

# THE FRENCH CONNECTION



There is a train depot in each of the following cities in France: Paris, Marseilles, Fountainbleu, Nice, Cannes, Versailles, Orleans, Bayonne, Lyon and LeMans. Each train depot must have a direct line of communication to each of the other depots.

How many direct lines are there between the depots in these ten cities?

If a communication system is to be constructed between 100 cities, how many direct lines will be needed?

How many direct lines will be needed for any number of cities?

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**Cities**    **Lines**

2            1    5 Cities: 4+3+2+1

3            3    Same problem as the sum 1+2+3 ..

4            6

5            10

X             $X(X-1)/2$