Intermediate Math Circles February 17, 2021

Computer Programs

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Computer Programs

A certain computer program is used to draw banners consisting of squares and triangles. The program makes use of the following five instructions:

Instruction	Meaning
S	Draw a large square
S	Draw a small square
Т	Draw a large triangle
t	Draw a small triangle
N[I]	Repeat the instructions, I, exactly N times



Computer Programs

For example, the program s 2[T t] S draws the following banner:





Reading Computer Programs

- 1. Given the program t 4[s] T 3[t S] draw the corresponding banner.
- 2. Given the program 2[2[s S] t T] draw the missing shapes in the following banner:





Writing Computer Programs

3. Create two different programs that will draw the following banner:



4. Given the incomplete program ?[2[?] t ?[s T ?]] complete the missing instructions in order to draw the following banner:



Fixing Computer Programs

5. Suppose you want to draw the following banner:



You create the program 2[S T t] 2[T S s] which incorrectly draws this banner:



What are the mistakes in your program?



Enhancing Computer Programs

A new instruction named if is now available to you. The instruction (a:b/c) means that if the previous shape drawn was a, then the next shape drawn will be b. If the previous shape drawn was not a, then the next shape drawn will be c.

For example, the program s (s:S/t) (t:T/s) draws the following banner:





Enhancing Computer Programs

6. For each program in parts (a) through (f), decide whether or not it will draw the following banner:



- (a) 2[T (t:T/t)]
- (b) T (T:t/s) (t:T/S)
- (c) T 2[(t:T/t)]
- (d) t (t:T/s) (s:S/t)
- (e) T (T:t/S) (S:s/T)
- (f) 3[(T:t/T)]

