

1. In $\triangle ABC$, the altitude to \overline{AB} from C partitions $\triangle ABC$ into two smaller triangles, each of which is similar to $\triangle ABC$. If the side lengths of $\triangle ABC$ and of both smaller triangles are all integers, find the smallest possible value of AB .

Answer: 25

Solution: Let the altitude from C to AB intersect \overline{AB} at D . Note that $\angle A$ and $\angle B$ must be acute since AD partitions ABC into two triangles. Since triangles ADC and ADB each contain right angles, we conclude that $\angle ACB$ must be right.

Now, we must have $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle ACD \sim \triangle CBD$. We now have enough information to determine AD , AB , and CD in terms of AB , BC , and CA , which we denote as c , a , and b , respectively. We have

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{b}{AD} &= \frac{c}{b} \implies AD = \frac{b^2}{c}, \\ \frac{a}{BD} &= \frac{c}{a} \implies BD = \frac{a^2}{c}, \\ \frac{1}{2}CD \cdot c &= \frac{1}{2}ab \implies CD = \frac{ab}{c}.\end{aligned}$$

Obviously, (a, b, c) has to be in the form (kx, ky, kz) where (x, y, z) is a Pythagorean triple with no common factors, and k is a positive integer. Note that in particular x , y , and z must be pairwise coprime, because of the constraint $x^2 + y^2 = z^2$.

Given this, we need to find k such that

$$kz \mid k^2y^2 \iff z \mid ky^2 \iff z \mid k,$$

so the smallest such k is when $k = z$. This choice makes BD and CD integral as well, so given any Pythagorean triple (x, y, z) with pairwise coprime entries, the minimum k required equals z , and the minimum possible value of c is z^2 . The smallest such Pythagorean triple is $(3, 4, 5)$, so report $\boxed{25}$.

2. Four points O , A , B , and C satisfy $OA = OB = OC = 1$, $\angle AOB = 60^\circ$, and $\angle BOC = 90^\circ$. B is between A and C (i.e. $\angle AOC$ is obtuse). Draw three circles O_a , O_b , and O_c with diameters OA , OB , and OC , respectively. Find the area of region inside O_b but outside O_a and O_c .

Answer: $(1 + \sqrt{3})/8$

Solution: Let D , E , and F be the midpoints of BC , CA , and AB , respectively. Observe that O_a goes through E and F , O_b goes through D and F , and O_c goes through D and E ; the radii to these points are all midlines of some triangle (either AOB , AOC , or BOC) and are parallel to sides of length 1. Hence, the region $O_b \setminus (O_a \cup O_c)$ has four vertices D , E , F , and B : along DE and EF the boundary is concave with the shape of an arc of radius 1, while along FB and BD it is convex. But note that $DEFB$ is a parallelogram, so $DE = BF$. This implies that two arcs—one from D to E coming from O_c and the other from B to F coming from O_b —are congruent, so the convex region outside segment FB can be fit into the concave region inside segment DE . Thinking similarly for EF and DB we have that the area of $O_b \setminus (O_a \cup O_c)$ is precisely the area of parallelogram $DEFB$. Thus, the answer is $|ABC|/2 = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{4} - \frac{1}{2} \sin 150^\circ \right) = \boxed{(1 + \sqrt{3})/8}$.

This problem can also be solved by use of the Principle of Inclusion-Exclusion: in particular, the desired region has area of

$$O_b - (O_a \cap O_b + O_c \cap O_b - O_a \cap O_b \cap O_c),$$

where it is clear that $O_a \cap O_b \cap O_c = O_a \cap O_c$ and is thus easily computable.

3. Circles with centers $O_1, O_2,$ and O_3 are externally tangent to each other and have radii $1, \frac{1}{2},$ and $\frac{1}{4},$ respectively. Now for $i > 3,$ let circle O_i be defined as the circle externally tangent to circles O_{i-1} and O_{i-2} with radius 2^{1-i} that is farther from $O_{i-3}.$ As n approaches infinity, the area of triangle $O_1O_2O_n$ approaches the value $A.$ Find $A.$

Answer: $\frac{\sqrt{14}}{6}$

Solution: First, note that all triangles $O_iO_{i+1}O_{i+2}$ are similar (for $i \geq 1$). In particular, this implies that for all such $i,$ $m\angle O_{i+1}O_{i+3}O_{i+2} \cong m\angle O_iO_{i+2}O_{i+1}$ and $m\angle O_{i+3}O_{i+1}O_{i+2} \cong m\angle O_{i+4}O_{i+2}O_{i+3}.$ Hence, $\angle O_iO_{i+2}O_{i+4} = \pi$ i.e. the points are collinear.

From here, there are many ways to proceed. One way is to note that the collinearity of all O_{2n} and all O_{2n+1} implies that the desired area is simply the infinite sum of areas $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (O_iO_{i+1}O_{i+2}).$ $O_1O_2O_3$ has side lengths $\frac{3}{2}, \frac{5}{4},$ and $\frac{3}{4},$ so its area is $\frac{1}{16}$ the area of a 3-5-6 triangle, which by Heron's Formula is $\sqrt{7 \cdot 4 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = 2\sqrt{14}.$ Furthermore, for all $i > 1,$ $O_iO_{i+1}O_{i+2}$ has $\frac{1}{4}$ the area of $O_{i-1}O_iO_{i+1},$ so the desired sum is geometric with first term $\frac{\sqrt{14}}{8}$ and common ratio $\frac{1}{4}.$ Hence,

report $\frac{\frac{\sqrt{14}}{8}}{1-\frac{1}{4}} = \boxed{\frac{\sqrt{14}}{6}}.$