

Delineation of Integer Solutions to Homogeneous Bi-quadratic Equation with Four Unknowns

$$x^4 + y^4 + z^4 = 18w^4$$

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Abstract

The main thrust of this paper is to search for various choices of integer solutions to the homogeneous bi-quadratic equation with four unknowns given by $x^4 + y^4 + z^4 = 18w^4$.

Keywords: Homogeneous bi-quadratic, Bi-quadratic with four unknowns, Integer solutions.

I. INTRODUCTION

The theory of Diophantine equations offers a rich variety of fascinating problems. In particular, biquadratic Diophantine equations, homogeneous and non-homogeneous have aroused the interest of numerous mathematicians since antiquity [1-5]. In this context, one may refer [6-24] for various problems on the biquadratic Diophantine equations with four variables. However, often we come across homogeneous biquadratic equations and as such one may require its integral solution in its most general form. It is towards this end, this paper concerns with the problem of determining non-trivial integral solutions of the homogeneous equation with four unknowns given by $x^4 + y^4 + z^4 = 18w^4$ is analyzed for obtaining different sets of non-zero distinct integer solutions through employing the linear transformations.

II. METHOD OF ANALYSIS

The homogeneous bi-quadratic equation with four unknowns to be solved is

$$x^4 + y^4 + z^4 = 18w^4 \tag{1}$$

Introduction of the linear transformations

$$x = u + v, y = u - v, z = 2v, u \neq v \neq 0 \tag{2}$$

in (1) leads to

$$u^2 + 3v^2 = 3w^2 \tag{3}$$

Solving (3) through different approaches, the values of u, v, w are obtained.

In view of (2), the corresponding values of X, Y, Z satisfying (1) are found.

Approach 1

Assume

$$w = a^2 + 3b^2 \tag{4}$$

Express the integer 3 on the R.H.S. of (3) as the product of complex conjugates as below

$$3 = \frac{(3 + i\sqrt{3})(3 - i\sqrt{3})}{4} \tag{5}$$

Substituting (4) & (5) in (3) and employing the factorization method, consider

$$u + i\sqrt{3}v = \frac{(3 + i\sqrt{3})}{2} (a + i\sqrt{3}b)^2 \tag{6}$$

Equating the real and imaginary parts in (6), the values of u, v are obtained.

In view of (2), one has

$$x = 2(a^2 - 3b^2), y = (a^2 - 3b^2 - 6ab), z = (a^2 - 3b^2 + 6ab) \tag{7}$$

Thus, (4) and (7) represent the integer solutions to (1).

Note 1

It is observed that, in addition to (5), the integer 3 is also expressed as

$$3 = \frac{(12 + i\sqrt{3})(12 - i\sqrt{3})}{49}$$

Following the above analysis, a different set of integer solutions to (1) is obtained.

Approach 2

Rewrite (3) as

$$u^2 = 3(w^2 - v^2) \tag{8}$$

The R.H.S. of (8) is a perfect square when

$$w = 2s^2 + 2s + 2 \tag{9}$$

$$v = 2s^2 + 2s - 1 \tag{10}$$

In view of (8) , one has

$$u = 6s + 3 \tag{11}$$

Substituting (10) & (11) in (2) ,it is seen that

$$x = 2s^2 + 8s + 2 , y = -2s^2 + 4s + 4, z = 4s^2 + 4s - 2 \tag{12}$$

Thus, (9) & (12) give the integer solutions to (1).

Note 2

It is worth to see that the R.H.S. of (8) is also a perfect square when

$$w = 6s^2 + 6s + 2$$

$$v = 6s^2 + 6s + 1$$

In this case, the corresponding values of X , Y , Z are given by

$$x = 6s^2 + 12s + 4 , y = -6s^2 + 2, z = 12s^2 + 12s + 2$$

Approach 3

Consider (3) as

$$3w^2 - u^2 = 3v^2 \tag{13}$$

Assume

$$v = 3a^2 - b^2 \tag{14}$$

Write the integer 3 on the R.H.S. of (13) as the product of irrational conjugates as follows

$$3 = (2\sqrt{3} + 3)(2\sqrt{3} - 3) \tag{15}$$

Substituting (14) & (15) in (13) and applying the factorization method,

Consider

$$\sqrt{3} w + u = (2\sqrt{3} + 3) (\sqrt{3} a + b)^2 \tag{16}$$

Equating the rational and irrational parts in (16) , we have

$$u = 3(3a^2 + b^2) + 12ab \quad (17)$$

$$w = 2(3a^2 + b^2) + 6ab \quad (18)$$

Using (14) & (17) in (2), we have

$$x = 12a^2 + 2b^2 + 12ab, y = 6a^2 + 4b^2 + 12ab, z = 6a^2 - 2b^2 \quad (19)$$

Thus, (18) & (19) represent the integer solutions to (1).

Note 3

It is observed that, in addition to (15), the integer 3 is also expressed as

$$3 = (7\sqrt{3} + 12)(7\sqrt{3} - 12)$$

Following the above analysis, a different set of integer solutions to (1) is obtained.

III. CONCLUSION

In this paper, an attempt has been made to determine non-zero distinct integer solutions to the homogeneous biquadratic equation with four unknowns given by $x^4 + y^4 + z^4 = 18w^4$. The researchers in this field may search for other sets of integer solutions to the equation under consideration and other forms of biquadratic equations with four or more variables.

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