

## AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

SCHOOLS ENRICHMENT CENTRE (AIMSSEC)

#### AIMING HIGH

# **HOW MANY SQUARES?**



THE BIG CHALLENGE: Solve the puzzle for the 25-pin grid.

Success depends on a systematic method.

- 1. Identify all the different types of square
- 2. Count and record the numbers of squares of each type.
- 3. Add up to find the total.

What can you say about the areas of the squares?

Try the Square It game on the NRICH site

# HELP



Start with a 4-pin grid (2 by 2) and then 9-pin grid (3 by 3). Next work on a 16-pin grid.

After you have found all the answers for the smaller grids, and only then will you be ready to solve the puzzle for the 25-pin grid.

You should find 1 square on the 4-pin grid and 6 squares on the 9-pin grid.

A geoboard is excellent for exploring all the squares.

## NEXT THE 41 PIN GRID



- Find all the squares that can be made by joining 4 dots on this grid.
- The view of the same puzzle on the right may
- help you find all the squares.

There are 4 straight-upstraight-across squares. You must also count tilted squares.



On the left you see the 'How Many Squares' puzzle for a 25-pin grid (5 by 5).

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Start by solving the puzzle for a 9-pin grid (3 by 3). Only move on to the16-pin and 25-pin puzzles when you understand why there are 6 solutions to the 9-pin puzzle.

When you have solved the 25-pin puzzle, then do the 41-pin puzzle?

This help-sheet gives you all the types of square.

The pink cells in this table apply to the 25-pin puzzle. You need the lilac cells for the 41-pin puzzle.

