

Diophantine Tuples

Ganesh Sankar

Euler Math Circle

July 6, 2022

Introduction

Definition.

A set of m numbers (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m) is called a Diophantine m -tuple if $a_i \cdot a_j + 1$ is a perfect square for all $1 \leq i < j \leq m$.

- These sets have been studied in many different fields; such as \mathbb{Q} , \mathbb{Z} , $\mathbb{Z}[i]$, $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{d}]$, $\mathbb{Z}[X]$, and others.
- This problem has a long history, attracting the attention of many, including Fermat, Baker, Davenport etc, with significant progress made in recent times due to Dujella and others.

Examples

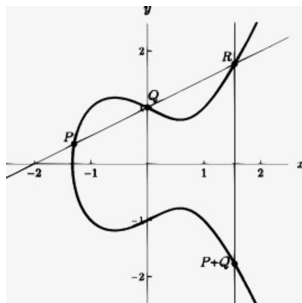
- $(\frac{1}{16}, \frac{33}{16}, \frac{17}{4}, \frac{105}{16})$ in rational numbers
- $(1, 3, 8, 120)$ in integers
- $777480/8288641$
- $(F_k, F_{k+2}, F_{k+4}, 4F_{2k+1}F_{2k+2}F_{2k+3})$
- $(x-1, x+1, 4x)$

Regular Diophantine quadruple: $(a, b, c) \Rightarrow (a, b, c, d)$

$$d = a + b + c + 2abc \pm 2rst$$

where $ab + 1 = r^2$, $bc + 1 = s^2$, $ac + 1 = t^2$

Elliptic Curves



The set of rational numbers on an elliptic curve E can be described as the subgroup $E(\mathbb{Q})$ with the group operation addition.

$$E(\mathbb{Q}) = \{(x, y) : y^2 = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d : x, y \text{ rational}\} \cup \{O\}$$

Elliptic Curves (cont.)

The Elliptic Curve group

- 1 O is the identity element
- 2 Let $P, Q \in E(\mathbb{Q})$ for $P \neq Q$
- 3 Define the intersection of the line through P and Q with E as $P * Q$
- 4 $P + Q$ is defined as the reflection of $P * Q$ over the x -axis
- 5 $P + P = 2P$ is defined the same way, but $P * P$ is the intersection of the line tangent to E at P with E
- 6 A point has order n if $nP = O$, $P \neq O$
- 7 The number of independent basis points with infinite order is the rank of the curve.

Relations to Diophantine Tuples

Let (a, b, c) be a diophantine triple with $ab + 1 = r^2$, $bc + 1 = s^2$, $ac + 1 = t^2$.

For us to extend this set to (a, b, c, x) , $ax + 1$, $bx + 1$, and $cx + 1$ must all be perfect squares. Multiplying these conditions,

$$y^2 = (ax + 1)(bx + 1)(cx + 1)$$

Define

$$P = (0, 1), S = \left(\frac{1}{abc}, \frac{rst}{abc}\right)$$

Extensions of Diophantine Tuples

Theorem.

The x – *coordinate* of the point $T \in E(Q)$ forms the diophantine quadruple $(a, b, c, x(T))$ iff $T - P \in 2E(Q)$.

It can be verified that $S \in 2E(\mathbb{Q})$. By the above, the original diophantine triple (a, b, c) can be extended with $x(P \pm S)$. In fact,

$$x(P \pm S) = a + b + c + 2abc \pm 2rst$$

Extensions of Diophantine Tuples

$x(T \pm S)$ can be extended to the existing diophantine quadruple, to create a rational diophantine quintuple $(a, b, c, x(T), x(T \pm S))$

$x(T)x(T \pm S) + 1$ is always a perfect square and if T satisfies $T - P \in 2E(\mathbb{Q}), T \pm S$ also does.

$(a, b, c, x(T), x(T + S), x(T - S))$ is a diophantine sextuple, if $x(T + S)x(T - S) + 1$ is a perfect square

There are infinitely many diophantine sextuples. It can be shown that $x(T + S)x(T - S) + 1$ is a perfect square if S is a point of order 3, which is satisfied if: $x(2S) = x(-S)$

Integer points on the Elliptic Curve

We have always the following "integer points:

$$(0, \pm 1), (d_-, \pm(at + rs)(bs + rt)(cr + st)), (d_+, \pm(at - rs)(bs - rt)(cr - st))$$

and $(-1, 0)$ if a , b , or c is 1.

The question is if these are the only integer points on the curve E . For some families of Diophantine triples it is possible to prove that there are no other integer points on E given their rank.

There are 207 quadruples with $\max(a, b, c, d) < 10^6$, and each one is regular.

Theorem.

There does not exist a diophantine quintuple in integers.

In Gaussian Integers

Gaussian Integers: Numbers of the form $a + bi$, where $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$

A set of nonzero Gaussian integers $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m) \subset \mathbb{Z}[i]$ is said to have the property $D(z)$ if the product of any two distinct elements increased by z is a square of a Gaussian integer.

Theorem.

If $z = a + bi$ is not representable as a difference of the squares of two Gaussian integers, there does not exist a diophantine quadruple with the property $D(z)$

Further Questions

- 1 $D(n)$ tuples
- 2 Quadratic Fields

Thank you for Listening!