

10707



John Isbell

*The American Mathematical Monthly*, Vol. 106, No. 1. (Jan., 1999), p. 67.

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*The American Mathematical Monthly* is currently published by Mathematical Association of America.

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# PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Edited by **Gerald A. Edgar, Daniel H. Ullman, and Douglas B. West**

with the collaboration of Paul T. Bateman, Mario Benedicty, Paul Bracken, Duane M. Broline, Ezra A. Brown, Richard T. Bumby, Glenn G. Chappell, Randall Dougherty, Roger B. Eggleton, Ira M. Ges-  
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Vanden Eynden, and William E. Watkins.

*Proposed problems and solutions should be sent in duplicate to the MONTHLY problems address on the inside front cover. Submitted problems should include solutions and relevant references. Submitted solutions should arrive at that address before June 30, 1999; Additional information, such as generalizations and references, is welcome. The problem number and the solver's name and address should appear on each solution. An acknowledgement will be sent only if a mailing label is provided. An asterisk (\*) after the number of a problem or a part of a problem indicates that no solution is currently available.*

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## PROBLEMS

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**10704.** *Proposed by Wiliam G. Spohn, Jr., Ellicott City, MD.* Show that there are infinitely many pairs  $((a, b, c), (a', b', c'))$  of primitive Pythagorean triples such that  $|a - a'|$ ,  $|b - b'|$ , and  $|c - c'|$  are all equal to 3 or 4. Examples include  $((12, 5, 13), (15, 8, 17))$  and  $((77, 36, 85), (80, 39, 89))$ .

**10705.** *Proposed by D. W. Brown, Marietta, GA.* A topological space has the *fixed point property* if every continuous function from the space to itself has a fixed point. Is there a countably infinite Hausdorff space with the fixed point property?

**10706.** *Proposed by James G. Propp, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI.* Given a finite sequence  $(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ , define the *derived sequence*  $(b_1, \dots, b_{n+1})$  by  $b_i = s - a_{i-1} - a_i$ , where  $s = \min_{1 \leq i \leq n+1} (a_{i-1} + a_i) + \max_{1 \leq i \leq n+1} (a_{i-1} + a_i)$  and where we interpret both  $a_0$  and  $a_{n+1}$  as 0. Let  $S_0$  be the sequence (1) of length 1, and for  $n \geq 1$  define  $S_k$  to be the derived sequence obtained from  $S_{k-1}$ . Thus  $S_1 = (1, 1)$ ,  $S_2 = (2, 1, 2)$ ,  $S_3 = (3, 2, 2, 3)$ , and  $S_4 = (5, 3, 4, 3, 5)$ . Show that the middle term of  $S_{2n}$  is a perfect square.

**10707.** *Proposed by John Isbell, State University of New York, Buffalo, NY.* Show that  
(a) no vector space over an infinite field is a finite union of proper subspaces; and  
(b) no vector space over an  $n$ -element field is a union of  $n$  or fewer proper subspaces.

**10708.** *Proposed by the Western Maryland College Problems Group, Westminster, MD.* Let

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{4} \int_0^\pi \frac{1}{t} \log \left( \frac{1 - \cos(x+t)}{1 - \cos(x-t)} \right) dt$$

for  $x \in (0, \pi)$ .

- (a) Find the Fourier sine series for  $f$ .
- (b) Find the  $L^2$  norm of  $f$ .
- (c) Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x)$ .