to find the coefficient of y^3 in the numerator and then divide by 2. Using binomial expansion, we get $c_2 = \frac{-2^3 \cdot (-1)^{19} \cdot \binom{22}{3}}{2} = \frac{8 \cdot 22 \cdot 21 \cdot 20}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = \boxed{6160}$.

7. Let x , y , and z be positive real numbers with $1 < x < y < z$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}\log_x y + \log_y z + \log_z x &= 8, \text{ and} \\ \log_x z + \log_z y + \log_y x &= \frac{25}{2}.\end{aligned}$$

The value of $\log_y z$ can then be written as $\frac{p+\sqrt{q}}{r}$ for positive integers p , q , and r such that q is not divisible by the square of any prime. Compute $p + q + r$.

Answer: 42

Solution: Let $\log_x y = a$, $\log_y z = b$, and $\log_z x = c$, and note that by the Chain Rule, $abc = (\log_x y)(\log_y z)(\log_z x) = \log_x x = 1$. Now, the given system can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}a + b + c &= 8, \\ \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c} &= \frac{25}{2}.\end{aligned}$$

Expressing the left-hand side of the second equation with a common denominator gives

$$\frac{ab + bc + ac}{abc} = \frac{25}{2}.$$

Using the fact that $abc = 1$, we obtain the following system of three equations:

$$\begin{aligned}a + b + c &= 8, \\ ab + bc + ac &= \frac{25}{2}, \\ abc &= 1.\end{aligned}$$

This system is symmetric in a , b , and c and reminiscent of Vieta's formulas. Indeed, a , b , and c are the three roots of the polynomial

$$P(t) = t^3 - 8t^2 + \frac{25}{2}t - 1.$$

By inspection, we can see that 2 is a root of this polynomial, and factoring out $t - 2$ by synthetic division gives

$$P(t) = (t - 2) \left(t^2 - 6t + \frac{1}{2} \right).$$

The second factor has the roots $\frac{6 + \sqrt{34}}{2}$ and $\frac{6 - \sqrt{34}}{2}$.

Since $1 < x < y < z$, we also must have $c < a < b$, so that $b = \frac{6 + \sqrt{34}}{2}$ and the desired answer is $6 + 34 + 2 = 42$.

8. Find the sum of all possible values of a such that there exists a non-zero complex number z such that the four roots, labeled r_1 through r_4 , of the polynomial

$$x^4 - 6ax^3 + (8a^2 + 5a)x^2 - 12a^2x + 4a^2$$

satisfy $|\Re(r_i)| = |r_i - z|$ for $1 \leq i \leq 4$. Note, for a complex number x , $\Re(x)$ denotes the real component of x .

Answer: 9/17

Solution: The polynomial looks hard to factor. And indeed, if we look at it as a quartic in x , it would be quite difficult. However, by shifting our viewpoint and seeing the polynomial as a quadratic in a , our factorization becomes much more tractable. Our polynomial rewritten in terms of a looks like

$$(4 - 12x + 8x^2)a^2 + (5x^2 - 6x^3)a + x^4.$$

Noticing that the quadratic coefficient can be written as $(1 - 2x)(4 - 4x)$ and the linear coefficient can be written as $((1 - 2x) + (4 - 4x))x^2$, we can factor our quadratic using elementary techniques. It turns out the factorization is $((1 - 2x)a + x^2)((4 - 4x)a + x^2)$. Writing it back in terms of x , we get $(x^2 - 2ax + a)(x^2 - 4ax + 4a)$.

The roots of this polynomial are $a \pm \sqrt{a^2 - a}$ and $2a \pm 2\sqrt{a^2 - a}$. Note that if $a \in (0, 1)$, the roots are all complex. Otherwise, they are all real. In the real case, note that our condition reduces to finding a nonzero complex z such that $|z - r_i| = |r_i|$ for $i \leq i \leq 4$. Such a z only exists if the four circles defined by the four equations intersect at a nonzero point. However, since all four circles are centered along the real axis and are tangent to the imaginary axis at 0, the only way there exists a nonzero z that is on all four circles is if all 4 circles coincide, which is clearly impossible.

Now consider the complex case when $a \in (0, 1)$. It is not hard to see that z must be real. In that case, for the roots $a \pm \sqrt{a - a}$, $|\Re(r_i)| = |r_i - z|$ reduces to $a = \sqrt{(a - z)^2 + a - a^2}$, or $z = a \pm \sqrt{2a^2 - a}$. This further restricts a to being greater than $\frac{1}{2}$. Similarly, for the roots $2a \pm 2\sqrt{a^2 - a}$ we get $z = 2a \pm 2\sqrt{2a^2 - a}$. Now the only solution to both of these are if we equate $a + \sqrt{2a^2 - a}$ and $2a - 2\sqrt{2a^2 - a}$. Solving gives $a = 9/17$, our answer.

9. Let $m, n \in \mathbb{R}$ and

$$f(m, n) = m^4(8 - m^4) + 2m^2n^2(12 - m^2n^2) + n^4(18 - n^4) - 100$$

Find the smallest possible value for a in which $f(m, n) \leq a$, regardless of the input of f .

Answer: 69

Solution: Plugging f into the inequality, distributing, and bringing the constants on the right-hand side gives

$$8m^4 - m^8 + 24m^2n^2 - 2m^4n^4 + 18n^4 - n^8 \leq a + 100 \quad (1)$$

To simplify things a bit, let $c = a + 100$. Convince yourself, via plugging in $(1, 1)$, that c must be positive. We can refactor the left hand side:

$$2(2m^2 + 3n^2)^2 - (m^4 + n^4)^2 \leq c \quad (2)$$

More rearranging yields

$$(2m^2 + 3n^2)^2 \leq \frac{c + (m^4 + n^4)^2}{2} \quad (3)$$

The left hand side is nonnegative, and the right hand side is positive. Thus, it must also always be true that

$$2m^2 + 3n^2 \leq \sqrt{\frac{c + (m^4 + n^4)^2}{2}} \quad (4)$$

Again, to simplify things a bit, let $k^2 = c$. The right hand side can be seen as the root mean square (RMS) of k and $m^4 + n^4$. The root mean square of these two is greater than or equal to their geometric mean (GM), $\sqrt{k(m^4 + n^4)}$. But, given (4) and that $\text{GM} \leq \text{RMS}$, what does that tell us about the relation between $2m^2 + 3n^2$ and GM? Suppose that k is such that there are some cases where

$$2m^2 + 3n^2 > \sqrt{k(m^4 + n^4)} \quad (5)$$

yet (4) always applies. Now, let any point on the mn plane that satisfies both (5) and

$$m^4 + n^4 = k \quad (6)$$

be denoted as (m_0, n_0) . In the case where $m = m_0$ and $n = n_0$, it must be true that

$$2m_0^2 + 3n_0^2 > \sqrt{k(m_0^4 + n_0^4)} = \sqrt{k^2} = k \quad (7)$$

Yet, if (4) still applies, it should also be true that

$$2m_0^2 + 3n_0^2 \leq \sqrt{\frac{k^2 + (m_0^4 + n_0^4)^2}{2}} = \sqrt{\frac{2k^2}{2}} = k \quad (8)$$

This leads to the glaring contradiction that

$$2m_0^2 + 3n_0^2 < 2m_0^2 + 3n_0^2 \quad (9)$$

Any point that satisfies both (5) and (6) cannot satisfy (4). It follows that if (5) were sometimes true for some k , then (4) cannot always be true for that same k . Conversely, if (4) were always true for some k , then (5) can never be true for that same k . Thus, finding the minimum k such that (4) always applies is the same as finding the minimum k such that

$$2m^2 + 3n^2 \leq \sqrt{k(m^4 + n^4)} \quad (10)$$

is always true. Here, we can utilize the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, where the dot product of two vectors is less than or equal to the product of their magnitudes. Finding a condition for k requires that m^4 and n^4 have the same coefficient - k . The only way to account for that fact is to write $2m^2 + 3n^2$ as the dot product of $\langle 2, 3 \rangle$ and $\langle m^2, n^2 \rangle$. This results in the inequality

$$2m^2 + 3n^2 \leq \sqrt{(2^2 + 3^2)(m^4 + n^4)} = \sqrt{13(m^4 + n^4)} \quad (11)$$

It follows that $k \geq 13$, $c \geq 169$, and $a \geq 69$. Thus, the smallest possible value for a is $\boxed{69}$.

10. Suppose that the polynomial $x^2 + ax + b$ has the property such that if s is a root, then $s^2 - 6$ is a root. What is the largest possible value of $a + b$?

Answer: 8

Solution: Let $f(s) = s^2 - 6$. Because the roots of are s and $f(s)$, we either have $f(f(s)) = s$ or $f(f(s)) = f(s)$.

We first consider the case $f(f(s)) = f(s)$. Let $r = f(s)$. This gives us $f(r) = r$, or $r^2 - 6 = r$, so $r = -2, 3$. If $r = -2$ and $f(s) = r$, then s must satisfy $s^2 - 6 = -2$, which gives us $s = \pm 2$.

These correspond to the polynomials $x^2 - 4$ and $x^2 + 4x + 4$. On the other hand, if $r = 3$ and $f(s) = r$, then s must satisfy $s^2 - 6 = 3$, which gives us $s = \pm 3$. These correspond to the polynomials $x^2 - 9$ and $x^2 - 6x + 9$. Finally, if $f(s) \neq r$, then we must have $f(s) = s \neq r$, and so we get $r, s = -2, 3$ in some order. This corresponds to the polynomial $x^2 - x - 6$.

We now consider the case $f(f(s)) = s$. Expanding, we get the quartic $s^4 - 12s^2 + 30 = s$, which factors into $(s + 2)(s - 3)(s^2 + s - 5) = 0$. Since we have already covered the all the cases where $s = -2, 3$ above, the only new case is when s is a root of $x^2 + x - 5$.

Together, we see that all possible (a, b) are $(0, -4)$, $(4, 4)$, $(0, -9)$, $(-6, 9)$, $(-1, -6)$, and $(1, -5)$. Hence, the maximum value of $a + b$ is given when $(a, b) = (4, 4)$ so $a + b = \boxed{8}$.