

Arpon Basu, School: AECS-4, Mumbai-400094  
Solution for problem O436

Let  $y = x + a, z = y + b$  for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore a^2 + b^2 + (a + b)^2 &= 2018 \\ \Rightarrow a^2 + b^2 + ab &= 1009 \\ \Rightarrow a &= \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{4 \cdot 1009 - 3b^2}}{2}\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned}4 \cdot 1009 &= 4036 = 3 \cdot 8^2 + 62^2 \\ &= 3 \cdot 27^2 + 43^2 \\ &= 3 \cdot 35^2 + 19^2\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore b \in \{-35, -27, -8, 8, 27, 35\}$$

Plugging values of  $b$  in equation 1 we obtain following values of  $a$

$$\begin{aligned}(a, b) &= (27, -35), (8, -35), (35, -27), (-8, -27), \\ &(35, -8), (-27, -8), (27, 8), (-35, 8), \\ &(-35, 27), (8, 27), (-8, 35), (-27, 35)\end{aligned}$$

For every ordered pair  $(a, b)$   $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b})$  will be the triplet satisfying the equation.