California State University
Northridge

problem of the Week

Department of Mathematics

Proposed by Bernardo Ábrego and Silvia Fernández

May 1-8

Suppose $f: \mathbb{C} \to \mathbb{C}$ is a function such that

$$f(a) - b = f(a + f(b))$$

for all complex numbers a and b.

Find with proof the value of $(f(1))^2$.

This contest is sponsored by the Mathematics Department. Open to all CSUN students.

Winner gets \$5 or an equivalent prize. All complete and correct solutions get a certificate.

Type and send your solution before May 8th, 9:00PM to silvia.fernandez@csun.edu.

All steps of the solution must be clearly justified.

For rules, winners, solutions, and more information visit: www.csun.edu/math/probweek