

Floor Plan

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February 8, 2025

1 Explanation

It is well known that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n^2 + n}{2}$$

But from it we can derive

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n^2 + n}{2} &\iff 2 \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n i = n^2 + n \iff 2 \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n i - n = n^2 \\ &\iff 2 \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n i - \sum_{i=1}^n 1 = n^2 \iff \sum_{i=1}^n 2i - 1 = n^2 \end{aligned}$$

Hence the sum of the n first odds numbers is n^2 .

We need to find what numbers can be written as the difference of two squares.

Let $m, k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $m > k$.

$$m^2 - k^2 = \sum_{i=1}^m 2i - 1 - \sum_{i=1}^k 2i - 1 = \sum_{i=k+1}^m 2i - 1$$

The problem can be simplified as, find two odds numbers, such that the sum of the consecutive odds numbers between the two is n .

Trivially, every odd number can be written as a sum of odds numbers.

The last piece of the puzzle is to notice that the sum of two consecutive odds numbers is always a multiple of 4.

Hence if a number is congruent to 2 mod 4, it can't be written as difference of squares.

To find m and k use the second equality and go backward.