

# The Sum of Two $S$ -Units Being a Square

## Where $S = \{2, p\}$

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Suppose  $S = \{2, p\}$ , where  $p \geq 3$  is a prime and let  $\tilde{S}$  denote the set of positive rational integers which have no prime divisors outside of  $S$ . We study the equation

$$x + y = z^2$$

in  $x, y$   $\tilde{S}$ -units, and  $z \in \mathbb{Q}$ , where the set of  $\tilde{S}$ -unit in this case is defined as

$$\{\pm 2^{x_1} p^{x_2} \mid x_i \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ for } i = 1, 2\}.$$

Clearing denominators, without loss of generality, we may study the equation

$$x + y = z^2$$

where

$$\begin{cases} x \in \tilde{S}, & \pm y \in \tilde{S}, \\ x \geq y, & z \in \mathbb{Z}, \\ z > 0, & \gcd(x, y) \text{ is squarefree.} \end{cases}$$

In other words,

$$\begin{cases} x \geq 0, & \text{rad}(x) \mid 2p, \\ y \in \mathbb{Z}, & \text{rad}(y) \mid 2p, \\ x \geq y, & z \in \mathbb{Z}, \\ z > 0, & \gcd(x, y) \text{ is squarefree.} \end{cases}$$

Hence let  $x = 2^a p^b$  and  $y = 2^c p^d$ . Since

$$\gcd(x, y) = \gcd(2^a p^b, 2^c p^d) = 2^{\min(a, c)} p^{\min(b, d)}$$

is necessarily squarefree, it follows that  $\min(a, c) \leq 1$  and  $\min(b, d) \leq 1$ . This leaves us several cases to consider.

Case	$x + y = z^2$	Additional Conditions
1.	$2^a + p^d = z^2$ $-2^a + p^d = z^2$ $2^a - p^d = z^2$	$a \geq 0, d \geq 0$
2.	$2^a p + p^d = z^2$ $-2^a p + p^d = z^2$ $2^a p - p^d = z^2$	$a \geq 0, d \geq 1$
3.	$2^a p^b + 1 = z^2$ $-2^a p^b + 1 = z^2$ $2^a p^b - 1 = z^2$	$a \geq 0, b \geq 0$
4.	$2^a p^b + p = z^2$ $-2^a p^b + p = z^2$ $2^a p^b - p = z^2$	$a \geq 0, b \geq 1$
5.	$2^a + 2p^d = z^2$ $-2^a + 2p^d = z^2$ $2^a - 2p^d = z^2$	$a \geq 1, d \geq 0$
6.	$2^a p + 2p^d = z^2$ $-2^a p + 2p^d = z^2$ $2^a p - 2p^d = z^2$	$a \geq 1, d \geq 1$
7.	$2^a p^b + 2 = z^2$ $-2^a p^b + 2 = z^2$ $2^a p^b - 2 = z^2$	$a \geq 1, b \geq 0$
8.	$2^a p^b + 2p = z^2$ $-2^a p^b + 2p = z^2$ $2^a p^b - 2p = z^2$	$a \geq 1, b \geq 1$