

Optimal Finger Counting

By Michael Gibson

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What is “out there” already?

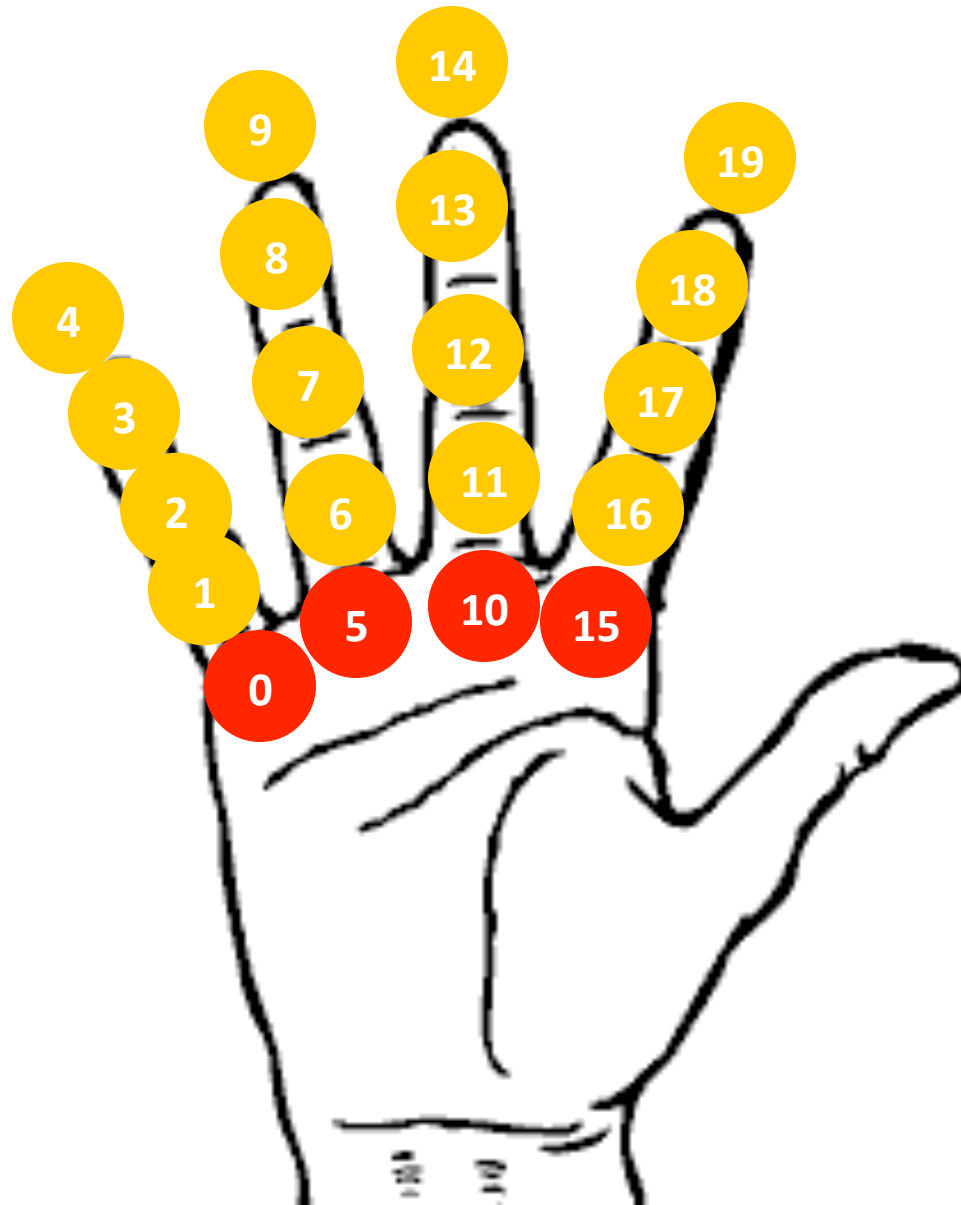
- The obvious way! (Limited range).
- Counting finger bones (base 12).
- Place value systems (requires dexterity!)

(I am aware that this is not an exhaustive list!)

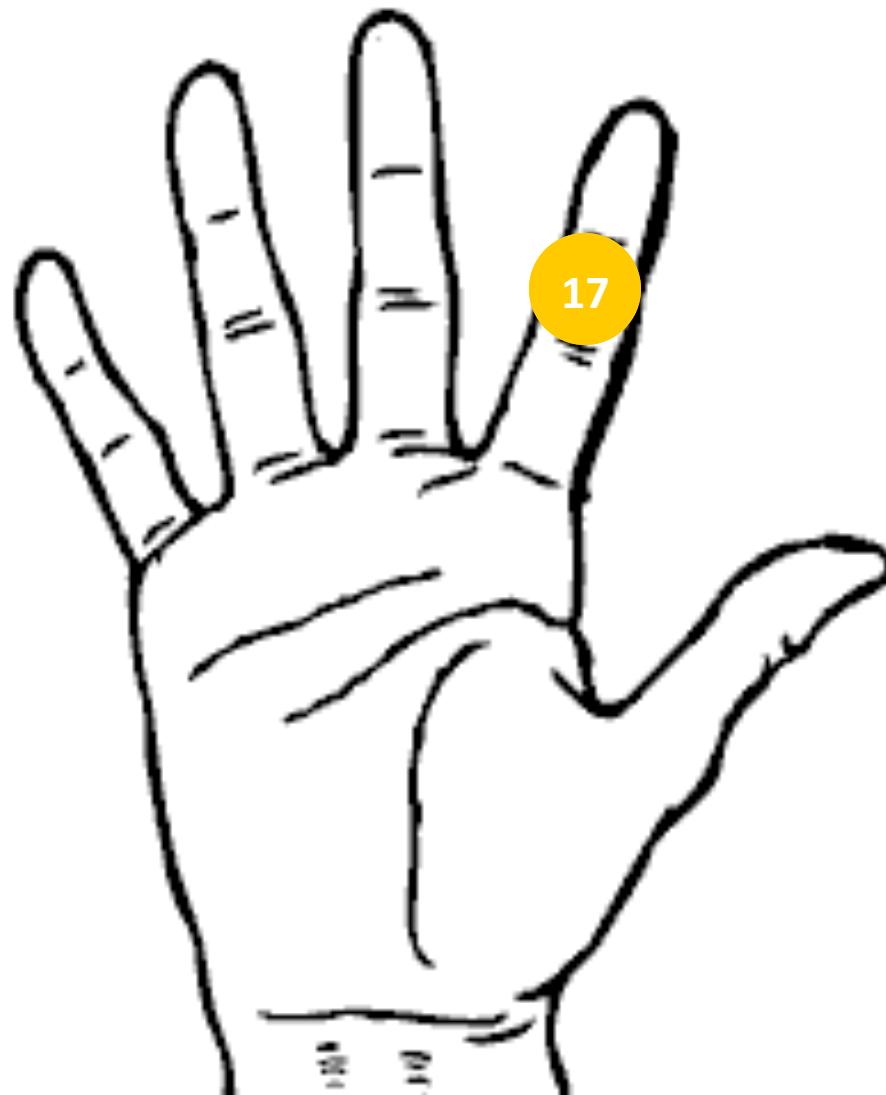
What is required?

- Decent range (e.g. in the hundreds).
- Easily “compatible” with base 10.
- Physically easy.
- Beneficial to children’s mathematical development.

Right Hand: Fives and Units



What number is this?

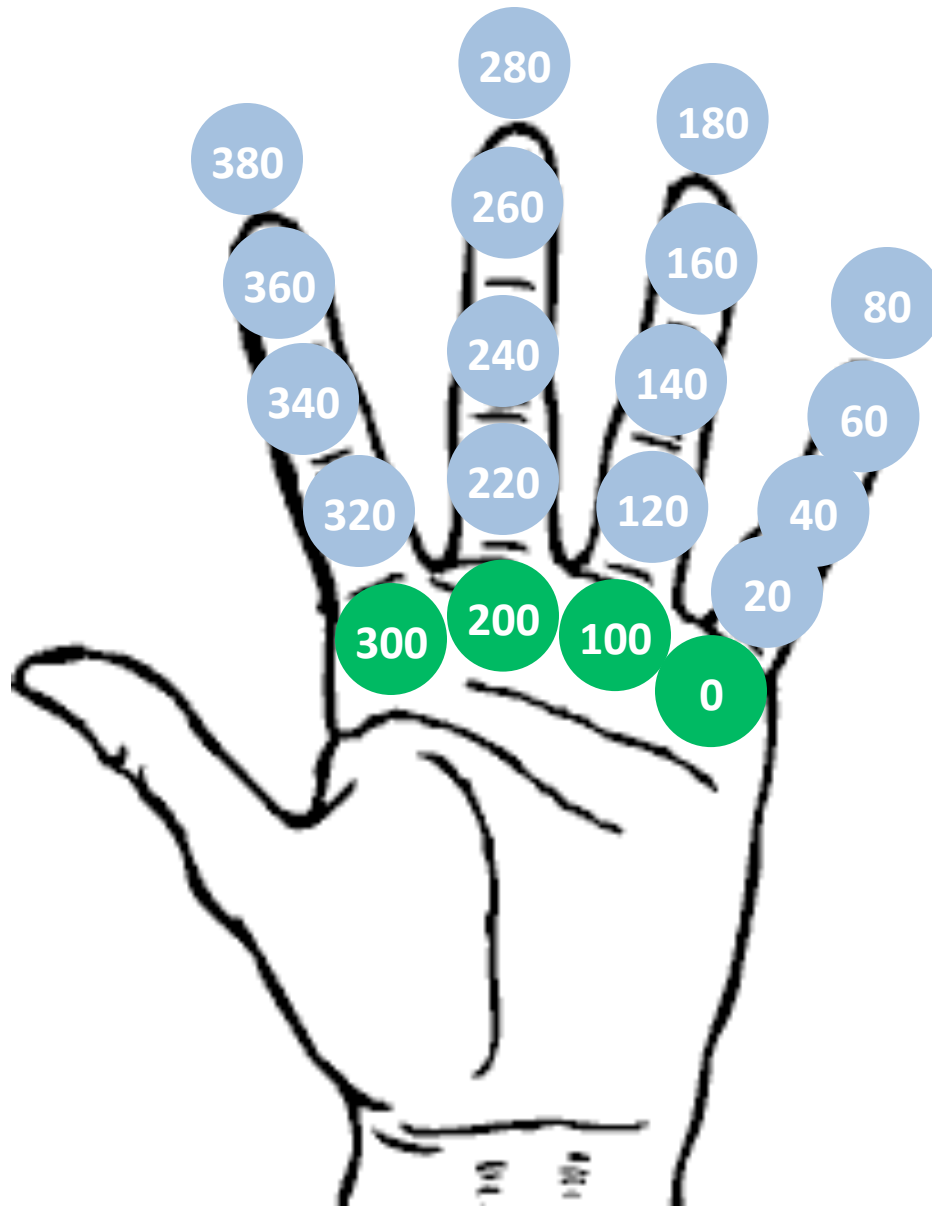


Make Number 9

9



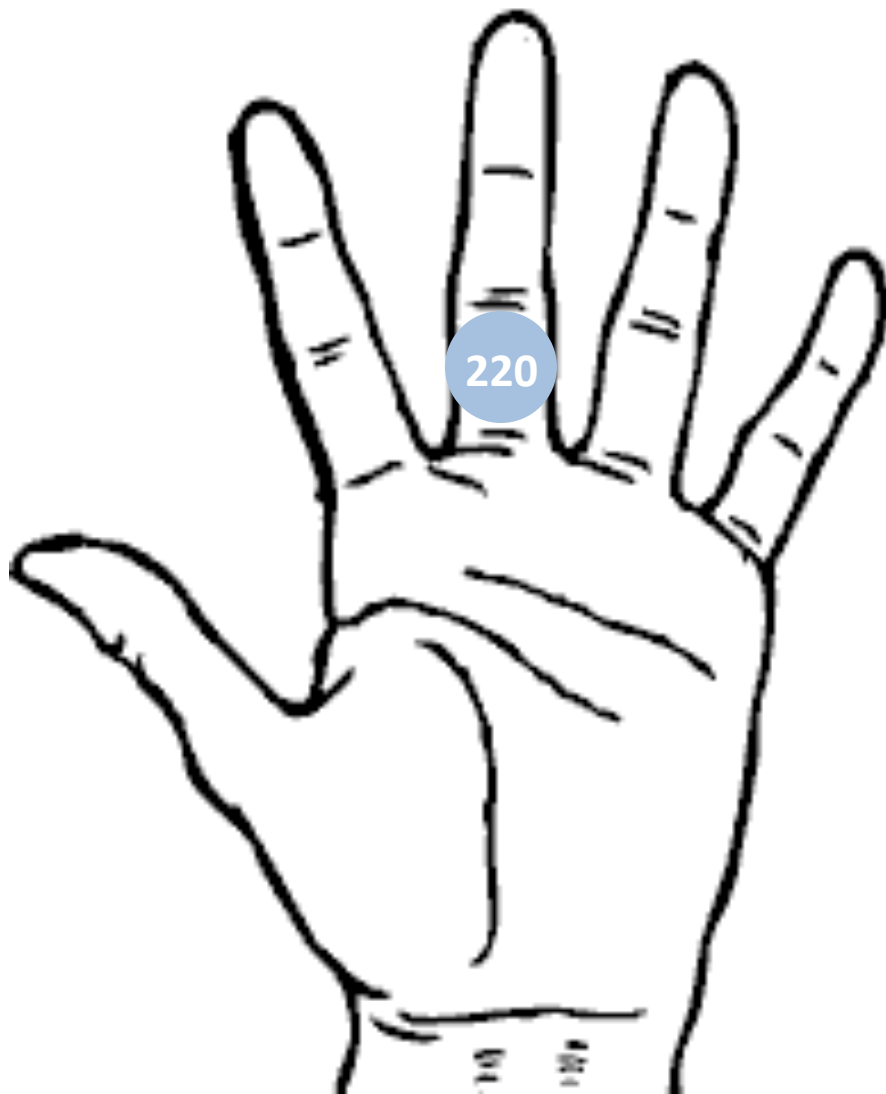
Left Hand: Twenties and Hundreds



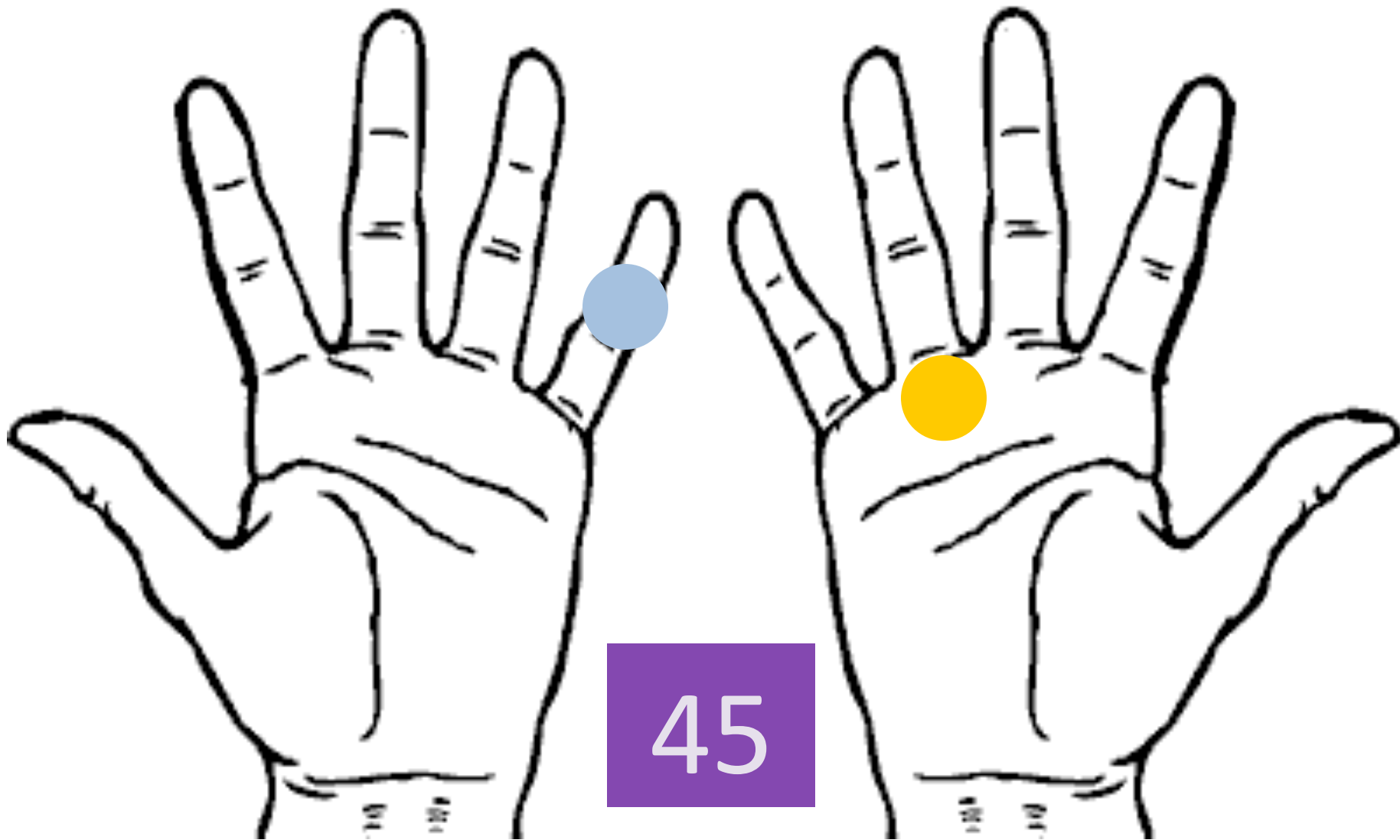
What Number is this?



Make 220



What Number is this?

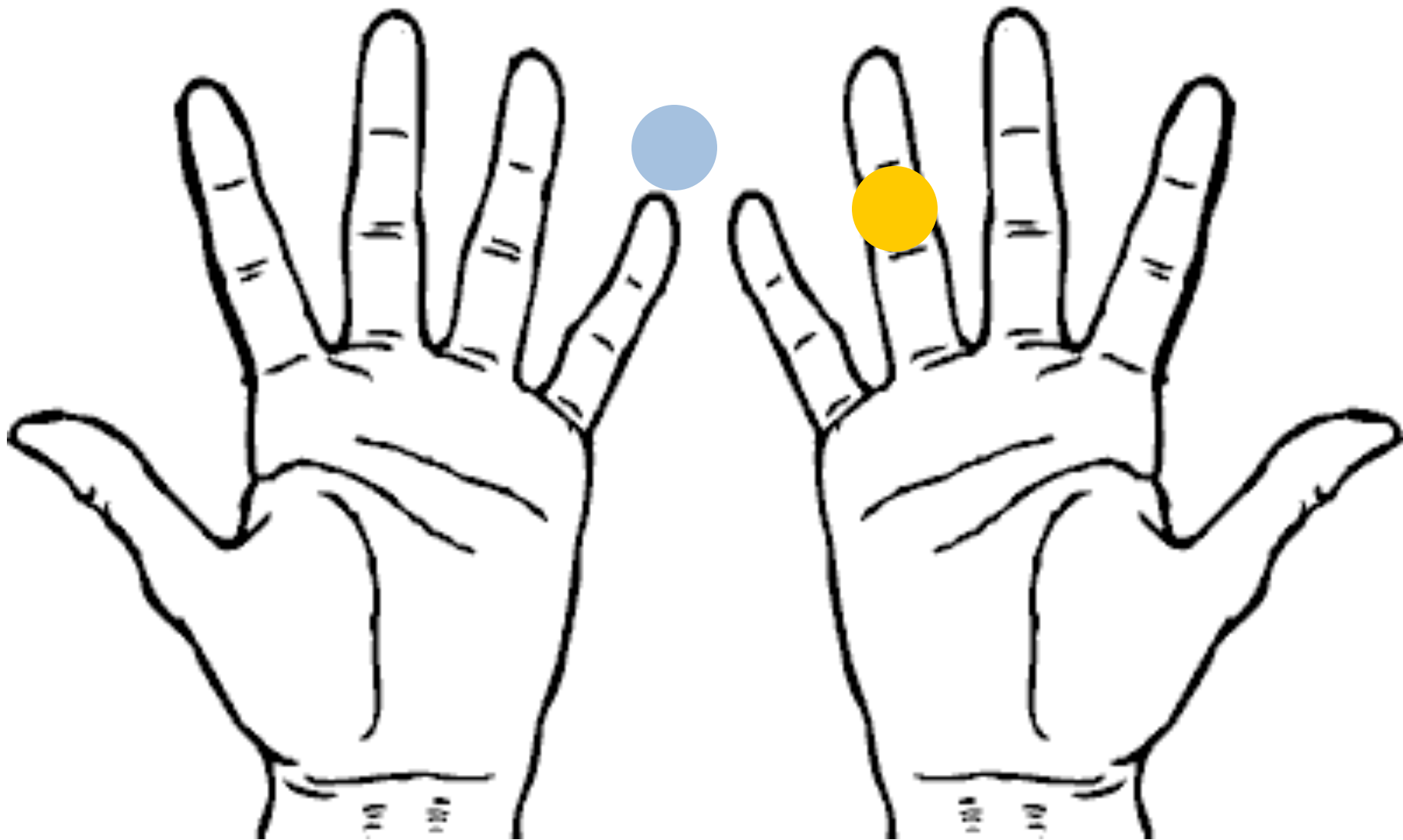


What Number is this?

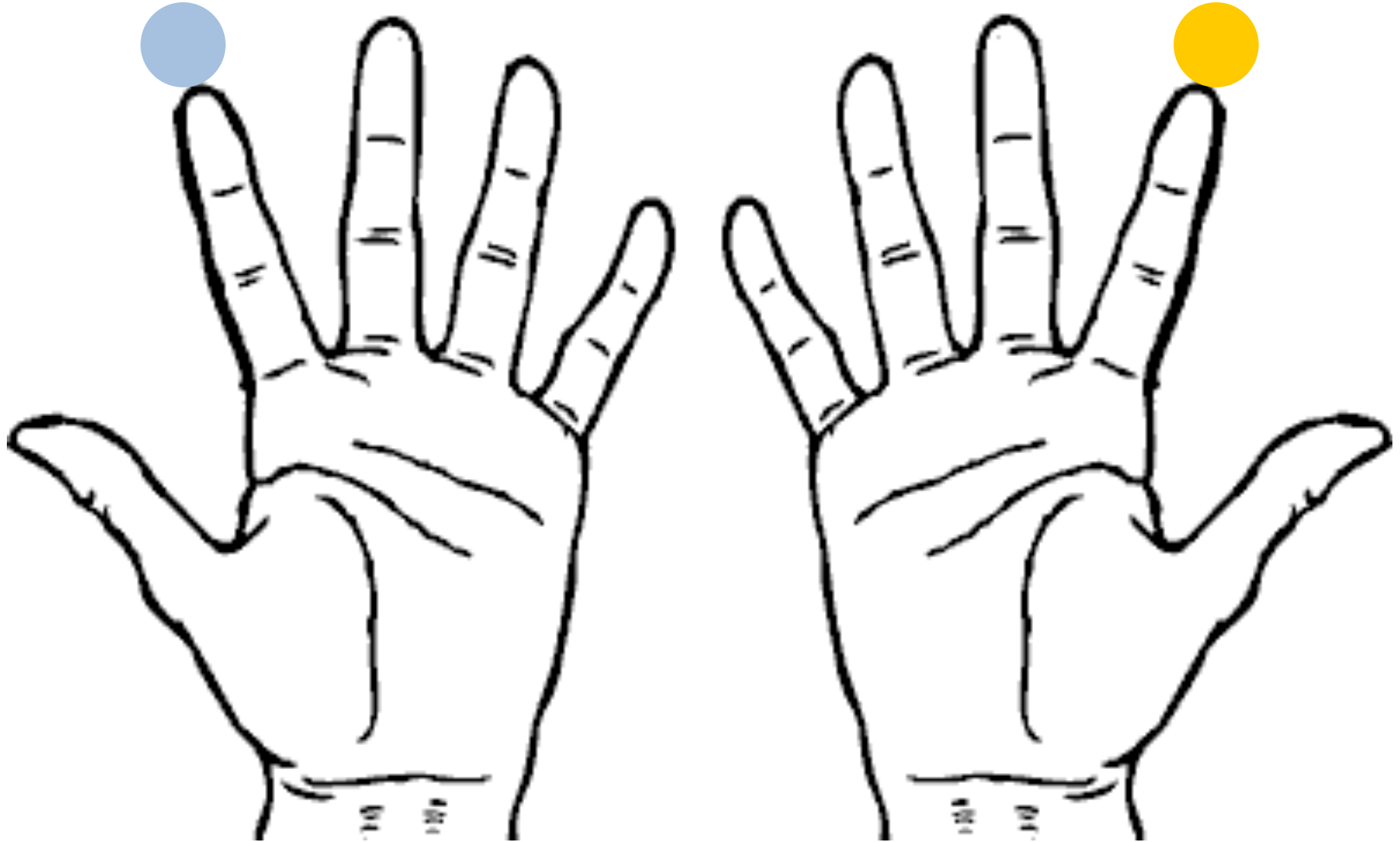


296

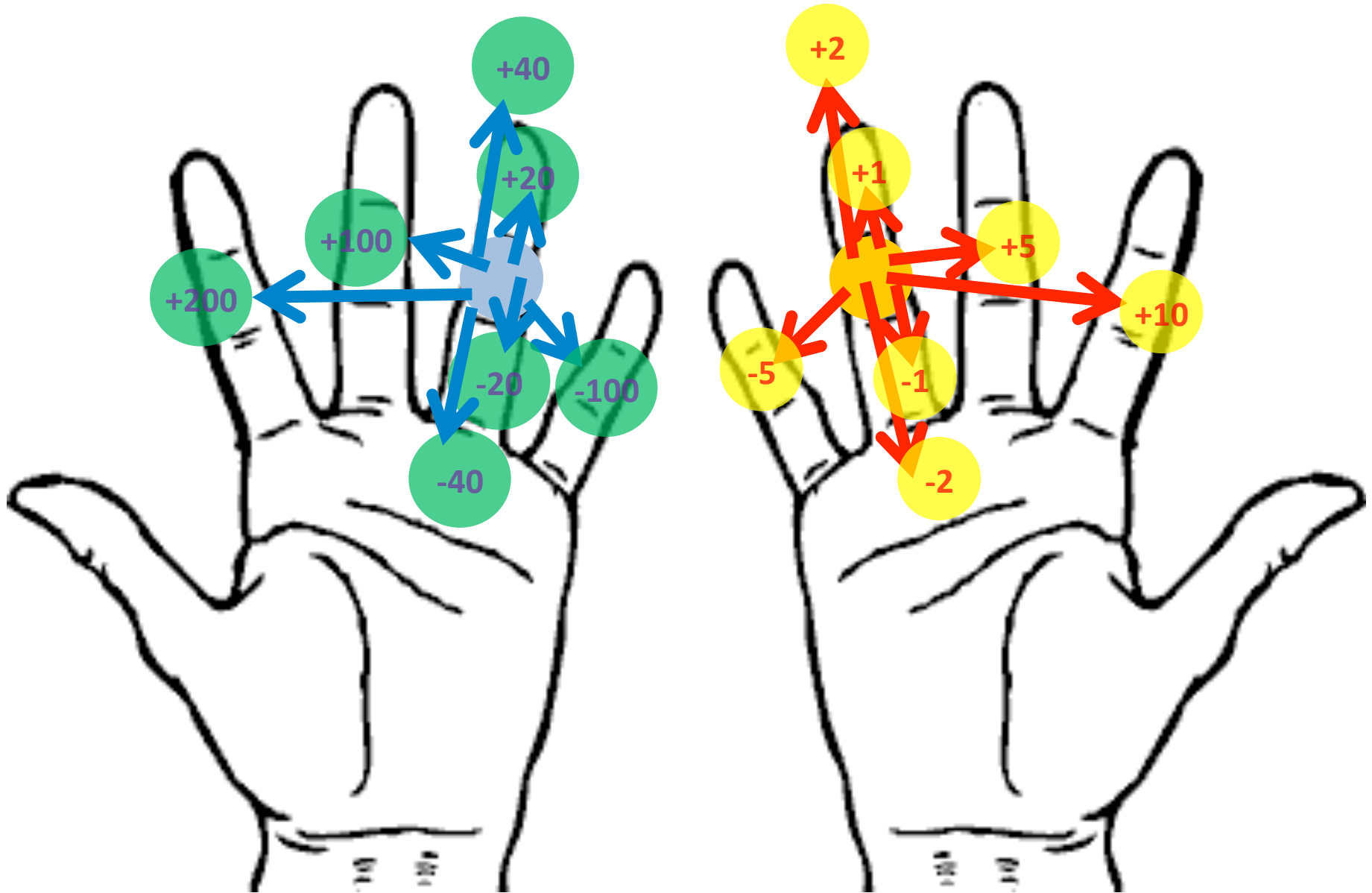
Make 87



Make 399

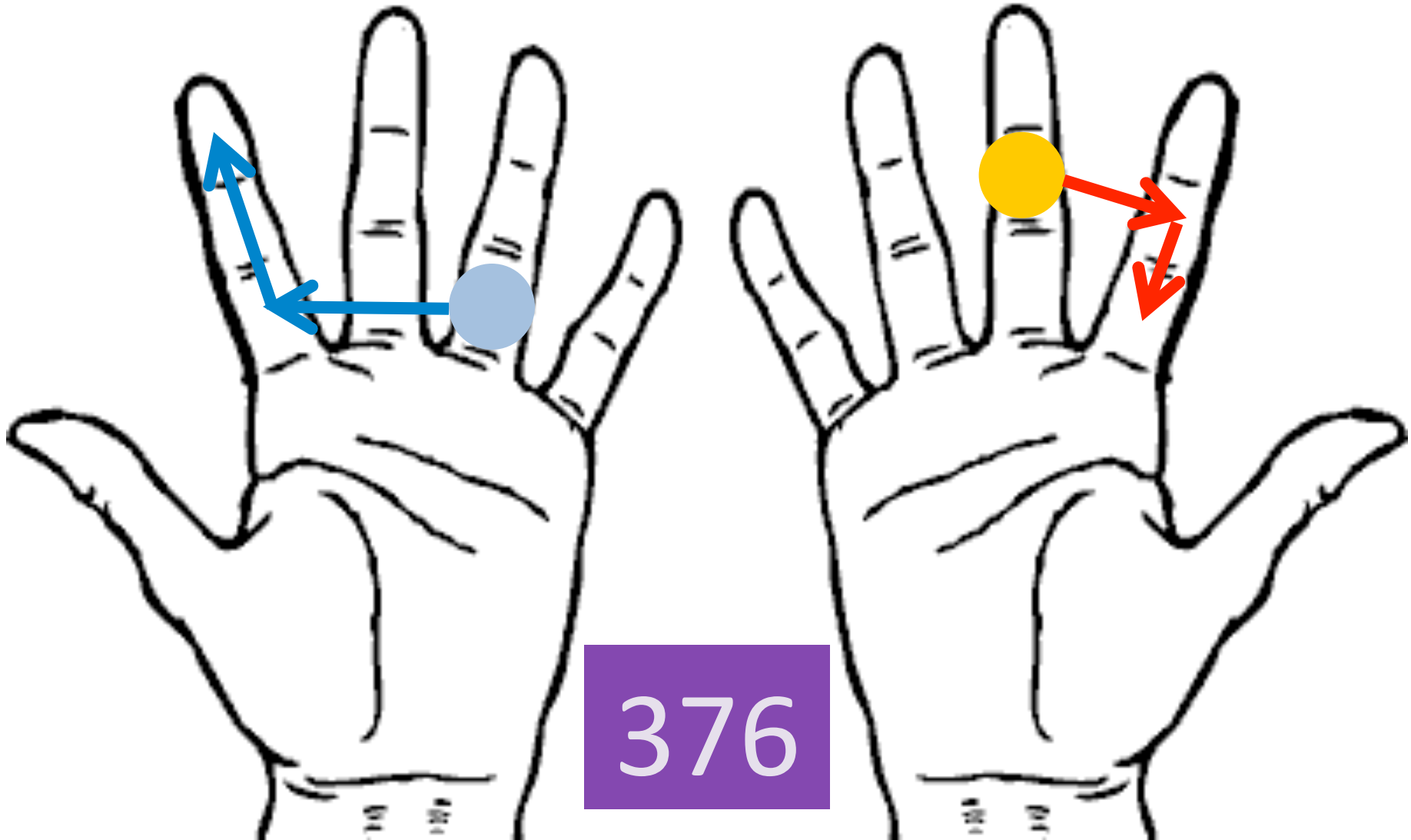


Addition and Subtraction



Example: $132 + 244$

- Partition $+244$ as $+200 + 40 + 5 - 1$



Meets Requirements?

- Decent range (e.g. in the hundreds)? **YES.**
- Easily “compatible” with base 10? **YES.**
- Physically easy? **It is for me!**
- Beneficial to children’s mathematical development?

My son is 2½. This experiment will commence very soon!



Thank you for listening!

Dear Rick Astley...

