

9/15/04.

Rational points on rational conic

Def. rational ~~curve~~ conic

$$C: ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 + dx + ey + f = 0$$

Def. rational points.

$$\mathbb{Q}^2 \subset \mathbb{R}^2$$

Def. rational line:

$$ax + by + c = 0$$

Prop 1) intersection of two rationals is rational point

2) 2 rational points \rightarrow rational line

$$\text{ex: } \begin{cases} x^2 + y^2 = 1 \\ x = 2y \end{cases}$$

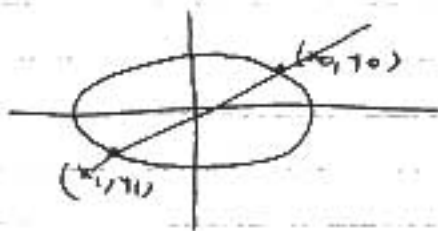
$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0 \quad a, b, c \in \mathbb{Q}$$

One root rational \Rightarrow the other is

$$-\frac{b}{a}$$

$$C: ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 + dx + ey + f = 0$$

$$(x_0, y_0) \in C \quad x_0, y_0 \in \mathbb{Q}$$



rational points on $C \rightarrow$ rational lines through (x_0, y_0)

Ex.

$$C: x^2 + y^2 = 1$$

$$(1, 0) \in C.$$

$$\text{Solve: } \begin{cases} y = m(x-1) \\ x^2 + y^2 = 1 \end{cases}$$

substitute $y = m(x-1)$

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

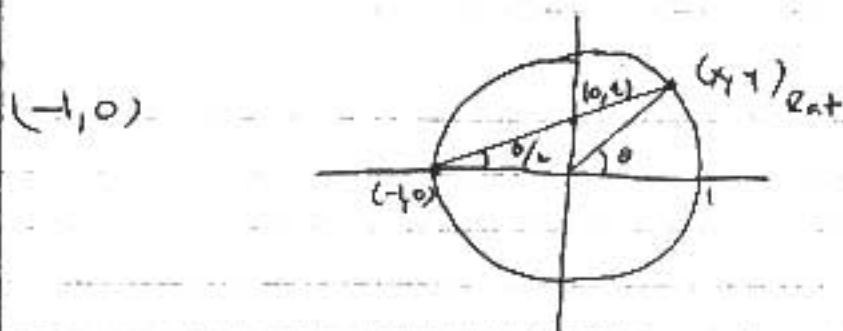
$$(m^2+1)x^2 - 2m^2x + (m^2-1) = 0$$

$$x = 1$$

$$\frac{2m^2}{m^2+1} = \text{sum of roots}$$

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

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$$x = \cos \theta$$

$$y = \sin \theta$$

$$t = \tan \left(\frac{\theta}{2} \right)$$

$$x = \frac{1-t^2}{1+t^2}, \quad y = \frac{2t}{1+t^2}$$

$$X^2 + Y^2 = Z^2 \quad \gcd(X, Y, Z) = 1$$

$$Z \neq 0.$$

WLOG x odd, y even

Why? $X_{\text{odd}} \Rightarrow X^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$

$$(2n+1)^2 = 4(n^2+n) + 1$$

$$X^2 + Y^2 \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$$

Cont.

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1 \quad x = \frac{X}{Z} \quad y = \frac{Y}{Z}$$

say $t = \frac{m}{n}$

$$\frac{X}{Z} = x = \frac{1 - \left(\frac{m}{n}\right)^2}{1 + \left(\frac{m}{n}\right)^2} = \frac{n^2 - m^2}{n^2 + m^2}$$

$$\frac{Y}{Z} = y = \frac{2mn}{n^2 + m^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}n^2 - m^2 &= \lambda X \\ 2mn &= \lambda Y \\ m^2 + n^2 &= \lambda Z\end{aligned}$$

Want $\lambda = 1$

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda &= 2n^2 \implies \lambda | 2 \\ \lambda &= 2m^2 \implies \lambda = 1 \text{ or } 2.\end{aligned}$$

Suppose $\lambda = 2$

$$X\lambda \equiv 2 \equiv n^2 - m^2$$

$$(\text{mod } 4) \quad (n^2, m^2) \begin{matrix} (0, 0) \longrightarrow 0 \\ (1, 0) \longrightarrow 1 \\ (0, 1) \longrightarrow 3 \\ (1, 1) \longrightarrow 0 \end{matrix}$$

Cont

$$(1, 1) \longrightarrow 0$$

$$\lambda = 1$$

$$X = n^2 - m^2$$

$$Y = 2mn$$

$$Z = n^2 + m^2$$

$$x^2 + y^2 = 3$$

$$x = \frac{X}{Z} \quad y = \frac{Y}{Z}$$

$$X^2 + Y^2 = 3Z^2$$

$$X \equiv \pm 1 \quad Y \equiv \pm 1 \quad (\text{mod } 3)$$

$$X^2 + Y^2 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$$

Cont.

$$aX^2 + bY^2 \equiv cZ^2 \quad (*)$$

$$(\text{Legendre}) \quad aX^2 + bY^2 \equiv cZ^2 \pmod{m}$$