

UBC MATH CIRCLE 2024 PROBLEM SET 5

Problem 1. *Basketball star Shanille O'Keal's team statistician keeps track of the number, $S(N)$, of successful free throws she has made in her first N attempts of the season. Early in the season, $S(N)$ was less than 80% of N , but by the end of the season, $S(N)$ was more than 80% of N . Was there necessarily a moment in between when $S(N)$ was exactly 80% of N ?*

Problem 2. *Recall that a regular icosahedron is a convex polyhedron having 12 vertices and 20 faces; the faces are congruent equilateral triangles. On each face of a regular icosahedron is written a nonnegative integer such that the sum of all 20 integers is 39. Show that there are two faces that share a vertex and have the same integer written on them.*

Problem 3. *Let $f(x) = 3x^2 + 1$. Prove that for any positive integer n , the product $f(1)f(2)\dots f(n)$ has at most n prime divisors. (Bonus: Show that for $n \geq 4$ it has at most $n - 1$ prime divisors).*