Harold Edwards Fermat's last theorem

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Abstract

Page 8, Problem 3. Show that if $d^2|z^2$ then d|z, start with gcd(d,z)=c

$$d^{2}k = z^{2}$$
$$c^{2}D^{2}k = c^{2}Z^{2}$$
$$D^{2}k = Z^{2}$$

we know that gcd(D, Z) = 1 and so $gcd(D^2, Z^2) = 1$, since $k|Z^2$, if $gcd(D^2, k) > 1$ then $gcd(D^2, Z^2) > 1$ as well, therefore $gcd(D^2, k) = 1$, this means that $k = K^2$ by our assumption that if $vw = u^2$ and v and w are co-prime then both v and w are squares.

Substituting $k = K^2$ back into our first equation

$$d^2K^2 = z^2$$
$$\to dK = z$$

thus d|z although I'm not sure about this particular line of reasoning, since $\gcd(D^2, Z^2) = 1$ and $D^2|Z^2$ then $D^2 = 1$ and we immediately get $k = Z^2$ and we don't need our assumption about $vw = u^2$ at all. But I'm not sure how else to show that $\gcd(D^2, k) = 1$ except by showing that $\gcd(D^2, Z^2) = 1$.

Now, the one step I stil need to prove, is that gcd(D, Z) = 1 means $gcd(D^2, Z^2) = 1$, again, without using the fundamental theorem. What I need is Bezout, assume that $gcd(D^2, Z^2) = g > 1$ then Bezout tells us that

$$D^2a + Z^2b = g$$

but from gcd(D, Z) = 1 we also get

$$DA + ZB = 1$$

$$\rightarrow DgA + ZgB = g$$

Now there might be some other numbers such that

$$DM + ZN = g$$

but this means either that gcd(M, N) = g or gcd(M, N) = y|g, let's dicuss the latter first

$$DyM' + ZyN' = yg'$$
$$DM' + ZN' = q'$$

with gcd(M', N') = 1 but this means that gcd(D, Z) = g', the only way this works is that g' = 1 and gcd(M, N) = g, but if this is the case then

$$DM' + ZN' = 1$$

but Bezout also tells us that all solutions to DA' + ZB' = 1 are of the form see ent.pdf Problem 2.5

$$A' = A + lD$$

$$B' = B - lD$$

Equating the two Bezouts $g = D^2a + Z^2b = DgA' + ZgB'$

$$\to gA' = gA + glD = Da$$

$$\to gB' = gB - glZ = Zb$$

Now, equating the two Bezouts again

$$D^{2}a + Z^{2}b = DgA + ZgB$$

$$D(Da - gA) = Z(gB - Zb)$$

$$\to D(glD) = Z(glZ)$$

$$D^{2} = Z^{2}$$

which is a contradiction, therefore if gcd(D, Z) = 1 then $gcd(D^2, Z^2) = 1$ as well. The above proof is easily generalizable to $gcd(D^n, Z^m)$

Now, equating the two Bezouts again

$$D^{n}a + Z^{m}b = DgA + ZgB$$

$$D(D^{n-1}a - gA) = Z(gB - Z^{m-1}b)$$

$$\to D(glD) = Z(glZ)$$

$$D^{2} = Z^{2}$$

Page 14, Problem 1. Prove that if Ad^2 is a square then A is a square, using the result from previous Problem, say $Ad^2 = z^2$ since $d^2|z^2$ this also means that d|z so we can write z = dk, therefore

$$Ad^2 = z^2 = d^2k^2$$
$$A = k^2$$

and we are done.

Page 14, Problem 2. Show that $x^4 - y^4 = z^2$ has no non-zero integer solutions. One thing we should not do is to blindly apply the Pythagorean formula $(m^2 - n^2, 2mn, m^2 + n^2)$ over and over again, what we should do is follow what was done in the preceding section.

In that section we have p, q, and $p^2 - q^2$ are all squares due to $t^2 = pq(p^2 - q^2)$ so if we designate

$$p = x^{2}$$

$$q = y^{2}$$

$$p^{2} - q^{2} = z^{2}$$

$$\rightarrow x^{4} - y^{4} = z^{2}$$

and we have our current problem. Following what was done in the book

$$z^{2} = p^{2} - q^{2}$$
$$= (p - q)(p + q)$$

since p and q are co-prime so are p-q and p+q. From $x^4-y^4=z^2$ we know that x and thus p is odd but here we can have y even or odd, for simplicity let's start with y and thus q even so that we have the case in the book, so

$$p + q = r^2 p - q = s^2$$

with both r and s odd and co-prime and

$$u = \frac{r-s}{2} \qquad \qquad v = \frac{r+s}{2}$$

with u and v integers and co-prime and so

$$uv = \frac{r^2 - s^2}{4} = \frac{(p+q) - (p-q)}{4} = \frac{q}{2} = \frac{y^2}{2}$$

since uv integer $y^2/2$ must also be an integer, thus y=2k, $y^2/2=2k^2$ therefore

$$\frac{uv}{2} = \frac{y^2}{4} = k^2$$
$$\to uv = 2k^2$$

since u and v are co-prime this means that one of them is even and the other odd, let's take u odd and v = 2v' even, then $u(2v') = 2k^2$ and therefore

$$u = U^2 v = 2V^2$$

since u and v are coprime. Thus

$$r = u + v = U^2 + 2V^2$$

and

$$u^{2} + v^{2} = \frac{(r-s)^{2} + (r+s)^{2}}{4}$$

$$= \frac{2r^{2} + 2s^{2}}{4} = \frac{r^{2} + s^{2}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{(p+q) + (p-q)}{2} = \frac{2p}{2}$$

$$= p$$

$$u^{2} + v^{2} = x^{2}$$

Thus we have a primitive triple u, v, x (because u, v are co-prime), thus we have $P^2 - Q^2, 2PQ, P^2 + Q^2$ (note that above we have designated u as the odd one) and so

$$\frac{uv}{2} = k^2 = (P^2 - Q^2)PQ$$

so we have the same situation as $t^2 = pq(p^2 - q^2)$ but $uv/2 = q/4 < t^2$ and our infinite descent begins.

The above was when q even such that p-q and p+q are odd. Now we deal with the case of q odd such that $p-q=2r^2$ and $p+q=2s^2$ are both even, this is because now p-q and p+q are no longer co-prime so we cannot follow the same steps above.

What we have is (from the pythagorean triple formula)

$$p = x^2 = m^2 + n^2$$

 $q = y^2 = m^2 - n^2$

thus we can use them directly, m^2 plays the role of p and n^2 play the role of q as they are already co-prime and of opposite parities and of course x plays the role of p + q and y, p - q. Thus in this case

$$u = \frac{x - y}{2} \qquad \qquad v = \frac{x + y}{2}$$

Thus, just like above

$$uv = \frac{x^2 - y^2}{4} = \frac{n^2}{2}$$
 $u = U^2$ $v = 2V^2$

and therefore

$$u^2 + v^2 = m^2$$

Thus we have our infinite descent all over again.

page 25, Problem 1. Prove that $2^{37} - 1$ is not prime

Page 25, Problem 2. If p = 4n + 3 divides $x^2 + y^2$ then

$$(x^2)^{2n+1} + (y^2)^{2n+1} = \left[(x^2) + (y^2) \right] \left[(x^2)^{2n} - (x^2)^{2n-1} (y^2) + (x^2)^{2n-2} (y^2)^2 \dots + (y^2)^{2n} \right]$$

and hence $p|(x^2)^{2n+1} + (y^2)^{2n+1}$ as well. But

$$(x^2)^{2n+1} = x^{4n+2} = x^{p-1}$$

and so if $p \nmid x$ and $p \nmid y$ then because $p|x^{p-1}-1$ and $p|y^{p-1}-1$ we have

$$(x^{2})^{2n+1} + (y^{2})^{2n+1} = (x^{p-1} - 1) + (y^{p-1} - 1) + 2$$
$$= pm_{x} + pm_{y} + 2$$
$$= pm_{xy} + 2$$

therefore we have a contradiction as now p no longer divides $(x^2)^{2n+1} + (y^2)^{2n+1}$ as it differs from a multiple of p by 2. But if one of them, either x or y is divisible by p then (for simplicity let's assume it's x)

$$(x^2)^{2n+1} + (y^2)^{2n+1} = pm_x + (y^{p-1} - 1) + 1$$

= $pm_x + pm_y + 1$
= $pm_{xy} + 1$

and this time it differs from a multiple of p by 1.

Page 33, Problem 2. This is quite a fun one to do, let's do the one for A = 13, we start with

$$1^2 - A \cdot 0^2 = 1$$

multiplying it with $r^2 - A = s$ we get

$$r^2 - A(1+r)^2 = 1 \cdot s$$

here k = 1, so now we need to find an r such that $r^2 < A$ but $r^2 - A$ is a negative number, here since k = 1 we do not need to care if k | (1 + r) or not. The answer is r = 3 such that $s = r^2 - A = -4$ and our next equation is

$$3^2 - A \cdot 1^2 = -4$$

multiplying it by $r^2 - A = s$ we get

$$(3r+A)^2 - A(3+r)^2 = -4 \cdot s$$

but now we need to make sure k = -4 divides (3 + r), an r that works is r = 1 this way $r^2 < 13$ and $r^2 - A = -12$ is negative and so we get

$$4^2 - A \cdot 1^2 = 3$$

next, multiplying it with $r^2 - A = s$ again

$$(4r+A)^2 - A(4+r)^2 = 3 \cdot s$$

here k=3, to make sure 3|(4+r) and since $r^2<13$ we get r=2 and thus

$$7^2 - A \cdot 2^2 = -3$$

and I got tired after this :) so the s we recovered so far are $1, -4, 3, -3, \ldots$

Page 33, Problem 3. The first part is straightforward, since $p^2 - Aq^2 = k$ and $P^2 - AQ^2 = K$ with P = (pr + qA)/|k| and Q = (p + qr)/|k|

$$pQ = \frac{p^2 + pqr}{|k|}$$

$$Pq = \frac{pqr + q^2A}{|k|}$$

$$\to pQ - Pq = \frac{p^2 - Aq^2}{|k|}$$

$$= \pm 1$$

as $|k| = |p^2 - Aq^2|$ by definition. Now for the more fun part, since $pQ - Pq = \pm 1$, Bezout tells us that gcd(Q, P) = 1, but from $P^2 - AQ^2 = K$, if gcd(Q, K) > 1 then it will also divide P and vice versa, therefore these three are co-prime.

We need this for the next step, we want a new number R such that QR + P is divisible by K or in other words

$$QR + P \equiv 0 \pmod{K}$$

$$R \equiv Q^{-1}(-P) \pmod{K}$$

we are guaranteed to have such a Q^{-1} because gcd(Q, K) = 1 and the final step is also straightforward, say

$$W \equiv QA + PR \equiv QA + P(Q^{-1}(-P)) \pmod{K}$$
$$W \equiv QA - Q^{-1}P^2 \pmod{K}$$
$$QW \equiv Q^2A - P^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{K}$$

and by definition $K|Q^2A-P^2$ but since $\gcd(Q,K)=1$ this means that $W\equiv QA+PR\equiv 0$ (mod K) and we are done.

Page, **Problem 1**. Show that the only integral solutions to $1 + x + x^2 + x^3$ being a square is x = -1, 0, 1, 7. First some factorization

$$1 + x + x^{2} + x^{3} = (1 + x + x^{2}) + x^{3}$$

$$= (1 + x)^{2} - x + x^{3} = (1 + x)^{2} - x(1 - x^{2})$$

$$= (1 + x)^{2} - x(1 + x)(1 - x)$$

$$= (1 + x)[(1 + x) - x(1 - x)] = (1 + x)[1 + x - x + x^{2}]$$

$$= (1 + x)(1 + x^{2})$$

From here we can conclude that x cannot be even unless x = 0, here's how, we know that $A^2 = (1 + x)(1 + x^2)$ and suppose that d is the common factor of (1 + x) and $(1 + x^2)$, therefore d also divides

$$(1+x)^2 - (1+x^2) = 2x$$

thus d|2 or d|x. But here x is even, thus 1+x is odd, do d can't divide 2, so d|x but since d|(1+x) and x and 1+x are co-prime, d=1. This means that

$$1 + x = y^2$$
$$1 + x^2 = z^2$$

the last equation means $z^2 - x^2 = 1$ but the difference between two squares cannot be one unless x = 0. Thus is x is even then x = 0.

Next is x odd. Let's recast x = 2m + 1, we then have

$$A^{2} = 1 + x + x^{3} + x^{3} = (1+x)(1+x^{2}) = (1+2m+1)(1+(2m+1)^{2})$$

$$= 2(m+1)(4m^{2} + 4m + 2)$$

$$= 4(m+1)(2m^{2} + 2m + 1)$$

$$\rightarrow A^{2} = 4(m+1)(m^{2} + (m+1^{2}))$$

Let's divide out the factor of 4 and we have

$$A'^{2} = (m+1)(m^{2} + (m+1)^{2})$$

any factor of m+1 and $m^2+(m+1)^2$ would also divide m^2 but m+1 and m^2 are co-prime thus (m+1) and $m^2+(m+1)^2$ are co-prime thus each of them is square

$$m+1 = w^2$$

 $m^2 + (m+1)^2 = y^2$

since m and m+1 are co-prime, $m^2+(m+1)^2=y^2$ forms a primitive Pythagorean triple, therefore we can cast it in the usual form, but here we have two choices, either m is even or m is odd. First, let's tackle the m even

$$m = 2ab$$
$$m + 1 = a^2 - b^2 = w^2$$

since from above we know that m+1 is square and

$$(m+1) - m = 1 = a^2 - b^2 - 2ab$$

$$1 = (a-b)^2 - 2b^2$$

This is a form of Pell's equation and I was messing around with Pell's equation for roughly two days until I found out that I don't need to mess with Pell's equation at all. We'll talk about Pell's equation later:)

What we need here is to note that since $m + 1 = w^2 = a^2 - b^2$, so it forms another Pythagorean triple, since a and b are co-prime, they are also primitive

$$a = c^2 + d^2$$

$$b = 2cd$$

therefore the Pell's equation we had earlier becomes

$$1 = (a - b)^{2} - 2b^{2}$$
$$= (c^{2} + d^{2} - 2cd)^{2} - 2(2cd)^{2}$$
$$= (c - d)^{4} - 8(cd)^{2}$$

we now do the oldest trick in the book, substitutions

$$s = c + d t = c - d$$

therefore $st = c^2 - d^2$ and

$$s + t = 2c \qquad \qquad s - t = 2d$$

and

$$(s+t)(s-t) = s^2 - t^2 = 4cd$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{s^2 - t^2}{4} = cd$$

making the substitution

$$1 = (c - d)^4 - 8(cd)^2 = t^4 - 8\left(\frac{s^2 - t^2}{4}\right)^2$$
$$1 = t^4 - \frac{1}{2}\left(s^2 - t^2\right)^2$$
$$\to 2 = 2t^4 - \left(s^2 - t^2\right)^2$$

at this point I was quite stuck until I tried the simplest solution, the quadratic formula, solving for s we get

$$s = \pm \sqrt{t^2 \pm \sqrt{2}\sqrt{t^4 - 1}}$$

for s to have a chance to be an integer we need $\sqrt{2}\sqrt{t^4-1}$ to be an integer, therefore

$$t^4 - 1 = 2Q^2$$
$$(t^2 - 1)(t^2 + 1) = 2Q^2$$

but t = c - d and c and d are of opposite parities, thus t is odd and $gcd(t^2 - 1, t^2 + 1) = 2$ thus one of $t^2 - 1$ and $t^2 + 1$ is a square and the other is 2 times a square but either way we cannot have $t^2 \pm 1$ equal a square unless t = 0 or $t = \pm 1$. But from the original Pell's equation $2 = 2t^4 - (s^2 - t^2)$ if t = 0 we have no solution for s. If $t = \pm 1$ then $s = \pm 1$ as well (or ∓ 1).

But from s = c + d it has to be positive (remember that c and d are part of a Pythagorean triple), thus s = 1, so one of c or d must be zero. From b = 2cd we have b = 0 and the original Pell's equation gets to

$$1 = (a - b)^{2} - 2b^{2}$$
$$= (a - 0)^{2} - 2 \cdot 0^{2}$$
$$\to 1 = a$$

and from $m+1=w^2=a^2-b^2$ we have m+1=1 and m=0 and from x=2m+1 we have x=1. Thus we so far had x=0 and x=1 as solutions.

Next, we tackle x = 2m + 1 odd with m odd, thus like the previous case

$$m = a^2 - b^2$$
$$m + 1 = 2ab = w^2$$

and they obey a (negative) Pell's equation just like above

$$m + 1 - m = 1 = 2ab - (a^2 - b^2)$$

= $2b^2 - (a - b)^2$

since a and b are co-prime we have either $a=2A^2$ and $b=B^2$ or $a=A^2$ and $b=2B^2$ but if it is the latter then from the Pell's equations

$$1 = 2b^{2} - (a - b)^{2}$$
$$= (2B)^{2} - (A^{2} - 2B^{2})^{2}$$

but again, the difference of two squares cannot be one unless 2B = 1 and $A^2 - 2B^2 = 0$ but this is impossible since A and B are integers, therefore $b = B^2$ and $a = 2A^2$ and we have

$$1 = 2B^4 - (A^2 - 2B^2)^2$$

again I was messing with Pell's equations again but again it was not needed, quadratic formula to the rescue! solving for B we get

$$B = \pm \sqrt{-2A^2 \pm \sqrt{8A^4 + 1}}$$

for B to be an integer we must have $8A^4 + 1$ to be a square, on the outset it is nothing more than just a Pell's equation but we can do better, borrowing the trick I used in solving $y^2 = x^3 + 1$, we do the following

$$8A^{4} + 1 = k^{2}$$

$$8A^{4} = k^{2} - 1$$

$$= (k - 1)(k + 1)$$

$$\rightarrow 8A^{4} = n(n + 2)$$

where n = k - 1. We know that gcd(n, n + 2) is at most 2 but since the LHS is $8A^4$ it must be 2:) So we need to distribute the prime factors of $8A^4$ into n and n + 2 and since gcd(n, n + 2) = 2 we must have either

$$n = 2C^4$$
 $n + 2 = 2^{4r+2}D^4$ or $n = 2^{4r+2}D^4$ $n + 2 = 2C^4$

the 2^{4r+2} is to make sure that when we multiply n and n+2 we get an overall factor 8, also from their difference n+2-n=2 we get (including the two cases)

$$\pm 2 = 2C^4 - 2^{4r+2}D^4$$

$$\to \pm 1 = C^4 - 2E^4, \qquad E^4 = 2^{4r}D^4$$

at this point we will generalize things, since we can think of $1 = 1^4$, I wanted to see if there are solutions to the following equations

$$2E^4 = C^4 + F^4$$
 and $2E^4 = C^4 - F^4$

Now, if C and F are both even, then we can cancel an overall factor of 2^4 throughout (the same with any common factor between them), and if after canceling they still contain 2 we can do the same until we reach a point where C and F are both odd and co-prime. They must be both odd because the LHS is even.

So we can just consider co-prime solutions with C and F odd. Since they are both odd

$$C + F = 2u$$
 $C - F = 2v$
 $C = u + v$ $F = u - v$

with u, v of opposite parities and co-prime since their sum (and difference) is odd and C and F are co-prime. Now tackling the first case $2E^4 = F^4 + C^4$ we get

$$2E^{4} = (u+v)^{4} + (u-v)^{4}$$

$$2E^{4} = 2(u^{4} + 6u^{2}v^{2} + v^{4})$$

$$E^{4} = (u^{2} + v^{2})^{2} + (2uv)^{2}$$

but since u and v are co-prime and of opposite parities they form a Pythagorean triple

$$(u^{2} - v^{2})^{2} + (2uv)^{2} = (u^{2} + v^{2})^{2}$$
$$(u^{2} - v^{2})^{2} = (u^{2} + v^{2})^{2} - (2uv)^{2}$$

multiplying both of them

$$(E^{2})^{2}(u^{2}-v^{2})^{2} = \left[(u^{2}+v^{2})^{2} + (2uv)^{2} \right] \left[(u^{2}+v^{2})^{2} - (2uv)^{2} \right]$$
$$\left[(E^{2})(u^{2}-v^{2}) \right]^{2} = (u^{2}+v^{2})^{4} - (2uv)^{4}$$

but we know that $Z^2 = Y^4 - X^4$ has no non-trivial solutions, the only trivial solutions are all zeroes (which we cannot have here since $Y = u^2 + v^2$), the other trivial solution Z = 1 and Y = 1 with X = 0.

This means that 2uv = 0 so either u = 0 or v = 0 or both (but we can't have both zero because we need $Y = u^2 + v^2$ to be 1). But from C = u + v and F = u - v, if one of them is zero we have $C = \pm F = \pm 1$, either way, from $2E^4 = C^4 + F^4$ we have E = 1.

And from $n = 2C^4 = 2, n + 2 = 4E^4 = 4$ (or the other way round) we get $8A^4 = n(n+2) = 8$, meaning A = 1. And from $B = \pm \sqrt{-2A^2 \pm \sqrt{8A^4 + 1}}$, we get $B = \pm 1$

which in turn means $m = a^2 - b^2 = 4A^4 - B^2 = 3$ and $m + 1 = 2ab = 4A^2B^2 = 4$, this translates to x = 2m + 1 = 7.

The other case is $2E^4 = C^4 - F^4$, again subtituting C = u + v and F = u - v

$$2E^{4} = (u+v)^{4} - (u-v)^{4}$$
$$= 8uv(u^{2} + v^{2})$$
$$\to E^{4} = 4uv(u^{2} + v^{2})$$

now u is co-prime to $u^2 + v^2$ and v is also co-prime to $u^2 + v^2$ also $u^2 + v^2$ is odd so it is also co-prime to 4, therefore 4uv is co-prime to $u^2 + v^2$, thus

$$4uv = H^4$$
$$u^2 + v^2 = I^4$$

but u and v are co-prime and of opposite parities, say v is odd, from $4uv = H^4$ we must have $v = V^4$ and from the second equation we therefore have $u^2 + (V^2)^4 = I^4$ but again $Z^2 = Y^4 - X^4$ has only trivial solutions. Again the all zero solution is out because then u = v = 0 but they must be of opposite parities.

The other trivial solution is $Y=I=1 \rightarrow v=1$ and Z=v=0 and X=u=1, this means C=u+v=1 and F=u-v=1 and $2E^4=C^4-F^4=1-1=0 \rightarrow E=0$, which means one of n or n+2 is zero, which also means $8A^4=n(n+2)=0 \rightarrow A=0$ and $B=\pm \sqrt{-2A^2\pm \sqrt{8A^4+1}}=\pm 1$. This means that $m=a^2-b^2=4A^4-B^2=-1$ and $m+1=2ab=4A^2B^2=0$ and x=2m+1=-1 and this is FINALLY our last solution LOL.

Since t = c - d