

State High School Mathematics Tournament

University of South Carolina

January 25, 2020

Tiebreaker Rules

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- ▶ The answer(s) **closest to the truth** (in either direction) win the tiebreaker.

Tiebreaker Question

How many integers $n \leq 2020$ can be written in the form

$$n = a^3 + b^3 + c^3,$$

where a, b, c are positive integers?

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- ▶ Divide by 6 to get 288, because most triples are counted six times:

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- ▶ Subtract a little bit, e.g. for

$$1730 = 10^3 + 9^3 + 1^3 = 12^3 + 1^3 + 1^3,$$

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- ▶ Subtract a little bit, because a , b , and c can't all be close to 12.
- ▶ To get the exact answer, ask a computer.