

# Proof that no prime powers are correct

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**Definition.** A positive integer  $n$  is called **correct** if and only if the sum of the squares of its positive divisors is equal to  $(n + 3)^2$ .

**Proposition:** No integer of the form  $p^m$  is correct, where  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $p$  is prime.

**Proof:** First, keep in mind that

$$(n + 3)^2 = (p^m + 3)^2 = p^{2m} + 6p^m + 9 \quad (1)$$

Then, the sum  $S$  of its positive divisors is given by

$$S = \sum_{d \in D_{p^m}^+} d^2$$

But

$$D_{p^m}^+ = \{0 \leq k \leq m \mid p^k\}$$

And therefore

$$S = \sum_{k=0}^m (p^k)^2 = \sum_{k=0}^m p^{2k} \quad (2)$$

Now let's suppose that  $p^m$  is correct. In this case, from (1), (2) it follows that

$$p^{2m} + 6p^m + 9 = \sum_{k=0}^m p^{2k}$$

Subtracting  $p^{2m}$  from both sides, we get

$$6p^m + 9 = \sum_{k=0}^{m-1} p^{2k}$$

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