Problem 17: Perfect Cubes¹

Source filename: cubes. (cpp|java)

Input filename: cubes.in
Output filename: cubes.out

Fermat's Last Theorem stated that for n > 2 there exists no integers a, b, c > 1 such that $a^n = b^n + c^n$. This theorem was one of the most famous conjectures in all of mathematics; and it remained unproven for over 350 years until Andrew Wiles' dramatic proof was released in October 1994.

It is perhaps surprising then to learn that it *is* possible to find integers $a, b, c, d \ge 1$ that satisfy the "perfect cube" equation: $a^3 = b^3 + c^3 + d^3$. For example a quick calculation will confirm that $6^3 = 3^3 + 4^3 + 5^3$.



Write a program that finds all sets of integers $\{a,b,c,d\}$ which satisfy the equation $a^3 = b^3 + c^3 + d^3$ where the range of values for a is specified in the input file and b, c, $d \ge 1$.



The input file contains one or more test cases. The data for each test case is a single line that contains two positive integers, m and n, separated by a single space, where $0 < m \le n \le 200$. The end of the input file is marked by a line that contains 2 zeroes separated by a single space.

Output Specifications (cubes.out)

For each test case list **all** of the perfect cubes, one per line, in non-decreasing order of a (where $m \le a \le n$) using the format: a = f(b, c, d) (One could think of the function f as defined by $\sqrt[3]{b^3 + c^3 + d^3}$)

There should be exactly one space before and after the equal sign. No other spaces should appear in the output. After each test case, output a line that contains 3 plus signs, '+++', even if there are no perfect cubes for a found in the range from m to n. There should be no blank lines in the output.

The values for b, c, and d should also be listed in non-decreasing order on each line. That is, the output for a = 6 should be reported as 6 = f(3, 4, 5) instead of 6 = f(4, 3, 5) or any of the other 4 permutations of 3, 4 and 5.

There are several values of a that are associated with multiple distinct sets of b, c and d triples. In these cases the triples with the smaller b values should be listed first (Note the ordering in the example below for the lines associated with a = 18 & a = 36.) If, in these cases, the b values are also equal, list the triples with the smaller c values first.

Example Input File

1 20 21 23 24 36 0 0

Corresponding Output

6 = f(3, 4, 5)9 = f(1, 6, 8)12 = f(6, 8, 10)18 = f(2, 12, 16)18 = f(9, 12, 15)19 = f(3, 10, 18)20 = f(7, 14, 17)++++++ 24 = f(12, 16, 20)25 = f(4, 17, 22)27 = f(3, 18, 24)28 = f(18, 19, 21)29 = f(11, 15, 27)30 = f(15, 20, 25)36 = f(4,24,32)36 = f(18, 24, 30)+ + +

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¹ This problem appeared at the CCSC:MidSouth Student Programming Contest April 3, 2009. *Last modified on 8/24/2009 at 12:47 PM*