

**Problem** (Putnam 2009 - A1). *Let  $f$  be a real-valued function on the plane such that for every square  $ABCD$  in the plane,  $f(A) + f(B) + f(C) + f(D) = 0$ . Does it follow that  $f(P) = 0$  for all points in the plane?*

The answer is yes. To see this, let  $(x, y)$  be an arbitrary point in the plane. Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x, y) + f(x + 1, y) + f(x, y + 1) + f(x + 1, y + 1) &= 0 \\
 f(x, y) + f(x - 1, y) + f(x - 1, y + 1) + f(x, y + 1) &= 0 \\
 f(x, y) + f(x - 1, y) + f(x - 1, y - 1) + f(x, y - 1) &= 0 \\
 f(x, y) + f(x + 1, y) + f(x + 1, y - 1) + f(x, y - 1) &= 0 \\
 -[f(x - 1, y - 1) + f(x + 1, y + 1) + f(x + 1, y - 1) + f(x - 1, y - 1)] &= -(0) = 0 \\
 -2[f(x, y + 1) + f(x + 1, y) + f(x, y - 1) + f(x - 1, y)] &= -2(0) = 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Adding the equations and simplifying, we get

$$4f(x, y) = 0,$$

which means

$$f(x, y) = 0.$$