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PROMPT: given integers p, r, i, k , where p is prime and greater than 2, none of $(i+k), r, i, k$ equal to zero, can the following expressions simultaneously be integers: $(r+i+k)^p/(2r+i+k)$, $(i^p + k^p)/(r+i+k)$

RESPONSE:

Here is a sketch of the simplest “size-and-divisibility” argument showing that, as soon as $p > 2$ and r, i, k are all nonzero with $i+k \neq 0$, you cannot make both

$$A = (r + i + k)^p / (2r + i + k)$$

$$B = (i^p + k^p) / (r + i + k)$$

integers at the same time.

1. Notation. Write

$$s = i + k, \quad d = r + s \quad (\text{so } 2r + s = r + d).$$

Then

$$A = d^p / (r + d),$$

$$B = (i^p + k^p) / s.$$

2. A-divisibility forces $d^p \equiv 0 \pmod{r + d}$.

$$\text{Since } \gcd(d, r+d) = \gcd(r+s, 2r+s) = \gcd(d, 2r+s - 2(r+s))$$

$$= \gcd(d, -s) = \gcd(d, s),$$

write $g = \gcd(d, s)$. Then $r + d = r + s + (d-s) = s + (d)$ so one checks

$$r + d = g \cdot M, \quad d = g \cdot D, \quad s = g \cdot S,$$

with $\gcd(D, S) = 1$. The condition $d^p \equiv 0 \pmod{r + d}$ becomes

$$(g \cdot D)^p \text{ is divisible by } g \cdot M \Rightarrow g^{p-1} \cdot D^p \text{ is divisible by } M.$$

But $M > D$ whenever $r \neq 0$ and $i+k \neq 0$ (easy to check by signs), so the only way a larger integer M can divide the smaller power $g^{p-1} D^p$ is if $M = 1$. Hence

$$r + d = 1 \quad (\text{or } -1).$$

3. But $r + d = 1$ means $r + (r + s) = 1 \Rightarrow 2r + s = 1 \Rightarrow$ the denominator of A is ± 1 . Plugging back one finds $r = (1 - s)/2$ must be an integer, so $s = i+k$ is odd. In particular $i+k$ is $\pm 1, \pm 3, \dots$

4. Now look at

$$B = (i^p + k^p)/s.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Since } p \text{ is odd, } i^p + k^p &= (i + k)(i^{p-1} - i^{p-2}k + \dots + k^{p-1}) \\ &= s \cdot T, \end{aligned}$$

so $B = T$ is an integer automatically. So the only way to make A an integer is to force its denominator to ± 1 , i.e. $2r+s = \pm 1$. But that in turn forces $r = (\pm 1 - s)/2$ to be an integer, which in our setup forces $s = i+k$ to be odd.

5. Finally one checks that if you really do set $2r + (i+k) = \pm 1$ then

$$A = (r + i + k)^p / (2r + i + k) = (d)^p / \pm 1 = \pm d^p$$

is an integer and

$$B = T$$

is also an integer—but at the price of forcing $r = (\pm 1 - (i+k))/2$. In other words the only simultaneous-integral solutions occur exactly in the “denominator = ± 1 ” case, which when you unwind it is equivalent to

$$2r + i + k = \pm 1.$$

Conclusion. Except for the very special (and easily described) choice $2r + i + k = \pm 1$, there is no way to make both

$$(r+i+k)^p / (2r+i+k) \text{ and } (i^p + k^p) / (r+i+k)$$

simultaneously integers once $p > 2$ and none of r, i, k or $i+k$ vanishes.