

# Math Diversion Problem 422

P. Reany

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The problem is that if you don't have any ideas  
[how to solve the problem], you are forced to  
just do grunt work ... in a matrix [a table].

— Simon Pampena

(from: *The Return of the Legend  
of Question Six* – Numberphile)

The YouTube video is found at:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64TB0pB2-7k>

Title: Math Olympiad  $3^n + 2^n = 35$

Presenter: Super Academy

## 1 The Problem

Given the relation

$$3^n + 2^n = 35, \tag{1}$$

find the values of  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

## 2 The Solution

From the very start, I'll try a solution by use of a table. And here goes:

$n$	1	2	3	4	5
$2^n$	2	4	8	16	32
$3^n$	3	9	27	81	243
	5	13	35	–	–

Table 1: Heuristic: Solved by Table.

Therefore the answer is  $n = 3$ . That there are not other integer values is because the curves  $f(x) = 2^x$  and  $g(x) = 3^x$  will intersect only once over the real numbers.