

## Re: Counterexample to $t( (c^n - a^n) \bmod b ) \mid \phi(b)$

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From: Daniel W. Johnson ([panoptes\\_at\\_iquest.net](mailto:panoptes_at_iquest.net))

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Doug Goncz <[dgoncz@aol.com](mailto:dgoncz@aol.com)> wrote:

> "If  $s, y, z$  are non-zero integers such that  $x^n + y^n = z^n$ , if  $d = \gcd(x, y, z)$   
> and  $x_1 = x/d$ ,  $y_1 = y/d$ ,  $z_1 = z/d$  then  $x_1^n + y_1^n = z_1^n$ , (which I totally get)  
> where the non-zero integers  $x_1, y_1, z_1$  are pairwise relatively prime  
> (which I don't get). So if we assume that Fermat's equation has a  
> non-trivial solution, it has one with pairwise relatively prime integers."  
>  
> I just don't see how factoring out a denominator common to all \*three\* of  
>  $x, y$ , and  $z$  leaves  $x$  and  $y$ ,  $y$  and  $z$ , and  $x$  and  $z$  with no common  
> denominator, in \*pairs\*.  
>  
>  $n, a, b, c = 2, 3, 4, 5$  or  $2, 6, 8, 10$  are solutions to  $a^n + b^n = c^n$ . And I've  
> never seen a (base?) Pythagorean triangle that had a common factor between  
> two edges.  
>  
> It seems to me  $x = x_1 d$ ,  $y = y_1 d$ ,  $z = z_1 d$  is possible.

In the particular case of  $x^n + y^n = z^n$ , any prime which factors two of  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  must also factor the third.

For example, suppose  $p \mid x$  and  $p \mid y$ .

Then  $p \mid x^n$  and  $p \mid y^n$ .

Then  $p \mid x^n + y^n = z^n$ .

And one of the properties of prime numbers lets us use  $p \mid z^n$  to conclude  $p \mid z$ .

The same works for subtraction as well as addition, in case  $z$  is one of the two.

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Daniel W. Johnson  
[panoptes@iquest.net](mailto:panoptes@iquest.net)  
<http://members.iquest.net/~panoptes/>  
039 53 36 N / 086 11 55 W