

## Unit - V

### Some Diophantine Equations

The Equation  $ax + by = c$

Any linear equation in two variables having integral co-efficients can be put in the form

$$ax + by = c \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

where  $a, b$  &  $c$  are given integers.

We consider the problem of identifying all solutions of this equation in which  $x$  &  $y$  are integers.

If  $a = b = c = 0$ ,

Then every pair  $(x, y)$  of integers is a solution of (1).

where as if  $a = b = 0$  &  $c \neq 0$ .

Then (1) has no solution.

Now suppose that atleast one of  $a$  &  $b$  is non zero and

$$\text{let } g = \text{g.c.d.}(a, b).$$

If  $g \nmid c$ .

Then  $\textcircled{1}$  has no solution.

Suppose that the pairs  $(n_i, y_i)$

$(n, y)$  are integral solutions of  $\textcircled{1}$ .

By subtracting, we find that

$$a(n - n_i) + b(y - y_i) = 0.$$

we divide through by  $g$  and rearrange to see that

$$(a/g)(n - n_i) = (b/g)(y_i - y).$$

$a/g$  divides the product

$$(b/g)(y_i - y).$$

But  $(a/g, b/g) = 1$ .

It follows that  $a/g$  divides

$$y_i - y. \quad \text{So } ka/g = y_i - y \text{ for some } k.$$

we find that  $n - n_i = kb/g$ .

Ex:

Find all solutions of  $999n - 49y = 5000$ .

Soln:

By the division algorithm

we observe that

$$999 = 20 \cdot 49 + 19 \quad \textcircled{1}$$

This suggests writing the equation in

$$\text{the form } 19n' - 49(y - 20n') = 5000 \quad \textcircled{2}$$

putting,  $n' = n$ ,

$$y' = -20n + y.$$

we find that the original equation is expressed by the condition

$$19n' - 49y' = 5000 \quad \textcircled{3}$$

This is simpler because the co-efficients

are smaller.

$$\text{since } 49 = 2 \cdot 19 + 11$$

We write this equation as

$$19(n' - 2y') - 11y' = 5000 \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

$$\text{ie) } 19n'' - 11y'' = 5000 \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

where  $n'' = n' - 2y'$  &

$$y'' = y'$$

$$\text{since } 19 = 2 \cdot 11 - 3$$

We write this equation as

$$-3n'' - 11(-2n'' + y'') = 5000 \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

$$\text{ie) } -3n^{(3)} - 11y^{(3)} = 5000 \quad \text{--- (7)}$$

where  $n^{(3)} = n''$  &

$$y^{(3)} = -2n'' + y''$$

$$\text{As } 11 = 4 \cdot 3 - 1$$

We write the equation as

$$-3(n^{(3)} + 4y^{(3)}) + y^{(3)} = 5000$$

$$\text{ie) } -3n^{(4)} + y^{(4)} = 5000 \quad \text{--- (8)}$$

$$\text{where } n^{(4)} = n^{(3)} + 4y^{(3)} \quad \text{--- (10)}$$

$$y^{(4)} = y^{(3)}$$

Making the further change of variables

$$n^{(5)} = n^{(4)}, \quad y^{(5)} = -3n^{(4)} + y^{(4)} \quad \text{--- (11)}$$

We see that the original equation is equivalent to the equation

$$y^{(5)} = 5000$$

Here the value of  $y^{(5)}$  is a fixed integer, &  $n^{(5)}$  is an arbitrary integer.

Since the pairs of integers  $(n, y)$  are in 1-1 correspondence with pairs of integers  $(n^{(5)}, y^{(5)})$ ,

It follows that the original equation has infinitely many solutions in integers.

To express  $n$  &  $y$  explicitly in terms of  $n^{(5)}$  &  $y^{(5)}$



we first determine  $x$  &  $y$  in terms of  $x'$  &  $y'$ .

Then in terms of  $x''$  &  $y''$  and so on.

This transformation can be developed at the original equation is being simplified.

we start by writing,

$$99x - 49y = 5000$$

$$x = x'$$

$$y = y'$$

②

Then we rewrite these equations in the form.

$$\textcircled{2} \Rightarrow 99x' - 49(-20x' + y') = 5000$$

$$x' = x''$$

$$\text{adding & subtracting } 20x' \Rightarrow 20x' + (-20x' + y') = y''$$

③

$$\textcircled{3} \Rightarrow 99x'' - 49y'' = 5000$$

$$x'' = x''$$

$$20x'' + y'' = y$$

③

we rewrite this as,

$$\textcircled{2} \Rightarrow 99(x' - 2y') - 11y' = 5000$$

$$\text{adding & subtracting } 2y' \Rightarrow x' - 2y' + 2y' = x' \quad \text{put}$$

$$20(x' - 2y') + 41y' = y \Rightarrow 20x' - 40y' + 41y' = y \Rightarrow 20x' + y' = y$$

$$\text{ie) } \textcircled{5} \Rightarrow 99x'' - 11y'' = 5000$$

$$x'' + 2y'' = x''$$

$$20x'' + 41y'' = y$$

④

we rewrite this as,

$$\textcircled{6} \Rightarrow -3x'' - 11(-2x'' + y'') = 5000$$

$$5x'' + 2(-2x'' + y'') = x''$$

$$5x'' - 4x'' + 2y'' = x'' \Rightarrow x'' + 2y'' = x''$$

$$102x'' + 41(-2x'' + y'') = y$$

$$102x'' - 82x'' + 41y'' = y \Rightarrow 20x'' + 41y'' = y$$

$$\text{ie) } \textcircled{7} \Rightarrow -3x^{(3)} - 11y^{(3)} = 5000$$

$$5x^{(3)} + 2y^{(3)} = x^{(3)}$$

$$102x^{(3)} + 41y^{(3)} = y \quad \begin{matrix} \therefore x^{(3)} = x^{(3)} \\ y^{(3)} = -2x^{(3)} + y^{(3)} \end{matrix}$$

⑤

We rewrite this as

$$\Rightarrow -3(n^{(3)} + 4y^{(3)}) + y^{(3)} = 5000 \quad \text{--- (A)}$$

$$5(n^{(3)} + 4y^{(3)}) - 18y^{(3)} = n \quad \text{--- (B)}$$

$$102(n^{(3)} + 4y^{(3)}) - 367y^{(3)} = y \quad \text{--- (C)}$$

ii)  $\Rightarrow -3n^{(4)} + y^{(4)} = 5000$   
 $5n^{(4)} - 18y^{(4)} = n$   
 $102n^{(4)} - 367y^{(4)} = y$

We rewrite as

$$\Rightarrow -3n^{(4)} + y^{(4)} = 5000$$

$$-49n^{(4)} - 18(-3n^{(4)} + y^{(4)}) = n$$

$$-499n^{(4)} - 367(-3n^{(4)} + y^{(4)}) = y$$

ii)  $\Rightarrow y^{(5)} = 5000$   
 $-499n^{(5)} - 18y^{(5)} = n$   
 $-999n^{(5)} - 367y^{(5)} = y$

Inserting this value of  $y^{(5)}$  and writing  $k$  in place of  $n^{(5)}$

We conclude that the solutions

of the proposed equation are given by taking  $y^{(5)} = 5000$  and  $n^{(5)} = k$

A)  $\Rightarrow n = -49k - 90000$   
 B)  $\Rightarrow y = -999k - 1835000$

This parametrization of the solutions is not unique.

For ex, we could set

$$k = -1837 - m$$

In which case the equations above would become

put  $k = -1837 - m$  value sub in (A)  
 $n = 49m + 13$   
 $y = 999m + 163$

Ex: Find all integers  $n$  &  $y$  such that

$$147n + 258y = 369$$

Soln:

We write

$$147n + 258y = 369$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc|ccc}
 147 & 258 & 369 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 \hline
 147 & 111 & 369 & 36 & 111 & 369 \\
 1 & -1 & c_2 \rightarrow c_2 - c_1 & 2 & -1 & \\
 0 & 1 & & -1 & 1 & c_1 \rightarrow c_1
 \end{array}$$
  

$$\begin{array}{ccc|ccc}
 36 & 3 & 369 & 0 & 3 & 369 \\
 2 & -7 & c_2 \rightarrow c_2 - 3c_1 & -7 & 1 & c_1 \rightarrow c_1 \\
 -1 & 4 & & -49 & 4 & 
 \end{array}$$

Let the variables that are implicit in this last array be called  $u$  &  $v$ .

Since  $3v = 369$

we deduce that  $v = 123$ .

and that the full set of solutions is given by taking

$$n = 86u - 861$$

$$y = -49u + 492$$

The variables  $u$  &  $v$  were obtained from the original variables  $n$  &  $y$  by a homogeneous change of co-ordinates.

We may deduce the size of the constant term in our answer by introducing an inhomogeneous change of variables.

For ex, if we put  $u = t + 10$ .

Then we find that

$$n = 86t - 1$$

$$y = -49t + 2$$

Ex: Find all solutions of the simultaneous congruences

$$3n + 3z \equiv 1 \pmod{45}$$

$$4n - y + z \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$$

Soln:

We construct an array of co-efficients as before.



Using operation  $(C_1)$

we add the third column to both columns 1 & 2.

$$\begin{array}{cccc|cccc}
 3 & 0 & 3 & 1 & 1 & 6 & 3 & 1 \\
 4 & -1 & 1 & 3 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 3 \\
 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1
 \end{array}$$

Using  $(R_1)$ , we multiply the second row by 2 and add the result to the first row.

Then we interchange the first & third columns and the first and second rows.

$$\begin{array}{cccc|cccc}
 1 & 3 & 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\
 0 & 0 & 1 & 3 & 0 & 3 & 1 & 2 \\
 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 R_2 \Rightarrow 0 \quad 0 \quad 2 \quad 6 \\
 R_1 \Rightarrow 1 \quad 3 \quad 3 \quad 1
 \end{array}$$

Next we multiply the third column by 2 and add the result to the second column and then interchange the second and third columns.

$$\begin{array}{cccc|cccc}
 1 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\
 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 2 & 2 & 0 \\
 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 & 1 \\
 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 5 & 1 & 3 \\
 1 & 3 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 3
 \end{array}$$

Thus we arrive at a new system of congruences, in variables  $t, u, v$ , say.

we see that

$$t \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$$

$$u \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$$

while  $v$  can take any value  $\pmod{5}$

Thus the given system has few solutions

given by,

$$x \equiv 0 + u + 2v \equiv 2 + 2v \pmod{5}$$

$$y \equiv 0 + 0 + v \equiv v \pmod{5}$$

$$z \equiv 1 + u + 3v \equiv 3 + 2 + 3v \equiv 5 + 3v \pmod{5}$$

$$\equiv 0 + 3v \pmod{5}$$

$$\equiv 3v \pmod{5}$$

In general, the system of simultaneous congruences

$$a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n \equiv b_1 \pmod{q}$$

$$a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n \equiv b_2 \pmod{q}$$

⋮

$$a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n \equiv b_m \pmod{q}$$

has a solution  $\pmod{q}$  iff

$$g.c.d.(d_j, q) \mid b_j' \quad (1 \leq j \leq r)$$

$$b_j' \equiv 0 \pmod{q} \quad (r < j \leq m)$$



## Pythagorean Triangles :-

We wish to solve the equation

$$x^2 + y^2 = z^2 \quad \text{in the integers.}$$

The two most familiar solutions are

$$3, 4, 5 \quad \text{and} \quad 5, 12, 13.$$

We refer to such a triple of the

integers as a Pythagorean triple or a  
Pythagorean triangle.

Since in geometric terms  $x$  &  $y$

are the legs of a right triangle with  
hypotenuse  $z$ .

In view of the algebraic identity,

$$(r^2 - s^2)^2 + (2rs)^2 = (r^2 + s^2)^2 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

We may obtain an infinity of Pythagorean

triangles by taking

$$\left. \begin{aligned} x &= r^2 - s^2 \\ y &= 2rs \\ z &= r^2 + s^2 \end{aligned} \right\} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

where  $r$  &  $s$  take integral values with  
 $r > s > 0$ .

More remarkably, we see that all  
Pythagorean triangles arise in this way.

Since the equation under consideration  
is homogeneous, if  $x, y, z$  is a Pythagorean  
triple, then so also is  $kx, ky, kz$  for  
any the integer  $k$ .

For ex. the Pythagorean triangle  
 $3, 4, 5$  gives  $6, 8, 10$  and also  $60, 80, 100$ .

Thus any given Pythagorean triangle gives  
rise to an infinite family of similar  
triangles.

To initiate our analysis, we  
identify in this family the smallest  
triangle.

Suppose that  $x, y, z$  are given  
the integers for which  $x^2 + y^2 = z^2$ .

Let  $d$  be a common divisor of  
 $x$  &  $y$ .

Then  $d^2 \mid m^2$  &  $d^2 \mid y^2$  and  
Hence  $d^2 \mid (m^2 + y^2)$ .

(ii)  $d^2 \mid z^2$ .

By unique factorization, it follows  
that  $d \mid z$ .

Indeed by further arguments of  
this sort, we discover that any  
common factor of two of the numbers  
 $m, y, z$  must divide the third.

(iii)  $(m, y) = (y, z) = (z, m) = (m, y, z)$

Let  $g$  denote their common value, and

put  $m_1 = m/g, y_1 = y/g, z_1 = z/g$

Then  $m_1, y_1, z_1$  is a Pythagorean  
triple with  $(m_1, y_1) = 1$ .

We call such a triple primitive,

since it is not a multiple of a  
smaller triple.

Thus we see that all

Pythagorean triangles similar to the  
given triangle  $m, y, z$  are multiples of  
 $m_1, y_1, z_1$ .

Lemma:

If  $u$  &  $v$  are relatively prime  
integers whose product  $uv$  is a perfect  
square, then  $u$  &  $v$  are both perfect  
squares.

Proof

Let  $p$  be a prime that divides  
 $u$ , and

let  $\alpha$  be the exact power of  $p$   
in  $u$ . (In symbols,  $p^\alpha \parallel u$ ).

Since  $u$  &  $v$  are relatively prime,  
 $p$  does not divide  $v$ , and

Hence  $p^\alpha \parallel uv$ .

But  $uv$  is a perfect square, so

$\alpha$  must be even.

Since this holds for all primes, dividing  $u$ ,  
 It follows that  $u$  is a perfect square.

III)  $v$  must be a perfect square.  
 If  $n, y, z$  is a primitive Pythagorean triple with  $n, z$  odd, and  $y$  even.

Then  $z-n$  &  $z+n$  are both even.

Accordingly, we divide by 4 & write our equation as.

$$\frac{z+n}{2} \cdot \frac{z-n}{2} = \left(\frac{y}{2}\right)^2$$

Any common divisor of the two factors on the left divides both their sum  $z$  and their difference  $n$ .

Since  $(n, z) = 1$ .

It follows that the two factors

on the left have no common factor.

We deduce that

$$\frac{z+n}{2} = r^2$$

$$\frac{z-n}{2} = s^2 \quad \&$$

$$\frac{y}{2} = rs$$

for some two integers  $r, s$ .

We also see that  $(r, s) = 1$  and that  $r > s$ .

Also, since  $z$  is odd,  $r$  &  $s$  are of opposite parity (one is even, the other odd).

On solving for  $n, y,$  &  $z$  in terms of  $r$  &  $s$ ,

we obtain the equations

$$n = r^2 - s^2$$

$$y = 2rs$$

$$z = r^2 + s^2 \quad \text{already noted.}$$

Thus we have the following result.



Theorem:

The primitive solutions of  $x^2 + y^2 = z^2$  with  $y$  even are  $x = r^2 - s^2$ ,  $y = 2rs$ ,  $z = r^2 + s^2$ , where  $r$  &  $s$  are arbitrary integers of opposite parity with  $r > s > 0$  &  $(r, s) = 1$ .

Assorted Examples:

Theorem:

The equation  $15m^2 - 7y^2 = 9$  has no solution in integers.

proof

Since the first and third members are divisible by 3.

It follows that  $3|7y^2$

and hence  $3|y$ .

Thus the second and third members are divisible by 9.

So that  $9|15m^2$ , & hence  $3|m$ .  
put  $m_1 = m/3$ ,  $y_1 = y/3$ .

So that  $15m_1^2 - 7y_1^2 = 1$ .

This has no solution as a congruence (mod 3).

Hence proved.

Let  $p(m_1, \dots, m_n)$  be a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $d$  with integral co-efficients.

Then the Diophantine equation.

$$p(m_1, \dots, m_n) = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

has the trivial solution  $\{$

$$m_1 = m_2 = \dots = m_n = 0.$$

If  $(m_1, \dots, m_n)$  is a non-trivial solution.

Then we may set

$$g = \text{g.c.d.}(m_1, \dots, m_n) \quad \text{and}$$

divide the equation by  $g^d$  to obtain

a primitive solution, one for which the variables are relatively prime.

In general we cannot guarantee that such variables will be pairwise relatively prime.

Theorem:

The equation  $x^3 + 2y^3 + 4z^3 = 9w^3$  has no non-trivial solution.

proof

We start the congruence

$$x^3 + 2y^3 + 4z^3 \equiv 9w^3 \pmod{27}$$

has no solution for which

$$\text{g.c.d.}(x, y, z, w, 3) = 1$$

We note that for any integer  $a$ ,

$$a^3 \equiv 0 \text{ or } \pm 1 \pmod{9}$$

$$\text{Then } x^3 + 2y^3 + 4z^3 \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$$

$$\Rightarrow x \equiv y \equiv z \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$$

$$\text{But then } x^3 + 2y^3 + 4z^3 \equiv 0 \pmod{27}$$

So that  $3|w^3$ .

Hence  $3|w$ .

This contradicts the assumption that  $\text{g.c.d.}(x, y, z, w, 3) = 1$ .

Hence proved.

Theorem:

The equation  $y^2 = x^3 + 7$  has no solution in integers.

proof

If  $x$  is even then the equation is impossible as a congruence  $\pmod{4}$ .

This in any solution,  $x$  must be odd, and hence  $y$  must be even.

It then follows that  $x \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

Since the left side of the equation is

non-negative.

We deduce that  $x \geq -1$ .

We rewrite the equation in the

$$\text{form } y^2 + 1 = (x+2)(x^2 - 2x + 4)$$

Here the left side is odd,  
and w.l.o.g every prime factor of  
the left side is  $\equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

Hence every the divisor of the left  
side is  $\equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

On the other hand, the right side  
has the the divisor  $n+2 \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ .

Thus these two expressions cannot  
be equal.

In the argument just completed, we  
discover an inconsistency  $\pmod{q}$  for some  
prime  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  which divides  $n+2$ .

This  $q$  is not fixed, but is  
instead a function of the hypothetical  
solution  $n, y$ .

Theorem:

The Diophantine equation

$$n^4 + n^3 + n^2 + n + 1 = y^2$$

has the

Integral solutions  $(-1, 1), (0, 1), (3, 11)$   
and no others.

Proof:

$$\text{put } f(n) = 4n^4 + 4n^3 + 4n^2 + 4n + 4$$

$$\text{see } f(n) = (2n^2 + n)^2 + 3(n+2/3)^2 + 8/3$$

It follows that

$$f(n) > (2n^2 + n)^2 \quad \forall \text{ real } n.$$

On the other hand,

$$f(n) = (2n^2 + n + 1)^2 - (n+1)(n-3).$$

Hence the last term is the except  
for those real numbers  $n$  in the interval

$$I = [-1, 3].$$

$$\text{i.e. } f(n) < (2n^2 + n + 1)^2$$

provided that  $n \notin I$ .

Thus we see that if  $n$  is an  
integer  $n \notin I$ .

Then  $f(n)$  lies between two  
consecutive perfect squares.



Namely,  $(2m^2 + n)^2$  &  $(2m^2 + n + 1)^2$ .

Hence  $f(n)$  cannot be a perfect square, except possibly for those integers  $n \in \mathbb{I}$ , we examine individually.

Hence proved.

Theorem:

The equation  $x^4 + y^4 = z^2$  has no solution in the integers.

proof

The secret is that one should not consider the given equation in isolation but rather in tandem with a second equation.

$$a^2 + 4b^4 = c^4 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

we s.t. if the given equation

$$x^4 + y^4 = z^2 \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

has a solution in the integers

then so does this second equation and conversely.

solution in the integers.

Then so does (2).

On closer examination, we shall discover that if we start with a solution of (2), use it to construct a solution of (1), and

then use that solution to construct a solution of (2).

Then we do not obtain the original solution of (2) that we started with.

Instead, the new solution is smaller, in the sense that  $z$  is smaller.

This always us to derive a contradiction.

Since we may assume that our initial solution is minimal.

This is Fermat's method of descent.

Let  $n, y, z$  be arbitrary, the integers that satisfy (2).

Let  $g = \text{g.c.d.}(n, y)$ .

Since  $g^2$  divides the left side of

(2) It follows that  $g^2 | z$ .

Putting  $n_1 = n/g, y_1 = y/g,$

$z_1 = z/g^2$ .

We see that  $n_1, y_1, z_1$  are the integers that satisfy (2) and that have the further property that  $n_1$  &  $y_1$  are relatively prime.

Thus  $n_1^2, y_1^2, z_1^2$  is a primitive Pythagorean triple.

By interchanging  $n_1$  &  $y_1$  if necessary,

we may arrange that  $n_1$  is odd

and  $y_1$  is even.

Then  $\exists$  relatively prime the integers  $r, s, z,$

$$n_1^2 = r^2 - s^2 \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

$$y_1^2 = 2rs \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

$$z_1^2 = r^2 + s^2 \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

Here  $r$  &  $s$  are of opposite parity, and to determine which one is odd,

we observe from (3) that  $s, n_1, r$  is a primitive Pythagorean triple.

Hence  $r$  is odd and  $s$  is even.

In view (4), we may write

$$u = r \text{ \& } v = 2s.$$

Thus  $\exists$  opposite integers  $b$  &  $c$   $\exists$   
 $r = c^2, s = 2b^2$

Taking  $a = n_1$ ,

we see from (3) that  $a, b, c$  is a solution of (1) in the integers.

Moreover, using (5) we see that

$$c \leq c^4 = r^2 < r^2 + s^2 = z_1^2 \leq z \quad \text{--- (6)}$$



Now suppose that  $a, b, c$  are the integers that satisfy ①.

put  $h = \text{g.c.d.}(b, c)$ .

Then  $h^4 \mid a^2$  & Hence  $h^2 \mid a$ .

putting  $a_1 = a/h^2, b_1 = b/h$

$c_1 = c/h$ .

we find that  $a_1, b_1, c_1$  are the integers satisfying ① which have the further property that  $b_1$  &  $c_1$  are relatively prime.

Thus  $a_1, 2b_1^2, c_1^2$  constitute a primitive Pythagorean triple.

Then  $\exists$  relatively prime integers  $r', s'$  of opposite parity  $\exists$

$$a_1 = r'^2 - s'^2 \quad \text{--- ⑦}$$

$$b_1^2 = r' s' \quad \text{--- ⑧}$$

$$c_1^2 = r'^2 + s'^2 \quad \text{--- ⑨}$$

Then by ⑧

we see that  $\exists$  the integers  $n'$  and  $y'$   $\exists$   $r' = n'^2, s' = y'^2$ .

setting  $z' = c_1$ .

we conclude by ⑨ that  $n', y', z'$  is a solution of ② in the integers.

Here  $z' \leq c$  & hence by ⑥

we see that  $z' < z$ .

Thus the set of values of  $z$  arising in the integers contains a least element.

It follows that the set of such  $z$  is empty.

is) ② has no solution in the integers.

Hence proved.

Fermat's last theorem, or Fermat's big theorem:

This is one of Fermat's most famous results.



from it we see that at one that the equation

$$x^4 + y^4 = z^4$$

has no solutions in the integers.

Fermat's asserted, more generally, that if  $n$  is an integer,  $n > 2$ , then the equation

$$x^n + y^n = z^n$$

has no solutions in the integers.

This proposition, though still a conjecture for many values of  $n$ , is known as Fermat's last theorem or Fermat's big theorem, as contrasted with Fermat's little theorem.

We treat the case  $n=3$  using simple ideas in algebraic number theory.

### Simultaneous Linear Equation:

Let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  be integers not all 0, and suppose we wish to find all solutions in integers of the equation.

$$a_1 x_1 + \dots + a_n x_n = c$$

We may say such solutions exist

iff  $\text{g.c.d.}(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  divides  $c$ .

The numerical technique exposed in the preceding section also extends easily to larger values of  $n$ .

Ex:

Find all solutions in integers of

$$2x + 3y + 4z = 5$$

soln:

we write  $2x + 3y + 4z = 5$

$$\begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 5 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & & 1 & -1 & -2 & \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & & 0 & 1 & 0 & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & & 0 & 0 & 1 & \end{array}$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{array}{cccc} 0 & 1 & 0 & 5 \\ 3 & -1 & -2 & \\ -2 & 1 & 0 & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \end{array}$$

This last array represents simultaneous equation involving 3 new variables say  $(t, u, v)$ .

The first line gives the condition  $u = 5$ .

On substituting this in the lower lines we find that every solution of the given equation in integers may be expressed in the form.

$$x = 3t - u - 2v$$

$$y = -2t + u + 0$$

$$z = v$$

$$x = 3t - 5 - 2v$$

$$y = -2t + 5$$

$$z = v$$

where  $t$  &  $v$  are integers.

From the nature of the changes of variables made,

w.h.t. Triples  $(n, y, z)$  of integers satisfying the given equation are in 1-1 correspondence with Triples of integers  $(t, u, v)$  for which  $u = 5$ .

Hence each solution of the given equation in integers is given by a unique pair of integers  $(t, v)$ .

Ex:

Find all solutions in integers of the simultaneous equations

$$20x + 44y + 50z = 10$$

$$17x + 13y + 11z = 19$$

Soln:

Among the coefficients of  $x, y$  &  $z$  the coefficient 11 is smallest.



using operation (C1) and the  
 division algorithm, reduce the  
 w-coefficients of  $x$  &  $y$  in the second  
 row (mod 11).

$$\begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 20 & 44 & 50 & 10 & -80 & -6 & 50 & 10 \\ 17 & 13 & 11 & 19 & -5 & 2 & 11 & 19 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & & 1 & 0 & 0 & \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & & 0 & 1 & 0 & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & & -2 & -1 & 1 & \end{array}$$

The w-coefficients of least absolute  
 value is now in the second row and  
 second column.

we use operation (C1) to  
 reduce the other w-coefficients in the  
 second row (mod 2).

$$\begin{array}{cccc} -98 & -6 & 80 & 10 \\ \rightarrow & 1 & 2 & 19 \\ & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ & 3 & 1 & -5 \\ & -5 & -1 & 6 \end{array}$$

There are now two w-coefficients  
 of minimal absolute value.

we use the one in the first  
 column as our pivot and use operation  
 (C1) to reduce the other w-coefficients in  
 the second row.

$$\begin{array}{cccc} -98 & 190 & 178 & 10 \\ \rightarrow & 1 & 0 & 19 \\ & 1 & -2 & -1 \\ & 3 & -5 & -8 \\ & -5 & 9 & 11 \end{array}$$

The w-coefficients of least non zero

(absolute value is changed, so we switch  
 to operation (R1) to reduce the w-coefficient  
 $-98 \pmod{1}$  and then we use (R2)  
 to interchanging the two rows.

$$\begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 0 & 190 & 178 & 1872 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 19 \\ \leftrightarrow & 1 & 0 & 0 & 19 & 0 & 190 & 178 & 1872 \\ & 0 & 1 & -2 & -1 & 1 & -2 & -1 & \\ & 0 & 3 & -5 & -8 & 3 & -5 & -8 & \\ & 0 & -5 & 9 & 11 & -5 & 9 & 11 & \end{array}$$



We now ignore the first row and first column. Among the remaining co-efficients, the one of least non-zero absolute value is 178. We use operation (C1) to reduce the 190 (mod 178), obtaining a remainder 12. Then we use (C1) to reduce 178 (mod 12) obtaining a remainder -2.

$$\begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 19 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 19 \\ \rightarrow & 0 & 12 & 178 & 1872 & 0 & 12 & -2 & 1872 \\ & 1 & -1 & -1 & & 1 & -1 & 14 & \\ & 3 & 3 & -8 & \rightarrow & 3 & 3 & -53 & \\ & -5 & -2 & 11 & & -5 & -2 & 41 & \end{array}$$

Next we use (C2) reduce 12 (mod 2). Then we use (C2) to interchange the second and third columns, and finally use (C3) to replace -2 by 2.

$$\begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 19 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 19 \\ \rightarrow & 0 & 0 & -2 & 1872 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 1872 \\ & 1 & 83 & 14 & & 1 & -14 & 83 & \\ & 3 & -315 & -53 & \rightarrow & 3 & 53 & -315 & \\ & -5 & 244 & 41 & & -5 & -41 & 244 & \end{array}$$

Let the variables in our new set of equations be called  $t, u$  &  $v$ .

The two original equations have been replaced by the two new equations

$$1. t = 19, \quad 2. u = 1872.$$

This gives the values of  $t$  &  $u$ .

Since  $1 | 19$  &  $2 | 1872$ , these values

are integers  $t = 19, u = 936$ . With these values for  $t$  &  $u$  the bottom three rows above given the equation.

$$w = t - 14u + 83v = 83v - 13085$$

$$y = 3t + 53u - 315v = -315v + 49665$$

$$z = -5t - 41u + 244v = 244v - 38471$$

By making the further change of variable  $w = v - 158$  we may adjust the constant terms, so that

$$x = 83w + 29$$

$$y = -315w - 105$$

$$z = 244w + 81$$

As integral solutions of the equations are in 1-1 correspondence with integral values of  $w$ , we have achieved our goal.



19. Suppose that  $n > 0$ , and let  $N(n)$  denote the number of solutions of the congruence  $S^2 \equiv (-1) \pmod{n}$ . Then prove that  $r(n) = 4N(n)$ , and  $R(n) = \sum r(n/d^2)$  where the sum is extended over all those positive  $d$  for which  $d^2/n$ .
20. Find all solutions in integers of the simultaneous equations  $20x + 44y + 50z = 10$ ;  $17x + 13y + 11z = 19$ .

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(For candidates admitted from 2016–2017 onwards)

M.Sc. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2019.

Mathematics – *Elective*

ALGEBRAIC NUMBER THEORY

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 75 marks

SECTION A — (10 × 2 = 20)

Answer ALL questions.

1. State Division Algorithm.
2. Let  $f(x) = x^2 + x + 7$ . Find all roots of the congruence  $f(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{15}$ .
3. State Hensel's lemma.
4. Define : Order of modulo  $m$ .
5. Define : Quadratic non-residue modulo  $m$ .
6. Define : Legendre symbol  $\left(\frac{a}{p}\right)$ .
7. Define : class number of  $d$ .



8. State Mobius inversion formula.
9. Write down the three row operations to alter the coefficients of the equation.
10. Define : Unimodular matrix.

SECTION B — (5 × 5 = 25)

Answer ALL the questions.

11. (a) If  $(a, m) = (b, m) = 1$ , then prove that  $(ab, m) = 1$ .

Or

- (b) Prove that the product of any  $K$  consecutive integers is divisible by  $K!$ .

12. (a) Show that 1763 is composite.

Or

- (b) Solve :  $x^2 + x + 47 \equiv 0 \pmod{7^3}$ .

13. (a) The order of an element of a finite group  $G$  is a division of the order of the group. If the order of the group is denoted by  $n$ , then prove that  $a^n = e$  for every element  $a$  in the group.

Or

- (b) State and prove Gauss lemma.

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14. (a) Show that an odd prime  $p$  can be written in the form  $p = x^2 - 2y^2$  if and only if  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{8}$ .

Or

- (b) Prove that for every positive integer  $n$ ,  $\sum_{d|n} \varphi(d) = n$ .

15. (a) Find all solutions in integers of  $2x + 3y + 4z = 5$ .

Or

- (b) Prove that the equation  $x^3 + 2y^3 + 4z^3 = 9W^3$  has no non trivial solution.

SECTION C — (3 × 10 = 30)

Answer any THREE questions.

16. State and prove the Chinese remainder theorem.
17. If  $p$  is an odd and  $g$  is a primitive root modulo  $p^2$  then prove that  $g$  is a primitive root modulo  $p^\alpha$  for  $\alpha = 3, 4, 5, \dots$
18. If  $p$  and  $q$  are distinct odd primes, then prove that  $\left(\frac{p}{q}\right)\left(\frac{q}{p}\right) = (-1)^{\{(p-1)/2\}\{(q-1)/2\}}$ .

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