

# Generalized Method for Constructing Magic Cube by Folded Magic Squares

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**Abstract**—In the present paper we have developed a new method for constructing magic cube by using the folded magic square technique. The proposed method considers a new step towards the magic cube construction that applied a good insight and provides an easy generalized technique. This method generalized the design of magic cube with N order regardless the type of magic square whether odd order, singly even order or doubly even order. The proposed method is fairly easy, since it have depended mainly on the magic square construction methods, and all what the designer need is just how to builds six magic square sequentially or with constant difference value between each pair of the numbers in the square matrix, whereby each one of this magic square will represents the surface or dimension for magic cube configuration. The next step for the designer will be how to arrange each square in the proper order to constitute the regular cube in order to maintain the properties of magic cube, where the sum of rows, columns and the diagonals from all directions are the same.

**Index Terms**—Magic Square, Magic Cube, Magic Constant, Magic Sum, Folded Square.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Magic squares have different beliefs according to each country and population. They were found in disparate cultures and spread widely in several civilizations. Ancient China, Greek, Egypt, India, Europe and Mesopotamian whose has been studied magic square for at least three thousand years. Magical squares remain an interesting phenomenon to study, both mathematically and historically. It is equivalent to a square matrix as a painting full of numbers or letters in certain arrangements, from the mathematical view it is the most interesting in computational squares which consists of  $n^2$  boxes, called cells or boxes, filled with different integers [1]. This array is called magic square of  $n \times n$  numbers containing the numbers with consecutive order as 1; 2...  $n^2$ . The total elements in any row, column, or diagonals should be the same. Magic square may be divided into parts with letters, symbols, talisman, discrete words or numbers that are engraved or written in it, whether gathered vertically,

horizontally or diagonally, forming the same amount or may be added to spell out the same words that called alpha magic squares. In out dated times it was believed that such squares have magical properties, and perhaps in touch with the orbit and the stars in addition to solar system. Figuration of magic square is computationally sensitive, and the indicator of rows and columns influenced by restrictions, and also affected some diagonals constraints. Moving one indicator affects at least of one row, one column value and the diagonals values. Thus, swap two values will change all the possible solutions for all the other indices [2].

The extension of magic square to more dimensions gives a magic cube. The magic cube likes the magic square from the point of probability construction that increases dramatically with the order of magic cube [3]. The magic constant (MC), magic vector or magic number, these terms are synonyms that can be calculated by the derivative formula (1).

$$MC = \frac{n(n^2+1)}{2} \quad (1)$$

Thus, 3\*3 normal magic square must have its rows, columns and diagonals adding to MC =15

$$MC = \frac{3(3^2+1)}{2} = \frac{30}{2} = 15, \quad 4*4 \text{ to } MC = 34, \quad 5*5$$

to MC = 65 and 8\*8 to MC = 260, and so on. The Magic Sum (MS) is another significant term that includes the summation to the all numbers by (rows, columns and diagonals) in a magic square uses the following formula (2).

$$MS = \frac{n^2(n^2+1)}{2} \quad (2)$$

The MS for 3\*3=45, MS for 4\*4=136, MS for 5\*5=325, MS for 8\*8=2080 and so on, other method for calculating MS is by multiplying the MC by dimension of the magic square [4]. The following Fig. 1 below is a simple example of a magic square of order 3 with 9 values arranged consecutively in the magical order. So, suppose MC is the number that each row, column and

diagonal must be add up to a vector numbers, and (P) is a pivot element for the numbers through which the magic square is determined and constructed. The pivot element in the magic square represents the center element in the middle square as it explained and mentioned with shaded central number, and through which can be determined some properties of the magic square.

8	1	6
3	5	7
4	9	2

Fig.1. Magic Square of Order 3

The pivot element at any magic square of odd order with sequential numbers can be calculated with the following formula:

$$P = \frac{n^2 + 1}{2} \quad (3)$$

For example: the following two examples include pivot computing in magic square of order three and order five.

$$P = \frac{n^2 + 1}{2} = \frac{3^2 + 1}{2} = 5, \quad P = \frac{n^2 + 1}{2} = \frac{5^2 + 1}{2} = 13$$

and so on Here, is another formula to determine the pivot element in non-sequential odd order numbers that might begin with indeterminate integer number, or have a period, in another word that have difference between the numbers greater than one. As stated below in equation (4). Where N= square order, A=starting number and D= difference number that represents the difference between the successive and the previous numbers. The Fig. 4 below states three of different examples a, b and c respectively that explains the whole notation [5][6].

$$P = \left( \frac{2A + D(N^2 - 1)}{2} \right) \quad (4)$$

75	54	69
60	66	72
63	78	57

52	17	42
27	37	47
32	57	22

17	3	13
7	11	15
9	19	5

(a) : N=3, A=54 and (b) : N=3, A=17 and D=5 (c) : N=3, A=3 and D=2

Fig.2. Three Magic Square of Order 3 with constant difference

$$(a) \quad P = \left( \frac{2 * 54 + 3 (3^2 - 1)}{2} \right) = 66$$

$$(b) \quad P = \left( \frac{2 * 17 + 5 (3^2 - 1)}{2} \right) = 37$$

## II. RELATED WORKS

For long years, several researchers and mathematician specialists have created many related works about the magic square and magic cube. The following are some studies and discussions to the prior labor which so far associated work to the proposed method: In 1970, Richard Meyers invented a perfect eighth-order magic cube that is known by his name Meyers cube. The Meyers cube consist of sequence of numbers from 1 to  $n^3$  that arranged in each row, column and diagonal with cross section way. The Meyers cube is interested in several symmetries properties which assume that the cube is associative and every orthogonal and diagonal line sum to the same specific number. The corners values in the inner small cube as well as the corners values of each rectangular in the Meyers cube also sum to a constant certain number. The prominent feature for the symmetries properties makes that possible for a tantalizing number and for rearrangements of the cube [7].

In 1981 J. Barkley Rosser and Robert J. Walker are another two researchers whom introduced a new approach for constructing a perfect eighth-order magic cube. They also explained and proved that the perfect pan diagonal cubes are found for whole the orders with multiples of 8 and also for all the odd orders that more than 8 order. This approach considers a generalized method for the magic cube with order of multiple eight [8]. In 1988, John Hendricks submitted new ideas and published many refereed related papers. So he developed a simple and clear technique in constructing an odd order magic cube with N order. As well he published an extended dimension of hyper cubes with four, five and six dimensions; in addition, he had an elegant works and great contribution in the magic square area and in methods development. John Hendricks expanded his work with magic square and magic cube particularly with the ornate and embedded varieties that represents new direction in the mathematical field [9].

## III. MAGIC SQUARE CONSTRUCTION

There is no specific method or limited algorithm to build or constructs all the types of magic square. So the algorithm which works for even squares order will not work for odd order without some additional work or modification, except for the trial and developing computer software by using programming languages. Various methods for constructing magic squares have been evolved through the ages. When considering these methods, it is useful to categorize magic squares in to three classes according to the matrix dimensions by discussing three most common techniques of the construction magic squares: those of an odd order;

those of a singly even order and the doubly even order technique [10].

#### A. Magic Squares of Odd Order

One of the easiest of the three types of magic square where the order  $n$  is of the form  $2m + 1$ , where  $m$  may be any positive integer (1, 2, 3, etc.). The example includes the De la Loubère's method. The matrix dimension will be  $3 \times 3$ ,  $5 \times 5$ , and  $7 \times 7$  and so on. Odd order magic squares are fairly easily constructed by using any one of these method such as pyramid or serrated method and another method like de la Loubere's or the Staircase method, the Lozenge, or the de Meziriac's method [11].

#### B. Magic Squares of a Doubly Even Order

The Doubly even order squares where the order  $n$  is of the form  $4m$ , such as (4, 8, 12, 16, 32, etc.). The order of doubly even square can be divided by 2 and 4. Example includes the Albrecht Dürer's method. The dimension of square matrix will be  $4 \times 4$ ,  $8 \times 8$ , and  $12 \times 12$  and so on. There is no specific or fixed algorithm for constructing the even-order squares. However, there are some methods can be applicant for building magic squares of even orders [12].

#### C. Magic Squares of a Singly Even Order

Squares where  $n$  is of the form  $2(2m+1) = 4n+2$ , such as (2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 22, etc.). The order of a singly even square can be divided by 2 but not 4. The example includes the Philippe de la Hire's method. The matrix dimension will be  $6 \times 6$ ,  $10 \times 10$ , and  $14 \times 14$  and so on [13].

### IV. MAGIC SQUARE PROPERTIES

There are several fascinating features and marvelous properties for the normal magic square which rule and determine the general observations and the nature of the magic square's construction that can be listed below [14]:

- The addition of certain number to each number in the square keeps the square magically.
- The multiplication of certain number by each number in the square keeps the square magically.
- The exchange of two columns or two rows from the center of square equidistantly keeps the square magically.
- The magic square of an even order with interchanged quadrants keeps the square magically.
- The magic square of an odd order with rows interchange and partial quadrants maintains the magic square.
- The fantastic properties for the square matrix makes the square "magic" because it contains a distinct positive integers from 1, 2, ...,  $n^2$  and the vector sum for all directions is the same.
- The magic square's order determined by the size or dimension of square matrix.
- The probabilities of construction magic square are increases rapidly with the size or order of magic

square that involves several forms of magic square except the rotations and reflections cases.

### V. MAGIC CUBE

Magic cube is an extension to the magic square with three dimensions or more, that contain an arrangement set of sequence integer numbers from 1, 2, ...,  $n^3$ . The sum of the entries elements in the rows, columns, and all the diagonals gives the same magic constant of cube. A magic cube construction of order 3 is shown in below Fig. 3 [15].

10	26	6
24	1	17
8	15	19

23	3	16
7	14	21
12	25	5

9	13	20
11	27	4
22	2	18

Fig.3. Magic Cube with Three Dimensions

The magic cube likes the magic square from the point of probability construction that increases dramatically with the order of magic cube. The following magic cube in Fig. 4 represents another direction in the cube construction. The starting element in the diagonal cube begins from one corner of the cube that comprises the upper right dimensions to the lower left corner. This is the smallest normal magic cube of  $3 \times 3 \times 3$  dimension with sequential numbers from 1 to 27 that are organized in three layers of nine numbers and the magic constant for this cube is sum to 42 [16].

		2		13		27
	22			9		11
18			20		4	
		16		21		5
	3		14		25	
23		7		12		10
		24		8		
	17		19		6	
1		15		26		

Fig.4. Magic Cube with Sequential Numbers

The Magic Constant (MC) for the normal magic cube (M Cube) can be calculated as follow:

$$M_{Cube} = \frac{n(n^3+1)}{2} \quad (5)$$

The magic constant (MC) for a Tesseract or quadrilateral that will be referred by (MT) formula can be calculated as follow:

$$MT = \frac{n(n^4+1)}{2} \quad (6)$$

The generalization of magic constant of n-dimensional layout such as hypercube can be calculated as follow:

$$G = \frac{n(n^n + 1)}{2} \quad (7)$$

Magic cubes are more than playing games with numbers like the chessboard or Rubik cube, but they substantially depends upon the mathematical rules in their construction. Magic cubes are embedded in several mathematical fields like the number theory, matrices, and combinatorics. There exists an eleven of distinct flat shapes that can be folded-up to construct a shape of cube as stated in the Fig. 5 at the end of paper [17].

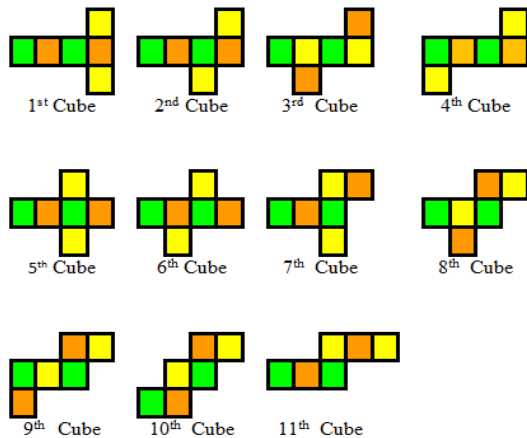


Fig.5. Cubes with Different Shapes

The shapes have been colored with three colors (green, yellow and orange) each pair of opposite sides are colored with same color to constitute a folded cube with six surfaces each two opposite surfaces with the same color. The purpose of these colors is to keep the arrangement of the magic square properly and to maintain the magical properties as we shall explain in the next sections.

## VI. THE PROPOSED METHOD

The construction of magic cube is the most difficult problem that became interesting to researchers in the mathematical sciences for a long time. So the methods that work for an odd order of magic cube will not work for doubly even or singly even methods and vice versa. The proposed method works for all types of magic cube and with any order and it depends basically on the magic square techniques. The proposed method allows constructing several magic cubes with sequential numbers or with constant differences among the series of numbers. The work for six squares (surfaces) will give one magic cube and the work for twelve squares will constitute two magic cubes and so on, so the work should be multiples of six to introduce several cubes regarding the need or to the task requirements. This means each series of six magic squares can be constructed as a magic

cube. The following example explains the core idea for the magic cube construction.

1. Build six separated magic square of any order corresponding to the six surfaces of the cube dimensions as shown in Fig. 6 with order three.
2. Arrange the six surfaces (squares) of the cube by the following way: the first surface should be put opposite to the sixth surface and the second surface opposite to the fifth surface and finally places the third surface opposite to the fourth surface with the corresponding colours respectively.

21	0	15
6	12	18
9	24	3

1<sup>st</sup> Square

48	27	42
33	39	45
36	51	30

2<sup>nd</sup> Square

75	54	69
60	66	72
63	78	57

3<sup>rd</sup> Square

102	81	96
87	93	99
90	105	84

4<sup>th</sup> Square

129	108	123
114	120	126
117	132	111

5<sup>th</sup> Square

156	135	150
141	147	153
144	159	138

6<sup>th</sup> Square

Fig.6. Cube's Dimensions of Order Three

After constructing and coloring the six surfaces (dimensions) for the magic cube as it illustrated in the previous Fig. 6, the magic constant and the magic sum are computed for each square consecutively. The summation for each pairs of analogous colored square will give the same result as shown in Fig. 7, and in Fig. 8, respectively.

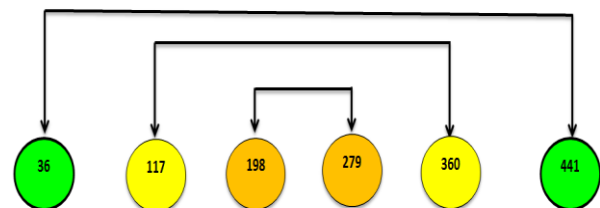


Fig.7. The Magic Constant of the Six Squares

$$36 + 441 = 477, 117 + 360 = 477, 198 + 279 = 477$$

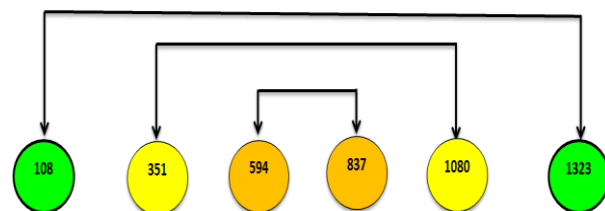


Fig.8. The Magic Sum of the Six Squares

$$108 + 1323 = 1431, 351 + 1080 = 1431, 594 + 837 = 1431$$

The magic cube in the previous Fig. 6, is of order three with starting value 0 and the constant difference 3

between each pair of numbers in the 1<sup>st</sup> Square like the following sequence (0, 3, 6, 9...24). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Square starts and ends with the following arrangement (27, 30, 33, 36...51) and so on until to the last or the 6<sup>th</sup> Square of the cube that starts with the number of 135 and ends with 159.

The numerical values mentioned in Table 1 specify some important properties for the magic sum and magic constant for the magic square that symbolizes the dimensions for the cube.

Table 1. Magic Sum (MS) and Magic Constant (MC) Computations

MC	MS	MC	MS
441-360=81	1323-080=243	36 mod 81=36	108 mod 243=108
360-279=81	1080-837=243	117 mod 81=36	351 mod 243=108
279-198=81	837-594=243	198 mod 81=36	594 mod 243=108
198-117=81	594-351=243	279 mod 81=36	837 mod 243=108
117-36=81	351-108=243	360 mod 81=36	1080 mod 243=108
		441 mod 81=36	1323 mod 243=108

The following Fig. 9 considers additional completed example of constructing magic cube, which involves six surfaces squares for the cube with doubly even method of order four that contains sequential numbers from 1 to 96.

16 2 3 13 5 11 10 8 9 7 6 12 4 14 15 1	32 18 19 29 21 27 26 24 25 23 22 28 20 30 31 17	48 34 35 45 37 43 42 40 41 39 38 44 36 46 47 33
1 <sup>st</sup> Square	2 <sup>nd</sup> Square	3 <sup>rd</sup> Square
64 50 51 61 53 59 58 56 57 55 54 60 52 62 63 49	80 66 67 77 69 75 74 72 73 71 70 76 68 78 79 65	96 82 83 93 85 91 90 88 89 87 86 92 84 94 95 81
4 <sup>th</sup> Square	5 <sup>th</sup> Square	6 <sup>th</sup> Square

Fig.9. Cube's Dimensions of Order Four

As it was mentioned earlier in the previous sections that there exist eleven forms of distinct shapes that can be folded-up to construct a cube. The proposed method exploits this feature and fills the squares with different numbers according to the magic square rules to constitute the magic cube. The Fig. 10 at the end of this paper explains the shapes with six dimensions painted with three different colors which construct a cube after they are folded.

48 27 42 21 0 15 33 39 45 6 12 18 36 51 30 9 24 3	75 54 69 48 27 42 60 66 72 33 39 45 63 78 57 36 51 30
75 54 69 60 66 72 63 78 57 156 135 150 141 147 153 144 159 138 102 81 96 87 93 99 90 105 84	21 0 15 6 12 18 9 24 3 129 108 123 114 120 126 117 132 111 156 135 150 141 147 153 144 159 138 102 81 96 87 93 99 90 105 84

75 54 69 48 27 42 60 66 72 33 39 45 63 78 57 36 51 30	75 54 69 21 0 15 60 66 72 6 12 18 63 78 57 9 24 3
21 0 15 6 12 18 9 24 3 129 108 123 114 120 126 117 132 111 156 135 150 141 147 153 144 159 138	48 27 42 33 39 45 36 51 30 156 135 150 141 147 153 144 159 138 129 108 123 114 120 126 117 132 111
21 0 15 6 12 18 9 24 3 48 27 42 33 39 45 36 51 30 162 81 96 87 93 99 90 105 84	48 27 42 33 39 45 36 51 30 21 0 15 6 12 18 9 24 3 129 108 123 114 120 126 117 132 111 156 135 150 141 147 153 144 159 138

Fig.10. (a) Shapes of Magic Cube

21 0 15 6 12 18 9 24 3 48 27 42 33 39 45 36 51 30 162 81 96 87 93 99 90 105 84	48 27 42 33 39 45 36 51 30 21 0 15 6 12 18 9 24 3 129 108 123 114 120 126 117 132 111 156 135 150 141 147 153 144 159 138
21 0 15 6 12 18 9 24 3 48 27 42 33 39 45 36 51 30 162 81 96 87 93 99 90 105 84	48 27 42 33 39 45 36 51 30 21 0 15 6 12 18 9 24 3 129 108 123 114 120 126 117 132 111 156 135 150 141 147 153 144 159 138



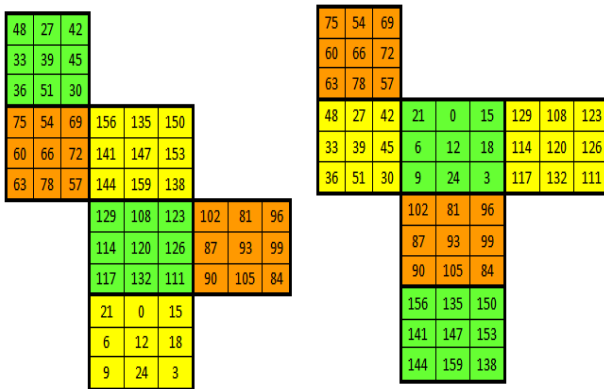


Fig.10. (b) Other Shapes of Magic Cube

## VII. THE CROSS FIGURE OF FOLDED CUBE

The cross shape which states in Fig. 11 below acts one of the several shapes that construct the magic cube, which is selected to be traversed and tested with vertical and horizontal track for the main diagonals values and the secondary diagonals values, from all directions which will produce the same constant number of (954), as shown in Fig. 12 and Fig. 13 respectively. There is no problem or restricted matter in the selection of any shape from the magic cube's shapes else cross shape, where the cross shape is chosen because it is very easy, simple and clear to figure out the procedures of folding in the magic square surfaces. The cross shape will be partitioned into several basic parts in order to study its properties in detail.

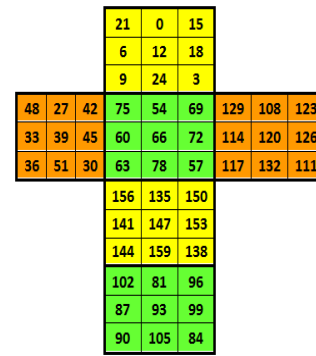


Fig.11. Unfolded Magic Cube

The first part will comprise the two diagonals that comprise the main and secondary diagonals for the matrices of magic cube with circular movement in both directions vertically and horizontally as shown in Fig. 12 and Fig. 13 respectively.

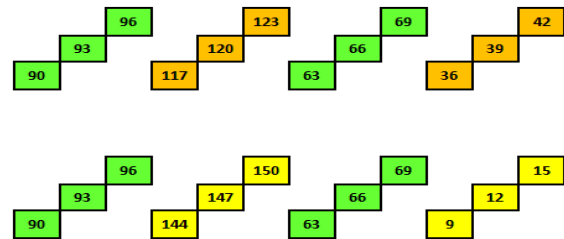


Fig.12. The Vertical and Horizontal Track of Secondary Diagonals

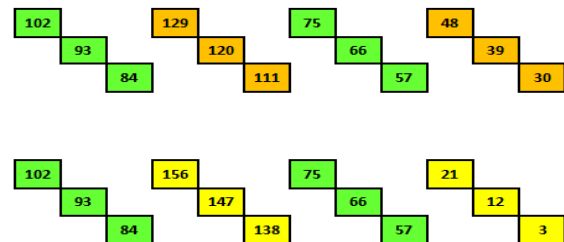


Fig.13. The Vertical and Horizontal Track of Main Diagonals

The second part of the cube will involve the rows and columns of magic cube with circular movement in both directions vertically and horizontally and the traversing process that comprises the tracks of values with rows and columns of the magic cube from all directions. These operations also will produce the same constant number of (954) as it is explained in Fig. 14 and Fig. 15 respectively.

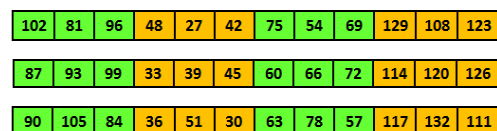


Fig.14. The Vertical Track of Cube's Rows Values

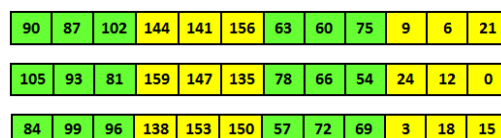


Fig.15. The Horizontal Track of Cube's Columns Values

### VIII. ADVANTAGES AND LIMITATIONS

There are several pros and cons for the construction of the proposed model of the magic cube that can be listed as follows:

#### A. *The Advantages of the Proposed Model of Magic Cube*

- It is an easy, elegant and fast method that requires no substantial efforts in its construction, since it depends upon the traditional magic square methods.
- The proposed method considers a generalized technique to any order of magic cube those of an odd order, even order and doubly even order.
- The proposed method does not require much of thinking or deep understanding in the cube geometry field and does not need long experience in the cube comprehension design or mathematical background.
- The vertical track, horizontal track or diagonals track of values give the same magic constant of cube and the same magic sum of cube that keeps the cube magically.
- The proposed approach work with cube of six dimension or six faces in opposite to the methods those work with three dimensions.

#### B. *The Limitations of the Proposed Model of Magic Cube*

- The construction of the proposed magic cube has no independent clue, since it is based mainly on the magic square techniques.
- The construction of this cube is not based on the specific algorithm of magic square, because it will need different algorithms according to the dimension of square through which it is constructed.
- In spite of the proposed method is easy and does not need the mathematical background, but it requires some knowledge or experience in the magic square methods.

### IX. APPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED MAGIC CUBE

Magic cube has fascinating and delightful features and appeals to everyone, but has no specific applications. Recently several published research papers embed the magic square and magic cube and exploited their properties in many aspects and in several scopes such as:

1. Cryptography and Information Security.
2. Public Key and Secret Sharing.
3. Remote Access Control.
4. Applied Mathematics.
5. Number Theory.
6. Determinants and Matrices Field.
7. Coding and error Correctness

### X. CONCLUSIONS

The proposed method is considered the simplest and nearly the fastest method to construct the magic cube since it is based on the traditional magic square methods and can be constructed with any order easily. There is no existence for any real difficulty in the construction of any magic cube with this technique, because it depends upon the folded process for the magic square, and does not need any geometrical measurements. Several studies have been published in the past from different academic researchers about the magic cube, but did not satisfy the objective. Some of these proposed methods were limited for specific order and the other were appropriate just for odd order and the last category included the magic cube only with three or five faces (dimensions). The most obvious conclusions that can be drawn from this paper are the construction of magic cube with six faces and with any order as well as with unspecific or unlimited starting number, which makes the method generalized.

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