Practice IMC

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Problem 1 Find all positive integers n, k_1, \ldots, k_n such that $k_1 + \cdots + k_n = 5n - 4$ and

$$\frac{1}{k_1} + \dots + \frac{1}{k_n} = 1.$$

Problem 2 Let B be a set of more than $2^{n+1}/n$ distinct points with coordinates of the form $(\pm 1, \pm 1, \ldots, \pm 1)$ in n-dimensional space with $n \geq 3$. Show that there are three distinct points in B which are the vertices of an equilateral triangle.

Problem 3 Prove that any monic polynomial (a polynomial with leading coefficient 1) of degree n with real coefficients is the average of two monic polynomials of degree n with n real roots.

Problem 4 Let n be a positive integer. Determine, in terms of n, the largest integer m with the following property: There exist real numbers x_1, \ldots, x_{2n} with $-1 < x_1 < x_2 < \cdots < x_{2n} < 1$ such that the sum of the lengths of the n intervals

$$[x_1^{2k-1}, x_2^{2k-1}], [x_3^{2k-1}, x_4^{2k-1}], \dots, [x_{2n-1}^{2k-1}, x_{2n}^{2k-1}]$$

is equal to 1 for all integers k with $1 \le k \le m$.

Problem 5 Can an arc of a parabola inside a circle of radius 1 have a length greater than 4?