

# POW 2019-19

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Suppose that  $n$  is odd. Then in  $S$ , there are odd number of odd numbers, hence the sum of all elements in  $S$  is odd. If there exists  $A$  and  $B$  satisfying the conditions, then sum of elements of  $S$  should be twice the sum of elements of  $A$ , so the sum of elements of  $S$  must be even. Therefore there cannot exist two subsets  $A$  and  $B$  of  $S$  satisfying the given conditions. Hence  $n$  cannot be odd.

Suppose  $n = 2$ , and let  $m$  be arbitrary. Suppose there exists  $A$  and  $B$  satisfying the given conditions. Without loss of generality, we may assume  $(m+1)^2 \in A$ . Then we have the following three cases.

- If  $(m+2)^2 \in A$ , then the sum of elements of  $A$  is  $2m^2 + 6m + 5$ , while the sum of elements of  $B$  is  $2m^2 + 14m + 25$ , which is strictly greater than that of  $A$  for  $m \geq 0$ .
- If  $(m+3)^2 \in A$ , then the sum of elements of  $A$  is  $2m^2 + 8m + 10$ , while the sum of elements of  $B$  is  $2m^2 + 12m + 20$ , which is strictly greater than that of  $A$  for  $m \geq 0$ .
- If  $(m+4)^2 \in A$ , then the sum of elements of  $A$  is  $2m^2 + 10m + 17$ , while the sum of elements of  $B$  is  $2m^2 + 10m + 13$ , which is strictly less than that of  $A$  for  $m \geq 0$ .

Therefore there cannot exist  $A$  and  $B$  satisfying the given conditions. Hence  $n$  cannot be 2.

Before we consider the case when  $n \geq 2$  and  $n$  is even, we consider the following lemma.

**Lemma 1.** Any integer  $k \geq 2$  can be expressed as  $k = 2a + 3b$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are nonnegative integers.

*Proof.* It is clear that  $2 = 2 \cdot 1 + 3 \cdot 0$ ,  $3 = 2 \cdot 0 + 3 \cdot 1$ , and  $4 = 2 \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot 0$ .

For  $k \geq 5$ , depending on  $k \bmod 3$ , there exists positive integers  $q$  and  $r$  such that  $2 \leq r \leq 4$  and  $k = 3q + r$ . Expressing  $r$  as what we have seen in the previous paragraph,  $k$  is clearly representable in the form of  $k = 2a + 3b$  with  $a, b$  being nonnegative integers.  $\square$

From this lemma we have an immediate corollary, as follows.

**Corollary 1.** For any positive integer  $k \geq 8$  with  $k$  divisible by 4,  $k$  can be represented in the form of  $k = 8a + 12b$  for nonnegative integers  $a$  and  $b$ .

Now suppose  $n$  is an even integer such that  $n \geq 4$ . Let  $m$  be arbitrary. Observe that, when  $n = 4$ , we have a partition of  $S$  as

$$A = \{(m+1)^2, (m+4)^2, (m+6)^2, (m+7)^2\}, \quad B = \{(m+2)^2, (m+3)^2, (m+5)^2, (m+8)^2\}$$

satisfying the given conditions. Also when  $n = 6$ , we have a partition of  $S$  as

$$A = \{(m+1)^2, (m+3)^2, (m+7)^2, (m+8)^2, (m+9)^2, (m+11)^2\}, \\ B = \{(m+2)^2, (m+4)^2, (m+5)^2, (m+6)^2, (m+10)^2, (m+12)^2\}$$

satisfying the given conditions. Now if  $n$  is even and  $n \geq 8$ , then by **Corollary 1**, there exists positive integers  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  such that  $2n = 8\alpha + 12\beta$ . Thus we can divide  $S$  into  $\alpha$  chunks of 8 consecutive squares, and  $\beta$  chunks of 12 consecutive squares, with all chunks being disjoint. For each chunk, partition the squares as in the cases  $n = 4$  and  $n = 6$ . Collecting each partitions from chunks, we obtain a partition  $A$  and  $B$  of  $S$  satisfying the given conditions.

Therefore all integers  $n$  satisfying the given conditions are even integers with  $n \geq 4$ .