# Pell's equation

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## 1 Side and diagonal numbers

Heath [17, pp. 117–118]:

$$a_1 = 1,$$
  $d_1 = 1.$   $a_n = a_{n-1} + d_{n-1},$   $d_n = 2a_{n+1} + d_{n+1}.$ 

$$\begin{split} d_n^2 - 2a_n^2 &= 4a_{n-1}^2 + 4a_{n-1}d_{n-1} + d_{n-1}^2 - 2(a_{n-1}^2 + 2a_{n-1}d_{n-1} + d_{n-1}^2) \\ &= 4a_{n+1}^2 + 4a_{n+1}d_{n+1} + d_{n+1}^2 - 2a_{n-1}^2 - 4a_{n-1}d_{n-1} - 2d_{n-1}^2 \\ &= 2a_{n-1}^2 - d_{n-1}^2 \\ &= -(d_{n-1}^2 - 2a_{n-1}^2). \end{split}$$

As  $d_1^2 - 2a_1^2 = -1$ ,

$$d_n^2 - 2a_n^2 = (-1)^n.$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_n \\ d_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_{n-1} \\ d_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} = A \begin{pmatrix} a_{n-1} \\ d_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{n+1} \\ d_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = A^n \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

 $A = PDP^{-1}.$ 

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \sqrt{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 + \sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad P = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad P^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$A^{n} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{(1-\sqrt{2})^{n}}{2} + \frac{(1+\sqrt{2})^{n}}{2} & -\frac{(1-\sqrt{2})^{n}}{2\sqrt{2}} + \frac{(1+\sqrt{2})^{n}}{2\sqrt{2}} \\ -\frac{(1-\sqrt{2})^{n}}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{(1+\sqrt{2})^{n}}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{(1-\sqrt{2})^{n}}{2} + \frac{(1+\sqrt{2})^{n}}{2}. \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{n+1} \\ d_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \sqrt{2} \right)^n - \frac{\left( 1 - \sqrt{2} \right)^n}{2\sqrt{2}} + \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \sqrt{2} \right)^n + \frac{\left( 1 + \sqrt{2} \right)^n}{2\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \sqrt{2} \right)^n - \frac{\left( 1 - \sqrt{2} \right)^n}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \sqrt{2} \right)^n + \frac{\left( 1 + \sqrt{2} \right)^n}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_2 \\ d_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \begin{pmatrix} a_3 \\ d_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \begin{pmatrix} a_4 \\ d_4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ 17 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \begin{pmatrix} a_5 \\ d_5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 29 \\ 41 \end{pmatrix}.$$

## **Diophantus**

If  $x^2 - Ay^2 = 1$  and y = m(x+1) for rational m, then  $y^2 = m^2(x^2 + 2x + 1)$ , then  $x^2 - Am^2(x^2 + 2x + 1) = 1$ , then  $(Am^2 - 1)x^2 + 2Am^2x + Am^2 + 1 = 0$ . Write  $(x+1)(px+q) = (Am^2-1)x^2 + 2Am^2x + Am^2 + 1$ . Then  $px^2 + (p+q)x + q =$  $(Am^2 - 1)x^2 + 2Am^2x + Am^2 + 1$ . Then  $p = Am^2 - 1$ ,  $q = Am^2 + 1$ , and so  $p + q = Am^2 - 1 + Am^2 + 1 = 2Am^2$ . Thus if  $x \neq -1$  then px + q = 0 and hence  $(Am^2 - 1)x + Am^2 + 1 = 0$ . Hence  $(Am^2 - 1)x = -(Am^2 + 1)$  and so  $x = -\frac{Am^2+1}{4m^2-1}$ . Thus

$$y=m(x+1)=m\left(-\frac{Am^2+1}{Am^2-1}+1\right)\frac{m}{Am^2-1}(-Am^2-1+Am^2-1)=\frac{-2m}{Am^2-1}.$$

Therefore for rational m,

$$x = -\frac{Am^2 + 1}{Am^2 - 1}, \qquad y = \frac{-2m}{Am^2 - 1}$$

satisfy  $x^2-Ay^2=1$ . cf. Heath [17, pp. 68–69], Nesselmann [24, p. 331]. Diophantus V.11:  $30x^2+1=y^2$ . Say y=5x+1.  $y^2=25x^2+10x+1$ . Then  $5x^2 - 10x = 0$ , so x = 0 or 5x - 10 = 0, i.e. x = 0 or x = 2. Hence x = 0, y = 1and x = 2, y = 11 satisfy  $30x^2 + 1 = y^2$ .

Diophantus V.14 [17, pp. 211–212].  $34y^2 + 1 = x^2$ . Say x = 6y - 1.  $x^2 = 6y - 1$ .  $36y^2 - 12y + 1$ . Then  $2y^2 - 12y = 0$ , i.e. y(y - 6) = 0 so y = 0 or y = 6. Then x = -1, y = 0 and x = 35, y = 6 satisfy  $34y^{2} + 1 = x^{2}$ .

#### 3 Fermat

Fermat, February 1657 [31, p. 29]:

Given any number not a square, then there are an infinite number of squares which, when multiplied by the given number, make a square when unity is added.

Example. Given 3, a nonsquare number; this number multiplied by the square number 1, and 1 being added, produces 4, which is a square.

Moreover, the same 3 multiplied by the square 16, with 1 added makes 49, which is a square.

And instead of 1 and 16, an infinite number of squares may be found showing the same property; I demand, however, a general rule, any number being given which is not a square.

It is sought, for example, to find a square which when multiplied into 149, 109, 433, etc., becomes a square when unity is added.

## 4 Wallis

Wallis [1, p. 546]. Stedall [29]

## 5 Brouncker

Weil [32, pp. 92-99].

### 6 Ozanam

Ozanam [25, pp. 503-516], Liv. III, Quest. XXVI.

## 7 Continued fractions

Let

$$[a_0, a_1] = a_0 + \frac{1}{a_1}$$

and

$$[a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}, a_n] = \left[a_0, \dots, a_{n-2}, a_{n-1} + \frac{1}{a_n}\right].$$

Then for  $1 \leq m < n$ ,

$$[a_0, \dots, a_n] = [a_0, \dots, a_{m-1}, [a_m, \dots, a_n]].$$

Define

$$p_0 = a_0, \qquad q_0 = 1, \qquad p_1 = a_1 a_0 + 1, \qquad q_1 = a_1$$

and for  $n \geq 2$ ,

$$p_n = a_n p_{n-1} + p_{n-2}, \qquad q_n = a_n q_{n-1} + q_{n-2}.$$

Hardy and Wright [13, p. 130, Theorem 149]. For  $n \ge 0$ ,

$$[a_0,\ldots,a_n]=\frac{p_n}{q_n}.$$

For  $n \geq 1$ ,

$$p_n q_{n-1} - p_{n-1} q_n = (-1)^{n-1}.$$

For  $n \geq 2$ ,

$$p_n q_{n-2} - p_{n-2} q_n = (-1)^n a_n.$$

For  $n \geq 0$  let

$$a'_{n} = [a_{n}, a_{n+1}, \ldots].$$

For  $x = [a_0, a_1, \ldots],$ 

$$x = \frac{a'_n p_{n-1} + p_{n-2}}{a'_n q_{n-1} + q_{n-2}}, \qquad n \ge 2.$$

Hardy and Wright [13, p. 144, Theorem 176]. A continued fraction  $[a_0, a_1, \ldots]$  is said to be **periodic** if there is some  $L \geq 0$  and some  $k \geq 1$  such that  $a_{l+k} = a_l$  for all  $l \geq L$ .

**Theorem 1.** If  $x = [a_0, a_1, \ldots]$  is a periodic continued fraction, then x is a quadratic surd.

Proof. Let

$$\overline{a_L, \dots, a_{L+k-1}} = [a_L, a_{L+1}, \dots] = a'_L.$$

Thus

$$[a_0, \dots, a_{L-1}, a_L, a_{L+1}, \dots] = [a_0, \dots, a_{L-1}, a'_L]$$
$$= [a_0, \dots, a_{L-1}, \overline{a_L}, \dots, \overline{a_{L+k-1}}].$$

As  $a_{L+k} = a_L, a_{L+k+1} = a_{L+1}, ...,$ 

$$a'_{L} = [a_{L}, a_{L+1}, \dots]$$

$$= [a_{L}, a_{L+1}, \dots, a_{L+k-1}, a_{L}, a_{L+1}, \dots]$$

$$= [a_{L}, a_{L+1}, \dots, a_{L+k-1}, a'_{L}].$$

Let

$$\frac{p'}{a'} = [a_L, a_{L+1}, \dots, a_{L+k-1}], \qquad \frac{p''}{a''} = [a_L, a_{L+1}, \dots, a_{L+k-2}].$$

For  $t = [a_L, a_{L+1}, \dots, a_{L+k-1}, a'_L]$ 

$$t = \frac{a'_L p' + p''}{a'_I q' + q''} = \frac{p't + p''}{q't + q''}.$$

Hence  $q't^2 + q''t = p't + p''$ , so  $q't^2 + (q'' - p')t - p'' = 0$ . For  $x = [a_0, a_1, \ldots]$ ,

$$x = \frac{a'_L p_{L-1} + p_{L-2}}{a'_L q_{L-1} + q_{L-2}}.$$

Then

$$a_L' = \frac{p_{L-2} - q_{L-2}x}{q_{L-1}x - p_{L-1}}.$$

Thus, with  $t = a'_L$ ,

$$q'\left(\frac{p_{L-2}-q_{L-2}x}{q_{L-1}x-p_{L-1}}\right)^2+(q''-p')\frac{p_{L-2}-q_{L-2}x}{q_{L-1}x-p_{L-1}}-p''=0.$$

Then

$$q'(p_{L-2}-q_{L-2}x)^2+(q''-p')(p_{L-2}-q_{L-2}x)(q_{L-1}x-p_{L-1})-p''(q_{L-1}x-p_{L-1})^2=0.$$

Therefore there are integers a, b, c such that

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0.$$

This means that x is a quadratic surd, as x is irrational.

**Example.** Say  $x = [3, 2, 7, 4, \overline{5, 1, 12}]$ . L = 4, k = 3.

$$\frac{p'}{q'} = [5, 1, 12] = \frac{77}{13}, \qquad \frac{p''}{q''} = [5, 1] = \frac{6}{1}.$$

$$\frac{p_{L-1}}{q_{L-1}} = \frac{p_3}{q_3} = [3, 2, 7, 4] = \frac{215}{62}, \qquad \frac{p_{L-2}}{q_{L-2}} = \frac{p_2}{q_2} = [3, 2, 7] = \frac{52}{15}.$$

Then

$$q'(p_{L-2} - q_{L-2}x)^2 + (q'' - p')(p_{L-2} - q_{L-2}x)(q_{L-1}x - p_{L-1}) - p''(q_{L-1}x - p_{L-1})^2$$

$$= 13(52 - 15x)^2 + (1 - 77)(52 - 15x)(62x - 215) - 6(62x - 215)^2$$

$$= 50541x^2 - 350444x + 607482.$$

Hence  $x = [3, 2, 7, 4, \overline{5, 1, 12}]$  satisfies

$$50541x^2 - 350444x + 607482 = 0.$$

In fact,

$$x = \frac{175222 + \sqrt{1522}}{50541}.$$

Hardy and Wright [13, p. 144, Theorem 177].

**Theorem 2.** If x is a quadratic surd, then the continued fraction of x is periodic.

**Example.** Say  $x^2 = 218$ .  $14^2 = 196$ .

$$\sqrt{218} = 14 + \sqrt{218} - 14 = 14 + \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{218} - 14}}.$$

$$(\sqrt{218} - 14)(\sqrt{218} + 14) = 218 - 196 = 22, \qquad \frac{1}{\sqrt{218} - 14} = \frac{\sqrt{218} + 14}{22}.$$

We do not need to compute the decimal expansion of  $\sqrt{218}$ ; we merely have to calculate  $\lfloor \frac{\sqrt{218}+14}{22} \rfloor$ . Using  $14 < \sqrt{218} < 15$ ,

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{218}-14}=1+\frac{\sqrt{218}+14}{22}-1=1+\frac{\sqrt{218}-8}{22}.$$

Then

$$\sqrt{218} = 14 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{\sqrt{218} - 8}{22}} = 14 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{\frac{22}{\sqrt{218} - 8}}}$$

$$(\sqrt{218} - 8)(\sqrt{218} + 8) = 218 - 64 = 154,$$
  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{218} - 8} = \frac{\sqrt{218} + 8}{154}.$ 

Then

$$\frac{22}{\sqrt{218} - 8} = \frac{22\sqrt{218} + 176}{154}.$$

Using that  $14 < \sqrt{218} < 15$ ,

$$\frac{22}{\sqrt{218} - 8} = 3 + \frac{22\sqrt{218} + 176}{154} - 3 = 3 + \frac{22\sqrt{218} - 286}{154}.$$

Then

$$\sqrt{218} = 14 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{3 + \frac{22\sqrt{218} - 286}{154}}} = 14 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{3 + \frac{1}{\frac{154}{22\sqrt{218} - 286}}}}.$$

$$(22\sqrt{218} - 286)(22\sqrt{218} + 286) = 22^{2} \cdot 218 - 286^{2} = 23716,$$

$$\frac{1}{22\sqrt{218} - 286} = \frac{22\sqrt{218} + 286}{23716}.$$

$$\frac{154}{22\sqrt{218} - 286} = \frac{3388\sqrt{218} + 44044}{23716}.$$

Using  $14 < \sqrt{218} < 15$ ,

$$\frac{154}{22\sqrt{218}-286} = 3 + \frac{3388\sqrt{218} + 44044}{23716} - 3 = 3 + \frac{3388\sqrt{218} - 27104}{23716}.$$

Then

$$\sqrt{218} = 14 + \cfrac{1}{1 + \cfrac{1}{3 + \cfrac{1}{388\sqrt{218} - 27104}}} = 14 + \cfrac{1}{1 + \cfrac{1}{3 + \cfrac{1}{3 + \cfrac{1}{23716}}}}.$$

 $(3388\sqrt{218} - 27104)(3388\sqrt{218} + 27104) = 3388^2 \cdot 218 - 27104^2 = 1767695776,$ 

$$\frac{1}{3388\sqrt{218}-27104} = \frac{3388\sqrt{218}+27104}{1767695776}.$$
 
$$\frac{23716}{3388\sqrt{218}-27104} = 23716 \cdot \frac{3388\sqrt{218}+27104}{1767695776}.$$

Using  $14 < \sqrt{218} < 15$ ,

$$\begin{split} \frac{23716}{3388\sqrt{218}-27104} &= 1 + 23716 \cdot \frac{3388\sqrt{218} + 27104}{1767695776} - 1 \\ &= 1 + \frac{80349808\sqrt{218} - 1124897312}{1767695776}. \end{split}$$

Then

$$\sqrt{218} = 14 + \cfrac{1}{1 + \cfrac{1}{3 + \cfrac{1}{1 + \cfrac{80349808\sqrt{218} - 1124897312}}}} \\ = 14 + \cfrac{1}{1 + \cfrac{1}{1 + \cfrac{1}{3 + \cfrac{1}{1 + \cfrac{1}{3 + \cfrac{1}{1 + \cfrac{1}{1767695776}}}}}} \\ = \frac{1}{1 + \cfrac{1}{3 + \cfrac{1}{1 + \cfrac{1}{1767695776}}}} \\ = \frac{1}{3 + \cfrac{1}{1 + \cfrac{1}{1767695776}}} \\ = \frac{1}{80349808\sqrt{218} - 1124897312}$$

 $(80349808\sqrt{218} - 1124897312)(80349808\sqrt{218} + 1124897312) = 142034016204011008.$ 

$$\frac{1767695776}{80349808\sqrt{218} - 1124897312} = 1767695776 \cdot \frac{80349808\sqrt{218} + 1124897312}{142034016204011008}$$

Using  $14 < \sqrt{218} < 15$ , the floor of the above quantity is 28. Hence

$$\frac{1767695776}{80349808\sqrt{218} - 1124897312} = 28 + \frac{142034016204011008\sqrt{218} - 1988476226856154112}{142034016204011008} \\ = 28 + \sqrt{218} - 14.$$

Then

$$\sqrt{218} = 14 + \cfrac{1}{1 + \cfrac{1}{3 + \cfrac{1}{1 + \cfrac{1}{1 + \cfrac{1}{28 + \sqrt{218} - 14}}}}}$$

Thus for  $x = \sqrt{218}$ ,

$$x - 14 = \cfrac{1}{1 + \cfrac{1}{3 + \cfrac{1}{1 + \cfrac{1}{1 + \cfrac{1}{28 + x - 14}}}}}.$$

Thus for t = x - 14,

$$t = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{3 + \frac{1}{3 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{28 + t}}}}}.$$

Therefore  $t = [0, \overline{1, 3, 3, 1, 28}]$ . Hence  $x = 14 + t = [14, \overline{1, 3, 3, 1, 28}]$ :

$$\sqrt{218} = [14, \overline{1, 3, 3, 1, 28}].$$

## 8 Euler

Euler, Algebra [10], Part II, Chapter VII.

# 9 Lagrange

Konen [20, pp. 75–77].

### 10 Chakravala

Hankel [12, pp. 200–203]

Strachey [30, pp. 36–53]. Dickson [5, pp. 349–350].

Colebrooke [3, pp. 170-184]

Colebrooke [3, pp. 363–372]

Datta and Singh [4, II, pp. 93–99]

Datta and Singh [4, II, pp. 146–161]

Datta and Singh [4, II, pp. 161–172]

Suppose that  $p_n, q_n$  are relatively prime and

$$Aq_n^2 + s_n = p_n^2.$$

If d is a common factor of  $q_n$  and  $s_n$  then  $d \mid p_n^2$ , so d is a common factor of  $p_n^2$  and  $q_n^2$ , which implies that  $p_n$  and  $q_n$  have a common factor, a contradiction.

Therefore  $q_n$  and  $s_n$  are relatively prime. Because  $q_n$  and  $s_n$  are relatively prime, by the Kuttaka algorithm there are some  $\rho_n, \rho'_n$  satisfying  $-q_n\rho_n + s_n\rho'_n = p_n$ . For  $r_n = \rho_n + k_n s_n$ ,  $r'_n = \rho'_n + k_n q_n$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} -q_n r_n + s_n r'_n &= -q_n (\rho_n + k_n s_n) + s_n (\rho'_n + k_n q_n) \\ &= -q_n \rho_n - k_n q_n s_n + s_n \rho'_n + k_n q_n s_n \\ &= -q_n \rho_n + s_n \rho'_n \\ &= p_n. \end{aligned}$$

Take  $r_n < \sqrt{A} < r_n + |s_n|$ .  $r'_n = \frac{p_n + q_n r_n}{s_n}$ . Let

$$q_{n+1} = r'_n, p_{n+1} = \frac{p_n q_{n+1} - 1}{q_n}, s_{n+1} = p_{n+1}^2 - A q_{n+1}^2.$$

**Example.**  $69y^2 + 1 = x^2$ . A = 69.

$$Aq_0^2 + s_0 = p_0^2$$
:  $p_0 = 8, q_0 = 1, s_0 = -5$ .

 $p_0 + q_0 \rho_0 = \rho'_0 s_0$  is equivalent to  $8 + \rho_0 = -5\rho'_0$ . It is satisfied by  $\rho_0 = -8$ ,  $\rho'_0 = 0$ . Take  $r_0 = -8 - 5k_0 = 7$ .  $r'_0 = \frac{p_0 + q_0 r_0}{s_0} = \frac{8 + 1 \cdot 7}{-5} = -3$ .  $q_1 = -3$ .

$$p_1 = \frac{p_0 q_1 - 1}{q_0} = \frac{8 \cdot -3 - 1}{1} = -25.$$

$$s_1 = p_1^2 - Aq_1^2 = 4.$$

 $p_1 + q_1 \rho_1 = \rho_1' s_1$  is equivalent to  $-25 - 3\rho_1 = 4\rho_1'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_1 = 1, \rho_1' = -7$ . Take  $r_1 = 1 + 4k_1 = 5$ . Then  $r_1' = \frac{p_1 + q_1 r_1}{s_1} = \frac{-25 - 3 \cdot 5}{4} = -10$ .  $q_2 = -10$ .

$$p_2 = \frac{p_1 q_2 - 1}{q_1} = \frac{-25 \cdot -10 - 1}{-3} = -83.$$

$$s_2 = p_2^2 - Aq_2^2 = -11.$$

 $p_2 + q_2\rho_2 = \rho_2's_2$  is equivalent to  $-83 - 10\rho_2 = -11\rho_2'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_2 = 6$ ,  $\rho_2' = 13$ . Take  $r_2 = 6 - 11k_2 = 6$ . Then  $r_2' = \frac{p_2 + q_2r_2}{s_2} = \frac{-83 - 10 \cdot 6}{-11} = 13$ .  $q_3 = 13$ .

$$p_3 = \frac{p_2 q_3 - 1}{q_2} = \frac{-83 \cdot 13 - 1}{-10} = 108.$$

$$s_3 = p_3^2 - Aq_3^2 = 3.$$

 $p_3 + q_3 \rho_3 = \rho_3' s_3$  is equivalent to  $108 + 13 \rho_3 = 3 \rho_3'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_3 = 0, \rho_3' = 36$ . Take  $r_3 = 36 + 3k_3 = 6$ . Then  $r_3' = \frac{p_3 + q_3 r_3}{s_3} = \frac{108 + 13 \cdot 6}{3} = 62$ .  $q_4 = 62$ .

$$p_4 = \frac{p_3 q_4 - 1}{q_3} = \frac{108 \cdot 62 - 1}{13} = 515.$$

$$s_4 = p_4^2 - Aq_4^2 = -11.$$

 $p_4 + q_4 \rho_4 = \rho_4' s_4$  is equivalent to  $515 + 62 \rho_4 = -11 \rho_4'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_4 = 5, \rho_4' = -75$ . Take  $r_4 = 5 - 11 k_4 = 5$ . Then  $r_4' = \frac{p_4 + q_4 r_4}{s_4} = \frac{515 + 62 \cdot 5}{-11} = -75$ .

$$q_5 = -75.$$

$$p_5 = \frac{p_4 q_5 - 1}{q_4} = \frac{515 \cdot -75 - 1}{62} = -623.$$

$$s_5 = p_5^2 - Aq_5^2 = 4.$$

 $p_5 + q_5\rho_5 = \rho_5's_5$  is equivalent to  $-623 - 75\rho_5 = 4\rho_5'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_5 = 3, \rho_5' = -212.$  Take  $r_5 = 3 + 4k_5 = 7.$  Then  $r_5' = \frac{p_5 + q_5 r_5}{s_5} = \frac{-623 - 75 \cdot 7}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$ 

 $q_6 = -287.$ 

$$p_6 = \frac{p_5 q_6 - 1}{q_5} = \frac{-623 \cdot -287 - 1}{-75} = -2384.$$

$$s_6 = p_6^2 - Aq_6^2 = -5.$$

 $p_6 + q_6 \rho_6 = \rho_6' s_6$  is equivalent to  $-2384 - 287 \rho_6 = -5 \rho_6'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_6 = 3, \rho_6' = 649$ . Take  $r_6 = 3 - 5k = 8$ . Then  $r_6' = \frac{p_6 + q_6 r_6}{s_6} = \frac{-2384 - 287 \cdot 8}{-5} = 936$ .  $q_7 = 936.$ 

$$p_7 = \frac{p_6 q_7 - 1}{q_6} = \frac{-2384 \cdot 936 - 1}{-287} = 7775.$$

$$s_7 = p_7^2 - Aq_7^2 = 1.$$

Therefore

$$7775^2 - 69 \cdot 936^2 = 1.$$

Thus  $\sqrt{69} \sim \frac{7775}{936}$ . **Example.**  $91y^2 + 1 = x^2$ . A = 91.

 $Aq_0^2 + s_0 = p_0^2$ :  $p_0 = 10$ ,  $q_0 = 1$ ,  $s_0 = 9$ .

 $p_0 + q_0 \rho_0 = \rho_0' s_0$  is equivalent to  $10 + \rho_0 = 9\rho_0'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_0 = -10$ ,  $\rho_0' = 0$ . Take  $r_0 = -10 + 9k_0 = 8$ . Then  $r_0' = \frac{p_0 + q_0 r_0}{s_0} = \frac{10 + 1 \cdot 8}{9} = 2$ .  $q_1 = 2$ .

$$p_1 = \frac{p_0 q_1 - 1}{q_0} = \frac{10 \cdot 2 - 1}{1} = 19.$$

$$s_1 = p_1^2 - Aq_1^2 = -3.$$

 $p_1 + q_1 \rho_1 = \rho_1' s_1$  is equivalent with  $19 + 2\rho_1 = -3\rho_1'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_1 = 1, \rho_1' = -7$ . Take  $r_1 = 1 - 3k_1 = 7$ . Then  $r_1' = \frac{p_1 + q_1 r_1}{s_1} = \frac{19 + 2 \cdot 7}{-3} = -11$ .  $q_2 = -11.$ 

$$p_2 = \frac{p_1 q_2 - 1}{q_1} = \frac{19 \cdot -11 - 1}{2} = -105.$$

$$s_2 = p_2^2 - Aq_2^2 = 14.$$

 $p_2 + q_2\rho_2 = \rho_2's_2$  is equivalent with  $-105 - 11\rho_2 = 14\rho_2'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_2 = 7, \rho'_2 = -13$ . Take  $r_2 = 7, r'_2 = -13$ .

 $q_3 = -13$ .

$$p_3 = \frac{p_2 q_3 - 1}{q_2} = \frac{-105 \cdot -13 - 1}{-11} = -124.$$

$$s_3 = p_3^2 - Aq_3^2 = -3.$$

 $p_3+q_3\rho_3=
ho_3's_3$  is equivalent with  $-124-13
ho_3=-3
ho_3'$ . This is satisfied by  $ho_3=2, 
ho_3'=50$ . Take  $r_3=2-3k_3=8$ . Then  $r_3'=rac{p_3+q_3r_3}{s_3}=rac{-124-13\cdot 8}{-3}=76$ .  $q_4 = 76.$ 

$$p_4 = \frac{p_3 q_4 - 1}{q_3} = \frac{-124 \cdot 76 - 1}{-13} = 725.$$

$$s_4 = p_4^2 - Aq_4^2 = 9.$$

 $p_4 + q_4\rho_4 = \rho_4's_4$  is equivalent with  $725 + 76\rho_4 = 9\rho_4'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_4 = 1, \rho'_4 = 89.$  Take  $r_4 = 1, r'_4 = 89.$  $q_5 = 89.$ 

$$p_5 = \frac{p_4 q_5 - 1}{q_4} = \frac{725 \cdot 89 - 1}{76} = 849.$$

$$s_5 = p_5^2 - Aq_5^2 = -10.$$

 $p_5 + q_5\rho_5 = \rho_5's_5$  is equivalent with  $849 + 89\rho_5 = -10\rho_5'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_5 = 9, \rho_5' = -165$ . Take  $r_5 = 9, r_5' = -165$ .  $q_6 = -165.$ 

$$p_6 = \frac{p_5 q_6 - 1}{q_5} = \frac{849 \cdot -165 - 1}{89} = -1574.$$

$$s_6 = p_6^2 - Aq_6^2 = 1.$$

Therefore

$$1574^2 - 91 \cdot 165^2 = 1.$$

Thus  $\sqrt{91} \sim \frac{1574}{165}$ . **Example.**  $109y^2 + 1 = x^2$ . A = 109.

 $Ay_0^2 + s_0 = x_0^2$ :  $x_0 = 10, y_0 = 1, s_0 = -9$ .

 $x_0 + y_0 \rho_0 = s_0 \rho'_0$  is equivalent to  $10 + \rho_0 = -9 \rho'_0$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_0 = -10$ ,  $\rho'_0 = 0$ . Take  $r_0 = -10 + 9k_0 = 8$ . Then  $r'_0 = \frac{x_0 + y_0 r_0}{s_0} = \frac{10 + 1 \cdot 8}{-9} = -2$ .  $y_1 = -2$ .

$$x_1 = \frac{x_0 y_1 - 1}{y_0} = \frac{10 \cdot -2 - 1}{1} = -21.$$

$$s_1 = x_1^2 - Ay_1^2 = 5.$$

 $x_1 + y_1 \rho_1 = \rho_1' s_1$  is equivalent with  $-21 - 2\rho_1 = 5\rho_1'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_1 = 2, \rho_1' = -5$ . Take  $r_1 = 2 + 5k_1 = 7$ . Then  $r_1' = \frac{x_1 + y_1 r_1}{s_1} = \frac{-21 - 2 \cdot 7}{5} = -7$ .

$$x_2 = \frac{x_1 y_2 - 1}{y_1} = \frac{-21 \cdot -7 - 1}{-2} = -73.$$

$$s_2 = x_2^2 - Ay_2^2 = -12.$$

 $x_2 + y_2\rho_2 = \rho_2's_2$  is equivalent with  $-73 - 7\rho_2 = -12\rho_1'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_2 = 5, \rho_2' = 9.$  Take  $r_2 = 5, r_2' = 9.$  $y_3 = 9$ .

$$x_3 = \frac{x_2y_3 - 1}{y_2} = \frac{-73 \cdot 9 - 1}{-7} = 94.$$

$$s_3 = x_3^2 - Ay_3^2 = 7.$$

 $x_3 + y_3 \rho_3 = \rho_3' s_3$  is equivalent with  $94 + 9\rho_3 = 7\rho_3'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_3 = 2, \rho_3' = 16$ . Take  $r_3 = 2 + 7k_3 = 9$ . Then  $r_3' = \frac{x_3 + y_3 r_3}{s_3} = \frac{94 + 9 \cdot 9}{7} = 25$ .  $y_4 = 25$ .

$$x_4 = \frac{x_3y_4 - 1}{y_3} = \frac{94 \cdot 25 - 1}{9} = 261.$$

$$s_4 = x_4^2 - Ay_4^2 = -4.$$

 $x_4 + y_4 \rho_4 = \rho_4' s_4$  is equivalent with  $261 + 25 \rho_4 = -4 \rho_4'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_4 = 3, \rho_4' = -84$ . Take  $r_4 = 3 - 4k_4 = 7$ . Then  $r_4' = \frac{x_4 + y_4 r_4}{s_4} = \frac{261 + 25 \cdot 7}{-4} = -109$ 

 $y_5 = -109.$ 

$$x_5 = \frac{x_4 y_5 - 1}{y_4} = \frac{261 \cdot -109 - 1}{25} = -1138.$$

$$s_5 = x_5^2 - Ay_5^2 = 15.$$

 $x_5 + y_5 \rho_5 = \rho_5' s_5$  is equivalent with  $-1138 - 109 \rho_5 = 15 \rho_5'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_5 = 8, \rho_5' = -134$ . Take  $r_5 = 8, r_5' = -134$ .  $y_6 = -134$ .

$$x_6 = \frac{x_5 y_6 - 1}{y_5} = \frac{-1138 \cdot -134 - 1}{-109} = -1399.$$

$$s_6 = x_6^2 - Ay_6^2 = -3.$$

 $x_6+y_6\rho_6=\rho_6's_6$  is equivalent with  $-1399-134\rho_6=-3\rho_6'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_6=1,\rho_6'=511$ . Take  $r_6=1-3k_6=10$ . Then  $r_6'=\frac{x_6+y_6r_6}{s_6}=\frac{-1399-134\cdot 10}{-3}=913$ .

 $y_7 = 913.$ 

$$x_7 = \frac{x_6 y_7 - 1}{y_6} = \frac{-1399 \cdot 913 - 1}{-134} = 9532.$$
$$s_7 = x_7^2 - Ay_7^2 = 3.$$

 $x_7 + y_7 \rho_7 = \rho_7' s_7$  is equivalent with  $9532 + 913 \rho_7 = 3\rho_7'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_7 = 2, \rho_7' = 3786$ . Take  $r_7 = 2 + 3k_7 = 8$ . Then  $r_7' = \frac{x_7 + y_7 r_7}{s_7} = \frac{9532 + 913 \cdot 8}{3} = 5612$ .

 $y_8 = 5612.$ 

$$x_8 = \frac{x_7 y_8 - 1}{y_7} = \frac{9532 \cdot 5612 - 1}{913} = 58591.$$

$$s_8 = x_8^2 - Ay_8^2 = -15.$$

 $x_8+y_8\rho_8=\rho_8's_8$  is equivalent with  $58591+5612\rho_8=-15\rho_8'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_8=7, \rho_7'=-6525$ . Take  $r_8=7, r_8'=-6525$ .

$$y_9 = -6525.$$

$$x_9 = \frac{x_8 y_9 - 1}{y_8} = \frac{58591 \cdot -6525 - 1}{5612} = -68123.$$

$$s_9 = x_9^2 - Ay_9^2 = 4.$$

 $x_9 + y_9 \rho_9 = \rho_9' s_9$  is equivalent with  $-68123 - 6525 \rho_9 = 4 \rho_9'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_9 = 1, \rho'_9 = -18662$ . Take  $r_9 = 1 + 4k_9 = 9$ . Then  $r'_9 = \frac{x_9 + y_9 r_9}{s_9} = 1$  $\frac{-68123 - 6525 \cdot 9}{4} = -31712.$ 

 $y_{10} = -31712.$ 

$$x_{10} = \frac{x_9 y_{10} - 1}{y_9} = \frac{-68123 \cdot (-31712) - 1}{-6525} = -331083.$$

$$s_{10} = x_{10}^2 - Ay_{10}^2 = -7.$$

 $x_{10} + y_{10}\rho_{10} = \rho'_{10}s_{10}$  is equivalent with  $-331083 - 31712\rho_{10} = -7\rho'_{10}$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_{10} = 5$ ,  $\rho'_{10} = 69949$ . Take  $r_{10} = 5$ ,  $r'_{10} = 69949$ .  $y_{11} = 69949.$ 

$$x_{11} = \frac{x_{10}y_{11} - 1}{y_{10}} = \frac{-331083 \cdot 69949 - 1}{-31712} = 730289.$$

$$s_{11} = x_{11}^2 - Ay_{11}^2 = 12.$$

 $x_{11} + y_{11}\rho_{11} = \rho'_{11}s_{11}$  is equivalent with  $730289 + 69949\rho_{11} = 12\rho'_{11}$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_{11} = 7$ ,  $\rho'_{11} = 101661$ . Take  $r_{11} = 5$ ,  $r'_{10} = 101661$ .  $y_{12} = 101661.$ 

$$x_{12} = \frac{x_{11}y_{12} - 1}{y_{11}} = \frac{730289 \cdot 101661 - 1}{69949} = 1061372.$$

$$s_{12} = x_{12}^2 - Ay_{12}^2 = -5.$$

 $x_{12} + y_{12}\rho_{12} = \rho'_{12}s_{12}$  is equivalent with  $1061372 + 101661\rho_{12} = -5\rho'_{12}$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_{12}=3, \rho'_{12}=-273271$ . Take  $r_{12}=3-5k_{12}=8$ . Then  $r'_{12}=\frac{x_{12}+y_{12}r_{12}}{s_{12}}=\frac{1061372+101661\cdot 8}{-5}=-374932$ .  $y_{13}=-374932$ .

$$x_{13} = \frac{x_{12}y_{13} - 1}{y_{12}} = \frac{1061372 \cdot (-374932) - 1}{101661} = -3914405.$$

$$s_{13} = x_{13}^2 - Ay_{13}^2 = 9.$$

 $x_{13} + y_{13}\rho_{13} = \rho'_{13}s_{13}$  is equivalent with  $-3914405 - 374932\rho_{13} = 9\rho'_{13}$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_{13}=1$ ,  $\rho'_{13}=3$  and  $\rho'_{13}=3$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_{13}=1$ ,  $\rho'_{13}=-476593$ . Take  $r_{13}=1+9k_{13}=10$ . Then  $r'_{13}=\frac{x_{13}+y_{13}r_{13}}{s_{13}}=\frac{-3914405-374932\cdot 10}{9}=-851525$ .  $y_{14}=-851525$ .

$$y_{14} = -851525.$$

$$x_{14} = \frac{x_{13}y_{14} - 1}{y_{13}} = \frac{-3914405 \cdot (-851525) - 1}{-374932} = -8890182.$$

$$s_{14} = x_{14}^2 - Ay_{14}^2 = -1.$$

 $x_{14}+y_{14}\rho_{14}=\rho_{14}'s_{14}$  is equivalent with  $-8890182-851525\rho_{14}=-\rho_{14}'$ . This is satisfied by  $\rho_{14}=0, \rho_{14}'=8890182$ . Take  $r_{14}=-k_{14}=10$ . Then  $r_{14}'=\frac{x_{14}+y_{14}r_{14}}{s_{14}}=\frac{-8890182-851525\cdot 10}{-1}=17405432$ .  $y_{15}=17405432$ .

$$x_{15} = \frac{x_{14}y_{15} - 1}{y_{14}} = \frac{-8890182 \cdot 17405432 - 1}{-851525} = 181718045.$$

$$s_{15} = x_{15}^2 - Ay_{15}^2 = 9.$$

 $r_{15} = 8, r'_{15} = 35662389.$ 

 $y_{16} = 35662389.$ 

$$x_{16} = \frac{x_{15}y_{16} - 1}{y_{15}} = \frac{35662389 \cdot 35662389 - 1}{17405432} = 372326272.$$

$$s_{16} = x_{16}^2 - Ay_{16}^2 = -5.$$

 $\rho_{16} = 2, \rho'_2 = -88730210.$   $r_{16} = 2 - 5k_{16} = 7.$  Then  $r'_{16} = -124392599.$  $y_{17} = -124392599.$ 

$$x_{17} = -1298696861.$$

$$s_{17} = 12.$$

 $r_{18} = 5, r'_{18} = -160054988.$ 

 $y_{18} = -160054988.$ 

$$x_{18} = -1671023133.$$

$$s_{18} = -7.$$

 $\rho_{19} = 2, \rho'_{19} = 284447587$ . Take  $r_{19} = 2 - 7k_{19} = 9$ . Then  $r'_{19} = 444502575$ .  $y_{19} = 444502575.$ 

$$x_{19} = 4640743127.$$

$$s_{19} = 4$$
.

 $\rho_{20} = 3, \rho'_{20} = 1493562713.$  Take  $r_{20} = 3 + 4k_{20} = 7.$  Then  $r'_{20} =$ 1938065288.

 $y_{20} = 1938065288.$ 

$$x_{20} = 20233995641.$$

$$s_{20} = -15.$$

 $r_{21} = 8, r'_{21} = -2382567863.$ 

 $y_{21} = -2382567863.$ 

$$x_{21} = -24874738768.$$

$$s_{21} = 3.$$

 $\rho_{22} = 1, \rho'_{22} = -9085768877$ . Take  $r_{22} = 1 + 3k_{22} = 10$ . Then  $r'_{22} =$ -16233472466.

 $y_{22} = -16233472466.$ 

 $x_{22} = . - 169482428249.$ 

 $s_{22} = -3.$ 

 $\rho_{23}=2, \rho'_{23}=67316457727.$  Take  $r_{23}=2-3k_{23}=8.$  Then  $r'_{23}=99783402659.$ 

 $y_{23} = 99783402659.$ 

 $x_{23} = 1041769308262.$ 

 $s_{23} = 15.$ 

 $r_{24} = 7, r'_{24} = 116016875125.$ 

 $y_{24} = 116016875125.$ 

 $x_{24} = 1211251736511.$ 

 $s_{24} = -4$ .

 $\rho_{25} = 1, \rho'_{25} = -331817152909.$  Take  $r_{25} = 1 - 4k_{25} = 9$ . Then  $r'_{25} = -563850903159$ .

 $y_{25} = -563850903159.$ 

 $x_{25} = . - 5886776254306.$ 

 $s_{25} = 7.$ 

 $r_{26} = 5, r'_{26} = -1243718681443.$ 

 $y_{26} = -1243718681443.$ 

 $x_{26} = -12984804245123.$ 

 $s_{26} = . - 12.$ 

 $r_{27} = 7, r'_{27} = 1807569584602.$ 

 $y_{27} = 1807569584602.$ 

 $x_{27} = 18871580499429.$ 

 $s_{27} = 5.$ 

 $\rho_{28} = 3, \rho'_{28} = 4858857850647.$  Take  $r_{28} = 3 + 5k_{28} = 8$ . Then  $r'_{28} = 6666427435249$ .

 $y_{28} = 6666427435249.$ 

 $x_{28} = 69599545743410.$ 

 $s_{28} = -9.$ 

 $\rho_{29} = 1, \rho'_{29} = -8473997019851.$  Take  $r_{29} = 1 + 9k_{29} = 10$ . Then  $r'_{29} = -15140424455100$ .

 $y_{29} = -15140424455100.$ 

 $x_{29} = -158070671986249.$ 

 $s_{29} = 1.$ 

Therefore

 $158070671986249^2 - 109 \cdot 15140424455100^2 = 1.$ 

Thus  $\sqrt{109} \sim \frac{158070671986249}{15140424455100}$ 

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