

3.9 A simple analytical proof of Fermat's last theorem for $n=5$

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ABSTRACT

It is well known that the proof of Fermat's last theorem (FLT) for any odd prime is difficult and lengthy. Proof of FLT for $n = 5$ was shared by two eminent mathematicians, Dirichlet and Lagrange[1], [2]. However, their proof is rather lengthy and difficult as well known. The main objective of this contribution is to give a simple analytical proof for Fermat's last theorem for this exponent. The proof is based on three simple lemmas used in case of $n = 3$.

Lemma.1

If $(a,5) = 1 = (b,5)$ and $a^5 - b^5 \equiv 0 \pmod{5^m}$, then $m \geq 2$ and $a - b \equiv 0 \pmod{5^{m-1}}$.

Since the proof is exactly the same as in case of $n = 3$ [3], let us assume this Lemma.

Lemma.2

If the equation

$$z^5 = y^5 + x^5, (x, y) = 1 \tag{1}$$

has non-trivial integer solutions for the triple (x, y, z) , then one of x, y, z is divisible by 5. If one assumes that none of x, y, z is divisible by 5, taking $y = 5m \pm 1$, $5l \pm 2$, $x = 5k \pm 1$, $5h \pm 2$, it can be easily shown that $x^5 + y^5 \equiv (0, \pm 2, \pm 6, \pm 8, \pm 11) \pmod{5^2}$. But $z^5 \equiv (1, -1, 7, -7) \pmod{5^2}$. Therefore we deduce that one of x, y, z is divisible by 5 since $x^5 + y^5 = z^5$.

It is obvious that, without loss of generality, we can assume that all x, y, z are positive. Now, either z is divisible 5 or one of x, y is divisible by 5. Then xz or yz is divisible by 5. Hence, without loss of generality, we may assume that yz is divisible by 5.

Now, let $z = y + s$. Then (1) can be written as

$$5s(y + s)y(yz + s^2) = x^5 - s^5 \tag{2}$$

Also, any prime factor of s is a factor of x^5 and s is co-prime with $y, (y + s), (yz + s^2)$. Therefore, s is a fifth power of an integer. Now, it is easy to verify that the terms $s, y, (y + s), (yz + s^2)$ are co-prime to one another. Also, $x - s = x + y - z$, which is even and co-prime with $yz + s^2$. Let $s = t^5$ and $yz = q$ to write (2) as

$$q^2 + t^{10}q - \frac{(c^5 - t^{20})}{5} = 0 \tag{3}$$

where it is assumed that $x = ct$. Let $c = t^4 + 5^m n$, $q = 5^m j$. It should be noted that the identity of the Fermat's equation $x + y - z = x - t^5$ contains the factors $t, 5^m$ and other two factors of y and z as exactly in the case of Fermat's last theorem for $n = 3$ [3]. Then we can write (3) as

$$(t^{10} + 2.5^m j)^2 = [t^{20} + 4 \frac{(c^5 - t^{20})}{5}] \quad (4)$$

Now, it is easy to obtain

$$(t^{10} + 2.5^m j)^2 = [t^{10} + 2.5^m t^6 n + 2.5^{2m} t^2 n^2]^2 + 4.5^{5m-1} n^5 \quad (5)$$

$$(j - t^6 n - 5^m t^2 n^2)(t^{10} + 5^m j + 5^m t^6 n + 5^{2m} t^2 n^2) = 5^{4m-1} n^5 \quad (6)$$

Obviously, n can be a factor of j . Therefore it follows from (6) that

$$j - t^6 n - 5^m t^2 n^2 = 5^{4m-1} n^5 \quad (a)$$

$$t^{10} + 5^m j + 5^m t^6 n + 5^{2m} t^2 n^2 = 1^5 \quad (b)$$

since n and t are co-prime. From (a) and (b), we obtain

$$1^5 - t^{10} - 2.5^m (nt^6 + 5^m n^2 t^2) - 5^{5m-1} n^5 = 0 \quad (7)$$

If $t = 1$, it follows that $n = 0$ or 5 divides n , which is a contradiction. Since all numbers in (7) are positive and $1^5 - t^{10} < 0$ when $t \neq 1$, we deduce that (7) is never satisfied. Hence, (1) has no non-trivial integer solutions.

References

- (1) Paulo Ribenboim, Fermat's last theorem for amateurs, Spriger-Verlag-New York, 1999.
- (2) Harold M. Edwards, Fermat's Last Theorem, Springer-Verlag-New York, 1977.
- (3) Piyadasa R.A.D., (2007). Analytical proof of Fermat's last theorem for $n=3$, Annual research symposium of faculty of graduate studies, University of Kelniya, Kelaniya. 127-128.