First Round – November 1998

1. Consider the polynomial

$$f(x) = (1+x)^{n_1} + (1+x)^{n_2} + \dots + (1+x)^{n_k},$$

where  $n_1, n_2, ..., n_k$  are positive integers. For each positive integer *a*, find the minimum of the coefficient at  $x_a$  as the *k*-tuple  $(n_1, ..., n_k)$  varies over all *k*-tuples with sum *n*.

- 2. For all natural numbers *m*, *n*, prove that  $\frac{1}{\sqrt[m]{n+1}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt[m]{m+1}} \ge 1$ .
- 3. Equilateral triangles *ABM* and *CDP* are drawn outside a convex quadrilateral *ABCD*, and equilateral triangles *BCN* and *DAQ* are drawn inside *ABCD*. Suppose that among the points *M*,*N*,*P*,*Q*, no three are on a line. Prove that *MNPQ* is a parallelogram.
- 4. On the coordinate plane, a piece can move 1 right or 1 up per move. Find the number of possible ways for the piece to move from point (0,0) to (n,n), not passing through any of the points  $(1,1), (2,2), \ldots, (n-1,n-1)$ .
- 5. Consider the matrix  $A = (a_{ij})_{i,j=1}^{1999}$  given by  $a_{ij} = 1$  if  $i \ge j$  and  $a_{ij} = 0$  otherwise. Find the number of ways of choosing 1998 ones from the matrix so that no two of them are in the same row or column.
- 6. Let a, b, c be positive real numbers with  $abc \ge 1$ . Prove that

$$\frac{1}{a+b^4+c^4}+\frac{1}{a^4+b+c^4}+\frac{1}{a^4+b^4+c}\leq 1.$$

7. If *I* is the incenter of a triangle *ABC*, prove that

$$IA^2 + IB^2 + IC^2 \ge \frac{AB^2 + BC^2 + CA^2}{3}.$$

8. Prove that the equation  $x^3 + y^3 = 7z^3$  has infinitely many solutions in integers x, y, z with gcd(x, y, z) = 1.



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