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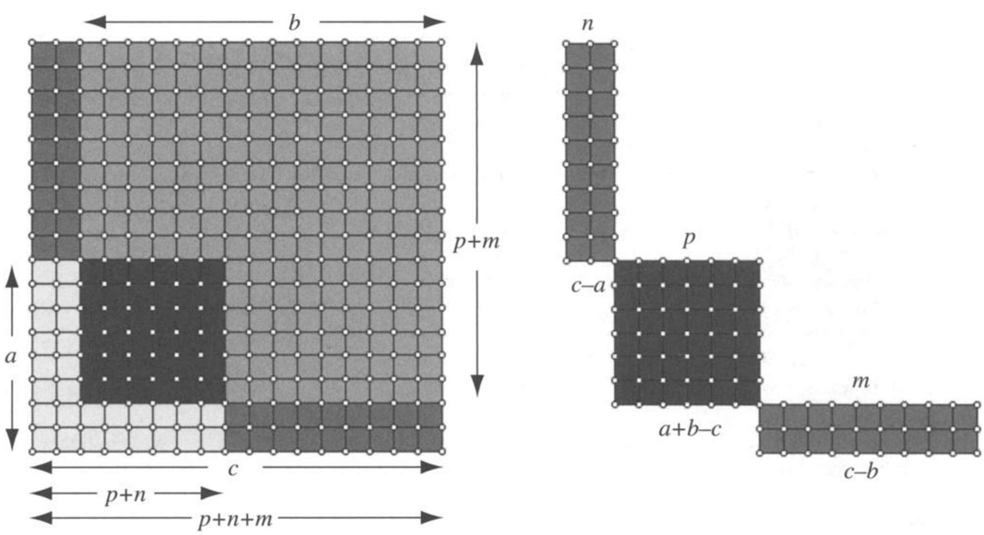
Proof Without Words: Pythagorean Triples and Factorizations of Even Squares

There is a one to one correspondence between Pythagorean triples and factorizations of even squares of the form $p^2 = 2nm$.



$$\text{If} \quad a^2 + b^2 = c^2, \quad \text{then} \quad (a+b-c)^2 = 2(c-a)(c-b).$$
$$\text{If} \quad p^2 = 2nm, \quad \text{then} \quad (p+n)^2 + (p+m)^2 = (p+n+m)^2.$$

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Author Darryl McCullough, whose article *Height and Excess of Pythagorean Triples* appears in this issue, points out that another way to see the correspondence between factorizations of even integers and Pythagorean triples is through $\langle e, h\rangle$-coordinates: In the notation of his article, each factorization $p^2 = 2mn$ corresponds to the two pairs $\langle p, m\rangle$ and $\langle p, n\rangle$, which represent a Pythagorean triangle and its mirror image.