

Number Theory Problems from IMO Shortlist 1999 – 2006

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THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF TIME TO REST IN THE GRAVE. - PAUL ERDÖS

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# Chapter 1

## 47th IMO Slovenia 2006

1 Determine all pairs  $(x, y)$  of integers such that

06N01  
IMO 06/4

$$1 + 2^x + 2^{2x+1} = y^2.$$

**SOLUTION**

**2** For  $x \in (0, 1)$  let  $y \in (0, 1)$  be the number whose  $n$ -th digit after the decimal point is the  $2^n$ -th digit after the decimal point of  $x$ . Show that if  $x$  is rational then so is  $y$ .

**SOLUTION**

**3** We define a sequence  $(a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots)$  by setting

06N03  
Italy '07

$$a_n = \frac{1}{n} \left( \binom{n}{1} + \binom{n}{2} + \dots + \binom{n}{n} \right)$$

for every positive integer  $n$ .

- a) Prove that there is an infinite number of positive integers  $n$  such that  $a_{n+1} > a_n$ .
- b) Prove that there is an infinite number of positive integers  $n$  such that  $a_{n+1} < a_n$ .

**SOLUTION**

**4** Let  $P(x)$  be a polynomial of degree  $n > 1$  with integer coefficients and let  $k$  be a positive integer. Consider the polynomial  $Q(x) = P(P(\dots P(P(x))\dots))$ , where  $P$  occurs  $k$  times. Prove that there are at most  $n$  integers  $t$  such that  $Q(t) = t$ .

**SOLUTION**

**5** Prove that the equation  $\frac{x^7-1}{x-1} = y^5 - 1$  does not have integer solutions.

06N05

Brazil '07

**SOLUTION**

**6** Let  $a > b > 1$  be relatively prime positive integers. Define the weight of an integer  $c$ , denoted by  $w(c)$  to be the minimal possible value of  $|x| + |y|$  taken over all pairs of integers  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $ax + by = c$ . An integer  $c$  is called a local champion if  $w(c) \geq w(c \pm a)$  and  $w(c) \geq w(c \pm b)$ . Find all local champions and determine their number.

**SOLUTION**

**7** For all positive integers  $n$ , show that there exists a positive integer  $m$  such that  $n$   
06N07 divides  $2^m + m$ .

REMARK. (Brazil '05) Given positive integers  $a, c$  and integer  $b$ , prove that there exists a positive integer  $x$  such that  $a^x + x \equiv b \pmod{c}$ .

**SOLUTION**

## Chapter 2

### 46th IMO Mexico 2005

8 Determine all positive integers relatively prime to all the terms of the infinite sequence

05N01  
IMO 05/4

$$a_n = 2^n + 3^n + 6^n - 1, \quad n \geq 1.$$

**SOLUTION**

**9** Let  $a_1, a_2, \dots$  be a sequence of integers with infinitely many positive and negative terms. Suppose that for every positive integer  $n$  the numbers  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  leave  $n$  different remainders upon division by  $n$ . Prove that every integer occurs exactly once in the sequence  $a_1, a_2, \dots$ .

**SOLUTION**

**10** Let  $a, b, c, d, e, f$  be positive integers and let  $S = a + b + c + d + e + f$ . Suppose  
05N03 that the number  $S$  divides  $abc + def$  and  $ab + bc + ca - de - ef - df$ . Prove that  $S$  is  
India '06 composite.

**SOLUTION**

- 11** Find all  $n$  such that there exists a unique integer  $a$  such that  $0 \leq a < n!$  with the following property:  
05N04  
Iran '06

$$n! \mid a^n + 1.$$

**SOLUTION**

- 12** Denote by  $d(n)$  the number of divisors of the positive integer  $n$ . A positive integer  $n$  is called highly divisible if  $d(n) > d(m)$  for all positive integers  $m < n$ . Two highly divisible integers  $m$  and  $n$  with  $m < n$  are called consecutive if there exists no highly divisible integer  $s$  satisfying  $m < s < n$ .
- 05N05
- (a) Show that there are only finitely many pairs of consecutive highly divisible integers of the form  $(a, b)$  with  $a \mid b$ .
- (b) Show that for every prime number  $p$  there exist infinitely many positive highly divisible integers  $r$  such that  $pr$  is also highly divisible.

**SOLUTION**

**13** Let  $a, b$  be positive integers such that  $b^n + n$  is a multiple of  $a^n + n$  for all positive integers  $n$ . Prove that  $a = b$ .  
05N06  
Taiwan '06

**SOLUTION**

- 14** Let  $P(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_0$ , where  $a_0, \dots, a_n$  are integers,  $a_n > 0$ ,  $n \geq 2$ .  
05N07 Prove that there exists a positive integer  $m$  such that  $P(m!)$  is a composite number.

**SOLUTION**

## Chapter 3

### 45th IMO Greece 2004

**15** Let  $\tau(n)$  denote the number of positive divisors of the positive integer  $n$ . Prove that  
**04N01** there exist infinitely many positive integers  $a$  such that the equation  $\tau(an) = n$  does not have a positive integer solution  $n$ .

**SOLUTION**

**16** The function  $f$  from the set  $\mathbb{N}$  of positive integers into itself is defined by the equality  
04N02

$$f(n) = \sum_{k=1}^n \gcd(k, n), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

- a) Prove that  $f(mn) = f(m)f(n)$  for every two relatively prime  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ .
- b) Prove that for each  $a \in \mathbb{N}$  the equation  $f(x) = ax$  has a solution.
- c) Find all  $a \in \mathbb{N}$  such that the equation  $f(x) = ax$  has a unique solution.

**SOLUTION**

**17** Find all functions  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  satisfying

04N03

$$f(m)^2 + f(n) \mid (m^2 + n)^2$$

for all positive integers  $m$  and  $n$ .

**SOLUTION**

**18** Let  $k$  be a fixed integer greater than 1, and let  $m = 4k^2 - 5$ . Show that there exist  
04N04 positive integers  $a$  and  $b$  such that the sequence  $(x_n)$  defined by  
Poland '05

$$x_0 = a, x_1 = b, x_{n+2} = x_{n+1} + x_n, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

has all of its terms relatively prime to  $m$ .

**SOLUTION**

**19** We call a positive integer *alternating* if every two consecutive digits in its decimal representation are of different parity. Find all positive integers  $n$  such that  $n$  has a multiple which is alternating.

**SOLUTION**

**20** Given an integer  $n > 1$ , denote by  $P_n$  the product of all positive integers  $x$  less than  $n$  and such that  $n$  divides  $x^2 - 1$ . For each  $n > 1$ , find the remainder of  $P_n$  on division by  $n$ .

04N06  
Taiwan '05

**SOLUTION**

- 21** Let  $p$  be an odd prime and  $n$  a positive integer. In the coordinate plane, eight distinct points with integer coordinates lie on a circle with diameter of length  $p^n$ . Prove that there exists a triangle with vertices at three of the given points such that the squares of its side lengths are integers divisible by  $p^{n+1}$ .

**SOLUTION**

# Chapter 4

## 44th IMO Japan 2003

**22** Let  $x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots$  be the sequence defined by

03N01  
Singapore  
'04

$$x_i = 2^i, \quad 0 \leq i \leq 2003,$$

$$x_i = \sum_{j=1}^{2004} x_{i-j}, \quad i \geq 2004.$$

Find the greatest  $k$  for which the sequence contains  $k$  consecutive terms divisible by 2004.

**SOLUTION**

- 23** Each positive integer  $a$  is subjected to the following procedure, yielding the number  $d = d(a)$ : (a) The last digit of  $a$  is moved to the first position. The resulting number is called  $b$ . (b) The number  $b$  is squared. The resulting number is called  $c$ . (c) The first digit of  $c$  is moved to the last position. The resulting number is called  $d$ . (All numbers are considered in the decimal system.) For instance,  $a = 2003$  gives  $b = 3200$ ,  $c = 10240000$  and  $d = 02400001 = 2400001 = d(2003)$ . Find all integers  $a$  such that  $d(a) = a^2$ .
- 03N02  
Germany  
'04

**SOLUTION**

**24** Determine all pairs of positive integers  $(a, b)$  such that

03N03  
IMO 03/2

$$\frac{a^2}{2ab^2 - b^3 + 1}$$

is a positive integer.

**SOLUTION**

**25** Let  $b$  be an integer greater than 5. For each positive integer  $n$ , consider the number

03N04  
Germany  
'04

$$x_n = \underbrace{11 \cdots 1}_{n-1} \underbrace{22 \cdots 2}_n 5,$$

written in base  $b$ . Prove that the following condition holds if and only if  $b = 10$ : there exists a positive integer  $M$  such that for any integer  $n$  greater than  $M$ , the number  $x_n$  is a perfect square.

**SOLUTION**

- 26** An integer  $n$  is said to be *good* if  $|n|$  is not the square of an integer. Determine  
all integers  $m$  with the following property:  $m$  can be represented, in infinitely many  
ways, as a sum of three distinct good integers whose product is the square of an odd  
integer.

**SOLUTION**

**27** Let  $p$  be a prime number. Prove that there exists a prime number  $q$  such that for every integer  $n$ , the number  $n^p - p$  is not divisible by  $q$ .

03N06  
IMO 06/6

**SOLUTION**

**28** The sequence  $a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots$  is defined as follows:

03N07

$$a_0 = 2, \quad a_{k+1} = 2a_k^2 - 1, \quad k \geq 0.$$

Prove that if an odd prime  $p$  divides  $a_n$ , then  $2^{n+3}$  divides  $p^2 - 1$ .

**SOLUTION**

**29** Let  $p$  be a prime number and let  $A$  be a set of positive integers that satisfies the following conditions: (1) the set of prime divisors of the elements in  $A$  consists of  $p - 1$  elements; (2) for any nonempty subset of  $A$ , the product of its elements is not a perfect  $p$ -th power. What is the largest possible number of elements in  $A$  ?

**SOLUTION**

## Chapter 5

### 43rd IMO United Kingdom 2002

30 What is the smallest positive integer  $t$  such that there exist integers  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_t$   
02N01 with

$$x_1^3 + x_2^3 + \dots + x_t^3 = 2002^{2002} ?$$

**SOLUTION**

**31** Let  $n \geq 2$  be a positive integer, with divisors  $1 = d_1 < d_2 < \dots < d_k = n$ . Prove that  
02N02  $d_1d_2 + d_2d_3 + \dots + d_{k-1}d_k$  is always less than  $n^2$ , and determine when it is a divisor  
IMO 02/4 of  $n^2$ .

**SOLUTION**

**32** Let  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$  be distinct primes greater than 3. Show that  $2^{p_1 p_2 \cdots p_n} + 1$  has at least  $4^n$  divisors.

**SOLUTION**

**33** Is there a positive integer  $m$  such that the equation

02N04

$$\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c} + \frac{1}{abc} = \frac{m}{a+b+c}$$

has infinitely many solutions in positive integers  $a, b, c$ ?

**SOLUTION**

**34** Let  $m, n \geq 2$  be positive integers, and let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  be integers, none of which is a multiple of  $m^{n-1}$ . Show that there exist integers  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n$ , not all zero, with  $|e_i| < m$  for all  $i$ , such that  $e_1 a_1 + e_2 a_2 + \dots + e_n a_n$  is a multiple of  $m^n$ .

**SOLUTION**

**35** Find all pairs of positive integers  $m, n \geq 3$  for which there exist infinitely many  
02N06 positive integers  $a$  such that  
IMO 02/3 
$$\frac{a^m + a - 1}{a^n + a^2 - 1}$$

is itself an integer.

**SOLUTION**

## Chapter 6

### 42nd IMO United States of America 2001

**36** Prove that there is no positive integer  $n$  such that, for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, 9$ , the leftmost  
01N01 digit (in decimal notation) of  $(n + k)!$  equals  $k$ .

**SOLUTION**

**37** Consider the system  $x + y = z + u$ ,  $2xy = zu$ . Find the greatest value of the real  
01N02 constant  $m$  such that  $m \leq x/y$  for any positive integer solution  $(x, y, z, u)$  of the system, with  $x \geq y$ .

**SOLUTION**

- 38** Let  $a_1 = 11^{11}$ ,  $a_2 = 12^{12}$ ,  $a_3 = 13^{13}$ , and  $a_n = |a_{n-1} - a_{n-2}| + |a_{n-2} - a_{n-3}|$ ,  $n \geq 4$ .  
01N03 Determine  $a_{14}^{14}$ .

**SOLUTION**

**39** Let  $p \geq 5$  be a prime number. Prove that there exists an integer  $a$  with  $1 \leq a \leq p-2$   
01N04 such that neither  $a^{p-1} - 1$  nor  $(a+1)^{p-1} - 1$  is divisible by  $p^2$ .

**SOLUTION**

**40** Let  $a > b > c > d$  be positive integers and suppose that

01N05  
IMO 01/6

$$ac + bd = (b + d + a - c)(b + d - a + c).$$

Prove that  $ab + cd$  is not prime.

**SOLUTION**

41 Is it possible to find 100 positive integers not exceeding 25000 such that all pairwise  
01N06 sums of them are different?

**SOLUTION**

# Chapter 7

## 41st IMO Korea 2000

42 Determine all positive integers  $n \geq 2$  that satisfy the following condition: For all  
00N01 integers  $a$  and  $b$  relatively prime to  $n$ ,

$$a \equiv b \pmod{n}$$

if and only if

$$ab \equiv 1 \pmod{n}.$$

**SOLUTION**

**43** For every positive integers  $n$  let  $d(n)$  the number of all positive integers of  $n$ . Determine all positive integers  $n$  with the property:  $d^3(n) = 4n$ .

**SOLUTION**

44 Does there exist a positive integer  $n$  such that  $n$  has exactly 2000 prime divisors and  
00N03  $n$  divides  $2^n + 1$ ?  
IMO 01/5

**SOLUTION**

**45** Find all triplets of positive integers  $(a, m, n)$  such that  $a^m + 1 \mid (a + 1)^n$ .

00N04

**SOLUTION**

**46** Prove that there exist infinitely many positive integers  $n$  such that  $p = nr$ , where  $p$   
00N05 and  $r$  are respectively the semiperimeter and the inradius of a triangle with integer side lengths.

**SOLUTION**

**47** Show that the set of positive integers which cannot be represented as a sum of distinct  
00N06 perfect squares is finite.

**SOLUTION**

## Chapter 8

### 40th IMO Romania 1999

48 Find all the pairs of positive integers  $(x, p)$  such that  $p$  is a prime,  $x \leq 2p$  and  $x^{p-1}$   
99N01 is a divisor of  $(p-1)^x + 1$ .  
IMO 99/4

**SOLUTION**

**49** Prove that every positive rational number can be represented in the form  $\frac{a^3+b^3}{c^3+d^3}$  where  
99N02 a,b,c,d are positive integers.

**SOLUTION**

**50** Prove that there exists two strictly increasing sequences  $(a_n)$  and  $(b_n)$  such that  
99N03  $a_n(a_n + 1)$  divides  $b_n^2 + 1$  for every natural  $n$ .

**SOLUTION**

**51** Denote by  $S$  the set of all primes such the decimal representation of  $\frac{1}{p}$  has the fundamental period divisible by 3. For every  $p \in S$  such that  $\frac{1}{p}$  has the fundamental period  $3r$  one may write

$$\frac{1}{p} = 0, a_1 a_2 \cdots a_{3r} a_1 a_2 \cdots a_{3r} \cdots,$$

where  $r = r(p)$ ; for every  $p \in S$  and every integer  $k \geq 1$  define  $f(k, p)$  by

$$f(k, p) = a_k + a_{k+r(p)} + a_{k+2r(p)}$$

a) Prove that  $S$  is infinite. b) Find the highest value of  $f(k, p)$  for  $k \geq 1$  and  $p \in S$ .

**SOLUTION**

- 52** Let  $n, k$  be positive integers such that  $n$  is not divisible by 3 and  $k \geq n$ . Prove that  
99N05 there exists a positive integer  $m$  which is divisible by  $n$  and the sum of its digits in decimal representation is  $k$ .

**SOLUTION**

- 53** Prove that for every real number  $M$  there exists an infinite arithmetic progression  
99N06 such that:
- (1) each term is a positive integer and the common difference is not divisible by 10;
  - (2) the sum of the digits of each term (in decimal representation) exceeds  $M$ .

**SOLUTION**

# Chapter 9

## All Problems

**Problem 1** (06N01 - IMO 06/4). Determine all pairs  $(x, y)$  of integers such that

$$1 + 2^x + 2^{2x+1} = y^2.$$

**Problem 2** (06N02). For  $x \in (0, 1)$  let  $y \in (0, 1)$  be the number whose  $n$ -th digit after the decimal point is the  $2^n$ -th digit after the decimal point of  $x$ . Show that if  $x$  is rational then so is  $y$ .

**Problem 3** (06N03 - Italy '07). We define a sequence  $(a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots)$  by setting

$$a_n = \frac{1}{n} \left( \left[ \frac{n}{1} \right] + \left[ \frac{n}{2} \right] + \dots + \left[ \frac{n}{n} \right] \right)$$

for every positive integer  $n$ . Hereby, for every real  $x$ , we denote by  $[x]$  the integral part of  $x$  (this is the greatest integer which is  $\leq x$ ).

- a) Prove that there is an infinite number of positive integers  $n$  such that  $a_{n+1} > a_n$ .
- b) Prove that there is an infinite number of positive integers  $n$  such that  $a_{n+1} < a_n$ .

**Problem 4** (06N04). Let  $P(x)$  be a polynomial of degree  $n > 1$  with integer coefficients and let  $k$  be a positive integer. Consider the polynomial  $Q(x) = P(P(\dots P(P(x)) \dots))$ , where  $P$  occurs  $k$  times. Prove that there are at most  $n$  integers  $t$  such that  $Q(t) = t$ .

**Problem 5** (06N05 - Brazil '07). Prove that the equation  $\frac{x^7-1}{x-1} = y^5 - 1$  does not have integer solutions.

**Problem 6** (06N06). Let  $a > b > 1$  be relatively prime positive integers. Define the weight of an integer  $c$ , denoted by  $w(c)$  to be the minimal possible value of  $|x| + |y|$  taken over all pairs of integers  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $ax + by = c$ . An integer  $c$  is called a local champion if  $w(c) \geq w(c \pm a)$  and  $w(c) \geq w(c \pm b)$ . Find all local champions and determine their number.

**Problem 7** (06N07). For all positive integers  $n$ , show that there exists a positive integer  $m$  such that  $n$  divides  $2^m + m$ .

REMARK. (Brazil '05) Given positive integers  $a, c$  and integer  $b$ , prove that there exists a positive integer  $x$  such that  $a^x + x \equiv b \pmod{c}$ .

**Problem 8** (05N01 - IMO 05/4). Determine all positive integers relatively prime to all the terms of the infinite sequence

$$a_n = 2^n + 3^n + 6^n - 1, \quad n \geq 1.$$

**Problem 9** (05N02 - IMO 05/2). Let  $a_1, a_2, \dots$  be a sequence of integers with infinitely many positive and negative terms. Suppose that for every positive integer  $n$  the numbers  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  leave  $n$  different remainders upon division by  $n$ . Prove that every integer occurs exactly once in the sequence  $a_1, a_2, \dots$ .

**Problem 10** (05N03 - India '06). Let  $a, b, c, d, e, f$  be positive integers and let  $S = a + b + c + d + e + f$ . Suppose that the number  $S$  divides  $abc + def$  and  $ab + bc + ca - de - ef - df$ . Prove that  $S$  is composite.

**Problem 11** (05N04 - Iran '06). Find all  $n$  such that there exists a unique integer  $a$  such that  $0 \leq a < n!$  with the following property:

$$n! \mid a^n + 1.$$

**Problem 12** (05N05). Denote by  $d(n)$  the number of divisors of the positive integer  $n$ . A positive integer  $n$  is called highly divisible if  $d(n) > d(m)$  for all positive integers  $m < n$ . Two highly divisible integers  $m$  and  $n$  with  $m < n$  are called consecutive if there exists no highly divisible integer  $s$  satisfying  $m < s < n$ .

(a) Show that there are only finitely many pairs of consecutive highly divisible integers of the form  $(a, b)$  with  $a \mid b$ .

(b) Show that for every prime number  $p$  there exist infinitely many positive highly divisible integers  $r$  such that  $pr$  is also highly divisible.

**Problem 13** (05N06 - Taiwan '06). Let  $a, b$  be positive integers such that  $b^n + n$  is a multiple of  $a^n + n$  for all positive integers  $n$ . Prove that  $a = b$ .

**Problem 14** (05N07). Let  $P(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_0$ , where  $a_0, \dots, a_n$  are integers,  $a_n > 0$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . Prove that there exists a positive integer  $m$  such that  $P(m!)$  is a composite number.

**Problem 15** (04N01). Let  $\tau(n)$  denote the number of positive divisors of the positive integer  $n$ . Prove that there exist infinitely many positive integers  $a$  such that the equation  $\tau(an) = n$  does not have a positive integer solution  $n$ .

**Problem 16** (04N02). The function  $f$  from the set  $\mathbb{N}$  of positive integers into itself is defined by the equality

$$f(n) = \sum_{k=1}^n \gcd(k, n), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

- a) Prove that  $f(mn) = f(m)f(n)$  for every two relatively prime  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ .
- b) Prove that for each  $a \in \mathbb{N}$  the equation  $f(x) = ax$  has a solution.
- c) Find all  $a \in \mathbb{N}$  such that the equation  $f(x) = ax$  has a unique solution.

**Problem 17** (04N03). Find all functions  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  satisfying

$$f(m)^2 + f(n) \mid (m^2 + n)^2$$

for all positive integers  $m$  and  $n$ .

**Problem 18** (04N04 - Poland '05). Let  $k$  be a fixed integer greater than 1, and let  $m = 4k^2 - 5$ . Show that there exist positive integers  $a$  and  $b$  such that the sequence  $(x_n)$  defined by

$$x_0 = a, \quad x_1 = b, \quad x_{n+2} = x_{n+1} + x_n, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

has all of its terms relatively prime to  $m$ .

**Problem 19** (04N05 - IMO 04/6). We call a positive integer alternating if every two consecutive digits in its decimal representation are of different parity. Find all positive integers  $n$  such that  $n$  has a multiple which is alternating.

**Problem 20** (04N06 - Taiwan '05). Given an integer  $n > 1$ , denote by  $P_n$  the product of all positive integers  $x$  less than  $n$  and such that  $n$  divides  $x^2 - 1$ . For each  $n > 1$ , find the remainder of  $P_n$  on division by  $n$ .

**Problem 21** (04N07). Let  $p$  be an odd prime and  $n$  a positive integer. In the coordinate plane, eight distinct points with integer coordinates lie on a circle with diameter of length  $p^n$ . Prove that there exists a triangle with vertices at three of the given points such that the squares of its side lengths are integers divisible by  $p^{n+1}$ .

**Problem 22** (03N01 - Singapore '04). Let  $x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots$  be the sequence defined by

$$x_i = 2^i, \quad 0 \leq i \leq 2003,$$

$$x_i = \sum_{j=1}^{2004} x_{i-j}, \quad i \geq 2004.$$

Find the greatest  $k$  for which the sequence contains  $k$  consecutive terms divisible by 2004.

**Problem 23** (03N02 - Germany '04). Each positive integer  $a$  is subjected to the following procedure, yielding the number  $d = d(a)$ : (a) The last digit of  $a$  is moved to the first position. The resulting number is called  $b$ . (b) The number  $b$  is squared. The resulting number is called  $c$ . (c) The first digit of  $c$  is moved to the last position. The resulting number is called  $d$ . (All numbers are considered in the decimal system.) For instance,  $a = 2003$  gives  $b = 3200$ ,  $c = 10240000$  and  $d = 02400001 = 2400001 = d(2003)$ . Find all integers  $a$  such that  $d(a) = a^2$ .

**Problem 24** (03N03 - IMO 03/2). Determine all pairs of positive integers  $(a, b)$  such that

$$\frac{a^2}{2ab^2 - b^3 + 1}$$

is a positive integer.

**Problem 25** (03N04 - Germany '04). Let  $b$  be an integer greater than 5. For each positive integer  $n$ , consider the number

$$x_n = \underbrace{11 \cdots 1}_{n-1} \underbrace{22 \cdots 2}_n 5,$$

written in base  $b$ . Prove that the following condition holds if and only if  $b = 10$ : there exists a positive integer  $M$  such that for any integer  $n$  greater than  $M$ , the number  $x_n$  is a perfect square.

**Problem 26** (03N05 - Moldova '04). An integer  $n$  is said to be  $[i]$ good $[/i]$  if  $|n|$  is not the square of an integer. Determine all integers  $m$  with the following property:  $m$  can be represented, in infinitely many ways, as a sum of three distinct good integers whose product is the square of an odd integer.

**Problem 27** (03N06 - IMO 06/6). Let  $p$  be a prime number. Prove that there exists a prime number  $q$  such that for every integer  $n$ , the number  $n^p - p$  is not divisible by  $q$ .

**Problem 28** (03N07). The sequence  $a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots$  is defined as follows:

$$a_0 = 2, \quad a_{k+1} = 2a_k^2 - 1, \quad k \geq 0.$$

Prove that if an odd prime  $p$  divides  $a_n$ , then  $2^{n+3}$  divides  $p^2 - 1$ .

**Problem 29** (03N08). Let  $p$  be a prime number and let  $A$  be a set of positive integers that satisfies the following conditions: (1) the set of prime divisors of the elements in  $A$  consists of  $p-1$  elements; (2) for any nonempty subset of  $A$ , the product of its elements is not a perfect  $p$ -th power. What is the largest possible number of elements in  $A$  ?

**Problem 30** (02N01). What is the smallest positive integer  $t$  such that there exist integers  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_t$  with

$$x_1^3 + x_2^3 + \dots + x_t^3 = 2002^{2002} ?$$

**Problem 31** (02N02 - IMO 02/4). Let  $n \geq 2$  be a positive integer, with divisors  $1 = d_1 < d_2 < \dots < d_k = n$ . Prove that  $d_1d_2 + d_2d_3 + \dots + d_{k-1}d_k$  is always less than  $n^2$ , and determine when it is a divisor of  $n^2$ .

**Problem 32** (02N03). Let  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$  be distinct primes greater than 3. Show that  $2^{p_1 p_2 \dots p_n} + 1$  has at least  $4^n$  divisors.

**Problem 33** (02N04). Is there a positive integer  $m$  such that the equation

$$\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c} + \frac{1}{abc} = \frac{m}{a+b+c}$$

has infinitely many solutions in positive integers  $a, b, c$ ?

**Problem 34** (02N05). Let  $m, n \geq 2$  be positive integers, and let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  be integers, none of which is a multiple of  $m^{n-1}$ . Show that there exist integers  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n$ , not all zero, with  $|e_i| < m$  for all  $i$ , such that  $e_1 a_1 + e_2 a_2 + \dots + e_n a_n$  is a multiple of  $m^n$ .

**Problem 35** (02N06 - IMO 02/3). Find all pairs of positive integers  $m, n \geq 3$  for which there exist infinitely many positive integers  $a$  such that

$$\frac{a^m + a - 1}{a^n + a^2 - 1}$$

is itself an integer.

**Problem 36** (01N01). Prove that there is no positive integer  $n$  such that, for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, 9$ , the leftmost digit (in decimal notation) of  $(n+k)!$  equals  $k$ .

**Problem 37** (01N02). Consider the system  $x + y = z + u$ ,  $2xy = zu$ . Find the greatest value of the real constant  $m$  such that  $m \leq x/y$  for any positive integer solution  $(x, y, z, u)$  of the system, with  $x \geq y$ .

**Problem 38** (01N03). Let  $a_1 = 11^{11}$ ,  $a_2 = 12^{12}$ ,  $a_3 = 13^{13}$ , and  $a_n = |a_{n-1} - a_{n-2}| + |a_{n-2} - a_{n-3}|$ ,  $n \geq 4$ . Determine  $a_{14^{14}}$ .

**Problem 39** (01N04). Let  $p \geq 5$  be a prime number. Prove that there exists an integer  $a$  with  $1 \leq a \leq p - 2$  such that neither  $a^{p-1} - 1$  nor  $(a + 1)^{p-1} - 1$  is divisible by  $p^2$ .

**Problem 40** (01N05 - IMO 01/6). Let  $a > b > c > d$  be positive integers and suppose that

$$ac + bd = (b + d + a - c)(b + d - a + c).$$

Prove that  $ab + cd$  is not prime.

**Problem 41** (01N06). Is it possible to find 100 positive integers not exceeding 25000 such that all pairwise sums of them are different?

**Problem 42** (00N01). Determine all positive integers  $n \geq 2$  that satisfy the following condition: For all integers  $a$  and  $b$  relatively prime to  $n$ ,

$$a \equiv b \pmod{n}$$

if and only if

$$ab \equiv 1 \pmod{n}.$$

**Problem 43** (00N02). For every positive integers  $n$  let  $d(n)$  the number of all positive integers of  $n$ . Determine all positive integers  $n$  with the property:  $d^3(n) = 4n$ .

**Problem 44** (00N03 - IMO 01/5). Does there exist a positive integer  $n$  such that  $n$  has exactly 2000 prime divisors and  $n$  divides  $2^n + 1$ ?

**Problem 45** (00N04). Find all triplets of positive integers  $(a, m, n)$  such that  $a^m + 1 \mid (a + 1)^n$ .

**Problem 46** (00N05). Prove that there exist infinitely many positive integers  $n$  such that  $p = nr$ , where  $p$  and  $r$  are respectively the semiperimeter and the inradius of a triangle with integer side lengths.

**Problem 47** (00N06). Show that the set of positive integers which cannot be represented as a sum of distinct perfect squares is finite.

**Problem 48** (99N01 - IMO 99/4). Find all the pairs of positive integers  $(x, p)$  such that  $p$  is a prime,  $x \leq 2p$  and  $x^{p-1}$  is a divisor of  $(p-1)^x + 1$ .

**Problem 49** (99N02). Prove that every positive rational number can be represented in the form  $\frac{a^3+b^3}{c^3+d^3}$  where  $a, b, c, d$  are positive integers.

**Problem 50** (99N03). Prove that there exists two strictly increasing sequences  $(a_n)$  and  $(b_n)$  such that  $a_n(a_n + 1)$  divides  $b_n^2 + 1$  for every natural  $n$ .

**Problem 51** (99N04). Denote by  $S$  the set of all primes such the decimal representation of  $\frac{1}{p}$  has the fundamental period divisible by 3. For every  $p \in S$  such that  $\frac{1}{p}$  has the fundamental period  $3r$  one may write

$$\frac{1}{p} = 0, a_1 a_2 \cdots a_{3r} a_1 a_2 \cdots a_{3r} \cdots,$$

where  $r = r(p)$ ; for every  $p \in S$  and every integer  $k \geq 1$  define  $f(k, p)$  by

$$f(k, p) = a_k + a_{k+r(p)} + a_{k+2 \cdot r(p)}$$

a) Prove that  $S$  is infinite. b) Find the highest value of  $f(k, p)$  for  $k \geq 1$  and  $p \in S$ .

**Problem 52** (99N05). Let  $n, k$  be positive integers such that  $n$  is not divisible by 3 and  $k \geq n$ . Prove that there exists a positive integer  $m$  which is divisible by  $n$  and the sum of its digits in decimal representation is  $k$ .

**Problem 53** (99N06). Prove that for every real number  $M$  there exists an infinite arithmetic progression such that:

- (1) each term is a positive integer and the common difference is not divisible by 10;
- (2) the sum of the digits of each term (in decimal representation) exceeds  $M$ .