



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

ON THE DIOPHANTINE EQUATION $px+qmy = z^2$

HALIMATUN SAADIAH BINTI BAKAR

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ON THE DIOPHANTINE EQUATION $p^x + q^m n^y = z^2$

By

HALIMATUN SAADIAH BINTI BAKAR

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

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DEDICATIONS

To
my lovely parents,
Bakar bin Zakaria and Rasidah binti Husin,
my brothers,
Muhammad Amiruddin, Hassan Basri and Abdul Qahar,
my grandmother,
Siah binti Jelani,
Gadis-Gadis INSPEM,
families and friends
who always support me ...

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment
of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

ON THE DIOPHANTINE EQUATION $p^x + q^m n^y = z^2$

By

HALIMATUN SAADIAH BINTI BAKAR

June 2018

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Diophantine equation is a polynomial equation with two or more unknowns for which only integral solutions are sought. Exponential Diophantine equation is a Diophantine equation that has additional variable or variables occurring as exponents.

This research concentrates on finding an integral solution to the Diophantine equation $p^x + q^m n^y = z^2$ for x, q, m, n, y, z are positive integers and p is odd prime. Firstly, the equation is solved for $p = q$ and $y = 1, 2$. By considering the values of x, m, n and by using substitution method, the integral solution will be obtained. Some of the results are $(x, m, n, y, z) = (2r, 2r, s(s+2), 1, p^r(s+1))$, $(2r-1, 2r-1, ps^2-1, 1, p^r s)$, $(2(r+t), 2t, s(2p^r+s), 1, p^t(p^r+s))$, $(2(r+t)-1, 2t, s^2-p^{2r-1}, 1, p^t s)$, $(2r, 2r+t, p^t s^2 \pm 2s, 1, p^r(p^t s \pm 1))$, $\left(2(t+u-1)+r, 2t, p^{u-1} \left(\frac{p^r-1}{2}\right), 2, p^{t+u-1} \left(\frac{p^r+1}{2}\right)\right)$ for $r, s, t, u \in \mathbb{N}$.

The integral solutions to the Diophantine equation $p^{2x} + q^m n^y = z^2$ for $q > p$ and $y = 1, 2$ are $(x, m, n, y, z) = (r, t, q^t s^2 \pm 2p^r s, 1, q^t s \pm p^r)$ and $\left(r, 2t, \frac{p^{2r-\alpha} - p^\alpha}{2q^t}, 2, \frac{p^{2r-\alpha} + p^\alpha}{2}\right)$ where $0 \leq \alpha < r$ for $r, s, t \in \mathbb{N}$ respectively. Then, for y an even number, the fundamental solution (n, z) with

$(x, m, y) = (r, 2t - 1, 2u)$ for $r, t, u \in \mathbb{N}$ is in the following bound:

$$0 < n \leq \left(\frac{p^r b_1}{\sqrt{2(a_1 + 1)}} \right)^{\frac{1}{u}} \text{ and}$$

$$0 < |z| \leq \sqrt{\frac{p^{2r}(a_1 + 1)}{2}},$$

where (a_1, b_1) is a fundamental solution of $z^2 - Dn^2 = 1$ and $D = q^{2t-1}$.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

PERSAMAAN DIOFANTUS $p^x + q^m n^y = z^2$

Oleh

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Persamaan Diofantus merupakan satu persamaan polinomial dengan dua atau lebih pemboleh ubah yang mana hanya penyelesaian integer yang akan dicari. Persamaan Diofantus eksponen ialah persamaan Diofantus yang mempunyai pemboleh ubah tambahan yang bertindak sebagai eksponen.

Kajian ini tertumpu kepada mencari penyelesaian integer kepada persamaan Diofantus $p^x + q^m n^y = z^2$ dengan x, q, m, n, y ialah integer positif dan p ialah nombor perdana ganjil. Pertama sekali, persamaan tersebut diselesaikan bagi $p = q$ dan $y = 1, 2$. Dengan mempertimbangkan nilai x, m, n dan menggunakan kaedah penggantian, penyelesaian integer tersebut akan diperolehi. Sebahagian daripada hasilnya ialah $(x, m, n, y, z) = (2r, 2r, s(s+2), 1, p^r(s+1)), (2r-1, 2r-1, ps^2-1, 1, p^r s), (2(r+t), 2t, s(2p^r+s), 1, p^t(p^r+s)), (2(r+t)-1, 2t, s^2-p^{2r-1}, 1, p^t s), (2r, 2r+t, p^t s^2 \pm 2s, 1, p^r(p^t s \pm 1)), \left(2(t+u-1)+r, 2t, p^{u-1} \left(\frac{p^r-1}{2}\right), 2, p^{t+u-1} \left(\frac{p^r+1}{2}\right)\right)$ bagi $r, s, t, u \in \mathbb{N}$.

Penyelesaian integer kepada persamaan Diofantus $p^{2x} + q^m n^y = z^2$ bagi $q > p$ dan $y = 1, 2$ adalah $(x, m, n, y, z) = (r, t, q^t s^2 \pm 2p^r s, 1, q^t s \pm p^r)$ dan $\left(r, 2t, \frac{p^{2r-\alpha} - p^\alpha}{2q^t}, 2, \frac{p^{2r-\alpha} + p^\alpha}{2}\right)$ dengan $0 \leq \alpha < r$ bagi $r, s, t \in \mathbb{N}$. Kemudian, bagi y nombor genap, penyelesaian asasi (n, z) dengan $(x, m, y) = (r, 2t-1, 2u)$ bagi

$r, t, u \in \mathbb{N}$ berada dalam sempadan berikut:

$$0 < n \leq \left(\frac{p^r b_1}{\sqrt{2(a_1 + 1)}} \right)^{\frac{1}{u}} \text{ dan}$$

$$0 < |z| \leq \sqrt{\frac{p^{2r}(a_1 + 1)}{2}},$$

dengan (a_1, b_1) merupakan penyelesaian asasi bagi $z^2 - Dn^2 = 1$ dan $D = q^{2t-1}$.



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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preliminary

This research will be focused on finding an integral solution to the Diophantine equation $p^x + q^m n^y = z^2$. In this chapter, we will brief some background of Diophantine equation. Then, we state the objectives and methodology of this research followed by the literature reviews from the previous researchers. Lastly, the organization of the thesis according to each chapter will be given.

1.2 Mathematical Background

In this section, we will give some background of Number theory and Diophantine equation. James et al. (2010) stated that Number theory is the study of natural numbers and called “the queen of mathematics” by Carl Friedrich Gauss. The beautiful patterns and theorems that emerge have fascinated many of the greatest mathematical minds throughout the centuries. Yet, give challenges to the mathematicians to solve the problems.

An equation with the restriction that only integer solutions are sought is called Diophantine equation. The main focus of this research is to solve exponential Diophantine equation. Exponential Diophantine equation is an equation that has additional variable or variables occurring as exponents. The simple expression of exponential Diophantine equation is $x^a + y^b = z^c$ where all the unknowns must be natural numbers.

There is no general method for solving Diophantine equation. Some of the equations can be solved by applying Pell’s equation. Pell’s equation is a special type of Diophantine equation in the form of $x^2 - Dy^2 = N$ where D is nonsquare integer and N is nonzero integer. McCune and Clark (2012) stated the following definition:

Definition 1.1 : (*Perfect square*) A number that is an exact square of another number is a perfect square.

Nagell (1964) stated the following theorems:

Theorem 1.1 : If D is a natural number which is not a perfect square, the Diophantine equation

$$x^2 - Dy^2 = 1 \tag{1.1}$$

has infinitely many solutions $x + y\sqrt{D}$. All solutions with positive x and y are obtained by the formula

$$x_n + y_n\sqrt{D} = (x_1 + y_1\sqrt{D})^n$$

where $x_1 + y_1\sqrt{D}$ is the fundamental solution of (1.1), where n runs through all natural numbers, and where

$$x_n = x_1^n + \sum_{k=1}^n \binom{n}{2k} x_1^{n-2k} y_1^{2k} D^k \text{ and}$$

$$y_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \binom{n}{2k-1} x_1^{n-2k+1} y_1^{2k-1} D^{k-1}.$$

Now, Diophantine equation of the form

$$\xi^2 - D\eta^2 = -1 \quad (1.2)$$

is solvable for all odd prime factors of D be of the form $4n + 1$.

Theorem 1.2 : Let D be a natural number which is not a perfect square. Suppose that (1.2) is solvable and $\xi_1 + \eta_1\sqrt{D}$ is its fundamental solution. Then the number

$$x_1 + y_1\sqrt{D} = (\xi_1 + \eta_1\sqrt{D})^2 = \xi_1^2 + D\eta_1^2 + 2\xi_1\eta_1\sqrt{D} \quad (1.3)$$

is the fundamental solution of equation (1.1).

Further, if we put

$$\xi_n + \eta_n\sqrt{D} = (\xi_1 + \eta_1\sqrt{D})^n \quad (1.4)$$

with

$$\xi_n = \xi_1^n + \sum_{k=1}^n \binom{n}{2k} \xi_1^{n-2k} \eta_1^{2k} D^k,$$

$$\eta_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \binom{n}{2k-1} \xi_1^{n-2k+1} \eta_1^{2k-1} D^{k-1},$$

formula (1.4) gives:

1. all the solutions with positive ξ and η of equation (1.2) when n runs through all positive odd integers.
2. all the solutions with positive $x = \xi_n$ and $y = \eta_n$ of equation (1.1) when n runs through all positive even integers.

Theorem 1.3 : *If p is a prime $\equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, the Diophantine equation*

$$\xi^2 - p\eta^2 = -1$$

is solvable in integers ξ and η .

Now, consider the Diophantine equation of the form

$$u^2 - Dv^2 = C, \quad (1.5)$$

where D be a natural number which is not a perfect square and C is nonzero integer. Suppose that the equation is solvable and $u + v\sqrt{D}$ is a solution of it. If $x + y\sqrt{D}$ is any solution of the equation

$$x^2 - Dy^2 = 1, \quad (1.6)$$

the number

$$(u + v\sqrt{D})(x + y\sqrt{D}) = ux + vyD + (uy + vx)\sqrt{D}$$

is also a solution of (1.5). This solution is said to be associated with the solution $u + v\sqrt{D}$. The set of all solutions associated with each other forms a class of solutions of (1.5).

Theorem 1.4 : *If $u + v\sqrt{D}$ is the fundamental solution of the equation*

$$u^2 - Dv^2 = N, \quad (1.7)$$

where N is positive integer and if $x_1 + y_1\sqrt{D}$ is the fundamental solution of equation (1.6), we have the inequalities

$$0 \leq v \leq \frac{y_1}{\sqrt{2}(x_1 + 1)} \sqrt{N} \text{ and}$$

$$0 < |u| \leq \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}(x_1 + 1)N}.$$

Besides the above theorems, we also consider the following definitions, theorem and propositions to find the integral solution to the Diophantine equation. The following results were obtained by Kumanduri and Romero (1998):

Definition 1.2 : (Divisibility). *If a and b are integers, we say that a divides b (denoted as $a \mid b$) if there exists an integer c such that $b = ac$. If no such c exists, then a does not divide b (denoted by $a \nmid b$). If a divides b , we say that a is a divisor of b and b is divisible by a .*

Theorem 1.5 : *There are infinitely many prime numbers.*

Proposition 1.1 : (Primality Test). A number p is prime if and only if it is not divisible by any prime q .

Proposition 1.2 : Let a and b be integers. If p is a prime number such that $p \mid ab$, then $p \mid a$ or $p \mid b$.

Definition 1.3 : (Greatest Common Divisor). The greatest common divisor (gcd) of two numbers a and b , not both zero, is the largest integer dividing both a and b . It will be denoted by $\gcd(a, b)$ or (a, b) .

Definition 1.4 : Let a, b, m be integers, we say that a is congruent to b modulo m denoted by $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ if $m \mid a - b$. If $m \nmid a - b$, we write $a \not\equiv b \pmod{m}$ and say that a is not congruent or incongruent to b modulo m .

Definition 1.5 : (Quadratic Residue Modulo). Let a and m be integers such that $(a, m) = 1$. If the congruence $x^2 \equiv a \pmod{m}$ has an integer solution, then a is a quadratic residue modulo m . Otherwise, it is a quadratic nonresidue modulo m .

Example 1.1 : Let $m = 7$, then $1, 2, 4$ are quadratic residues and $3, 5, 6$ are non-residue. This follows from the equations

$$\begin{aligned} 1^2 &\equiv 6^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{7} \\ 2^2 &\equiv 5^2 \equiv 4 \pmod{7} \\ 3^2 &\equiv 4^2 \equiv 2 \pmod{7}. \end{aligned}$$

Here $3, 5, 6$ are nonresidues, as we have squared all the invertible elements and obtained $1, 2, 4$. Note that $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$ implies that $a^2 \equiv b^2 \pmod{m}$. Hence, it is enough to consider elements in a complete residue system to determine the quadratic residues modulo m .

Definition 1.6 : (Legendre Symbol). Let p be an odd prime and a an integer, the Legendre symbol $\left(\frac{a}{p}\right)$ is defined to be 1 if a is a quadratic residue modulo p , -1 if a is a quadratic nonresidue modulo p and 0 if $p \mid a$.

Example 1.2 :

1. From Example 1.1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{1}{7}\right) &= \left(\frac{2}{7}\right) = \left(\frac{4}{7}\right) = 1 \text{ and} \\ \left(\frac{3}{7}\right) &= \left(\frac{5}{7}\right) = \left(\frac{6}{7}\right) = -1. \end{aligned}$$

2. It is clear that $\left(\frac{1}{p}\right) = 1$ for all p .

Definition 1.7 : (Euler's Criterion). Let p be an odd prime and a an integer such that $(a, p) = 1$, then

$$a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv \left(\frac{a}{p}\right) \pmod{p}.$$

Proposition 1.3 : Let p be an odd prime, then

$$\left(\frac{-1}{p}\right) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ -1 & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

1.3 Objective and Methodology

In this section, we will state the objective and methodology of this research. The main objectives of this research are:

(i) to find the integral solutions (x, m, n, z) to the Diophantine equation

$$p^x + q^m n^y = z^2$$

for $p = q$ an odd prime and $y = 1, 2$.

(ii) to find the integral solutions (x, m, n, z) to the Diophantine equation

$$p^{2x} + q^m n^y = z^2 \tag{1.8}$$

for p is odd prime, q any integer with $q > p$ and $y = 1, 2$.

(iii) to provide a bound for the fundamental solutions (n, z) to the Diophantine equation (1.8) where p is odd prime, q any integer with $q > p$ and y any even number.

Now, we will present the methodology to determine the integral solution for the Diophantine equation. In order to find the integral solution for $p^x + q^m n^y = z^2$ when $y = 1, 2$, we consider the parity of x, m and n . By using substitution method and parameterization technique, the integral solutions of (x, m, n, z) will be obtained.

1.4 Literature Review

The difference form of exponential Diophantine equations have been solved and studied by many researchers. Acu (2007) discussed on the Diophantine equation $2^x + 5^y = z^2$ and proved that the equation has exactly two solutions in non-negative

integer $(x, y, z) = (3, 0, 3), (2, 1, 3)$.

Suvarnamani et al. (2011) showed that Diophantine equations $4^x + 7^y = z^2$ and $4^x + 11^y = z^2$ have no solution in non-negative integer. Wang and Wang (2011) and Gokhan and Ismail (2014) studied on the Diophantine equation $nx^2 + 2^{2m} = y^n$. They found that the equation has no positive integer solution (x, y, m) for any odd integer $n > 1$ with $\gcd(x, y) = 1$.

Sroysang investigated the Diophantine equation $a^x + b^y = z^2$ for some $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ and (x, y, z) are non-negative integers. His results are given as follows:

- (i) Sroysang (2012a) found that the non-negative integer solution to the Diophantine equation $8^x + 19^y = z^2$ is $(x, y, z) = (1, 0, 3)$.
- (ii) Sroysang (2012c) found that the non-negative integer solution to the Diophantine equation $3^x + 5^y = z^2$ is $(x, y, z) = (1, 0, 2)$.
- (iii) Sroysang (2012b) found that there is no non-negative integer solution to the Diophantine equation $31^x + 32^y = z^2$.
- (iv) Sroysang (2013f) found that the non-negative integer solution to the Diophantine equation $7^x + 8^y = z^2$ is $(x, y, z) = (0, 1, 3)$.
- (v) Sroysang (2013a) found that there is no non-negative integer solution to the Diophantine equation $23^x + 32^y = z^2$.
- (vi) Sroysang (2013b) found that the non-negative integer solution to the Diophantine equation $3^x + 17^y = z^2$ is $(x, y, z) = (1, 0, 2)$.
- (vii) Sroysang (2013e) found that there is no non-negative integer solution to the Diophantine equation $5^x + 7^y = z^2$.
- (viii) Sroysang (2013d) found that there is no non-negative integer solution to the Diophantine equation $5^x + 23^y = z^2$.
- (ix) Sroysang (2013c) found that there is no non-negative integer solution to the Diophantine equation $47^x + 49^y = z^2$.
- (x) Sroysang (2013g) found that there is no non-negative integer solution to the Diophantine equation $89^x + 91^y = z^2$.
- (xi) Sroysang (2014a) found that there is no non-negative integer solution to the Diophantine equation $131^x + 133^y = z^2$.
- (xii) Sroysang (2014e) found that the non-negative integer solution to the Diophantine equation $8^x + 13^y = z^2$ is $(x, y, z) = (1, 0, 3)$.
- (xiii) Sroysang (2014d) found that the non-negative integer solution to the Diophantine equation $3^x + 85^y = z^2$ is $(x, y, z) = (1, 0, 2)$. This result implies that $(x, u, v, z) = (1, 0, 0, 2)$ is the result for Diophantine equation $3^x + 5^u 17^v = z^2$.

(xiv) Sroysang (2014b) found that the non-negative integer solution to the Diophantine equation $143^x + 145^y = z^2$ is $(x, y, z) = (1, 0, 12)$.

(xv) Sroysang (2014c) found that the non-negative integer solution to the Diophantine equation $3^x + 45^y = z^2$ is $(x, y, z) = (1, 0, 2)$.

Liu (2013) consider the Diophantine equation $x^4 - q^4 = py^n$ for (n, p, q) an odd primes and (x, y) are positive integers. The author proved that if $n > 3$ and $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$, then the equation has no positive integer solution with $\gcd(x, y) = 1$ and $2 \nmid y$. Chotchaisthit (2013) studied on the Diophantine equation $p^x + (p+1)^y = z^2$ for (x, y, z) are non-negative integers and p is Mersenne prime where $p = 2^n - 1$. The only solutions to the equation are $(p, x, y, z) = (7, 0, 1, 3)$ and $(3, 2, 2, 5)$.

Su and Li (2014) considered the exponential Diophantine equation $(4m^2 + 1)^x + (5m^2 - 1)^y = (3m)^z$ for (m, x, y, z) are positive integers. They showed that if $m > 90$ and $3 \mid m$, then the only solution to the equation is $(x, y, z) = (1, 1, 2)$. The Diophantine equation $m^x + m^{2s}n^y = z^{2t}$ where (n, s, t) are non-negative integers and $n \equiv 5 \pmod{20}$ was studied by other researchers and the results obtained by them for certain m are as follow:

- (i) Sarasit and Chotchaisthit (2014) proved that all non-negative integer solutions (x, y, z) to the Diophantine equation $3^x + 3^{2s}n^y = z^{2t}$ are

$$(x, m, z) = \begin{cases} (1 + 2s, 0, 2(3)^s) & ; t = 1 \\ \text{No solution} & ; \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- (ii) Chotchaisthit and Worawiset (2015a) proved that all non-negative integer solutions (x, y, z) to the Diophantine equation $143^x + 143^{2s}n^y = z^{2t}$ are

$$(x, m, z) = \begin{cases} (1 + 2s, 0, 12(143)^s) & ; t = 1 \\ \text{No solution} & ; \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- (iii) Chotchaisthit and Worawiset (2015b) proved that all non-negative integer solutions (x, y, z) to the Diophantine equation $323^x + 323^{2s}n^y = z^{2t}$ are

$$(x, m, z) = \begin{cases} (1 + 2s, 0, 18(323)^s) & ; t = 1 \\ \text{No solution} & ; \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- (iv) Chotchaisthit and Worawiset (2015c) proved that all non-negative integer solutions (x, y, z) to the Diophantine equation $483^x + 483^{2s}n^y = z^{2t}$ are

$$(x, m, z) = \begin{cases} (1 + 2s, 0, 22(483)^s) & ; t = 1 \\ \text{No solution} & ; \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Goedhart and Grundman (2015) proved that the Diophantine equation $(a^2cx^k - 1)(b^2cy^k - 1) = (abcz^k - 1)^2$ has no positive integer solution with $x, y, z > 1, k \geq 7$ and $a^2x^k \neq b^2y^k$. Tatong and Suvarnamani (2015) investigated on the Diophantine equation $(p+1)^{2x} + q^y = z^2$ where (x, y, z) are non-negative integers. They found that the equation has no solution for (x, y, z) where p is a Mersenne prime and $q - p = 2$.

Bacani and Rabago (2015) studied on the complete set of solutions of Diophantine equation $p^x + q^y = z^2$ for twin prime p and q . They showed that the equation has infinitely many solution (p, q, x, y, z) in positive integers. Furthermore, they showed that if the sum of p and q is a square, then the equation has unique solution $(x, y, z) = (1, 1, \sqrt{p+q})$ in non-negative integers. Trojovský (2015) proved that there is no solution to the Diophantine equation $p^a + (p+1)^b = z^2$ for an odd prime $p > 3, b \geq 2$ and z an even number.

1.5 Organization of Thesis

In this research, we concentrate on finding the integral solution to the Diophantine equation $p^x + q^m n^y = z^2$. In Chapter 2, we focus on finding the integral solution to the Diophantine equation $p^x + q^m n^y = z^2$ for $y = 1$ and $p = q$ an odd prime. We find the integral solution for $p = 3$ and then for any odd prime p .

In Chapter 3, we find the integral solution to the Diophantine equation $p^x + q^m n^y = z^2$ for $y = 2$ and $p = q$ an odd prime. In Chapter 4, we discuss on finding the integral solution to the Diophantine equation $p^{2x} + q^m n^y = z^2$ for p, q are odd prime where $q > p$ and $y = 1, 2$. Then, followed by finding the bound for the fundamental solutions (n, z) of the Diophantine equation where y an even number.

In Chapter 5, we will give the summary and the conclusion of this research. Finally, we give some suggestions for the future research.

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