

# 2005 Georgia Tech High School Mathematics Competition

## Varsity Proof Examination

**Problem 1:** Prove that the following expression holds for all positive integers,  $n$ .

$$\sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j}^2 = \binom{2n}{n}$$

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**Problem 2:** How many unique ways could a person make change for a one-dollar bill using only combinations of the most commonly used coin denominations (1-cent, 5-cent, 10-cent, and 25-cent)?

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**Problem 3:** Is the series  $\frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{19} + \frac{1}{29} + \dots + \frac{1}{89} + \frac{1}{90} + \frac{1}{91} + \dots + \frac{1}{99} + \frac{1}{109} + \frac{1}{119} + \dots$ , where each denominator contains the digit 9, convergent? If yes, show what value it converges to. If not, show that it is divergent.

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**Problem 4:** Given any integer,  $a$ , not divisible by  $p$ , prove that  $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ , where  $p \geq 3$  is any prime number.

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**Problem 5:**

A closed interval includes its endpoints and is denoted  $[a, b]$ , such that  $a$  and  $b$  belong in the interval (as do all  $x$ ,  $a \leq x \leq b$ ).

An open interval does not include its endpoints and is denoted  $(a, b)$ , such that neither  $a$  nor  $b$  are included in the interval, while every  $x$ ,  $a < x < b$  does.

The Cantor middle-thirds set,  $\mathbb{C}$ , is a subset of the real line from  $[0, 1]$ , and is obtained from  $[0, 1]$  by iteratively removing the open middle-third intervals:  $(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3})$ , then removing  $(\frac{1}{9}, \frac{2}{9})$  and  $(\frac{7}{9}, \frac{8}{9})$ , and so forth (infinitely many times).

- (a) How many points are included in the Cantor middle-thirds set?
- (b) Describe whether or not it is possible to map the points in the Cantor set to the natural numbers,  $\mathbb{N} = 1, 2, 3, \dots$
- (c) Calculate the length of the Cantor set. Recall that the length of a closed interval,  $[a, b]$ , is equal to  $b - a$ .