

Cal Poly Department of Mathematics

Puzzle of the Week

Oct 1 - 7, 2010

From Tom O'Neil:

In an urn there are R red balls and B blue balls. As it turns out if two balls are drawn simultaneously (and randomly) the likelihood that they are the same color is 50%. We are told that there are more than 47 but less than 62 red balls. Determine the exact number of red balls, and the possible numbers of blue balls.

Solutions should be submitted to Morgan Sherman:

*Dept. of Mathematics, Cal Poly
Email: sherman1 -AT- calpoly.edu
Office: bldg 25 room 310*

before next Friday. Those with correct and complete solutions will have their names listed in next week's email announcement. Anybody is welcome to make a submission.

Solution:

The only possible value for R is 55, while B can be either 66 or 45. To see why see the solution to puzzle #043 (next week's)...