

Extending Rational Diophantine Quadruples

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Salzbug Mathematics Colloquium 14 March 2024 (π day!)

Definition.

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and gives a solution extending every Diophantine pair to two quadruples:

oportet. Nunc igitur sequentem folutionem fatis simplicem exhibeo. Sumtis pro lubitu duobus numeris m et n, vt fiat $mn + 1 \equiv ll$, quatuor numeri quaesiti erunt:

I. m; II. n; III. m + n + 2l; IV. 4l(l + m)(l + n), quibus 6 conditiones praescriptae sequenti modo implentur:

1°.
$$mn + 1 = ll$$
.
2°. $m(m+n+2l) + 1 = (l+m)^2$.
3°. $n(m+n+2l) + 1 = (l+n)^2$.
4°. $4m \cdot l(l+m)(l+n) + 1 = (2ll+2lm-1)^2$.

5°. $4n.l(l+m)(l+n) + 1 = (2ll+2ln-1)^2$ denique

6°. $4l(m+n+2l)(l+m)(l+n)+1 = (4ll+2lm+2ln-1)^2$. Hic vero plurimum obferuaffe iuuabit numerum l tam pofitiue quam negatiue accipi poffe. Ita fi fumatur $m \equiv 3$ et $n \equiv 8$, vt fiat $mn + 1 \equiv 25$, ideoque $l \equiv \pm 5$, cafus $l \equiv -5$ dabit hos quatuor numeros: I. 3. II. 8. III. 1 et IV. 120.

Sin autem capiatur l = +5, numeri erunt I. 3. II. 8. III. 21 et IV. 2080.

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and gives a solution method leading to this example:

Exemplum 1. Sumamus $m \equiv 1$ et $n \equiv 3$, eritque $l \equiv 2$, vnde qua- tuor numeri priores erunt $a \equiv 1$; $b \equiv 3$; $c \equiv 8$; $d \equiv 120$ hinc ergo colligimus:	quae fractio reducitur ad hanc $\frac{777450}{8288641}$, atque hinc decem conditiones praefcriptae fequenti modo adimplentur: 1°. $ab + 1 \equiv 2^2$; 2°. $ac + 1 \equiv 3^2$; 3°. $ad + 1 \equiv 11^2$; 4°. $bc + 1 \equiv 5^2$; 5°. $bd + 1 \equiv 19^2$; 6°. $cd + 1 \equiv 31^2$;
p = 132; q = 1475; r = 4224 et $s = 2880;ex quibus valoribus deducimus:s = \frac{4.4724 + 264.288T}{(2820)^2};$	7°. $az + i = \begin{pmatrix} 3011 \end{pmatrix}^2$; 8°. $bz + i = \begin{pmatrix} 325y \end{pmatrix}^2$; 9°. $cz + i = \begin{pmatrix} 380y \end{pmatrix}^2$; 10°. $dz + i = \frac{10079^2}{2879^2}$.

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There are infinitely many rational Diophantine sextuples; it is unknown whether rational Diophantine septuples exist or not.

Consider a given rational Diophantine quadruple (a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4) , for example Fermat's quadruple (1, 3, 8, 120).

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Fact.

Euler's method generalizes to give the "regular extensions"

$$a_{5} = z_{\pm} = \frac{(a_{1} + a_{2} + a_{3} + a_{4})(a_{1}a_{2}a_{3}a_{4} + 1) + 2(a_{1}a_{2}a_{3} + a_{1}a_{2}a_{4} + a_{1}a_{3}a_{4} + a_{2}a_{3}a_{4}) \pm 2s}{(a_{1}a_{2}a_{3}a_{4} - 1)^{2}},$$

where $s = \sqrt{(a_1a_2 + 1)(a_1a_3 + 1)(a_1a_4 + 1)(a_2a_3 + 1)(a_2a_4 + 1)(a_3a_4 + 1)}$ (unless $z_{\pm} \in \{0, a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4\}$).

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Are there more possibilities in our concrete case?

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$$z + 1 = u_1^2$$
, $3z + 1 = u_2^2$, $8z + 1 = u_3^2$, $120z + 1 = u_4^2$.

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With
$$x = u_4$$
, this gives $x^2 + 119 = 120u_1^2$, $x^2 + 39 = 40u_2^2$, $x^2 + 14 = 15u_3^2$, hence
 $y^2 = 5(x^2 + 119)(x^2 + 39)(x^2 + 14)$

with $y = 600u_1u_2u_3$.

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So we need to do something else.

Using a method known as two-cover descent, we can show that, up to possibly a sign change,

the x-coordinate of any rational point on C satisfies

$$15(1 - \sqrt{-119})(1 - \sqrt{-39}) \cdot (x^2 + 14)(x - \sqrt{-119})(x - \sqrt{-39}) = t^2$$

with some $t \in K := \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-119}, \sqrt{-39})$.

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This equation defines an elliptic curve E over K; we want to find its K-rational points (ξ, τ) with $\xi \in \mathbb{Q}$.

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There is a variant of Chabauty's method that applies in this situation. In our case, its prerequisites are satisfied.

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This finishes the proof.



Further Results

We have applied this approach to quadruples from the family

$$(t-1, t+1, 4t, 4t(4t^2-1))$$

(where $\pm t \neq 0, 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}$).

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In this way, we could show that the regular extension is the only one for t = 2 (see above), $3, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{2}, 4, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{3}, 5, \frac{1}{5}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{5}{4}, \frac{4}{5}$.

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(For $t = \frac{3}{5}$, there is a second "illegal" extension besides 0 given by $\frac{12}{5}$, which is already present. Note that $\left(\frac{12}{5}\right)^2 + 1 = \left(\frac{13}{5}\right)^2$.)

Thank You!

Magma Code

```
> P<x> := PolynomialRing(Rationals());
> C := HyperellipticCurve(5*(x^2+119)*(x^2+39)*(x^2+14));
> Sel, mSel := TwoCoverDescent(C);
> A := Domain(mSel);
> assert Sel eq {mSel(x0 - th) : x0 in {1,-1}};
> K := AbsoluteField(ext<Rationals() | x^2 + 119, x^2 + 39);
> w119 := Roots(x<sup>2</sup> + 119, K)[1,1]; w39 := Roots(x<sup>2</sup> + 39, K)[1,1];
> PK<X> := PolynomialRing(K);
> E := HyperellipticCurve(15*(1-w119)*(1-w39)*(X^2+14)*(X-w119)*(X-w39));
> EE, EtoEE := EllipticCurve(E, E![1, 15*(1-w119)*(1-w39)]);
> assert Invariants(TorsionSubgroup(EE)) eq [2];
> assert #Invariants(TwoSelmerGroup(EE)) eq 3;
> bas := Saturation(ReducedBasis([EtoEE(pt) : pt in Points(E, 10079/2879)]), 7);
> assert #bas eq 3;
> MW := AbelianGroup([2,0,0]);
> MWmap := map<MW -> EE | m :-> &+[s[i]*bas[i] : i in [1..3]] where s := Eltseq(m)>;
> P1 := ProjectiveSpace(Rationals(), 1);
> pi := Expand(Inverse(EtoEE)*map<E -> P1 | [E.1, E.3]>);
> chab := Chabauty(MWmap, pi : IndexBound := 2*3*5*7);
> {pi(MWmap(pt)) : pt in chab};
\{ (1 : 1), (10079/2879 : 1) \}
```