

# ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

**SP.535 Determine all the numbers  $\overline{abcd}$  such that:**

$$1 + a + b + c + a \cdot b + b \cdot c + c \cdot a = a \cdot b \cdot c \cdot d$$

*Proposed by Neculai Stanciu, Titu Zvonaru – Romania*

**Solution 1 by proposers, Solution 2 by Marin Chirciu – Romania**

**Solution 1 by proposers**

$$dabc - ab - bc - ac - a - b = c + 1 \Leftrightarrow (dc - 1)ab - (c + 1)a - (c + 1)b = c + 1 \quad (1)$$

If  $dc = 1$ , then  $d = c = 1$  so (1) doesn't solutions. Multiply (1) with  $dc - 1$ , then  
 $(dc - 1)^2 ab - (dc - 1)(c + 1)a - (dc - 1)(c + 1)b = (dc - 1)(c + 1) \Leftrightarrow$   
 $\Leftrightarrow [(dc - 1)a - (c + 1)][(dc - 1)b - (c + 1)] = (c + 1)^2 + (dc - 1)(c + 1) \Leftrightarrow$   
 $\Leftrightarrow [(dc - 1)a - (c + 1)][(dc - 1)b - (c + 1)] = (d + 1)c(c + 1) \quad (*)$

WLOG we can assume that  $a \geq b \geq c$ . Then

$$(dc - 1)a - (c + 1) \geq dc^2 - 2c - 1, (dc - 1)b - (c + 1) \geq dc^2 - 2c - 1$$

We have the cases:

1. If  $d \geq 3$ , then  $dc^2 - 2c - 1 \geq 3c^2 - 2c - 1 = (c - 1)(3c + 1) \geq 0$  and by (\*) yields  
 $(d + 1)c(c + 1) = [(dc - 1)a - (c + 1)][(dc - 1)b - (c + 1)] \geq (dc^2 - 2c - 1)^2 \Leftrightarrow$   
 $\Leftrightarrow d^2c^4 + 4c^2 + 1 - 4dc^3 - 2dc^2 + 4c - (d + 1)c^2 - (d + 1)c \leq 0 \Leftrightarrow$   
 $\Leftrightarrow d^2c^4 - 4dc^3 - 3(d - 1)c^2 - (d - 1)c + 1 \leq 0 \quad (2)$

If  $d \geq 8$ , then

$$d^2c^4 - 4dc^3 - 3(d - 1)c^2 - (d - 3)c + 1 \geq 8dc^4 - 4dc^3 - 3dc^2 - dc + 3c^2 + 3c + 1 =$$

$$= 4dc^3(c - 1) + 3dc^2(c^2 - 1) + dc(c^3 - 1) + 3c^2 + 3c + 1 > 0 \text{ so (2) is false..}$$

1.1  $d = 7P$ : (2) becomes  $49c^4 - 28c^3 - 18c^2 - 4c + 1 \leq 0 \Leftrightarrow$

$$\Leftrightarrow (c - 1)(49c^3 + 21c^2 + 3c - 1) \leq 0 \text{ and because}$$

$$49c^3 + 21c^2 + 3c - 1 > 0, \text{ we have } c = 1; (*) \text{ becomes}$$

$$(6a - 2)(6b - 2) + 16 \Leftrightarrow (3a - 1)(3b - 1) = 4 \text{ and we obtain } a = b = c = 1.$$

1.2.  $d = 6$ : (2) becomes  $36c^4 - 24c^3 - 15c^2 - 3c + 1 \leq 0$

$$\text{For } c \geq 2: 36c^4 - 24c^3 - 15c^2 - 3c + 1 \geq 72c^3 - 24c^3 - 15c^2 - 3c + 1 =$$

$$= 48c^3 - 15c^2 - 3c + 1 = 30c^3 + 15c^2(c - 1) + 3c(c^2 - 1) + 1 > 0 \text{ and results}$$

$$c = 1; (*) \text{ becomes } (5a - 2)(5b - 2) = 12 \text{ and we not obtain solutions.}$$

1.3.  $d = 5$ : (2) becomes  $25c^4 - 20c^3 - 12c^2 - 2c + 1 \leq 0$

$$\text{For } c \geq 2 \text{ we have } 25c^4 - 20c^3 - 12c^2 - 2c + 1 \geq 50c^3 - 20c^3 - 12c^2 - 2c + 1 =$$

$$= 30c^3 - 12c^2 - 2c + 1 = 16c^3 + 12c^2(c - 1) + 2c(c^2 - 1) + 1 > 0, \text{ so}$$

$$c = 1; (*) \text{ becomes}$$

$$(4a - 2)(4b - 2) = 12 \Leftrightarrow (2a - 1)(2b - 1) = 3 \text{ and we obtain the solution}$$

$$a = 2, b = 1, c = 1$$

1.4.  $d = 4$ : (2) becomes  $16c^4 - 16c^3 - 9c^2 - c + 1 \leq 0$ . For  $c \geq 2$  we have

$$16c^4 - 16c^3 - 9c^2 - c + 1 \leq 32c^3 - 16c^3 - 9c^2 - c + 1 =$$

$$= 16c^3 - 9c^2 - c + 1 = 6c^3 + 9c^2(c - 1) + c(c^2 - 1) + 1 > 0 \text{ and } c = 1; (*) \text{ becomes}$$

$$(3a - 2)(3b - 2) = 10 \text{ and we obtain solution } a = 4, b = 1, c = 1.$$

1.5  $d = 3$ : (2) becomes  $9c^4 - 12c^3 - 6c^2 + 1 \leq 0$ . For  $c \geq 2$  we have

# ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

$9c^4 - 12c^3 - 6c^2 + 1 \geq 18c^3 - 12c^3 - 6c^2 + 1 = 6c^3 - 6c^2 + 1 = 6c^2(c - 1) + 1 > 0$  so  $c = 1$ ; (\*) becomes  $(2a - 2)(2b - 2) = 8 \Leftrightarrow (a - 1)(b - 1) = 2$  and we obtain

$$a = 3, b = 2, c = 1.$$

$$2. d = 2$$

2.1. For  $c = 1$ , (\*) is  $(a - 2)(b - 2) = 6$  and we obtain the solutions  $a = 8, b = 3, c = 1$  and  $a = 5, b = 4, c = 1$ .

2.2. For  $c \geq 2$ ,  $2c^2 - 2c - 1 \geq 4c - 2c - 1 = 2c - 1 > 0$  and (2) is true, i.e.

$$4c^4 - 8c^3 - 6c^2 + c + 1 \leq 0. \text{ But } c \geq 3 \text{ so,}$$

$$4c^4 - 8c^3 - 6c^2 + c + 1 \geq 12c^3 - 8c^3 - 6c^2 + c + 1 = 4c^3 - 6c^2 + c + 1 = 2c^3 + 2c^2(c - 3) + c + 1 > 0, \text{ so } c = 2; (*) \text{ becomes}$$

$$(3a - 3)(3b - 3) = 18 \Leftrightarrow (a - 1)(b - 1) = 2, \text{ hence } a = 3, b = 2, c = 2.$$

3.  $d = 1$ . Since  $c \neq 1$ , we have:

3.1. For  $c = 2$ , (\*) becomes  $(a - 3)(b - 3) = 12$  and we obtain

$$(a = 15, b = 4, c = 2), (a = 9, b = 5, c = 2) \text{ and } (a = 7, b = 6, c = 2).$$

3.2 For  $c = 3$ , (\*) becomes  $(2a - 4)(2b - 4) = 24 \Leftrightarrow (a - 2)(b - 2) = 6$  and we obtain

$$(a = 8, b = 3, c = 3) \text{ and } (a = 5, b = 4, c = 3).$$

3.3. For  $c \geq 4$  we have  $c^2 - 2c - 1 \geq 4c - 2c - 1 = 2c - 1 > 0$  so (2), i.e.

$$c^4 - 4c^3 + 2c + 1 \leq 0, \text{ true}$$

$$c^4 - 4c^3 + 2c + 1 = c^4(c - 4) + 2c + 1 > 0, \text{ we not obtain solutions.}$$

In conclusion,

$a$	$b$	$c$	$d$
1	1	1	7
2	1	1	5
4	1	1	4
3	2	1	2
5	4	1	2
8	3	1	2
3	2	2	2
15	4	2	1
9	5	2	1
7	6	2	1
8	3	3	1
5	4	3	1

Hence  $\overline{abcd} \in \{1117, 2115, 3213, 3222, 4114, 5412, 5431, 7621, 8312, 8331, 9521\}$

### Solution 2 by Marin Chirciu – Romania

Necessarily  $a, b, c, d$  are non-zero digits.

For  $a = 1 \Rightarrow 2 + 2b + 2c + bc = bcd \Leftrightarrow 2(1 + b + c) = bc(d - 1)$ ;

For  $b = 1$  agreed  $c = 1, 2, 4 \Rightarrow d = 7, 5, 4$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 1117, 1125, 1144$ .

For  $b = 2$  agreed  $c = 1, 3 \Rightarrow d = 5, 3$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 1215, 1233$ .

For  $b = 3$  agreed  $c = 2, 8 \Rightarrow d = 3, 2$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 1323, 1382$ .

For  $b = 4$  agreed  $c = 1, 5 \Rightarrow d = 4, 2$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 1414, 1452$ .

# ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

For  $b = 5$  agreed  $c = 4 \Rightarrow d = 2$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 1542$ .

For  $b = 6, 7$  we don't have solutions.

For  $b = 8$  agreed  $c = 3 \Rightarrow d = 2$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 1832$ .

For  $b = 9$  we don't have solutions.

For  $a = 2 \Rightarrow 3 + 3b + 3c + bc = 2bcd \Leftrightarrow 3(1 + b + c) = bc(2d - 1)$ ;

For  $b = 1$  agreed  $c = 1, 3 \Rightarrow d = 5, 3$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 2115, 2133$ .

For  $b = 2$  agreed  $c = 3 \Rightarrow d = 2$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 2232$ .

For  $b = 3$  agreed  $c = 1, 2 \Rightarrow d = 3, 2$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 2313, 2322$ .

For  $b = 4$  we don't have solutions.

For  $b = 5$  agreed  $c = 9 \Rightarrow d = 1$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 2591$ .

For  $b = 6$  agreed  $c = 7 \Rightarrow d = 1$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 2671$ .

For  $b = 7, 8$  we don't have solutions.

For  $b = 9$  agreed  $c = 5 \Rightarrow d = 2$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 2951$ .

For  $a = 3 \Rightarrow 4 + 4b + 4c + bc = 3bcd \Leftrightarrow 4(1 + b + c) = bc(3d - 1)$ ;

For  $b = 1$  agreed  $c = 2, 8 \Rightarrow d = 3, 2$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 3123, 3182$ .

For  $b = 2$  agreed  $c = 1, 2 \Rightarrow d = 3, 2$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 3213, 3222$ .

For  $b = 3$  agreed  $c = 8 \Rightarrow d = 1$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 3381$ .

For  $b = 4$  agreed  $c = 5 \Rightarrow d = 1$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 3451$ .

For  $b = 5$  agreed  $c = 4 \Rightarrow d = 1$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 3541$ .

For  $b = 6, 7, 8, 9$  we don't have solutions.

For  $a = 4 \Rightarrow 5 + 5b + 5c + bc = 4bcd \Leftrightarrow 5(1 + b + c) = bc(4d - 1)$ ;

For  $b = 1$  agreed  $c = 1, 5 \Rightarrow d = 4, 2$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 4114, 4152$ .

For  $b = 2$  we don't have solutions.

For  $b = 3$  agreed  $c = 5 \Rightarrow d = 1$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 4351$ .

For  $b = 4$  we don't have solutions.

For  $b = 5$  agreed  $c = 1, 3 \Rightarrow d = 2, 1$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 4512, 4531$ .

For  $b = 6, 7, 8, 9$  we don't have solutions.

For  $a = 5 \Rightarrow 6 + 6b + 6c + bc = 5bcd \Leftrightarrow 6(1 + b + c) = bc(5d - 1)$ ;

For  $b = 1$  agreed  $c = 4 \Rightarrow d = 2$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 5142$ .

For  $b = 2, 3$  we don't have solutions.

For  $b = 4$  agreed  $c = 1, 3 \Rightarrow d = 2, 1$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 5412, 5431$ .

For  $b = 5, 6, 7, 8, 9$  we don't have solutions.

For  $a = 6 \Rightarrow 7 + 7b + 7c + bc = 6bcd \Leftrightarrow 7(1 + b + c) = bc(6d - 1)$ ;

For  $b = 1$  we don't have solutions.

For  $b = 2$  agreed  $c = 7 \Rightarrow d = 1$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 6271$ .

For  $b = 3, 4, 5, 6$  we don't have solutions.

For  $b = 7$  agreed  $c = 2 \Rightarrow d = 1$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 6721$ .

For  $b = 8, 9$  we don't have solutions.

For  $a = 7 \Rightarrow 8 + 8b + 8c + bc = 7bcd \Leftrightarrow 8(1 + b + c) = bc(7d - 1)$ ;

For  $b = 1$  we don't have solutions.

For  $b = 2$  agreed  $c = 6 \Rightarrow d = 1$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 7261$ .

# ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

For  $b = 3, 4, 5$  we don't have solutions.

For  $b = 6$  agreed  $c = 2 \Rightarrow d = 1$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 7621$ .

For  $b = 7, 8, 9$  we don't have solutions.

For  $a = 8 \Rightarrow 9 + 9b + 9c + bc = 8bcd \Leftrightarrow 9(1 + b + c) = bc(8d - 1)$ ;

For  $b = 1$  agreed  $c = 3 \Rightarrow d = 2$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 8132$ .

For  $b = 2$  we don't have solutions.

For  $b = 3$  agreed  $c = 1, 3 \Rightarrow d = 2, 1$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 8312, 8331$ .

For  $b = 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9$  we don't have solutions.

For  $a = 9 \Rightarrow 10 + 10b + 10c + bc = 9bcd \Leftrightarrow 10(1 + b + c) = bc(9d - 1)$ ;

For  $b = 1$  we don't have solutions.

For  $b = 2$  agreed  $c = 5 \Rightarrow d = 1$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 9251$ .

For  $b = 3, 4$  we don't have solutions.

For  $b = 5$  agreed  $c = 2 \Rightarrow d = 1$ . It follows  $\overline{abcd} = 9521$ .

For  $b = 6, 7, 8, 9$  we don't have solutions.

Finally, we deduce:

$\overline{abcd}$

= 1117, 1125, 1144, 1215, 1233, 1223, 1382, 1414, 1452, 1542, 1832, 2115, 2133, 2232, 2313, 2322, 2591, 2671, 2951, 3123, 3182, 3213, 3222, 3381, 3151, 3541, 4114, 4152, 4351, 4512, 4531, 5142, 5412, 5431, 6271, 6721, 7261, 7621, 8132, 8312, 8331, 9251, 9251