

Problem

Let S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n be a nonincreasing sequence of positive integers from the interval $[1, n]$. Suppose that $S_{S_k} \geq k$ for all $k \in [1, n]$. Show that for some m ,

$$\sum_{k=1}^m S_k - \sum_{k=m+1}^n S_k = m^2.$$

(Math Problem of the Week, 9/8/96)

Carl Miller