

Lemma 1. *Every Panaitopol Prime p can be represented as $n^2 + (n + 1)^2$ for some positive integers n .*

Proof. Suppose $p = \frac{x^4 - y^4}{x^3 + y^3}$. Expanding and simplifying, we get that $p(x^2 - xy + y^2) = (x - y)(x^2 + y^2)$. Because p is prime, it must be a factor of either $(x - y)$ or $(x^2 + y^2)$. If $p \mid x - y$, $x^2 + y^2$ must divide $x^2 - xy + y^2$, which is not possible since xy is positive. Thus, $p \mid x^2 + y^2$ and $x - y \mid x^2 - xy + y^2$.

Because $x - y \mid x^2 - xy$ and $x - y \mid y^2 - xy$, we know that $x - y$ divides x^2 , y^2 , and xy . Let $a = x^2/(x - y)$, $b = y^2/(x - y)$, and $c = xy/(x - y)$. From these definitions we know that $ab = c^2$ and $a + b - 2c = x - y$.

Let $d = \gcd(a, b, c)$ and a_0 , b_0 , and c_0 equal a/d , b/d , and c/d . Plugging in for the initial expression for p , we get that

$$\begin{aligned} p &= \frac{(a + b - 2c)(a + b)}{a + b - c} \\ &= \frac{(a_0 + b_0 - 2c_0)(a_0 + b_0)d}{a_0 + b_0 - c_0}. \end{aligned}$$

Suppose there was some prime q that divided $a_0 + b_0 - 2c_0$ and $a_0 + b_0 - c_0$. Then, $q \mid c$, and because $xy = c(x - y)$ we know that either x or y must have a factor of q . Without loss of generality, assume this is x . Because $x - y \mid x^2$, we know that y must also have a factor of q . It follows that a_0 and b_0 must consequently be divisible by q , violating the maximality of d . Thus, $\gcd(a_0 + b_0 - 2c_0, a_0 + b_0 - c_0) = 1$.

Thus $a_0 + b_0 - c_0 \mid d(a_0 + b_0)$, and furthermore this quotient must be greater than 1 because c_0 is positive. As p is prime, we know that $a_0 + b_0 - 2c_0 = 1$. By definition, $c_0 = \sqrt{a_0 b_0}$, so we get $\sqrt{a_0} - \sqrt{b_0} = 1$. Clearly, the only integer solutions are $a_0 = (n + 1)^2$ and $b_0 = n^2$. All that remains is to solve for x and y and plug back into the initial formula for p . □

It suffices to check every n from 1 to $\sqrt{5 \cdot 10^5}$.