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**FALL 2013 NU PUTNAM SELECTION TEST**

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**Problem A1.** Find all integer solutions to the system of equations

$$\begin{cases} x^2 - y^2 = 16 \\ x^3 - y^3 = 98 \end{cases}$$

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**Problem A2.** Prove that 48 divides  $n^4 - 1$  if  $n$  is not a multiple of 2 or 3.

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**Problem A3.** We define a sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=1,2,3,\dots}$  recursively in the following way:  $a_1 = 1$ ,  $a_{n+1} = 2(a_n + 1)$  for  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ . Find a close form for  $a_n$ .

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**Problem A4.** Find a function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f \not\equiv 0$  and  $f(4x) = f(2x) + f(x)$  for every real  $x$ .

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**Problem A5.** Let  $A, B, C, D$  be the following matrices:

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad D = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Is it possible to obtain the following matrix:

$$E = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

by multiplying the given matrices  $A, B, C, D$  (in any order and any number of times)?

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**Problem A6.** Let  $x, y, z$  be three real numbers such that  $0 < x, y < \pi$ ,  $z = (x + y)/2$ . Prove:

$$\sqrt{\frac{\sin x \sin y}{x y}} \leq \frac{\sin z}{z}.$$