

UC Merced Applied Math Problem of the Month

April 2026

When does the sum of the integers from 1 to n become a perfect square?

Find the first eight integer pairs (n, k) satisfying

$$1 + 2 + \cdots + n = k^2$$

Can you detect a pattern among the values of k ?

Can you use this to characterize all such integer pairs?

To submit your solutions for a chance to win an Amazon gift card, and to find out detailed contest rules,

- scan the QR code, or
- go to <https://bit.ly/UCM-POTM>

