



20. A positive number  $a = [a] + \{a\}$  where  $[a]$  is the integer part of  $a$  and  $\{a\}$  is the fractional part of  $a$ .  
Given that  $x + [y] + \{z\} = 4.2$ ,  $y + [z] + \{x\} = 3.6$ ,  $z + [x] + \{y\} = 2.0$ , and  $x, y, z > 0$ , what is the value of  $\{y\}$  ?
- A 0.1                      B 0.3                      C 0.5                      D 0.7                      E 0.9

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20. **D** Adding all three equations:  $x + [y] + \{z\} + y + [z] + \{x\} + z + [x] + \{y\} = 4.2 + 3.6 + 2.0 = 9.8$ .  
Now  $[x] + \{x\} = x$ ,  $[y] + \{y\} = y$ ,  $[z] + \{z\} = z$ , so  $2x + 2y + 2z = 9.8$ , that is  $x + y + z = 4.9$ .  
Therefore:  $x + y + z - (x + [y] + \{z\}) = 4.9 - 4.2$ , that is  $\{y\} + [z] = 0.7$ . So  $[z] = 0$ ,  $\{y\} = 0.7$ .  
(It is not necessary to find the values of  $x, y, z$  to solve this problem, but their values may be shown to be 1.9, 2.7, 0.3 respectively.)