# Math and Magic Squares 

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## Leonhard Euler's French Officers Problem:

Arrange thirty-six officers in a six-by-six square

- from six regiments: 1 st,2nd,3rd,4th,5th,6th
- with six ranks: Recruit, Lieutenant, Captain, Major, Brigadier, General
- so that each row and column has one representative from each regiment and rank.

Easy for 25 officers in a $5 \times 5$ square:

| 1 L | 2 C | 3 M | 4 B | 5 G |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5 C | 1 M | 2 B | 3 G | 4 L |
| 4 M | 5 B | 1 G | 2 L | 3 C |
| 3 B | 4 G | 5 L | 1 C | 2 M |
| 2 G | 3 L | 4 C | 5 M | 1 B |

## What's the pattern?

## Can be done for:

- $3 \times 3,5 \times 5,7 \times 7$
- All $n \times n$ for odd $n$
- $4 \times 4$,
- even $8 \times 8$ !


## What's the pattern?

Can be done for:

- $3 \times 3,5 \times 5,7 \times 7$
- All $n \times n$ for odd $n$
- $4 \times 4$,
- even $8 \times 8$ !

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { But Not for: } \\
& \text { - } 2 \times 2 \\
& \text { - } 6 \times 6
\end{aligned}
$$

French Officers Problem
Latin Squares

## No Solution to the $2 \times 2$ French Officers Problem

Then what?


French Officers Problem
Latin Squares

## No Solution to the $2 \times 2$ French Officers Problem

## Then what?



> No! Not Allowed!
> Two First Lieutenants and Two Second Captains, but No Second Lieutenants or First Captains!

French Officers Problem
Latin Squares

## No Solution to the $2 \times 2$ French Officers Problem

Then what?


> No! Not Allowed!
> Two officers of the same rank in the same column!

## Conjectures and Theorems

## Euler's Conjecture (1782):

No Solutions for $n=2,6,10,14,18, \ldots$

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No Solutions for $n=6$

## Conjectures and Theorems

Euler's Conjecture (1782):
No Solutions for $n=2,6,10,14,18, \ldots$

```
. . is partly right. . .
Tarry (1900), Stimson (1984):
No Solutions for \(n=6\)
```

... but mostly wrong.
Bose, Parker, Shrikhande (1960):
Solutions for all $n$ except $n=2$ or $n=6$.

## Latin Squares

## Definition:

A Latin Square is an $n \times n$ square with $n$ symbols arranged so that each row and column has each symbol exactly once.

## Example Latin Square: Puppies!



## Example Latin Square: Sudoku

| 1 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 7 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 5 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| 6 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 5 |
| 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 8 |
| 2 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 9 |
| 9 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 |

## Building Latin Squares: Top-left to middle



## Building Latin Squares: Top-left to middle



## Building Latin Squares: Top-left to middle



## Building Latin Squares: Top-left to middle



## Building Latin Squares: Top-left to far-right



## Building Latin Squares: Top-left to far-right



## Building Latin Squares: Top-left to far-right



## Building Latin Squares: Top-left to far-right



## Orthogonal Latin Squares

## Definition:

Lay one Latin square over another. These squares are orthogonal if each pair appears exactly once.

## Definition:

The resulting square of pairs is called a Greco-Latin Square.

Example:


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Example:


## Two $4 \times 4$ Latin Squares. . .



## . . . which are Not Orthogonal



## . . . which are Not Orthogonal



## . . . which are Not Orthogonal



## First Challenge:

## Puppies

Can You Find:
(1) A Latin Square orthogonal to Puppies?
(2) Can you find two which are orthogonal to Puppies and each other?


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## One Possible Solution:



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## Maximum Number of Orthogonal Squares?

## Theorem:

The maximum number of mutually orthogonal $n \times n$ Latin squares is $n-1$.

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## Example:

The maximum number of mutually orthogonal $4 \times 4$ Latin squares is 3 (and we found them).

## Maximum Number of Orthogonal Squares?

## Theorem:

The maximum number of mutually orthogonal $n \times n$ Latin squares is $n-1$.

## Example:

The maximum number of mutually orthogonal $4 \times 4$ Latin squares is 3 (and we found them).

Sometimes there are many fewer.
The French Officers Problem shows there are not even two $6 \times 6$ orthogonal Latin squares.

## When Do You Have the Maximum?

## Theorem:

There are $n-1$ orthogonal $n \times n$ Latin squares if $n$ is prime or the power of a prime.

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There are $n-1$ orthogonal $n \times n$ Latin squares if $n$ is prime or the power of a prime.

## Example:

4 is the $2^{2}$, so there should be (and are) three mutually orthogonal $4 \times 4$ Latin squares.

## When Do You Have the Maximum?

## Theorem:

There are $n-1$ orthogonal $n \times n$ Latin squares if $n$ is prime or the power of a prime.

## Example:

4 is the $2^{2}$, so there should be (and are) three mutually orthogonal $4 \times 4$ Latin squares.

## Example:

6 is not prime or the power of a prime, so there do not have to be five mutually orthogonal $6 \times 6$ Latin squares (and there aren't).

## Part-magic Squares

## Definition:

A Part-magic square is an $n \times n$ square of $n^{2}$ numbers (usually $1,2 \ldots n^{2}$ ) where each row and column add up to the same sum.

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## Definition:

A Part-magic square is an $n \times n$ square of $n^{2}$ numbers (usually $1,2 \ldots n^{2}$ ) where each row and column add up to the same sum.

## Definition:

A Magic square is a part-magic square where the main diagonals also add up to the same sum as the rows and columns.

## Part-magic, but not Magic

Rows


$$
\begin{aligned}
1+5+9 & =6+7+2 \\
& =8+3+4=15 \\
\text { Columns } & \\
1+6+8 & =5+7+3 \\
& =9+2+4=15
\end{aligned}
$$

Diagonals
$1+7+4=12 \neq 15$
$9+7+8=24 \neq 15$

## Two orthogonal Latin squares $\Rightarrow$ Part-magic square



## Two orthogonal Latin squares $\Rightarrow$ Part-magic square



## Two orthogonal Latin squares $\Rightarrow$ Part-magic square



## Part-magic square $\Rightarrow$ Magic

## Each row and column is:

$$
\begin{array}{cccl}
d+s+y & + & O+A+B & = \\
6 & + & 9 & =15
\end{array}
$$

## Part-magic square $\Rightarrow$ Magic

## Each row and column is:

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
d+s+y & +O+A+B & = \\
6 & + & 9
\end{array}=15
$$

## But to be Magic

$$
\begin{array}{r}
3 d+O+A+B=15 \\
d+s+y+3 B=15
\end{array}
$$

## Making Magic. . .

... with a little math.

| $3 d+O+A+B$ | $=15$ |
| ---: | :--- |
| $3 d+9$ | $=15$ |
| $d+s+y+\Rightarrow d$ | $=2$ |
| $6+3 B$ | $=15$ |
| $\Rightarrow 3 B$ | $=15$ |
| $\Rightarrow B$ | $=3$ |

## Magic!



## Magic!



$$
\begin{aligned}
& d=2 \mid O=0 \\
& s=3 \\
& s=1
\end{aligned} \begin{aligned}
& A=6 \\
& y=3
\end{aligned}
$$

## Magic!



## Magic!



$$
\begin{aligned}
& d=2 \mid O=0 \\
& s=3 \\
& s=1
\end{aligned}
$$

## Second Challenge: Find a $4 \times 4$ Magic Square



## Possible Solution:

## For each row and column:

$$
\begin{aligned}
d+s+y+p & =10 \\
+O+A+B+G & =24 \\
\hline & =34
\end{aligned}
$$

## Possible Solution:

For each row and column:

$$
\begin{aligned}
d+s+y+p & =10 \\
+O+A+B+G & =24 \\
\hline & =34
\end{aligned}
$$

So the diagonals satisfy:

$$
\begin{aligned}
2(d+y)+2(O+A) & =34 \\
2(s+p)+2(B+G) & =34 \\
\Rightarrow(d+y)+(O+A) & =17 \\
\Rightarrow(s+p)+(B+G) & =17
\end{aligned}
$$

## One possible choice:



$$
\begin{array}{ll}
d+y= & s+p=5 \\
A+O= & B+G=12 \\
& \\
d=1 & O=0 \\
s=2 & A=12 \\
y=4 & B=8 \\
p=3 & G=4
\end{array}
$$

## One possible choice:

$$
2+8|1+4| 3+0 \mid 4+12
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& d+y=s+p=5 \\
& A+O=B+G=12
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
d=1 & O=0 \\
s=2 & A=12 \\
y=4 & B=8 \\
p=3 & G=4
\end{array}
$$

## One possible choice:



$$
\begin{array}{ll}
d+y= & s+p=5 \\
A+O= & B+G=12 \\
& \\
d=1 & O=0 \\
s=2 & A=12 \\
y=4 & B=8 \\
p=3 & G=4
\end{array}
$$

## Magic without a Greco-Latin Square



