



## Observations on the hyperbola $ax^2 - (a+1)y^2 = 3a-1$

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### ABSTRACT

Knowing an integral point on the hyperbola  $ax^2 - (a+1)y^2 = 3a-1$  a process of generating sequence of integral points based on the known solution of the hyperbola is illustrated. A few interesting properties among the solutions are presented.

**Key Words:** Binary quadratic equation, Integral solutions

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The binary quadratic diophantine equation of the form  $y^2 = Dx^2 + N$ , Where D is a non-square positive integer has been studied by various mathematicians for its non-trivial integral solutions where D takes different numerical values (Dickson, 1952, Mordell, 1969, Telng, 1996, Mollin, 1998). In this context, one may also refer (Gopalan et al. 2001, 2007 a, b, c, 2008 a, b, c, d). However in (Gopalan, 2007d) it is shown that the hyperbola represented by  $3x^2 + xy = 14$  has only finite number of integral points. These results have motivated us to search for other choices of hyperbolas having infinitely many non-zero integral solutions. It is towards this end, we search for infinitely many non-zero integral solutions on the hyperbola given by  $ax^2 - (a+1)y^2 = 3a-1$ . In particular, knowing an integral point on the hyperbola  $ax^2 - (a+1)y^2 = 3a-1$  a process of generating sequence of integral points based on the known solution of the hyperbola is illustrated. A few interesting properties among the solutions are presented.

## 2. METHOD OF ANALYSIS

The binary quadratic equation representing the hyperbola is

$$ax^2 - (a+1)y^2 = 3a-1 \quad (1)$$

Introduction of the linear transformations

$$\begin{cases} x = X + (a+1)T \\ y = X + aT \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

in (1) leads to

$$X^2 = a(a+1)T^2 - 3a+1 \quad (3)$$

whose initial solution is  $(X_0, T_0) = (a-1, 1)$

Employing the integral solutions of the Pell's equation

$$X^2 = a(a+1)T^2 + 1 \quad (4)$$

and applying the lemma of Brahmagupta, the non-zero distinct integral solutions of (1) are found to be

$$\begin{aligned} x_{n+1} &= af + \left( \frac{2a^2+a-1}{2\sqrt{a^2+a}} \right) g \\ y_{n+1} &= \left( \frac{2a-1}{2} \right) f + \left( \frac{a^2}{\sqrt{a^2+a}} \right) g \end{aligned}$$

where  $n = -1, 0, 1, \dots$

$$\begin{aligned} f &= \left[ (2a+1) + 2\sqrt{a^2+a} \right]^{n+1} + \left[ (2a+1) - 2\sqrt{a^2+a} \right]^{n+1} \\ g &= \left[ (2a+1) + 2\sqrt{a^2+a} \right]^{n+1} - \left[ (2a+1) - 2\sqrt{a^2+a} \right]^{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

The recurrence relations satisfied by  $x_{n+1}, y_{n+1}$  are correspondingly exhibited below:

$$\begin{aligned} x_{n+3} - (4a+2)x_{n+2} + x_{n+1} &= 0, & x_0 &= 2a, & x_1 &= 4a^2 + 4a - 2 \\ y_{n+3} - (4a+2)y_{n+2} + y_{n+1} &= 0, & y_0 &= 2a-1, & y_1 &= 8a^2 - 1 \end{aligned}$$

## 2.1. Generation of solutions

Let  $(x_0, y_0)$  be any given integer solution of (1)

Assume that

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = x_0 + h \\ y_1 = h - y_0 \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

be the second solution of (1). Substituting (5) in (1) and simplifying we get,

$$h = 2ax_0 + 2y_0(a+1) \quad (6)$$

using (6) in (5) the integral solution of (1) are written in the matrix form as

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ y_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2a+1 & 2(a+1) \\ 2a & (2a+1) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The repetition of the above process leads to the general solution  $(x_{n+1}, y_{n+1})$  of (1), represented by

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{n+1} \\ y_{n+1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} X_n & (a+1)Y_n \\ aY_n & X_n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Where  $(X_n, Y_n)$  satisfies (4)

A few interesting properties among the solutions are exhibited below:

- $(a^2 + a)[2(2a-1)x_{n+1} - 4ay_{n+1}]^2$  is written as the difference of two square
- $[2a^2x_{n+1} - (2a^2 + a-1)y_{n+1}]^2 - (a^2 + a)[(2a-1)x_{n+1} - 2ay_{n+1}]^2$  is a perfect square.
- $4a^2x_{3n+3} - (4a^2 + 2a-2)y_{n+3} + 12a^2x_{n+1} - 6(2a^2 + a-1)y_{n+1} \equiv 0 \pmod{3a-1}$
- $(3a-1)^2 \left\{ 2(3a-1)[2a^2x_{4n+4} - (2a^2 + a-1)y_{4n+4}] + 16[2a^2x_{n+1} - (2a^2 + a-1)y_{n+1}]^2 \right\}$  is a biquadratic integer
- Each of the following expressions is a Nasty number
  - $6\{(a^2 + a)[(4a-2)x_{n+1} - 4ay_{n+1}]^2 + 4(3a-1)^2\}$
  - $6\{4a^2x_{n+1} - (4a^2 + 2a-2)y_{n+1}\}^2 - 4(3a-1)^2\}$
  - $6(3a-1)[4a^2x_{2n+2} - (4a^2 + 2a-2)y_{n+2} + 2(3a-1)]$

- iv.  $6(3a-1)[4a^2x_{2n+2} - (4a^2 + 2a - 2)y_{n+2} - 2(3a-1)]$   
 v.  $6(3a-1)[4a^2x_{4n+4} - 2(2a^2 + a - 1)y_{4n+4} + 2(3a-1)]$   
 vi.  $6\left\{2[2a^2x_{n+1} - (2a^2 + a - 1)y_{n+1}]^2 + 2(a^2 + a)[(2a-1)x_{n+1} - 2ay_{n+1}]^2 \pm 2(3a-1)^2\right\}$

### 3. CONCLUSION

It is worth to mention here that, instead of (2), one may also consider the linear transformations as  $x = X - (a+1)T$ ,  $y = Y - aT$  and obtain a different choice of integral solutions. To conclude, one may search for other forms of hyperbolas to obtain their infinitely many non-zero distinct integral solutions.

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