Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

#### Clyde Kertzer

# Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

Clyde Kertzer

University of Colorado Boulder

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#### Definition

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#### Definition

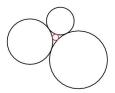
A *Descartes Quadruple* is a set of four mutually tangent circles with disjoint interiors.

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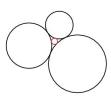


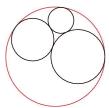
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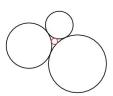


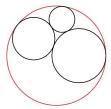
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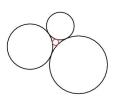
We can only have at most one "inverted" circle!

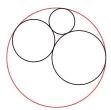
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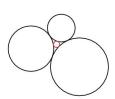
#### Theorem of Apollonius

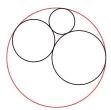
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#### Definition

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We can only have at most one "inverted" circle!

#### Theorem of Apollonius

If three circles are mutually tangent, there are two other circles that are tangent to all three.

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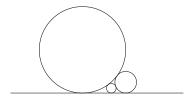
The *curvature* of a circle with radius r is defined to be 1/r.

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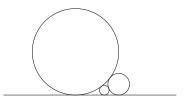


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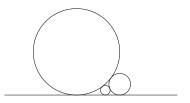
Circle with infinite radius

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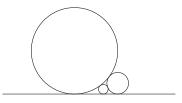
Descartes Equation

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#### **Descartes Equation**

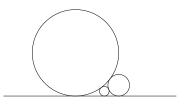
If four mutually tangent circles have curvatures a, b, c, d then

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#### Definition

The *curvature* of a circle with radius r is defined to be 1/r.



Circle with infinite radius

#### Descartes Equation

If four mutually tangent circles have curvatures a, b, c, d then  $(a+b+c+d)^2=2(a^2+b^2+c^2+d^2).$ 

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First, we need a trigonometric lemma

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#### Lemma

If 
$$\alpha + \beta + \theta = 2\pi$$
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#### Lemma

If 
$$\alpha + \beta + \theta = 2\pi$$
 then

$$\cos^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \beta + \cos^2 \theta = 1 + 2\cos \alpha \cos \beta \cos \theta.$$

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#### Proof.

$$\cos^{2}\alpha + \cos^{2}\beta + \cos^{2}\theta =$$

$$= \frac{1 + \cos 2\alpha}{2} + \frac{1 + \cos 2\beta}{2} + \frac{1 + \cos 2\theta}{2}$$

$$= \frac{3}{2} + \frac{\cos 2\alpha + \cos 2\beta}{2} + \frac{\cos(2\pi - (2\alpha + 2\beta))}{2}$$

$$= \frac{3}{2} + \cos(\alpha + \beta)\cos(\alpha - \beta) + \frac{\cos 2(\alpha + \beta)}{2}$$

$$= \frac{3}{2} + \cos(\alpha + \beta)\cos(\alpha - \beta) + \frac{2\cos^{2}(\alpha + \beta) - 1}{2}$$

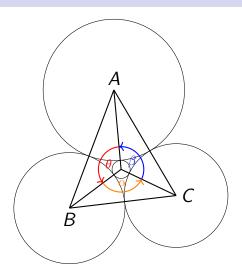
$$= 1 + \cos(\alpha + \beta)\cos(\alpha - \beta) + \cos^{2}(\alpha + \beta)$$

$$= 1 + (\cos(\alpha - \beta) + \cos(\alpha + \beta))\cos(2\pi - \theta)$$

$$= 1 + 2\cos\alpha\cos\beta\cos\theta.$$

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Four mutually tangent circles with centers A, B, C, and D.

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#### Proof.

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#### Proof.

Suppose we have four mutually tangent circles with centers  $A,\ B,\ C,$  and D

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#### Proof.

Suppose we have four mutually tangent circles with centers A, B, C, and D with respective radii  $r_A$ ,  $r_B$ ,  $r_C$ , and  $r_D$ .

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#### Proof.

Suppose we have four mutually tangent circles with centers A, B, C, and D with respective radii  $r_A$ ,  $r_B$ ,  $r_C$ , and  $r_D$ . The side lengths of  $\triangle ABC$  are

$$AB = r_A + r_B$$
,  $BC = r_B + r_C$ ,  $AC = r_A + r_C$ 

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$$AD = r_A + r_D$$
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Let 
$$\angle BDC = \alpha$$
,  $\angle CDA = \beta$ , and  $\angle ADB = \theta$ .

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,  $BD = r_B + r_D$ ,  $CD = r_C + r_D$ .

Let  $\angle BDC = \alpha$ ,  $\angle CDA = \beta$ , and  $\angle ADB = \theta$ . The law of cosines in  $\triangle ADB$  yields

$$\cos \theta = \frac{AD^2 + BD^2 - AB^2}{2 \cdot AD \cdot BD}$$

$$= \frac{(r_A + r_D)^2 + (r_B + r_D)^2 - (r_A + r_B)^2}{2(r_A + r_D)(r_B + r_D)}$$

$$= \frac{2r_D^2 + 2r_D(r_A + r_B) - 2r_Ar_B}{2(r_A + r_D)(r_B + r_D)}$$

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### Proof.

Similarly, we find in  $\triangle ADB$  and  $\triangle CDA$  that

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Similarly, we find in  $\triangle ADB$  and  $\triangle CDA$  that

$$\cos \alpha = 1 - \frac{2r_B r_C}{(r_B + r_D)(r_C + r_D)}, \quad \cos \beta = 1 - \frac{2r_A r_C}{(r_A + r_D)(r_C + r_D)}.$$

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Now replace each radius by it's respective curvature  $k_A$ ,  $k_B$ ,  $k_C$ , and  $k_D$  and name the associated fraction to each angle  $\lambda$ 

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Now replace each radius by it's respective curvature  $k_A$ ,  $k_B$ ,  $k_C$ , and  $k_D$  and name the associated fraction to each angle  $\lambda$ 

$$\cos \alpha = 1 - \frac{2k_D^2}{(k_B + k_D)(k_C + k_D)} = 1 - \lambda_{\alpha}$$

$$\cos \beta = 1 - \frac{2k_D^2}{(k_A + k_D)(k_C + k_D)} = 1 - \lambda_{\beta}$$

$$\cos \theta = 1 - \frac{2k_D^2}{(k_A + k_D)(k_B + k_D)} = 1 - \lambda_{\theta}.$$

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### Proof.

By the lemma we have that

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#### Proof.

By the lemma we have that

$$(1 - \lambda_{\alpha})^{2} + (1 - \lambda_{\beta})^{2} + (1 - \lambda_{\theta})^{2} = 1 + 2(1 - \lambda_{\alpha})(1 - \lambda_{\beta})(1 - \lambda_{\theta})$$
$$\lambda_{\alpha}^{2} + \lambda_{\beta}^{2} + \lambda_{\theta}^{2} + 2\lambda_{\alpha}\lambda_{\beta}\lambda_{\theta} = 2(\lambda_{\alpha}\lambda_{\beta} + \lambda_{\beta}\lambda_{\theta} + \lambda_{\alpha}\lambda_{\theta})$$
$$\frac{\lambda_{\alpha}}{\lambda_{\alpha}} + \frac{\lambda_{\beta}}{\lambda_{\alpha}} + \frac{\lambda_{\theta}}{\lambda_{\alpha}} + 2 = 2\left(\frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{1}{\lambda}\right).$$

$$\frac{\lambda_{\alpha}}{\lambda_{\beta}\lambda_{\theta}} + \frac{\lambda_{\beta}}{\lambda_{\alpha}\lambda_{\theta}} + \frac{\lambda_{\theta}}{\lambda_{\alpha}\lambda_{\beta}} + 2 = 2\left(\frac{1}{\lambda_{\alpha}} + \frac{1}{\lambda_{\beta}} + \frac{1}{\lambda_{\theta}}\right).$$

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### Proof.

By the lemma we have that

$$\begin{split} (1-\lambda_{\alpha})^2 + (1-\lambda_{\beta})^2 + (1-\lambda_{\theta})^2 &= 1 + 2(1-\lambda_{\alpha})(1-\lambda_{\beta})(1-\lambda_{\theta}) \\ \lambda_{\alpha}^2 + \lambda_{\beta}^2 + \lambda_{\theta}^2 + 2\lambda_{\alpha}\lambda_{\beta}\lambda_{\theta} &= 2(\lambda_{\alpha}\lambda_{\beta} + \lambda_{\beta}\lambda_{\theta} + \lambda_{\alpha}\lambda_{\theta}) \\ \frac{\lambda_{\alpha}}{\lambda_{\beta}\lambda_{\theta}} + \frac{\lambda_{\beta}}{\lambda_{\alpha}\lambda_{\theta}} + \frac{\lambda_{\theta}}{\lambda_{\alpha}\lambda_{\beta}} + 2 &= 2\left(\frac{1}{\lambda_{\alpha}} + \frac{1}{\lambda_{\beta}} + \frac{1}{\lambda_{\theta}}\right). \end{split}$$

Substituting back our values for the  $\lambda s$  we find

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By the lemma we have that

$$(1 - \lambda_{\alpha})^{2} + (1 - \lambda_{\beta})^{2} + (1 - \lambda_{\theta})^{2} = 1 + 2(1 - \lambda_{\alpha})(1 - \lambda_{\beta})(1 - \lambda_{\theta})$$
$$\lambda_{\alpha}^{2} + \lambda_{\beta}^{2} + \lambda_{\theta}^{2} + 2\lambda_{\alpha}\lambda_{\beta}\lambda_{\theta} = 2(\lambda_{\alpha}\lambda_{\beta} + \lambda_{\beta}\lambda_{\theta} + \lambda_{\alpha}\lambda_{\theta})$$
$$\frac{\lambda_{\alpha}}{\lambda_{\beta}\lambda_{\theta}} + \frac{\lambda_{\beta}}{\lambda_{\alpha}\lambda_{\theta}} + \frac{\lambda_{\theta}}{\lambda_{\alpha}\lambda_{\beta}} + 2 = 2\left(\frac{1}{\lambda_{\alpha}} + \frac{1}{\lambda_{\beta}} + \frac{1}{\lambda_{\theta}}\right).$$

Substituting back our values for the  $\lambda s$  we find

$$\frac{(k_A + k_D)^2}{2k_D^2} + \frac{(k_B + k_D)^2}{2k_D^2} + \frac{(k_C + k_D)^2}{2k_D^2} + 2 = 2\frac{(k_B + k_D)(k_C + k_D)}{2k_D^2} + 2\frac{(k_A + k_D)(k_B + k_D)}{2k_D^2} + 2\frac{(k_A + k_D)(k_B + k_D)}{2k_D^2}.$$

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### Proof.

We multiply through by  $2k_d^2$  and simplfy to find that

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We multiply through by  $2k_d^2$  and simplfy to find that

$$k_A^2 + k_B^2 + k_C^2 + 2k_D(k_A + k_B + k_C) + 7k_D^2$$

$$= 6k_D^2 + 4k_D(k_A + k_B + k_C)$$

$$+ 2(k_Ak_B + k_Bk_C + k_Ak_C)$$

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$$= 6k_D^2 + 4k_D(k_A + k_B + k_C)$$

$$+ 2(k_A k_B + k_B k_C + k_A k_C)$$

$$k_A^2 + k_B^2 + k_C^2 + k_D^2 = 2k_D(k_A + k_B + k_C)$$

$$+ 2(k_A k_B + k_B k_C + k_A k_C)$$

$$= (k_A + k_B + k_C + k_D)^2$$

$$- (k_A^2 + k_B^2 + k_C^2 + k_D^2)$$

$$2(k_A^2 + k_B^2 + k_C^2 + k_D^2) = (k_A + k_B + k_C + k_D)^2.$$

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### Corollary

If three mutually tangent circles have curvatures a, b, and c, then the two circles of Apollonius, d and d' have curvatures

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### Corollary

If three mutually tangent circles have curvatures a, b, and c, then the two circles of Apollonius, d and d' have curvatures

$$d = a + b + c + 2\sqrt{ab + ac + bc}$$

$$d' = a + b + c - 2\sqrt{ab + ac + bc}$$

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## Corollary

If three mutually tangent circles have curvatures a, b, and c, then the two circles of Apollonius, d and d' have curvatures

$$d = a + b + c + 2\sqrt{ab + ac + bc}$$

$$d' = a + b + c - 2\sqrt{ab + ac + bc}$$

Moreover, d + d' = 2(a + b + c).

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### Proof.

First, we solve for d from the Descartes Equation to find that

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First, we solve for d from the Descartes Equation to find that

$$2(a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2) - (a + b + c + d)^2 = 0$$
  
$$d^2 - 2d(a + b + c) + (a^2 + b^2 + c^2 - 2ab - 2bc - 2ac) = 0.$$

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The quadratic formula gives

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The quadratic formula gives

$$d = (a + b + c)$$

$$\pm \frac{\sqrt{4(a + b + c)^2 - 4(a^2 + b^2 + c^2 - 2ab - 2bc - 2ac)}}{2}$$

$$= a + b + c \pm 2\sqrt{ab + bc + ca}.$$

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The quadratic formula gives

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$$= a + b + c \pm 2\sqrt{ab + bc + ca}.$$

Thus, there are two options for d. Their sum is 2(a+b+c).

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The Key Relation

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$$d + d' = 2(a + b + c) \implies d' = 2(a + b + c) - d$$

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### The Key Relation

$$d + d' = 2(a + b + c) \implies d' = 2(a + b + c) - d$$

If a, b, c, d are integers, the rest are also integers!

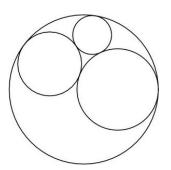
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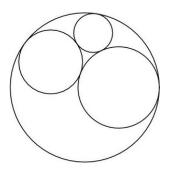
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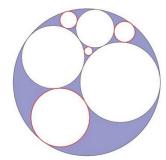
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### The Key Relation

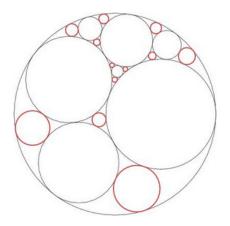
$$d + d' = 2(a + b + c) \implies d' = 2(a + b + c) - d$$

If a, b, c, d are integers, the rest are also integers!

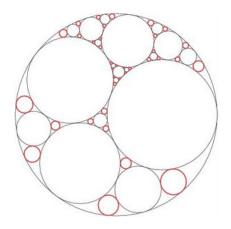




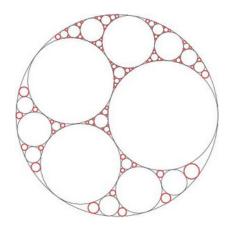
Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples



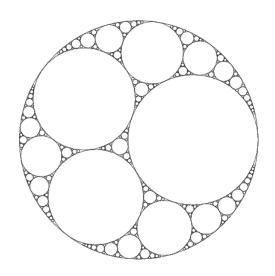
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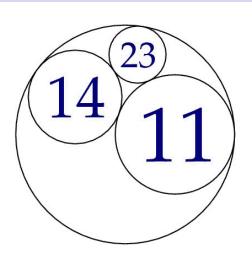
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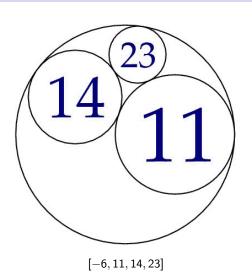
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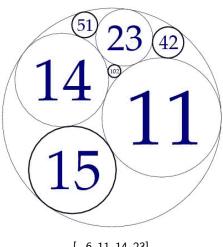
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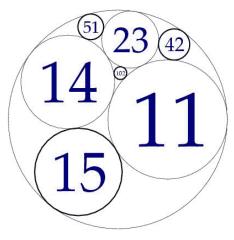


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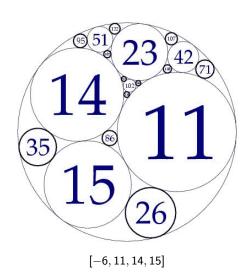
[-6, 11, 14, 23]

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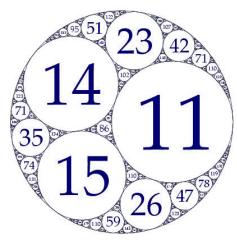
[-6, 11, 14, 23] reduces to [-6, 11, 14, 15]

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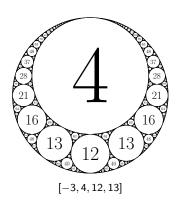
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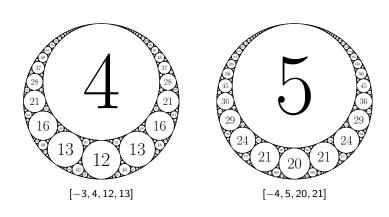
[-6, 11, 14, 15]

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Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

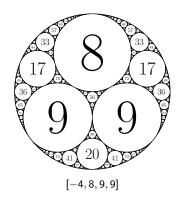


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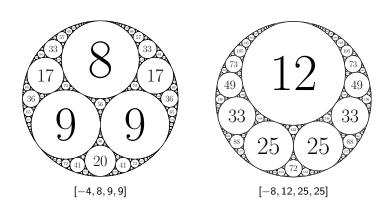


Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

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Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

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### Definition

A *twin-symmetric* quadruple is a primitive reduced Descartes quadruple satisfying a < 0 < b and c = d.

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#### Definition

A *twin-symmetric* quadruple is a primitive reduced Descartes quadruple satisfying a < 0 < b and c = d. These packings will have a line of symmetry tangent to the two circles with the same curvature.

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#### Definition

A sum-symmetric quadruple is a primitive reduced Descartes quadruple satisfying 2(a+b+c)-d=d and  $a \le 0 \le b < c < d$ .

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### **Definition**

A *twin-symmetric* quadruple is a primitive reduced Descartes quadruple satisfying a < 0 < b and c = d. These packings will have a line of symmetry tangent to the two circles with the same curvature.

#### Definition

A sum-symmetric quadruple is a primitive reduced Descartes quadruple satisfying 2(a+b+c)-d=d and  $a\leqslant 0\leqslant b< c< d$ . These packings have a line of symmetry that is not tangent to any circles.

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#### Definition

A *twin-symmetric* quadruple is a primitive reduced Descartes quadruple satisfying a < 0 < b and c = d. These packings will have a line of symmetry tangent to the two circles with the same curvature.

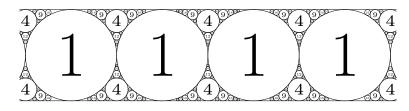
### **Definition**

A sum-symmetric quadruple is a primitive reduced Descartes quadruple satisfying 2(a+b+c)-d=d and  $a \le 0 \le b < c < d$ . These packings have a line of symmetry that is not tangent to any circles.

$$2(a+b+c) - d = d$$
$$2(a+b+c) = 2d$$
$$a+b+c = d$$

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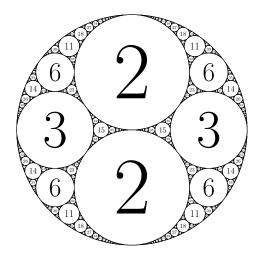
Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples



The strip packing: [0,0,1,1]

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The bug-eye packing: [-1, 2, 2, 3]

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$$(a+b+c+d)^2 = 2(a^2+b^2+c^2+d^2)$$

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$$(a+b+c+d)^2 = 2(a^2+b^2+c^2+d^2)$$

$$[-a,b,c,d] \qquad \qquad d-c \mid d-b \mid d+a$$

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$$(a+b+c+d)^2 = 2(a^2+b^2+c^2+d^2)$$

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$$(a+b+c+d)^2 = 2(a^2+b^2+c^2+d^2)$$

[-a,b,c,d]	d-c	d-b	d + a
[-6, 10, 15, 19]	4	9	25
[-12, 21, 28, 37]	9	16	49

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Clyde Kertzer

$$(a+b+c+d)^2 = 2(a^2+b^2+c^2+d^2)$$

[-a, b, c, d]	d-c	d-b	d + a
[-6, 10, 15, 19]	4	9	25
[-12, 21, 28, 37]	9	16	49
[-18, 22, 99, 103]	4	81	121

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Clyde Kertzer

$$(a+b+c+d)^2 = 2(a^2+b^2+c^2+d^2)$$

[-a,b,c,d]	d-c	d-b	d + a
[-6, 10, 15, 19]	4	9	25
[-12, 21, 28, 37]	9	16	49
[-18, 22, 99, 103]	4	81	121
[-20, 36, 45, 61]	16	25	81

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Clyde Kertzer

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[-a,b,c,d]	d-c	d-b	d + a
[-6, 10, 15, 19]	4	9	25
[-12, 21, 28, 37]	9	16	49
[-18, 22, 99, 103]	4	81	121
[-20, 36, 45, 61]	16	25	81
[-21, 30, 70, 79]	9	49	100

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[-a,b,c,d]	d-c	d-b	d + a
[-6, 10, 15, 19]	$2^{2}$	3 <sup>2</sup>	$5^{2}$
[-12, 21, 28, 37]	$3^2$	4 <sup>2</sup>	$7^{2}$
[-18, 22, 99, 103]	$2^{2}$	9 <sup>2</sup>	$11^{2}$
[-20, 36, 45, 61]	4 <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>	$9^{2}$
[-21, 30, 70, 79]	$3^2$	7 <sup>2</sup>	$10^{2}$

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

[-a,b,c,d]	d-c	b+a	d-b	c + a	d+a
[-6, 10, 15, 19]	2 <sup>2</sup>		$3^{2}$		5 <sup>2</sup>
[-12, 21, 28, 37]	3 <sup>2</sup>		4 <sup>2</sup>		$7^{2}$
[-18, 22, 99, 103]	2 <sup>2</sup>		$9^{2}$		11 <sup>2</sup>
[-20, 36, 45, 61]	4 <sup>2</sup>		$5^{2}$		9 <sup>2</sup>
[-21, 30, 70, 79]	3 <sup>2</sup>		$7^2$		10 <sup>2</sup>

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[-a,b,c,d]	d-c	b + a	d-b	c + a	
[-6, 10, 15, 19]	$2^{2}$	$2^{2}$	$3^{2}$	3 <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>
[-12, 21, 28, 37]	$3^2$	$3^2$	<b>4</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>4</b> <sup>2</sup>	$7^{2}$
[-18, 22, 99, 103]	$2^{2}$	$2^{2}$	$9^{2}$	9 <sup>2</sup>	11 <sup>2</sup>
[-20, 36, 45, 61]	4 <sup>2</sup>	4 <sup>2</sup>	$5^{2}$	5 <sup>2</sup>	9 <sup>2</sup>
[-21, 30, 70, 79]	3 <sup>2</sup>	3 <sup>2</sup>	$7^{2}$	7 <sup>2</sup>	10 <sup>2</sup>

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Clyde Kertzer

[-a,b,c,d]	d-c	b + a	d-b	c + a	d+a
[-6, 10, 15, 19]	2 <sup>2</sup>	$2^{2}$	$3^2$	$3^2$	5 <sup>2</sup>
[-12, 21, 28, 37]	$3^2$	$3^2$	4 <sup>2</sup>	4 <sup>2</sup>	$7^{2}$
[-18, 22, 99, 103]	$2^{2}$	$2^{2}$	$9^{2}$	$9^{2}$	11 <sup>2</sup>
[-20, 36, 45, 61]	4 <sup>2</sup>	4 <sup>2</sup>	$5^{2}$	5 <sup>2</sup>	9 <sup>2</sup>
[-21, 30, 70, 79]	3 <sup>2</sup>	$3^2$	$7^2$	$7^{2}$	10 <sup>2</sup>

Given the factorization of a, we can find the entire quadruple!

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

Clyde Kertzer

[-a,b,c,d]	d-c	b+a	d-b	c + a	d+a
[-6, 10, 15, 19]	$2^{2}$	$2^{2}$	$3^2$	3 <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>
[-12, 21, 28, 37]	3 <sup>2</sup>	$3^2$	<b>4</b> <sup>2</sup>	4 <sup>2</sup>	7 <sup>2</sup>
[-18, 22, 99, 103]	2 <sup>2</sup>	$2^{2}$	9 <sup>2</sup>	9 <sup>2</sup>	11 <sup>2</sup>
[-20, 36, 45, 61]	4 <sup>2</sup>	4 <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>	9 <sup>2</sup>
[-21, 30, 70, 79]	3 <sup>2</sup>	3 <sup>2</sup>	7 <sup>2</sup>	7 <sup>2</sup>	10 <sup>2</sup>

Given the factorization of a, we can find the entire quadruple!

$$\left[\underbrace{-(2\cdot 3)}_{-6}, \underbrace{2^2+2\cdot 3}_{10}, \underbrace{3^2+2\cdot 3}_{15}, \underbrace{(2+3)^2-2\cdot 3}_{19}\right]$$

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

Clyde Kertzer

[-a,b,c,d]	d-c	b+a	d-b	c + a	d+a
[-6, 10, 15, 19]	2 <sup>2</sup>	$2^{2}$	$3^2$	3 <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>
[-12, 21, 28, 37]	3 <sup>2</sup>	$3^2$	<b>4</b> <sup>2</sup>	4 <sup>2</sup>	7 <sup>2</sup>
[-18, 22, 99, 103]	$2^{2}$	$2^{2}$	9 <sup>2</sup>	9 <sup>2</sup>	11 <sup>2</sup>
[-20, 36, 45, 61]	4 <sup>2</sup>	4 <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>	9 <sup>2</sup>
[-21, 30, 70, 79]	3 <sup>2</sup>	3 <sup>2</sup>	7 <sup>2</sup>	72	10 <sup>2</sup>

Given the factorization of a, we can find the entire quadruple!

$$\left[\underbrace{-(2\cdot 3)}_{-6}, \underbrace{2^2+2\cdot 3}_{10}, \underbrace{3^2+2\cdot 3}_{15}, \underbrace{(2+3)^2-2\cdot 3}_{19}\right]$$

$$[-xy, x^2 + xy, y^2 + xy, (x + y)^2 - xy]$$

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Given the factorization of a, we can find the entire quadruple!

$$\left[\underbrace{-(2\cdot 3)}_{-6},\,\underbrace{2^2+2\cdot 3}_{10},\,\underbrace{3^2+2\cdot 3}_{15},\,\underbrace{(2+3)^2-2\cdot 3}_{19}\right]$$

$$[-xy, x^2 + xy, y^2 + xy, (x+y)^2 - xy]$$

$$[-xy, x(x+y), y(x+y), (x+y)^2 - xy]$$

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

[-a,b,c,d]	d-c	d-b	d + a
[-6, 10, 15, 19]	2 <sup>2</sup>	<b>3</b> <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>
[-12, 21, 28, 37]	<b>3</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>4</b> <sup>2</sup>	$7^{2}$
[-18, 22, 99, 103]	<b>2</b> <sup>2</sup>	<mark>9</mark> 2	$11^{2}$
[-20, 36, 45, 61]	<b>4</b> <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>	$9^{2}$
[-21, 30, 70, 79]	<b>3</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>7</b> <sup>2</sup>	$10^{2}$

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

ocui cco	L - / - / - / - J		_	
aruples	[-6, 10, 15, 19]	<b>2</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>3</b> <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>
: Kertzer	[-12, 21, 28, 37]	<b>3</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>4</b> <sup>2</sup>	7 <sup>2</sup>
	[-18, 22, 99, 103]	<b>2</b> <sup>2</sup>	<mark>9</mark> 2	11 <sup>2</sup>
	[-20, 36, 45, 61]	<b>4</b> <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>	9 <sup>2</sup>
	[-21, 30, 70, 79]	<b>3</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>7</b> <sup>2</sup>	10 <sup>2</sup>

[-a, b, c, d]  $d-c \mid d-b \mid d+a$ 

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[-a,b,c,d]	d-c	d-b	d + a
[-6, 10, 15, 19]	2 <sup>2</sup>	<b>3</b> <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>
[-12, 21, 28, 37]	<b>3</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>4</b> <sup>2</sup>	$7^{2}$
[-18, 22, 99, 103]	<b>2</b> <sup>2</sup>	9 <sup>2</sup>	$11^{2}$
[-20, 36, 45, 61]	<b>4</b> <sup>2</sup>	5 <sup>2</sup>	$9^{2}$
[-21, 30, 70, 79]	<b>3</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>7</b> <sup>2</sup>	$10^{2}$

$$[-xy, x(x+y), y(x+y), (x+y)^2 - xy] =$$

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$$\begin{array}{c|ccccc} [-a,b,c,d] & d-c & d-b & d+a \\ \hline [-6,10,15,19] & 2^2 & 3^2 & 5^2 \\ [-12,21,28,37] & 3^2 & 4^2 & 7^2 \\ [-18,22,99,103] & 2^2 & 9^2 & 11^2 \\ [-20,36,45,61] & 4^2 & 5^2 & 9^2 \\ [-21,30,70,79] & 3^2 & 7^2 & 10^2 \\ \end{array}$$

$$[-xy, x(x+y), y(x+y), (x+y)^2 - xy] =$$

$$[-2 \cdot 6, 2(2+6), 6(2+6), (2+6)^2 - 2 \cdot 6] =$$

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

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$$\begin{array}{c|ccccc} [-a,b,c,d] & d-c & d-b & d+a \\ \hline [-6,10,15,19] & 2^2 & 3^2 & 5^2 \\ [-12,21,28,37] & 3^2 & 4^2 & 7^2 \\ [-18,22,99,103] & 2^2 & 9^2 & 11^2 \\ [-20,36,45,61] & 4^2 & 5^2 & 9^2 \\ [-21,30,70,79] & 3^2 & 7^2 & 10^2 \\ \end{array}$$

$$[-xy, x(x+y), y(x+y), (x+y)^2 - xy] =$$

$$[-2 \cdot 6, 2(2+6), 6(2+6), (2+6)^2 - 2 \cdot 6] =$$

$$[-12, 16, 48, 52]$$

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$$\begin{array}{c|ccccc} [-a,b,c,d] & d-c & d-b & d+a \\ \hline [-6,10,15,19] & 2^2 & 3^2 & 5^2 \\ [-12,21,28,37] & 3^2 & 4^2 & 7^2 \\ [-18,22,99,103] & 2^2 & 9^2 & 11^2 \\ [-20,36,45,61] & 4^2 & 5^2 & 9^2 \\ [-21,30,70,79] & 3^2 & 7^2 & 10^2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$[-xy, x(x+y), y(x+y), (x+y)^2 - xy] =$$

$$[-2 \cdot 6, 2(2+6), 6(2+6), (2+6)^2 - 2 \cdot 6] =$$

$$[-12, 16, 48, 52] = [-3, 4, 12, 13]$$

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

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$$\begin{array}{c|ccccc} [-a,b,c,d] & d-c & d-b & d+a \\ \hline [-6,10,15,19] & 2^2 & 3^2 & 5^2 \\ [-12,21,28,37] & 3^2 & 4^2 & 7^2 \\ [-18,22,99,103] & 2^2 & 9^2 & 11^2 \\ [-20,36,45,61] & 4^2 & 5^2 & 9^2 \\ [-21,30,70,79] & 3^2 & 7^2 & 10^2 \\ \end{array}$$

$$[-xy, x(x+y), y(x+y), (x+y)^2 - xy] =$$

$$[-2 \cdot 6, 2(2+6), 6(2+6), (2+6)^2 - 2 \cdot 6] =$$

$$[-12, 16, 48, 52] = [-3, 4, 12, 13]$$
  $(x = 3, y = 1)$ 

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### Theorem

All reduced primitive symmetric quadruples with distinct a, b, c, d are of the form

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#### Theorem

All reduced primitive symmetric quadruples with distinct a, b, c, d are of the form

$$[-xy, x(x+y), y(x+y), (x+y)^2 - xy].$$

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#### Theorem

All reduced primitive symmetric quadruples with distinct a, b, c, d are of the form

$$[-xy, x(x+y), y(x+y), (x+y)^2 - xy].$$

with gcd(x, y) = 1.

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### Proposition

The following equalities hold in a sum-symmetric packing [a, b, c, d].

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### Proposition

The following equalities hold in a sum-symmetric packing [a, b, c, d].

$$(i) \ a+b=d-c$$

(ii) 
$$d^2 = a^2 + b^2 + c^2$$

(iii) 
$$ab + ac + bc = 0$$

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(i) 
$$a + b = d - c$$

(ii) 
$$d^2 = a^2 + b^2 + c^2$$

(iii) 
$$ab + ac + bc = 0$$

(i) We know that a sum-symmetric packing has the property that

$$2(a+b+c)-d=d.$$

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### Proposition

The following equalities hold in a sum-symmetric packing [a, b, c, d].

(i) 
$$a + b = d - c$$

(ii) 
$$d^2 = a^2 + b^2 + c^2$$

(iii) 
$$ab + ac + bc = 0$$

(i) We know that a sum-symmetric packing has the property that  $% \left( \frac{1}{2}\right) =\frac{1}{2}\left( \frac{$ 

$$2(a+b+c)-d=d.$$

This yields immediately

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Clyde Kertzer

### Proposition

The following equalities hold in a sum-symmetric packing [a, b, c, d].

$$(i) \ a+b=d-c$$

(ii) 
$$d^2 = a^2 + b^2 + c^2$$

(iii) 
$$ab + ac + bc = 0$$

(i) We know that a sum-symmetric packing has the property that

$$2(a+b+c)-d=d.$$

This yields immediately

$$a+b+c=d$$
$$a+b=d-c.$$

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(ii) Plugging part (i) back into the Descartes Equation we find

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(ii) Plugging part (i) back into the Descartes Equation we find  $(a+b+c+d)^2 = 2\left(a^2+b^2+c^2+d^2\right)$  $\left(d-c+c+d\right)^2 = 2a^2+2b^2+2c^2+2d^2$ 

$$(a+b+c+d)^{2} = 2(a^{2}+b^{2}+c^{2}+d^{2})$$

$$(d-c+c+d)^{2} = 2a^{2}+2b^{2}+2c^{2}+2d^{2}$$

$$4d^{2} = 2(a^{2}+b^{2}+c^{2})+2d^{2}$$

$$d^{2} = a^{2}+b^{2}+c^{2}.$$

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(ii) Plugging part (i) back into the Descartes Equation we find

$$(a+b+c+d)^{2} = 2(a^{2}+b^{2}+c^{2}+d^{2})$$

$$(d-c+c+d)^{2} = 2a^{2}+2b^{2}+2c^{2}+2d^{2}$$

$$4d^{2} = 2(a^{2}+b^{2}+c^{2})+2d^{2}$$

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(iii) Use substitutions from parts (i) and (ii) to find

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(ii) Plugging part (i) back into the Descartes Equation we find  $(a+b+c+d)^2 = 2 (a^2+b^2+c^2+d^2)$   $(d-c+c+d)^2 = 2a^2+2b^2+2c^2+2d^2$   $4d^2 = 2 (a^2+b^2+c^2)+2d^2$   $d^2 = a^2+b^2+c^2$ 

(iii) Use substitutions from parts (i) and (ii) to find

$$a + b + c = d$$

$$(a + b + c)^{2} = a^{2} + b^{2} + c^{2}$$

$$a^{2} + b^{2} + c^{2} + 2ab + 2ac + 2bc = a^{2} + b^{2} + c^{2}$$

$$ab + ac + bc = 0$$

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### Proof.

Suppose that [a, b, c, d] is a reduced primitive symmetric quadruple such that a < 0 < b < c < d.

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Clyde Kertzer

### Proof.

Suppose that [a, b, c, d] is a reduced primitive symmetric quadruple such that a < 0 < b < c < d. Adding  $a^2$  to both sides of Proposition part (iii) we have

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

Clyde Kertzer

### Proof.

Suppose that [a, b, c, d] is a reduced primitive symmetric quadruple such that a < 0 < b < c < d. Adding  $a^2$  to both sides of Proposition part (iii) we have

$$ab + ac + bc = 0$$
$$a2 + ab + ac + bc = a2$$
$$(a + b)(a + c) = a2.$$

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

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Let 
$$g = \gcd(a+b, a+c)$$

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Let  $g = \gcd(a+b, a+c)$  so that  $a+b=gx^2$  and  $a+c=gy^2$  for some integers x and y. This yields gxy=-a.

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$$b = (a + b) + (-a) = gx^2 + gxy$$

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Let  $g = \gcd(a + b, a + c)$  so that  $a + b = gx^2$  and  $a + c = gy^2$  for some integers x and y. This yields gxy = -a. Now, we have

$$b = (a + b) + (-a) = gx^2 + gxy$$

and

$$c = (a + c) + (-a) = gy^2 + gxy.$$

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### Proof.

Using the relation d = a + b + c we can substitute what we have just found to find

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Using the relation d = a + b + c we can substitute what we have just found to find

$$d = a + b + c$$
  
=  $(-gxy) + (gx^2 + gxy) + (gy^2 + gxy)$   
=  $g((x + y)^2 - xy)$ .

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$$d = a + b + c$$
  
=  $(-gxy) + (gx^2 + gxy) + (gy^2 + gxy)$   
=  $g((x + y)^2 - xy)$ .

Thus, we have that

$$a = -gxy$$

$$b = gx(x + y)$$

$$c = gy(x + y)$$

$$d = g((x + y)^{2} - xy).$$

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#### Proof.

Clearly, for the quadruple to be primitive, g must be 1, meaning x and y are coprime.

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#### Clyde Kertzer

### Proof.

Clearly, for the quadruple to be primitive, g must be 1, meaning x and y are coprime. Thus, we have

$$a = -xy$$

$$b = x(x + y)$$

$$c = y(x + y)$$

$$d = (x + y)^{2} - xy$$

with 
$$gcd(x, y) = 1$$
.

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#### Definition

We say a positive integer a has a packing if there exists a primitive reduced Descartes quadruple [-a, b, c, d].

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Natural question: given a positive integer n, what types (and how many) of packings does it have?

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Natural question: given a positive integer n, what types (and how many) of packings does it have? For example, the integer 7 has three packings

$$[-7, 8, 56, 57], [-7, 12, 17, 20], [-7, 9, 32, 32].$$

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### Corollary

A natural number n has  $2^{\omega(n)-1}$  sum-symmetric packings, where  $\omega(n)$  is the number of distinct prime divisors of n.

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A natural number n has  $2^{\omega(n)-1}$  sum-symmetric packings, where  $\omega(n)$  is the number of distinct prime divisors of n.

#### Proof.

Because n=-xy determines the sum-symmetric packing for coprime x and y, write  $n=p_1^{e_1}p_2^{e_2}\cdots p_k^{e_k}$ , so  $\omega(n)=k$ .

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

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Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

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Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

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Because n=-xy determines the sum-symmetric packing for coprime x and y, write  $n=p_1^{e_1}p_2^{e_2}\cdots p_k^{e_k}$ , so  $\omega(n)=k$ . For each prime power we can choose to put it as a factor of x or y, so there  $2^k$  total factor pairs xy but we divide by two to account for symmetry. Thus, n has  $2^k/2=2^{k-1}=2^{\omega(n)-1}$  sum-symmetric packings.

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Write 
$$30 = 2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$$
,

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Write  $30 = 2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$ , so 60 has  $2^{3-1} = 2^2 = 4$  sum-symmetric packings.

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Write  $30 = 2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$ , so 60 has  $2^{3-1} = 2^2 = 4$  sum-symmetric packings.

These correspond to the coprime factor pairs

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Write  $30=2^2\cdot 3\cdot 5$ , so 60 has  $2^{3-1}=2^2=4$  sum-symmetric packings.

These correspond to the coprime factor pairs (1,60),

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Clyde Kertzer

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Write  $30 = 2^2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$ , so 60 has  $2^{3-1} = 2^2 = 4$  sum-symmetric packings.

These correspond to the coprime factor pairs (1,60), (4,15), (3,20), (5,12). They are

$$(1,60) \implies [-60,61,3660,3661]$$
  
 $(4,15) \implies [-60,76,285,301]$ 

$$(3,20) \implies [-60,69,460,469]$$

$$(5,12) \implies [-60,85,204,229]$$

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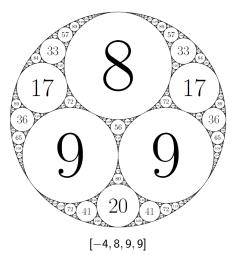
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Packings where one of the numbers is the same:

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Packings where one of the numbers is the same:



Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

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-2 none

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

-2	none
-3	[-3, 5, 8, 8]

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

-2	none
-3	[-3, 5, 8, 8]
-4	[-4, 8, 9, 9]

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

-2	none
-3	[-3, 5, 8, 8]
-4	[-4, 8, 9, 9]
-5	[-5, 7, 18, 18]

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

-2	none
-3	[-3, 5, 8, 8]
-4	[-4, 8, 9, 9]
-5	[-5, 7, 18, 18]
-6	none

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

-2	none
-3	[-3, 5, 8, 8]
-4	[-4, 8, 9, 9]
-5	[-5, 7, 18, 18]
-6	none
<b>-7</b>	[-7, 9, 32, 32]

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

-2	none
-3	[-3, 5, 8, 8]
-4	[-4, 8, 9, 9]
-5	[-5, 7, 18, 18]
-6	none
<b>-7</b>	[-7, 9, 32, 32]
-8	[-8, 12, 25, 25]

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

-2	none
-3	[-3, 5, 8, 8]
-4	[-4, 8, 9, 9]
-5	[-5, 7, 18, 18]
-6	none
<b>-7</b>	[-7, 9, 32, 32]
-8	[-8, 12, 25, 25]
<b>-9</b>	[-9, 11, 50, 50]

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

-2	none
-3	[-3, 5, 8, 8]
-4	[-4, 8, 9, 9]
<u>-5</u>	[-5, 7, 18, 18]
<u>-6</u>	none
<del>-7</del>	[-7, 9, 32, 32]
-8	[-8, 12, 25, 25]
-9	[-9, 11, 50, 50]
-10	none

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

-2	none
-3	[-3, 5, 8, 8]
-4	[-4, 8, 9, 9]
-5	[-5, 7, 18, 18]
-6	none
<b>-7</b>	[-7, 9, 32, 32]
-8	[-8, 12, 25, 25]
<b>-9</b>	[-9, 11, 50, 50]
-10	none
-11	[-11, 13, 72, 72]

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

-2	none
-3	[-3, 5, 8, 8]
-4	[-4, 8, 9, 9]
-5	[-5, 7, 18, 18]
-6	none
-7	[-7, 9, 32, 32]
-8	[-8, 12, 25, 25]
<b>-9</b>	[-9, 11, 50, 50]
-10	none
$\overline{-11}$	[-11, 13, 72, 72]
-12	[-12, 16, 49, 49], [-12, 25, 25, 28]

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

-2	none
-3	[-3, 5, 8, 8]
-4	[-4, 8, 9, 9]
-5	[-5, 7, 18, 18]
-6	none
<b>-7</b>	[-7, 9, 32, 32]
-8	[-8, 12, 25, 25]
<u>-9</u>	[-9, 11, 50, 50]
-10	none
-11	[-11, 13, 72, 72]
-12	[-12, 16, 49, 49], [-12, 25, 25, 28]
-13	[-13, 15, 98, 98]

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

-2	none
-3	[-3, 5, 8, 8]
-4	[-4, 8, 9, 9]
-5	[-5, 7, 18, 18]
-6	none
<b>-7</b>	[-7, 9, 32, 32]
-8	[-8, 12, 25, 25]
<b>-9</b>	[-9, 11, 50, 50]
-10	none
-11	[-11, 13, 72, 72]
-12	[-12, 16, 49, 49], [-12, 25, 25, 28]
-13	[-13, 15, 98, 98]
-14	none

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

-2	none
<del>-3</del>	[-3, 5, 8, 8]
-4	[-4, 8, 9, 9]
<b>-</b> 5	[-5, 7, 18, 18]
-6	none
<del>-7</del>	[-7, 9, 32, 32]
<del>-8</del>	[-8, 12, 25, 25]
<u>9</u>	[-9, 11, 50, 50]
-10	none
-11	[-11, 13, 72, 72]
-12	[-12, 16, 49, 49], [-12, 25, 25, 28]
-13	[-13, 15, 98, 98]
$\overline{-14}$	none
-15	[-15, 17, 128, 128], [-15, 32, 32, 33]

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

-2	none
-3	[-3, 5, 8, 8]
-4	[-4, 8, 9, 9]
<b>-</b> 5	[-5, 7, 18, 18]
<u>6</u>	none
<del>-7</del>	[-7, 9, 32, 32]
<del>-8</del>	[-8, 12, 25, 25]
<u>-9</u>	[-9, 11, 50, 50]
-10	none
-11	[-11, 13, 72, 72]
-12	[-12, 16, 49, 49], [-12, 25, 25, 28]
-13	[-13, 15, 98, 98]
-14	none
-15	[-15, 17, 128, 128], [-15, 32, 32, 33]
-16	[-16, 20, 81, 81]

Apollonian Circle Packings & Paramaterizations of Descartes Quaruples

-2	none
-3	[-3, 5, 8, 8]
-4	[-4, 8, 9, 9]
<b>-</b> 5	[-5, 7, 18, 18]
<u>6</u>	none
<del>-7</del>	[-7, 9, 32, 32]
<del>-8</del>	[-8, 12, 25, 25]
<u>-9</u>	[-9, 11, 50, 50]
-10	none
-11	[-11, 13, 72, 72]
-12	[-12, 16, 49, 49], [-12, 25, 25, 28]
-13	[-13, 15, 98, 98]
-14	none
-15	[-15, 17, 128, 128], [-15, 32, 32, 33]
-16	[-16, 20, 81, 81]

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Clyde Kertzer

Over the summer:

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Over the summer:

#### **Theorem**

All primitive ACPs with c = d are given by

$$\left[-x, x+y^2, \left(\frac{2x+y^2}{2y}\right)^2, \left(\frac{2x+y^2}{2y}\right)^2\right] \quad \text{y even}$$

$$\left[-x, x + 2y^2, 2\left(\frac{x + y^2}{2y}\right)^2, 2\left(\frac{x + y^2}{2y}\right)^2\right]$$
 y odd

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Over the summer:

#### Theorem

All primitive ACPs with c = d are given by

$$\left[ -x, \ x + y^2, \ \left( \frac{2x + y^2}{2y} \right)^2, \ \left( \frac{2x + y^2}{2y} \right)^2 \right] \quad \text{y even}$$

$$\left[ -x, \ x + 2y^2, \ 2\left( \frac{x + y^2}{2y} \right)^2, \ 2\left( \frac{x + y^2}{2y} \right)^2 \right] \quad \text{y odd}$$

Not ideal, not in terms of factorization.

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Improved to:

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 $Improved\ to:$ 



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Clyde Kertzer

Improved to:

#### Theorem

A twin-symmetric quadruple is of the form

$$\left\{ \left[ -xy, \ xy + 2y^2, \ \frac{(x+y)^2}{2}, \ \frac{(x+y)^2}{2} \right] \qquad x \ odd, \ y \ odd \quad x > y \right.$$

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Improved to:

#### Theorem

A twin-symmetric quadruple is of the form

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -xy, & xy + 2y^2, & \frac{(x+y)^2}{2}, & \frac{(x+y)^2}{2} \end{bmatrix} & x \text{ odd, } y \text{ odd} & x > y \\ -xy, & xy + 4y^2, & \left(\frac{x}{2} + y\right)^2, & \left(\frac{x}{2} + y\right)^2 \end{bmatrix} & 4 \mid x, \quad x > 2y \end{cases}$$

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Improved to:

#### Theorem

A twin-symmetric quadruple is of the form

$$\begin{cases}
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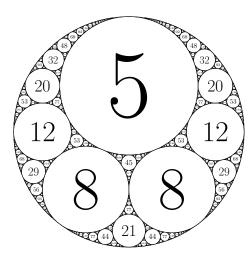
Why won't x = 2, y = 3 work? Let's try 2nd case:

$$[-6, 6+4(3)^2, 4^2, 4^2] \implies [-6, 42, 16, 16] \implies [-3, 21, 8, 8]$$

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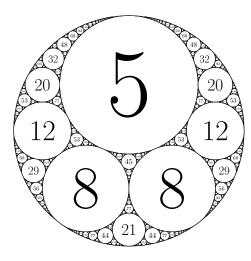
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[-3, 21, 8, 8]

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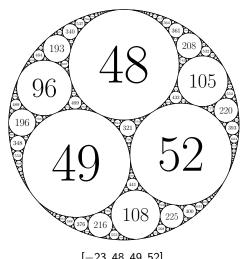
$$[-3,21,8,8] \implies [-3,5,8,8]$$

#### Non-symmetric Packings

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[-23, 48, 49, 52].

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 $Current\ best\ paramaterization\ of\ non-symmetric\ packings:$ 

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Given a general pair (x, y) with the criteria

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the form is

$$\left[ -n, n+x, n + \frac{n^2 + \left(\frac{x-y}{2}\right)^2}{x}, n + \frac{n^2 + \left(\frac{x+y}{2}\right)^2}{x} \right]$$

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Once again, not ideal. Not in terms of factorization.

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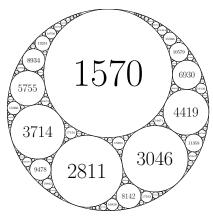
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#### Thank You!

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[-1001, 1570, 2811, 3046]

Images generated using James Rickard's Code.