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Mathematical Puzzles to Confound and Delight



MWW 9: SOLUTION

There are 20 different ways to draw five circles on a page with some perhaps nested within others. They are as follows:

Take all 9 pictures of four circles drawn on a page and enclose them in one big circle.
Take all 9 pictures of four circles drawn on a page and place a fifth separate circle to one side.
Add to the list the following 2 more ways.



It is tedious to check that there are 48 ways to place six circles on a page.

We have the sequence of numbers 1, 2, 4, 9, 20, 48, which continues 115, 286, 719, 1842, 4766,
As far as I am aware no one knows a formula for these numbers.