**Research Article** 

### **Open Access**

# Some Properties of Magic Squares of Distinct Squares and Cubes

# Amal A. Ibrahim<sup>\*</sup>, Shatha A. Salman

Department Mathematics and computer applications, University of Technology, IRAQ \*Correspondent author email: <u>amalibrahim658@gmail.com</u>

| ArticleInfo         | Abstract   |
|---------------------|--|
| Received 27/05/2019 | Magic squares is $n \times n$ matrix with positive integer entries as well as the sum of rows, columns<br>and mains diagonal have the same magic constant, one of the most oldest magic square was<br>discovered in china. In this paper, the history of magic square is displayed and some<br>definitions of its kind is also given by prove of two theorems about properties of magic square |
| Accepted            | is introduced.   |
| 10/06/2019          | Keywords: Magic square, modular, Liner system.   |
|                     | الخلاصية   |
| Published           | المربعات السحرية هي مصفوفات n×n ذات مدخلات من اعداد صحيحة موجبة بالاضافة الي مجموع الصفوف والاعمدة   |
| 15/10/2019          | والاقطار الرئيسية لهاً نفس الثابت السحري, قد تم اكتشاف احد اقدم المربعات السحرية في الصين. في هذا البحث عرض  |
|                     | تاريخ المربعات السحرية وتعريف بعض انواع المربعات السحرية. ولقد تم تقديم اثبات مبر هنتين حول خصائص المربعات   |
|                     | السحرية.   |

# Introduction

The magic squares have long fascinated human beings even in ancient Babylonian civilization. People believed that these squares possessed magic powers, which humans used as religious symbols, and were considered a magic shield. People dug them into stones and carried them to the belief that they protected their bearer from dangers and evils. In the eighth century A.D. the importance of magic squares was considered as being useful in turning the ordinary metal into gold. The magic squares were used as magic powers in many civilizations. In India, for example, they were used to search for and retrieve missing persons. The Arabs believed that magic square had an effect on all aspects of life and were used to protect and heal children with lame [13].

The magic squares history goes back to China [4], after which it moved to the Islam and India[17], and through the Arabs moved to Europe in the middle Ages [17].

There is an ancient and strange legend in China for the discovery of the first magic square, which speaks about the discovery of the magic square with matrix of order  $3 \times 3$  through the pattern that appeare on the shell of the tortoise. It was found that the sum of rows, sum of columns as well as the sum of the main diagonals are equal to the number 15 [18], the magic square matrix of order four Was discovered by the German artist Albrecht Dürer's, where he dug in the upper right part of his etching Melencolia I, which included a collection of small details and scientists believe that the explanation is the lack of knowledge possessed by human access to heavenly wisdom and knowledge of the secrets of nature [13].

Although the magic squares over time have lost the belief that they have magical powers, but it continued to be a favorite subject for mathematicians and also used in entertainment games and puzzles for the possession of the mystery. Magic squares are also an important subject in art see [12].

The question that was put forward more than 160 years ago is which integer can be written in the form of sum of three integer cubes:



Copyright © 2019 Authors and Al-Mustansiriyah Journal of Science. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.

$$x^3 + y^3 + z^3 = n$$

The first reference to point out this problem was S. Ryley, [16]. In 1908 A.S. Werebrusov found the parametric for n = 2, [9] and Later in 1936 Mahler discovered a first parametric for n = 1, [8]. In 1954 year – Miller and Woollett discovered explicit representations for 69 values of n between 1 and 100, their search exhausted the region  $|x|, |y|, |z| \le 3164$ , [10]. In 1992, Brown et al. found the first solution for n = 39, [6]. 1994 Koyama used modern computers and successfully found first solutions for 16 integers between 100 and 1000 after expand the search region to  $|x|, |y|, |z| \leq$ 2<sup>21</sup>, [6]. 1997 Koyama, Tsuruoka, and Sekigawa used a new algorithm to find first solutions for five more values between 100 and 1000, [7]. In 2007, it's also found that there are no solution for  $n=\mp 4 \mod 9$ .

## **Basic Definitions**

#### **Definition** (1) [1]

A magic square is a square matrix with positive integer entries from  $1, \ldots, n^2$  such that sum in every row, sum in every column, and the sum of the two main diagonal are the same number it's called the magic constant as shown in Figure 1.

The magic constant calculated by the following formula:

| N | $N = \frac{n(n^2 + 1)}{2}$ |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|   | 4                          | 9 | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | 3                          | 5 | 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   | 8                          | 1 | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Figure 1: Magic square.

### **Definition** (2) [2]

A semi magic square is  $n \times n$  matrix whose entries are positive integer with row sum and column sum equal to the magic constant and the sum of one of the main diagonal or both failed to be equal to the magic constant as shown in Figure 2.

|                              | 3 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
|                              | 0 | 1 | 2 |  |  |  |  |
|                              | 0 | 2 | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| Figure 2: Semi magic square. |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |

#### **Definition** (3) [15]

A magic square whose entries are square integers or cubes integers is called magic square of square or cubes as shown in Figure 3.

| 68 <sup>2</sup> | 29 <sup>2</sup> | 41 <sup>2</sup> | 37 <sup>2</sup> |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 17 <sup>2</sup> | 31 <sup>2</sup> | 79 <sup>2</sup> | $32^{2}$        |
| 59 <sup>2</sup> | 28 <sup>2</sup> | 23 <sup>2</sup> | 61 <sup>2</sup> |
| 11 <sup>2</sup> | 77 <sup>2</sup> | 8 <sup>2</sup>  | 49 <sup>2</sup> |

Figure 3: Magic square of square.

*Example (1)* [3]: The way to construct a magic square of square of order 3 is not found, that shown in Figure 4.

| 373 <sup>2</sup> | 289 <sup>2</sup> | 565 <sup>2</sup> |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 360721           | 425 <sup>2</sup> | 23 <sup>2</sup>  |
| 205 <sup>2</sup> | 527 <sup>2</sup> | 222121           |

Figure 4: Magic square of order 3 with seven distinct square.

*Theorem (1)* [11]: (Gauss) Appositive integer N can be represented as a sum of three squares if and only if N is not of the form:

$$\mathbf{N} = 4^s(8k+7) \tag{1}$$

where s, k are integers.

Theorem (2) [3]: The construction of a  $3 \times 3$  magic square using seven (or eight or nine) distinct square integers different is impossible *Proof*:

**A.** If the entries of magic square is  $1, ..., n^2$  then,

#### **I.** According to Gauss theorem [11]

The magic constant for odd magic square is  $\frac{n(n^2+1)}{2}$  is odd, that is when n = 3 the magic constant is 15, therefore the value of s in

equation 1 must be zero to match the two sides for the equation. That is when n = 15, then:

$$n=4^s(8k+7),$$

 $\Rightarrow$ 15 = (8k+7)  $\Rightarrow$  k = 1. This means that the magic constant 15 can be written as the form 4<sup>s</sup>(8k + 7), when s=0 and k = 1, thus it is impossible to write it as sum of three squares.

**II.** In general, if the magic constant is  $\frac{n(n^2+1)}{2}$  then:

$$\frac{n(n^2+1)}{2} = 8k+7,$$
  

$$\implies k = \frac{n^3+n-14}{16}$$
  

$$\implies n^3 + n - (14 + 16k) = 0,$$
  
when k = 46, then by using the following  
program in MATLAB:  
clc

syms n x = solve (n^3+n-750) we get:  $x_1 = 9.0489$   $x_2 = -4.5245 - 7.9001i$   $x_3 = -4.5245 + 7.9001i$ This solution is compared

This solution is approximate solution. n cannot be written as a sum of three squares because it is not integer.

**B-** If all the entries of magic square are integers which satisfying the following condition of magic square:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a^2 & b^2 & c^2 \\ d^2 & e^2 & f^2 \\ g^2 & h^2 & i^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

The condition of magic square are:

 $a^{2}+b^{2}+c^{2} = s$   $d^{2}+e^{2}+f^{2} = s$   $g^{2}+h^{2}+i^{2} = s$   $a^{2}+d^{2}+g^{2} = s$   $b^{2}+e^{2}+h^{2} = s$   $c^{2}+f^{2}+i^{2} = s$   $a^{2}+e^{2}+i^{2} = s$  $c^{2}+e^{2}+g^{2} = s$ 

The equations can be arranged as a matrix in the form:

 $a^2 b^2 c^2 d^2 e^2 f^2 g^2 h^2 i^2$ 

| г1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ך0 |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 0  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0  |
| 0  | 0 | 0 | 0 |   |   | 1 | 1 | 1  |
| 1  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0  |
| 0  | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0  |
| 0  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1  |
| 1  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1  |
| L0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0] |
|    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |

Then by using elementary matrix operation on rows we get the coefficient matrix for the above matrix:

| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0  |
|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|----|
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1  | 0 | 0  | 1 | 0  |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0  | 1 | 0  | 0 | 1  |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | -1 | 0 | 1  | 0 | -1 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1  | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0  |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 1 | -1 | 0 | 1  |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0 | 1  | 1 | 1  |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0  |

The augmented matrix is:

| 8 | • • • • • |              |   |    |   |    |   |    |    |
|---|-----------|--------------|---|----|---|----|---|----|----|
| 1 | $1^{1}$   | $1^{1}$      | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0  | 5  |
| 0 | 1         | 0            | 0 | 1  | 0 | 0  | 1 | 0  | 5  |
| 0 | 0         | ( <b>1</b> ) | 0 | 0  | 1 | 0  | 0 | 1  | \$ |
| 0 | 0         | 0            | 1 | -1 | 0 | 1  | 0 | -1 | 0  |
| 0 | 0         | 0            | 0 | 1  | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0  | \$ |
| 0 | 0         | 0            | 0 | 0  | 1 | -1 | 0 | 1  | \$ |
| 0 | 0         | 0            | 0 | 0  | 0 | 1  | 1 | 1  | \$ |
| 0 | 0         | 0            | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
|   |           |              |   |    |   |    |   |    |    |

Since the rank of coefficient matrix is equal to the rank of augmented matrix which is 7, then the system must have at least one solution [19]. In [14], the author illustrates some properties for magic square that satisfy the magic square of square.

**Theorem (3) [11]:** If n is a positive integer such that  $n \equiv 1$ , 3 or 5 (mod8), then n can be represented as the sum of three squares.

**Example (2) [3]:** The construction of  $3 \times 3$  semi magic square with cubes entries is impossible.

| 51 <sup>3</sup>  | 619 <sup>3</sup> | 165 <sup>3</sup> |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 618 <sup>3</sup> | $162^{3}$        | 115 <sup>3</sup> |
| 178 <sup>3</sup> | 72 <sup>3</sup>  | 235788435        |

**Figure 5**: 3×3 semi magic square with eight distinct cubes.



Copyright © 2019 Authors and Al-Mustansiriyah Journal of Science. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.

Theorem (4) [3]: The constructing of  $3 \times 3$  semi magic square using a positive distinct cubed integer is impossible.

Let n = 4 mod 9 from the magic constant of odd magic square of order n the magic constant is  $\frac{n(n^2+1)}{2}$ , therefore:

 $\frac{n(n^2+1)}{2} \mod 9 = 4, \text{ implies that:} \\ n^3 + n - 72 = 0.$ 

Using the following program in MATLAB: clc

 $x = solve (n^3+n-72)$ 

we get:

 $x_1 = 4.0801$ 

 $x_2 = -2.0400 - 3.6722i$ 

 $x_3 = -2.0400 + 3.6722i$ 

This solution is approximate solution. Since n = 4.0801, therefore it cannot be written as a sum of three cubes, where the other are complex.

## Conclusion

Magic squares have been inspiring to many artists and mathematicians. Therefore, there are types of magic squares that have specific properties. Many open problems have emerged one of them if can be constructing  $3\times3$  magic square of squares and the other constructed  $3\times3$  magic square of cubes, which is taken in this paper.

### References

- [1] Ahmed M.M., Algebraic combinatorics of magic squares, PhD thesis, University of California, 2004.
- [2] Beck M., Robins S., Computing the continuous discretely, Springer Science+ Business Media, LLC, 2007.
- [3] Boyer, C., Some notes on the magic squares of squares problem, The Mathematical Intelligencer, 27, 2, 2005, pp.52-64.
- [4] Cammann S., Old Chinese magic squares, Verlag für Recht und Gesellschaft, 1962.
- [5] Heath-Brown D.R., Lioen W.M., Te Riele H.J.J., On solving the Diophantine equation  $x^{3+} y^{3+} z^{3=} k$ on a vector computer, Mathematics of computation, 61,203, 235-244, 1993.

- [6] Koyama K., Tsuruoka Y., Sekigawa H., Tables of solutions of the Diophantine equation  $x^3 + y^3 + z^3$ In n, Math, Comput, 1994.
- [7] Koyama K., Tsuruoka Y., Sekigawa H., On searching for solutions of the Diophantine equation  $x^3+ y^3+ z^3= n$ , Mathematics of Computation of the American Mathematical Society, 66,218, 841-851, 1997.
- [8] Mahler K., Note on hypothesis K of Hardy and Littlewood, Journal of the London Mathematical Society, 1,2, 136-138, 1936.
- [9] Mordell L.J., On sums of three cubes, Journal of the London Mathematical Society, 1, 3, 139-144, 1942.
- [10] Miller J.C.P., Woollett M.F.C., Solutions of the Diophantine Equation: x3+ y3+ z3= k, Journal of the London Mathematical Society, 1, 1, 101-110, 1955.
- [11] Nathanson M.B., Additive Number Theory the Classical Bases, Springer Science & Business Media, 164, 2013.
- [12] Nowlan R.A., Magic Squares and Art, In Masters of Mathematics. SensePublishers, Rotterdam. 545-566, 2017.
- [13] Pickover C.A., Pickover, S.S.C.A., the Zen of Magic Squares, Circles, and Stars: An Exhibition of Surprising Structures Across Dimensions, Princeton University Press, 2002.
- [14] Rabern L.W., Properties of magic squares of squares, Rose-Hulman Undergraduate Mathematics Journal, 4, 1, 3, 2003.
- [15] Robertson J.P., Magic squares of squares, Mathematics Magazine, 69, 4, 289-293, 1996.
- [16] Ryley S., The Ladies' Diary, 122, 35, 1825.
- [17] Schuyler C., Islamic and Indian magic squares, Parts I and II. History of Religions 8, 181–209, 271–299, 1969.
- [18] Swetz F., Legacy of the Luoshu: The 4,000 Year Search for the Meaning of the Magic Square of Order Three, AK Peters/CRC Press, 2008.
- [19] Shafarevich, I.R. and Remizov, A.O., Linear algebra and geometry, Springer Science & Business Media, 2012.