## Fall 2013 Interstellar Solutions

31. Answer (E): Find the common denominator and replace the ab in the numerator with a - b to get

$$\frac{a}{b} + \frac{b}{a} - ab = \frac{a^2 + b^2 - (ab)^2}{ab}$$
$$= \frac{a^2 + b^2 - (a - b)^2}{ab}$$
$$= \frac{a^2 + b^2 - (a^2 - 2ab + b^2)}{ab}$$
$$= \frac{2ab}{ab} = 2.$$

OR

Note that a = a/b - 1 and b = 1 - b/a. It follows that  $\frac{a}{b} + \frac{b}{a} - ab = (a + 1) + (1 - b) - (a - b) = 2$ .

32. Answer: 112. Note that

AMC + AM + MC + CA = (A+1)(M+1)(C+1) - (A+M+C) - 1 = pqr - 13,

where p, q, and r are positive integers whose sum is 15. A case-by-case analysis shows that pqr is largest when p = 5, q = 5, and r = 5. Thus the answer is  $5 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 - 13 = 112$ .

33. Answer: 5 Suppose that the whole family drank x cups of milk and y cups of coffee. Let n denote the number of people in the family. The information given implies that x/4 + y/6 = (x + y)/n. This leads to

3x(n-4) = 2y(6-n).

Since x and y are positive, the only positive integer n for which both sides have the same sign is n = 5.

## OR

If Angela drank c cups of coffee and m cups of mile, then 0 < c < 1 and m + c = 1. The number of people in the family is 6c + 4m = 4 + 2c, which is an integer if and only if  $c = \frac{1}{2}$ . Thus, there are 5 people in the family.

34. Answer: 20. If x were less than or equal to 2, then 2 would be both the median and the mode of the list. Thus x > 2. Consider the two cases 2 < x < 4, and

 $x \geq 4.$ 

Case 1: If 2 < x < 4, then 2 is the mode, x is the median, and  $\frac{25+x}{7}$  is the mean, which must equal 2 - (x - 2),  $\frac{x+2}{2}$ , or x + (x - 2), depending on the size of the mean relative to 2 and x. These give  $x = \frac{3}{8}$ ,  $x = \frac{36}{5}$ , and x = 3, of which x = 3is the only value between 2 and 4.

Case 2: If  $x \ge 4$ , then 4 is the median, 2 is the mode, and  $\frac{25+x}{7}$  is the mean, which must be 0,3, or 6. Thus x = -25, -4, or 17, of which 17 is the only one of these values greater than or equal to 4.

Thus the x-values sum to 3 + 17 = 20.

35. Answer (B): Let x = 9z. Then  $f(3z) = f(9z/3) = f(3z) = (9z)^2 + 9z + 1 =$ 7. Simplifying and solving the equation for z yields  $81z^2 + 9z - 6 = 0$ , so 3(3z+1)(9z-2) = 0. Thus z = -1/3 or z = 2/9. The sum of these values is -1/9.

Note. The answer can also be obtained by using the sum-of-roots formula on  $81z^2 + 9z - 6 = 0$ . The sum of the roots is -9/81 = -1/9.

- 36. Answer: 555. Suppose each square is identified by an ordered pair (m, n), where m is the row and n is the column in which it lies. In the original system, each square (m, n) has the number 17(m-1) + n assigned; in the renumbered system, it has the number 13(n-1) + m assigned to it. Equating the two expressions yields 4m - 3n = 1, whose acceptable solutions are (1, 1), (4, 5), (7, 9), (10, 13),and (13, 17). These squares are numbered 1, 56, 111, 166 and 221, respectively, and the sum is 555.
- 37. Answer (D): The fact that OA = 1 implies that  $BA = \tan \theta$  and  $BO = \sec \theta$ . Since  $\overline{BC}$  bisects  $\angle ABP$ , it follows that  $\frac{OB}{BA} = \frac{OC}{CA}$ , which implies  $\frac{OB}{OB+BA} =$  $\frac{OC}{OC+CA} = OC$ . Substituting yields



OR

Let  $\alpha = \angle CBO = \angle ABC$ . Using the *Law of Sines* on triangle *BCO* yields  $\frac{\sin \theta}{BC} = \frac{\sin \alpha}{OC}$ , so  $OC = \frac{BC \sin \alpha}{\sin \theta}$ . In right triangle *ABC*,  $\sin \alpha = \frac{1-OC}{BC}$ . Hence  $OC = \frac{1-OC}{\sin \theta}$ . Solving this for *OC* yields  $OC = \frac{1}{1+\sin \theta}$ .

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- 38. Answer: Thursday. Note that, if a Tuesday is d days after a Tuesday, then d is a multiple of 7. Next, we need to consider whether any of the years N 1, N, N + 1 is a leap year. If N is not a leap year, the 200<sup>th</sup> day of year N + 1 is 365 300 + 200 = 265 days after a Tuesday, and thus is a Monday, since 265 is 6 larger than a multiple of 7. Thus, year N is a leap year and the 200<sup>th</sup> day of year N + 1 is another Tuesday (as given), being 266 days after a Tuesday. It follows that year N 1 is not a leap year. Therefore, the 100<sup>th</sup> day of year N 1 precedes the given Tuesday in year N by 365 100 + 300 = 565 days, and therefore is a Thursday, since  $565 = 7 \cdot 80 + 5$  is 5 larger than a multiple of 7.
- 39. Answer (B): By Heron's Formula the area of triangle ABC is  $\sqrt{(21)(8)(7)(6)}$ , which is 84, so the altitude from vertex A is 2(84)/14 = 12. The midpoint D divides  $\overline{BC}$  into two segments of length 7, and the bisector of angle BAC divides  $\overline{BC}$  into segments of length 14(13/28) = 6.5 and 14(15/28) = 7.5 (since the angle bisector divides the opposite side into lengths proportional to the remaining two sides). Thus the triangle ADE has base DE = 7 6.5 = 0.5 and altitude 12, so its area is 3.



40. Answer: 1. Note that (x + 1/y) + (y + 1/z) + (z + 1/x) = 4 + 1 + 7/3 = 22/3and that

$$28/3 = 4 \cdot 1 \cdot 7/3 = (x + 1/y)(y + 1/z)(z + 1/x)$$
  
=  $xyz + x + y + z + 1/x + 1/y + 1/z + 1/(xyz)$   
=  $xyz + 22/3 + 1/(xyz)$ .

It follows that xyz + 1/(xyz) = 2 and  $(xyz - 1)^2 = 0$ . Hence xyz = 1.

OR

By substitution,

$$4 = x + \frac{1}{y} = x + \frac{1}{1 - 1/z} = x + \frac{1}{1 - 3x/(7x - 3)} = x + \frac{7x + 3}{4x - 3}$$

Thus 4(4x - 3) = x(4x - 3) + 7x - 3, which simplifies to  $(2x - 3)^2 = 0$ . Accordingly, x = 3/2, z = 7/3 - 2/3 = 5/3, and y = 1 - 3/5 = 2/5, so xyz = (3/2)(2/5)(5/3) = 1.