



## 2020 August Intermediate Contest

Saturday and Sunday, 8–9 August 2020

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**Problem 1.** For a positive integer  $n$ , let  $m_n$  be the number formed by writing the digits of  $n$  in ascending order, and  $M_n$  be the number formed by writing the digits in descending order. For example,  $m_{121} = 112$ ,  $m_{420} = 24$ ,  $M_{1337} = 7331$ .

Do there exist infinitely many positive integers  $n$  such that  $M_n - m_n = n$ ?

**Problem 2.** Let  $\mathbb{R}^+$  denote the set of positive real numbers. Find all functions  $f : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  such that for all  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}^+$  satisfying  $x + y + z = xyz$ ,

$$f(xy) + f(xz) + f(yz) = 3.$$

**Problem 3.** Let  $S_0$  be a set of 2020 real numbers. The sequence of sets  $S_0, S_1, \dots, S_n$  is called *culled* if for all  $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ ,

- $S_{i+1} \subset S_i$
- No element  $x \in S_i$  with  $x \notin S_{i+1}$  is closer to the average of all elements in  $S_i$  than any element in  $S_{i+1}$ .

An element  $b \in S_0$  is called *basic* if there exists a culled sequence of sets such that  $S_n = \{b\}$ . What is the least possible number of basic elements in  $S_0$ ?

**Problem 4.** Let  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  be two disjoint circles whose interiors do not intersect. Points  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are on  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  respectively such that  $X_1X_2$  is an internal common tangent to  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$ . The circle  $\Omega$  with diameter  $X_1X_2$  intersects  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  again at  $Y_1 \neq X_1$  and  $Y_2 \neq X_2$  respectively. Suppose that  $X_1Y_1$  and  $X_2Y_2$  intersect at  $P$ . Prove that the perpendiculars from  $P$  to the common external tangents of  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  are tangent to  $\Omega$ .

Language: English

Time: 4 hours  
Each problem is worth 7 points