

1. In your drawer you have two red socks and a blue sock. You randomly select socks, without replacement, from the drawer. However, every time you take a blue sock, another one magically appears in the drawer. What is the probability that you get a red pair before a blue pair?

**Answer:**  $\frac{11}{18}$

**Solution:** Note that at most 3 socks will be drawn. Based on this, there are three cases where a red pair is drawn before a blue pair.

- (a) Red Red: The probability of the first sock being red is  $\frac{2}{3}$ . After removing the red sock, the probability of the second sock being red is  $\frac{1}{2}$ .
- (b) Red Blue Red: The probability of the first sock being red is  $\frac{2}{3}$ . After removing the red sock, the probability of the second sock being blue is  $\frac{1}{2}$ . After replacing the blue sock, the probability of the third sock being red is  $\frac{1}{2}$ .
- (c) Blue Red Red: The probability of the first sock being blue is  $\frac{1}{3}$ . After replacing the blue sock, the probability of the second sock being red is  $\frac{2}{3}$ . After removing the red sock, the probability of the third sock being red is  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Adding the probabilities over these three cases, the probability that a red pair is drawn before a blue pair is equal to  $(\frac{2}{3})(\frac{1}{2}) + (\frac{2}{3})(\frac{1}{2})(\frac{1}{2}) + (\frac{1}{3})(\frac{2}{3})(\frac{1}{2}) = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{9} = \frac{11}{18}$ .

2. Suppose  $a, b, c$  are positive integers such that  $lcm(a, b) = 400$ ,  $lcm(b, c) = 2000$ ,  $lcm(c, a) = 1000$ , and  $gcf(a, b, c) = 10$ . Given that  $a$  is a three-digit number, what is the value of  $a + b + c$ ?

**Answer:** 530

**Solution:** Looking at the prime factorizations  $400 = 2^4 \cdot 5^2$ ,  $2000 = 2^4 \cdot 5^3$ ,  $1000 = 2^3 \cdot 5^3$ , consider the exponents of 2 in the prime factorizations of  $a, b, c$ . It follows that the exponent of  $b$  must be 4 and the exponents of  $a$  and  $c$  must be 1 and 3 in some order. Similarly for the exponents of 5, the exponent of  $c$  must be 3 and the exponents of  $a$  and  $b$  must be 1 and 2 in some order. In order for  $a$  to be a three-digit number,  $a$  must equal  $2^3 \cdot 5^2 = 200$ . Therefore,  $b$  must equal  $2^4 \cdot 5^1 = 80$  and  $c$  must equal  $2^1 \cdot 5^3 = 250$ . Since  $a = 200$ ,  $b = 80$ , and  $c = 250$ ,  $a + b + c = 530$ .

3. Consider a  $3 \times 3$  grid with the first 9 positive integers placed in the grid. Take the greatest integer in each row and let  $r$  be the smallest of those numbers. Take the smallest integer in each column and  $c$  be the greatest of those numbers. How many arrangements are there such that  $r \leq c \leq 4$ ?

**Answer:** 38880

**Solution:** We first note that  $r$  and  $c$  have minimum value 3. We proceed using casework. If  $r = c = 3$ , then we need to split 1,2,3 into different columns for  $c = 3$ . Then they necessarily need to be in the same row for  $r = 3$ . There are 9 places to choose where the 3 is, 2 more ways to arrange 1,2 in the row and  $6!$  ways to arrange the other numbers. Thus, there are  $9 \cdot 2 \cdot 6! = 720 \cdot 18 = 12960$  arrangements.

If  $r = 3, c = 4$ . Then again 1,2,3 need to be in the same row, forcing them to be in different columns. But we need 4 to be the smallest integer in some column, hence causing a problem. So, there are 0 arrangements.

Finally if  $r = 4, c = 4$ , we can choose 9 places for the 4 to be. Then we are forced to place two of the numbers 1,2,3 in the row, giving us 6 ordered ways. Then the final number can not be placed in the same column as the 4, hence there are 4 places to put it. Finally there are  $5!$  ways

to place the final numbers. So there are  $9 \cdot 6 \cdot 4 \cdot 5! = 25920$ .  
Thus there are  $12960 + 25920 = \boxed{38880}$  arrangements.