

## The equation $xyz = x + y + z = 1$ in integers of a quartic field

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1. Cassels [2] and Sansone and Cassels [4] showed that there are no rational solutions of the Diophantine equation

$$(1) \quad xyz = x + y + z = 1.$$

Small [5] studies the equation over finite fields, and Mollin *et al.* [3] investigate the equation over quadratic number fields, finding the finitely many such fields  $K$  in which there does exist a solution for integer units  $u_1, u_2, u_3$  of  $K$  of the equation

$$u_1 u_2 u_3 = u_1 + u_2 + u_3.$$

Bremner [1] has determined all cubic fields whose ring of integers contains a solution to (1).

Here, we resolve completely the question of finding all quartic number fields whose ring of integers contains a solution to (1). There are two infinite families of such fields. The result is as follows.

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $K$  be a quartic number field with ring of integers  $\mathfrak{D}_K$ . Then the equation*

$$xyz = x + y + z = 1$$

*is solvable for  $x, y, z \in \mathfrak{D}_K$  in precisely the following instances:*

(i) *The infinite family  $K = \mathbf{Q}(\theta)$ ,*

$$\theta^4 + (u^2 - u + 2)\theta^3 + 2u\theta^2 + (u + 1)\theta + 1 = 0, \quad u \in \mathbf{Z}, u \neq 1,$$

*with solution up to permutation*

$$x = -\theta^3 - (u^2 - u + 2)\theta^2 - 2u\theta - (u + 1),$$

$$(u - 1)y = -\theta^3 - (u^2 - u + 1)\theta^2 + (u^2 - 3u + 1)\theta + (u - 2),$$

$$(u - 1)z = u\theta^3 + (u^3 - u^2 + 2u - 1)\theta^2 + (u^2 + u - 1)\theta + u^2.$$

(ii) *The infinite family  $K = \mathbf{Q}(\phi)$ ,*

$$\phi^4 + (u^2 - u - 2)\phi^3 + 2\phi^2 - (u + 1)\phi + 1 = 0, \quad u \in \mathbf{Z}, u \neq \pm 1, 3$$

with solution up to permutation

$$\begin{aligned} x &= -\phi^3 - (u^2 - u - 2)\phi^2 - 2\phi + (u + 1), \\ (u - 1)y &= -\phi^3 - (u^2 - u - 1)\phi^2 - (u^2 - u + 1)\phi + u, \\ (u - 1)z &= u\phi^3 + (u^3 - u^2 - 2u + 1)\phi^2 + (u^2 + u - 1)\phi - u^2. \end{aligned}$$

2. Let  $K$  be a number field with ring of integers  $\mathfrak{O}_K$ ; suppose that  $x, y, z$  are units of  $\mathfrak{O}_K$  satisfying (1). Since

$$\text{Norm}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(x)\text{Norm}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(y)\text{Norm}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(z) = 1$$

we may suppose, without loss of generality, that

$$(2) \quad \text{Norm}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(x) = 1.$$

Now

$$x + y + 1/xy = 1$$

so that

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

and

$$(3) \quad 2y = -x + 1 + x\sqrt{1 - \frac{2}{x} + \frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{4}{x^3}}.$$

Put

$$(4) \quad 1/x = X$$

where  $X$  is also a unit of  $\mathfrak{O}_K$ , with, from (2),

$$(5) \quad \text{Norm}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(X) = 1.$$

It follows from (3) that

$$1 - 2X + X^2 - 4X^3 = W^2, \quad W \in \mathfrak{O}_K$$

so that  $P = (X, W)$  is a point defined over  $\mathfrak{O}_K$  on the elliptic curve

$$(6) \quad E: 1 - 2x + x^2 - 4x^3 = y^2.$$

Conversely, it is clear that a point  $P = (X, W)$ , defined over  $\mathfrak{O}_K$ , on the curve (6), with  $X$  a unit of  $\mathfrak{O}_K$ , gives rise via the transformations (3), (4) to a unit solution  $x, y, z$  of the original equation (1).

Now the result of Cassels [2] and Sansone and Cassels [4] is equivalent to the rational rank of (6) being equal to 0. Further, a simple calculation shows that the rational torsion group on (6) is cyclic of order 3, with generator (0, 1).

3. We first describe points on  $E$ , given by equation (6), that are defined over a quadratic number field.

It is easy to see that if a point  $P$  on  $E$  has coordinates in a quadratic number field  $k$ , then  $k$  is of type  $\mathcal{Q}(\sqrt{1-2\alpha+\alpha^2-4\alpha^3})$ , for some (non-zero)  $\alpha \in \mathcal{Q}$ . For denoting the conjugate point under quadratic conjugation by  $\bar{P}$ , then  $P^* = P - \bar{P}$  is reversed under conjugation, and so is of type  $P^* = (\alpha, \beta\sqrt{d})$ , with  $k = \mathcal{Q}(\sqrt{d})$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{Q}$ . But then  $d\beta^2 = 1-2\alpha+\alpha^2-4\alpha^3$ , as required. More precisely, we have the following.

LEMMA 1. Let  $P \in E$  with coordinates of  $P = (x_P, y_P)$  in a quadratic number field.

Then either

$$(7) \quad x_P = t \in \mathcal{Q} - \{0\}, \quad y_P = \sqrt{1-2t+t^2-4t^3}$$

or

$$(8) \quad x_P^2 + t(t-1)x_P + t = 0 \quad \text{for some } t \in \mathcal{Q} - \{0\}$$

with  $\pm y_P = (2t-1)x_P + 1$ .

Proof. Take the straight line  $l$  (defined over  $\mathcal{Q}$ ) through  $P$  and  $\bar{P}$ . Then  $l$  meets  $E$  in a third rational point  $Q$ .

If  $Q = o$ , the point at infinity, then  $l$  is of type  $x - x_P = 0$ , and (7) follows immediately.

Otherwise, the only possibilities for  $Q$  are  $(0, \pm 1)$ , and by replacing  $P$  by  $-P$  if necessary, we may suppose that  $Q = (0, 1)$ . Then  $l$  is of the form  $y = mx + 1$ ,  $m \in \mathcal{Q}$ , whence the points of intersection are given by

$$1 - 2x + x^2 - 4x^3 = m^2x^2 + 2mx + 1,$$

so that  $x_P$  is a root of

$$4x^2 + (m^2 - 1)x + 2(m + 1) = 0.$$

Putting  $m = 2t - 1$  gives

$$x_P^2 + t(t-1)x_P + t = 0, \quad y_P = (2t-1)x_P + 1,$$

as required.

COROLLARY. If  $x$  is a unit of its quadratic field, then either (i)  $\pm P = (1, 2i)$ ,  $(-1, 2\sqrt{2})$  or (ii)  $\pm P = (i, 1+i)$ ,  $(-i, 1-i)$ ,  $(-1 + \sqrt{2}, -4 + 3\sqrt{2})$ ,  $(-1 - \sqrt{2}, -4 - 3\sqrt{2})$ .

Proof. If  $x$  is a unit of  $\mathcal{Z}$ , then  $x = \pm 1$  and (i) follows from (7).

If  $x$  is a unit of a quadratic field, then  $\text{Norm}(x) = \pm 1$ , so necessarily in (8),  $t = \pm 1$  and the result follows.

We now give a similar argument which deals with the cubic case, leading to the result of Bremner [1] in a neater manner.

For suppose that  $P \in E$ , with the coordinates of  $P = (x_p, y_p)$  lying in a cubic number field.

Take a parabola through  $P$  and its two  $Q$ -conjugates, with equation

$$dy = px^2 + qx + r, \quad d, p, q, r \in \mathbf{Z}, \quad d \neq 0, \quad (d, p, q, r) = 1.$$

This parabola meets  $E$  in six points, two of which occur at  $\mathfrak{o}$ , and three of which form a conjugate set over  $Q$ . The remaining point  $Q$  of intersection is thus rational.

If  $Q = \mathfrak{o}$ , then  $p = 0$  so that  $x_p$  satisfies

$$d^2(1 - 2x_p + x_p^2 - 4x_p^3) = (qx_p + r)^2,$$

i.e.

$$(9) \quad 4d^2x_p^3 + (q^2 - d^2)x_p^2 + (2qr + 2d^2)x_p + (r^2 - d^2) = 0.$$

If  $Q \neq \mathfrak{o}$ , then as before, we may suppose that  $Q = (0, 1)$ . Then  $r = d$ , and  $x_p$  satisfies

$$d^2(1 - 2x + x^2 - 4x^3) = (px^2 + qx + d)^2.$$

Removing the root at 0,  $x_p$  thus satisfies the residual cubic equation

$$(10) \quad p^2x_p^3 + (2pq + 4d^2)x_p^2 + (q^2 + 2pd - d^2)x_p + (2qd + 2d^2) = 0.$$

If now  $x_p$  is to be a unit of the cubic number field, then in the first instance, at (9) above, it follows that  $r^2 - d^2 = \pm 4d^2$ , which is impossible. So the second instance must hold, and from (10),

$$(11a) \quad \pm p^2 = 2qd + 2d^2,$$

$$(11b) \quad p^2 \mid 2pq + 4d^2,$$

$$(11c) \quad p^2 \mid q^2 + 2pd - d^2.$$

Now  $(d, p) = 1$ , otherwise (c) leads to a contradiction of  $(d, p, q, r) = 1$ . Then (a) forces  $d = 1$  and  $2 \mid p$ ; and (b) forces  $p \mid 4$  and  $4 \nmid p$ . Consequently  $p = \pm 2$ , and (a) gives  $q = 1, -3$ . Hence the only solutions are  $(p, q, r, d) = (\pm 2, 1, 1, 1)$ ,  $(\pm 2, -3, 1, 1)$ . The former pair returns  $X = x_p$  of norm  $-1$ , contrary to (5). And the latter pair returns the cubic fields given in Bremner [1].

4. Suppose now that  $P \in E$  with coordinates of  $P = (x_p, y_p)$  lying in a quartic number field; further, we assume  $x_p$  is a unit of the field. Take the cubic curve  $\Gamma$  through  $P$  and its three  $Q$ -conjugates, with equation

$$(12) \quad dy = px^3 + qx^2 + rx + s, \quad d, p, q, r, s \in \mathbf{Z}, \quad d \neq 0, \quad (d, p, q, r, s) = 1.$$

Then  $\Gamma$  meets  $E$  in nine points. Three of these occur at  $\mathfrak{o}$ , and four form a  $Q$ -rational set. The remaining two points of intersection are thus defined (as a pair) over  $Q$ .

(i) Suppose that one of these points is  $\mathfrak{o}$ . Then  $p = 0$ , and there is a further zero at  $\mathfrak{o}$ . The quartic satisfied by  $x_p$  is

$$d^2(1 - 2x_p + x_p^2 - 4x_p^3) = (qx_p^2 + rx_p + s)^2,$$

i.e.

$$q^2 x_p^4 + (2qr + 4d^2) x_p^3 + (r^2 + 2qs - d^2) x_p^2 + (2rs + 2d^2) x_p + (s^2 - d^2) = 0.$$

The requirement that  $x_p$  be a unit, with  $\text{Norm}(x_p) = 1$ , implies

$$(13a) \quad q^2 = s^2 - d^2,$$

$$(13b) \quad q^2 \mid 2qr + 4d^2,$$

$$(13c) \quad q^2 \mid r^2 + 2qs - d^2,$$

$$(13d) \quad q^2 \mid 2rs + 2d^2.$$

Now  $(q, d) = 1$ , otherwise (a), (c) contradict  $(d, q, r, s) = 1$ . Then (b) forces  $q \mid 4$ ; and since  $d \neq 0$ , (a) gives  $q = 4$ ,  $(s, d) = (\pm 5, \pm 3)$ . But now (b) cannot hold. Consequently no unit solutions  $x_p$  arise in this instance.

(ii) Suppose the residual pair is individually rational. It cannot be the pair  $\{(0, 1), (0, -1)\}$  for then  $d = s$ ,  $d = -s$ , forcing  $d = 0$ . In virtue of (i), we can thus assume it is a double root at one of the points  $(0, \pm 1)$ . In any event,  $d^2 = s^2$  and  $-2d^2 = 2rs$ , so that  $d = \pm s$ ,  $r = -s$ .

The quartic satisfied by  $x_p$  is

$$s^2(1 - 2x + x^2 - 4x^3) = (px^3 + qx^2 - sx + s)^2,$$

i.e.

$$p^2 x^4 + 2pqx^3 + (q^2 - 2ps)x^2 + (2ps - 2qs + 4s^2)x + 2qs = 0.$$

The requirement that  $x_p$  be a unit of norm 1 gives

$$(14a) \quad p^2 = 2qs,$$

$$(14b) \quad p^2 \mid 2pq,$$

$$(14c) \quad p^2 \mid q^2 - 2ps,$$

$$(14d) \quad p^2 \mid 2ps - 2qs + 4s^2.$$

Now  $(p, s) = 1$  otherwise (c) gives  $(p, q, s) \neq 1$  where  $(d, p, q, r, s) \neq 1$ . So (a) gives  $s = 1$ ,  $p^2 = 2q$ . Now (d) gives  $p \mid 4$ ,  $4 \nmid p$ , and since  $2 \mid p$ , then  $p = 2\varepsilon$  ( $\varepsilon = \pm 1$ ),  $q = 2$ . Thus  $x_p$  satisfies the quartic

$$(15) \quad x^4 + 2\varepsilon x^3 + (1 - \varepsilon)x^2 + \varepsilon x + 1 = 0.$$

Denoting a root of (15) by  $\Theta$ , we recover the following unit solution of (1):

$$\begin{aligned}
 (16) \quad x &= -\Theta^3 - 2\varepsilon\Theta^2 + (\varepsilon - 1)\Theta - \varepsilon, \\
 y &= \varepsilon\Theta^2 + \Theta, \\
 z &= \Theta^3 + \varepsilon\Theta^2 - \varepsilon\Theta + (1 + \varepsilon).
 \end{aligned}$$

(iii) If neither (i) nor (ii) happens, then necessarily the residual pair is not individually defined over  $\mathcal{Q}$ .

By Lemma 1, the intersection therefore contains either a double point at  $x = t, t \in \mathcal{Q} - \{0\}$ , or contains the pair of points corresponding to the roots of  $x^2 + t(t - 1)x + t = 0, t \in \mathcal{Q} - \{0\}$ . In particular, the sextic polynomial representing the intersection of the curves (6) and (12) either contains a repeated root at  $x = t$ , or contains the quadratic factor  $x^2 + t(t - 1)x + t$ . Note now that  $p \neq 0$ .

The intersection is given by

$$(17) \quad d^2(1 - 2x + x^2 - 4x^3) = (px^3 + qx^2 + rx + s)^2.$$

A rational root  $x = t$  implies  $1 - 2t + t^2 - 4t^3$  is square, so that perforce  $t = 0$ , a contradiction.

Consequently, on writing (17) as a sextic equation for  $x$ , then it possesses  $x^2 + t(t - 1)x + t, t \in \mathcal{Q} - \{0\}$ , as a quadratic factor. Since we are assuming  $x_p$  is a unit of norm 1, the residual quartic is of type  $x^4 + ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + 1, a, b, c \in \mathcal{Z}$ . It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
 (18) \quad p^2 x^6 + 2pqx^5 + (q^2 + 2pr)x^4 + (2qr + 2ps + 4d^2)x^3 + (r^2 + 2qs - d^2)x^2 \\
 + (2rs + 2d^2)x + (s^2 - d^2) \\
 = p^2 [x^2 + t(t - 1)x + t] [x^4 + ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + 1].
 \end{aligned}$$

By Gauss' Lemma,  $p^2 [x^2 + t(t - 1)x + t]$  has integer coefficients, so that

$$(19) \quad t = u/p, \quad u \in \mathcal{Z}, \quad u \neq 0, \quad (u, p) = 1.$$

The right-hand side at (18) is  $[p^2 x^2 + u(u - p)x + up] [x^4 + ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + 1]$ , and equating coefficients of powers of  $x$ ,

$$(20a) \quad 2pq = p^2 a + u(u - p),$$

$$(20b) \quad q^2 + 2pr = p^2 b + u(u - p)a + up,$$

$$(20c) \quad 2qr + 2ps + 4d^2 = p^2 c + u(u - p)b + upa,$$

$$(20d) \quad r^2 + 2qs - d^2 = p^2 + u(u - p)c + upb,$$

$$(20e) \quad 2rs + 2d^2 = u(u - p) + upc,$$

$$(20f) \quad s^2 - d^2 = up.$$

If  $\pi$  is an odd prime factor of  $p$ , then it follows easily that  $p \equiv q \equiv r \equiv s \equiv d \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}$ . Thus  $\pm p$  must be a power of 2. Suppose next  $p \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ . Then sequentially, (a) implies  $u \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ , (b) implies  $q \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ , (c) implies  $d \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , (d) and (e) imply  $r \equiv s \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , contradicting  $(p, q, r, s, d) \neq 1$ .

Since we can assume without loss of generality that  $p > 0$ , then  $p = 1$  or  $2$ . However, (a) implies  $p|u^2$ , and from (19) we have  $(p, u) = 1$ . Necessarily therefore  $p = 1$ .

Substitute into equations (20), and use (f) to eliminate  $d^2$ :

$$(21a) \quad 2q = a + u(u-1),$$

$$(21b) \quad q^2 + 2r = b + u(u-1)a + u,$$

$$(21c) \quad 2qr + 2s = c + u(u-1)b + ua + 4u - 4s^2,$$

$$(21d) \quad r^2 + 2qs = 1 + u(u-1)c + ub - u + s^2,$$

$$(21e) \quad 2rs = u(u+1) + uc - 2s^2.$$

Use (21a) to eliminate  $q$ , and, after multiplying (b), (c), (d) by  $s, s, s^2$ , respectively, use (21e) to eliminate  $r$ :

$$(22a) \quad 4sb = sa^2 - 2u(u-1)sa + 4uc + 4u(u+1) + (u^4 - 2u^3 + u^2 - 4u)s - 8s^2,$$

$$(22b) \quad (u(u+1) - 2us - 2s^2)a + uac + (u^2(u-1) - 2s)c - 2u(u-1)sb \\ + u^2(u^2 - 1) - 8us + (-2u^2 + 2u + 4)s^2 + 8s^3 = 0,$$

$$(22c) \quad u^2c^2 + 2u^2(u+1 - 2s^2)c - 4us^2b + 4s^3a \\ + u^2(u+1)^2 - 4(u^2+1)s^2 + 4u(u-1)s^3 = 0.$$

Use (22a) to eliminate  $b$ : there results

$$(23a) \quad -(u-1)sA^2 + 2uAC + 4(3u-1)s(s^2 - u) = 0,$$

$$(23b) \quad -s^2A^2 + u^3C^2 - 4s^2(u^3 - 1)(s^2 - u) = 0$$

where

$$(24) \quad A = ua - (u^2(u-1) + 2s),$$

$$(25) \quad C = c + (u+1 - 2s - 2s^2).$$

Multiply (23b) by  $A^2$ , and use (a) to eliminate  $C$  (recall from (20f) that  $d^2 = s^2 - u$ ):

$$(26) \quad s^2(A^2 - 4d^2)((-u^3 + 2u^2 - u + 4)A^2 + 4u(3u-1)^2d^2) = 0.$$

If  $s^2(A^2 - 4d^2) \neq 0$  then it follows that

$$(u^3 - 2u^2 + u - 4)A^2 = 4u(3u-1)^2d^2$$

so that

$$\left(1 - \frac{2}{u} + \frac{1}{u^2} - \frac{4}{u^3}\right)A^2 = \left(\frac{2(3u-1)d}{u}\right)^2,$$

which in virtue of the remarks of the final paragraph of Section 2, forces  $A = 0 = 2(3u-1)d$ , a contradiction. Accordingly,  $s^2(A^2 - 4d^2) = 0$  and we have either I:  $A = 2d\epsilon$  ( $\epsilon = \pm 1$ ), or II:  $s = 0$ .

Case I. If  $A = 2d\epsilon$ , then (23) gives  $C = -2sde$ . Solving (24) for  $a$ ,

$$(27) \quad a = 2/(s-d\epsilon) + u(u-1)$$

and from (21a),

$$(28) \quad q = 1/(s-d\epsilon) + u(u-1).$$

Thus

$$(29) \quad s-d\epsilon = \alpha = \pm 1$$

so that

$$(30) \quad s+d\epsilon = \alpha u$$

whence solving (29), (30) for  $s$ ,  $d$ ,

$$(31) \quad s = \alpha(u+1)/2, \quad d\epsilon = \alpha(u-1)/2.$$

Solving (25) for  $c$ , (21b) for  $b$ , and (21e) for  $r$ , gives the following parametrization:

$$(32) \quad \begin{aligned} p &= 1, \\ q &= u(u-1) + \alpha, \\ r &= (\alpha/2 + 1)u - \alpha/2, \\ s &= \alpha(u+1)/2, \\ d\epsilon &= \alpha(u-1)/2, \\ a &= u(u-1) + 2\alpha, \\ b &= (\alpha+1)u + (1-\alpha), \\ c &= \alpha(u+1). \end{aligned}$$

Taking  $\alpha = +1$ ,  $\alpha = -1$ , gives the respective triples

$$(33) \quad (a, b, c) = (u^2 - u + 2, 2u, u + 1), \quad (u^2 - u - 2, 2, -u - 1).$$

An elementary exercise shows that the quartic of which  $x_p$  is a root, namely  $x^4 + ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + 1$ , is irreducible precisely for  $u \neq 1$  in the first instance at (33), and  $u \neq \pm 1, 3$  in the second instance at (33).

It is now possible to recover a solution of the original equation (1), via the transformations (3), (4).

The first case at (33) leads to the following.



Let  $u \in \mathbf{Z}$ ,  $u \neq 0, 1$ , and define

$$(34) \quad \theta^4 + (u^2 - u + 2)\theta^3 + 2u\theta^2 + (u + 1)\theta + 1 = 0.$$

Then

$$(35) \quad \begin{aligned} x &= -\theta^3 - (u^2 - u + 2)\theta^2 - 2u\theta - (u + 1), \\ (u - 1)y &= -\theta^3 - (u^2 - u + 1)\theta^2 + (u^2 - 3u + 1)\theta + (u - 2), \\ (u - 1)z &= u\theta^3 + (u^3 - u^2 + 2u - 1)\theta^2 + (u^2 + u - 1)\theta + u^2. \end{aligned}$$

Notice again that the quadratic equation giving (3) ensures that  $y$  (and hence  $z$ ) is both an algebraic integer and a unit, so that despite the appearance of denominators at (35), there is an automatic guarantee of integrality. (It can in fact be shown that the equation satisfied by  $y$  is

$$y^4 - (u + 3)y^3 + 4uy^2 - (u^2 + u - 2)y - 1 = 0;$$

the equation for  $z$  is left as an exercise.)

Similarly, the second case at (33) leads to the following:

Let  $u \in \mathbf{Z}$ ,  $u \neq 0, \pm 1, 3$ ; and define

$$(36) \quad \phi^4 + (u^2 - u - 2)\phi^3 + 2\phi^2 - (u + 1)\phi + 1 = 0.$$

Then

$$(37) \quad \begin{aligned} x &= -\phi^3 - (u^2 - u - 2)\phi^2 - 2\phi + (u + 1), \\ (u - 1)y &= -\phi^3 - (u^2 - u - 1)\phi^2 - (u^2 - u + 1)\phi + u, \\ (u - 1)z &= u\phi^3 + (u^3 - u^2 - 2u + 1)\phi^2 + (u^2 + u - 1)\phi - u^2; \end{aligned}$$

where, as above,  $y$  and  $z$  are both integers and units of  $\mathcal{Q}(\phi)$ .

Case II. If  $s = 0$ , then (21e) implies

$$(38) \quad c = -u - 1.$$

The equations (21) become:

$$(39a) \quad 2q = a + u(u - 1),$$

$$(39b) \quad q^2 + 2r = b + u(u - 1)a + u,$$

$$(39c) \quad 2qr = u(u - 1)b + ua + 3u - 1,$$

$$(39d) \quad r^2 = ub - u^3 + 1,$$

with, from (20f),

$$(40) \quad d^2 = -u.$$

Use (39a) to eliminate  $q$  in (39b):

$$(41) \quad 2r = b - \frac{1}{4}a^2 + \frac{1}{2}u(u - 1)a - \frac{1}{4}u^2(u - 1)^2 + u.$$

Use (39a), (41) to eliminate  $q, r$  in (39c):

$$(42) \quad b\left(\frac{1}{2}a - \frac{1}{2}u(u-1)\right) = \frac{1}{8}a^3 - \frac{1}{8}u(u-1)a^2 + \left(-\frac{1}{8}u^2(u-1)^2 + \frac{1}{2}u\right)a \\ + \left(\frac{1}{8}u^3(u-1)^3 - \frac{1}{2}u^2(u-1) + 3u - 1\right).$$

Then, using (41) to eliminate  $b$ ,

$$(43) \quad r(a - u(u-1)) \\ = \frac{1}{4}u(u-1)a^2 + \left(-\frac{1}{2}u^2(u-1)^2 + u\right)a + \left(\frac{1}{4}u^3(u-1)^3 - u^2(u-1) + 3u - 1\right).$$

Using (42), (43) in (39d), there results after simplification

$$(44) \quad \left[ (u^3 - 2u^2 + u - 4)(a^2 - 2u(u-1)a) \right. \\ \left. + (u^3(u-1)^4 - 4u^2(u-1)^2 + 4(3u-1)^2) \right] \\ \times [ua^2 - 2u^2(u-1)a + (u^3(u-1)^2 + 4)] = 0.$$

If the first factor is to be zero, then

$$(u^3 - 2u^2 + u - 4)(a - u(u-1))^2 + 4(3u-1)^2 = 0,$$

so in particular

$$(45) \quad -u^3 + 2u^2 - u + 4 = v^2, \quad v \in \mathbf{Z}.$$

The elliptic curve represented by (45) has rank 1 (and there are integer points for  $u = 0, 1, -15$ ); however, in virtue of (40), we are only interested in the curve of genus 2 represented by

$$(46) \quad d^6 + 2d^4 + d^2 + 4 = v^2.$$

But the only integer points on the curve (46) have  $d = 0$ , for it may be written in the form

$$(d^3 + d)^2 + 4 = v^2$$

which clearly forces  $d^3 + d = 0$ , i.e.  $d = 0$ . Since we assumed  $d \neq 0$ , only the second factor at (44) may be zero.

In this instance, then

$$ua^2 - 2u^2(u-1)a + u^3(u-1)^2 + 4 = 0,$$

that is,

$$(47) \quad u(a - u(u-1))^2 + 4 = 0.$$

Using (40),

$$d(a - u(u-1)) = 2\varepsilon, \quad \varepsilon = \pm 1,$$

so that

$$u(a - u(u-1)) = 2d\varepsilon$$

and from (24),

$$A = 2d\varepsilon;$$

thus this instance has been covered by Case I.

Theorem 1 now follows from the solutions (16), (35) and (37) noting that the solutions at (16) are the particular cases of (35) and (37) at  $u = 0$ .

The discriminant of  $Q(\theta)$  at (34) is equal to

$$-(u-1)^2(4u^7 - 5u^6 - 6u^5 + 77u^4 - 304u^3 + 725u^2 - 1006u + 643);$$

and the discriminant of  $Q(\phi)$  at (36) is

$$(u+1)^2(4u^7 - 35u^6 + 102u^5 - 69u^4 - 216u^3 + 499u^2 - 402u + 117).$$

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