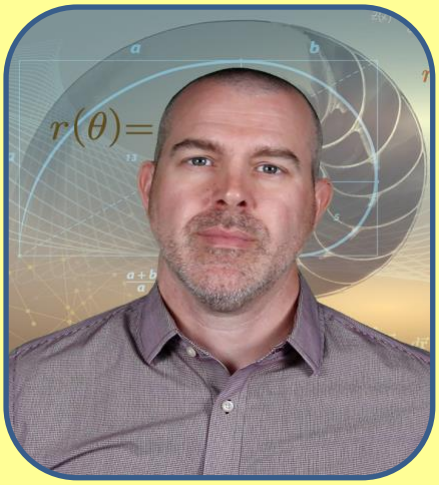
The Math ConneXion

NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Volume 50 Summer 2021 Number 3



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President's Message

If you had told me almost 20 years ago when I was brought into the Math Department at Elgin Community College that I would one day be writing a President's Message for the IMACC ConneXion, I would never have believed you. This organization has done more for my professional development than anything I've been involved in, and I am so proud to be serving in this role for the 2021-2022 academic year.

The last year has been a trying one, but it feels like there is light at the end of the tunnel. In our state and across the country, COVID-19 cases are declining and vaccination rates are increasing. Some of you have returned to the classroom, and many more plan to this summer or next fall. If all goes well, we will hopefully be able to see each other face-to-face again for the 2022 annual conference at Allerton.

In the meantime, our work doesn't stop. On March 8, Governor Pritzker signed the Education and Workforce Equity Act (HB 2170), which among other items, challenges community colleges to develop a plan by May 1, 2022, that will "maximize the probability that a student will be placed in and successfully complete introductory college-level […] mathematics coursework within 2 semesters at the institution." We all know what a challenge that is, but we should also acknowledge that our current developmental system is not serving many students. My hope is that IMACC members will continue to be innovative and develop solutions at their institutions that can then be shared with other members from across the state.

It's important to note that the work of IMACC is done by more than just the President. I'd like to thank our Past President, Mike Caparula, for his leadership during this tumultuous past year. He organized an amazing online conference and continued the high standards for this role that keep me up at night. I'd also like to thank our outgoing board members, Abby Bailey (Elgin), Jeremy Chamberlain (Harper), and Laurel Cutright (Olney Central), and our newest members, Ellen Field (Waubonsee), Joe Dethrow (Jon A. Logan), and Tony Paris (Carl Sandburg). And a very special thank you to Laurel for not sending my emails to spam and agreeing to run for President to serve this year as the President-Elect.

(Continued on Page 2)

Online Math ConneXion

The online version can be found at https://www.imacc.org

Is Your Membership Current?

Be sure to check your membership membership expiration date listed on the IMACC website.

If your membership has expired or is about to expire, you can use the online form to renew at: https://www.imacc.org

In addition, if there are mathematics faculty at your college who are not members of IMACC, please invite them to join. Please take time to also check the Institutional Membership for your school.

Deadline for Submissions:

Fall 2021 - October 15
Winter 2021 - January 15
Summer 2021-April 30

Submit items to: Ellen Field, Editor The Math ConneXion
ellenfield05@gmail.com

President's Message, continued.

We also have two new committee chairs. I'm not even sure how to sufficiently thank Keven Hansen for his many years of service chairing the Curriculum Committee, but he leaves the committee in the very capable hands of Abby Bailey. And Jeremy Chamberlain is stepping down from the ConneXion editor, while Ellen Field has graciously agreed to take over that role. I should also thank Chris Cunningham, who was willing to take on the role of Webmaster while I'm serving as President.

I'm not sure if it's just me, but the pace of change in our field over the past few years has felt disorientating at times. Still, I never cease to be amazed at the passion my colleagues from across the state put into their work, all in the interest of improving the lives of students. I couldn't be prouder to serve in this role, and I'm excited for all that this year holds.

Dan Kernler
IMACC President
http://www.imacc.org

Notification Needed

In an effort to cut down on the unnecessary mailing of paper copies, IMACC members wishing to continue receiving the *ConneXion* in hardcopy format, must email Ellen Field at ellenfield05@gmail.com.

Please note, you must send an email to opt to continue receiving a paper copy if that is the format you prefer. Any member who does not send an email stating they would like to continue receiving paper copies will receive future issues of the *ConneXion* in electronic form via an email with a link. If you have had any change to your address or email address, please email the IMACC Membership Chair, Christopher Riola, at riolac@morainevalley.edu with your updated information.

Letter from the Editor

Sincere thanks go to Jeremy Chamberlain, former editor of the Math ConneXion Newsletter (2018-2021) for the many hours you spent in creating earlier editions of this publication.

Institutional Members

College	Expires
Black Hawk College	2020
Carl Sandburg College	2020
College of Dupage	2021
College of Lake County	2019
Elgin Community College	2020
Harper College	2019
Heartland Community College	2020
Illinois Central College	2021
John A. Logan College	2017
John Wood Community College	2019
Joliet Junior College	2019
Kankakee Community College	2021
Kishwaukee College	2020
Lake Land College	2019
Lewis & Clark Community College	2021
Lincoln Land Community College	2021
McHenry Community College	2018
Moraine Valley Community College	2020
Morton College	2019
Oakton Community College	2016
Parkland College	2020
Prairie State College	2021
Rend Lake College	2018
Richland Community College	2018
Rock Valley College	2020
Shawnee Community College	2020
South Suburban College	2021
Southwestern Illinois College	2018
Triton College	2020
Waubonsee Community College	2021

Send in Your Nominations

Consider nominating a deserving student for the IMACC Memorial Fund Scholarship (deadline March 1), a deserving colleague for the Distinguished Service, Award or the Excellence in Teaching Award (deadlines March 1), or retiring members meeting the qualifications for the Life Membership Award. More information about these awards can be found at www.imacc.org.

Awards, Scholarships and Distinctions

Congratulations to **Kyle Knee** (Harper College) as the recipient of the **Teaching Excellence Award**.
Congratulations to **Dr. Steven Kifowit** (Waubonsee Community College) for receiving the **Distinguished Service Award**.
Congratulations to **Susannah Gooch** (Elgin Community College) for being awarded a $1250 **Memorial Fund Scholarship**.

Upcoming Conferences 2021/2022

September 25 – 2021 WisMATYC Annual Conference/meeting in Racine, WI.

October 8–9 – 2021 MichMATYC Conference at Lansing Community College.

October 28–31 – 47th AMATYC Annual Conference in Phoenix, AZ. To find out more, visit the Conference website at www.amatyc.org/2021ConfHome.

Curriculum Corner

The committee met on April 9th to discuss current developments affecting community college mathematics. To much of my surprise, Keven Hansen has decided to step down as the chair of the Curriculum Committee. Keven has been a spectacular role model for any leader in our profession. With his guidance, I have been honored to follow in his footsteps to become the next Chair of the Curriculum Committee. He intends to continue working with the committee, but I want to send much thanks for his direction!

The Curriculum Committee supports inclusion. If your college is not currently represented on the committee, and you are willing to serve, please do not hesitate to contact Abby Bailey at abailey@elgin.edu for more information.

Course Content and Description Revisions:

As an ongoing effort to effectively use common and well-defined math course nomenclature, the Curriculum Committee exchanged ideas on the following mathematical content areas along with their possible stakeholders.

· College Algebra, Trigonometry, and Combined College Algebra/Trigonometry

A task force with members from the Curriculum Committee and ISMAA's Two-Year College Committee compiled research from community colleges, private 4-year colleges, and public 4-year colleges. The task force used their research to create a proposal for revisions to the current articulation of the content in these courses. Their proposal was shared and discussed. It is planned to be presented to ISMAA's Two-Year Committee. Final drafts of these proposed updates are likely to proceed to a membership vote in Spring 2022 (in IMACC and ISMAA).

· Math for Elementary Teaching

As a follow-up to the elimination of the computational skills assessment requirement for elementary teachers in Illinois (2019), IMACC and ISMAA have worked on two changes to the Mathematics for Elementary Teachers sequence regarding the geometry prerequisite and the use of computational skill assessments. Final drafts of these are expected to go to full membership for approval in Spring 2022.

· IAI Math Panels Discussions

Revisions of the course descriptions were made at the General Education Mathematics Panel of IAI for Quantitative Literacy, Calculus for Business and Social Sciences, and Math for Elementary Teaching. Also, a revision to lower the prerequisite of Linear Algebra was made at the Math Majors Panel IAI meeting to Calculus I instead of Calculus II. There is a discussion happening at the panel level about content in this course. Each of these are topics for discussion and possible updates to the Articulation Guide.

Placement and Equivalency

· State Legislation Impact

(Continued on Page 5)

Curriculum Corner, continued.

Concern about dual credit math courses continues to be expressed as new legislation is being put forward and supported by lawmakers. The Committee continues to discuss legislative impact on course content, prerequisite equivalency, placement, accreditation, and assessment.

The Education and Workforce Equity Act (HB2170) was passed in March which mandates a statewide placement policy in mathematics courses. This is causing considerable amount of rapid change for math departments across the state with some apprehension on how these new measures will impact student success. Many math departments are also making hurried changes in their developmental course sequencing. The Committee continues discussions on how to thoughtfully analyze the impact of these changes, especially on those who place into the developmental sequence.

Assessment

· Online Delivery

Throughout the pandemic, numerous questions have circulated about how various schools are handling proctored testing requirements in mathematics. There is deep concern that cheating is a problem for learning mathematics online and institutions are not doing enough to ensure the integrity of assessing student mathematical knowledge and/or skills.

If you have additional items you'd like to see the committee address, or if you think you might have insights to share, please reach out to me by email!

Abby Bailey (5/5/2021)

News From AMATYC

AMATYC Midwest Region Update

I can't believe that summer is already here! The number one thing that I've been asked in the past few months is – What is there to do this summer? So, if you're looking for some suggestions, you're in luck because I've got some!

Attend the Position Statement Forum: Course Materials for Learning and Instruction sponsored by the AMATYC Ad-Hoc/Task Force for the Textbook Position Statement on June 3. You can find more information at https://amatyc.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1518776.

Attend The 4th National Math Summit sponsored by NOSS and AMATYC on June 14-15. You can find more information at https://thenoss.org/Math-Summit.

Get ready to vote in the AMATYC Election! This year all regular and lifetime AMATYC Midwest Region Members as of June 30, 2021, will have the opportunity to vote for three positions in the AMATYC Election for the 2022-2023 AMATYC Executive Board – President-Elect, Secretary, and Midwest VP. Information on all candidates will be available on the AMATYC website this summer. And, if you are eligible to vote, I encourage you to do during the voting period from September 15-30.

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News from AMATYC, continued.

Help spread the word about the new AMATYC Project GAINS! Although the primary goal of Project GAINS is to form communities at the local level, we welcome anyone interested in encouraging undergraduate and graduate students to consider a career teaching mathematics at the two-year college level to request to join and participate in our online component: The Project GAINS Community on myAMATYC. If you're interested in joining our community, please visit www.amatyc.org/projectgains or contact me for more information!

As always, thank you so much, and if you ever need anything, please reach out to me at jonoaks@amatyc.org. I hope you have a great summer!

Jon Oaks,
Midwest Region Vice President

Final Words from our Past President

As I pass the reigns of IMACC president to Dan Kernler, I'd like to reflect on last year and look ahead to next year. Even though the 2020-2021 year will be one we will always remember for good or for bad, there were some successes to come out of IMACC. The fall webinar series we did last October was a success and was a good way to connect with colleagues and perhaps get some good professional development in. The Curriculum Team is building a great new articulation for our pre-calculus/trig/college algebra courses. We gave out a great scholarship and two wonderful teachers awards this year. Congratulations to all three well-deserved recipients. We tried our hardest to be heard during the voting on HB2170 (now menacingly known as "The Omnibus Bill"). Finally, we had nearly 90 participants at both days of your IMACC conference this year. All of these were accomplished remotely, and I think that was a great success. I want to thank all of our IMACC team leaders, board members, and all the rest of the membership for a great year.

Looking ahead, the fall webinar series will continue. The curriculum team will be meeting frequently to tackle our ever-changing landscape in mathematics education, and the conference, hopefully, will be back at Allerton next April. Lastly, be patient with our incoming students. Keep in mind the tumultuous experience they had in their last year and a half in high school. They probably will not be completely ready for college.

Thank you for a wonderful and successful year!"

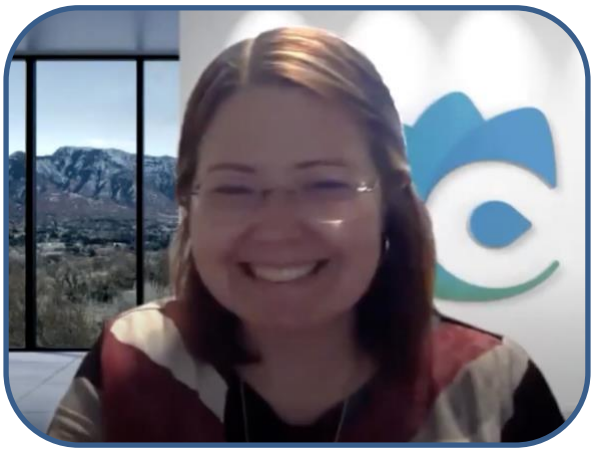
Michael Caparula
Professor Mathematics
Kankakee Community College
mcaparula@kcc.edu

Fall IMACC Webinar Series

IMACC will be hosting a Fall Webinar series on topics such as Developmental Education Reform and What to do about Cheating in an Online Class, a Panel Discussion. Please keep an eye out for notifications in your email and feel free to suggest additional topics to Ellen Field at efield@waubonsee.edu . These webinars are FREE and you can register on our webpage, IMACC.org.

Illinois Mathematics Association of Community Colleges

Highlights of the 2021 Virtual Conference



Keynote Speaker: Maria Anderson
"Equitable Assessment in Mathematics"

"Birds of a Feather" Panel Discussion
Presented by: Omar Adawi & Sunil Koswatta

"Math Reform in a Post COVID-World"
Kathleen Almy

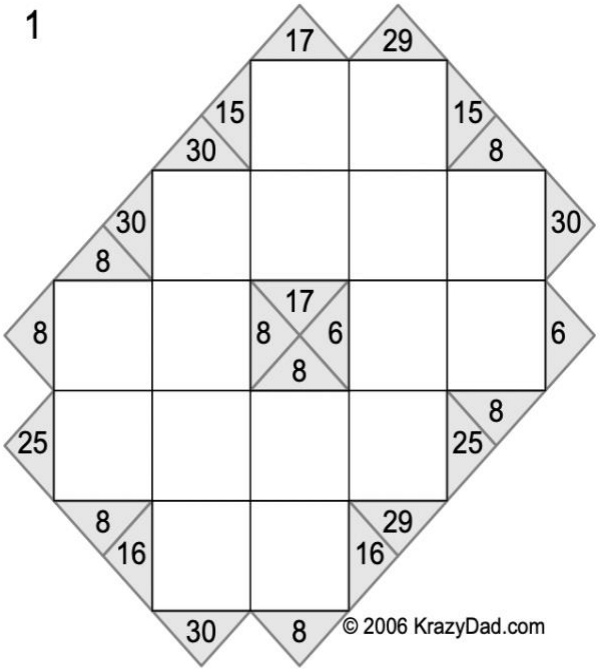
Incoming President Dan Kernler presents plaque and thanks Michael Caparula, Past-President, for his service in 2020-2021.

Thanks go to Diane Koenig who organized this year's raffle.

Math Puzzles and Memes

Send contributions and consent to be published to Ellen Field (efield@waubonsee.edu).

1



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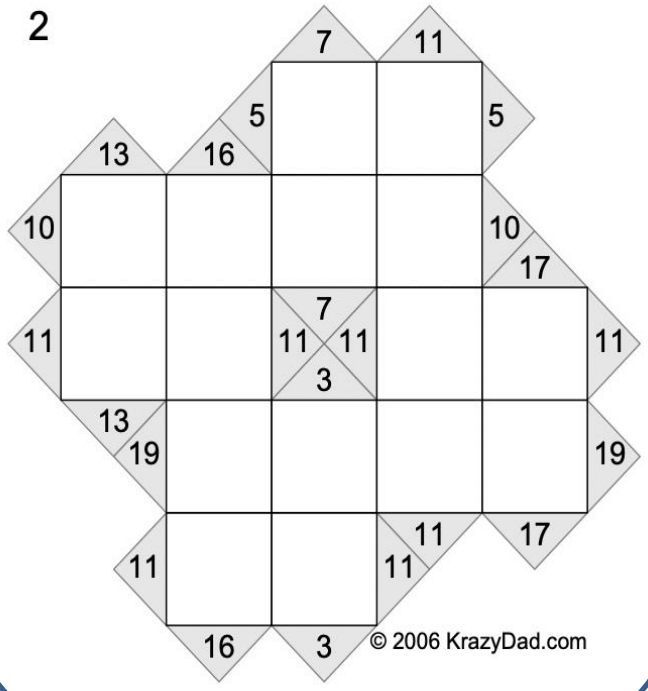


krazydad
free puzzles and mazes

Kakuro puzzles are like a cross between a crossword and a Sudoku puzzle. Instead of letters, each block contains the digits 1 through 9. The same digit will never repeat within a word. If you add the digits in a word, the sum will be the number shown in the clue. Clues are shown on the left and right sides of "across" words, and on the top and bottom sides of "down" words.

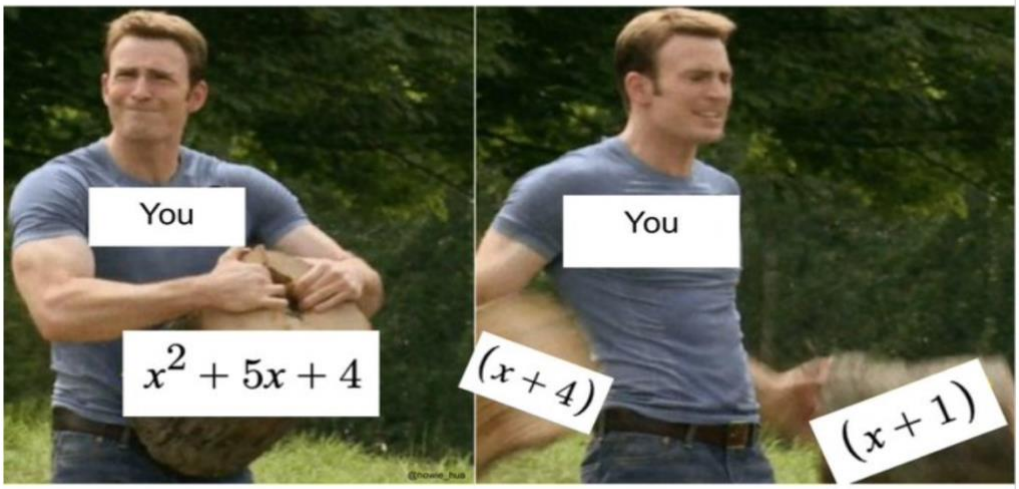
Need some help? visit krazydad.com/kakuro

(Continued on Page 9)

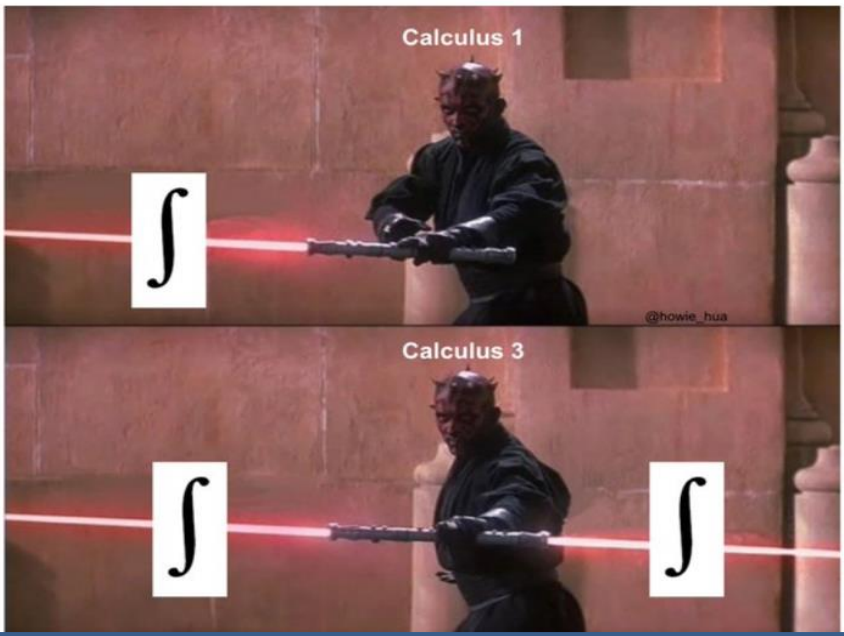
Math Puzzles and Memes, continued.

Contributor: Dan Kernler
Creator: Howie Hua

I'm a sucker for good math memes, and Howie Hua on Twitter (@howie_hua) is a great source. Here are a few of my favorites!



https://twitter.com/howie_hua/status/1316910572617797632



https://twitter.com/howie_hua/status/1378159259376963584

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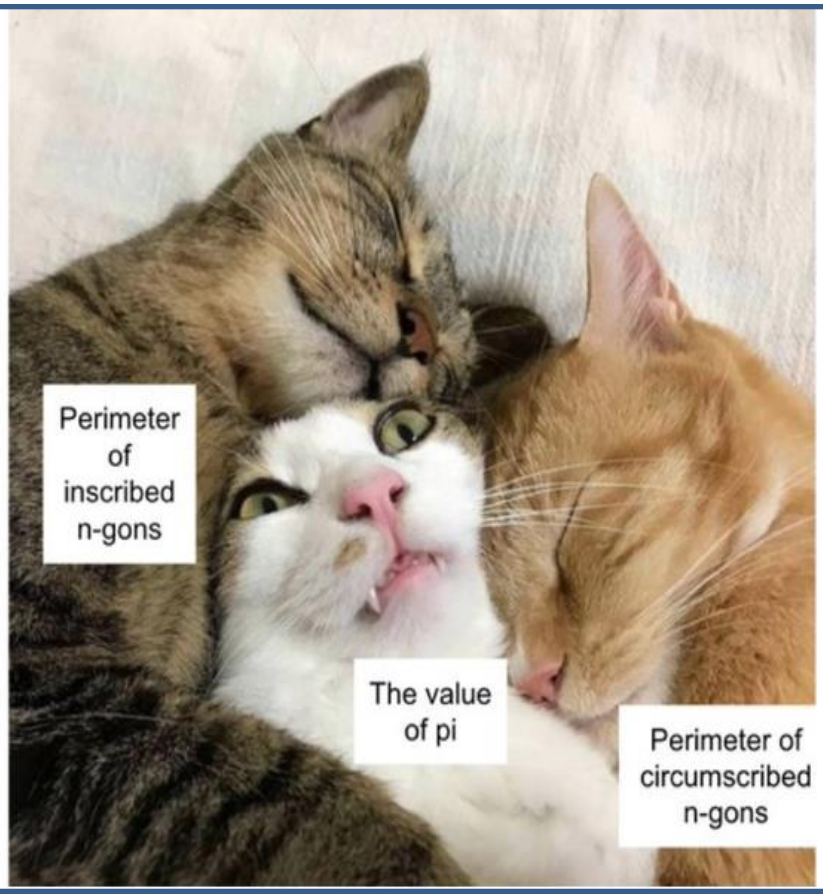
Math Puzzles and Memes, continued.



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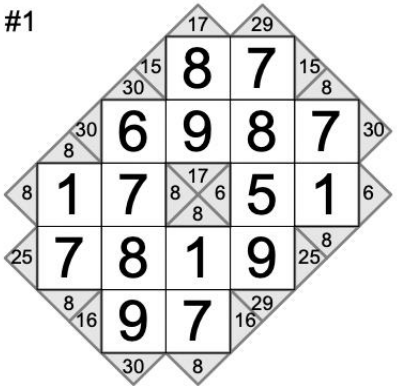
Answers for Kakuro Puzzles
From Page 8

#1



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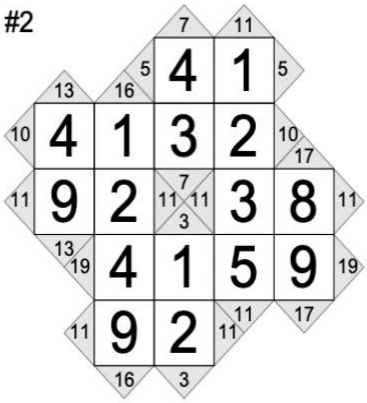

Illinois Mathematics Association of Community Colleges

IMACC Leadership 2020-2021

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