

Fermat's Last theorem for $n=4$

Firstly we will establish the fact that it is impossible to solve the eqⁿ $x^4 + y^4 = z^2$ in the +ve integers.

Theorem (Fermat) The Diophantine eqⁿ $x^4 + y^4 = z^2$ has no solⁿ in positive integers x, y, z .

Q The given Diophantine eqⁿ is

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

Suppose (1) has a +ve non-trivial solⁿ say x_0, y_0, z_0 .

Let $\gcd(x_0, y_0) = 1$

We have $x_0^4 + y_0^4 = z_0^2$

$$\Rightarrow (x_0^2)^2 + (y_0^2)^2 = z_0^2$$

Clearly x_0^2, y_0^2, z_0 is a Pythagorean triple and $\gcd(x_0^2, y_0^2, z_0) = 1$

[If $\gcd(x_0^2, y_0^2, z_0) \neq 1$ then let $\gcd(x_0^2, y_0^2, z_0) = d > 1$
 $\therefore \exists$ prime p n.t. $p|d$. Hence $p|x_0^2, p|y_0^2, p|z_0$
 $\therefore \gcd(x_0^2, y_0^2) \geq p > 1 \Rightarrow \gcd(x_0, y_0) > 1$ which is a contradiction]

Hence x_0^2, y_0^2, z_0 is a primitive Pythagorean triple.

\therefore One of the integers x_0^2 or y_0^2 is even and the other is odd.

Suppose x_0^2 is even. Then we have

$$x_0^2 = 2st \quad y_0^2 = s^2 - t^2 \quad \text{and} \quad z_0 = s^2 + t^2$$

for some $s > t > 0$ $s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$

and $\gcd(s, t) = 1$

and $s \not\equiv t \pmod{2}$

[i.e. one of s and t is even]

$\therefore y_0^2$ is odd (as we have assumed that x_0^2 is even)

$$\therefore y_0^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 \equiv y_0^2 \pmod{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 \equiv n^2 - t^2 \pmod{4}$$

Now ~~rather~~ let us take n to be even and hence t to be odd

\therefore We can write

$$n^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{4} \quad \text{and} \quad t^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$$

$$\therefore 1 \equiv 0 - 1 \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$$

which is impossible.

$\therefore n^2$ must be odd (hence n must be odd)

and t^2 " " even (" t " " even)

Let us put $t = 2\lambda$ ($\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$). This gives

$$x_0^2 = 2nt = 4\lambda n$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{x_0}{2}\right)^2 = \lambda n$$

[Note that $\gcd(n, \lambda) = 1$]

Hence $\lambda = z_1^2$ and $n = w_1^2$ for some $z_1, w_1 \in \mathbb{N}$

Now we observe the eqⁿ

$$t^2 + y_0^2 = n^2 \quad - (2)$$

Here $\gcd(n, t) = 1 \Rightarrow \gcd(t, y_0, n) = 1$

Hence t, y_0, n is a primitive Pythagorean triple and

$$t = 2uv \quad y_0 = u^2 - v^2 \quad n = u^2 + v^2 \quad \text{for some } u, v \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ s.t.}$$

$$u > v > 0$$

$$\gcd(u, v) = 1 \text{ and}$$

$$u \not\equiv v \pmod{2}$$

Note that $uv = \frac{t}{2} = \pi = \omega_1^2$

i.e. $uv = \omega_1^2$

Hence $\exists x_1$ and y_1 s.t. $(x_1, y_1 \in \mathbb{N})$

$$u = x_1^2 \text{ and } v = y_1^2$$

$$\therefore z_1^2 = \lambda = u^2 + v^2 = x_1^4 + y_1^4$$

$\therefore z_1$ and t are positive we have (clearly $z_1 \geq 1, t \geq 1$)

$$0 < z_1 \leq z_1^2 = \lambda \leq \lambda^2 < \lambda^2 + t^2 = z_0$$

Hence now we have another sol. of eqn ① viz x_1, y_1, z_1

n.l. $z_0 > z_1 > 0$. Repeating the whole argument will give us another sol. of eqn ① say x_2, y_2, z_2 n.l. $z_0 > z_1 > z_2 > 0$.

Repeating this process gives us infinite decreasing seq. of +ve numbers n.l.

$$z_0 > z_1 > z_2 > \dots > 0$$

But there are only finite positive integers less than z_0 .

Hence we have a contradiction. Therefore eqn ① has no sol. in positive integers.

Cor: The eqn $x^4 + y^4 = z^4$ has no sol. in +ve integers

Q) Suppose x_0, y_0, z_0 is a positive sol. of $x^4 + y^4 = z^4$

Then x_0, y_0, z_0^2 is a positive sol. of $x^4 + y^4 = z^2$ which is impossible

Therefore the given eqn has no sol. in +ve integers.