

## Observations on the Non-homogenous Biquadratic Equation with Four Unknowns

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### Abstract

We obtain infinitely many non-zero integer quadruples  $(x,y,z,w)$  satisfying the biquadratic equation with four unknowns  $8(x^3 + y^3) = (1 + 3k^2)z^3w$ . Various interesting relations between the solutions and special numbers, namely, polygonal numbers, pyramidal numbers, Jacobsthal numbers, Jacobsthal-Lucas numbers are obtained.

**Keywords:** bi-quadratic equation with four unknowns, integral solution, special numbers.

MSC Subject Classification: 11D25

Notations

$$t_{m,n} = n \left[ 1 + \frac{(n-1)(m-2)}{2} \right]$$

$$P_n^m = \left[ \frac{n(n+1)}{6} \right] [(m-2)n + (5-m)]$$

$$OH_n = \frac{1}{3}n(2n^2 + 1)$$

$$SO_n = n(2n^2 - 1)$$

$$S_n = 6n(n-1) + 1$$

$$PR_n = n(n+1)$$

$$J_n = \frac{1}{3}(2^n - (-1)^n)$$

$$j_n = 2^n + (-1)^n$$

$$PT_n = \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)}{4}$$

## Introduction

The biquadratic diophantine (homogeneous or non-homogeneous) equation offer an unlimited field for research due to their variety [1-3]. In particular, one may refer [4-15] for ternary non-homogeneous biquadratic equations. This communication concerns with yet another interesting ternary non-homogeneous biquadratic equation given by  $8(x^3 + y^3) = (1 + 3k^2)z^3w$ . A few interesting relations between special polygonal numbers, pyramidal numbers and special number patterns are exhibited.

## Method of Analysis

The non-homogeneous biquadratic Diophantine equation with four unknowns to be solved for getting non-zero integral solutions is

$$8(x^3 + y^3) = (1 + 3k^2)z^3w \quad (1)$$

To start with, the substitution of the linear transformations

$$x = u + v, y = u - v, w = 16u \quad (2)$$

in (1), leads to

$$u^2 + 3v^2 = (1 + 3k^2)^n z^3 \quad (3)$$

The above equation (3) is solved through three different patterns and thus, one can obtain three distinct sets of solutions to (1).

### Pattern 1

$$\text{Let } z = a^2 + 3b^2 \quad (4)$$

Taking  $n=0$  in (3), we have

$$u^2 + 3v^2 = z^3 \quad (5)$$

whose solution is given by

$$u_0 = a^3 - 9ab^2$$

$$v_0 = 3a^2b - 3b^3$$

Again taking  $n=1$  in (3), we have

$$u^2 + 3v^2 = (1 + 3k^2)z^3 \quad (6)$$

whose solution is represented by

$$u_1 = u_0 - 3kv_0$$

$$v_1 = ku_0 + v_0$$

The general form of integral solutions to (3) is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_s \\ v_s \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} A_s & i\sqrt{3}B_s \\ -\frac{i}{\sqrt{3}}B_s & A_s \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_0 \\ v_0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad s=1,2,3,\dots$$

where

$$A_s = \frac{(1 + ik\sqrt{3})^s + (1 - ik\sqrt{3})^s}{2}$$

$$B_s = \frac{(1 + ik\sqrt{3})^s - (1 - ik\sqrt{3})^s}{2}$$

Thus in view of (2), the following quadruple  $(x_s, y_s, z_s, w_s)$  of integers based on  $(x_0, y_0, z_0, w_0)$  also satisfy (1)

$$x_s(a, b) = (u_0 + v_0)A_s + i\sqrt{3}\left(v_0 - \frac{u_0}{3}\right)B_s$$

$$y_s(a, b) = (u_0 + v_0)A_s + i\sqrt{3}\left(v_0 + \frac{u_0}{3}\right)B_s$$

$$z(a, b) = a^2 + 3b^2 \quad w_s(a, b) = 16(u_0A_s + i\sqrt{3}v_0B_s)$$

The above values of  $x_s, y_s, w_s$  satisfy the following recurrence relations respectively.

$$x_{s+2} - 2x_{s+1} + (3k^2 + 1)x_s = 0$$

$$y_{s+2} - 2y_{s+1} + (3k^2 + 1)y_s = 0$$

$$w_{s+2} - 2w_{s+1} + (3k^2 + 1)w_s = 0$$

**Properties**

- 1)  $a[x_s(a, 1) + y_s(a, 1)] = 8A_s(6PT_{a-1} - 3P^3_{a-1} - 2t_{4,a}) + 36i\sqrt{3}B_s$
- 2)  $3a[x_s(a, 1) - y_s(a, 1)] = 108P^3_{a-1}A_s - 2i\sqrt{3}B_s(24PT_{a-1} - 12P^3_{a-1} - 8t_{4,a})$
- 3)  $6x_s(a, 1) = 3A_s(4P^5_a + 3S_a - 14t_{4,a} - 9) - 2i\sqrt{3}B_s(6P^3_{a-1} - 9PR_a + 2t_{3,a} - t_{4,a} + 9)$
- 4)  $w_s(2^{2\alpha} + 1) = 2^4(A_s(3J_{6\alpha} - 9j_{2\alpha} + 10) + 3\sqrt{3}iB_s(j_{4\alpha} - 2))$
- 5)  $w_s(a + 1, 1) = 16(A_s(6P^3_{a-1} + 2t_{5,a} - 2Gno_a - 10) + \sqrt{3}iB_s(3PR_a + 5t_{4,a} - 2t_{7,a}))$

**Pattern 2**

Substituting (4) in (3) and using the method of factorization, define

$$(u + i\sqrt{3}v) = (1 + ik\sqrt{3})^n (a + i\sqrt{3}b)^3$$

Expanding binomially and equating real and imaginary parts, we have

$$u = f(k)(a^3 - 9ab^2) - 9g(k)(a^2b - b^3)$$

$$v = g(k)(a^3 - 9ab^2) + 3f(k)(a^2b - b^3)$$

where

$$\left. \begin{aligned} f(k) &= \sum_{r=0}^{\left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor} (-1)^r n C_{2r} k^{2r} 3^r \\ g(k) &= \sum_{r=1}^{\left\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \right\rfloor} (-1)^{r-1} n C_{2r-1} k^{2r-1} 3^{r-1} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (7)$$

In view of (2) and (7) the corresponding integer solution (x,y,z,w) to (1) is obtained as

$$\begin{aligned} x &= (f(k) + g(k))(a^3 - 9ab^2) + (3f(k) - 9g(k))(a^2b - b^3) \\ y &= (f(k) + g(k))(a^3 - 9ab^2) - (3f(k) - 9g(k))(a^2b - b^3) \\ z &= a^2 + 3b^2 \\ w &= 16[f(k)(a^3 - 9ab^2) - 9g(k)(a^2b - b^3)] \end{aligned}$$

### Pattern 3

Substituting (4) in (3) and using the method of factorization, define

$$\begin{aligned} u + i\sqrt{3}v &= (1 + ik\sqrt{3})^n (a + i\sqrt{3}b)^3 \\ &= r^n \exp(in\theta) (a + i\sqrt{3}b)^3 \end{aligned}$$

where  $r = \sqrt{3k^2 + 1}$ ,  $\theta = \tan^{-1} k\sqrt{3}$  (8)

Equating real and imaginary parts in (8), we get

$$\begin{aligned} u &= r^n \left( (a^3 - 9ab^2) \cos n\theta - (3a^2b - 3b^3) \sqrt{3} \sin n\theta \right) \\ v &= r^n \left( (a^3 - 9ab^2) \frac{\sin n\theta}{\sqrt{3}} - (3a^2b - 3b^3) \cos n\theta \right) \end{aligned}$$

In view of (2) and (4), the corresponding values of x,y,z and w are represented by

$$\begin{aligned} x(a,b) &= r^n \left( (a^3 - 9ab^2 + 3a^2b - 3b^3) \cos n\theta + (a^3 - 9ab^2 - 9a^2b + 9b^3) \frac{\sin n\theta}{\sqrt{3}} \right) \\ y(a,b) &= r^n \left( (a^3 - 9ab^2 - 3a^2b + 3b^3) \cos n\theta + (-a^3 + 9ab^2 - 9a^2b + 9b^3) \frac{\sin n\theta}{\sqrt{3}} \right) \\ z(a,b) &= a^2 + 3b^2 \\ w(a,b) &= r^n \left( (a^3 - 9ab^2) \cos n\theta - (3a^2b - 3b^3) \sqrt{3} \sin n\theta \right) \end{aligned}$$

### Properties

$$1) \quad x(a,a) = 4 \left( 1 + 3k^2 \right)^{\frac{n}{2}} \left( \frac{\sin n\theta}{\sqrt{3}} + \cos n\theta \right) (SO_a + 2t_{3,a} - t_{4,a})$$

- 2)  $8x(a, b) + 8y(a, b) - w(a, b) = 0$
- 3)  $3\left(z\binom{2^n}{1} - j_{2n}\right)$  is a nasty number.
- 4)  $2\left(z\binom{2^n}{1} - 3J_{2n}\right)$  is a cubical integer.

## Conclusion

One may search for other patterns of solutions and their corresponding properties.

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