

APICS Mathematics Contest 1990

1. Determine with proof whether $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m^2 + n^2}$ is convergent or divergent.

2. Find a formula for $\sum_{k=1}^n k!k$ and prove it is valid.

3. Define a sequence A_n by

$$\begin{aligned} A_{n+1} &= 1 + A_n + \sqrt{1 + 4A_n} \\ A_0 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Find with justification A_{1990} .

4.

(a) Find with proof a pair of invertible 2×2 real matrices A and B such that all non-trivial linear combinations of A and B are also invertible.

(b) Can you solve the problem of (a) for 3×3 matrices A ? Why(not)?

5. Show that the triangle formed by a tangent to a hyperbola and its two asymptotes has constant area.

6. Determine all real numbers m such that the equation

$$x^4 - (3m + 2)x^2 + m^2 = 0$$

has 4 real roots in arithmetic progression.

7. Let a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n be n positive numbers and $a_{i_1}, a_{i_2}, \dots, a_{i_n}$ any permutation of them. Show that

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{a_k^2}{a_{i_k}} \geq \sum_{k=1}^n a_k.$$

8. Suppose that a real valued function satisfies

$$|f(x) - f(y)| \leq |x - y|^p$$

for some fixed $p > 1$ and all real x, y . Show that f is a constant function.