
FUN WITH FUNDAMENTALS

Second rate

Problem 181 — Time doesn't always fly when you're having fun, as this month's problem by Gregory Smith of Oak Ridge, Tenn., demonstrates.

Deep in the computer room of the prestigious Baath Brokerage House two people were sitting in front of a computer terminal. It was 2:00 a.m., and the cleaning people had gone home. The building was deserted except for the computer room.

"You're sure it's fool-proof?" snipped Mortimer Baath. "We don't want a scandal!"

"I've timed it right down to the second," calmly replied programmer Betty McBean. "You know the great analog clock in the main trading room? Shortly after 1:00 p.m. tomorrow, the hour hand and minute hand will line up just as they do at 12:00 noon. The very second that happens, this program will automatically sell all the Hulla Ballou stock, based on your tip from Morton Pettifogg."



"Bless the man!" cried Baath, "What are friends for?"

"There is a complication, however," continued McBean. "As you know data from the trading terminals is downloaded to the central computer every 15 sec during working hours. Naturally we don't want *this* transaction on the records! I've calculated the exact time that the hands on the clock line up to be 1:05:35. The next downloading will occur at 1:05:45, so we have 10 sec to delete the information after the sell."

"Splendid!"

Is 1:05:35 the correct time? Compute

where the second hand will be when the hour and minute hands line up to see if Baath and McBean will be setting up future operations in the local penitentiary? Send your answer to:

Fun With Fundamentals
POWER TRANSMISSION DESIGN
1100 Superior Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44114-2543

Deadline is April 10. Good luck!

*Technical consultant, Jack Couillard,
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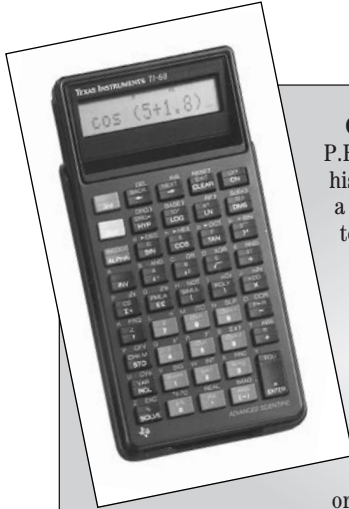
Solution to last month's problem 180

— You are the guy with the gold who makes the rules, if you answered the following:

Take one coin out of Bag #1, two coins out of Bag #2, and three coins out of Bag

#3. If the scale reads 6.1 oz, Bag #1 has the fake coins. If it reads 6.2 oz, then Bag #2 has the fake coins. If the reading is 6.3 oz, the the fake coins are in Bag #3.

Lulu had better cut up her credit cards!



Contest winner — Congratulations to Kenneth E. Ryan, P.E., of Oxford, N.Y., who won our January contest by having his name drawn from the 97 contestants who answered out of a total of 123 for that month. A TI-68 calculator is in the mail to him.

The TI-68 Advanced Scientific Calculator by Texas Instruments can solve five simultaneous equations with real and complex coefficients and has 40 number functions that can be used in both the rectangular and polar coordinate systems. Other functions include formula programming, integration, and polynomial root finding. The calculator also features a last-equation replay function that lets you double-check your work.

To enter the contest, send your answer on a postcard or letter to POWER TRANSMISSION DESIGN, 1100 Superior Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114-2543.

You can also receive a TI-68 and credit in the magazine if you send in an *original* problem with solution, and we publish it.