

# $p$ -adic numbers and the Hasse-Minkowski Theorem

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## Abstract

Given a polynomial  $f \in \mathbb{Z}[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$ , determining the existence of integral roots is a standard topic covered in an introductory number theory course. In this paper, we will extend our considerations to roots in  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Using  $p$ -adic numbers, the existence of rational solutions can be readily ascertained under select conditions, especially for quadratic forms.

## 1 Introduction

Let  $p$  be a prime number. For any integer,  $x$ , we can represent it in base  $p$  as a power series expansion, that is,

$$x = \sum_{n=0}^k a_n p^n \tag{1}$$

where  $a_n \in [0, p-1]$  and there exists some  $N$ , such that for all  $n > N$ ,  $a_n = 0$ . We call such a representation a  $p$ -adic expansion. As we will see shortly, it is convenient to denote the  $p$ -adic expansion of an integer as a decimal,  $\dots a_m \dots a_2 a_1 a_0$ , where  $a_m$  is the last positive coefficient in the series representation. There is a one-to-one correspondence between the series representation and decimal representation. Furthermore, such  $p$ -adic expansions over  $\mathbb{Z}$  preserve addition and multiplication, that is, if  $(x)_p$  denotes the  $p$ -adic expansion of  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we have that for  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $(x+y)_p = ((x)_p + (y)_p)_p$  and  $(x \cdot y)_p = ((x)_p (y)_p)_p$ .

Addition and multiplication of two  $p$ -adic expansions proceeds component-wise, ensuring coefficients are in  $[0, p-1]$  by "carrying" any term  $p^n$  with coefficient  $a_n > p-1$  to higher powers of  $p$ . We present examples of both operations.

## 1.1 Addition

Let  $p = 7$ . Consider  $x = 6 + 6 \cdot 7 + 6 \cdot 7^2 + 0 \cdot 7^3 + 0 \cdot 7^4 + \dots$  and  $y = 1 + 0 \cdot 7 + 0 \cdot 7^2 + 0 \cdot 7^3 + \dots$ . After converting both numbers to their respective decimal representations, addition proceeds as follows:

$$\begin{array}{r} \phantom{+}\overset{1\ 1\ 1}{\dots00666}\\ +\phantom{\overset{1\ 1\ 1}{\dots}}\dots00001\\ \hline \phantom{+}\dots01000 \end{array}$$

Which, converting back to series representation, yields the representation of 0 in the 7-adic's.

## 1.2 Multiplication

Let  $p = 3$ . We will find the 3-adic representation of 200 by calculating  $20 \cdot 10$  in base 3.

Note that  $20 = 2 + 0 \cdot 3 + 2 \cdot 3^2 + 0 \cdot 3^3 + \dots$  and  $10 = 1 + 0 \cdot 3 + 1 \cdot 3^2 + 0 \cdot 3^3 + \dots$ , so we have

$$\begin{array}{r} \dots 00202 \\ \times \quad \dots 00101 \\ \hline \qquad \qquad 1 \\ \dots 00202 \\ + \dots 00000 \\ + \dots 20200 \\ \hline \dots 21102 \end{array}$$

Converting back to a series a representation, we find that  $2 + 0 \cdot 3 + 1 \cdot 3^2 + 1 \cdot 3^3 + 2 \cdot 3^4 = 200$ .

### 1.3 Representation of -1

Given that  $p$ -adic expansions preserve multiplication in  $\mathbb{Z}$ , we simply need to derive the  $p$ -adic expansion of  $-1$  to acquire the  $p$ -adic expansions of negative integers. By preservation of addition, we should have that

$$((1)_p + (-1)_p)_p = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 0 \cdot p^n$$

This implies we should have a continuous carry to the right. So,  $-1 = (p-1) + (p-1)p + (p-1)p^2 + (p-1)p^3 + \dots$ , since,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \underbrace{1 + (p-1)} + (p-1) \cdot p + (p-1) \cdot p^2 + (p-1) \cdot p^3 + \dots = \\
& = \underbrace{p + (p-1)p} + (p-1)p^2 + (p-1)p^3 + \dots \\
& = \underbrace{p^2 + (p-1)p^2} + (p-1)p^3 + \dots \\
& = \dots \\
& = 0
\end{aligned}$$

## 1.4 $\mathbb{Z}_p$

It is clear any power series representation of an integer base  $p$  must terminate at some finite power of  $p$ . However, if one allows for infinite series (with index  $\geq 0$ ), the class of  $p$ -adic integers are obtained.

**Definition 1.1** *Let  $p$  be a prime number. The  $p$ -adic integers consists of the set*

$$\mathbb{Z}_p = \left\{ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n p^n : 0 \leq a_n \leq p-1 \right\} \quad (2)$$

It is clear that every integer's  $p$ -adic representation is in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . However, one may also find the  $p$ -adic representation of non-integral rational numbers in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . For example, in base 5

$$\frac{-1}{4} = \frac{1}{1-5} = 1 + 5 + 5^2 + 5^3 + \dots$$

which is clearly in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . Note that this derivation is a simple application of the sum formula for infinite geometric series. With respect to carry-over addition and multiplication as previously defined,  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  forms a ring and the  $p$ -adic representations of  $\mathbb{Z}$  form a subring of  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ .

## 1.5 Representation of Rational Numbers

So far we have discussed  $p$ -adic expansions of the integers and rational numbers which strictly assume positive powers of  $p$  in their representations. However, we can generalize and allow for terms which contain negative powers of  $p$ , in which case, we can uniquely represent every element of  $\mathbb{Q}$ . It is important to note that  $p$ -adic expansions of rational numbers preserve multiplication and addition in  $\mathbb{Q}$ , and addition/multiplication over these expansions proceeds in the same manner as described before, maintaining the notion of digit "carrying." With these facts in mind, we will determine the coefficients in the  $p$ -adic expansion of an arbitrary rational number.

**Definition 1.2** Let  $p$  be a prime number. The  $p$ -adic valuation of  $\mathbb{Z}$

$$v_p : \mathbb{Z} - \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

is defined as the following: for  $x \in \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$ ,  $v_p(x) = n \in \mathbb{N}$ , such that  $x = p^n x'$  and  $p \nmid x'$ . The  $p$ -adic valuation on  $\mathbb{Z}$  is more commonly known as  $\text{ord}_p(x)$ . We may extend  $v_p$  to  $\mathbb{Q}$  by letting  $v_p(\frac{a}{b}) = v_p(a) - v_p(b)$  for  $\frac{a}{b} \in \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\frac{a}{b} \neq 0$ .

By convention, we let  $v_p(0) = +\infty$ .

**Example** We calculate  $v_7(56/29)$ .

$56 = 7 \cdot 8$  and  $29 = 7^0 \cdot 29$ . So,

$$v_7(56/29) = v_7(56) - v_7(29) = 1 - 0 = 1$$

With  $v_p$  at our disposal, we describe a procedure to determine the  $p$ -adic coefficients of a fraction  $\neq 0$ .

For  $x \in \mathbb{Q}$ , if  $n_0 = v_p(x)$ , then  $x = \sum_{n=n_0}^{\infty} a_n p^n$ , where  $0 \leq a_n \leq p-1$ .

$$\begin{aligned} x &= a_{n_0} p^{n_0} + a_{n_0+1} p^{n_0+1} + a_{n_0+2} p^{n_0+2} + \dots \\ &= p^{n_0} (a_{n_0} + a_{n_0+1} p + a_{n_0+2} p^2 + \dots) \\ &= p^{n_0} \cdot \frac{x_1}{y_1} \end{aligned}$$

where  $p \nmid x_1$ ,  $p \nmid y_1$ , and  $\gcd(x_1, y_1) = 1$ . Then,

$$\frac{x_1}{y_1} = a_{n_0} + a_{n_0+1} p + a_{n_0+2} p^2 + \dots$$

Reducing modulo  $p$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 \cdot y_1^{-1} &\equiv a_{n_0} + a_{n_0+1} p + a_{n_0+2} p^2 + \dots \pmod{p} \\ &\equiv a_{n_0} \end{aligned}$$

Having solved for  $a_{n_0}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x_1}{y_1} - a_{n_0} &= p(a_{n_0+1} + a_{n_0+2} p + a_{n_0+3} p^2 + \dots) \\ &= p \cdot \frac{x_2}{y_2} \end{aligned}$$

where  $p \nmid x_2$ ,  $p \nmid y_2$ , and  $\gcd(x_2, y_2) = 1$ . Then,

$$\frac{x_2}{y_2} = a_{n_0+1} + a_{n_0+2} p + a_{n_0+3} p^2 + \dots$$

Reducing modulo  $p$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} x_2 \cdot y_2^{-1} &\equiv a_{n_0+1} + a_{n_0+2}p + a_{n_0+3}p^2 + \dots \pmod{p} \\ &\equiv a_{n_0+1} \end{aligned}$$

At first glance, this procedure seems rather useless in presenting a concise series or decimal representation of a rational number for which the expansion contains infinitely many non-zero terms, but in fact, the  $p$ -adic expansion of a rational number has repeating digits, so we continue this process so forth until the period is discovered, and appropriately denote the expansion as a repeating decimal (or series).

**Proposition 1.3** *If  $x \in \mathbb{Q}$ , then the  $p$ -adic expansion of  $x$  has repeating coefficients.*

*Proof.* If we can show for  $x = \frac{a}{b} \in \mathbb{Q}$  that

$$x = c + \frac{d}{1 - p^r}$$

for  $c, d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , then we shall have the desired conclusion, since the  $p$ -adic expansion of  $c$  and  $d$  will have a finite number of nonzero terms, and the  $p$ -adic expansion of  $\frac{1}{1-p^r}$  has repeating coefficients (to see this, derive this expansion as a geometric series).

We consider the scenario where  $p \nmid b$  since if  $p$  does divide  $b$  and  $b = p^r b'$ , then we analyze  $a/b'$  and the extra factor of  $1/p^r$  will not eliminate the possibility of repeating coefficients (since its  $p$ -adic expansion only has one non-zero term). So let  $-1 \leq a/b \leq 0$ , since if this is not the case, we can add an integer,  $j$ , such that  $a/b + j$  is between -1 and 0, and since  $j$  has a finite nonzero expansion, this will not change the possibility of the repeating coefficients.

Now we consider  $\mathbb{Z}/b\mathbb{Z}$ . Since  $p \nmid b$ , we have that the order of  $p$  in  $\mathbb{Z}/b\mathbb{Z}$  is  $b$ , so there exists  $m, n > 0$  such that  $p^m \equiv p^n \pmod{b}$ . Without loss of generality, let  $m > n$ , then  $p^{m-n} \equiv 1 \pmod{b}$ , hence there is a  $d$  such that  $db = p^{m-n} - 1$ . Thus,

$$x = \frac{a}{b} = \frac{ad}{bd} = \frac{-ad}{1 - p^{m-n}}$$

. Hence,  $x = \frac{a}{b}$  must have a repeating expansion. ■

Since every rational number has a repeating  $p$ -adic expansion, the algorithm presented above would be used to derive coefficients until the period is exhibited.

## 2 The Field of $p$ -adic Numbers

A complete characterization of the  $p$ -adic numbers,

$$\mathbb{Q}_p = \left\{ \sum_{n=n_0}^{\infty} a_n p^n : n_0 \in \mathbb{Z}, 0 \leq a_n \leq p-1 \right\} \quad (3)$$

In other words,  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  is the set of all finite-tailed Laurent series in powers of  $p$ . By finite-tailed, we mean the expansion is finite to the left. With respect to addition and multiplication as described before ("carrying"),  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  forms a field. We would, however, like to describe the topology of  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ . To do this, we will first develop an absolute value for the  $p$ -adic numbers.

### 2.1 The $p$ -adic absolute value

An absolute value for a field  $\mathbb{K}$  is a function  $|\cdot| : \mathbb{K} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  which satisfies the following,

- i)  $|x| = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = 0$
- ii)  $|xy| = |x||y|$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{K}$
- iii)  $|x + y| \leq |x| + |y|$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{K}$

Furthermore, an absolute value is called non-archimidean if,

- iv)  $|x + y| \leq \max\{|x|, |y|\}$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{K}$ . It is clear that this property implies iii), hence this is a stronger condition.

**Definition 2.1** Let  $\mathbb{K}$  be a field and  $|\cdot|$  an absolute value over  $\mathbb{K}$ . The distance between two elements  $x, y \in \mathbb{K}$ , is defined as  $d(x, y) := |x - y|$ . We call this distance function the metric induced by  $|\cdot|$ .

**Definition 2.2** For  $x \in \mathbb{Q}$ , the  $p$ -adic absolute value,  $|\cdot|_p$ , of  $x$  is defined as follows,

$$|x|_p = p^{-v_p(x)}$$

if  $x \neq 0$ , and  $|0|_p = 0$ .

**Lemma 2.3**  $|\cdot|_p$  defines a non-archimedean absolute value on  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

*Proof.* For the first property of an absolute value,  $|0|_p = 0$  by definition, and for a nonzero  $x \in \mathbb{Q}$ , it is not possible for  $p^{-v_p(x)} = 0$  since  $p$  is nonzero. For the second property, let  $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$ . Then,  $|x|_p |y|_p = p^{-v_p(x) - v_p(y)}$ . By the Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic,  $v_p(xy) = v_p(x) + v_p(y)$ , so  $|xy|_p = p^{-v_p(xy)} = p^{-v_p(x) - v_p(y)} = |x|_p |y|_p$ . Next, we show  $|\cdot|_p$  is non-archimedean, which will subsequently induce property iii). If  $x = 0$ ,  $y = 0$ , or  $x + y = 0$  then

property iv) clearly follows. So let  $x = \frac{a}{b}$ ,  $y = \frac{c}{d}$ ,  $x + y = \frac{ad+bc}{bd}$  and

$$\begin{aligned}
v_p(x + y) &= v_p(ad + bc) - v_p(b) - v_p(d) \\
&\geq \min(v_p(ad), v_p(bc)) - v_p(b) - v_p(d) \\
&= \min(v_p(ad), v_p(bc)) - v_p(b) - v_p(d) \\
&= \min(v_p(a) - v_p(b), v_p(c) - v_p(d)) \\
&= \min(v_p(x), v_p(y))
\end{aligned}$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned}
|x + y|_p &= \frac{1}{p^{v_p(x+y)}} \\
&\leq \frac{1}{p^{\min(v_p(x), v_p(y))}} \\
&= \max(|x|_p, |y|_p)
\end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $|\cdot|_p$  is a non-archimedean absolute value. ■

## 2.2 A Completion of $\mathbb{Q}$ to $\mathbb{Q}_p$

**Definition 2.4** Let  $\mathbb{K}$  be a field and  $|\cdot|$  an absolute value over  $\mathbb{K}$ . A sequence of elements  $x_n$  is called a *Cauchy sequence* if for all  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists an  $M \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for all  $n, m \geq M$ ,  $|x_n - x_m| < \epsilon$ . We refer to  $\mathbb{K}$  as **complete** if every Cauchy sequence of elements in  $\mathbb{K}$  has a limit.

$\mathbb{Q}$  is not complete with respect to the standard absolute value. To see this, note that we can construct a sequence converging to  $\sqrt{2}$ . In fact,  $\mathbb{R}$  is a completion of  $\mathbb{Q}$  with respect to the standard absolute value. We will see that with respect to  $|\cdot|_p$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  is a completion of  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

**Definition 2.5** Let  $|\cdot|_p$  be the  $p$ -adic absolute value on  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Let  $\mathcal{C}$  (or  $\mathcal{C}_p(\mathbb{Q})$ ) denote the set of all Cauchy sequences in  $\mathbb{Q}$  with respect to  $|\cdot|_p$ .

$$\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}_p(\mathbb{Q}) = \{(x_n) : (x_n) \text{ is a Cauchy sequence with respect to } |\cdot|_p\}$$

**Proposition 2.6** *Defining*

$$(x_n) + (y_n) = (x_n + y_n) \quad (x_n) \cdot (y_n) = (x_n y_n)$$

*turns  $\mathcal{C}$  into a commutative ring with unity.*

We can embed  $\mathbb{Q}$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  simply by sending a rational  $x$  to the constant sequence  $(x)$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ . We have yet to develop a machinery by which we are able to classify sequences which converge to the same limit as equivalent. The development of a particular quotient ring will help achieve this.

**Definition 2.7** Let  $\mathcal{N} \subset \mathcal{C}$  be the ideal

$$\mathcal{N} = \{(x_n) : x_n \rightarrow 0\} = \{(x_n) : \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} |x|_p = 0\}.$$

**Lemma 2.8**  $\mathcal{N}$  is a maximal ideal of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

To "mod out" equivalent sequences in  $\mathcal{C}$ , we simply take the quotient of the ring  $\mathcal{C}$  by its ideal  $\mathcal{N}$ . Since  $\mathcal{N}$  is maximal, this will form a field. In fact, we define

$$\mathbb{Q}_p = \mathcal{C} / \mathcal{N}$$

This refined construction of  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  represents a completion of  $\mathbb{Q}$  to  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ . We will not present a complete algebraic argument for this fact.

### 3 Local-Global Principle

Given an equation  $f \in \mathbb{Z}[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$ , finding roots in  $\mathbb{Z}$  is a standard question in Diophantine analysis. A natural extension of this question is whether roots exist in  $\mathbb{Q}$ . The development of  $p$ -adic numbers helped to define existence criterion in regards to this question. The local-global principle asserts that the existence or nonexistence of roots to such equations in  $\mathbb{Q}$  (global) can be detected by searching for roots in  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  for  $p \leq \infty$ . By convention,  $\mathbb{Q}_\infty = \mathbb{R}$ .

It is simple to embed  $\mathbb{Q}$  in  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ . Simply send a rational  $x$  to its  $p$ -adic expansion. It immediately follows that if there is no solution in  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  for some  $p$ , then there is no solution in  $\mathbb{Q}$ . The converse, however, is not true. As an example, we will show  $(X^2 - 2)(X^2 - 17)(X^2 - 34)$  has a root in  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  for  $p \leq \infty$  but not in  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Before we explicitly show this, an important theorem is established.

**Definition 3.1** The  $p$ -adic integers is defined as the set

$$\mathbb{Z}_p = \{x \in \mathbb{Q}_p : |x|_p \geq 1\}$$

Equivalently, this set consists entirely of expansions with no negative powers of  $p$ .

**Theorem 3.2** (Hensel's Lemma) Let  $f(X) \in \mathbb{Z}_p[X]$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  satisfy the following conditions,

$$f(\alpha) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$$

and

$$f'(\alpha) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$$

where  $f'(X)$  is the formal derivative of  $f(X)$ . Then there exists an  $\alpha_1$  such that  $f(\alpha_1) \equiv 0$  and  $\alpha_1 \equiv \alpha \pmod{p}$ .



**Lemma 3.3** *We may replace the second condition of Hensel's lemma,  $f'(\alpha) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , with the weaker condition  $|F(\alpha_1)|_p < |F'(\alpha_1)|_p^2$ .*

**Example**  $(X^2 - 2)(X^2 - 17)(X^2 - 34)$  has roots in  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  for  $p \leq \infty$ , but no roots in  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

**Case 1**  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  for  $p \neq 2, 17$

For such  $p$ , if 2 or 17 is a square modulo  $p$ , then we have an  $\alpha$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  such that  $\alpha^2 - 2$  (or  $\alpha^2 - 17$ )  $\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . Furthermore,  $f'(\alpha) = 2\alpha \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , since  $p \nmid 2$ , and if  $p \mid \alpha$ , we would have  $-2$  (or  $-17$ )  $\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . So we may apply Hensel's lemma and conclude there is a solution in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  to  $X^2 - 2 = 0$  (or  $X^2 - 17 = 0$ ), thus this is also a root of the original equation. Otherwise, if neither 2 or 17 is a square modulo  $p$ , by a standard property of quadratic residues, their product is a square modulo  $p$ , so we have a solution,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  such that  $\alpha^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . By the same argument above,  $2\alpha \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , so we may apply Hensel's Lemma.

**Case 2**  $\mathbb{Q}_2$

We consider the equation  $f(X) = X^2 - 17 = 0$ . We observe that  $X^2 - 17 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  is equivalent to  $X^2 - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , which indeed has a solution in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ ,  $\alpha = 1$ . Furthermore  $|f(\alpha)|_2 = |-16|_2 = 1/16 < |f'(\alpha)|_2^2 = |2|_2^2 = 1/4$ . So by the strengthened version of Hensel's lemma,  $f$  has a root in  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ . Clearly, this is also a root to the original equation.

**Case 3**  $\mathbb{Q}_{17}$

We consider the equation  $f(X) = X^2 - 2$ . 2 is a square modulo 17, since  $6^2 \equiv 36 \equiv 2 \pmod{17}$ , so there is a root in  $\mathbb{Z}_{17}$  which satisfies the first hypothesis of Hensel's lemma. Taking the derivative, we see that  $2(6) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{17}$ , so there is a root of  $f(X)$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_{17}$ , by Hensel's lemma. Clearly, this is also a root of our original equation.

**Case 4**  $\mathbb{Q}_\infty = \mathbb{R}$

We have many roots to this equation in  $\mathbb{R}$ , none of which are rational, so this proves our claim.

With this in mind, we will explore scenarios in which the  $p$ -adic fields help us determine the existence of rational solutions to equations known as quadratic forms.

**Definition 3.4** For a field  $\mathbb{F}$ , a quadratic form is a homogeneous polynomial  $\in \mathbb{F}[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$  of degree 2.

We now introduce an important result connecting  $p$ -adic numbers to quadratic forms.

**Theorem 3.5** (*Hasse-Minkowski*) Let

$$f(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \in \mathbb{Q}[X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n]$$

be a quadratic form. Then  $f$  has a non-trivial root in  $\mathbb{Q}^n$  if and only if it has a non-trivial root in  $\mathbb{Q}_p^n$  for  $p \leq \infty$ .

**Example** We show that  $f(x, y, z) = 5x^2 + 7y^2 - 13z^2$  has a non-trivial rational root.

**Case 1**  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ , where  $p \neq 2, 5, 7, 13$ .

To work with this case, we establish an importance proposition.

**Proposition 3.6** Let  $\mathbb{K}$  be a finite field. Then every quadratic form over  $\mathbb{K}$  in at least 3 variables has a non-trivial root.

With this proposition at our disposable, we establish there is a nontrivial root  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  of  $f$  modulo  $p$  (since the integers modulo  $p$  form a finite field). Assume  $p \nmid x_0$  (we will see why this is a fair assumption). Then let

$$h(x) = 5x^2 + 7y_0^2 - 13z_0^2$$

$h$  has a root, namely  $x_0$ , modulo  $p$ . Furthermore,  $h'(x_0) = 10x_0 = 2 \cdot 5 \cdot x_0 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , since  $p \nmid 2, 5, x_0$ . So by Hensel's lemma,  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  lifts to a root of  $f$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . If we had assumed  $p \nmid y_0$  or  $z_0$ , it is easy to see why the derivatives would have posed no issue to apply Hensel's lemma.

**Case 2**  $\mathbb{Q}_2$

Set  $y_0 = 0$  and  $z_0 = 1$ , then let

$$h(x) = 5x^2 + 7y_0^2 - 13z_0^2 = 5x^2 - 13$$

$x = 1$  is a root of  $h(x)$  modulo 2. Furthermore,  $|h(1)|_2 < |h'(1)|_2^2$ , so by Hensel's lemma, we have root of  $f$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ .

**Case 3**  $\mathbb{Q}_5$

Set  $x_0 = 0$ ,  $y_0 = 2$ , then let

$$h(z) = 5x_0^2 + 7y_0^2 - 13z^2 = 28 - z^2$$

$z = 1$  is a root of  $h(z)$  modulo 5. Furthermore,  $h'(1) \equiv 1 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ , hence we may apply Hensel's lemma. So there is a root of  $f$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_5$ .

#### Case 4 $\mathbb{Q}_7$

Set  $x_0 = 2$ ,  $y_0 = 0$ , then let

$$h(z) = 5x_0^2 + 7y_0^2 - 13z^2 = 20 - 13z^2$$

$z = 1$  is a root of  $h(z)$  modulo 7. Furthermore,  $h'(1) \equiv 5 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{7}$ , hence we may apply Hensel's lemma. So there is a root of  $f$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_7$ .

#### Case 3 $\mathbb{Q}_{13}$

Set  $x_0 = 3$ ,  $z_0 = 0$ , then let

$$h(y) = 5x_0^2 + 7y^2 - 13z_0^2 = 45 + 7z^2$$

$y = 1$  is a root of  $h(y)$  modulo 13. Furthermore,  $h'(1) \equiv 1 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{13}$ , hence we may apply Hensel's lemma. So there is a root of  $f$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_{13}$ .

#### Case 4 $\mathbb{Q}_\infty = \mathbb{R}$

Set  $x_0 = 0$  and let  $y_0$  be some nonzero constant. Then clearly we will be able to find an appropriate  $z_0$  in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Since we have found roots of  $f$  for all  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ , by the Hasse-Minkowski theorem, there is a rational root of  $f$ .

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## References

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