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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. Gessel, Bart Goddard, Jerrold R. Griggs, Douglas A. Hensley, Richard Holzinger, John R. Isbell, Robert Israel, Kiran S. Kedlaya, Murray S. Klamkin, Fred Kochman, Frederick W. Luttman, Vania Mascioni, Frank B. Miles, Richard Pfeifer, Cecil C. Rousseau, Leonard Smiley, John Henry Steelman, Kenneth Stolarsky, Richard Stong, Charles 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 October 31, 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.*

PROBLEMS

10732. *Proposed by M. N. Deshpande, Nagpur, India.* Let n and k be positive integers with $k < n$. Select a permutation π of n objects at random, and let the random variable X_k denote the number of objects that lie in cycles of π of length less than or equal to k . Find the expected value and the variance of X_k .

10733. *Proposed by Sung Soo Kim, Hanyang University, Ansan, Korea.* Let $\{E_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \Omega}$ be a partition of the unit interval $I = [0, 1]$ into nonempty sets that are closed in the usual topology. Is it possible that

- (a) Ω is uncountable and E_α is uncountable for each $\alpha \in \Omega$?
- (b) Ω is uncountable but E_α is countably infinite for each $\alpha \in \Omega$?
- (c) Ω is countably infinite?

10734. *Proposed by Floor van Lamoen, Goes, The Netherlands.* Let ABC be a triangle with orthocenter H , incenter I , and circumcenter O . Let $[P, r]$ denote the circle with center P and radius r . Show that the radical center of $[A, CA + AB]$, $[B, AB + BC]$, and $[C, BC + CA]$ is the point obtained by reflecting H through O and then reflecting the result through I .

10735. *Proposed by Gustavus J. Simmons, Sandia Park, NM.* If L_n is the n -by- n matrix with i, j -entry equal to $\binom{i-1}{j-1}$, then $L_n^2 \equiv I_n \pmod{2}$, where I_n is the n -by- n identity matrix. Show that if R_n is the n -by- n matrix with i, j -entry equal to $\binom{i-1}{n-j}$, then $R_n^3 \equiv I_n \pmod{2}$.

10736. *Proposed by Mizan R. Khan, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT.* For a given $n \geq 2$, let $M(n) = \max\{|a - b| : a, b \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \text{ and } ab \equiv 1 \pmod{n}\}$.

- (a) Find a closed-form expression $U(n)$ such that $M(n) \leq U(n)$ for all n , with equality in infinitely many cases.
- (b) Show that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} M(n)/n = 1$.
- (c)* Prove or disprove that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \log(n - M(n))/\log n = 1/2$.