

A SIMPLE, DIRECT PROOF OF FERMAT'S LAST THEOREM

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ABSTRACT. No simple proof of FLT has been established for every $n > 2$. To prove FLT we devise, for $n \geq 1 \in \mathbb{Z}$, an algebraic identity, $r^n + s^n = t^n$ that holds for $(r, s, t) \in \mathbb{R} | r, s, t > 0$, which we can relate to $x^n + y^n = z^n$ holding for $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{Z} | x, y, z$ is co-prime ≥ 1 . We show for $n > 2$ that there exists no $(r, s, t) \in \mathbb{Z} | r, s, t \geq 1$. We infer that $(r, s, t) \in \mathbb{Z}$ equals $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{Z}$ by using our identity's unrestricted variable. So, for $n > 2$, there exists no $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{Z}$.

1. INTRODUCTION

Fermat's last theorem (FLT) states, for integral $n > 2$, that no positive integral x, y, z satisfy $x^n + y^n = z^n$. No simple proof of FLT is established for every $n > 2$.

2. THE DIRECT ARGUMENT, DEFINED AS NOT BY WAY OF CONTRADICTION

We start a deductive chain of reasoning with a detailed *algebraic identity* that we have designed to be sufficient for implying FLT, namely, our equation (1) :

$$(1) \quad \left((2^{p+1}q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}} \right)^n + \left((m - 2^p q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}} \right)^n = \left((m + 2^p q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}} \right)^n.$$

For all integral $n \geq 1$: We restrict q to all positive rational values, and restrict p to all positive odd values, with m as all positive real values such that $m > 2^p q^n$.

Use $r, s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$, respectively, to denote $(2^{p+1}q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}$; $(m - 2^p q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}$; $(m + 2^p q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}$.
With $r^n, s^n, t^n \geq 1$, existing values of $r, s, t \in \mathbb{Z}$ each is a unique n -th root.

Rational q is *legitimate*, being *sufficient* for our argument, per Prop. 2.1, below.

For $n = 2$ with even $p \geq 0$, (1) does not hold for $(r, s, t) \in \mathbb{Z}$: By inspection, for $n = 2$, even $p \geq 0$ yields solely irrational r , e.g., $p = 2$ yields $r = \sqrt{8}q$.

For $n = 1, 2$: Triple $\{(r, s, t) \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ is non-empty, as is $\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{Z} | x, y, z \geq 1\}$.

Example : For $n = 1$, values $m = \frac{3}{4}$, $p = 1$, and $q = \frac{11}{2}$ result in $3 + 4 = 7$.

Example : For $n = 2$, values $m = \frac{3}{2}$, $p = 1$ and $q = \frac{41}{2}$ result in $3^2 + 4^2 = 5^2$.

For $n > 2$, no necessary relation exists between $(r, s, t) \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{Z}$.

In section 3 we determine, for $n > 2$, that $\{(r, s, t) \in \mathbb{Z}\} = \emptyset$.

But, the argument is valid since we maintain the generality of n : We achieve this goal using our proof of proposition 2.1, in which, for any given value of n , we relate nonempty $\{(r, s, t) \in \mathbb{R}\}$ with $\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ that we take as nonempty because, for $n > 2$, we act as if the "fact", $\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{Z}\} = \emptyset$, is not yet established.

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For any given n : Let A mean $\{(r, s, t) | r, s, t \text{ are coprime } \geq 1\}$ holding for (1).
 For any given n : Let B mean $\{(x, y, z) | x, y, z \text{ are coprime } \in \mathbb{N}\}$
 for which $x^n + y^n = z^n$ holds.

We intend to infer values of n for $B = \emptyset$, a *hypothetical example* being $n = 3$.

For any given n : Let C mean $\{(r, s, t) \in \mathbb{R} \supseteq \mathbb{Z} | r, s, t > 0\}$ for which (1) holds.

We intend to relate set C to set B and, subsequently, to relate set A to set B .

For any given n : Let D mean $\{\frac{rs}{t} | r, s, t \in C \text{ with real } m, \text{ rational } q, \text{ and odd } p\}$.
 For any given n : Let E mean $\{\frac{xy}{z} | x, y, z \in B\}$.
 For any given n : Let F mean $\{rs \in \mathbb{R} | (r, s, t) \in C\}$.
 For any given n : Let G mean $\{rs \in \mathbb{Z} | (r, s, t) \in A\}$.
 For any given n : Let H mean $\{xy \in \mathbb{Z} | (x, y, z) \in B\}$.

Proposition 2.1. *For any given $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ with nonempty A, B , it is true that $A=B$.*

Proof. For any given n , with nonempty B : Due *solely* to varying unrestricted real m , term $\frac{rs}{t} \in D$ or $\frac{(2^{p+1}q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}(m-2^p q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}}{(m+2^p q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}}$ takes every value of term $\frac{xy}{z} \in E$.

The same values m , varying the same, *at the same time*, allows the following :

Variable $t \in \mathbb{R}$ or $(m + 2^p q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}$ takes every value of $z \in \mathbb{Z}$;

Term $rs \in F$ (with r, s simultaneously irrational or rational, including co-prime r, s) or expression $(2^{p+1}q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}(m - 2^p q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}$ takes every value of $xy \in H$;

Variable $s \in \mathbb{R}$ or $(m - 2^p q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}$ takes every value of $y \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Hence, $r \in \mathbb{R}$ necessarily takes every value of $x \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Therefore, $r \in \mathbb{Z} = x \in \mathbb{Z}$; $s \in \mathbb{Z} = y \in \mathbb{Z}$; and, $t \in \mathbb{Z} = z \in \mathbb{Z}$. □

Rational q is legitimate, being sufficient for Prop. 2.1 to be true, as follows :

Irrational values of q are irrelevant because values taken by m, p, q , with p, q independent of determining proposition 2.1, are *sufficient* in our proof of Prop. 2.1.

Allowing m to vary, per above, results in set C being restricted to subset A .

We choose to restrict odd p to $p = 1$ since, per remark 3.1, below, (1) with $p = 1$ yields the most values of $n | n \in \mathbb{Z}, n > 2$ for which (1) *excludes* nonempty A .

Hence, for (1), the value of $(r, s, t) \in A$ is $((4q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}; (m - 2q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}; (m + 2q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}$.

3. RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

Remark 3.1. *By inspection, with $r = (2^{p+1}q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}$, which reduces to $2^{\frac{p+1}{n}}q$:*

For $p = 1, \dots, 19, \dots$, respectively, $r \in \mathbb{Z} = 2^{\frac{2}{n}}q, \dots, 2^{\frac{20}{n}}q, \dots$. This shows, with $q \in \mathbb{Q}$, that $p > 1$ result in fewer n for which (1) excludes $r \in \mathbb{Z}$, and, thus, nonempty A .

For example, with $p = 19$, the values of odd n for excluded $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ and, so, for $A = \emptyset$, are $n = 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19$ plus $n \in \mathbb{Z}, n > 20$.

This analysis can not determine whether non-excluded r means non-empty A .

With $p = 1$ we get $((4q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}, (m - 2q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}}, (m + 2q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}})$ such that $(4q^n)^{\frac{1}{n}} = 2^{\frac{2}{n}}q$.

For $n > 2$, with $q \in \mathbb{Q}$, consequently, $\{2^{\frac{2}{n}}q \in \mathbb{Q}\} = \emptyset$, so, $\{2^{\frac{2}{n}}q \in \mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Q}\} = \emptyset$.

Thus, for $n > 2$, no $(r, s, t) \in \mathbb{Z} | r, s, t$ is co-prime exists for which (1) holds.

Ergo, for $n > 2$, equation $x^n + y^n = z^n$ does not hold for $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{Z}$. QED