The Diophantine Equations \( x^2 \pm y^4 = \pm z^6 \)
and \( x^2 + y^8 = z^3 \)

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Abstract. In this article we determine all solutions to the equation \( x^p + y^q = z^r \), \( (p,q,r) \in \{(2,4,6), (2,6,4), (4,6,2), (2,8,3)\} \) in coprime integers \( x, y, z \). First we determine a set of curves of genus 2, such that every solution corresponds to a rational point on one of these curves. Then we determine the rational points on these curves using either covers of rank 0 elliptic curves or a method known as effective Chabauty which works if the Mordell–Weil rank of the Jacobian is smaller than the dimension.

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1. Introduction

The diophantine equation \( x^p + y^q = z^r \) in integers \( p > 1, q > 1, r > 1, x, y, z \) is a generalisation of the well-known Fermat equation \( x^n + y^n = z^n \). We will refer to it as the \textit{generalised Fermat equation}.

The homogeneity of the Fermat equation implies that it is sufficient to know the coprime solutions in order to determine all rational solutions. The generalised Fermat equation is only weighted homogeneous. That means that not all integer solutions reduce to coprime integer solutions. The identity \( 2160^2 - 36^4 = 12^6 \) is an example of this phenomenon. We exclude these from our considerations and we limit ourselves to the determination of the \textit{primitive} solutions: solutions with \( x, y \) and \( z \) coprime.

The quantity \( \chi = 1/p + 1/q + 1/r \) determines the general shape of the set of primitive solutions. In the case \( \chi > 1 \), Beukers proved in [Beu98] that, for fixed \( A, B, C \), the equation \( Ax^p + By^q = Cz^r \) has either none or infinitely many primitive solutions. He described the solutions quite explicitly by proving that there exists a finite set of polynomial solutions \( x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}[s, t] \), so called...
parametrisations, such that each primitive solution can be obtained by specialising $s$ and $t$ in one of the parametrisations.

For the equations $x^2 \pm y^2 = z^r$ with $r \geq 2$, $x^3 + y^3 = z^2$, $x^2 + y^4 = z^4$ and $x^2 + y^4 = z^3$, these parametrisations can be determined using factorisation. Zagier has done that and the results for $(p, q, r) = (3, 3, 2), (2, 3, 4), (2, 4, 3)$ can be found in an appendix to [Beu98].

The case $x^2 + y^3 = z^5$ is harder. Thiboutot bounded the number of needed parametrisations in [Thi96], but explicitly determining them seems beyond the feasible at the moment. These are the only cases with $\chi > 1$.

For $\chi = 1$, the solutions are parametrised by elliptic curves. No nontrivial solutions exist for $(p, q, r) = (2, 3, 6), (2, 6, 3), (3, 3, 3), (4, 4, 2), (4, 2, 4)$ except $2^3 + 1^6 = 3^2$ and obvious modifications of it.

For $\chi < 1$, Darmon and Granville proved in [DG95] that there are only finitely many primitive solutions. For the case $p = q$ they describe a procedure that generates a finite set of parametrizing curves such that each solution corresponds to a rational point on one of the curves.

The ABC conjecture implies an even stronger finiteness result. Consider the following.

**CONJECTURE 1. (ABC Conjecture)** For every $\varepsilon > 0$ there are only finitely many coprime positive integers $A, B, C$ satisfying the relation $A + B = C$ such that

$$\frac{\log C}{\log \text{(product of prime divisors of } ABC)} > 1 + \varepsilon.$$  

If $1/p + 1/q + 1/r < 1$, then $1/p + 1/q + 1/r \leq 41/42$. Applying the ABC-Conjecture with $\varepsilon < 1/41$ gives that there are only finitely many triples $(A, B, C) = (x^p, y^q, z^r)$ satisfying $A + B = C$ and gcd$(A, B, C) = 1$.

The case $p = q = r$ was treated by Wiles. There are no nontrivial primitive solutions in this case. Darmon and Merel [DM96] proved the same for $p = q \geq 7$, $r = 2$ and, under the Shimura–Tanayama–Weil conjecture, for $p = q \geq 7$, $r = 3$. The cases with $p = q < 7, r = 2, 3$ are treated by Poonen in [Poo97].

In [Beu98], a list of small solutions to the generalised Fermat-equation with $\chi < 1$ is given. Since the number of primitive solutions to $x^p + y^q = z^r$ with $\chi < 1$ is conjecturally finite, it is tempting to try to provably list them all. We make a modest start by proving that for some equations, there are no solutions apart from the ones already known.

**THEOREM 1.** The only solutions to $x^p + y^q = z^r$ with $\gcd(x, y, z) = 1$, $xyz \neq 0$ and $(p, q, r) \in \{(2, 4, 6), (2, 6, 4), (4, 6, 2), (2, 8, 3)\}$ are

$$(-1549034)^2 + (33)^8 = 15613^3.$$  

* One is easily tempted to conclude that the equation $x^p + y^q = z^r$ has only finitely many solutions $(x, y, z, p, q, r)$ with $\gcd(x, y, z) = 1$, $xyz \neq 0$ and $1/p + 1/q + 1/r < 1$. A counterexample is given by $2^3 + 1^9 = 3^2$. 

182245.tex; 23/08/1999; 11:35; p.2
In each case, we use the parametrisations of primitive solutions to \(x^2 + y^2 = z^2\), \(x^2 + y^4 = z^3\) and \(x^2 + y^6 = z^3\) to derive curves of genus two such that primitive solutions to the equations investigated correspond to rational points on these curves. In some cases the curve covers an elliptic curve of rank 0. Thus, the rational points can be determined by lifting the torsion points on the elliptic curve to the cover.

In the other cases, the Jacobian turns out to be of rank 1. We embed the curve in the Jacobian and use a method known as effective Chabauty to determine the rational points. The calculations involved are too bulky to display here. The interested reader can obtain scripts to check these using a computer. See Section 6 for more information.

Note that the curves for \(x^2 C y^4 D z^6\), \(x^2 C y^6 D z^4\) and \(x^4 C y^6 D z^2\) are all isomorphic to one another over some finite algebraic extension of \(\mathbb{Q}\) and are the curves for \(x^2 C y^8 D z^3\). Thus, when examining the different cases, we are examining different arithmetic structures on one and the same geometric object. This is essential to the method, as can be seen in the equation \(x^3 C y^8 D z^2\), which is geometrically equivalent to \(x^2 C y^8 D z^3\). When determining the underlying curves using the parametrisations of \(x^3 C y^4 D z^2\), we run into the curves

\[
Y^2 = X^6 - 6X^5 + 45X^4 - 180X^3 + 135X^2 + 162X - 405,
\]

\[
Y^2 = X^6 + 6X^5 - 15X^4 + 20X^3 + 15X^2 + 30X - 17
\]

which turn out to have Jacobians of Mordell–Weil rank 2 over \(\mathbb{Q}\). This prevents us from using the present method to solve the equation \(x^3 + y^8 = z^2\). However, these curves are geometrically equivalent to the curves encountered for \(x^2 + y^8 = z^3\), so their Jacobians are nonsimple, as are the Jacobians we will meet in the present article. It turns out that they split over a degree 12 extension of \(\mathbb{Q}\).

2. Preliminaries

We shall use the parametrisations of some equations with \(\chi > 1\).

**Lemma 1.** Let \(x, y, z\) be coprime integers such that \(x^2 + y^2 = z^2\). Possibly by interchanging \(x\) and \(y\), we can assume that \(x\) is divisible by 2. Then there are coprime integers \(s\) and \(t\), not both odd, such that

\[
x = 2st, \quad \pm y = s^2 - t^2, \quad \pm z = s^2 + t^2.
\]

**Sketch of proof.** This is a classical result. That \(x\) and \(y\) are not both odd can be seen mod 4. The polynomials can be obtained by observing that \(y^2 = z^2 - x^2 = (z + x)(z - x)\).

**Lemma 2.** Let \(x, y, z\) be coprime integers such that \(x^2 + y^2 = z^3\). Then there are coprime integers \(s, t\) such that

\[
x = s(s^2 - 3t^2), \quad y = t(t^2 - 3s^2), \quad z = s^2 + t^2.
\]
Sketch of proof. This result can be obtained by considering \((x + iy)(x - iy) = z^3\).

LEMMA 3 (Zagier, [Beu98]). Let \(x, y, z\) be coprime integers such that \(x^2 + y^4 = z^3\). Then there are rational numbers \(s, t\) such that one of the following holds.

\[
\begin{align*}
    x &= 4st(s^2 - 3t^2)(s^4 + 6s^2t^2 + 81t^4)(3s^4 + 2s^2t^2 + 3t^4), \\
    \pm y &= (s^2 + 3t^2)(s^4 - 18s^2t^2 + 9t^4), \\
    z &= (s^4 - 2s^2t^2 + 9t^4)(s^4 + 30s^2t^2 + 9t^4), \\
    \pm x &= (s^4 + 12t^4)(s^8 - 408s^4t^4 + 144t^8), \\
    y &= 6st(s^4 - 12t^4), \\
    z &= s^8 + 168s^4t^4 + 144t^8, \\
    \pm x &= (3s^4 + 4t^4)(9s^8 - 408s^4t^4 + 16t^8), \\
    y &= 6st(3s^4 - 4t^4), \\
    z &= 9s^8 + 168s^4t^4 + 16t^8, \\
    \pm x &= (1/8)(s^4 + 3t^4)(s^8 - 102s^4t^4 + 9t^8), \\
    y &= (3/2)st(s^4 - 3t^4), \\
    z &= (1/4)(s^8 + 42s^4t^4 + 9t^8).
\end{align*}
\]

Sketch of proof. First observe that \(x^2 + (y^2)^2 = z^3\). Using Lemma 2, we see that \(y^2 = t(3t^2 - 3s^2)\). This implies that \(t = Au^2\), \(t^2 - 3s^2 = Au^2\) for some \(A \in \{1, -1, 2, -2\}\). Parametrise the latter ternary quadratic equations to get a list of quadratic expressions for \(s\) and \(t\) (for \(A = 3\) and \(A = -1\) there are no solutions at all). Substitute each expression for \(t\) in \(t = Au^2\) to obtain a ternary quadratic equation. Parametrisation again results in quadratic forms, which can be substituted back. Care should be taken to eliminate parametrisations that do not produce coprime solutions.

\[\square\]

3. The Equations \(x^2 + y^4 = z^6\), \(x^2 + z^6 = y^4\) and \(y^4 + z^6 = x^2\)

The equations with exponents 2, 4 and 6 turn out to be easy to solve. Essentially, the solutions are parametrised by genus 2 curves that admit a morphism to a rank 0 elliptic curve.

THEOREM 2. If \(x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}\) are coprime such that \(x^2 + y^4 = z^6\), then \(xyz = 0\).

Proof. Suppose we have a primitive solution \(x, y, z\). Then, by applying Lemma 2 to \(x^2 + (y^2)^2 = (z^2)^3\), we have coprime \(a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\) such that

\[
x = b(3a^2 - b^2),
\]

\[\text{(1)}\]
THE DIOPHANTINE EQUATIONS $x^2 \pm y^4 = \pm z^6$ AND $x^2 + y^8 = z^3$

$$y^2 = a(a^2 - 3b^2),$$

$$z^2 = a^2 + b^2. \tag{3}$$

Equation (3) implies that either $a = s^2 - t^2$, $b = 2st$ or $a = 2st$, $b = s^2 - t^2$. We treat each of the possibilities separately.

**a = $s^2 - t^2$, b = 2st.** By substitution in Equation (2), we get

$$y^2 = (s^2 - t^2)(s^4 - 14s^2t^2 + t^4).$$

Note that $t = 0$ implies that $b = 0$ and thus $x = 0$. We can therefore safely put $Y = y/t^3$, $X = s^2/t^2$. Solutions with $x \neq 0$ correspond to affine rational points on the elliptic curve

$$Y^2 = (X - 1)(X^2 - 14X + 1).$$

Using GP/Pari or Apecs, one can calculate the minimal model and the conductor of this curve. From this, we see that it is isomorphic to 144A2 from Cremona’s tables [Cre92]. These tables show that this curve has only one affine rational point, namely $(1,0)$. This corresponds to solutions with $y = 0$.

**a = 2st, b = $s^3 - t^3$.** Put $s - t = u$, $s + t = v$. This gives $a = (v^3 - u^3)/2$, $b = uv$. Substitution in Equation (2) yields

$$8y^2 = (v^3 - u^3)(v^4 - 14v^2u^2 + u^4).$$

Note that $u = 0$ implies that $b = 0$ and thus $x = 0$. By putting $Y = y/u^3$, $X = v^2/u^2$, other solutions correspond to affine rational points on the elliptic curve

$$8Y^2 = (X - 1)(X^2 - 14X + 1).$$

This curve is isomorphic to 576A2 in [Cre92] and has only one affine rational point, namely $(1,0)$. This corresponds to solutions with $y = 0$. \hfill \Box

**THEOREM 3.** If $x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}$ are coprime such that $x^2 = z^6 + y^4$, then $xyz = 0$.

**Proof.** Suppose we have a primitive solution $x, y, z$. Then Lemma 1 states that there exist coprime $s, t$ of distinct parity such that $y^2 = 2st$, $z^3 = s^2 - t^2$ or $y^2 = s^3 - t^3$, $z^3 = 2st$. We treat these cases separately.

$y^2 = 2st$, $z^3 = (s + t)(s - t)$. Since gcd$(y, x) = 1$ and $s + t$ and $s - t$ are both odd, we have that $s + t$ and $s - t$ are coprime. Therefore, there exist $u, v \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $u^3 = s - t$, $v^3 = s + t$. Rewriting $y^2$ in $u, v$ gives

$$2y^2 = v^6 - u^6.$$
$u = 0$ implies that $s = t$ and thus $z = 0$. Other solutions correspond to the affine rational points on the elliptic curve $2Y^2 = X^3 - 1$, which is isomorphic to $576E1$ and has just $(1, 0)$ as affine rational point.

$y^2 = s^2 - t^2$, $z^3 = 2st$. Since $y$ is odd, we have $y^2 = 1 \mod 4$. Therefore, $s$ is odd. From $z^3 = 2st$ we then conclude that $s = v^3$, $t = 4u^3$. Rewriting $y^2$ in $u, v$ gives

$$y^2 = v^6 - 16u^6.$$  

Note that $u = 0$ implies $t = 0$ and thus $z = 0$. Other solutions correspond to affine rational points on the elliptic curve $Y^2 = X^3 - 16$, which is isomorphic to $27A3$ and has only the two affine rational points $(0, 4)$, $(0, -4)$. The corresponding solutions have $u = z = 0$.

$y^2 - x = 2u^6$, $y^2 + x = 2v^6$. It follows that $u$ and $v$ are odd and coprime. Eliminating $x$ gives $2y^2 = u^6 + v^6$. Proceeding as before does not work, as the elliptic curve $2Y^2 = X^3 + 1$ has infinitely many rational points. However, we remark that

$$2y^2 = (u^2 + v^2)(u^4 - u^2v^2 + v^4)$$  

implies that

$$u^2 + v^2 = \alpha y_1^2, \quad u^4 - u^2v^2 + v^4 = \beta y_2^2,$$

where $\alpha \beta = 2y_0^2$ and $\alpha, \beta$ consist only of factors 2 and 3. Positivity shows that $\alpha, \beta > 0$ and modulo 3 we see that $3 \nmid \alpha$. Furthermore, the parity of $u$ and $v$ implies that $u^4 - u^2v^2 + v^4$ is odd. Therefore we have

$$u^2 + v^2 = 2y_1^2, \quad (4)$$

$$u^4 - u^2v^2 + v^4 = y_2^2. \quad (5)$$
Solutions of (5) correspond to rational points on the elliptic curve \( Y^2 = X^4 - X^2 + 1 \), which is isomorphic to 27A1. (The smooth model of) this curve has 8 rational points: \( \{ \infty^+, \infty^-, (0, \pm 1), (\pm 1, \pm 1) \} \). The points at infinity and \( (0, \pm 1) \) correspond to solutions with \( v = 0 \) and \( u = 0 \) respectively. Equation (4) has no solution for those points. Solutions corresponding to \( (\pm 1, \pm 1) \) have \( u^6 = v^6 \), which implies that \( x = 0 \). \( \square \)

4. Rational Points on Genus 2 Curves

The exponent triples 2-4-6, 2-6-4 and 4-6-2 are easy to handle, since the corresponding genus 2 curves cover elliptic curves of rank 0. The following method works for the cases we encounter for 2-8-3.

We use the fact that the \( p \)-adic topological closure of a rank \( r \) subgroup of a \( p \)-adic abelian variety is a \( p \)-adic subvariety of dimension at most \( r \). Chabauty used this observation in [Cha41] to prove the finiteness of the number of rational points on curves of genus \( g > 0 \) with a Jacobian of Mordell–Weil rank \( < g \) over \( \mathbb{Q} \). Flynn has adapted this idea in [CF96] and [Fly97] to get bounds on the number of rational points on curves of genus 2 with a Jacobian of rank 1 over \( \mathbb{Q} \). We present and use a version that is restricted to the type of curves we will encounter.

4.1. NOTATION AND STANDARD RESULTS

This section is a summary of the objects and results we need from, for example, [CF96]. Let \( \mathcal{C} \) denote a smooth curve of genus 2 with a singular model \( Y^2 = F(X) \), where \( F(X) \) is a square-free polynomial over \( \mathbb{Z} \) of degree 5\(^*\). We denote the hyperelliptic involute of a point \((x, y)\) by \((x, y) = (x, -y)\). Note that, because the degree of \( F \) is odd, we have a unique place \( \infty \) on \( \mathcal{C} \) corresponding to the intersection of the model with the line at infinity. We have \( \infty^+ = \infty^- \).

We write \( \mathcal{J} = \mathcal{J}_\mathcal{C} \) for the Jacobian. As a set, \( \mathcal{J} \) is the same as the collection of divisor-classes of degree 0, the Pic^0. It is a standard result that \( \mathcal{J} \cong \mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{C}/\sim \), where \( (P_1, Q_1) \sim (P_2, Q_2) \) if \( \{P_1, Q_1\} = \{P_2, Q_2\} \) or if \( P_1 = \bar{Q}_1, P_2 = \bar{Q}_2 \). We write \([P + Q]\) for the point on \( \mathcal{J} \) corresponding to the divisor-class represented by \( \{P + Q - 2\infty\} \).

Note that \( \infty \) is defined over \( \mathbb{Q} \), so \( \mathcal{C}(K) \) is nonempty for any extension \( K \) of \( \mathbb{Q} \). That means that all points in \( \mathcal{J}(K) \) can be represented by divisors defined over \( K \). That means that every point in \( \mathcal{J}(K) \) can be written as \([P + Q]\), where \( P, Q \) are points on \( \mathcal{C} \), either rational or quadratic conjugate over \( K \) (in fact, this is true for all curves of genus 2 and number fields \( K \)).

On this representation of \( \mathcal{J} \), the description of the group law bears great resemblance to the chord-tangent method on elliptic curves. The point \([P_3 + Q_3]\)

\(^*\) In general, a model exists with deg \( F \in \{5, 6\} \). We limit ourselves to the special case deg \( F = 5 \), but this is not essential to the method used.
such that \([P_1 + Q_1] + [P_2 + Q_2] + [P_3 + Q_3] = 0\) is characterised by the fact
that the points \(P_3, Q_3\) are the other points of intersection of \(C\) with the curve
\(Y = a_3X^3 + a_2X^2 + a_1X + a_0\) through \(P_1, Q_1, P_2, Q_2\). The inverse of \([P + Q]\) is
\([\bar{P} + \bar{Q}]\).

Let \(p\) be a prime of good reduction (i.e. \(p > 2\) and does not divide the discrim-
inant of \(F\)). Denote with \(J_{\mathbb{Q}}(\mathbb{Q}_p)\) the kernel of reduction mod \(p\)

\[0 \to J_{\mathbb{Q}}(\mathbb{Q}_p) \to J_{\mathbb{Q}}(\mathbb{Q}) \to J_{\mathbb{F}_p} \to 0.\]

By the corollary to Theorem 7.4.1 in \([CF96]\) we have that \(J_{\mathbb{Q}}(\mathbb{Q}_p)\) is free of torsion.

Since \(J_{\mathbb{Q}}(\mathbb{Q})\) injects into \(J_{\mathbb{Q}}(\mathbb{Q}_p)\), this implies that \(\#J_{\mathbb{Q}}(\mathbb{Q}) \mid \#J_{\mathbb{F}_p}\). The latter
quantity can be calculated using

\[\#J_{\mathbb{F}_p} = \frac{1}{2}(\#\mathcal{C}(\mathbb{F}_p))^2 + \frac{1}{2}\#\mathcal{C}(\mathbb{F}_p) - p.\]

(see Section 8.2 in \([CF96]\)). Completely analogous to the elliptic curves case, this
gives us a way to bound \(J_{\mathbb{Q}}(\mathbb{Q})\).

4.2. COMPUTING THE RANK AND THE GROUP STRUCTURE

We compute the rank of \(J_{\mathbb{Q}}(\mathbb{Q})\) by a complete 2-descent as described in, for example,
11.2 of \([CF96]\). Let \(K\) be an extension of \(\mathbb{Q}\). Denote by \(\Theta\) the image of \(X\) in
\(K[X]/(F(X))\). Then \(K[\Theta]\) is a finite, square-free commutative \(K\)-algebra and thus
the direct sum of finite field-extensions of \(K\). Write \(M_K\) for \(K[\Theta]^*/(K[\Theta])^2\).
This is a commutative group of exponent 2 and therefore an \(\mathbb{F}_2\)-vector space. The group
homomorphism \(\mu_K: J(K)/2J(K) \to M_K\) partially given by \([x, y] \mapsto (x - \Theta)(u - \Theta)\), is injective. Let \(S\) be the set of primes dividing 2 Disc\((F)\) together
with a set of primes such that the class groups of the irreducible factors of \(\mathbb{Q}(\Theta)\)
can be represented by ideals that are unitary outside \(S\). In our case, we will only
meet trivial classgroups, so the latter condition is void. Let \(\mathcal{J}\) be the subspace of \(M_{\mathbb{Q}}\)
of quadratic classes that can be represented by elements of \(Q[\Theta]\) that are unitary
outside \(S\) in each of the factors of \(\mathbb{Q}(\Theta)\). It is shown in \([FPS95]\) that \(\mu_{\mathbb{Q}}(\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}))\)
lies in \(\mathcal{J}\). Furthermore, note that \(\mathcal{J}\) is finite and effectively computable given \(F\). We
make use of the commutative diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q})/2\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}) & \xrightarrow{\mu_{\mathbb{Q}}} & \mathcal{J} \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}_p)/2\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}_p) & \xrightarrow{\mu_{\mathbb{Q},p}} & M_{\mathbb{Q}_p} .
\end{array}
\]

We use that \(\#\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}_p)/2\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}_p) = \#\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}_p)/2\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}_p)\) to compute the dimension of
\(\#\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}_p)/2\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}_p)\) as an \(\mathbb{F}_2\)-vector space and search for generators \((p\text{-adic points})\).
are not too hard to find). The intersection $\mathcal{G}$ in $M_{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ with the pullback of the image of $\mu_{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ to $M_{\mathbb{Q}}$ gives a bound on the dimension of $\mathcal{G}(\mathbb{Q})/2\mathcal{G}(\mathbb{Q})$ and thus on the rank of $\mathcal{G}(\mathbb{Q})$. Provided that we can find $J_{\text{tor}}(\mathbb{Q})$, this gives us the group structure.

4.3. THE JACOBIAN AS A $p$-ADIC VARIETY

In [CF96], Chapter 2, Cassels and Flynn give an explicit embedding $z: \mathcal{G} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}_{15}$. Note for future reference that $z_1^2$ to $z_{14}$ are normalized such that for a prime $p$ of good reduction we have $2J_{\mathbb{Q}_p}/J_{\mathbb{Q}_p} \neq 0$ exactly if $s_1(D); s_2(D) \in \mathbb{Z}_p$. Thus $s_1$ and $s_2$ are local coordinates around the origin. The power series expansions of $s_3, \ldots, s_{15}$ in $s_1, s_2$ are convergent for such $D$. Furthermore, the formal logarithm and exponential map describe the group law on $J_{\mathbb{Q}_p}/0$ and are expressible in terms of $s_1, s_2$. Thus, for $D_1, D_2 \in J_{\mathbb{Q}_p}/0$ we have

$$(s_1, s_2)(D_1 + D_2) = \text{Exp}(\text{Log}(D_1) + \text{Log}(D_2)).$$

Here, the + on the left-hand side is on $\mathcal{G}$ and on the right-hand side on $p\mathbb{Z}_p \oplus p\mathbb{Z}_p$.

4.4. APPLYING CHABAUTY’S METHOD

Consider the map

$\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{G},$

$P \mapsto [P + P].$

It maps $\mathcal{C}(\mathbb{Q})$ into $\mathcal{G}(\mathbb{Q})$, so determining the rational points on $\mathcal{C}$ reduces to finding all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $nG = [P + P]$ or $T + nG = [P + P]$. We will assume that using a variety of ad hoc finite-field arguments, we have found a prime $p$ of good reduction such that any $P \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{Q})$ has $[P + P] = 0 \mod p$ and that $T + G$ is not of the form $[P + P]$ for any $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Let $m$ be the order of $G \mod p$. We define

$$\theta_m(n) = (s_1^2 - 4s_2s_{14})(nmG).$$

This function has a zero at $n$ if $nmG = [P + P]$. We can express this as a power series in $n$, since $(s_1, s_2)(nmG) = \text{Exp}(n \text{Log}(mG))$ and $mG \in \mathcal{G}(\mathbb{Q}_p)$. We then use Strassmann’s theorem to bound the number of $n \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ for which $\theta_m(n) = 0$.

THEOREM 5 (Strassman). Let $A(X) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n X^n$ be a nonzero power series over $\mathbb{Q}_p$ such that

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} |a_n|_p = 0.$$
Let $N$ be such that $|a_n|_p \leq |a_N|_p$ for $n = 0, \ldots, N - 1$ and $|a_n|_p < |a_N|_p$ for $n = N + 1, \ldots$. Then $A(X) = 0$ for at most $N$ values of $X \in \mathbb{Z}_p$. If the zeros are counted with the appropriate multiplicity, then the bound still holds.

Sketch of proof. This is Theorem 4.1 in [Cas86]. The stronger statement about multiplicity follows from the proof given there or from the Preparation Theorem of Weierstrass, which says that $A(X)$ can be written as the product of an $N$th degree polynomial and a power-series without zeros in $\mathbb{Z}_p$. (Theorem 5.1 in [Cas86]).

For convenience, we do this calculation once for the type of curve we will encounter. Note that the restriction on the model of the curve is purely to limit the size of the computer algebra involved.

**Lemma 4.** Consider the genus 2 curve $C: Y^2 = X^5 + aX$ ($a \in \mathbb{Z}$). Choose a prime $p > 2$ not dividing $a$. Let $G \in J(\mathbb{Q})$ be a point on the Jacobian and let $m$ be its order mod $p$. If $(L_1, L_2) = \text{Log}(mG)$ satisfies $L_2 \neq 0 \mod p^2$, then the following holds. If $L_1^4 + aL_2^4 = 0 \mod p^6$, then there is at most one $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ such that $nmG = [P + P]$. Otherwise, only $n = 0$ is a solution.

**Proof.** Using the formulas described by [CF96] and available by anonymous ftp, we compute

$$\theta_{mG}(n) = 4L_1L_2^3(L_1^4 + aL_2^4)n^{10} - \frac{1}{3}L_2^4(17L_1^8 + 2aL_1^4L_2^4 + a^2L_2^8)n^{12} + O(n^{14}).$$

From [CF96] we know that power series for $s_{12}, s_{11}, s_{14} \in \mathbb{Z}[a][s_1, s_2]$ and that the denominators of coefficients of terms of total degree $n$ in the power series for Exp and Log have their denominators bounded by $n!$. This means that for $p \geq 7$, the available terms are sufficient to compute $(L_1, L_2) \mod p^7$ and that the coefficient of $n^t$ in $\theta_{mG}(n)$ is divisible by $p^{13}$ for $t > 12$. Note that $n = 0$ is at least a 10-fold zero of $\theta_{mG}$. If $L_1^4 + aL_2^4 = 0 \mod p^6$, then $\theta_{mG}(n) = -\frac{a^4}{16}a^2L_2^8n^{12} \mod p^{13}$, which is nonzero by the assumption on $L_2$. So, by Strassman’s lemma we have that $\theta_{mG}(n)$ has at most 12 zeros in $\mathbb{Z}_p$ counted with multiplicity. Apart from $n = 0$, this leaves room for at most two more zeros. Since $\mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Z}_p$, this bound surely holds for $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. By construction we know that if $n$ is a zero, so is $-n$. Therefore there can be at most one such $n > 0$.

If $L_1^4 + aL_2^4 \neq 0 \mod p^6$, we have that $\theta_{mG}(n) = 4L_1L_2^3(L_1^4 + aL_2^4)n^{10} \mod p^{12}$ is nonzero, so again by Strassman’s lemma we see that there is no $n \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ apart from $n = 0$ that is a zero of $\theta_{mG}$. \qed
5. The Equation $x^2 + y^8 = z^3$

Observe that any primitive solution of the diophantine equation $x^2 + y^8 = z^3$ must also satisfy $x^2 + (y^2)^4 = z^3$. Lemma 3 gives us a finite set of formulae describing such $x, y^2, z$. We see that

$$\pm y^2 = (s^2 + 3t^2)(s^4 - 18s^2t^2 + 9t^4) \quad \text{or}$$

$$y^2 = 6st(s^4 - 12t^4) \quad \text{or}$$

$$y^2 = 6st(3s^4 - 4t^4) \quad \text{or}$$

$$y^2 = (3/2)st(s^4 - 3t^4).$$

Remark that in each case, $t = 0$ implies either $x = 0$ or $y = 0$. Therefore, non-trivial solutions correspond (after some transformations) to affine rational points on one of the curves

$$C_1 : Y^2 = -(X^2 + 3)(X^4 - 18X^2 + 9),$$

$$C_2 : Y^2 = (X^2 + 3)(X^4 - 18X^2 + 9),$$

$$C_3 : Y^2 = X^5 - 15552X,$$

$$C_4 : Y^2 = X^5 - 139968X,$$

$$C_5 : Y^2 = X^5 - 3888X.$$

The rational points on the first two curves can be determined using covers of elliptic curves.

**Proposition 1.** The curve $C_1$ has no affine rational points.

**Proof.** The curve $C_1$ is a double cover of the elliptic curve $Y^2 = -(X + 3)(X^2 - 18X + 9)$ by the map $X \mapsto X^2$. The elliptic curve is of conductor 2304 and has rank 0, which can be verified by performing a 2-descent on the curve. The only affine torsion-point is $(-3, 0)$, which lifts to $(\pm \sqrt{-3}, 0)$ on $C_1$.

**Proposition 2.** The curve $C_2$ has no affine rational points.

**Proof.** Unfortunately, the elliptic curve we get by applying the map $X \mapsto X^2$ has rank 1. We observe that, because $(X^2 + 3)(X^4 - 18X^2 + 9)$ has no rational roots and $\text{Res}(X^2 + 3, X^4 - 18X^2 + 9) = 2^63^4$, any rational solution must satisfy

$$\mu Y_1^2 = X^2 + 3,$$

$$\mu Y_2^2 = X^4 - 18X^2 + 9,$$

for one $\mu \in \{\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 6\}$. Equation (7) shows that $\mu \geq 0$. A simple computer search shows that there are no solutions to $\mu Y_2^2 = X^4 - 18X^2Z^2 + 9Z^4 \mod 128$ for $\mu = 2, 3, 6$ with $(X, Z) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$, $(X, Z) \neq (0, 0) \mod 2$, which only leaves $\mu = 1$. 


For \( \mu = 1 \), (8) is isomorphic to 288D1, which is a curve with 4 rational points. For our model, these are \( \infty^+, \infty^-, (0, 3), (0, -3) \). The affine points clearly do not satisfy (7).

**PROPOSITION 3.** \( \mathcal{C}_4(\mathbb{Q}) = \{(0, 0), \infty\} \).

*Proof.* Fix \( \alpha_3 \) such that \( \alpha_3^2 + 3\alpha_3 + 36 = 0 \). Then \( P_3 = (\alpha_3, 33\alpha_3 - 180) \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_3)) \). Write \( \tilde{P}_3 \) for the quadratic conjugate point of \( P_3 \). Then \( G_3 = \{P_3 + \tilde{P}_3\} \in \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}) \). Another point is \( T = [(0, 0) + \infty] \in \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}) \). Using the notation from Section 4.2, we have

\[
\mu_{\mathbb{Q}_5}(\mathcal{J}(\mathcal{Q}_2)/2\mathcal{J}(\mathcal{Q}_2)) = \mu_{\mathbb{Q}_5}((T, G_3, [(4, 24_2\sqrt{-239}) + \infty]))),
\]

\[
\mu_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{R})/2\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{R})) = \mu_{\mathbb{R}}((T)).
\]

Calculation shows that the intersection of \( \mathcal{J} \) with the pullbacks of these spaces to \( M_{\mathbb{Q}} \) is two dimensional. Furthermore, \( \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q})/2\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}) = (T, G_3) \).

| Table I. Image of \( \mathcal{J}_{\mathcal{C}_4}(\mathbb{Q}) \) in \( \mathcal{J}_{\mathcal{C}_4}(\mathbb{F}_7) \) |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| \( G_3 \)      | \( \{(\alpha_3, -2\alpha_3 + 2) + (-3 - \alpha_3, 1 + 2\alpha_3)\} \) |
| \( 2G_3 \)     | \( \{(3, 2) + (6, 5)\} \) |
| \( 3G_3 \)     | \( \{(\gamma, -\gamma - 3) + (-3 - \gamma, \gamma - 3)\} \) |
| \( 4G_3 = T \)  | \( \{(0, 0) + \infty\} \) |
| \( 5G_3 \)     | \( \{(\gamma, \gamma + 3) + (-\gamma, -\gamma + 3)\} \) |
| \( 6G_3 \)     | \( \{(3, 5) + (6, 2)\} \) |
| \( 7G_3 \)     | \( \{(\alpha_3, 2\alpha_3 - 2) + (-3 - \alpha_3, -1 - 2\alpha_3)\} \) |
| \( 8G_3 \)     | \( \{2\infty\} \) |

\( \gamma^2 + 2 = 0 \)

| Table II. \( T + nG_3 \) in \( \mathcal{J}_{\mathcal{C}_4}(\mathbb{F}_{13}) \) |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| \( T \)         | \( \{(0, 0) + \infty\} \) |
| \( T + 2G_3 \)  | \( \{(-1, 4) + (3, 6)\} \) |
| \( T + 2G_3 \)  | \( \{(\gamma, 5\gamma + 5) + (-\gamma - 4, -5\gamma - 2)\} \) |
| \( T + G_3 \)   | \( \{(1, -6) + (-3, -4)\} \) |
| \( T + 4G_3 \)  | \( \{(1, 6) + (-3, 4)\} \) |
| \( T + 5G_3 \)  | \( \{(\gamma, -5\gamma - 5) + (-\gamma - 4, 5\gamma + 2)\} \) |
| \( T + 6G_3 \)  | \( \{(-1, -4) + (3, -6)\} \) |

\( \gamma^2 + 4\gamma - 3 = 0 \)

Using (6) we determine that \( \#\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{F}_3) = 26 \) and that \( \#\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{F}_7) = 64 \). Thus, \( \mathcal{J}_{\text{tor}}(\mathbb{Q}) \) has at most two elements and since \( 2\gamma = 0 \), is \( \{0, T\} \). This means that \( \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}) \simeq \mathcal{J}_{\text{tor}}(\mathbb{Q}) \).
The only points $P$ in the formulas by Flynn. We get $\Log 3$. We compute $8G_3$ represented as a divisor on $C_1$ using the genus 2 analogon of the chord-tangent method for computing on elliptic curves. The result is too large to print here, but using a computer algebra package, we can calculate it and substitute it in the formulas. We get $\Log 8G_3 = (133, 14) \mod 7^3$. Lemma 4 yields that the only $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $8nG_3 = [P + P]$ is $n = 0$. However, note that if $G_3 = kG'$, we know that $2, 7 \nmid k$, so the order of $G'$ mod 7 will also be 8 and $\Log (8G') = k \Log 8G_3$. Thus, only $0 \in \mathcal{J}(Q) \cap \mathcal{J}(Q)$ is of the form $[P + P]$. The only points $P$ on $C$ such that $[P + P] = 0$ are points with $Y(P) = 0$ or $P = \infty$. The only rational points with this property are $P = \infty$ and $P = (0, 0)$. □

**PROPOSITION 4.** $C_4(Q) = \{ (0, 0), \infty \}$.

*Proof.* Fix $\alpha_4$ such that $\alpha_4^2 - 36\alpha_4 - 648 = 0$. We have that $P_4 = (\alpha_4, 288\alpha_4 + 2592)$ is a point on $C_4$ and

$$G_4 = [P_4 + P_4], T = [(0, 0) + \infty] \in \mathcal{J}(Q) = \mathcal{J}_{C_4}(Q).$$

It is straightforward to verify that

$$\mu_{Q_2}(\mathcal{J}(Q_2)/2\mathcal{J}(Q_2)) = \mu_{Q_2}((T, G_4, [4, 2^4\sqrt{-2183} + \infty])).$$

The intersection $\mathcal{J}$ with the pullback of this set to $M_{Q_2}$ is two-dimensional. Since $2T = 0$, this bounds the rank of $\mathcal{J}(Q)$ to one. By (6), we have $\#\mathcal{J}(F_7) = 26$ and that $\#\mathcal{J}(F_{13}) = 196$. Therefore, $\mathcal{J}_{tor}(Q) = \{ 0, T \}$ and $\mathcal{J}(Q) \simeq \mathbb{Z}/(2) \times \mathbb{Z}$. 

$\square$
By some computations in $\mathcal{J}(F_{13})$, we see that $T \mod 13$ and $[(\sqrt[3]{6}, 0)+(-\sqrt[3]{6}, 0)]$ generate a $\mathbb{Z}/(2) \times \mathbb{Z}/(2)$ subgroup of $\mathcal{J}(F_{13})$ and that $[(2, 5) + (2, 5)]$ and $2G_4$ generate distinct order 7 subgroups. It follows that $\mathcal{J}(F_{13}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/(2) \times \mathbb{Z}/(2) \times \mathbb{Z}/(7) \times \mathbb{Z}/(7)$. We know that $\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}) \mod 13$ is a subgroup with 2 generators, one of which has order 2 and contains $T$ and $G_4$. Computations show that $\#(T, G_4) = 28$, and therefore $T$ and $G_4$ generate $\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}) \mod 13$, since such a group is maximal under the given properties. Table III shows that the only point in $\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q})$ of the form $[P + P]$ is $[2\infty]$ (use that if $\gamma \mathcal{J} \mathcal{J}$, then $D = [P + P]$). Therefore, every point of the form $[P + P] \in \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q})$ must lie in $\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}_{13})^0$.

**Table III.** (half of) Image of $\mathcal{J}_{C_{14}}(\mathbb{Q})$ in $\mathcal{J}_{C_{14}}(F_{13})$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$T$</th>
<th>$0$</th>
<th>$[2\infty]$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$G_4$</td>
<td>$[-2, 1] + (-1, 3]$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2G_4$</td>
<td>$[-2, -1] + (2, 5)$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3G_4$</td>
<td>$(-1, 3) + (2, 5)$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$4G_4$</td>
<td>$[(\gamma_1, 5\gamma_1 + \gamma_1, -1 - 5\gamma_1)]$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5G_4$</td>
<td>$[(\gamma_2, 4\gamma_2 + 4) + (-3 - \gamma_2, 5 - 4\gamma_2)]$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$6G_4$</td>
<td>$[(\gamma_3, 6\gamma_3 + 3) + (5 - \gamma_3, -6 - 6\gamma_3)]$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7G_4$</td>
<td>$[(\gamma_4, 0) + (-\gamma_4, 0)]$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T + G_4$</td>
<td>$[(0, 0) + \infty]$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T + 2G_4$</td>
<td>$[(2, -5) + (4, -3)]$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T + 3G_4$</td>
<td>$[(1, -2) + (-4, -2)]$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T + 4G_4$</td>
<td>$[(2, -1) + (4, -3)]$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T + 5G_4$</td>
<td>$[(3, -5\gamma_5 + 4) + (2 - y_5, 5\gamma_5 - 6)]$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T + 6G_4$</td>
<td>$[(\gamma_6, -4\gamma_6 - 3) + (-2 - \gamma_6, 4\gamma_6 + 5)]$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T + 7G_4$</td>
<td>$[(\gamma_7, 0) + (-\gamma_7, 0)]$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We compute that $\text{Log}(14G_4) = (1456, 1534)$ mod $13^3$. This is not congruent to $(0, 0) \mod 13^2$, so we see $G_4$ is not in $13\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q})$. This means

\[ \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}) \cap \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}_{13})^0 \subset \{14nG_4 : n \in \mathbb{Q} \cap \mathbb{Z}_{13}\}. \]
Lemma 4 proves that 0 is the only point in \( \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}) \) of the form \([P + P]\). The only 
P \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{Q})\) such that \([P + P] = 0\) are \(0\), and points with \(Y(P) = 0\), i.e. \((0, 0)\).

**PROPOSITION 5.** \( \mathcal{C}_5(\mathbb{Q}) = \{(0, 0), \infty, (−2, 88), (−2, −88)\} \)

*Proof.* We write \( P_3 = (−2, 88), T = \{(0, 0) + \infty\} \) and \( G_5 = [P_3 + \infty] \). We have that

\[
\mu_{\mathbb{Q}_5}(\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}/2\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q})) = \mu_{\mathbb{Q}_5}((T, G_5), \{−12, 2^3\sqrt{−39} + \infty\})
\]

and that the intersection of \( \mathcal{J} \) with the pullback of this space to \( M_5 \) is two-dimensional. Thus, \( \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q})/2\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}) = (T, G_5) \). Using (6) we find that \( \#(\mathbb{F}_{11}) = 2\cdot 89 \) and \( \#(\mathbb{F}_{43}) = 2^2 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 17 \). We see that \( \mathcal{J}_{\text{tor}}(\mathbb{Q}) = \{0, T\} \) and \( \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/(2) \times \mathbb{Z} \). Furthermore, from the fact that \( 108G_5 \mod 43 \neq 0 \), we conclude that \( G_5 \) is not in \( 17\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}) \). Some computation shows that \( \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{F}_{11}) = (\mathbb{Z}/(2)) \times \mathbb{Z}/(17) \). Since \( G_5 \mod 11 = [(−2, 0) + \infty] \) and \( G_5 \) is not in \( 17\mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}) \), we see that \( \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}) \mod 11 \) is completely 2-torsion. A 2-torsion point being of the form \([P + P] = 0\) means that \( \bar{P} = P \) and thus \([P + P] = 0\). Therefore, any rational point \( P \in \mathcal{C}_5(\mathbb{Q}) \) has \([P + P] \in \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q})^{0} \). We have \( 2G_5 \in \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q})^{0} \). However, the formulas available for \( s_1, s_2 \) are not defined for points of the form \([P + P] \). We could compute \((s_1, s_2)(2G_5)\) by taking limits, but for our purposes, \((s_1, s_2)(6G_5)\) are also sufficient, so we will compute these. We find \( \log(6G_5) = (649, 341) \mod 11^3 \). These values satisfy \( L_1^2 − 3888L_4^2 = 0 \mod 11^6 \). Since \( \log(6G_5) \neq (0, 0) \mod 11^2 \), we see that \( 6G_5 \) (and therefore \( G_5 \) is not 11-divisible. Upon choice of a generator we have \( \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}) \cap \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q})^0 \subset \{n2G_5 : n \in \mathbb{Q} \cap \mathbb{Z}_{11}\} \), and we see that the Log of that generator also satisfies \( L_1^2 − 3888L_4^2 = 0 \mod 11^6 \). By Lemma 4, there is at most one pair of nontrivial points in \( \mathcal{J}(\mathbb{Q}) \) of the form \([P + P]\). Together with the points \( P \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{Q}) \) with \([P + P] = 0\), these are the points mentioned in the proposition. 

**THEOREM 6.** The only solutions to \( x^2 + y^8 = z^3 \) with \( x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z} \) and \( \gcd(x, y, z) = 1 \) are \((x, y, z) = (±1, 0, 1), (0, ±1, 1)\) and \((±1549034, ±33, 15613)\).

*Proof.* The solutions with \( xy = 0 \) are clear. Solutions with \( xyz \neq 0 \) correspond to affine rational points on the curves \( \mathcal{C}_1, \ldots, \mathcal{C}_5 \). Proposition 1 and 2 show that \( \mathcal{C}_1 \) and \( \mathcal{C}_2 \) contain no such points. The point \((0, 0)\) on \( \mathcal{C}_3, \mathcal{C}_4, \mathcal{C}_5 \) gives rise to solutions with \( y = 0 \). By Proposition 3, 4 and 5, \( \mathcal{C}_5 \) is the only curve that contains other affine rational points. It contains two such points. Taking into account the sign of \( x \), these give rise to four more solutions of \( x^2 + y^8 = z^3 \). Therefore, the list stated in the theorem is complete.

6. References for Computations and Further Reading

The computations necessary for the proofs presented in this article are clearly un-doable with pencil and paper. While Lemma 1 and 2 may be checked by hand,
for Lemma 3 it is necessary to compute fundamental units and (trivial) ideal class
groups in quadratic orders.

The computer algebra package KASH [DKF97] has good support for this. Ver-
sions 1.6 through 1.8 were used to obtain all algebraic-number theoretic results
used in this article. The package is maintained by the group of Pohst and is free. It
can be obtained from ftp://ftp.math.tu-berlin.de/pub/algebra/Kant.

Determining conductor, minimal model, rank and torsion of elliptic curves are
also tasks better left to a computer. The Maple package Apecs 3.8 by Connell was
used for this. It can be obtained from ftp://math.mcgill.ca/pub/apecs.

Doing a 2-descent on genus 2 curves requires information on class-groups,
units, factorisation of ideals and squares in number fields up to degree 6 (for
the curves in this article, degree 4). Kash provides ample support for this kind
of calculations. The ranks computed in this article were verified by calculations
using Kash and by Stoll [Sto96] who uses a program not based on Kash.

The computations on Jacobians were done in Maple Vr3 using the cubic fitting
algorithm described in Section 1.2 of [CF96]. The formulas mentioned in Sec-
tion 4.3 are available from ftp://ftp.liv.ac.uk/~ftp/pub/genus2. In this ar-
ticle, these were used in Maple Vr3 to obtain local coordinates and approximations
to \( \theta(n) \).

In all cases, calculations took at most a couple of minutes on a HP712/60
workstation. The interested reader can download the scripts prfs283.mpl and
dscnt283.g. See for more information README in


Most of the required theory for applying effective Chabauty can be found in
[CF96]. The history of the formulas can be found in [Fly90] and [Fly93]. Notation
in these article slightly differs from the one used here and in [CF96]. For people
interested in doing this kind of computations themselves, [FPS95] is a valuable
source. Further references for determining Mordell–Weil ranks are [Sch95] and
[PS97].

Note that the curves in this article, all having a rational Weierstrass-point, can
in principle be analysed as suggested in [Gra90] and [GG93]. While this method
may be theoretically simpler, the availability of the formulas in Flynn’s case makes
it easier to use his (more general) method. Also, the reader might be interested in
[Col85], which offers an alternative treatment of Chabauty’s method.

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quick responses of the Kant group have made my work considerably easier, as did the symbolic computing capabilities of Maple.

References


