Problem Section

Problem A (folklore)

Let a, b > 1 be integers such that $2a \le b$. Does there exist a map

 $f:\,\{a,a+1,\cdots,b\}\rightarrow\{a,a+1,\cdots,b\}$

without fixed points, such that for all $n \in \{a, a + 1, \dots, b\}$ we have $f^{f(n)}(n) = n$? Here, for a positive integer k, f^k denotes the k-fold composition

$$\underbrace{\frac{f \circ f \circ \cdots \circ f}{k \text{ times}}}_{k \text{ times}}$$

of f.

Problem B (folklore)

Let $n \ge 3$ be an integer. Two players play the following game. Starting with a sheet of paper with the numbers 1 and 2 on them, the players take turns writing down a new number from 1 to n that is the sum of two numbers already on the sheet. The player who writes down the number n wins.

For which n does the first player have a winning strategy?

Problem C (proposed by Hendrik Lenstra)

Determine all two-sided infinite sequences of positive integers in which each number is the Euler-phi of the next.



Redactie:

Gabriele Dalla Torre Christophe Debry Jinbi Jin Marco Streng Wouter Zomervrucht

Problemenrubriek NAW Mathematisch Instituut Universiteit Leiden Postbus 9512 2300 RA Leiden

problems@nieuwarchief.nl www.nieuwarchief.nl/problems