



PUTNAM SEMINAR
FALL 2022

QUIZ 9
DUE OCTOBER 31

Problem 1. What is the units (i.e., rightmost) digit of

$$\left\lfloor \frac{10^{20000}}{10^{100} + 3} \right\rfloor?$$

Problem 2. Prove that for $n \geq 2$,

$$\underbrace{2^{2^{\dots^2}}}_{n \text{ terms}} \equiv \underbrace{2^{2^{\dots^2}}}_{n-1 \text{ terms}} \pmod{n}.$$

Problem 3. Define a positive integer n to be *squarish* if either n is itself a perfect square or the distance from n to the nearest perfect square is a perfect square. For example, 2016 is squarish, because the nearest perfect square to 2016 is $45^2 = 2025$ and $2025 - 2016 = 9$ is a perfect square. (Of the positive integers between 1 and 10, only 6 and 7 are not squarish.)

For a positive integer N , let $S(N)$ be the number of squarish integers between 1 and N , inclusive. Find positive constants α and β such that

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{S(N)}{N^\alpha} = \beta,$$

or show that no such constants exist.

Problem 4. Let p be an odd prime and let \mathbb{Z}_p denote (the field of) integers modulo p . How many elements are in the set

$$\{x^2 : x \in \mathbb{Z}_p\} \cap \{y^2 + 1 : y \in \mathbb{Z}_p\}?$$