

The Simplest Elementary Mathematics Proving Method of

Fermat's Last Theorem

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Abstract: In this paper the author gives a simplest elementary mathematics method to solve the famous *Fermat's Last Theorem* (FLT), in which let this equation become a one unknown number equation, in order to solve this equation the author invented a method called "Order reducing method for equations" where the second order root compares to one order root and with some necessary techniques the author successfully proved that there are no positive integer solutions for $x^n + y^n = z^n$ which means FLT has been proved by elementary mathematics.

1. Some Relevant Theorems

There are some theorems for proving or need to be known. *All symbols in this paper represent positive integers unless stated they are not.*

Theorem 1.1. In the equation of

$$\begin{cases} x^n + y^n = z^n \\ \gcd(x, y, z) = 1 \\ n > 2 \end{cases} \quad (1-1)$$

x, y, z meet $x \neq y, x + y > z$ and if $x > y$ then $z > x > y$.

Proof: Let

$$x = y,$$

we have

$$2x^n = z^n$$

and

$$\sqrt[n]{2}x = z$$

where $\sqrt[n]{2}$ is not an integer and x, z are all positive integers, so $x \neq y$. Since

$$(x + y)^n = x^n + C_n^1 x^{n-1} y + \dots + C_n^{n-1} x y^{n-1} + y^n > z^n,$$

so we get

$$x + y > z.$$

Since

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

so we have

$$z^n > x^n, z^n > y^n$$

and get

$$z > x > y$$

when

$$x > y.$$

Theorem 1.2. In the equation of (1-1), x, y, z meet

$$\gcd(x, y) = \gcd(y, z) = \gcd(x, z) = 1.$$

Proof: Since $x^n + y^n = z^n$, if $\gcd(x, y) > 1$ then we have $(x_1^n + y_1^n) \times [\gcd(x, y)]^n = z^n$ which causes $\gcd(x, y, z) > 1$ since the left side contains the factor of $[\gcd(x, y)]^n$ then the right side must also contains this factor but contradicts against (1-1) in which $\gcd(x, y, z) = 1$, so we have $\gcd(x, y) = 1$. Using the same way we have $\gcd(x, z) = \gcd(y, z) = 1$.

Theorem 1.3. If there is no positive integer solution for

$$x^p + y^p = z^p$$

when $p > 2$ is a prime number then there is also no positive integer solution for

$$(x^p)^k + (y^p)^k = (z^p)^k.$$

Proof: Since $x^p + y^p = z^p$ has no positive integer solution, so there still no positive integer solution for

$$(x^k)^p + (y^k)^p = (z^k)^p$$

which means there is also no positive integer solution for

$$(x^p)^k + (y^p)^k = (z^p)^k.$$

So we only need to prove there is no positive integer solution for equation (1-1) when n is a prime number.

Theorem 1.4. In the equation of (1-1), x, y, z meet

$$x^{n-i} + y^{n-i} > z^{n-i}$$

where $n > i \geq 1$.

Proof: From equation (1-1), since

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

let $x > y$, so we have

$$x^{n-i} + y^{n-i} > \left[\left(\frac{x}{z} \right)^i x^{n-i} + \left(\frac{y}{z} \right)^i y^{n-i} = z^{n-i} \right],$$

from **Theorem 1.1** we know $z > x > y$, so we have

$$x^{n-i} + y^{n-i} > z^{n-i}.$$

Theorem 1.5. In **Figure 1-1**, x, y, z of equation (1-1) meet

$$\frac{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}} \leq 1.$$

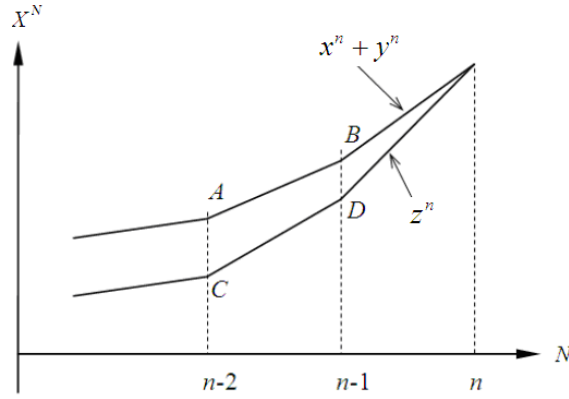


Figure 1-1 Graph for $x^n + y^n = z^n$

Proof: Obviously the meaning of $\frac{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}} \leq 1$ is the slope of AB is not greater

than that of CD and if $\frac{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}} = 1$ then the slope of AB equals to that of CD .

It is necessary to point out that there is a positive real number R that meets equation

$$\frac{dx^N}{dN} + \frac{dy^N}{dN} = \frac{dz^N}{dN},$$

where

$$x^R \ln x + y^R \ln y = z^R \ln z,$$

Obviously the ‘‘Slope’’ of $x^N + y^N$ equals to that of z^N when $N = R$. There are three cases

for R in **Figure 1-1** when $R \leq n-2, n-2 < R \leq n-1$ and $R > n-1$. If $R \leq n-2$ then it

is very clear that $\frac{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}} < 1$. If $n-2 < R \leq n-1$ then $\frac{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}} \leq 1$ is

possible and $\frac{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}} > 1$ is also possible. If $R > n-1$ then

$$\frac{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}} > 1.$$

If $\frac{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}} > 1$ then are three cases have to be considered. The first case (**Case I**) is

there is a positive real number $0 < r < 1$ for $n-r$ between $n-1$ and n whose slope equals to that of AB which means

$$x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - x^{n-2} - y^{n-2} = \frac{z^{n-r} - z^{n-1}}{1-r} = \frac{(z^{1-r} - 1)z^{n-1}}{1-r}$$

that can be explained by **Figure 1-2** where $AB \parallel DF$.

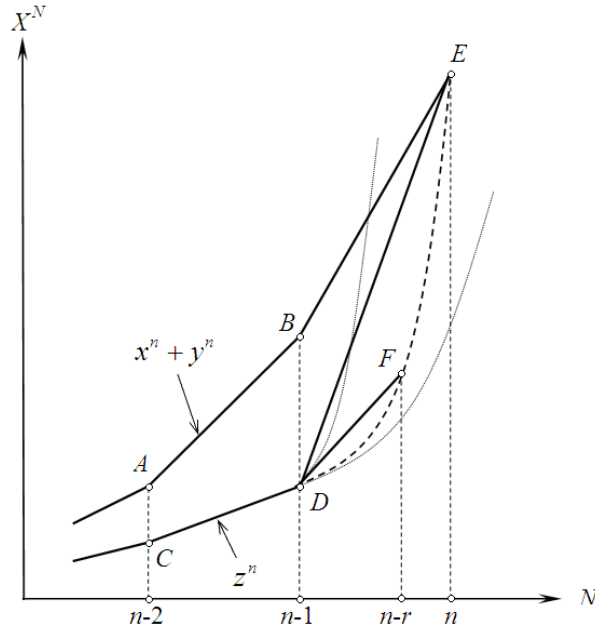


Figure 1-2 Graph of $x^n + y^n = z^n$ when $\frac{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}} > 1$

and point F is between $n-1$ and n for **Case I**

The second case (**Case II**) is there is a positive real number $0 < r < 1$ for $n-r$ between $n-1$ and $n-2$ whose slope equals to that of AB which means

$$x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - x^{n-2} - y^{n-2} = \frac{z^{n-1} - z^{n-r-1}}{r} = \frac{(1 - z^{-r})z^{n-1}}{r},$$

that can be explained by **Figure 1-3** where $AB \parallel DF$.

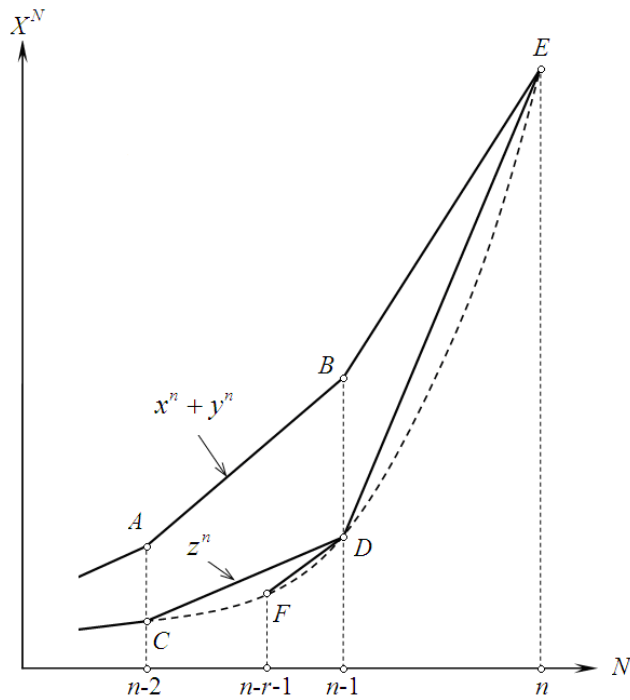


Figure 1-3 Graph of $x^n + y^n = z^n$ when $\frac{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}} > 1$

and point F is between $n-2$ and $n-1$ for **Case II**

The third case (**Case III**) is there is a tangent line of curve z^n at D that is $D'DF$ whose slope equals to that of AB which means

$$x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - x^{n-2} - y^{n-2} = \frac{dz^N}{dN} \Big|_{N=n-1}$$

that can be explained by **Figure 1-4** where $AB \parallel D'DF$.

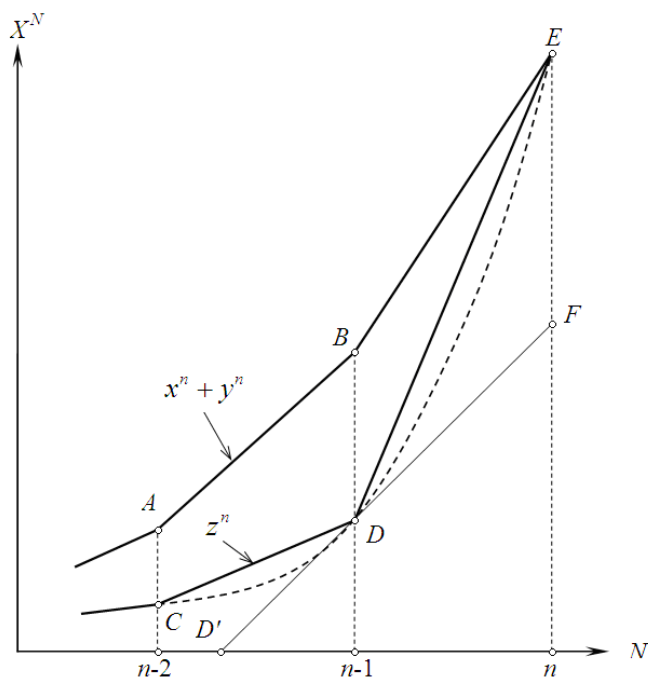


Figure 1-4 Graph of $x^n + y^n = z^n$ when $\frac{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}} > 1$

and $D'DF$ is a tangent line of curve z^n for **Case III**

Case I : In **Figure 1-2** we have

$$x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - x^{n-2} - y^{n-2} = \left(\frac{z^{1-r} - 1}{1-r} \right) z^{n-1},$$

and

$$x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1} - x^{n-2} - y^{n-2} = \left(\frac{z^{1-r} - 1}{1-r} \right) z^{n-1} - z^{n-1} = \left(\frac{z^{1-r} + r - 2}{1-r} \right) z^{n-1}. \quad (1-2)$$

If we treat r as constant then $f(z) = \frac{z^{1-r} + r - 2}{1-r}$ is a “Monotonically increasing function”; if

we treat z as constant then $f(r) = \frac{z^{1-r} + r - 2}{1-r}$ is a “Monotonically decreasing function” that

can be explained by **Figure 1-5**.

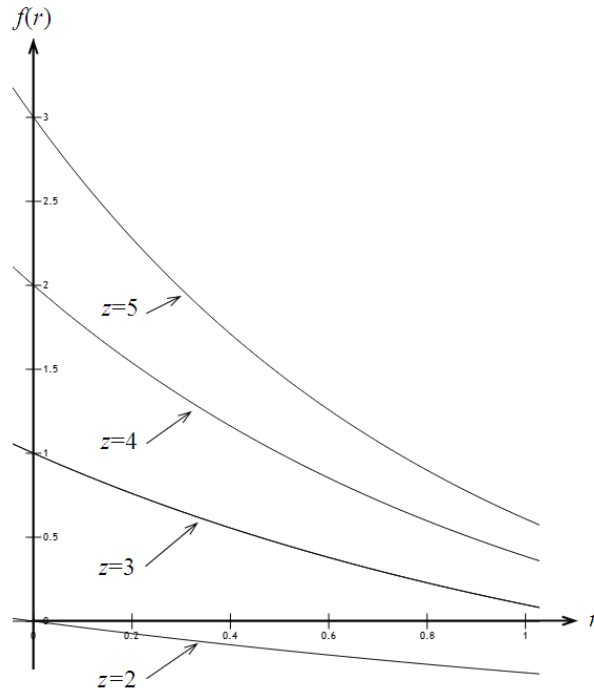


Figure 1-5 Graph of $f(r) = \frac{z^{1-r} + r - 2}{1-r}$ when $z = 2,3,4,5$

From (1-2) we can see clearly that if z (a positive number) increases then the left side decreases and the right side also decreases. The minimum value for the right side is

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{z^{1-r} + r - 2}{1-r} \right) z^{k-1} &= \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \left[\frac{d(z^{1-r} + r - 2)}{\frac{dr}{d(1-r)}} \right] z^{k-1} = \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{-z^{1-r} \ln z + 1}{-1} \right) z^{k-1}, \\ &= \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} (z^{1-r} \ln z - 1) z^{k-1} = (\ln z - 1) z^{k-1} \end{aligned}$$

since

$$\begin{cases} \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} (z^{1-r} + r - 2) = 0 \\ \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} (1-r) = 0 \end{cases}.$$

From **Theorem 1.8** we know $z \geq 4$, so we get

$$\left[\lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \left(\frac{z^{1-r} + r - 2}{1-r} \right) z^{n-1} = (\ln z - 1) z^{n-1} \right] > (\ln 5 - 1) \times 4^2 > 9.$$

From (1-2) we have

$$(x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}) - (x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}) = \left(\frac{z^{1-r} + r - 2}{1-r} \right) z^{n-1} + z^{n-2},$$

where both sides plus z^{n-2} . In **Figure 1-2** we know

$$x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1} = BD,$$

$$x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2} = AC.$$

There must exist a situation in **Figure 1-2** when we increase z that causes $BD \rightarrow AC, BD > AC, r < 1$, so the left side is almost 0 but the right side is bigger than $9 + z^{n-2}$, that is a contradiction which means there are no positive integer solutions of equation (1-1) at **Case I**.

Case II : In **Figure 1-3** we have

$$x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - x^{n-2} - y^{n-2} = \frac{(1 - z^{-r}) z^{n-1}}{r},$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1} &= \left(\frac{1 - z^{-r}}{r} \right) z^{n-1} - z^{n-1} + x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} \\ &= \left(\frac{1 - z^{-r} - r}{r} \right) z^{n-1} + x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} \end{aligned} \tag{1-2}$$

For function $f(r) = \frac{1 - z^{-r} - r}{r}$ we can plot the graph for it when $z = 2, 3, 4, 5$ as showed in

Figure 1-6, where it shows that $f(r)$ is “Monotonically decreasing”.

From **Figure 1-3** we know if z increases then r decreases which causes the left side of (1-2) decreases but the right side increases, so this is a contradiction which means there are no positive integer solutions of equation (1-1) at **Case II**.

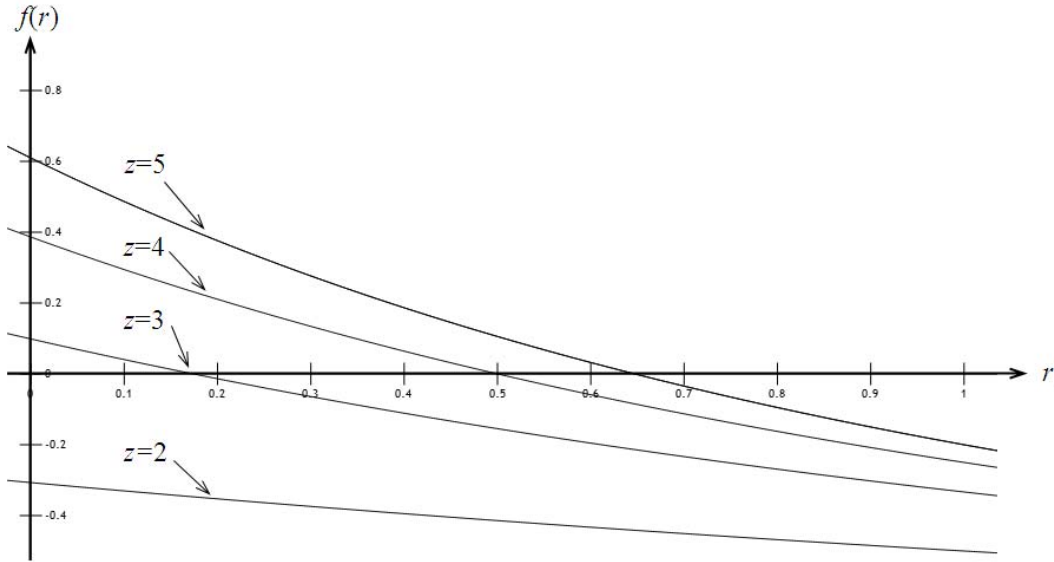


Figure 1-6 Graph of $f(r) = \frac{1 - z^{-r} - r}{r}$ when $z = 2, 3, 4, 5$

Case III : In figure 1-4 we have

$$x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - x^{n-2} - y^{n-2} = \frac{dz^N}{dN} \Big|_{N=n-1} = z^{n-1} \ln z ,$$

and

$$x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1} = z^{n-1} \ln z - z^{n-1} + x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} = (\ln z - 1)z^{n-1} + x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} ,$$

that is impossible since for any positive integer solutions of equation (1-1) when z increases then the left side is becoming smaller but the right side is becoming bigger which is a contradiction, so there are no positive integer solutions of equation (1-1) at **Case III**.

So from **Case I**, **Case II** and **Case III** we have the conclusion of $\frac{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}} > 1$ is

impossible and $\frac{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}} \leq 1$.

Theorem 1.6. There are no positive integer solutions for

$$1^n + y^n = z^n.$$

Proof: Since

$$1 = z^n - y^n = (z - y)(z^{n-1} + z^{n-2}y + \dots + zy^{n-2} + y^{n-1})$$

where

$$\begin{cases} z - y = 1 \\ (z^{n-1} + z^{n-2}y + \dots + zy^{n-2} + y^{n-1}) = 1 \end{cases}$$

that causes z, y to be non positive integers, so there are no positive integer solutions for

$$1^n + y^n = z^n.$$

Theorem 1.7. There are no positive integer solutions for

$$2^n + y^n = z^n.$$

Proof: Since

$$2^n = z^n - y^n = (z - y)(z^{n-1} + z^{n-2}y + \dots + zy^{n-2} + y^{n-1}),$$

if

$$\begin{cases} z - y = 1 \\ z^{n-1} + z^{n-2}y + \dots + zy^{n-2} + y^{n-1} = 2^n \end{cases}$$

then taking the least value for $y = 2, z = 3$, we have

$$3^{n-1} + 2 \times 3^{n-2} + \dots + 2^{n-1} > 2^n$$

when $n > 2$ that is impossible. If

$$\begin{cases} z - y = 2^i \\ z^{n-1} + z^{n-2}y + \dots + zy^{n-2} + y^{n-1} = 2^j \\ i + j = n \\ i \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

then $z > 2$ and taking the least value of $y = 2, z = 3$, we get

$$3^{n-1} + 2 \times 3^{n-2} + \dots + 2^{n-1} > 2^j$$

with $n > 2$ that is also impossible, so there are no positive integer solutions for

$$2^n + y^n = z^n.$$

Theorem 1.8. There are no positive integer solutions for equation (1-1) when $n \rightarrow \infty$ and x, y, z in equation (1-1) meet

$$z < \sqrt[n]{2x}, x > 2, y > 1, z > 3.$$

Proof: Since $x^n + y^n = z^n$, let $x > y$, we get

$$\left(\frac{z}{x}\right)^n - \left(\frac{y}{x}\right)^n = 1,$$

since

$$z > x > y,$$

so we have

$$z < \sqrt[n]{2}x,$$

and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{z}{x}\right)^n - \left(\frac{y}{x}\right)^n = \infty > 1$$

which means there are no positive integer solutions for equation (1-1) when $n \rightarrow \infty$. And

according to **Theorem 1.1, 1.6** we have $x > 2, y > 1, z > 3$.

2. Proving Method

In equation (1-1), let

$$\begin{cases} a = x^{n-2} \\ b = y^{n-2} \\ c = z^{n-2} \end{cases},$$

we have

$$\begin{cases} ax^2 + by^2 = cz^2 \\ a^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}}x + b^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}}y = c^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}}z \end{cases}. \quad (2-1)$$

Since we reduce the order of equation so the method is called "Order reducing method for equations". Let $x > y$ and

$$\begin{cases} y = x - f \\ z = x + e \end{cases}. \quad (2-2)$$

From (2-1) and (2-2) we have

$$\begin{cases} ax^2 + b(x - f)^2 = c(x + e)^2 \\ a^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}}x + b^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}}(x - f) = c^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}}(x + e) \end{cases}$$

and

$$\begin{cases} (a+b-c)x^2 - 2(bf+ce)x + (bf^2 - ce^2) = 0 \\ a^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}}x + b^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}}(x-f) - c^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}}(x+e) = 0 \end{cases},$$

the roots are

$$x = \frac{(bf+ce) \pm \sqrt{(bf+ce)^2 - (a+b-c)(bf^2 - ce^2)}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}}, \quad (2-3)$$

and

$$x = \frac{c^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}}e + b^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}}f}{a^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}} + b^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}} - c^{\frac{n-1}{n-2}}} = \frac{bfy + cez}{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}}. \quad (2-4)$$

There are two cases for bf^2, ce^2 when $bf^2 \geq ce^2$ and $bf^2 < ce^2$.

Case A: If $bf^2 \geq ce^2$, from (2-3) when

$$x = \frac{(bf+ce) + \sqrt{(bf+ce)^2 - (a+b-c)(bf^2 - ce^2)}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}},$$

From **Theorem 1.4** we know $a+b-c = x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2} > 0$, so we have

$$x \leq \frac{2(bf+ce)}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}},$$

and also from **Theorem 1.4** we have $x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1} > 0$, compare to (2-4) we get

$$\frac{bfy + cez}{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}} \leq \frac{2(bf+ce)}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}}.$$

From **Theorem 1.5** we know $\frac{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}} \leq 1$, so we have

$$bfy + cez \leq 2(bf+ce)$$

that is impossible since from **Theorem 1.8** we know $y \geq 2$ and $z > 3$.

When

$$x = \frac{(bf+ce) - \sqrt{(bf+ce)^2 - (a+b-c)(bf^2 - ce^2)}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}}.$$

we have

$$x \leq \frac{bf + ce}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}},$$

compare to (2-4) we get

$$\frac{bfy + cez}{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}} \leq \frac{bf + ce}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}}.$$

From **Theorem 1.5** we have

$$bfy + cez \leq bf + ce$$

that is impossible since from **Theorem 1.8** we have already known $y \geq 2$ and $z > 3$.

Case B: If $bf^2 < ce^2$, from (2-3) when

$$x = \frac{(bf + ce) + \sqrt{(bf + ce)^2 + (a + b - c)(ce^2 - bf^2)}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}},$$

we can prove $(bf + ce)^2 > (a + b - c)(ce^2 - bf^2)$ since if not we have

$$(bf + ce)^2 \leq (a + b - c)(ce^2 - bf^2)$$

and

$$[(2b + a) - c]bf^2 + 2bfce + [2c - (a + b)]ce^2 \leq 0$$

that is impossible since $a + b - c > 0$ and $c > a, c > b, 2c - (a + b) > 0$. So we have

$$x < \frac{(bf + ce)(1 + \sqrt{2})}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}}$$

compare to (2-4) we get

$$\frac{bfy + cez}{x^{n-1} + y^{n-1} - z^{n-1}} < \frac{(bf + ce)(1 + \sqrt{2})}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}}.$$

From **Theorem 1.5** we have

$$bfy + cez < (bf + ce)(1 + \sqrt{2}) < 2.5(bf + ce)$$

and

$$bf(x - f) + ce(x + e) < 2.5(bf + ce)$$

that leads to

$$x < \left[\frac{2.5(bf + ce) + bf^2 - ce^2}{bf + ce} = 2.5 - \frac{ce^2 - bf^2}{bf + ce} \right] < 2.5$$

where possible values for x are 1, 2 but according to **Theorem 1.6, 1.7** we know there are no

positive integer solutions.

When

$$x = \frac{(bf + ce) - \sqrt{(bf + ce)^2 + (a + b - c)(ce^2 - bf^2)}}{x^{n-2} + y^{n-2} - z^{n-2}}$$

is not possible since $x \leq 0$.

Now we have completely solved no positive integer solutions for equation (1-1) when $n > 2$ using “Order reducing method for equations”.

3. Conclusion

Through the above contents we can see clearly that the proving of *Fermat's Last Theorem* is just a problem of elementary mathematics. “Order reducing method for equations” that the author invented is a very effective method in the proving of *Fermat's Last Theorem* and the author’s technique in which let $y = x - f$ and $z = x + e$ is a very important step for solving.

Fermat's Last Theorem is a problem that has lasted for about 380 years. Proving methods are not important but the theorem’s correctness is very necessary because many useful inferences can be deduced that are obviously better than “conjectures”.

The author has been working on proving of *Fermat's Last Theorem* for quite some times (210 days) without any reference and many methods have been thought about, for example “Method of prime factorization” but not work. So the author has already known that there are no ways to solve except “Solving high order equations” which is also an important aspect in solving other mathematic problems.