

# L'Augarithms



vol. 24.07

Visit us at <augsburg.edu/math/> We're in color

February 2, 2011

## Mathematics Colloquium Spring Lineup

Colloquia are typically held Wednesdays 3:40—4:40 in Oren 113. Highly sought-after refreshments are served.

Jan.	19	Infinite Secrets: The Genius of Archimedes
Feb.	→ 2	Ken Kaminsky, Augsburg College <sup>1</sup>
	16	Loren Larson, St. Olaf College, Carleton College
	23	Nancy Steblay, Augsburg College
Mar.	2	Jiang-Ping Chen, St. Cloud State
	23	Alicia Johnson, Macalester College
Apr.	6	Doug Dokken, University of St. Thomas
	20	Talks by Students

### <sup>1</sup>This week's speaker—Ken Kaminsky

#### Randomized Response

*Randomized Response* is a research method used in situations where an interviewer asks a respondent or a group of respondents a sensitive question. A random device is introduced so that the response is given in such a way that the confidentiality of the respondent(s) is protected.



Kenneth Kaminsky (in an undated photograph)

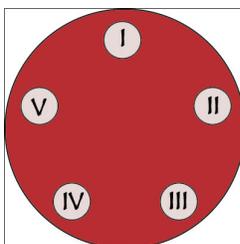
The first version of randomized response was introduced by Stanley Warner in 1965, and was later modified by Bernard Greenberg and others. The randomized response method permits respondent(s) to answer sensitive questions (about illicit behavior or sexuality issues, for example) without revealing their honest answer to the sensitive question. I will explain and illustrate the method.

Fine refreshments will be served.

## Bonus problem of the week (BPOTW)

Over at the locker room, I found a combination lock like the one below guarding entry to the room.

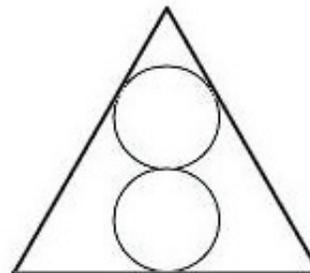
- If repeats are not allowed, how many three-digit combinations are possible?
- If repeats are allowed, how many three-digit combinations are possible?



## Problem of the week...

The POTW from vol. 24.06 was correctly solved by **Munawar Syed Hussain**. The POTW from v24.04 was solved by **Rebecca Seaberg**.

Here is the new POTW: What is the largest figure-eight that will stand inside an equilateral triangle of side length one? See the figure below.

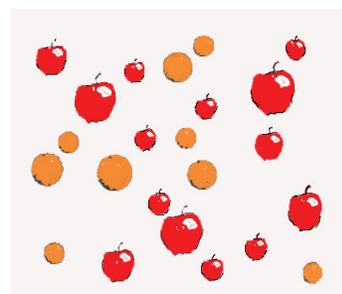


❖Reprinted with permission from Bradley U's old 'potw' page <<http://hilltop.bradley.edu/%7Edelgado/potw/potw.html>>

## Puzzle of the week...

Correct solutions of the PZOTW from v24.06 were received from **Nikki Stouffer** and **Eric Grindal**. **Rebecca Seaberg** solved the PZOTW from v24.04.

In the new PZOTW below, draw 3 straight lines that separate the apples from the oranges.



❖Submit puzzle & problem solutions to [kaminsky@augsborg.edu](mailto:kaminsky@augsborg.edu), or under Ken Kaminsky's door at SCI 137E, or in the puzzles and problems box just outside of Su's office.

## L'Augarithms

The approximately bi-weekly newsletter  
of the  
Department of Mathematics  
at Augsburg College  
Editor.....Kenneth Kaminsky  
<[kaminsky@augsborg.edu](mailto:kaminsky@augsborg.edu)>

## Best School Humor

This came under the heading: How to fail a test with dignity.

Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed?

*At the bottom.*

## Best Church Bulletin Humor

The following announcement appeared in a church bulletin, or was announced at a church service:

“Miss Charlene Mason sang “I will not pass this way again,” giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.”

## Science Humor

Dean, to the physics department. “Why do I always have to give you guys so much money, for laboratories and expensive equipment and stuff. Why couldn’t you be like the math department - all they need is money for pencils, paper and waste-paper baskets. Or better yet, like the philosophy department. All they need are pencils and paper.”

Advertisement

Advertisement



VPU your ticket to math tutoring on campus or on spring break

ValuPak University

**MathterCard**

3141 5926 5358 9793

Larry L. Learner

MathterCard

[GET STARTED NOW](#)

VPU MathterCard® From  
ValuPak University\*

- Earn 10,000 MathterCardRewards® bonus TutorMinutes® on joining
- Pay no interest ever because you pay for a lifetime membership on joining
- Your VPU MathterCard® is honored at 1,000s of MathterCardTutorBooths® around the world
- No blackout dates, ever
- Don't go on break without it

[Learn More](#)

\*void where prohibited

## News from around the department...

Augsburg mathematics professors presented at the National Mathematical Meetings in New Orleans, LA, January 6-9.

**Su Dorée** taught a workshop on “Getting mathematics majors to think outside the book: Course activities that promote exploration, discovery, conjecture, and proof” with colleagues from St. Olaf College and St. Peter’s College of NJ. She also gave a talk about our MAT 105 class titled “Not your mother’s college algebra course: rethinking how we prepare students for quantitative reasoning across the disciplines.”



**Jody Sorensen** presented her collaborative research with **John Zobitz** on “The Real Story of Edward Lorenz.”



**Matt Haines** presented his findings on “Examples of Early 1900 Secondary Mathematics.”

\* \* \* \* \*

**Pavel Bělík** received good news early this year about being recommended for tenure at Augsburg College. In December, he gave a presentation at the University of St. Thomas titled “A Multiscale Approach to Modeling the Behavior of Solid Materials”. He will also be presenting at the SIAM conference in Reno, NV in March, and at the 7th International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics in July.



\* \* \* \* \*

**Jody Sorensen** published an article in November’s *College Mathematics Journal*. The article, “Sprinkler Bifurcations and Stability,” was co-authored with Elyn Rykken of Muhlenberg College and grew out of work with undergraduates.

## Ambiguous letters of recommendation

To describe a person who is totally inept: “I most enthusiastically recommend this candidate with no qualifications whatsoever.”

To describe an ex-employee who had problems getting along with fellow workers: “I am pleased to say that this candidate is a former colleague of mine.”

To describe a candidate who is so unproductive that the job would be better left unfilled: “I can assure you that no person would be better for the job.”

To describe a job applicant who is not worth further consideration: “I would urge you to waste no time in making this candidate an offer of employment.”

To describe a person with lackluster credentials: “All in all, I cannot say enough good things about this candidate or recommend him too highly.”