Editor's Endnotes

Roger A. Horn

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EDITOR'S ENDNOTES

Alfred Manaster wrote about his article, Some Characteristics of Eighth Grade Mathematics Classes in the TIMSS Videotape Study, this MONTHLY 105 (1998) 793-805:

> Professor Henry Adler was kind enough to point out an error in each use of the symbol χ^2 to indicate a value in my article. In each case, the value refers to the probability, usually denoted by p, that the value of the chi-square statistic would be at least as large as the observed value under the hypothesis that there is no relationship between the response and the factor. I am responsible for this error and hope that it has not confused any readers.

Gerald A. Heuer shared with us an email message to Marc Frantz about the latter's article, Two Functions Whose Powers Make Fractals, this MONTHLY 105 (1998) 618-630:

> In your article in the August MONTHLY you refer to the differentiability of the function (there called f) sometimes called the "ruler" function, and make the statement: "Darst and Taylor showed that if $1 \leq p \leq 2$, then f^p is nowhere differentiable, and if $p > 2$, then f^p is differentiable almost everywhere." Darst and Taylor did indeed show this in their 1996 MONTHLY article, but the result is much older. G. J. Porter, this MONTHLY 69 (1962) 142, showed that f itself is nowhere differentiable, and in the article Functions Continuous at the Irrationals and Discontinuous at the Rationals, this MONTHLY 72 (1965) 370-373, some undergraduates and I proved that if $0 < p < 2$, then f^p is nowhere Lipschitzian (implying nowhere differentiable), that f^2 is nowhere differentiable, that for $p > 2$, f^p is almost everywhere differentiable, and somewhat more. The results were extended further in the note, A Property of Functions Continuous on a Dense Set, this MONTHLY 73 (1966) 378-379.
>
> At the time, I got some correspondence from Solomon Marcus indicating that he had proved some related results (I believe overlapping ours) earlier....Of course, as we both know, people are rediscovering old results all the time, often without knowing of their earlier establishment.

In his email response, Frantz wrote:

> It looks as if the subject has an interesting history. I find it particularly ironic that all the references you mentioned were from the same journal! It makes me think that someday there should be a computerized system, more thorough and easy to use than anything available now, which would help authors (and referees) avoid duplication of results and give more thorough references. Until then we'll have to settle for being educated after the fact.

Well, Marc (and all our authors, referees, and readers) that day is almost here. If all goes well, sometime in 1999, all of the MONTHLY from Vol. 1 in 1894 up to five years ago (this cutoff rolls forward each year) will be available online at JSTOR as graphic images and also in fully-searchable form. Watch MAA Online for an announcement and details when this exciting new service becomes available. Meanwhile, you can learn more about the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's Journal Storage Project at www.mellon.org. If you visit www.jstor.org and click on "Demo", you can experiment with searching and viewing a demonstration database of three journals; clicking on "About the Full JSTOR Collection" gives access to detailed information about all aspects of JSTOR, including a list of participating journals...it is a pleasure to note that the MONTHLY is now among the latter.

Roger A. Horn, *Editor*