

Problem 1. Find all the positive integers x, y, z, t such that $2^x \cdot 3^y + 5^z = 7^t$.

Marius Perianu

Solution. Reducing modulo 3 we get $5^z \equiv 1$, therefore z is even, $z = 2c, c \in \mathbb{N}$

Next we prove that t is even. Obviously, $t \geq 2$. Let us suppose that t is odd, $t = 2d + 1, d \in \mathbb{N}$. The equation becomes $2^x \cdot 3^y + 25^c = 7 \cdot 49^d$.

If $x \geq 2$, reducing modulo 4, we get $1 \equiv 3$, contradiction.

For $x = 1$, we have $2 \cdot 3^y + 25^c = 7 \cdot 49^d$, and, reducing modulo 24, we obtain $2 \cdot 3^y + 1 \equiv 7 \Rightarrow 24 \mid 2(3^y - 3)$, i.e. $4 \mid 3^{y-1} - 1$, which means that $y - 1$ is even. Then, $y = 2b + 1, b \in \mathbb{N}$.

We obtain $6 \cdot 9^b + 25^c = 7 \cdot 49^d$, and, reducing modulo 5, we get $(-1)^b \equiv 2 \cdot (-1)^d$, which is false, for all $b, d \in \mathbb{N}$. Hence t is even, $t = 2d, d \in \mathbb{N}$.

The equation can be written as $2^x \cdot 3^y + 25^c = 49^d \Leftrightarrow 2^x \cdot 3^y = (7^d - 5^c)(7^d + 5^c)$.

As $\gcd(7^d - 5^c, 7^d + 5^c) = 2$ and $7^c + 5^c > 2$, there are three possible situations:

$$(1) \begin{cases} 7^d - 5^c = 2^{x-1} \\ 7^d + 5^c = 2 \cdot 3^y \end{cases} ; \quad (2) \begin{cases} 7^d - 5^c = 2 \cdot 3^y \\ 7^d + 5^c = 2^{x-1} \end{cases} ; \quad (3) \begin{cases} 7^d - 5^c = 2 \\ 7^d + 5^c = 2^{x-1} \cdot 3^y \end{cases} .$$

Case (1). We have $7^d = 2^{x-2} + 3^y$ and, reducing modulo 3, we get $2^{x-2} \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$, hence $x - 2$ is even, i.e. $x = 2a + 2$, where $a \in \mathbb{N}$, since $a = 0$ would mean $3^y + 1 = 7^d$, which is impossible (even = odd).

We obtain $7^d - 5^c = 2 \cdot 4^a \xrightarrow{\text{mod } 4} 7^d \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \Rightarrow d = 2e, e \in \mathbb{N}$. Then $49^e - 5^c = 2 \cdot 4^k \xrightarrow{\text{mod } 8} 5^c \equiv 1 \pmod{8} \Rightarrow c = 2f, f \in \mathbb{N}$. We obtain $49^e - 25^f = 2 \cdot 4^a \xrightarrow{\text{mod } 3} 0 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$, false. In conclusion, in this case there are no solutions to the equation.

Case (2). From $2^{x-1} = 7^d + 5^c \geq 12$, we obtain $x \geq 5$. Then $7^d + 5^c \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, i.e. $3^d + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, hence d is odd. As $7^d = 5^c + 2 \cdot 3^y \geq 11$, we get $d \geq 2$, hence $d = 2e + 1, e \in \mathbb{N}$.

As in the previous case, from $7^d = 2^{x-2} + 3^y$, reducing modulo 3, we obtain $x = 2a + 2$, with $a \geq 2$ (because $x \geq 5$). We get $7^d = 4^a + 3^y$, i.e. $7 \cdot 49^e = 4^a + 3^y$, hence, reducing modulo 8, we obtain $7 \equiv 3^y$, which is false, because 3^y is congruent mod 8 either to 1 (if y is even) or to 3 (if y is odd). In conclusion, in this case there are no solutions to the equation.

Case (3). From $7^d = 5^c + 2$, it follows that the last digit of 7^d is 7, hence $d = 4k + 1, k \in \mathbb{N}$.

If $c \geq 2$, from $7^{4k+1} = 5^c + 2$, reducing modulo 25, we obtain $7 \equiv 2 \pmod{25}$, which is false.

For $c = 1$ we get $d = 1$, and the solution $x = 3, y = 1, z = t = 2$.

Problem 2. Find the largest positive integer n for which the inequality

$$\frac{a+b+c}{abc+1} + \sqrt[n]{abc} \leq \frac{5}{2}$$

holds for all $a, b, c \in [0, 1]$.

Ștefan Spătaru

Solution. Let $E(n) = \frac{a+b+c}{abc+1} + \sqrt[n]{abc}$. Then $E(m) - E(n) = \sqrt[m]{abc} - \sqrt[n]{abc}$.

As $abc \leq 1 \Leftrightarrow E(m) \geq E(n) \forall m \geq n$, it is sufficient to find n such that $\frac{a+b+c}{abc+1} + \sqrt[n]{abc} \leq \frac{5}{2}$
 $\forall a, b, c \in [0, 1]$ and $\exists a, b, c$ such that $\frac{a+b+c}{abc+1} + \sqrt[n+1]{abc} > \frac{5}{2}$.

Let us determine an upper bound for n , by plugging some particular values into the inequality.

For $(1, 1, c)$ we obtain $\frac{c+2}{c+1} + \sqrt[n]{c} \leq \frac{5}{2}$, $\forall c \in [0, 1] \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{c+1} + \sqrt[n]{c} \leq \frac{3}{2}$. Let $\sqrt[n]{c} = x$. It is obvious that $\forall x \in [0, 1]$ can be written as $\sqrt[n]{c}$ for a certain $c \in [0, 1]$.

The inequality becomes $\frac{1}{x^n+1} + x \leq \frac{3}{2} \Leftrightarrow 2 + 2x^{n+1} + 2x \leq 3x^n + 3 \Leftrightarrow 3x^n + 1 \geq 2x^{n+1} + 2x \Leftrightarrow$
 $2x^n(1-x) + (1-x) + (x-1)(x^{n-1} + \dots + x) \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow (1-x)[2x^n + 1 - (x^{n-1} + x^{n-2} + \dots + x)] \geq 0$ (*).

For $n = 4$ we have $(1-x)(2x^4 + 1 - x^{n-2} - \dots - x) = (1-x)(2x^4 + 1 - x^3 - x^2 - x) = (1-x)(x - 1)(2x^3 + x^2 - 1) = -(1-x)^2(2x^3 + x^2 - 1)$.

For $x = 0.9$ the inequality (*) is no longer true, and, according to the remark from the beginning of the proof, the inequality is not fulfilled if $n \geq 4$.

Now, we shall prove that for $n = 3$ the inequality holds. We shall use the following result:

For all $a, b, c \in [0; 1]$: $abc + 2 \geq a + b + c$.

Proof: $(a-1)(b-1) \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow ab + 1 \geq a + b \Leftrightarrow 1 \geq a + b - ab$.

$(ab-1)(c-1) \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow abc + 1 \geq ab + c$.

Adding these two inequalities we obtain $a, b, c \in [0; 1] \Rightarrow abc + 2 \geq a + b + c$.

The inequality reduces to $\frac{abc+2}{abc+1} + \sqrt[3]{abc} \leq \frac{5}{2} \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{abc+1} + \sqrt[3]{abc} \leq \frac{3}{2}$. Denoting $\sqrt[3]{abc} = y \in [0; 1]$

the inequality reduces to: $\frac{1}{y^3+1} + y \leq \frac{3}{2} \Leftrightarrow 2 + 2y^4 + 2y \leq 3y^3 + 3 \Leftrightarrow -2y^4 + 3y^3 - 2y + 1 \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow$
 $2y^3(1-y) + (y-1)y(y+1) + (1-y) \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow (1-y)(2y^3 + 1 - y^2 - y) \geq 0$. The last inequality is obvious because $y^3 + 1 \geq y^2 + y \Leftrightarrow (y-1)^2(y+1) \geq 0$ and $y^3 \geq 0$.

In conclusion, $n = 3$.

Problem 3. Let $MNPQ$ be a square of side length 1, and A, B, C, D points on the sides MN, NP, PQ , and QM respectively such that $AC \cdot BD = \frac{5}{4}$. Can the set $\{AB, BC, CD, DA\}$ be partitioned into two subsets S_1 and S_2 of two elements each such that both the sum of the elements of S_1 and the sum of the elements of S_2 are positive integers?

Flavian Georgescu

Solution. The answer is negative.

Suppose such a partitioning was possible. Then $AB + BC + CD + DA \in \mathbb{N}$.

But $(AB + BC) + (CD + DA) > AC + AC \geq 2$, hence $AB + BC + CD + DA > 2$.

On the other hand, $AB + BC + CD + DA < (AN + NB) + (BP + PC) + (CQ + QD) + (DM + MA) = 4$, hence $AB + BC + CD + DA = 3$.

Obviously the sums of the elements of S_1 and S_2 must be 1 and 2. Without loss of generality, we may assume that the sum of the elements of S_1 is 1 and the sum of the elements of S_2 is 2. As $AB + BC > AC \geq 1$ we find that $S_1 \neq \{AB, BC\}$. Similarly, S_1 cannot contain two adjacent sides of the quadrilateral $ABCD$. Therefore, without loss of generality, we may assume that $S_1 = \{AD, BC\}$ and $S_2 = \{AB, CD\}$. Then $AD + BC = 1$ and $AC + BD = 2$.

We have $AD \cdot BC \leq \frac{1}{4} \cdot (AD + BC)^2 = \frac{1}{4}$ and $AB \cdot CD \leq \frac{1}{4} \cdot (AB + CD)^2 = 1$.

According to Ptolemy's inequality, we have

$$\frac{5}{4} = AC \cdot BD \leq AB \cdot CD + BC \cdot AD = 1 + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{5}{4},$$

hence we have equality all around, which means the quadrilateral $ABCD$ is cyclic, $AD = BC = \frac{1}{2}$ and $AB = CD = 1$, hence $ABCD$ is a rectangle of dimensions 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$.

There are many different ways of proving that this configuration is not possible. For example:

Suppose $ABCD$ is a rectangle with $AD = \frac{1}{2}$, $AB = 1$. Then we have $AC = BD = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}$ and $\triangle ANB \cong \triangle CQD$ (ASA). Denoting $AM = x$, $MD = y$ we have $AN = 1 - x$, $BN = 1 - y$ and the following conditions need to be fulfilled for some $x, y \in [0; 1]$: $x^2 + y^2 = \frac{1}{4}$, $(1 - x)^2 + (1 - y)^2 = 1$ and, as $BD^2 = 1^2 + (2y - 1)^2$,

we also need $1 + (2y - 1)^2 = \frac{5}{4}$. We obtain $y \in \left\{ \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4} \right\}$. Similarly, $AC^2 = 1^2 + (2x - 1)^2$ yields $x \in \left\{ \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4} \right\}$

but these values do not fulfill $x^2 + y^2 = \frac{1}{4}$, therefore such a configuration is not possible.

