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# Number Pattern

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# Number Pattern

#### **Cover Page Footnote**

This article is the result of the MAT students' collaborative research work in the Pre-Algebra course. The research was under the direction of their professor, Dr. Hui Fang Su. The paper was organized by Team Leader Denise Gates.

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#### Number Patterns

#### **Abstract**

In this manuscript, we study the purpose of number patterns, a brief history of number patterns, and classroom uses for number patterns and magic squares. We investigate and summarize number patterns and magic squares in various charts: 6 x 6, 7 x 7, 13 x 13, 21 x 21, and 37 x 37. The results are established by each number pattern along with narrative conjectures about primes and multiples of six from each pattern. Numerical charting examples are provided as an illustration of the theoretical results.

#### **A Brief History of Number Patterns**

Recognizing number patterns is a vital problem-solving skill. As noted by the Annenburg Foundation, "If you see a pattern when you look systematically at specific examples, you can use that pattern to generalize what you see into a broader solution to a problem" (Annenburg Foundation, 2016). Understanding number patterns are necessary so that students of all ages can appropriately identify and understand various types of patterns and functional relationships. Furthermore, number pattern awareness allows one to use patterns and models to analyze the change in both real and abstract contexts. The Common Core State Standards state that "mathematically proficient students look closely and discern a pattern or structure" (CCSS, 2015). In addition to the Common Core State Standards, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics states that "In prekindergarten through grade 2 all students should use multiple models to develop initial understandings of place value and the base-ten number system" (NCTM, 2015).

How can number sense and number pattern awareness be developed and or enhanced upon? A hundreds chart can be used to provide students with a framework for thinking about the base ten number system; it allows students to develop a mental model of the number system. Utilizing a hundreds chart will provide students with the opportunity to look for and make sense of number patterns and structure within the base ten number system. Furthermore, the familiarity with a hundreds chart will also build upon a student's sense of number patterns and awareness, and, therefore, lead to computational flexibility and fluency. A hundreds chart can be used for a variety of activities. Using a hundreds chart, students can look for number patterns, they can brush up on their addition and subtraction facts, they can build their multiplication sense, they can broaden their knowledge of fractions and decimals and enhance their logical and strategic thinking skills (Gaskins, 2008).

#### **A Brief History of Magic Squares**

One of the oldest and most revered puzzles of all time is the magic square puzzle. A magic square is formed by arranging consecutive numbers in a square so that the rows, columns, and diagonals add equally. For example, a 3x3 magic square could arrange with the numbers 1 through 9 so each row, column, and diagonal adds to 15:



There are several other ways to array the numbers in each of the nine cells to create a 3x3 magic square. Given the task of arranging consecutive numbers in a pattern so that the rows and

columns form an equal sum, one can add the consecutive numbers and divide by the number of columns or rows. In the example above,  $9 + 8 + 7 + 6 + 5 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 1 = 45 / 3 = 15$  are the sum of the rows, columns, and diagonals in the magic square. It can be an exercise to the student – if the student can determine the sum established on the number of rows and columns in the square, he or she can arrange consecutive numbers in the square appropriately. The larger the square, the more cumbersome this methodology becomes, which is why mathematicians have created the following formula:

$$
M = \frac{n(n^2 + 1)}{2}.
$$

In the above formula, n symbolizes the number of rows and columns. If we continue to use the example of a 3 x 3 square, the formula would simplify to  $(3(3^2 + 1)/2) = 15$ . Understandably, the larger n becomes larger than the sum, thus creating possible arrangements throughout the square (Magic Squares - What are they).

The origin of the magic square can be traced back to 2800 B.C. Chinese Literature and the legend of "Lo Shu" which can be translated to the scroll of the River Lo. The legend tells the story of a flood that destroyed the land. The people of the city believed that offering a sacrifice to the river god would calm his anger and keep him from causing further destruction; however the river god continued to flood the land. The legend states that a turtle would emerge from the river after every flood and walk around the sacrifice. After this had happened several times, a child

noticed a unique pattern on the turtle's shell. This pattern, which can be seen in the figure to the right, told the people how many sacrifices to make for the river god to calm the waters – fifteen. Other accounts of this tale state that it was the great Emperor Yu



Fig 2. Lo Shu, the oldest known magic square

who was the one to notice this pattern –whoever it was is unclear, but each account does state that the fifteen sacrifices pleased the river god, and the flooding was ceased (Magic Squares - What are they).

Early Chinese culture is rich with the usage of magic squares, including astrology, divination, philosophy, natural phenomena, and human behavior. Magic squares and their uses in various areas of study traveled from China to other parts of Asia and Europe throughout ancient civilization. Its history is rich, and the square has journeyed a long period. Some of its greatest achievements in India's history include Varahamihira, who used a fourth-order magic square to specify recipes for making perfumes that allowed him to see into the future; and the doctor Vrnda, who claimed the magic square helped him develop a means to ease childbirth (Anderson).

The ancient Arabic description for magic squares, wafq ala'dad, means "harmonious disposition of the numbers." The idea is exemplified by Camman, who speaks of the spiritual importance of these magical puzzles:

"If magic squares were, in general, small models of the Universe, now they could be viewed as symbolic representations of Life in a process of constant flux, constantly being renewed through contact with a divine source at the center of the cosmos." (Prussin 1986, p. 75)

Much of ancient history reveals continued to awe and reverence for the magic square – Ancient artifacts from Africa to Asia show that the magic square became interwoven into cultural artifacts, appearing on antique porcelains and sculptures, even in the design and building of homes (Anderson).

It continued throughout history until the seventeenth century, when French aristocrat Antoine de la Loubere began to study the mathematical theory behind the construction of magic squares. In 1686, Adamas Kochansky created a three-dimensional magic square. Today, magic squares are examined about factor analysis, combinational mathematics, matrices, modular arithmetic, and geometry (Anderson).

### **6 x 6 Chart – Number Pattern**

During number pattern observation, it is highlighted that number patterns are evident. These are some indication:



i.  $2<sup>nd</sup>$ ,  $4<sup>th</sup>$ , and  $6<sup>th</sup>$  columns are all divisible rule of 2 and multiples of 4, which indicates the multiple of 4 table.

- ii. The table shows multiple of 6, which displays the last column numbers that are divisible by 6 and multiples of 6.
- iii. The  $3<sup>rd</sup>$  column numbers are divisible by 3, which is indicated in black.
- iv.  $1^{st}$ ,  $3^{rd}$ , and  $5^{th}$  columns are odd numbers, also the  $2^{nd}$ ,  $4^{th}$ , and  $6^{th}$  columns are even numbers.
- v. Each number arrangement shows the columns are increasing by 6.
- vi. The table shows numbers are prime numbers on the 6 x 6 chart.

### **6 x 6 Chart – Number Pattern**



During number pattern diagonal observation, looking at highlighted ray lines we can see patterns arrays:

- vii. Looking at the above chart, the corners of the number arrangements on opposite ends, we can see a pattern of the sum of 37. For example,  $6 + 31 = 37$  and  $1 + 36$  $= 37.$
- viii. Using orange ray lines in Figure 2, the diagonal will display a formula of  $n + 5$ . This pattern increased by five from top right to bottom left. For example, if we use n = 5, then the formula n + 5 is  $5 + 5 = 10$ , which makes the next diagonal number arrangement 10. The pattern is the same for all diagonal numbers from

top right to bottom left. However, if we reverse the indicated orange ray line, then we can see different formula  $n - 5$  using the integer rule. The diagonal going upward from bottom left to right shows another pattern arrangement. If  $n = 13$ , then  $13 - 5 = 7$ , which is the next diagonal number arrangement. The orange arrow indicates the pattern formulas  $n + 5$  and  $n - 5$ ; in fact, we can use it to demonstrate integer rules in a pattern observation.

ix. Looking at the above chart, the indicated blue arrow going diagonally will display a formula of  $n + 7$  and  $n - 7$ , which demonstrate integer rules patterns observation. For example, if we use  $n = 36$ , then the formula  $36 - 7$  decrease by seven from going upward from bottom right to top left. The sum of the next diagonal number from top left to bottom right is 29. Also, if  $n = 13$ , then  $13 + 7 =$ 20, which is the next diagonal number arrangement increased by 7. The pattern is the same for all diagonal numbers from top left to bottom right.



#### **6 x 6 Chart – Magic Square**

During number pattern observation, looking at the magic square we can see patterns arrays:

x. All rows, columns, and diagonals must add up to the magic square constant of 111 for a 6x6 board. The formula is  $\left[ n(n^2 + 1) \right]$ /2. The solution is  $\frac{[6(6^2+1)]}{2}$ ,  $\frac{6(37)}{2}$ ,  $\frac{222}{2}$ , 111.

#### **7 x 7 Number Patterns**



7 x 7 Chart - Observations of the Number Patterns:

- i. The values in the  $7<sup>th</sup>$  (and last) column are all multiples of 7 and divisible by 7.
- ii. The columns headed by an odd number alternate odd and even numbers until it reaches the bottom; the columns headed by an even number are exactly the opposite, alternating even and odd numbers until the bottom listed number.
- iii. In each column, the numbers are increasing by seven from top to bottom.
- iv. The table shows prime numbers in the 7x7.
- v. The diagonal going from bottom left to the upper right is n-6, upper right to lower left n+6, The diagonal going from lower right to upper left is n-8, upper left to lower right is n+8.
- vi. There is a congruency in the sum of the numbers at opposite ends of the grid:1+49=50 and 7+43=50.



7 x 7 Chart – Observation of the Magic Square:

- vii. For a 7x7 grid, all rows, diagonals, and columns must add up to the magic number of 175; formula  $\left[ n(n^2+1) \right] / 2$ . The solution is  $\frac{\left[ 7(7^2+1) \right]}{2}$ ,  $\frac{7(50)}{2}$ ,  $\frac{350}{2}$ , 175.
- viii. As noted with highlighting, every 7 numbers follows a diagonal pattern.

### **13 x 13 Chart - Number Patterns**

The number 13 is unique in many ways, aside from being a very significant number and the seventh odd number. The number 13 it is also a part of one of the Pythagorean triples (13, 84, 85) (2010). Below is a 13 x 13 chart I constructed, starting with number 1. Given this information of the quantity and structure (using numbers 1 through 169, since  $13x13=169$ ), the

conjecture would be that there is always, at least, one prime per row, and there is always, at least, two multiples of six per column.

#### Key:

Prime #s Multiple of 6



Moreover, I have identified the prime numbers (pink) and multiples of six (blue). From the 13x13 chart, one can recognize that there are a few patterns throughout. For instance, there is a diagonal pattern with the numbers 66, 54, 42, 30, 18, and 6 since they are divisible by six and increase in odd increments when divided: 11, 9, 7, 5, 3, and 1. A similar pattern takes place in the first column row 12; beginning with 144, then 132 all the way to 24 and 12. This diagonal pattern also has multiples of six, but they are in increments of 12 (144/6=24, 132/6=22,...

24/6=4, and 12/6=2) and decreases by two every time. There is an additional correlation with the numbers 1, 13, and 169 in three corners of the chart as skew-related cells. Furthermore, two Pythagorean triangles were identified in the first row, using numbers: 3, 4, 5 and 5, 12, 13.

In 1963, Simon de la Loub'ere (1642-1729), a mathematician, recognized an algorithm to construct an odd order square. The pattern began with 1 in the central lower cell, and then continues diagonally upward to the right in the next column. The next digit, 3, is placed diagonally downward to the right of 2, and this continues for 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. The remarkable chart below for the 13x13 pattern follows this format and can lucidly see the patterns of sequence organized in an arrangement of colors (Danesi).



Another mastermind puzzlist, who was a prison inmate at the time, created a 13x13 magic square with 11x11 and 3x3 nested inside. The Journal of Recreational Mathematics published this piece noting that each square is exactly 10,874 smaller than the last, and every cell is prime (Journal, 2010).



Over time, numerous varieties of patterns, including magic squares, were created as a spiritual power. These influences stem from Hermetic geometry, where the illustrations symbolize extraterrestrial shapes. Becoming familiar with these unique shapes and patterns, such as geometric shapes and the Pythagorean Theorem, can help lay a foundation that students will utilize in future studies.

#### **21 x 21 Chart - Number Patterns**

The number twenty-one has several significant accolades to its name. It is a Fibonacci number and a Harshad number, which is an integer that is divisible by the sum of its digits when written in that base. It is also the sum of the first six natural numbers, earning the title of a

triangular number. Additionally, twenty-one is and an octagonal number, a composite number, with its divisors being 1, 3, and 7 (all prime), and a Motzkin number (Numbermatics, 2016).

Below is a 21 x 21 chart, starting with number 1. Given this information of the quantity and structure (using numbers 1 through 441, since  $21 \times 21 = 441$ ), there are several apparent patterns throughout this chart each, highlighted in different colors for ease of reading.

### **21 x 21 Chart – Multiples of 6**



In the chart above, multiples of 6 are highlighted in pink to show that in every third row, every other number is a multiple of 6.

### **21 x 21 Chart – Prime Numbers**



In the chart above, prime numbers are highlighted in maroon. Although it 's challenge to determine a precise pattern for primes, it is interesting to note that at least each column contains, at least, three prime numbers, and of course, 3 is a factor of 21.

Additional patterns for the 21 x 21 number chart can be found below.

# **21 x 21 Chart – Multiples of 3**



# **21 x 21 Chart – Multiples of 6**



# **21 x 21 Chart – Multiples of 5**



## **21 x 21 Chart – Multiples of 9**



#### **21 x 21 Chart - Magic Square**



The figure above is a 21 x 21 magic square. Each of the rows, columns, and diagonals will add to 4,641. A magic square can be found by either adding each of the rows, columns, and diagonals, or by using the formula  $(n(n^2 + 1) / 2)$ . To create this magic square, the number 1 is placed in the middle of the upper column (highlighted baby blue), numbers are then "wrapped around" the square vertically and horizontally. If you look closely, you will see that the numbers 1-21 are highlighted in baby blue, following a diagonal pattern. Numbers 22-42, highlighted in purple, also follow this pattern. In fact, every 21 numbers (43-63, 64-84, 85-105, etc.) will follow this exact pattern, creating a truly impressive puzzle.

### **37 x 37 Chart - Number Patterns**

The pattern of 37 will fill out with 1369 boxes since it's consists of 37 by 37 or n by n

table. One of the advantages of analyzing number patterns is that often it is possible to see a



small part of it.

There are few easy patterns to find out on the 37 by 37 table. The first one is that the right diagonal is increased by 36 from 1 until 1369. For instance,  $(37 + 36 = 73, 73 + 36 = 109, 1297 +$  $36 = 1333$ ). On the other hand, the left diagonal is augmented by 38. For example,  $(1 + 38 = 39)$ ,  $39 + 38 = 77$ ,  $1331 + 38 = 1369$ ). Also, it is possible to notice that subtracting any number starting from the second row from the previous one the result will always be 37. For instance,  $(38 - 1 = 37, 704 - 667 = 37, 1060 - 1023 = 37, 962 - 925 = 37, 1369 - 1332 = 37)$ . Also, the third row is equal to the multiplication of the second row minus the first row. Row $3 = R2 \times 2 - R$ R1:  $(79 = 42 \times 2 - 5, 99 = 62 \times 2 - 25, 111 = 74 \times 2 - 37)$ 

According to the author Chris K. Caldwell (2015), there are plenty conjectures related to prime number. One of them says that every even  $n > 2$  is the sum of two primes which comes from the mathematician Goldbach's work. Back in 1742, Goldback sends a mathematical proof in a letter to Euler suggesting that every integer  $n > 5$  is equal to the sum of three prime's numbers. After Euler analyzing his friend proposal, he found out that every even number greater than two is equal to the sum of two prime numbers. Also, another important prime conjecture is more familiar. In fact, there are infinitely many twin primes such as "the sum of the reciprocals of the twin primes converges, as so the sum B =  $(1/3 + 1/5) + (1/5 + 1/7) + (1/11 + 1/13) + (1/17)$  $+ 1/19$ ) + is Brun's constant."

$$
2\prod_{p\geq 3} \frac{p(p-2)}{(p-1)^2} \int_{\frac{1}{(log x)^2}}^{x} dx = 1.320323632 \int_{\frac{1}{(log x)^2}}^{x} dx
$$

The conjecture formula above proved that there are about twin primes less than or equal

to x, and it also shows that there is an infinite product of the twin primes constants (Caldwell, C.

K., 2015).

The following activity created by "The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted

Students," can be used to teach the conceptions of prime numbers along with the conjectures of

multiples of six.

Present the statement to pupils in either of the following ways:

*"All prime numbers greater than three can be expressed in the form*  $6n + 1$ *,*  $6n - 1$ *, where n is a positive whole number." "Every prime number greater than 3 is either one more than or one more than a multiple of 6."*

Give the students some time to investigate the above statement (preferably using Excel)

and encourage them to come up with a proof of this proposition.



#### **The results show that:**

(i) All prime numbers so far tested (apart from a and 3) lie either in the  $6n + 1$  column or

the 6n – 1 column. There are no primes in the other columns.

(ii) There are, however, non-primes in the  $6n + 1$  column and the  $6n - 1$  column.

So far all we can see is that some examples fit the conjecture. We have not yet proved that all primes fit the conjecture. It would take forever!

#### **Suggested proof:**

Star by noticing that every whole number can be expressed in the form  $6n - 2$ ,  $6n - 1$ ,  $6n$  $+1$ , 6n  $+2$ , and 6n  $+3$ . Then, notice the following facts:

(i) 6n is always divisible by 6, for all values of n (so none of the numbers in this column can be prime).

(ii)  $6n - 2$  is always divisible by 2, for all values of n (so none of the numbers in this column can be prime either, except two itself).

(iii) The same is true of  $6n + 2$ .

(iv)  $6n + 3$  is always divisible by 3, for all values of n (so none of the numbers in this column can be prime, except three itself). So, all the primes greater than three must lie in the 6n – 1 and 6n + 1 columns. (The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Students, 2003).

University of Tennessee-Martin Professor Chris Caldwell wrote that he (along with a friend using MATLAB (computer programming language)) found every prime number over three lies next to a number divisible by six. After testing 1,000,000 prime numbers, take *n >3* and divide it by  $6n = 6q + r$  where q is a non-negative integer and the remainder r is one of 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

- If the remainder is 0, 2 or 4, then the number *n* is divisible by 2, and cannot be prime.
- If the remainder is 3, then the number *n* is divisible by 3, and cannot be prime.

So if *n* is prime, then the remainder  $r$  is either

- 1 (and  $n = 6q + 1$  is one more than a multiple of six), or
- 5 (and  $n = 6q + 5 = 6(q+1) 1$  is one less than a multiple of six).

Remember that being one more or less than a multiple of six does not make a number prime. We have only shown that all primes other than 2 and 3 (which divide 6) have this form.

#### **Classroom Uses for Number Patterns**

The hundreds chart can be used in a variety of ways in a math class. As a result, we have noticed that the other number charts are not better for teaching students of all age simple but complex math pattern. Furthermore, a hundreds chart helps students see patterns with numbers. The hundreds chart can also be used to help students with many number sense related activities, as compared to each of the four mathematical operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. In the 10x10 hundred chart, the numbers 1-100 are arranged in ten columns and ten rows. Within the columns and rows of the 10 x 10 hundred chart, there are several patterns in the chart, which can be identified. In looking at a 10 x 10 hundred chart, many number patterns that are evident. Not only are there many patterns that are evident in the 10 x 10 hundred chart, but there is also a basic pattern (a formula) for the basic 10 x 10 hundred charts (square). The number patterns that are present in a 10 x 10 hundred chart lend themselves to a learning tool for students of all ages.

Magic squares are proving to be an ideal tool for the effective illustration of many mathematical concepts. In fact, simple Arithmetic, which would stem from summing the numbers in the rows, columns, and diagonals, to Algebra and Geometry with the application of the formula mentioned in the first section of this paper (Anderson) here are many ways to incorporate magic squares to help teach students math. Consider a few important things when adapting magic squares for the classroom.

It is imperative to make sure the students understand a method of determining the placement of numerals in any size magic cell – this can be done by providing students with an example first – perhaps a 3 x 3 or 4 x 4 magic square. When providing the example, point out how the numbers in the squares add to the same number in every direction. To make this more concrete to the student, the instructor could provide a second example that uses the same square, but with one or more cells missing. Students could then either find the missing consecutive number (arithmetic) or create a formula to find the missing number that would make the "magic" happen. For an illustration of this, see the example below.



Note: Introduce the lesson by displaying a full  $3 \times 3$  magic square  $-$  point out the sum of the rows, columns, and diagonals is 15. Also introduce the formula M =  $n(n^2 + 1)$ /2 to show that the magic number is 15.



Note: Use progression by starting to block out the cells. You can use the same number, or double or triple the number. In this example, the numbers are doubled. Ask students to fill in the missing numbers. They should be able to point out that M is 30, and proceed to fill in the missing numbers from there. Circulate and provide guidance if necessary.

After completing this exercise with students, lead students to develop an understanding of a method of constructing a magic square by attempting to create one of their own. Some examples

of exercises for the classroom are listed:

*Exercise 1*: Draw a 3 by 3 grid, and without any clues, see if the students can fill in the numbers 1 to 9 so that the result is a magic square. If you want to give a hint; put the number 5 in the middle.

*Exercise 2:* Look at your final result from the last magic square; now have the students square every number in the square. Is the square still magic? Yes! Be sure to ask students why to ensure they understand this. Use a simple formula, like  $x + 3 = 8$  – students will say that  $x = 5$ . Now double the numbers  $-2x + 6 = 16$  – students will still say that  $x = 5$ . Finally, show them the formula  $M = n(n^2 + 1)/2$  and use any number for n, then ask them to square n and complete the formula again. The result should be  $M^2$ !

*Exercise 3:* To begin, refer back to the first example, the 3 x 3 magic square. In this square, the middle number is 5 and is in the center of the square. Ask students to try putting another number in the center. After some time, it will be discovered that no other number will work in the center position. Therefore, it can be concluded that because 5 is the median number, it must be placed in the center position with a greater and lesser number on either side. For this exercise*,* provide the students with nine prime numbers: 1, 7, 13, 31, 37, 43, 61, 67, and 73. Can these numbers be arranged into a magic square? Be sure to remind students the key to arranging the numbers correctly in any magic square is to realize that the middle number (in this case, 37) must always go in the center.

- 67 1 43
- $13 \quad 37 \quad 61$
- $31 \overline{73} \overline{7}$

*Exercise 4:* Another activity could be a 3 x 3 Magic Square: write all the number 1-9 on small squares of paper and cut them out; move the numbers to the spaces so the sum of each row, column, and main diagonal equals 15 and have the students record their work. You can challenge them by asking if there is more than one way to place the numbers to that the sums of each row, column, and main diagonal equals 15—have them compare with other students!

*Exercise 5:* A 5 x 5 Magic Square: write all the number 1-25 on small squares of paper and cut them out; move the numbers to the spaces so the sum of each row, column, and main diagonal equals 65 and have the students record their work.

The key to the mastery of this concept is building a solid foundation for students to work.

By demonstrating the mathematical concept you are trying to get students to comprehend in an artless manner first, you are creating a bridge into the understanding of more complicated mathematical concepts, like the magic square. Starting small and taking the time to ask why, explain concepts, and demonstrate why the square is magic will allow you and your students to grasp fully the magical properties of this phenomenal concept (Anderson).

#### **Closing Remarks**

Numerical patterns are just the beginning of the acknowledgement of the importance of mathematics in one's everyday life. Through careful observation and conjecture we have found that numerous patterns in both number charts and magic squares. These observations can be passed along to students beginning at an early age – both allowing them to deepen their knowledge of the number system, and develop an awareness for patterns and puzzles in the study of mathematics. It is our hope that the teaching of numerical patterns to elementary age children will also develop a love of the beauty and presence of mathematics in our everyday lives.

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