Proofs without words I

Exercises in METAPOST

Toby Thurston

March 2021 —



Contents

Geometry and Algebra	3
Trigonometry, Calculus, & Analytic Geometry	28
Inequalities	46
Integer sums	64
Miscellaneous	92

Geometry and Algebra

The Pythagorean theorem I	4
The Pythagorean theorem II	5
The Pythagorean theorem III	6
The Pythagorean theorem IV	7
The Pythagorean theorem V \ldots	8
The Pythagorean theorem VI	9
A Pythagorean theorem: $aa' = bb' + cc'$	10
The rolling circle squares itself	11
On trisecting an angle	12
Trisection in an infinite number of steps	13
Trisection of a line segment	14
The vertex angles of a star sum to 180°	15
Viviani's theorem I	16
Viviani's theorem II	17
A theorem about right angles	18
Area and the projection theorem of a right triangle	19
Chords and tangents of equal length	20
Completing the square	21
Algebraic areas I	22
Algebraic areas II	23
Sum of squares identity	24
Polygonal numbers	25
The volume of a frustrum of a square pyramid	26
The volume of a homisphere via Cavalieri's Principle	27

The Pythagorean theorem I





— adapted from the Chou pei san ching

The Pythagorean theorem II





Behold!

— Bhāskara (12th century)

The Pythagorean theorem III



— based on Euclid's proof

The Pythagorean theorem IV



— H. E. Dudeney (1917)

The Pythagorean theorem \boldsymbol{V}



— James A. Garfield (1876)

The Pythagorean theorem VI



— Michael Hardy

A Pythagorean theorem: aa' = bb' + cc'





$$\frac{x}{b'} = \frac{b}{a} \implies \frac{x}{b} = \frac{b'}{a} \implies ax = bb';$$

$$\frac{y}{c'} = \frac{c}{a} \implies \frac{y}{c} = \frac{c'}{a} \implies ay = cc';$$

$$\therefore aa' = a(x + y) = bb' + cc'.$$

— Enzo R. Gentile

The rolling circle squares itself



— Thomas Elsner

On trisecting an angle



— Rufus Isaacs

Trisection in an infinite number of steps



 $\frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{16} + \cdots$

— Eric Kincanon

Trisection of a line segment









 $\overline{AF} = \frac{1}{3} \cdot \overline{AB}$

— Scott Cobel

The vertex angles of a star sum to $180\ensuremath{^\circ}$



— Fouad Nakhli

Viviani's theorem I

The perpendiculars to the sides from a point on the boundary or within an equilateral triangle add up to the height of the triangle.



This shows a particular example, with C'GQ collinear, rather than the general case

— Samuel Wolf

Viviani's theorem II

The perpendiculars to the sides from a point on the boundary or within an equilateral triangle add up to the height of the triangle.



— Ken-Ichiroh Kawasaki

A theorem about right angles

The internal bisector of the right angle of a right triangle bisects the square on the hypotenuse



— Roland H. Eddy

Area and the projection theorem of a right triangle



— Sidney H. Kung

Chords and tangents of equal length

If circle C_1 passes through the center O of circle C_2 , the length of the common chord \overline{PQ} is equal to the tangent segment \overline{PR} .



— Roland H. Eddy

Completing the square

$$x^2 + ax = (x + a/2)^2 - (a/2)^2$$



— Charles D. Gallant

Algebraic areas I

$$(a+b)^2 + (a-b)^2 = 2(a^2 + b^2)$$



— Shirley Wakin

Algebraic areas II

$$(a+b+c)^{2} + (a+b-c)^{2} + (a-b+c)^{2} + (a-b-c)^{2} = (2a)^{2} + (2b)^{2} + (2c)^{2}$$





— Sam Pooley and K. Ann Drude

Sum of squares identity

$$(a^2 + b^2)(c^2 + d^2) = (ab + bc)^2 + (bd - ac)^2$$



— Diophantus of Alexandria

Polygonal numbers

The
$$k^{\text{th}}$$
 n-gonal number is $1 + (k-1)(n-1) + \frac{1}{2}(k-2)(k-1)(n-2)$



— Dave Logothetti

The volume of a frustrum of a square pyramid



$$V_{P_1} = \frac{h}{b-a} \cdot V_{P_2} = \frac{h}{b-a} \cdot \frac{1}{3} \left(b^3 - a^3 \right) = \frac{h}{3} \left(a^2 + ab + b^2 \right)$$

— The Moscow Papyrus, c. 1850 BCE

The volume of a hemisphere via Cavalieri's Principle



$$V_S = V_P = \frac{1}{3}r^2 \cdot 2\pi r = \frac{2}{3}\pi r^3$$

— Sidney H. Kung

Trigonometry, Calculus, & Analytic Geometry

Sine of the sum	29
Area and difference formulas	30
The law of cosines I	31
The law of cosines II	32
The law of cosines III (via Ptolemy's theorem)	33
The double-angle formulae	34
The half-angle tangent formulae	35
Mollweide's equation	36
Tangent, cotangent, secant, and cosecant	37
Substitution to make a rational function of sine and cosine	38
Sums of arctangents	39
The distance between a point and a line	40
The midpoint rule is better than the trapezoidal rule for concave functions	41
Integration by parts	42
The graphs of f and f^{-1} are reflections about the line $y = x \dots \dots \dots$	43
The reflection property of the parabola	44
Area under an arch of the cycloid	45

Sine of the sum

$$\sin(\alpha+\beta) = \sin\alpha\cos\beta + \cos\alpha\sin\beta \text{ for } \alpha+\beta < \pi$$



$$c = a\cos\beta + b\cos\alpha$$

$$r = 1/2 \implies \sin\gamma = \frac{c/2}{1/2} = c, \ \sin\alpha = a, \ \sin\beta = b$$

$$\sin(\alpha + \beta) = \sin(\pi - (\alpha + \beta)) = \sin\gamma = \sin\alpha\cos\beta + \sin\beta\cos\alpha$$

— Sidney H. Kung

Area and difference formulas



$$\frac{1}{2} \cdot a \cdot b \sin(\alpha - \beta) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot a \sin \alpha \cdot b \cos \beta - \frac{1}{2} \cdot a \cos \alpha \cdot b \sin \beta$$
$$\sin(\alpha - \beta) = \sin \alpha \cos \beta - \cos \alpha \sin \beta$$



$$\frac{1}{2} \cdot a \cdot b \cos(\alpha - \beta) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot a \cos \alpha \cdot b \cos \beta + \frac{1}{2} \cdot a \sin \alpha \cdot b \sin \beta$$
$$\cos(\alpha - \beta) = \cos \alpha \cos \beta + \sin \alpha \sin \beta$$

— Sidney H. Kung

The law of cosines I



$$c^{2} = (b \sin \theta)^{2} + (a - b \cos \theta)^{2}$$

$$= b^{2} \sin^{2} \theta + a^{2} - 2ab \cos \theta + b^{2} \cos^{2} \theta$$

$$= a^{2} + b^{2} (\sin^{2} \theta + \cos^{2} \theta) - 2ab \cos \theta$$

$$= a^{2} + b^{2} - 2ab \cos \theta$$

— Timothy A. Sipka

The law of cosines II



$$(2a\cos\theta - b) \cdot b = (a - c) \cdot (a + c)$$
$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab\cos\theta$$

— Sidney H. Kung

The law of cosines III (via Ptolemy's theorem)



$$c \cdot c = b \cdot b + \left(a + 2b\cos(\pi - \theta)\right) \cdot a$$
$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab\cos\theta$$

— Sidney H. Kung

The double-angle formulae



$$\triangle ACD \sim \triangle ABC$$

$$CD/AC = BC/AB$$

$$AD/AC = AC/AB$$

$$\sin 2\theta/2 \cos \theta = 2\sin \theta/2$$

$$\sin 2\theta = 2\sin \theta \cos \theta$$

$$(1 + \cos 2\theta)/2 \cos \theta = 2\cos \theta/2$$

$$\cos 2\theta = 2\cos^2 \theta - 1$$

- Roger B. Nelsen

The half-angle tangent formulae



$$\tan \theta/2 = \frac{\sin \theta}{1 + \cos \theta} = \frac{1 - \cos \theta}{\sin \theta}$$

— R. J. Walker

Mollweide's equation

$$(a-b)\cos\frac{\gamma}{2} = c\sin\left(\frac{\alpha-\beta}{2}\right)$$



— H. Arthur DeKleine

Tangent, cotangent, secant, and cosecant



$$\tan^2 \theta + 1 = \sec^2 \theta$$
$$\cot^2 \theta + 1 = \csc^2 \theta$$
$$(\tan \theta + 1)^2 + (\cot \theta + 1)^2 = (\sec \theta + \csc \theta)^2$$

also
$$\tan \theta = \frac{\tan \theta + 1}{\cot \theta + 1}$$

— William Romaine

Substitution to make a rational function of sine and cosine



$$z = \tan(\theta/2) \implies \sin\theta = \frac{2z}{1+z^2}$$
 and $\cos\theta = \frac{1-z^2}{1+z^2}$

- Roger B. Nelsen

Sums of arctangents



$$\arctan \frac{1}{2} + \arctan \frac{1}{3} = \frac{\pi}{4}$$



 $\arctan 1 + \arctan 2 + \arctan 3 = \pi$

— Edward M. Harris

The distance between a point and a line



$$\frac{d}{1} = \frac{|ma+c-b|}{\sqrt{1+m^2}}$$

— R. L. Eisenman

The midpoint rule is better than the trapezoidal rule for concave functions



— Frank Burk

Integration by parts



— Richard Courant

The graphs of f and f^{-1} are reflections about the line y=x





— Ayoub B. Ayoub

The reflection property of the parabola



QF = QD and $m_1 \cdot m_2 = -1$, therefore $\alpha = \beta = \gamma$

— Ayoub B. Ayoub

Area under an arch of the cycloid



— Richard M. Beekman

Inequalities

The arithmetic mean – geometric mean inequality I 47
The arithmetic mean – geometric mean inequality II
The arithmetic mean – geometric mean inequality III
Two extremum problems
The HM-GM-AM-QM inequalities I
The HM-GM-AM-QM inequalities II
The HM-GM-AM-QM inequalities III
Five means — and their means
$e^{\pi} > \pi^e$
$A^B > B^A$ for $e \le A < B$
The mediant property
Regle des nombres moyens – two proofs
The sum of a positive number and its reciprocal is at least two 59
Aristarchus' inequalities
The Cauchy-Schwartz inequality 61
Bernoulli's inequality
Napier's inequality

The arithmetic mean – geometric mean inequality I



$$\sqrt{ab} \leq \frac{a+b}{2}$$

— Charles D. Gallant

The arithmetic mean – geometric mean inequality II



$$(a+b)^2 - (a-b)^2 = 4ab$$
$$\frac{a+b}{2} \ge \sqrt{ab}$$

— Doris Schattschneider

The arithmetic mean – geometric mean inequality III

$$\frac{a+b}{2} \ge \sqrt{ab}$$
, with equality iff $a = b$



— Roland H. Eddy

Two extremum problems

For a given product, the sum of two positive numbers is minimal when the numbers are equal.



For a given sum, the product of two positive numbers is maximal when the numbers are equal.



— Paulo Montuchi and Warren Page

The HM-GM-AM-QM inequalities I



$$PM = a$$
, $RM = b$, $a > b > 0$

$$\frac{2ab}{a+b} < \sqrt{ab} < \frac{a+b}{2} < \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}\left(a^2+b^2\right)}$$

— Roger B. Nelsen

The HM-GM-AM-QM inequalities II



$$AB = a$$
, $BC = b$, $AD = DC = \frac{a+b}{2}$
 $BE \perp AB$, $DE = AD$
 $FE \perp ED$, $FB \parallel ED$, $EG = BD = \frac{b-a}{2}$

— Sidney H. Kung

The HM-GM-AM-QM inequalities III



$$2a^{2} + 2b^{2} \ge (a+b)^{2}$$

$$\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}(a^{2} + b^{2})} \ge \frac{a+b}{2}$$



$$\left(\sqrt{a+b}\right)^2 \ge 4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{a} \sqrt{b}$$
$$\frac{a+b}{2} \ge \sqrt{ab}$$



$$1 \ge 4 \cdot \frac{a}{a+b} \cdot \frac{b}{a+b}$$

$$\sqrt{ab} \ge \frac{2ab}{a+b}$$

- Roger B. Nelsen

Five means — and their means



— Roger B. Nelsen

$$e^{\pi} > \pi^e$$



— Fouad Nakhli

$$A^B > B^A$$
 for $e \le A < B$



$$\begin{array}{ccc} e \leq A < B & \Longrightarrow & m_A > m_B \\ \\ \Longrightarrow & \frac{\ln A}{A} > \frac{\ln B}{B} \\ \\ \Longrightarrow & A^B > B^A \end{array}$$

— Charles D. Gallant

The mediant property

$$\frac{a}{b} < \frac{c}{d} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{a}{b} < \frac{a+c}{b+d} < \frac{c}{d}$$



— Richard A. Gibbs

Regle des nombres moyens - two proofs

a,b,c,d > 0; $\frac{a}{b} < \frac{c}{d} \implies \frac{a}{b} < \frac{a+c}{b+d} < \frac{c}{d}$

I.



 $m_1 < m_3 \implies m_1 < m_2 < m_3$

— Li Changming

II.



 $\frac{a}{b} < \frac{a}{b+d} + \frac{c}{b+d} < \frac{c}{d}$

— Roger B. Nelsen

The sum of a positive number and its reciprocal is at least two





II. y



III.



IV.



— Roger B. Nelsen

Aristarchus' inequalities

$$0 < \beta < \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2} \implies \frac{\sin \alpha}{\sin \beta} < \frac{\alpha}{\beta} < \frac{\tan \alpha}{\tan \beta}$$



$$\sin \alpha < \frac{\sin \beta}{\beta} \alpha; \quad \tan \alpha > \frac{\tan \beta}{\beta} \alpha$$

$$\therefore \quad \frac{\sin \alpha}{\sin \beta} < \frac{\alpha}{\beta} < \frac{\tan \alpha}{\tan \beta}$$

- Roger B. Nelsen

The Cauchy-Schwartz inequality

$$|\langle a,b\rangle\cdot\langle x,y\rangle|\leq \|\langle a,b\rangle\|\,\|\langle x,y\rangle\|$$



$$\left(|a|+|y|\right)\left(|b|+|x|\right) \leq 2\left(\tfrac{1}{2}|a||b|+\tfrac{1}{2}|x||y|\right) + \sqrt{a^2+b^2}\sqrt{x^2+y^2}$$

$$\therefore |ax + by| \le |a||x| + |b||y| \le \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

— Roger B. Nelsen

Bernoulli's inequality

$$x > 0, x \neq 1, r > 1$$
: $x^{r} - 1 > r(x - 1)$

I. First semester calculus



II. Second semester calculus



$$x^{r} - 1 = \int_{1}^{x} rt^{r-1} dt > r(x - 1)$$



$$1 - x^r = \int_x^1 r t^{r-1} \, dt < r(1 - x)$$

— Roger B. Nelsen

Napier's inequality

$$b > a > 0$$
 implies $\frac{1}{b} < \frac{\ln b - \ln a}{b - a} < \frac{1}{a}$

I. First semester calculus



$$m(L_1) < m(L_2) < m(L_3)$$

II. Second semester calculus



- Roger B. Nelsen

Integer sums

Sums of integers I	65
Sums of integers II	66
Sums of odd integers I	67
Sums of odd integers II	68
Sums of odd integers III	69
Squares and sums of integers I	70
Squares and sums of integers II	71
Arithmetic progressions with sum equal to square of number of terms	72
Sums of squares I	73
Sums of squares II	74
Sums of squares IV	75
Sums of squares V	76
Alternating sums of squares	77
Sums of squares of Fibonacci numbers	78
Sums of cubes I	7 9
Sums of cubes II	80
Sums of cubes III	81
Sums of cubes IV	82
Sums of cubes V	83
Sums of cubes VI	84
Sums of integers and sums of cubes	85
Sums of odd cubes are triangular numbers	86
Sums of fourth powers	87
k -th powers as sums of consecutive odd numbers $\dots \dots \dots \dots$	88
Sums of triangular numbers I	89
Sums of triangular numbers II	90
Sums of triangular numbers III	91

Sums of integers I



 $1 + 2 + \dots + n = \frac{1}{2}n(n+1)$

— Ancient Greek

Sums of integers II



$$1 + 2 + \dots + n = \frac{n^2}{2} + \frac{n}{2}$$

— Ian Richards

Sums of odd integers I



 $1 + 3 + 5 + \dots + (2n - 1) = n^2$

- Nichomachus of Gerasa

Sums of odd integers II



$$1 + 3 + \dots + (2n - 1) = \frac{1}{4} (2n)^2 = n^2$$

- Roger B. Nelsen

Sums of odd integers III



$$\Delta + 3 \cdot \Delta + \dots + (2n-1) \cdot \Delta = A = n^2 \cdot \Delta$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} (2i-1) = n^2$$

— Jenő Lehel

Squares and sums of integers I



$$1 + 2 + 1 = 2^2$$



$$1 + 2 + 3 + 2 + 1 = 3^2$$



$$1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 1 = 4^2$$

$$1 + 2 + \dots + (n - 1) + n + (n - 1) + \dots + 2 + 1 = n^2$$

— Ancient Greek

Squares and sums of integers II



$$1 + 3 + 5 + 3 + 1 = 2^2 + 3^2$$



$$1 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 5 + 3 + 1 = 3^2 + 4^2$$

:

$$1 + 3 + \dots + (2n - 1) + (2n + 1) + (2n - 1) + \dots + 3 + 1 = n^2 + (n + 1)^2$$

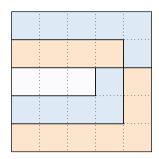
— Hee Sik Kim

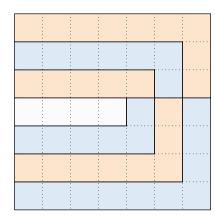
Arithmetic progressions with sum equal to square of number of terms



$$\sum_{k=n}^{3n-2} k = (2n-1)^2; n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$







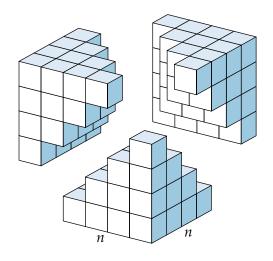
$$n = 4$$

 $4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 + 10 = 7^2$

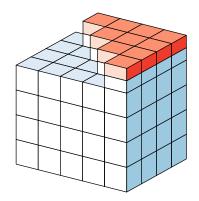
— James O. Chilaka

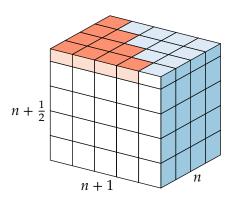
Sums of squares I

$$1^2 + 2^2 + \dots + n^2 = \frac{1}{3}n(n+1)\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)$$





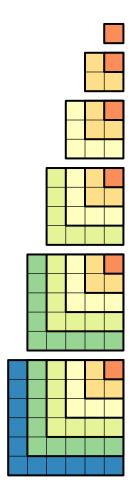


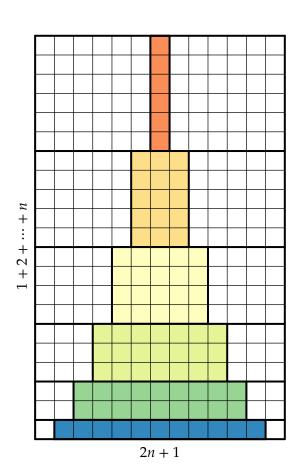


— Man-Keung Siu

Sums of squares II

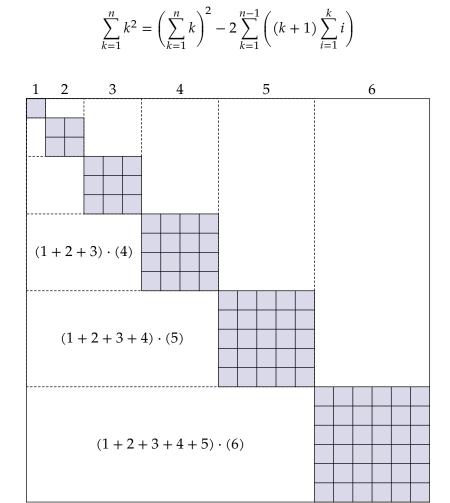
$$3\left(1^2+2^2+\cdots+n^2\right) = (2n+1)\left(1+2+\cdots+n\right)$$





— Dan Kalman

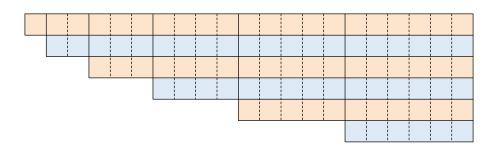
Sums of squares IV



— James O.Chilaka

Sums of squares V

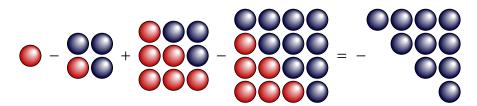
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=i}^{n} j = \sum_{i=1}^{n} i^2$$



— Pi-Chun Chuang

Alternating sums of squares

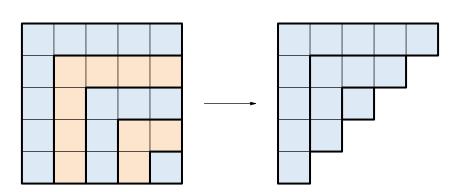
I.



$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} (-1)^{k+1} k^2 = (-1)^{n+1} T_n = (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

— Dave Logothetti

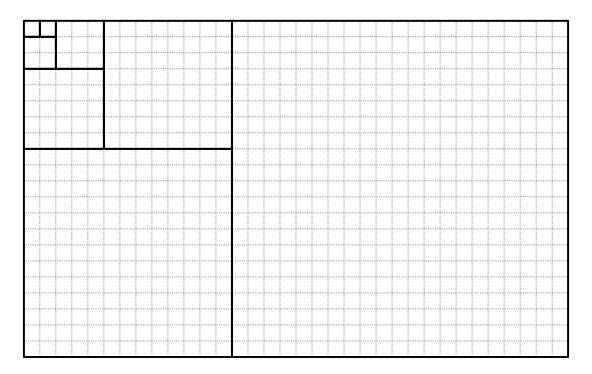
II.



$$n^{2} - (n-1)^{2} + \dots + (-1)^{n-1} (1)^{2} = \sum_{k=0}^{n} (-1)^{k} (n-k)^{2} = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

— Steven L. Snover

Sums of squares of Fibonacci numbers



$$F_1 = F_2 = 1; F_{n+2} = F_{n+1} + F_n$$
 hence $F_1^2 + F_2^2 + \dots + F_n^2 = F_n F_{n+1}$

— Alfred Brousseau

Sums of cubes I

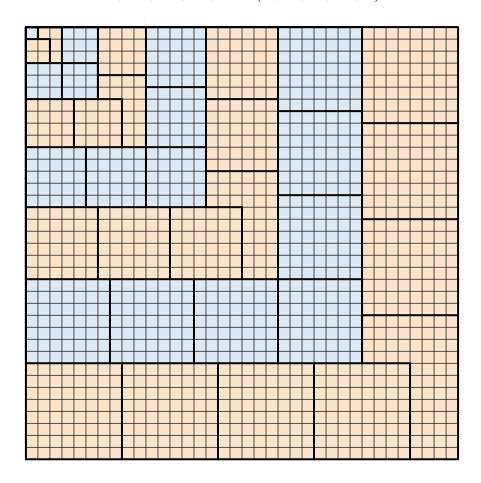
$$1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + n^3 = (1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n)^2$$



— Solomon W.Golomb

Sums of cubes II

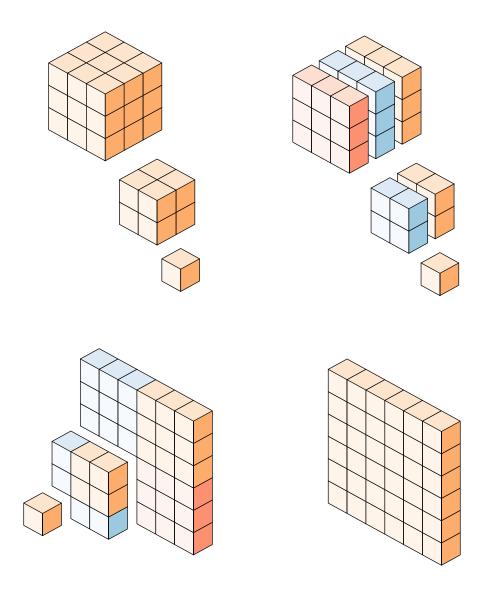
$$1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + n^3 = (1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n)^2$$



— J. Barry Love

Sums of cubes III

$$1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + n^3 = (1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n)^2$$



— Alan L. Fry

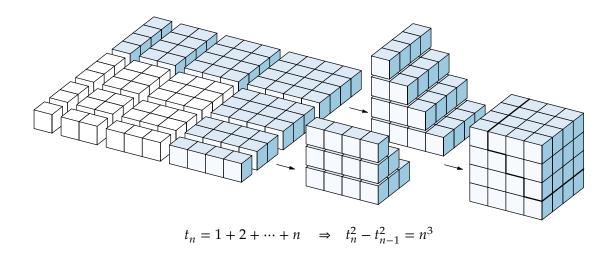
Sums of cubes IV

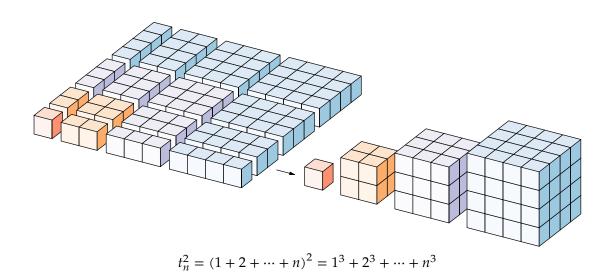
$$1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + n^3 = \frac{1}{4} (n(n+1))^2$$



— Antonella Cupillari

Sums of cubes V





— Roger Nelsen

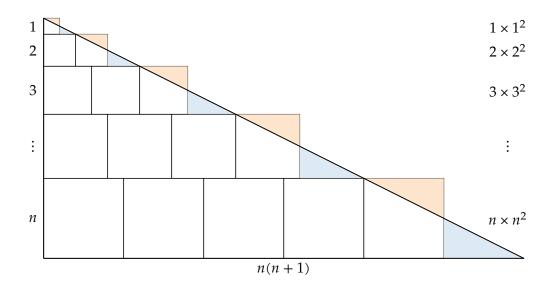
Sums of cubes VI

— Farhood Pouryoussefi

Sums of integers and sums of cubes

$$1 + 2 + \dots + n = \frac{1}{2}n(n+1)$$

$$1^3 + 2^3 + \dots + n^3 = \left(\frac{1}{2}n(n+1)\right)^2$$



— Georg Schrage

Sums of odd cubes are triangular numbers

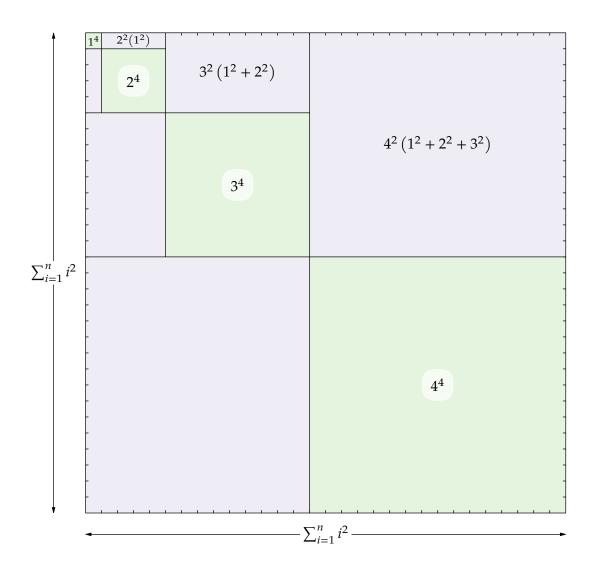


$$1^{3} + 3^{3} + 5^{3} + \dots + (2n-1)^{3} = 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + (2n^{2} - 1) = n^{2} (2n^{2} - 1)$$

— Monte J. Zerger

Sums of fourth powers

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} i^4 = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} i^2\right)^2 - 2\left(\sum_{k=2}^{n} \left(k^2 \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} i^2\right)\right)$$



— Elizabeth M. Markham

k-th powers as sums of consecutive odd numbers

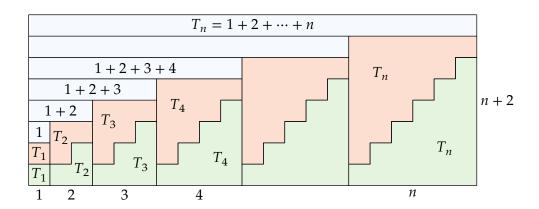
$$n^k = (n^{k-1} - n + 1) + (n^{k-1} - n + 3) + \dots + (n^{k-1} - n + 2n - 1)$$
 for $k = 2, 3, \dots$



— N. Gopalakrishnan Nair

Sums of triangular numbers I

$$T_n = 1 + 2 + \dots + n$$
 implies $T_1 + T_2 + \dots + T_n = \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)}{6}$



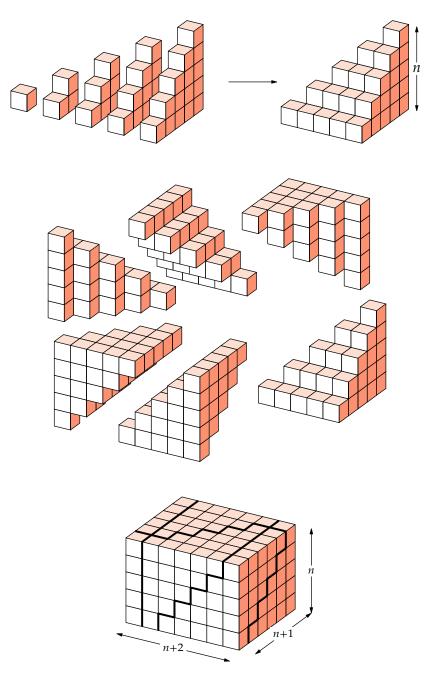
$$3(T_1 + T_2 + \dots + T_n) = (n+2) \cdot T_n$$

$$T_1 + T_2 + \dots + T_n = \frac{(n+2)}{3} \cdot \frac{n(n+1)}{2} = \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)}{6}$$

— Monte J. Zerger

Sums of triangular numbers II

$$T_n = 1 + 2 + \dots + n$$
 implies $T_1 + T_2 + \dots + T_n = \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)}{6}$



— Roger B. Nelsen

Sums of triangular numbers III

$$T_n=1+2+\cdots+n \quad \text{implies} \quad T_1+T_2+\cdots+T_n=\frac{1}{6}n(n+1)(n+2)$$

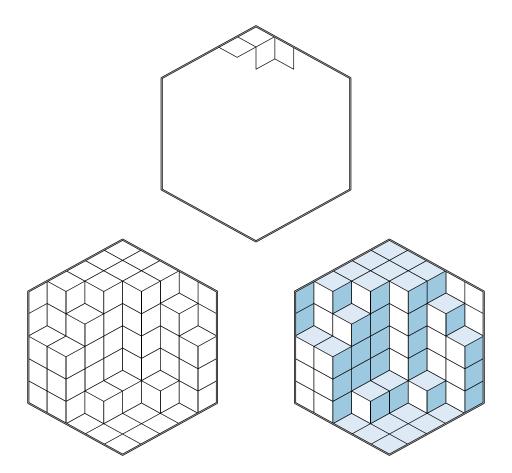
$$1 \qquad \qquad \qquad 1$$

 $3\left(T_1+T_2+\cdots+T_n\right)=T_n\cdot(n+2)$

Miscellaneous

The problem of the calissons			93
------------------------------	--	--	----

The problem of the calissons



— Guy David and Carlos Tomei