

## Solutions to the problems from 14.11.2025 (Senior Day)

**Problem 1.** Grandma bakes spherical doughnuts of radius R. Inside each doughnut, there is an empty spherical cavity of radius r. The doughnut content in a doughnut (the ratio of the volume occupied by dough to the total volume of the doughnut) is  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Find r as a function of R.

Author: Grzegorz Rudnicki

**Solution:** The volume of the empty cavity is  $\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$ , and the total volume is  $\frac{4}{3}\pi R^3$ . Thus, the volume of the outer doughnut part is  $\frac{4}{3}\pi (R^3 - r^3)$ . Since from the problem statement

$$\frac{\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3}{\frac{4}{3}\pi (R^3 - r^3)} = 1,$$

we know that

$$r^3 = R^3 - r^3.$$

This equation has one real solution; it is

$$r = \frac{\sqrt[3]{2}}{2}R.$$



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**Problem 2.** Grandma plans to serve coffee with milk. In the cupboard there are cups shaped like cones of height H. To what height h should the coffee be poured so that the coffee content in coffee (defined analogously to the doughnut content) equals  $\frac{1}{2}$ ?

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**Solution:** The coffee must fill half of the cup. Let S be the similarity scale factor between the cone filled with coffee and the whole cone. The ratio of their volumes is  $S^3$ . Since the volume of a cone is directly proportional to its height, we have Sh = H, which yields

$$h = \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{2}}H.$$