

## 1. TWO EXAMPLES WITHOUT TILING

No shape for tiles allow to interpret the identity:

$$(1)5^2 + (2)4^2 + (3)3^2 + (4)2^2 = 10^2$$

because the odd terms can no be grouped in such a way the remaining part has even measures. The same apply to the very short identity:

$$(9)3^2 + (10)2^2 = 11^2$$

which is a segment of the anti-partridge sum  $(1)11^2 + (2)10^2 + \dots + (11)1^2$ .

## 2. TAILS OF GIVEN LENGTH

We consider the length- $\ell$  tails of the sum  $(1)n^2 + .. + (n-1)2^2 + (n)1^2$ .

The general formula for the value of the tail (as function of  $n$  and  $\ell$ ) is quite easy to find; however it seems very hard to establish when the result is a square.

Trying with small values of  $\ell$  we will show that the result can be a square when  $\ell$  is 2 or 6; while it can not be a square for  $\ell=3, 4$  and 5.

Strangely enough, also the whole anti-partridge sum gives a square when  $n=2$  and 6, while it is not a square for  $n=3, 4, 5 \dots$

- $\ell = 2$ .

The value of the tail is  $(n-1)4 + (n) = 5n - 4$ . Such a quantity is a square if and only if  $n = 5h^2 + 2h + 1$  (no assumption on the sign of  $h$ ).

The "if" part is obvious (the tail value being the square of  $|5h + 1|$ ); the "only if" part follows from  $(n-1)4 + (n) = 5(n-1) + 1$ ; this can be a square (say  $5(n-1) + 1 = k^2$ ) only if  $(k+1)(k-1)$  is a multiple of 5; and the claim follows. The corresponding tiling is quite trivial, both with square as well as with triangular shapes.

- $\ell = 3$ .

The value of the tail is  $(n-2)9 + (n-1)4 + (n) = 14n - 22$ ; such a value is *never* a square. (look at the remainder modulo 14 of  $x^2 + 22, 0 \leq x \leq 13$ )

- $\ell = 4$ .

The value of the tail is  $(n-3)16 + (n-2)9 + (n-1)4 + (n) = 30n - 70$ , that again is never a square.

- $\ell = 5$ .

The value of the tail is  $(n-4)25 + (n-3)16 + (n-2)9 + (n-1)4 + (n) = 55n - 170$ , that again is never a square.

- $\ell = 6$ .

The value of the tail is  $(n-5)36 + (n-4)25 + (n-3)16 + (n-2)9 + (n-1)4 + (n) = 91n - 350$ ; this value is a square if and only if  $n = 91h^2 + 28h + 6$  (no assumption on the sign of  $h$ ).

The "if" part is obvious, the tail value being the square of  $|91h + 14|$ ; the "only if" part follows from  $91n - 350 = 91(n-6) + 196$  that is a square (say  $91n - 350 = 91(n-6) + 196 = k^2$ ) if and only if  $91(n-6) = k^2 - 14^2$ ; thus  $k$  is a multiple of 7, and the claim easily follows.

The case  $h = 0$  corresponding to the whole anti-partridge sum, the next smallest case corresponds to  $h = -1, n = 69$ ; the 6-tail of the sum is:

$$(64)6^2 + (65)5^2 + (66)4^2 + (67)3^2 + (68)2^2 + (69)1^2 = 77^2$$

and the corresponding tiling is quite easy (see the picture).