


PMO 2017 Area Stage

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It is consensus that the area stage this year has been the most difficult one yet. It is for this reason I'll present the questions and some solutions to all the problems. The PMO does not release solutions to part I, in either case. Suggestions and corrections are welcomed: contact me at cj@cjquines.com .

PART I. Give the answer in the simplest form that is reasonable. No solution is needed. Figures are not drawn to scale. Each correct answer is worth three points.

1. The vertices of a triangle are at the points $(0, 0)$, (a, b) and $(2016 - 2a, 0)$, where $a > 0$. If (a, b) is on the line $y = 4x$, find the value(s) of a that maximizes the triangle's area.

Answer: $\boxed{504}$.

Solution: If (a, b) lies on $y = 4x$, we must have $b = 4a$. Then $(0, 0)$, $(a, 4a)$, $(2016 - 2a, 0)$ is a triangle with altitude $4a$ and base $2016 - 2a$. Its area is thus $\frac{1}{2}(4a)(2016 - 2a)$, and the maximum value is attained when $a = 504$.

2. Let f be a real-valued function such that

$$f(x - f(y)) = f(x) - xf(y)$$

for any real numbers x and y . If $f(0) = 3$, determine $f(2016) - f(2013)$.

Answer: $\boxed{6048}$.

Solution: Substituting $(x, y) = (2016, 0)$ and $f(0) = 3$ yields $f(2013) = f(2016) - 6048$. Rearranging gives the answer.

3. In the figure on the right, AB is tangent to the circle at point A , BC passes through the center of the circle, and CD is a chord of the circle that is parallel to AB . If $AB = 6$ and $BC = 12$, what is the length of CD ?

Answer: $\boxed{\frac{36}{5}}$.

Solution: Let the line AO intersect CD at E . If the radius of the circle is r , then by power of a point on B , we have $6^2 = 12(12 - 2r)$, giving us $r = \frac{9}{2}$. Notice that $\triangle COE \sim \triangle BOA$, and thus

$$\frac{CE}{r} = \frac{CE}{CO} = \frac{AB}{BO} = \frac{6}{12 - r}.$$

Solving gives us $CE = \frac{18}{5}$. Finally, as $OE \perp CD$, E is the midpoint of CD . Thus $CD = \frac{36}{5}$.

4. Suppose that S_k is the sum of the first k terms of an arithmetic sequence with common difference 3. If the value of $\frac{S_{3n}}{S_n}$ does not depend on n , what is the 100th term of the sequence?

Answer: $\boxed{\frac{597}{2}}$.

Solution: Let a be the first term of the sequence. Setting the ratio when $n = 1$ equal to the ratio when $n = 3$ gives us

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{S_3}{S_1} &= \frac{S_9}{S_3} \\ S_3^2 &= S_1 \cdot S_9 \\ (3a + 9)^2 &= (a)(9a + 108) \\ 9a^2 + 54a + 81 &= 9a^2 + 108a \\ a &= \frac{3}{2}\end{aligned}$$

The 100th term is $\frac{3}{2} + 99(3) = \frac{597}{2}$.

5. In parallelogram $ABCD$, $AB = 1$, $BC = 4$, and $\angle ABC = 60^\circ$. Suppose that AC is extended from A to a point E beyond C so that ADE has the same area as the parallelogram. Find the length of DE .

Answer: $\boxed{2\sqrt{3}}$.

Solution: Note that the area of the parallelogram is twice the area of ACD . Thus the area of ADE must be twice ACD . However, they both have the same height from D to AC , so the base of ADE must be twice the length of the base of ACD . In other words, AE is twice AC , or $AC = CE$.

We use the law of cosines to calculate $AC = \sqrt{4^2 + 1^2 - 2(4)(1)(\cos 60^\circ)} = \sqrt{13}$. We use Apollonius's theorem on the triangle ADE to calculate $DE = 2\sqrt{3}$.

6. Find the exact value of $\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{5}\right) + \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{8}\right)$.

Answer: $\boxed{45^\circ}$

Solution: Substituting \tan^{-1} in the tangent angle sum formula yields

$$\tan(\alpha + \beta) = \frac{\tan \alpha + \tan \beta}{1 - \tan \alpha \tan \beta} \iff \tan^{-1}(A) + \tan^{-1}(B) = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{A + B}{1 - AB}\right).$$

The required sum is thus

$$\begin{aligned}\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{5}\right) + \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{8}\right) &= \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{5}}{1 - \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{5}}\right) + \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{8}\right) \\ &= \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{7}{9}\right) + \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{8}\right) \\ &= \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\frac{7}{9} + \frac{1}{8}}{1 - \frac{7}{9} \cdot \frac{1}{8}}\right) \\ &= \tan^{-1}(1) = 45^\circ.\end{aligned}$$

7. A small class of nine boys are to change their seating arrangement by drawing their new seat numbers from a box. After the seat change, what is the probability that there is only one pair of boys who have switched seats with each other and only three boys who have unchanged seats?

Answer: $\boxed{\frac{1}{48}}$.

Solution: There are two boys who have switched seats with each other, three boys with unchanged seats, and four boys who have changed seats, with no two of the four having switched. We count the number of ways for this to happen.

There are $\binom{9}{2}$ ways to pick two boys that switched seats. Of the remaining seven, there are $\binom{7}{3}$ boys who have unchanged seats. Finally, there are 6 permutations of $ABCD$ such that no letter is in its own place and no two have swapped:

$$BCDA, BDAC, CADB, CDBA, DABC, DCAB,$$

so there are 6 ways to permute the last four boys. The final answer is

$$\frac{\binom{9}{2} \binom{7}{3} \cdot 6}{9!} = \frac{1}{48}.$$

8. For each $x \in \mathbb{R}$, let $\{x\}$ be the fractional part of x in its decimal representation. For instance, $\{3.4\} = 3.4 - 3 = 0.4$, $\{2\} = 0$, and $\{-2.7\} = -2.7 - (-3) = 0.3$. Find the sum of all real numbers x for which $\{x\} = \frac{1}{5}x$.

Answer: $\boxed{\frac{15}{2}}$.

Solution: Rewriting $x = [x] + \{x\}$ and rearranging the terms yields $4\{x\} = [x]$. Since $[x]$ is an integer, $\{x\} = \frac{n}{4}$ for some value of n . Letting $n = 0, 1, 2, 3$ gives the values $x = 0, \frac{5}{4}, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{15}{4}$, with sum $\frac{15}{2}$.

9. Find the integer which is closest to the value of $\frac{1}{\sqrt[6]{5^6+1} - \sqrt[6]{5^6-1}}$

Answer: $\boxed{9375}$.

Solution: We manipulate $(5^6+1) - (5^6-1)$ by factoring it as the difference of two squares, and again as the difference of two cubes:

$$\begin{aligned} 2 &= (5^6+1) - (5^6-1) \\ 2 &= (\sqrt{5^6+1} - \sqrt{5^6-1})(\sqrt{5^6+1} + \sqrt{5^6-1}) \\ 2 &= (\sqrt[6]{5^6+1} - \sqrt[6]{5^6-1})(\sqrt[3]{5^6+1} + \sqrt[6]{(5^6+1)(5^6-1)} + \sqrt[3]{5^6-1})(\sqrt{5^6+1} + \sqrt{5^6-1}) \\ 2 &\approx (\sqrt[6]{5^6+1} - \sqrt[6]{5^6-1})(\sqrt[3]{5^6} + \sqrt[6]{5^{12}} + \sqrt[3]{5^6})(\sqrt{5^6} + \sqrt{5^6}) \\ 2 &\approx (\sqrt[6]{5^6+1} - \sqrt[6]{5^6-1})(5^2 + 5^2 + 5^2)(5^3 + 5^3) \\ 2 &\approx (\sqrt[6]{5^6+1} - \sqrt[6]{5^6-1})(18750) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\frac{1}{\sqrt[6]{5^6+1} - \sqrt[6]{5^6-1}} \approx 9375$.

Remark: The actual value, correct to six decimal places, is 9374.999990. Our estimate is very close as $\sqrt{x+1} - \sqrt{x} \approx \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$ for large x , so dropping the ± 1 makes a negligible difference.

10. A line intersects the y -axis, the line $y = 2x + 2$, and the x -axis at the points A, B , and C , respectively. If segment AC has a length of $4\sqrt{2}$ units and B lies in the first quadrant and is the midpoint of segment AC , find the equation of the line in slope-intercept form.

Answer: $y = -7x + \frac{28}{5}$.

Solution: Let O be the origin, and B have coordinates $(x, 2x + 2)$. Then B is the circumcenter of right triangle AOC , and thus $BA = BC = BO$. Since AC has a length of $4\sqrt{2}$ units, it follows BO must be half that length, $2\sqrt{2}$ units.

Since $B = (x, 2x + 2)$, its distance to the origin must be $\sqrt{x^2 + (2x + 2)^2}$. Setting this equal to $2\sqrt{2}$ and discarding the negative case gives us $x = \frac{2}{5}$, so $B = (\frac{2}{5}, \frac{14}{5})$. As the x -coordinate of B is halfway through O and C , the coordinates of C must be $(\frac{4}{5}, 0)$. Finally, line BC is $y = -7x + \frac{28}{5}$.

11. How many real numbers x satisfy the equation

$$\left(|x^2 - 12x + 20|^{\log x^2}\right)^{-1 + \log x} = |x^2 - 12x + 20|^{1 + \log(1/x)}?$$

Answer: $\boxed{6}$.

Solution: Note that $a^b = a^c$ has several cases. We list each one of them and count the number of real x . Our base is $|x^2 - 12x + 20|$, the left exponent is $(\log x^2)(-1 + \log x)$ and the right exponent is $1 + \log(1/x)$.

- $a = -1, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$. Not possible, as the base is always positive.
- $a < 0, b = c \in \mathbb{Z}$. Not possible, as the base is always positive.
- $a = 0, b, c > 0$. The base is 0 when $x = 3$ or $x = 4$. In either case, the left exponent will be negative, so we have no solutions.
- $a > 0, b = c$. The base is greater than 0 provided that $x \neq 3, 4$. Setting the exponents equal and simplifying gives us $x = 10, \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}}$, giving two solutions.
- $a = 1$. The base is 1 for four real numbers, the solutions to $x^2 - 12x + 20 = \pm 1$. This gives four solutions, none of which are the same as the previous case's solutions.

In total, we have six real solutions, and all of them are distinct.

Remark. We use the convention that this is the common logarithm. If this is the natural logarithm, the answer would be different.

12. Let $n = 2^{23}3^{17}$. How many factors of n^2 are less than n , but do not divide n ?

Answer: $\boxed{391}$.

Solution: We solve the more general case of $n = p^a q^b$ for distinct primes p, q and positive integers a, b . Then $n^2 = p^{2a} q^{2b}$, which has $(2a + 1)(2b + 1)$ factors. For each factor less than n , there is a corresponding factor greater than n . Not counting n , there are

$$\frac{(2a + 1)(2b + 1) - 1}{2} = 2ab + a + b$$

factors of n^2 less than n . Because n has $(a + 1)(b + 1)$ factors, including n itself, and because every factor of n is also a factor of n^2 , there are

$$2ab + a + b - ((a + 1)(b + 1) - 1) = ab$$

factors of n^2 that are less than n but do not divide n . The answer is $23 \times 17 = 391$.

13. A circle is inscribed in a 2 by 2 square. Four squares are placed on the corners (the spaces between circle and square), in such a way that one side of the square is tangent to the circle, and two of the vertices lie on the sides of the larger square. Find the total area of the four smaller squares.

Answer: $\boxed{\frac{48 - 32\sqrt{2}}{9}}$.

Solution: Suppose the side of a smaller square is s . Let O be the center of the circle, P be the point of tangency of the circle and one of the smaller squares, Q be the midpoint of the side of the smaller square opposite the side containing P , and R be the vertex of the larger square closest to Q .

Note that OR is half the diagonal of the larger square and has length $\sqrt{2}$. Note that OP is a radius and has length 1. PQ is as long as a side of the smaller square and has length s . QR is one leg of an isosceles right triangle, and the other leg has length $\frac{s}{2}$. We then have $\sqrt{2} = 1 + s + \frac{s}{2}$. Thus $s = \frac{2\sqrt{2}-1}{3}$, and $4s^2 = \frac{48-32\sqrt{2}}{9}$.

14. Define $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ by $f(x, y) = (2x - y, x + 2y)$. Let $f^0(x, y) = (x, y)$ and, for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $f^n(x, y) = f(f^{n-1}(x, y))$. Determine the distance between $f^{2016}\left(\frac{4}{5}, \frac{3}{5}\right)$ and the origin.

Answer: $\boxed{5^{1008}}$.

Solution: Note that, as $f : (x, y) \rightarrow (2x - y, x + 2y)$, the distance to the origin is changed from $\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ to

$$\sqrt{(2x - y)^2 + (x + 2y)^2} = \sqrt{4x^2 - 4xy + y^2 + x^2 + 4xy + 4y^2} = \sqrt{5x^2 + 5y^2}.$$

In other words, the distance is multiplied by $\sqrt{5}$ when we apply f . Since f is applied 2016 times, and the original distance to the origin is $\sqrt{\left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^2} = 1$, the answer is $(1)(\sqrt{5})^{2016} = 5^{1008}$.

15. How many numbers between 1 and 2016 are divisible by exactly one of 4, 6, or 10?

Answer: $\boxed{470}$.

Solution: By the Principle of Inclusion-Exclusion, the answer is

$$\left\lfloor \frac{2016}{4} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{2016}{6} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{2016}{10} \right\rfloor - 2 \left\lfloor \frac{2016}{12} \right\rfloor - 2 \left\lfloor \frac{2016}{20} \right\rfloor - 2 \left\lfloor \frac{2016}{30} \right\rfloor + 3 \left\lfloor \frac{2016}{60} \right\rfloor = 470.$$

16. Let N be a natural number whose base-2016 representation is ABC . Working now in base-10, what is the remainder when $N - (A + B + C + k)$ is divided by 2015, if $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, 2015\}$?

Answer: $\boxed{2015 - k}$.

Solution: In base 10, $N = A \cdot 2016^2 + B \cdot 2016 + C$. Then $N - (A + B + C + k) = A(2016^2 - 1) + B(2016 - 1) - k$. But 2015 divides $A(2016^2 - 1)$ and $B(2016 - 1)$ without remainder, so the remainder must be $2015 - k$.

17. Find the number of pairs of positive integers (n, k) that satisfy the equation $(n + 1)^k - 1 = n!$.

Answer: $\boxed{3}$.

Solution: Rearrange the equation as $(n + 1)^k = n! + 1$. When $n = 1$, we have $k = 1$. Assume $n > 1$, then the right hand side is odd, so $n + 1$ has to be odd as well.

Let p be an odd prime dividing $n + 1$. If $p < n + 1$, then p is a factor of $n!$, and thus the right side is not divisible by p , contradiction. Thus $p = n + 1$, so $n + 1$ has to be an odd prime.

Substituting yields $p^k - 1 = (p - 1)!$. We see that $p = 3$ gives $k = 1$, so assume $p > 3$. We take ν_2 of both sides, then evaluate the left side using the lifting the exponent lemma, and the right side with Legendre's formula:

$$\nu_2(p - 1) + \nu_2(p + 1) + \nu_2(k) - 1 = \nu_2((p - 1)!) = \nu_2(p^k - 1) = \left\lfloor \frac{p - 1}{2} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{p - 1}{4} \right\rfloor + \dots \geq \frac{3(p - 1)}{4}$$

We then raise the leftmost and rightmost sides of this inequality to the base 2, which after rearranging gives us the estimation

$$k \geq \frac{2^{(3p+1)/4}}{p + 1}$$

which is at least p for $p > 8$. It remains to check $p = 5$, which gives $k = 2$, and $p = 7$, which does not have a solution k . Thus there are three solutions.

Remark: This problem is in literature; it is equivalent to a problem in Amir Parvardi's handout on the lifting the exponent lemma.

18. A railway passes through four towns A, B, C , and D . The railway forms a complete loop, as shown on the right, and trains go in both directions. Suppose that a trip between two adjacent towns costs one ticket. Using exactly eight tickets, how many distinct ways are there of travelling from town A and ending at town A ? (Note that passing through A somewhere in the middle of the trip is allowed.)

Answer: $\boxed{128}$.

Solution: Represent a clockwise turn as R and a counterclockwise turn as L . Then note that any eight turns with an even number of R s will necessarily end up at A . The answer is the number of permutations of eight R s, plus the number of permutations of six R s and two L s, and so on. This is

$$\binom{8}{0} + \binom{8}{2} + \binom{8}{4} + \binom{8}{6} + \binom{8}{8} = 2^{8-1} = 128.$$

19. The lengths of the two legs of a right triangle are in the ratio of $7 : 24$. The distance between its incenter and its circumcenter is 1. Find its area. (*Recall that the **incenter** of a triangle is the center of its inscribed circle and the **circumcenter** is the center of its circumscribing circle.*)

Answer: $\boxed{\frac{336}{325}}$.

Solution 1: We use the identity $OI^2 = R^2 - 2Rr$. Let the triangle have sides $7k, 24k, 25k$. Then the circumradius is half the circumference, so $R = \frac{25}{2}k$. It is well-known for a right triangle that $r = \frac{a+b-c}{2} = 3k$. We have $1 = (\frac{25}{2}k)^2 - 2(\frac{25}{2}k)(3k)$, or $k^2 = \frac{4}{325}$. The area is $84k^2 = \frac{336}{325}$.

Solution 2: We begin with a right triangle ABC of sides $AB = 7, BC = 24, CA = 25$, with incenter I and circumcenter O . and scale the distance between the incenter and the circumcenter afterward.

Let AI meet BC at point D . By the angle bisector theorem, $BD = \frac{7}{7+25} \cdot 24 = \frac{21}{4}$. By the Pythagorean theorem, $AD = \frac{\sqrt{805}}{4}$. Finally, note that $\frac{AI}{AD} = \frac{24}{7+25}$, so $AI = \frac{3\sqrt{805}}{16}$. Through a similar computation, we see $CI = \frac{48\sqrt{2}}{49}$.

Finally, note that O is the midpoint of AC . We use Apollonius's theorem to calculate the length of the median IO in triangle AIC as $\frac{5\sqrt{13}}{2}$. Now we scale down from the area $[ABC] = 84$ by $\frac{1}{IO^2}$, giving $\frac{336}{325}$.

20. Let $\lfloor x \rfloor$ be the greatest integer not exceeding x . For instance, $\lfloor 3.4 \rfloor = 3$, $\lfloor 2 \rfloor = 2$, and $\lfloor -2.7 \rfloor = -3$. Determine the value of the constant $\lambda > 0$ so that $2 \lfloor \lambda n \rfloor = 1 - n + \lfloor \lambda \lfloor \lambda n \rfloor \rfloor$ for all positive integers n .

Answer: $\boxed{\sqrt{2} + 1}$.

Solution: As n grows without bound, $\lfloor \lambda n \rfloor$ approaches λn . Taking the limit of both sides as n grows yields $2\lambda n = 1 - n + \lambda^2 n$, or $(1 + 2\lambda - \lambda^2)n = 1$. As n approaches infinity, $1 + 2\lambda - \lambda^2$ must approach zero. Then λ approaches $1 \pm \sqrt{2}$, but we discard the negative case.

To show $\lambda = \sqrt{2} + 1$ works, substitute back to the equation:

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \lfloor n\sqrt{2} + n \rfloor &= 1 - n + \lfloor (\sqrt{2} + 1) \lfloor n\sqrt{2} + n \rfloor \rfloor \\ 2 \lfloor n\sqrt{2} \rfloor + 2n &= 1 - n + \lfloor (\sqrt{2} + 1) (\lfloor n\sqrt{2} \rfloor + n) \rfloor \\ 2 \lfloor n\sqrt{2} \rfloor + 2n &= 1 - n + \lfloor \sqrt{2} \lfloor n\sqrt{2} \rfloor \rfloor + \lfloor n\sqrt{2} \rfloor + n\sqrt{2} + n \\ 2 \lfloor n\sqrt{2} \rfloor + 2n &= 1 - n + \lfloor \sqrt{2} \lfloor n\sqrt{2} \rfloor \rfloor + \lfloor n\sqrt{2} \rfloor + \lfloor n\sqrt{2} \rfloor + n \\ 2n &= 1 + \lfloor \sqrt{2} \lfloor n\sqrt{2} \rfloor \rfloor, \end{aligned}$$

which is clearly true for integral n . Thus $\lambda = \sqrt{2} + 1$ is the unique solution.

PART II. Show your solution to each problem. Each complete and correct answer is worth ten points.

1. Let x and y be real numbers that satisfy the following system of equations:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{x}{x^2y^2 - 1} - \frac{1}{x} = 4 \\ \frac{x^2y}{x^2y^2 - 1} + y = 2 \end{cases}$$

Find all possible values of the product xy .

Answer: $\boxed{\pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}}$.

Solution: Note that neither x nor y can equal 0. Multiplying the first equation by xy and subtracting from the second equation yields $2y = 2 - 4xy$, or $y = \frac{1}{2x+1}$. Substituting in the first equation and simplifying, we see that $x = -1 \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$. Since $y = \frac{1}{2x+1}$, we see $y = \frac{1}{-1 \pm \sqrt{2}}$. Then multiplying x and y yields $xy = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$.

2. (Iranian Geometry Olympiad 2015/Medium/2) Let BH be the altitude from the vertex B to the side AC of an acute-angled triangle ABC . Let D and E be the midpoints of AB and AC , respectively, and F the reflection of H across the line segment ED . Prove that the line BF passes through the circumcenter of $\triangle ABC$.

Proof: Let O be the circumcenter of triangle ABC . In right triangle AHB , D is the midpoint of hypotenuse AB , which means $DA = DB = DH$. Due to reflection, we have $DH = DF$. Thus D is of equal distance to the points A, B, F , and H , implying quadrilateral $ABFH$ is cyclic.

Since $DA = DH$, we have $\angle DAH = \angle DHA$. However,

$$\angle DFE = \angle DHE = \angle 180^\circ - \angle DHA = 180^\circ - \angle DAH,$$

so quadrilateral $ADFE$ is cyclic. Note that since O is the circumcenter, $\angle ADO = \angle AEO = 90^\circ$, thus $ADOE$ is cyclic. This means $ADFOE$ is a cyclic pentagon.

From cyclic quadrilateral $ABFH$ we have $\angle AFB = \angle AHB = 90^\circ$. From cyclic pentagon $ADFOE$ we have $\angle AFO = \angle ADO = 90^\circ$. Thus $\angle AFB + \angle AFO = 90^\circ + 90^\circ = 180^\circ$, so B, F , and O are collinear.

3. A function $g : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ satisfies the following:

- (a) If m is a proper divisor of n , then $g(m) < g(n)$.
- (b) If m and n are relatively prime and greater than 1, then

$$g(mn) = g(m)g(n) + (n+1)g(m) + (m+1)g(n) + m + n.$$

Find the least possible value of $g(2016)$.

Answer: 3053.

Solution: Define $f(x) = g(x) + x + 1$. Rearranging the second condition gives us

$$\begin{aligned} g(mn) &= g(m)g(n) + (n+1)g(m) + (m+1)g(n) + m + n \\ g(mn) + mn + 1 &= g(m)g(n) + ng(m) + g(m) + mg(n) + g(n) + m + n + mn + 1 \\ g(mn) + mn + 1 &= g(m)(g(n) + n + 1) + m(g(n) + n + 1) + (g(n) + n + 1) \\ g(mn) + mn + 1 &= (g(m) + m + 1)(g(n) + n + 1) \\ f(mn) &= f(m)f(n), \end{aligned}$$

for relatively prime m, n . Since f is a multiplicative function, we only need to consider prime powers. Let p be a prime. For a natural number e , we have

$$1 \leq g(1) < g(p) < g(p^2) < \cdots < g(p^e),$$

thus $g(p^e) \geq e + 1$, and $f(p^e) \geq p^e + e + 2$. Thus, applying multiplicativity, for distinct primes p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k and natural numbers e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k :

$$f(p_1^{e_1} p_2^{e_2} \cdots p_k^{e_k}) \geq (p_1^{e_1} + e_1 + 2)(p_2^{e_2} + e_2 + 2) \cdots (p_k^{e_k} + e_k + 2).$$

Thus,

$$f(2016) \geq (2^5 + 5 + 2)(3^2 + 2 + 2)(7^1 + 1 + 2) = 5070,$$

so $g(2016) \geq 5070 - 2016 - 1 = 3053$. Equality is achievable by setting f as the equality case in the above inequality.