

MUIC APPLIED MATH SEMINAR

# abc Conjecture and Its Applications

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1 May 2019

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$$x^n + y^n = z^n, n > 2 \text{ Fermat's Last Theorem}$$

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$$a + b = c$$

## Definition

A **radical** of a positive integer is a product of its distinct prime factors.

**NOTATION:**  $n = p_1^{k_1} p_2^{k_2} \dots p_m^{k_m}$

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$c > \text{rad}(abc)$  for infinitely many  $a + b = c$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{rad}(abc) &= \text{rad}(2(2^{6n} - 1)) \\ &= 2\text{rad}(2^{6n} - 1) \\ &= 2\text{rad}\left(9 \cdot \frac{b}{9}\right) \\ &\leq 2 \cdot 3 \cdot \frac{b}{9} \\ &= \frac{2}{3}b \\ &< \frac{2}{3}c\end{aligned}$$

" $\text{rad}(abc)$  should not be small compared to  $c$ ."

# How about raising the power of $\text{rad}(abc)$ ?

Conjecture (*abc*-Conjecture, Masser and Oestelé 1988))

*For every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there are only finite many triple  $(a, b, c)$  of coprime positive integers with  $a + b = c$  such that:*

$$c > \text{rad}(abc)^{1+\varepsilon}.$$



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Equivalently, we have

## Conjecture ( $abc$ -Conjecture)

*For every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a constant  $K_\varepsilon$  such that for all triples  $(a, b, c)$  of coprime positive integers, with  $a + b = c$  such that*

$$c < K_\varepsilon \text{rad}(abc)^{1+\varepsilon}.$$

**Conjecture (Explicit  $abc$ -conjecture, Baker 2004, Laishram and Shorey 2012 ( $\varepsilon = 3/4$ ))**

*For all triples  $(a, b, c)$  of coprime positive integers, with  $a + b = c$  such that*

$$c < (\text{rad}(abc))^{1+\frac{3}{4}}.$$

# Fermat's Last Theorem (by Explicit abc)

## Theorem

$x^n + y^n = z^n$  has no integer solutions for  $n > 2$  and  $xyz \neq 0$ .

## Proof.

WLOG, assume that  $\gcd(x, y, z) = 1$ . By the explicit abc-conjecture,

$$z^n < \text{rad}(xyz)^{1+3/4} < (z^3)^2 = z^6.$$

Thus,  $n \leq 5$ .

$n = 4$  by Fermat 1636

$n = 3$  by Euler 1770

$n = 5$  by Dirichlet 1825



# *abc* Conjecture for Function Fields

## Theorem (Mason-Stothers Theorem, 1981)

Let  $K$  be a field of characteristic 0. If  $a(t), b(t), c(t)$  are nonzero polynomials in  $K[t]$  with  $a(t) + b(t) = c(t)$  and  $\gcd(a(t), b(t), c(t)) = 1$ , then

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Let  $K$  be a field of characteristic 0. If  $a(t), b(t), c(t)$  are nonzero polynomials in  $K[t]$  with  $a(t) + b(t) = c(t)$  and  $\gcd(a(t), b(t), c(t)) = 1$ , then

$$\max\{\deg a, \deg b, \deg c\} \leq \text{rad}(abc) - 1.$$

## Example

$$a(t) = 1, b(t) = t^n, c(t) = t^n + 1$$

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# Fermat's Last Theorem for Polynomials

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*There are no nonzero polynomials  $x(t), y(t), z(t) \in K[t]$  such that*

$$x(t)^n + y(t)^n = z(t)^n, \text{ for } n > 2.$$



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## Proof.

Exercise □

## How about $f_c(x) = x^d + c$ over $\mathbb{Q}$ ?

- For every  $d \in \mathbb{N}$ , there are infinitely many  $c \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $f_c(x) = x^d + c$  has a fixed point in  $\mathbb{Q}$ , i.e.,  $c = t - t^d, t \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

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- For  $d=4$  and  $n=2$ , there are infinitely many  $c \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $f_c(x) = x^4 + c$  has 2-periodic points.

$$F_2^*(x, c) = \frac{f_c^{(2)}(x) - x}{f_c(x) - x} = 0 \rightsquigarrow E : y^2 = x^3 - 4$$

$$\text{Ex: } f_c(x) = x^4 - \frac{19561}{10000}, \frac{9}{10} \longleftrightarrow \frac{-13}{10}$$

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- 3 Is it true that  $f_c(x) = x^d + c \in \mathbb{Q}(x)$  does not have rational 3-periodic points for  $d \geq 3$ ?
- 4 Is it true that  $f_c(x) = x^d + c \in \mathbb{Q}(x)$  does not have rational  $n$ -periodic points for  $d \geq 3$  and  $n \geq 3$ ?

$$f_{d,c}(x) = x^d + c$$

### Theorem (Narkierwicz, 2013)

*For  $n > 1$  and  $d > 2$  odd, there is no  $c \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $f_{d,c}$  has a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -rational periodic point of minimal period  $n$ . Furthermore,*

$$\#\text{PrePer}(f_{d,c}, \mathbb{Q}) \leq 4.$$

### Conjecture (Hutz, 2015)

*For  $n > 2$  there is no even  $d > 2$  and  $c \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $f_{d,c}$  has a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -rational periodic point of minimal period  $n$ . Furthermore,*

$$\#\text{PrePer}(f_{d,c}, \mathbb{Q}) \leq 4.$$

## 2-Periodic Points: Dynamomic Polynomial Method

### Theorem

*There are infinitely many  $c \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $f_c(z) = z^4 + c$  has rational periodic points of exact period 2.*

### Theorem ( Bremner, Hindry, Merél, P., Waldschmidt 2019+ (BHMPW))

- 1 Let  $H_{81} : y^2 = x^5 + 81$ . Then  $H_{81}(\mathbb{Q}) = \{(2, \pm 7), (0, \pm 9), (3, \pm 18), \infty\}$
- 2 Let  $f_c(z) = z^6 + c \in \mathbb{Q}[z]$ . If  $f_c(x)$  has rational point of period 2, then  $c = -1$ .

**Note**  $\text{rank}(H_{81}) = 2$ .

# Benedetto's Trick

Period  $n$  of  $f_c = x^{2k} + c$ :  $f_c(x_i) = x_{i+1}, f(x_n) = x_1$

$$\begin{aligned}\prod_{i=1}^n (x_i - x_{i+1}) &= \prod_{i=1}^n ((x_i^{2k} + c) - (x_{i+1}^{2k} + c)) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^n ((x_i^k - x_{i+1}^k)(x_i^k + x_{i+1}^k)) \\ 1 &= \prod_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{(x_i^k - x_{i+1}^k)}{x_i - x_{i+1}} (x_i^k + x_{i+1}^k) \right)\end{aligned}$$

For period  $n = 2$ ,

$$z^{2k-1} = x^k + y^k$$

where  $x_1 = x/z, x_2 = y/z$  and  $\gcd(x, z) = \gcd(y, z) = \gcd(x, y) = 1$ .

### Theorem (Darmon, Merel 1997)

Let the exponent  $n$  be an arbitrary positive integer.

- 1 The equation  $x^n + y^n = 2z^n$  has no nontrivial primitive solution when  $n \geq 3$ .
- 2 The equation  $x^n + y^n = z^2$  has no nontrivial primitive solution when  $n \geq 4$ .
- 3 The equation  $x^n + y^n = z^3$  has no nontrivial primitive solution when  $n \geq 3$ .

### Theorem (Ellenberg 2004, Bennett, Ellenberg, Ng 2010)

There are no solutions in coprime integers  $x, y, z$  to the equation  $x^4 + y^2 = z^n$  with  $\gcd(x, y, z) = 1$  and  $n \geq 4$ . The only solution in positive coprime integers  $x, y, z$  to the equation  $x^4 + 2y^2 = z^n$  with  $n \geq 4$  is  $(x, y, z, n) = (1, 11, 3, 5)$ .

### Theorem (Freitas 2016)

Let  $p \geq 17$  be a prime satisfying  $(-3/p) = -1$ , that is  $p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ . Then equation  $x^3 + y^3 = z^p$  has no non-trivial primitive solutions.

### Theorem (BHMPW)

$f_c(x) = x^{2k} + c \in \mathbb{Q}$  has no non-trivial 2-periodic points when

- 1  $k \equiv 0, 2 \pmod{3}$
- 2  $k = 4l$  for some  $l \in \mathbb{N}$

## Theorem ( BHMPW)

*Let  $n$  be an integer greater than 1 and  $f_c(x) = x^d + c \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  where  $d > 6$ . If the abc-conjecture (explicit form) is valid, then  $f_c$  has no non-trivial rational periodic points of exact period  $n$ .*



## Conjecture (abc Conjecture: Number Fields, Elkies 1991)

*For any given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , if  $a + b + c = 0$ , where  $a, b$ , and  $c$  are algebraic numbers in some number field  $K$  then*

$$H(a, b, c) \ll_{\varepsilon} (\Delta_K N(a, b, c))^{1+\varepsilon}.$$

## Theorem ( BHMPW)

*Let  $n$  be an integer greater than 1 and  $f_c(x) = x^d + c \in K[x]$ ,  $c \notin \mathcal{O}_K$ . If the abc-conjecture is valid, then there is  $C_K \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $f_c$  has no rational periodic points of exact period  $n$  for all  $d \geq C_K$ . The constant  $C_K$  depends only on  $\Delta_K$ .*



Figure: ABC?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!