24-th Polish Mathematical Olympiad 1972/73

Third Round

First Day

- 1. Prove that every polynomial is a difference of two increasing polynomials.
- 2. Let p_n denote the probability that, in n tosses, a fair coin shows the head up 100 consecutive times. Prove that the sequence (p_n) converges and determine its limit
- 3. A polyhedron *W* has the following properties:
 - (i) It possesses a center of symmetry.
 - (ii) The section of W by a plane passing through the center of symmetry and one of its edges is always a parallelogram.
 - (iii) There is a vertex of W at which exactly three edges meet.

Prove that W is a parallelepiped.

Second Day

- 4. A set of segments with the total length less than 1 is given on a line. Prove that every set of n points on the line can be translated by a vector of length not exceeding n/2, so that all the obtained points are away from the given segments.
- 5. Prove that every positive rational number m/n can be represented as a sum of reciprocals of distinct positive integers.
- 6. Prove that for every centrally symmetric polygon there is at most one ellipse containing the polygon and having the minimal area.

