Sequence

73 N 1901.5

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

One is lead to the solution above, by noting that the given equation for F'(x) suggests, that F, as a function of two variables (per abus langage denoted by g and h), satisfies

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial g} = -e^{h^2 - g^2} \cos(c - 2gh)$$
 and $\frac{\partial F}{\partial h} = e^{h^2 - g^2} \sin(c - 2gh)$,

and hence, that F satisfies the Laplace equation.

Also solved by the proposer.

Problem 71-4*, Noncomplete Residue System, by ROBERT SPIRA (Michigan State University).

Given the numbers $1, 2, \dots, 2n$, form n pairs of them (a_i, b_i) , and the corresponding sums and differences $s_i = a_i + b_i$, $d_i = a_i - b_i$. It is conjectured that the numbers s_i and d_i together do not form a complete residue system $\pmod{2n}$.

Remarks by the proposer. The problem originated in the problem of Shen and Shen [1], which was: Is it possible for $n \ge 3$ to group the set $\{1, 2, \dots, 2n\}$ into n pairs (a_i, b_i) with $b_i > a_i$ so that all the numbers $b_i - a_i$, $b_i + a_i$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, are distinct? Using the 7072 computer at Duke University the proposer of the present problem and J. Fink counted the number of such pairings for $3 \le n \le 10$, obtaining respectively 1, 8, 22, 51, 342, 2609, 16896, 99114. D. A. Klarner [2] showed the connection between the Shens's problem with the queens problem, introducing the notion of a more powerful queen able to reflect via a reflecting strip at one end of the board. The problem of the Shens is also equivalent to placing n queens on half a 2n-board above the main diagonal.

J. L. Selfridge [3] abstracted a solution of Shens's problem, but never published, stating that the proof could be recovered from the abstract. Klarner [2] stated a problem which might be amenable to Selfridge's process:

Observing the large number of solutions to the Shens's problem, Klarner suggested adding restrictions to reduce the number, the obvious restriction being to study it modulo 2n. Then, after computing the cases $n \le 16$, it seemed that no solutions would arise, although it appears that we can obtain, in certain cases, all residues but one, and hence the problem.

REFERENCES

[1] M. SHEN AND T. SHEN, Research Problem 39, Bull. Amer. Math. Soc., 68 (1962), p. 557.

[2] D. A. KLARNER, The problem of reflecting queens, Amer. Math. Monthly, 74 (1967), pp. 953-955.

[3] J. L. Selfridge, Notices Amer. Math. Soc., 10 (1963), p.-195.

Solution by A. A. JAGERS (Twente University of Technology, Enschede, Netherlands).

² Presented at the 1963 Number Theory Conference.

Set $\xi = \sum_{k=0}^{2n-1} k^2$ and suppose that the numbers s_i and d_i together form a complete residue system (mod 2n). Then

$$\xi \equiv \sum_{i=1}^{n} ((b_i - a_i)^2 + (b_i + a_i)^2) \equiv 2 \sum_{i=1}^{n} (a_i^2 + b_i^2) \equiv 2\xi \pmod{2n},$$

so $\xi \equiv 0 \pmod{2n}$. On the other hand, $\xi = \frac{1}{3}n(2n-1)(4n-1)$ so that $\xi \equiv n/3 \pmod{2n}$ if $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$, and $\xi \equiv n \pmod{2n}$ if $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}$, a contradiction.

Problem 71-5, Fourier Series, by ROBERT E. SHAFER (Lawrence Radiation Laboratory).

Find the Fourier series expansion of

(1)
$$e^{-z\cos\theta}E_1(z-z\cos\theta), \quad 0<\theta<2\pi, \quad |\arg z|<\pi,$$

where

(2)
$$E_1(z) = \int_1^\infty \frac{e^{-tz} dt}{t}, \quad |\arg z| \le \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

Solution by the proposer.

Let

(3)
$$e^{-z\cos\theta}E_1(z-z\cos\theta) = A_0(z) + 2\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n(z)\cos n\theta.$$

Then

(4)
$$A_n(z) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} e^{-z \cos \theta} E_1(z - z \cos \theta) \cos n\theta \, d\theta,$$

and with the aid of (2) and an interchange of the order of integration,

(5)
$$A_n(z) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_1^{\infty} t^{-1} e^{-zt} \left[\int_0^{\pi} \cos n\theta \exp(z \cos \theta (t-1)) d\theta \right] dt.$$

Now replace t by $1 + t[z(1 - \cos \theta)]^{-1}$ and obtain

(6)
$$A_n(z) = \frac{e^{-z}}{\pi} \int_0^\infty e^{-t} \left[\int_0^\pi \frac{\cos n\theta}{t + z(1 - \cos \theta)} d\theta \right] dt.$$

The inner trigonometric integral is readily evaluated by residue theory and the result is available in a number of sources; see for example [1, vol. 1, (41), p. 299]. Let $t = 2z \sinh^2 \varphi/2$. Then

$$A_n(z) = \int_0^\infty \exp(-z \cosh \varphi - n\varphi) \, d\varphi = K_n(z) - G_n(z),$$
(7)
$$G_n(z) = \int_0^\infty \exp(-z \cosh \varphi) \sinh n \, \varphi \, d\varphi,$$