

One problem involving Pell equation

(attached to problem

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6512525019552321536>)

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Find all natural m such that $2m + 1$ and $3m + 1$ both are perfect squares;

Solution.

a) $2m + 1 = x^2, 3m + 1 = y^2$ then $3x^2 - 2y^2 = 1$, where $x \equiv 1 \pmod{2}, y \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$.

Let $P_+ := \{(x, y) \mid x, y \in \mathbb{N} \text{ and } 3x^2 - 2y^2 = 1\}$,

$\bar{P}_+ := \{(x\sqrt{3} + y\sqrt{2}) \mid x, y \in \mathbb{N} \text{ and } 3x^2 - 2y^2 = 1\}$ and $\varphi : P_+ \rightarrow \bar{P}_+$

defined by $\varphi(x, y) = x\sqrt{3} + y\sqrt{2}$. Since $x\sqrt{3} + y\sqrt{2} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} x = 0 \\ y = 0 \end{cases}$ then

φ isomorphism.

Let x_n, y_n be natural numbers defined by representation $(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})(5 + 2\sqrt{6})^n$ in the form $x_n\sqrt{3} + y_n\sqrt{2}$ obtained by collected terms with $\sqrt{3}$ and $\sqrt{2}$.

Since $3x_n^2 - 2y_n^2 = (\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2})(5 + 2\sqrt{6})^n(\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2})(5 - 2\sqrt{6})^n = 1$ then

$(x_n, y_n) \in P_+$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ and can be defined recursively by

$x_{n+1}\sqrt{3} + y_{n+1}\sqrt{2} = (x_n\sqrt{3} + y_n\sqrt{2})(5 + 2\sqrt{6}) \Leftrightarrow$

$$(1) \quad \begin{cases} x_{n+1} = 5x_n + 4y_n \\ y_{n+1} = 6x_n + 5y_n \end{cases}, n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\},$$

where $x_0 = 1, y_0 = 1$.

We will prove that for any solution $(x, y) \in P_+$ there is $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ such that

$(x, y) = (x_n, y_n)$, that is $x\sqrt{3} + y\sqrt{2} = x_n\sqrt{3} + y_n\sqrt{2}$.

Proof.

Suppose opposite, that is $x\sqrt{3} + y\sqrt{2} \neq x_n\sqrt{3} + y_n\sqrt{2}$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$.

Since $x_n\sqrt{3} + y_n\sqrt{2} < x_{n+1}\sqrt{3} + y_{n+1}\sqrt{2}$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ and

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (x_n\sqrt{3} + y_n\sqrt{2}) = \infty$ then there is $m \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ such that

$$x_m\sqrt{3} + y_m\sqrt{2} < x\sqrt{3} + y\sqrt{2} < x_{m+1}\sqrt{3} + y_{m+1}\sqrt{2}.$$

Since $(x\sqrt{3} + y\sqrt{2})(5 - 2\sqrt{6}) = (5x - 4y)\sqrt{3} + (5y - 6x)\sqrt{2}$ and

$$5x > 4y \Leftrightarrow 25x^2 > 16y^2 \Leftrightarrow 75x^2 > 48y^2 \Leftrightarrow 25(2y^2 + 1) > 48y^2 \Leftrightarrow 2y^2 + 25 > 0,$$

$$5y > 6x \Leftrightarrow 25y^2 > 36x^2 \Leftrightarrow 50y^2 > 72x^2 \Leftrightarrow 25(3x^2 - 1) > 72x^2 \Leftrightarrow 3x^2 > 25$$

(because x is odd and $x \neq 1$ then $x \geq 3$ and latter inequality holds).

Also note that no $(x, y) \in P_+$ such that

$$x\sqrt{3} + y\sqrt{2} \in (x_0\sqrt{3} + y_0\sqrt{2}, x_1\sqrt{3} + y_1\sqrt{2}) = (\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}, 9\sqrt{3} + 11\sqrt{2}).$$

Indeed, since x is odd and $\frac{3x^2 - 1}{2}$ isn't perfect square for $x \in \{3, 5, 7\}$ and $x \notin \{1, 9\}$

(because otherwise $y \in \{1, 11\}$ and $x\sqrt{3} + y\sqrt{2} \in \{\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}, 9\sqrt{3} + 11\sqrt{2}\}$) then

$x > 9 \Rightarrow 2y^2 = 3x^2 - 1 > 242 \Rightarrow y > 11$ and, therefore $m \geq 1$.

So, if $x\sqrt{3} + y\sqrt{2} \in (x_m\sqrt{3} + y_m\sqrt{2}, x_{m+1}\sqrt{3} + y_{m+1}\sqrt{2})$ then

$$(x\sqrt{3} + y\sqrt{2})(5 - 2\sqrt{6}) = (5x - 4y)\sqrt{3} + (5y - 6x)\sqrt{2} \in (x_{m-1}\sqrt{3} + y_{m-1}\sqrt{2}, x_m\sqrt{3} + y_m\sqrt{2})$$

and $(5x - 4y, 5y - 6x) \in P_+$.

Applying reverse transformation m times, that is multiplying inequality

$$x_m\sqrt{3} + y_m\sqrt{2} < x\sqrt{3} + y\sqrt{2} < x_{m+1}\sqrt{3} + y_{m+1}\sqrt{2} \text{ by } (5 - 2\sqrt{6})^m$$

we obtain inequality $x_0\sqrt{3} + y_0\sqrt{2} < x'\sqrt{3} + y'\sqrt{2} < x_1\sqrt{3} + y_1\sqrt{2}$

where $x'\sqrt{3} + y'\sqrt{2} = (x\sqrt{3} + y\sqrt{2})(5 - 2\sqrt{6})^m$ and $x', y' = x', y'$ are natural.

But as was proved above $\bar{P}_+ \cap (\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{2}, 9\sqrt{3} + 11\sqrt{2}) = \emptyset$.

Obtained contradiction complete the proof.

Thus, $P_+ = \{(x_n, y_n) \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}\}$.

Instead system (1) convenient to use independent recurrences of the second degree defined x_n, y_n . Namely,

$$(1) \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} x_{n+2} - 10x_{n+1} + x_n = 0, n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}, x_0 = 1, x_1 = 9 \\ y_{n+2} - 10y_{n+1} + y_n = 0, n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}, y_0 = 1, y_1 = 11 \end{cases} .$$