

# Complete Derivation of $(T_m^2)^2$ Using Recursive Triangular Identity

Gregory Conner

October 27, 2025

## 1 Introduction

This document derives mathematical expressions for  $(T_m^2)^2$  using the fundamental triangular number identity recursively:

$$i^2 = T_{i-1} + T_i \quad (1)$$

where  $T_n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$  is the  $n$ -th triangular number.

The key insight is that we must apply this identity recursively until no squares remain on the right side of the equation.

## 2 The Triangular Number Identity

The triangular number identity states that any perfect square can be expressed as the sum of two consecutive triangular numbers:

$$i^2 = T_{i-1} + T_i \quad (2)$$

$$= \frac{(i-1)i}{2} + \frac{i(i+1)}{2} \quad (3)$$

$$= \frac{i}{2}[(i-1) + (i+1)] \quad (4)$$

$$= \frac{i}{2}[2i] \quad (5)$$

$$= i^2 \quad (6)$$

## 3 Complete Recursive Derivation

We want to find an expression for  $(T_m^2)^2$  using only terms of the form  $T_l$ , with no squares remaining.

### 3.1 Step 1: Apply Identity to $T_m^2$

For any natural number  $m$ :

$$T_m = \frac{m(m+1)}{2} \quad (7)$$

$$T_m^2 = \left( \frac{m(m+1)}{2} \right)^2 \quad (8)$$

Since  $T_m^2$  is a perfect square, we apply the identity  $i^2 = T_{i-1} + T_i$  where  $i = T_m$ :

$$T_m^2 = T_{T_m-1} + T_{T_m} \quad (9)$$

### 3.2 Step 2: Calculate $T_{T_m^2}$

Now we calculate:

$$T_{T_m^2} = T_{T_{m-1} + T_m} \quad (10)$$

This gives us the triangular number whose subscript is the sum of two consecutive triangular numbers.

### 3.3 Step 3: Apply Identity to $(T_{T_m^2})^2$

To find  $(T_{T_m^2})^2$ , we apply the identity again. Let  $j = T_{T_m^2}$ , then:

$$(T_{T_m^2})^2 = j^2 = T_{j-1} + T_j \quad (11)$$

### 3.4 Step 4: Eliminate Remaining Squares

Now we must check if  $j - 1$  or  $j$  are perfect squares and apply the identity recursively:

- If  $j - 1 = k^2$  for some  $k$ , then  $T_{j-1} = T_{k-1} + T_k$
- If  $j = l^2$  for some  $l$ , then  $T_j = T_{l-1} + T_l$

We continue this process until no squares remain in any subscript.

## 4 Specific Cases

### 4.1 Case 1: $m = 1$

$$T_1 = 1 \quad (12)$$

$$T_1^2 = 1^2 = T_0 + T_1 = 0 + 1 = 1 \quad (13)$$

$$T_{T_1^2} = T_1 = 1 \quad (14)$$

$$(T_{T_1^2})^2 = 1^2 = T_0 + T_1 = 0 + 1 = 1 \quad (15)$$

Since neither 0 nor 1 are perfect squares (except  $1 = 1^2$ , but  $T_0 = 0$ ), we have:

$$(T_{T_1^2})^2 = T_0 + T_1 \quad (16)$$

### 4.2 Case 2: $m = 2$

$$T_2 = 3 \quad (17)$$

$$T_2^2 = 3^2 = T_2 + T_3 = 3 + 6 = 9 \quad (18)$$

$$T_{T_2^2} = T_9 = 45 \quad (19)$$

$$(T_{T_2^2})^2 = 45^2 = T_{44} + T_{45} \quad (20)$$

Since neither 44 nor 45 are perfect squares, we have:

$$(T_{T_2^2})^2 = T_{44} + T_{45} \quad (21)$$

### 4.3 Case 3: $m = 3$

$$T_3 = 6 \tag{22}$$

$$T_3^2 = 6^2 = T_5 + T_6 = 15 + 21 = 36 \tag{23}$$

$$T_{T_3^2} = T_{36} = 666 \tag{24}$$

$$(T_{T_3^2})^2 = 666^2 = T_{665} + T_{666} \tag{25}$$

Since neither 665 nor 666 are perfect squares, we have:

$$(T_{T_3^2})^2 = T_{665} + T_{666} \tag{26}$$

## 5 General Pattern

For any natural number  $m$ , the complete recursive application of the triangular number identity gives:

1.  $T_m^2 = T_{T_m-1} + T_{T_m}$
2.  $T_{T_m^2} = T_{T_{T_m-1}+T_{T_m}}$
3.  $(T_{T_m^2})^2 = T_{T_{T_m^2}-1} + T_{T_{T_m^2}}$
4. If  $T_{T_m^2} - 1$  or  $T_{T_m^2}$  are perfect squares, apply the identity recursively

## 6 Conclusion

Using the triangular number identity  $i^2 = T_{i-1} + T_i$  recursively, we can express  $(T_{T_m^2})^2$  entirely in terms of triangular numbers with no squares remaining:

$$(T_{T_m^2})^2 = T_{T_{T_m^2}-1} + T_{T_{T_m^2}} \tag{27}$$

This demonstrates the power of recursive application of the triangular number identity in reducing complex expressions involving multiple squares to sums of triangular numbers.