

# POW#1: An Integral Sequence

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*Proposition.* If a finite sequence  $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  satisfies the following, then  $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ )

$$\sum_{i=1}^m a_i^3 = \left( \sum_{i=1}^m a_i \right)^2 \quad (m = 1, \dots, n) \dots (1)$$

*We prove by induction on  $n$ .*

*For  $n = 1$ ,  $a_1$  is either 0 or 1, thus the proposition stands true.*

*Now assume that the proposition holds for  $n \leq k$ . Consider the case in which  $n = k + 1$ .*

*Let  $J = \{i: a_i = 0\}$ . If  $J \neq \emptyset$ , then the problem reduces to the case where  $n \leq k$  because at least one  $a_i$  is negligible in eq. (1).*

*Now assume  $J = \emptyset$ . The fact that  $\{1, \dots, k + 1\}$  is a valid sequence for  $\{a_n\}$  can be shown easily.*

*Since  $J = \emptyset$ ,  $a_1 = 1$ . For a valid sequence  $\{a_n\}$  different from  $\{1, \dots, k + 1\}$ , let  $j = \min\{i: a_i \neq i\}$ .*

*Clearly,  $2 \leq j \leq k + 1$ .  $\sum_{i=1}^{j-1} i^3 + a_j^3 = \left( \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} i + a_j \right)^2$  implies  $a_j^2 - a_j - k(k + 1) = 0$ , and*

*thus  $a_j = -k$ . Since  $k^3 + (-k)^3 = 0$  and  $k + (-k) = 0$ ,  $a_j$  cancels out  $a_{j-1}$  in eq. (1).*

*Therefore, the problem is reduced to the case where  $n \leq k - 1$ .*

*By the induction hypothesis, the proposition holds for every positive integer  $n$ .*