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One million dollars is waiting to be won by anyone who can solve one of the **grand mathematical challenges** of the 21st century. But be warned...these problems are hard. In the first of two articles, Chris Budd explains how to hit the bigtime.



#### Howzat!

Numbers are bandied around all the time in sports coverage – and **cricket** is particularly rich in statistics and rankings. It has probably not escaped your attention that the World Cup of cricket has just finished in South Africa (Australia won – again) and so to mark the occasion, Rob Eastaway tells *Plus* what it takes to be the best.



#### Through the looking-glass

Some molecules – thalidomide, for example – come in both left and right handed versions, while others are indistinguishable from their reflections. *Plus* finds out about the role of mathematical **symmetry in chemistry**.



Career interview: Defence analyst

## Plus Magazine

Helen is a defence analyst with the MoD, using her maths skills to help defend the nation. *Plus* finds out about her career path.



*Plus* is part of the family of activities in the Millennium Mathematics Project, which also includes the NRICH and MOTIVATE sites.