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# Integral solutions of $x^3 - 2y^3 = 1$

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p-adic numbers and applications  
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# 1 p-adic Analytic function

The main goal of this part is to completely solve the equation by p-adic method, p-adic analytic function and Strassman's theorem will be the key, in particular logarithm and exponential function.

**Proposition 1.1.** Let  $K$  be a complete non-archimedian field, a series  $\sum_{n \geq 0} a_n$  of  $K$  converges if and only if  $(a_n)_{n \geq 0}$  converges to zero.

*Proof.* □

Similarly, we can study the convergence of power series in a non-archimedian field by considering the radius convergence

$$R = 1 / \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|}$$

Since ultrametric is still a metric. We can formally define

**Definition.** Let  $B_p(a, r) = \{x \in \mathbb{C}_p \mid |x - a|_p < r\}$  be a subset of  $\mathbb{C}_p$ .

- p-adic logarithm is the p-adic analytic function  $\log_p : B_p(1, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_p$  defined by

$$\log_p(x) := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{(x-1)^n}{n}$$

- p-adic exponential is the p-adic analytic function  $\exp_p : B_p(0, p^{-1/(p-1)}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_p$  defined by

$$\exp_p(x) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

We will verify the statement is well-defined. For the reader who is familiar with p-adic analytic function, this section can be skipped.

It is easier to check logarithm by observing  $v_p(n) \leq \log_p(n)$  for any integer  $n \geq p$  and here logarithm is defined in real line, because any integer between  $p^k$  and  $p^{k+1}$  has valuation 1 and logarithm in real line is increasing. then for any  $|x - 1|_p = p^{-r} < 1$  we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |1/n|_p |x - 1|_p^n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p^{v_p(n) - nr} = p^{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n(\frac{v_p(n)}{n} - r)} = 0$$

When  $|x - 1|_p = 1$ , notice that sequence  $|1/n|_p$  diverges, so the  $B_p(1, 1)$  is the domain of convergence. Similarly, we will check exponentials and it will be a little complicated.

**Lemma 1.2.** Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $S_n$  denotes the sum of the digits of  $n$  in base  $p$ , then

$$v_p(n!) = \frac{n - S_n}{p - 1}$$

*Proof.* Firstly we prove  $v_p(p^n!) = \frac{p^n - 1}{p - 1}$  for any positive integer  $n$  by recurrence. when  $n = 1$ ,  $v_p(p) = 1$ ; for integer  $n \geq 2$  we assume that  $v_p(p^{n-1}!) = \frac{p^{n-1} - 1}{p - 1}$ , then  $p^n! = p^{n-1}! \cdot \prod_{k=1}^{p-1} A_k$  with

$$A_k = (kp^{n-1} + 1) \times (kp^{n-1} + 2) \times \cdots \times (k+1)p^{n-1}$$

then clearly by valuation

$$\begin{aligned}
v_p(p^n!) &= v_p(p^{n-1}!) + \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} v_p(A_k) \\
&= v_p(p^{n-1}!) + pv_p(p^{n-1}!) + 1 \\
&= \frac{p^{n-1} - 1}{p - 1} + p \cdot \frac{p^{n-1} - 1}{p - 1} + 1 \\
&= \frac{p^n - 1}{p - 1}
\end{aligned}$$

Hence we finish our recurrence. And if we take  $a \in 1, \dots, p-1$ , then the formula can be generalized

$$\begin{aligned}
v_p(ap^n!) &= \sum_{k=0}^{a-1} v_p[(k \cdot p^n + 1) \times (k \cdot p^n + 2) \times \dots \times (k \cdot p^n + p^n)] \\
&= \sum_{k=0}^{a-1} v_p(p^n!) = a \frac{p^n - 1}{p - 1}
\end{aligned}$$

Finally we prove it by recurrence. Assuming that for any integer  $n-1$  the identity holds, and  $n = ap^r + m$  with  $a \in \{1, \dots, p-1\}$  and  $m < p^r < n-1$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
v_p(n!) &= v_p(ap^r!) + \sum_{k=1}^m v_p(ap^r! + k) \\
&= v_p(ap^r!) + v_p(m) \\
&= a \cdot \frac{p^r - 1}{p - 1} + \frac{m - S_m}{p - 1} \\
&= \frac{(ap^r + m) - (a + S_m)}{p - 1} = \frac{n - S_n}{p - 1}
\end{aligned}$$

□

By above lemma, the exponentials converges in given domain. For any  $|x|_p < p^{-1/p-1}$ , we estimate

$$v_p(x^n/n!) = nv_p(x) - v_p(n!) > \frac{S_n}{p-1} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} +\infty$$

which means the definition is well-defined. When  $|x| = p^{-1/p-1}$ , we notice that for  $n = p^k$ , we have

$$\left| \frac{x^n}{n!} \right|_p = p^{-p^k/p-1} \cdot p^{p^k-1/p-1} = p^{1/p-1}$$

Hence the series diverges and the domain of the convergence is  $B_p(0, p^{-1/(p-1)})$ .

Some properties about the power series will be needed here for the following proof.

**Lemma 1.3** (analytic continuation). Let  $f(X)$  and  $g(X)$  be two formally power series over a complete non-archimedian field  $K$ , and they all converge on the domain  $D$ . If there exists a non-stationary convergent sequence  $(a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  of  $D$  such that  $f(a_n) = g(a_n)$ , then  $f(X) = g(X)$ .

*Proof.* The proof is similar to the classical proof. It is sufficient to consider the case that  $D$  is a disc containing zero and  $(a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  converges to zero. Then we have

$$h(X) = f(X) - g(X) = \sum_{k \geq 1} c_k X^k$$

with  $h(a_n) = 0$  for any  $n$ . Assuming that  $h(X)$  is not zero, then we take  $r = \{\min n \in \mathbb{N} | c_n \neq 0\}$  the smallest non-zero index, then  $h(X) = X^r h_1(X)$ , here  $h_1$  is defined by a power series with the non-zero constant coefficient, and it also converges on  $D$ . Then by continuity, we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h_1(a_n) = h_1(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n) = h_1(0) = c^r \neq 0$$

Hence for a large  $N$ ,  $h_1(a_N) \neq 0$ . Moreover, non-stationary sequence  $(a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  implies  $a_N \neq 0$ , so  $h(a_N) = a_N^r h_1(a_N) \neq 0$ , absurd.  $\square$

**Lemma 1.4** (composition). Let  $f(X) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n X^n$  and  $g(X) = \sum_{m \geq 1} b_m X^m$  be two formal power series, let  $R$  be the radius convergence of  $f$ . If  $x$  is an element of a complete non-archimedian field  $K$  which satisfies

(1)  $g(x)$  converges.

(2)  $|b_m x^m| < R$  for any  $m \geq 1$ .

then the formal power series  $h(X) = f \circ g(X)$  converges at  $x$  with  $h(x) = f(g(x))$ .

*Proof.* The proof can be founded in [1, Chapter 4].  $\square$

Logarithm and exponential function keeps the same algebraic properties in p-adic context, here we just need several properties for applications to the solution of the equation.

**Proposition 1.5.** Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{C}_p$  with  $|a|_p, |b|_p < p^{-1/(p-1)}$ , then

(1)  $\exp(a+b) = \exp(a)\exp(b)$

(2)  $|\log(1+a)|_p = |a|_p$

(3)  $\exp(\log(1+a)) = 1+a$

*Proof.* (1)  $|a+b| \leq \max\{|a|, |b|\} < p^{-1/p-1}$ , so  $\exp(a+b)$  exists. By a manipulation of power series

$$\begin{aligned} \exp(a)\exp(b) &= \left(\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{a^m}{m!}\right) \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{b^n}{n!}\right) \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{1}{k!} \sum_{m+n=k} \frac{k!}{m! \cdot n!} a^m b^n \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{1}{k!} (a+b)^k = \exp(a+b) \end{aligned}$$

we finish the proof.

(2) Notice that  $v_p(n!) = v_p(n) + v_p((n-1)!)$  and  $v_p(n!) \geq 0$ , which implies  $|n!|_p \leq |n|_p$ . and we can estimate that

$$v_p\left(\frac{a^{n-1}}{n!}\right) = (n-1)v_p(a) - v_p(n!) > \frac{n-1}{p-1} - \frac{n-S_n}{p-1} = \frac{S_n-1}{p-1} \geq 0$$

Hence we can conclude that

$$\left|\frac{a^n}{n}\right|_p \leq \left|\frac{a^n}{n!}\right|_p = \left|\frac{a^{n-1}}{n!}\right|_p \cdot |a|_p < |a|_p$$

for any  $n \geq 2$ . Therefore by the inequality of ultrametric, we can conclude the result.

(3) Firstly we will check the condition of the lemma 1.4. Let  $f(X) = \exp(X)$  and  $g(X) = \log(1 + X)$ , then  $|a| < p^{-1/p-1} < 1$  implies that  $g(a)$  converges. Notice that each term  $(-1)^{m+1} \frac{x^m}{m}$  in  $g(a)$ , we have estimated in the proof of (2), the absolute value is strictly less than the radius  $R = p^{-1/p-1}$ , hence we by composition we proved that  $\exp(\log(1 + a))$  converges. Let  $x_k = \frac{p^k}{p^k+1} < 1$  be the sequence of  $\mathbb{Q}$ , calculate its p-adic absolute value  $|x_k|_p = p^{-k} < R$  (to avoid the equality here, we convente  $k \geq 2$ ), hence  $x_k$  is a non-stationary sequence converging to zero by p-adic absolute value. Finally by lemma 1.3, we can conclude that  $\exp(\log(1 + a)) = 1 + a$  since formally power series  $\exp(\log(1 + X))$  has the same coefficient with  $1 + X$ . □

*Remark.* The method of proof (3) is to avoid discussing too much formal power series. Generally, we can prove the permanence of algebraic form

$$\exp(\log(1 + X)) = 1 + X$$

without considering the convergence over a formal power series ring  $R[[X]]$  with  $R$  as a commutative  $\mathbb{Q}$ -algebra. The proof without analytic method is not easy, it needs some combinatorial trick, a method via formal derivative can be found in [2].

Applying (1) to (2), then we can get the identity

$$(1 + a)^n = \exp(n \log(1 + a)), \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$$

For extending the definition for interpolation, i.e. let  $(1 + a)^x$  makes sense for any  $x \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ , a traditional definition is based on the Newton's binomial theorem (see [3, Chapter 5]), which needs some work and here we will not use binomial, so we consider the extension by p-adic exponentials and logarithm.

**Definition.** Let  $a \in \mathbb{C}_p$  with  $|a|_p < p^{-1/(p-1)}$ , then the binomial interpolation can be defined by a p-adic analytic function

$$f_a : \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_p, \quad x \mapsto \exp(x \log(1 + a))$$

This construction satisfies  $f_a(n) = (1 + a)^n$  for any integer  $n$ .

When fixing  $a$ , we can estimate for any  $x \in \mathbb{Z}_p$

$$|x \log(1 + a)|_p = |x|_p |a|_p < p^{1-p-1}$$

that means  $f_a$  is well-defined, and by convention we denote  $f_a(x) = (1 + a)^x$ .

Strassman's Theorem will be the crucial part in the proof, we give a version which is easy to use here:

**Theorem 1.6** (Strassman's Theorem).

Let  $f(X)$  be a non-zero power series of Tate algebra over  $\mathbb{C}_p$  as following

$$f(X) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n X^n = a_0 + a_1 X + a_2 X^2 + \dots$$

Let  $N = \max\{m \in \mathbb{N} : |a_m|_p \geq |a_n|_p \text{ for all } n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ , then  $f : \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_p$  has at most  $N$  zeros.

*Proof.* It is rewritten from corollary 16.14.  $\square$

## 2 Unit theorem

**Theorem 2.1** (Dirichlet's unit theorem).

Let  $K$  be a number field with  $r$  real embeddings and  $s$  pairs complex embeddings, and let  $\mathcal{O}_K$  be its integer ring, then its unit group has isomorphic structure:

$$\mathcal{O}_K^\times \cong \mu(K) \times \mathbb{Z}^{r+s-1}$$

where  $\mu(K)$  is the group of roots of unity in  $K$ , and it is a finite cyclic group.

*Proof.* A standard proof can be founded in [4], here we just consider the case of  $r = 1$  and  $s = 1$ .  $\square$

Although unit theorem can show us the structure of the unit, but it is difficult to give a perfect algorithm to how to exactly compute the fundamental unit, here it is a criterion about the fundamental unit.

**Lemma 2.2.** Let  $K$  be a cubic extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$  with negative discriminant, and let  $u$  be the fundamental unit with  $u > 1$ , then

$$|\Delta_K| < 4u^3 + 24$$

*Proof.*  $\square$

A more strong estimation about the upper bound of the fundamental unit in a cubic field can be founded in Box's thesis [5, Theorem 1.82], that shows for a cubic field  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{a})$  with  $d = |\Delta_K|$ , a element  $u > 1$  can be chosen as a fundamental unit if and only if

$$u < \left( \frac{d - 32 + \sqrt{d^2 - 64d + 960}}{8} \right)^{2/3}$$

Now for solve the equation, we take  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})$  be the extension field of the rational number, and we denote  $\theta = \sqrt[3]{2}$ , then each element in it has the form

$$a + b\theta + c\theta^2 \quad \text{with } a, b, c \in \mathbb{Q}$$

Then we prove some properties of the field:

**Proposition 2.3.** in  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})$  we have

- The unit group is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ .

- $N_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})/\mathbb{Q}}(a + b\theta + c\theta^2) = a^3 + 2b^3 + 4c^3 - 6abc$
- $u = -1 + \theta$  is a fundamental unit.

*Proof.* Firstly we suppose that  $\sigma : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2}) \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a field embedding, then surely  $\sigma(1) = 1$ . Let  $f(X) = X^3 - 2$  be a polynomial, and notice that  $f(\theta) = 0$ , then

$$0 = \sigma(f(\theta)) = f(\sigma(\theta))$$

Clearly  $\sigma(\theta)$  must be the root of  $f$  in  $\mathbb{C}$ , so we can conclude the roots are  $\theta, \theta w, \theta w^2$ , where  $w = e^{2i\pi/3}$ . Hence the unique real embedding is  $\sigma = id$  and there are two conjugate complex embedding, which means  $r = 1$  and  $s = 1$ . For the group of roots of unity, we notice that  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2}) \subset \mathbb{R}$  as a subfield, and  $x^n = 1$  only has possible solutions  $\{\pm 1\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , so  $\mu_K = \{\pm 1\} \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ .

For the norm we consider the  $\mathbb{Q}$ -linear map  $l_x$  with  $x = a + b\theta + c\theta^2$ , then

$$l_x(1) = a + b\theta + c\theta^2, l_x(\theta) = 2c + a\theta + b\theta^2, l_x(\theta^2) = 2b + 2c\theta + a\theta^2$$

so we can conclude the norm by

$$\det[l_x]_{\{1, \theta, \theta^2\}} = \begin{vmatrix} a & 2c & 2b \\ b & a & 2c \\ c & b & a \end{vmatrix} = a^3 + 2b^3 + 4c^3 - 6abc$$

and we take  $u = -1 + \theta$ , then  $N(u) = -1 + 2 = 1$ , so it is a unit.

Finally we prove that  $u$  is exactly a fundamental unit by contradiction. Assuming that  $\eta > 1$  is a fundamental unit, and notice that  $0 < u < 1$ , so there exists a integer  $k \geq 1$  such that  $u = \eta^{-k}$ . In this case we have negative discriminant  $\Delta = -108$ , then by lemma 2.2 we can estimate  $\eta > \sqrt[3]{21}$ , then

$$-1 + \sqrt[3]{2} = \eta^{-k} < (\sqrt[3]{21})^{-k}$$

It only holds for  $k = 1$ , which means  $u$  is the largest positive unit less than one, so  $u$  can be chosen as a fundamental unit. □

Return to the original equation, now we can give a equivalent statement:

**Proposition 2.4.** The integral solution of the equation  $x^3 - 2y^3 = 1$  is

$$\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z} | x - y\theta = u^k, \text{ for some } k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

*Proof.* We notice that  $x^3 - 2y^3 = 1$  can be rewritten as  $N_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})/\mathbb{Q}}(x - y\theta) = 1$ . And by the Dirichlet's unit theorem, its unit group is of the form  $\pm u^k$ . Notice that  $N_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})/\mathbb{Q}}(-1) = -1$ , so

$$N_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})/\mathbb{Q}}(-u^n) = N_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})/\mathbb{Q}}(-1)N_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})/\mathbb{Q}}^n(u) = -1, \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Hence the integral solution is of the form  $u^k$  in  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})$ . □

Notice that if  $k = 0$  we can get the trivial solution  $(1, 0)$ ; if  $k = 1$ , we can find another solution  $(-1, -1)$ ; By known result, we need to prove that for any other  $k$ ,  $x - y\theta = u^k$



has no solution, one possible method is to prove that for any other  $u^k$ , the coefficient with respect to base vector  $\theta^2$  is non-zero. For the case  $k < 0$ , we denote  $v = u^{-1} = 1 + \theta + \theta^2$  and use multinomial formula then

$$(1 + \theta + \theta^2)^k = \sum_{i+j+k=n} \frac{n!}{i!j!k!} \theta^{j+2k}$$

with  $\theta^3 = 2$  we can rewrite it to get a linear combination of  $\{1, \theta, \theta^2\}$ , clearly here the coefficient of  $\theta^2$  will not be zero so the choice of  $k$  will be limited to be less than zero. However, when  $k \geq 2$  we will find that it is difficult to analyse, for example

$$\begin{aligned} u^2 &= 1 - 2\theta + \theta^2 \\ u^3 &= 1 + 3\theta - 3\theta^2 \\ u^4 &= -7 - 2\theta + 6\theta^2 \\ &\dots \end{aligned}$$

The problem here is difficult to formulate  $u^k$  since there exists negative coefficient in  $-1 + \theta$ , it is not easy to deduce that whether the coefficient of  $\theta^k$  will vanish in a certain  $k$  or not, the argument here will be not clear, a pure algebraic method can be founded in [6, Chapter 24] by discussing binomial units.

### 3 Interpolation Method

Now we will solve the equation by using p-adic interpolation method. Firstly, we notice that  $\sqrt[3]{2} \notin \mathbb{Q}_3$  by locally observing that  $x^3 = 2 \pmod{9}$  has no solution, so we still consider the finite extension by adjoining  $\theta = \sqrt[3]{2}$  to construct, then we have the similar result.

**Proposition 3.1.** In  $\mathbb{Q}_3(\theta)$  we have

- This field is a complete non-archimedean field with the absolute value:

$$|a + b\theta + c\theta^2| = \sqrt[3]{|a^3 + 2b^3 + 4c^3 - 6abc|_3}$$

In this field, observing that  $|u - 1| = 1 > 3^{-1/2}$  prevents us from directly using interpolation, and notice that  $|u^3 - 1| = 3^{-1} < 3^{-1/2}$ , hence we will interpolate on  $u^3$ .

**Theorem 3.2.** The only solutions to the integral equation on

$$x^3 - 2y^3 = 1$$

are  $(x, y) = (1, 0)$  and  $(x, y) = (-1, -1)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $f : \mathbb{Z}_3 \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}_3(\theta)$  be the p-adic analytic function defined by  $f(x) = \exp(x \log u^3)$ , and  $f|_{\mathbb{Z}}(n) = u^{3n}$ , it is well-defined by **lemma...** In particular

$$\log u^3 \equiv 3\theta - 3\theta^2 \pmod{9\mathbb{Z}_3}$$

hence

$$\exp(x \log u^3) = 1 + (3\theta - 3\theta^2)x + 9xh(x) \tag{1}$$

for some convergent power series  $h(X)$  with coefficient on  $\mathbb{Z}_3(\theta)$ . Since  $\mathbb{Q}_3(\theta)$  is a vector space under basis  $\{1, \theta, \theta^2\}$ , then  $f(x)$  can be denoted by three power series with respect to basis as following

$$f(x) = \left(\sum_{k \geq 0} a_k x^k\right) + \left(\sum_{k \geq 0} b_k x^k\right)\theta + \left(\sum_{k \geq 0} c_k x^k\right)\theta^2$$

and we will study the coefficient with respect to  $\theta^2$  to show that  $u^n$  can not be of the form  $x - y\theta$  unless  $n = 0, 1$ . we take  $f_r(x) = u^r f(x)$  with  $r = 0, 1, 2$ .

-When  $r = 0$ , the equation (1) can be rewritten as

$$f_0(x) = 1 + 3x \cdot \theta + (-3\theta^2 x + 9xh(x))$$

In detail, by writing  $h(x)$  as the form of linear combination

$$h(x) = h_1(x) + h_2(x) \cdot \theta + h_3 \cdot \theta^2$$

with  $h_1, h_2, h_3$  the convergent power series defined on  $\mathbb{Z}_3$ , so again

$$f_0(x) = (1 + 9xh_1(x)) + (3x + 9xh_2(x)) \cdot \theta + (-3x + 9xh_3(x)) \cdot \theta^2$$

we apply Strassman's theorem to  $-3x + 9xh_3(x) = 0$ , and notice that the coefficient of  $x$  is  $a_1 \equiv 3 \pmod{9\mathbb{Z}_p}$  and the other coefficients are  $a_i \equiv 0 \pmod{9\mathbb{Z}_p}$ , hence we can conclude that  $N = 1$  and  $x = 0$  is the unique solution.

-When  $r = 1$ , similarly the equation can be rewritten as

$$f_1(x) = [-1 - 6x - 9xh_3(x) + 18xh_1(x)] + [1 - 3x - 9xh_2(x) + 9xh_3(x)] \cdot \theta + [6x + 9xh_2(x) - 9xh_1(x)] \cdot \theta^2$$

applying Strassman's theorem to  $6x + 9x(h_1 + h_2)(x) = 0$ , we can conclude that  $N = 1$  and  $x = 0$  is the unique solution.

- When  $r = 2$ , similarly the coefficient with respect to  $\theta^2$  is

$$1 - 9x + 9(h_3(x) - 2h_2(x) + h_1(x))$$

notice that the constant coefficient  $|1| = 1$ , which strictly greater than any other coefficient, hence no solution for  $x$  such that the coefficient turns zero by Strassman's theorem.

In conclusion, we can conclude the solution of the integral equation  $x^3 - 2y^3 = 1$  by proposition 2.4, when  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ , the only solution is  $(1, 0)$  which corresponds to  $r = 0, x = 1$ ; when  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , the only solution is  $(-1, -1)$  which corresponds to  $r = 1, x = 0$ ; when  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ , no solution will exists.  $\square$

## 4 Other method(not formally)

Now we consider the other possible method corresponding to the integral solution. We founded that if 2 is a perfect cubic number, then the solution will be very easy, but unfortunately we can not do like that. However, p-adic number system gives us a method to extend the field, surely we consider a prime  $p$  (for example,  $p=5$ ?) such that  $\sqrt[3]{2} \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ , then we just need to study the the p-adic Integral equation

$$x^3 + y^3 = 1$$

with  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ .

For example we take the set  $S$  as the solution of the equation, then for any  $x, y \in S$ , there exists sequences  $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  and  $(y_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  with  $x_n, y_n \in \mathbb{Z}_p/p^n\mathbb{Z}_p$  such that

$$\begin{cases} x_n \equiv x_{n+1} \pmod{p^n} \\ y_n \equiv y_{n+1} \pmod{p^n} \\ x_n^3 + y_n^3 \equiv 1 \pmod{p^n} \end{cases}$$

Fix  $n$ , and we take  $(x_n, y_n)$  to form a sequence  $S_n$ , the the space of the solution can be derived by the inverse limit as following

$$S = \varprojlim_n S_n$$

By computing the case  $p = 3$ , we take  $A_n = \{(x_n, y_n) | x_n^3 + y_n^3 \equiv 1 \pmod{3^n}\}$ , some example as following

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 &= \{ (1, 0), (0, 1), (2, 2) \} \\ A_2 &= \{ (0, 1), (3, 4), (6, 7), (1, 0), (4, 3), (7, 6) \} \\ A_3 &= \{ (0, 1), (9, 10), (18, 19), \\ &\quad (3, 4), (12, 13), (21, 22), \\ &\quad (6, 7), (15, 16), (24, 25), \\ &\quad (1, 0), (10, 9), (19, 18), \\ &\quad (4, 3), (13, 12), (22, 21), \\ &\quad (7, 6), (16, 15), (25, 24) \} \end{aligned}$$

With that we can do selecting: notice that the possible original solution for lifting are just three possible, so there will exist three path to consider, so we can do lifting as following -starting from  $(1, 0)$ :

$$\begin{array}{cccc} (1, 0) & (1, 0) & (10, 9) & (19, 18) \\ (1, 0) \rightarrow (4, 3) \rightarrow (4, 3) & (13, 12) & (22, 21) & \\ (7, 6) & (7, 6) & (16, 15) & (25, 24) \end{array}$$

starting from  $(0, 1)$  is symetrical as above, but pay attention that there exists no lifting when starting from  $(2, 2)$ . Then we should consider all possible lifting, that is motivated

from Hensel's lemma, for example  $(1, 0)$  is exactly a solution for the equation  $x^3 + y^3 = 1$ , and we can find the a lifting

$$(1, 0) \rightarrow (1, 0) \rightarrow (1, 0) \rightarrow \dots$$

The choice of the prime  $p = 3$  is really terrible here, since for  $f(x, y) = x^3 + y^3 - 1$ , the partial derivative  $f_x \equiv f_y \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ , that means the algebraic curve we consider is not smooth? so we may consider the other prime.

For example we take  $p = 5$  and we take  $f(x, y) = x^3 + y^3 - 1$ , we can actually compute that there exists exactly 4 zeros lifting from

$$(0, 1), (1, 0), (3, 4), (4, 3)$$

Back to the equation

$$x^3 - 2y^3 = 1$$

we see that in  $\mathbb{Z}_5$  and by hensel's lemma, we can know that  $\sqrt[3]{2} \in \mathbb{Z}_5$  and  $x^3 = 2$  has exactly only one solution in 5-adic integr, in particular we can compute that

$$u = \sqrt[3]{2} = 3 + 2 \cdot 25 + 125 + \dots = [\dots 1203]_5$$

Hence actually the equation is equivalent to

$$x^3 + (-uy)^3 = 1$$

in  $\mathbb{Z}_5$ . hence we can conclude the 4 possible solutions (mod 5)

$$\begin{cases} x \equiv 0 \\ -uy \equiv 1 \end{cases}, \begin{cases} x \equiv 1 \\ -uy \equiv 0 \end{cases}, \begin{cases} x \equiv 3 \\ -uy \equiv 4 \end{cases}, \begin{cases} x \equiv 4 \\ -uy \equiv 3 \end{cases}$$

We know that  $(1, 0)$  and  $(-1, -1)$  are the all possible  $\mathbb{Z}$ -intger solution, so here we just need to prove that in case 1 and case 3, we can not get the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -integer solution of  $(x, y)$ .

For case 1,  $(0, 1)$  is a solution to  $x^3 + y^3 = 1$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_5$ , so that means  $-uy = 1$  has  $\mathbb{Z}$ -intger solution for  $y$ . Notice that  $u \equiv 3$  implies  $u \in \mathbb{Z}_5^\times$ , so  $y^3 = \frac{1}{-u^3} = \frac{-1}{2}$ , so no solution in  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

For case 3, the intgeral solution of  $x^3 + y^3 = 1$  are  $(1, 0)$  and  $(0, 1)$ , so the solution  $x \equiv 3$  is not in  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

Hence we can conclude that all solution are  $(1, 0)$  and  $(-1, -1)$ .

*Remark.* A little remark to case 4 here, actually  $x = -1 \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$  here, so the solution of  $x^3 + y^3 = 1$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_5$  here is equivalent to consider  $y^3 = 1 - x^3$ , so when  $1 + a^3$  is a cubic number in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  or  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  for a intger  $a$ ?

We consider above process from the view of scheme (i am not very fimilar to that). we consider a algebraic variety by letting  $f = (X^3 + Y^3 - 1)$

$$X = \text{Spec}(\mathbb{Z}_p[X, Y]/f)$$

so all solution in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  can be denoted by  $X(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ , consider the inverse limit

$$X(\mathbb{Z}_p) = \varprojlim_n X_n(\mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z})$$

where  $X_n = \text{Spec}((\mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z})(X, Y)/f)$  the affine scheme defined in a finite ring. In particular, when  $n = 1$ ,  $X_n$  defines a algebraic curve in  $\mathbb{F}_p$ .

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