

# Special Pythagorean triplet

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**Problem.** A Pythagorean triplet is a set of three natural numbers,  $a < b < c$ , for which,

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

For example,  $3^2 + 4^2 = 9 + 16 = 25 = 5^2$ .

There exists exactly one Pythagorean triplet for which  $a + b + c = 1000$ . Find the product  $abc$ .

**Solution.**

$$\begin{aligned}a^2 + b^2 &= c^2 \\(a + b)^2 - 2ab &= c^2\end{aligned}$$

Since  $a + b = 10^3 - c$ , we have:

$$\begin{aligned}(10^3 - c)^2 - 2ab &= c^2 \\ab + 10^2c &= 5 * 10^5 \\ab &= 5 * 10^5 - 10^2c\end{aligned}$$

Given

$$\begin{cases} a + b = 10^3 - c \\ ab = 5 * 10^5 - 10^2c \end{cases}$$

we can apply Viète theorem,  $a, b$  are solution of:

$$x^2 + (c - 10^3)x + (5 * 10^5 - 10^3c) = 0$$

which produces

$$\begin{cases} a = \frac{10^3 - c - \sqrt{(c - 10^3)^2 - 4 * (5 * 10^5 - 10^3c)}}{2} \\ b = \frac{10^3 - c + \sqrt{(c - 10^3)^2 - 4 * (5 * 10^5 - 10^3c)}}{2} \end{cases}$$

Since there exists only once solution, searching  $c$  in  $[1, 999]$  gives us:

$$\mathbf{a = 200, b = 375, c = 425}$$