

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