

On the Diophantine Equation $53^x + 143^y = z^2$

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Abstract. In this paper, we have shown that the Diophantine equation $53^x + 143^y = z^2$ has only two non-negative integer solutions for x, y and z . The solutions are $(0, 1, 12)$ and $(1, 1, 14)$. This equation has been solved by applying Catalan's conjecture. As a consequence of main theorem we showed that the equation $53^x + 143^y = w^4$ has no solution in non-negative integers (x, y, w) .

Keywords: Exponential Diophantine equation, integer solutions

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1. Introduction

In 2004, Mihailescu [1] proved the Catalan's conjecture: $(3, 2, 2, 3)$ is a unique solution (a, b, x, y) for the Diophantine equation $a^x - b^y = 1$ where a, b, x and y are non-negative integers with $\min\{a, b, x, y\} > 1$. This result plays an important role in the study of exponential Diophantine equations. In 2005, Acu [2] studied Diophantine equations of the type $a^x + b^y = c^z$ for primes a and b . In 2007, Acu [3] proved that the Diophantine equation $2^x + 5^y = z^2$ has exactly two solutions (x, y, z) in non-negative integers. The solutions are $(3, 0, 3)$ and $(2, 1, 3)$. In 2011, Suvarnamani, Singhta and Chotchaisthit [4] showed that the two Diophantine equations $4^x + 7^y = z^2$ and $4^x + 11^y = z^2$ have no non-negative integer solutions. Sroysang [5, 6] in 2012 showed that the two Diophantine equations $3^x + 5^y = z^2$ and $3^x + 17^y = z^2$ have the unique solutions $(1, 0, 2)$ in non-negative integers (x, y, z) , respectively. Rabago [7] in 2013 solved the two Diophantine equations $3^x + 19^y = z^2$ and $3^x + 91^y = z^2$ where x, y and z are non-negative integers. He found two solutions for each of the equations i.e., $\{(1, 0, 2), (4, 1, 10)\}$ and $\{(1, 0, 2), (2, 1, 10)\}$, respectively. Again Sroysang [8] in 2014 solved the equation $3^x + 85^y = z^2$ and found that $(1, 0, 2)$ is a unique solution in non-negative integers x, y and z for this equation. The results on the related Diophantine equations have been found by several different mathematicians [9-14] employing a variety of methods.

In this paper, we solved the Diophantine equation

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and found that $(0, 1, 12)$ and $(1, 1, 14)$ are only two non-negative integer solutions for x, y and z .

2. Preliminaries:

We start this section by presenting a Proposition and two Lemmas.

Proposition 2.1. The Catalan's conjecture states that $(3, 2, 2, 3)$ is a solution (a, b, x, y) for the Diophantine equation $a^x - b^y = 1$ where a, b, x and y are integers with $\min\{a, b, x, y\} > 1$.

Lemma 2.1. The Diophantine equation $53^x + 1 = z^2$ has no non-negative integer solution where x and z are non-negative integers.

Proof: Suppose that there are non-negative integers x and z such that $53^x + 1 = z^2$. If $x = 0$, then $z^2 = 2$ which is not possible. Then $x \geq 1$. Thus, $z^2 = 53^x + 1 \geq 53^1 + 1 = 54$. Then $z \geq 8$. Now we consider on the equation $z^2 - 53^x = 1$. By Proposition 2.1, we have $x = 1$. Then $z^2 = 54$. This is a contradiction. Hence the equation $53^x + 1 = z^2$ has no non-negative integer solution.

Lemma 2.2. $(1, 12)$ is a unique solution for the (y, z) Diophantine equation $1 + 143^y = z^2$ where y and z are positive integers.

Proof: Let y and z be positive integers such that $1 + 143^y = z^2$. If $y = 0$, then $z^2 = 2$ which is impossible. Then $y \geq 1$. Thus $z^2 = 1 + 143^y \geq 1 + 143 = 144$. Then $z \geq 12$. Now we consider on the equation $z^2 - 143^y = 1$. By Proposition 2.1, we have $y = 1$. It follows that $z^2 = 144$. Hence, $z = 12$. Therefore, $(1, 12)$ is a unique solution (y, z) for the equation $1 + 143^y = z^2$ where y and z are positive integers.

3. Main result

Theorem 3.1. The only solutions to the Diophantine equation $53^x + 143^y = z^2$ in non-negative integers are $(0, 1, 12)$ and $(1, 1, 14)$.

Proof: The case $z = 0$ is obviously impossible. Likewise, $y = 0$ has no solution by Lemma 2.1. When $x = 0$, we have $(x, y, z) = (0, 1, 12)$ by Lemma 2.2. We consider the following remaining cases.

Case (I) $x = 1$. If $x = 1$, then we have $53^x + 143^y = z^2$. Taking *modulo* 4 both sides, we have $53 + 143^y = z^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ that is $z = 2m$ for some natural number m . Then $53 + 143^y = 4m^2$. It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} 53 + 90 + 143^y &= 4m^2 + 90 \\ \text{Or, } 143 + 143^y &= 4m^2 + 90 \\ \text{Or, } 143(1 + 143^{y-1}) &= 2(2m^2 + 45) \end{aligned}$$

So $143^{y-1} + 1 = 2$ and $2m^2 + 45 = 143$. Thus, $y = 1$ and $m^2 = 49$ which implies $m = 7$. Hence, for $m = 7$, we have $z = 14$. Therefore, $(x, y, z) = (1, 1, 14)$ is a solution to $53^x + 143^y = z^2$.

For $y = 1$ and $x = 1$, we have $z = 14$.

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Case (II) $x, y, z > 1$. Suppose $53^x + 143^y = z^2$ is true for positive integers x, y and z . Here $53^x \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ and $143^y \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ for even integer y and $143^y \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ for odd integer y . Since $z^2 \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}$ then y must be odd and z is even. We have two possibilities for x .

If x is even i.e. $x = 2l$ for some natural number l . Then $53^x + 143^y = z^2$ becomes $53^{2l} + 143^y = z^2$. So $(z - 53^l)(z + 53^l) = z^2 - 53^{2l} = 143^y$. So $143^{y-u} - 143^u = 2 \cdot 53^l$ where $z - 53^l = 143^u$ and $z + 53^l = 143^{y-u}$, $y > 2u$, u is a non-negative integer. It follows that $143^u(143^{y-2u} - 1) = 2 \cdot 53^l$ which implies that $143^u = 1$ and $143^{y-2u} - 1 = 2 \cdot 53^l$. Thus $u = 0$ and $143^y - 1 = 2 \cdot 53^l$. Since $l \geq 1$, then $143^y = 2 \cdot 53^l + 1 \geq 2 \cdot 53^1 + 1 = 107$, not possible to get a solution.

If x is odd, that is, $x = 2l + 1$ where l is a natural number. Then

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becomes $53^{2l+1} + 143^y = z^2$. So $143^y - 11 \cdot 53^{2l} = z^2 - 64 \cdot 53^{2l}$ or equivalently $143^y - 11 \cdot 53^{2l} = (z - 8 \cdot 53^l)(z + 8 \cdot 53^l)$. If $z - 8 \cdot 53^l = 1$ and $z + 8 \cdot 53^l = 143^y - 11 \cdot 53^{2l}$, then we have $16 \cdot 53^l + 11 \cdot 53^l = 143^y - 1$. So $53^l(16 + 11 \cdot 53^l) = 143^y - 1$. Clearly we see that there is no possible values for l and y to hold the equality. On the other hand, if $z - 8 \cdot 53^l = 143^y - 11 \cdot 53^{2l}$ and $z + 8 \cdot 53^l = 1$, then we have $53^l(16 + 11 \cdot 53^l) = 1 - 143^y$ not possible to get a solution. This completes the proof.

Corollary 3.1. $(0, 1, 6)$ and $(1, 1, 7)$ are exactly two non-negative integer solutions (x, y, u) for the Diophantine equation $53^x + 143^y = 4u^2$ where x, y and u are non-negative integers.

Proof: Let x, y and u be non-negative integers such that $53^x + 143^y = 4u^2$. Let $z = 2u$. Then $53^x + 143^y = z^2$. By Theorem 3.1, it follows that $(x, y, z) \in \{(0, 1, 12), (1, 1, 14)\}$. Thus, $2u = z \in \{12, 14\}$. So $u \in \{6, 7\}$. Hence, $(0, 1, 6)$ and $(1, 1, 7)$ are exactly two non-negative integer solutions (x, y, u) for the Diophantine equation $53^x + 143^y = 4u^2$.

Corollary 3.2. The Diophantine equation $53^x + 143^y = v^4$ has no non-negative integer solution where x, y and w are non-negative integers.

Proof: Suppose that there are non-negative integers x, y and w such that $53^x + 143^y = w^4$. Let $z = w^2$. Then $53^x + 143^y = z^2$. By Theorem 3.1 we have, $(x, y, z) \in \{(1, 0, 12), (1, 1, 14)\}$. Then $w^2 = z \in \{12, 14\}$. This is a contradiction.

4. Conclusion

In this paper, we have shown that the Diophantine equation $53^x + 143^y = z^2$ has only two non-negative integer solutions where x, y and z are non-negative integers. The solutions are $(0, 1, 12)$ and $(1, 1, 14)$ respectively.

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