Problem of the Week
Number Seven
October 20, 2014

Let's get right to it. Here is this week's problem:

In a certain population, 85% of the people do math, 80% of the people play chess, 75% of the people read mysteries, and 70% of the people own cats. What is the minimum percentage of the population that engages in all four activites?

Perhaps that's not, strictly speaking, a problem in arithmetic. It certainly has an arithmetic flavor, however, and that's good enough for me!

If percentages are not to your liking, here are two word puzzles for you to consider. Can you think of a common, seven-letter word that has three u's in it? How about a common word that contains the sequence of letters ADAC? I don't recommend thinking too hard about these questions, though, since it's not unusual for people to get a headache from them.

That should provide plenty of food for thought. When you have the answer to that percentage problem, follow the instructions below:

Solutions are due to Jason Rosenhouse by 5:00 on Friday, October 24. ***Solutions should be written on an official POTW handout, on the back of this page.*** *Place your name, e-mail address, and the section numbers and professors of any math courses you are taking, in the* ***upper right corner*** *of the front of the page. One weekly winner will receive a five-dollar gift card from Starbucks. Please make sure that the answer to the problem is displayed clearly and prominently, in a box when appropriate.* ***Keep in mind, however, that to be considered correct, your answer to the problem must be accompanied by a clear, concise explanation.*** *Problems are available at the bulletin board outside Roop 119, and also at the website:*

http://educ.jmu.edu/$\sim$rosenhjd/POTW/Fall14/homepage.html