

# IN SEARCH OF AN 8: RANK COMPUTATIONS ON A FAMILY OF QUARTIC CURVES

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ABSTRACT. We consider the family of elliptic curves  $y^2 = (1 - x^2)(1 - k^2x^2)$  for rational numbers  $k \neq -1, 0, 1$ . Every rational elliptic curve with torsion subgroup either  $Z_2 \times Z_4$  or  $Z_2 \times Z_8$  is birationally equivalent to this quartic curve for some  $k$ . We use this canonical form to search for such curves with large rank.

Our algorithm consists of the following steps. We compute a list of rational  $k$  by considering those associated to a given list of rational points  $(x, y)$ . We then eliminate certain  $k$  by considering the associated 2-Selmer groups. Finally, we use Cremona's `mwrnk` to find the ranks. Using these steps, we found two elliptic curves with Mordell-Weil group  $E(\mathbb{Q}) \simeq Z_2 \times Z_4 \times \mathbb{Z}^6$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper, we consider rational elliptic curves of the form

$$(1) \quad E : y^2 = (1 - x^2)(1 - k^2x^2), \quad k \neq -1, 0, 1.$$

Upon writing  $k = p/q$ , this curve is birationally equivalent to the integral cubic curve  $Y^2 = X^3 + AX + B$  in terms of the integers

$$(2) \quad A = -27(p^4 + 14p^2q^2 + q^4), \quad B = -54(p^6 - 33p^4q^2 - 33p^2q^4 + q^6).$$

Every rational elliptic curve with torsion subgroup either  $Z_2 \times Z_4$  or  $Z_2 \times Z_8$  is birationally equivalent to this quartic curve for some  $k$ . We are interested in finding rational elliptic curves with torsion subgroup  $Z_2 \times Z_4$  having large rank. Recently, Elkies [5] found such a curve of rank 8; it corresponds to  $k = 556536737101/589636934451$ . We are motivated instead by an example of Dujella [4] – a curve of rank 6 corresponding to  $k = 76369/185907$ . We consider curves of rank 6, rather than curves of rank 8, simply due to the computational complexity of finding curves with high rank.

Using an idea of Rogers [8], which in turn is based on a suggestion of Rubin and Silverberg [9], we perform the following steps:

- (1) Compute a list of rational  $k$  such that the curve  $y^2 = (1 - x^2)(1 - k^2x^2)$  has positive rank.
- (2) Eliminate those  $k$ 's of small logarithmic height.
- (3) Eliminate those  $k$ 's such that  $4A^3 + 27B^2$  has few prime divisors.
- (4) Eliminate those  $k$ 's such that the 2-Selmer rank of the curve is less than 6.
- (5) Return those  $k$ 's such that the (Mordell-Weil) rank is at least 6.

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Using this algorithm, we found two new curves of rank 6, corresponding to  $k = 307100/384569$  and  $94939/471975$ .

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## 2. QUARTIC FORM OF ELLIPTIC CURVES

Let us begin by reviewing some results on elliptic curves. We introduce the particular curve that is the focus of our study.

**Proposition 1.** *Given a rational number  $k$ , consider the quartic curve:*

$$(3) \quad E : y^2 = (1 - x^2)(1 - k^2x^2).$$

*Then  $E$  is a rational elliptic curve if  $k \neq -1, 0, 1$ . In particular,  $E$  is birationally equivalent to the cubic curve*

$$(4) \quad Y^2 = X^3 - 27(k^4 + 14k^2 + 1)X - 54(k^6 - 33k^4 - 33k^2 + 1).$$

The motivation for such a birational transformation can be found in Cassels [1].

*Proof.* By using the transformation

$$(5) \quad X = \frac{(15k^2 - 3)x + 15 - 3k^2}{x - 1} \quad \text{and} \quad Y = \frac{(54 - 54k^2)y}{(x - 1)^2}$$

we see that (3) is equivalent to the cubic curve above. An elliptic curve can be defined by an equation of the form  $Y^2 = X^3 + AX + B$  where  $4A^3 + 27B^2 \neq 0$ . Hence the curve above is an elliptic curve precisely when  $-8503056k^2(k^2 - 1)^4 \neq 0$ , which happens precisely when  $k \neq -1, 0, 1$ .  $\square$

Say we are given two rational points  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  on  $E$ , the quartic curve. Denote  $P_1 * P_2$  as the point of intersection with the projective curve  $E$  and the parabola through the three points  $\mathcal{O} = (1, 0)$ ,  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ . Define the composition law  $\oplus$  by  $P_1 \oplus P_2 = (P_1 * P_2) * \mathcal{O}$ . Then  $E(\mathbb{Q})$  is a finitely generated abelian group. In particular,

$$(6) \quad E(\mathbb{Q}) \simeq E(\mathbb{Q})_{tors} \times \mathbb{Z}^r$$

for some nonnegative integer  $r$ . For more information, see [12].

**Proposition 2** (Goins, [6]). *Fix a rational number  $k \neq -1, 0, 1$  and consider the elliptic curve*

$$(7) \quad E : y^2 = (1 - x^2)(1 - k^2x^2).$$

*Then  $E(\mathbb{Q})_{tors}$  is either  $Z_2 \times Z_4$  or  $Z_2 \times Z_8$ . Moreover, any rational elliptic curve with one of these torsion subgroups is birationally equivalent to  $E$  for some rational  $k$ .*

We give an example of this. Recently, Elkies [5] discovered the rational elliptic curve

$$(8) \quad \begin{aligned} E : Y^2 + 589636934451XY + 1398124056170539714352802254989200Y \\ = X^3 + 2371160920359080049200X^2 \end{aligned}$$

which has Mordell-Weil group  $E(\mathbb{Q}) \simeq Z_2 \times Z_4 \times \mathbb{Z}^8$ . Using the transformation

$$(9) \quad \begin{aligned} X &= -\frac{4742321840718160098400x}{x-1} \\ Y &= -\frac{699062028085269857176401127494600(y+x^2-1)}{(x-1)^2}, \end{aligned}$$

we find the quartic form of the equation

$$(10) \quad y^2 = (1-x^2)(1-k^2x^2), \quad \text{where} \quad k = \frac{556536737101}{589636934451}.$$

Proposition 2 follows from a careful analysis of the list of allowed torsion subgroups for a rational elliptic curve, as in [7]. The following proposition allows us to distinguish between the two torsion subgroups in Proposition 2.

**Proposition 3** (Goins, [6]). *If  $E$  is a rational elliptic curve with  $E(\mathbb{Q})_{tors} \simeq Z_2 \times Z_8$  then there exists  $t \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $E$  is birationally equivalent to the quartic curve*

$$(11) \quad y^2 = (1-x^2)(1-k^2x^2) \quad \text{with} \quad k = \frac{t^4 - 6t^2 + 1}{(t^2 + 1)^2}.$$

### 3. FINDING ELLIPTIC CURVES WITH HIGH RANK

In [4], Dujella lists the highest known ranks for elliptic curves classified by their torsion subgroups. Some of these records are shown in Table 1. For curves with torsion subgroup isomorphic to  $Z_2 \times Z_4$ , the highest known rank is 8. As mentioned before, this curve corresponds to  $k = 556536737101/589636934451$ . For curves with torsion subgroup isomorphic to  $Z_2 \times Z_8$ , the highest known rank is 3. There are five such examples, corresponding to

$$(12) \quad k = \frac{t^4 - 6t^2 + 1}{(t^2 + 1)^2}, \quad \text{where} \quad t = \frac{5}{29}, \frac{18}{47}, \frac{15}{76}, \frac{47}{219}, \text{ and } \frac{19}{220}.$$

TABLE 1. Rank Records of Elliptic Curves With Prescribed Torsion

$E(\mathbb{Q})_{tors}$	Highest Rank	Found By	Year
0	24	Martin-McMillen	2000
$Z_2$	17	Elkies	2005
$Z_3$	11	Elkies-Rogers	2004
$Z_4$	11	Elkies	2005
$Z_5$	6	Dujella-Lecacheux	2001
$Z_6$	7	Dujella	2001
$Z_7$	5	Dujella-Kulesz	2001
$Z_8$	5	Dujella-Lecacheux	2002, 2003
$Z_9$	3	Dujella, MacLeod	2001, 2003
$Z_{10}$	3	Dujella, Rathbun	2001, 2003
$Z_{12}$	3	Dujella, Rathbun	2001, 2003
$Z_2 \times Z_2$	11	Elkies	2005
$Z_2 \times Z_4$	8	Elkies	2005
$Z_2 \times Z_6$	5	Dujella-Lecacheux	2002
$Z_2 \times Z_8$	3	Connell, Dujella, Campbell-Goins, Rathbun	2000, 2001 2003, 2003

We wish to find rational elliptic curves  $E$  with torsion subgroup  $Z_2 \times Z_4$  and rank at least 6. To this end, we perform the following steps:

- (1) Compute a list of rational  $k$  such that the curve  $y^2 = (1 - x^2)(1 - k^2x^2)$  has positive rank.
- (2) Eliminate those  $k$ 's of small logarithmic height.
- (3) Eliminate those  $k$ 's such that  $4A^3 + 27B^2$  has few prime divisors.
- (4) Eliminate those  $k$ 's such that the 2-Selmer rank of the curve is less than 6.
- (5) Return those  $k$ 's such that the (Mordell-Weil) rank is at least 6.

We discuss these steps in more detail below.

**3.1. Step 1: Choosing  $k$  Intelligently.** Using an idea of Rogers [8], which in turn is based on a suggestion of Rubin and Silverberg [9], we observe that it should be easier to find rational points on curves with higher rank. To this end, finding an initial list of  $k$ 's can be done using the following assertion.

**Theorem 4.** *Fix a rational number  $0 < k < 1$  and consider the elliptic curve*

$$(13) \quad E : y^2 = (1 - x^2)(1 - k^2x^2).$$

*Assume that  $\sqrt{1 - k^2}$  is not a rational number. If  $(x, y)$  is a rational affine point on  $E$  such that  $xy \neq 0$  then  $E$  has positive rank.*

This theorem tells us that if we have a point  $(x, y)$  on the elliptic curve  $y^2 = (1 - x^2)(1 - k^2x^2)$ , we know that this curve has positive rank whenever  $xy \neq 0$ . Thus, to find  $k$ 's corresponding to curves of positive rank, we first generate rational points  $(x, y)$ , and then solve for  $k$ .

*Proof.* We note the identity

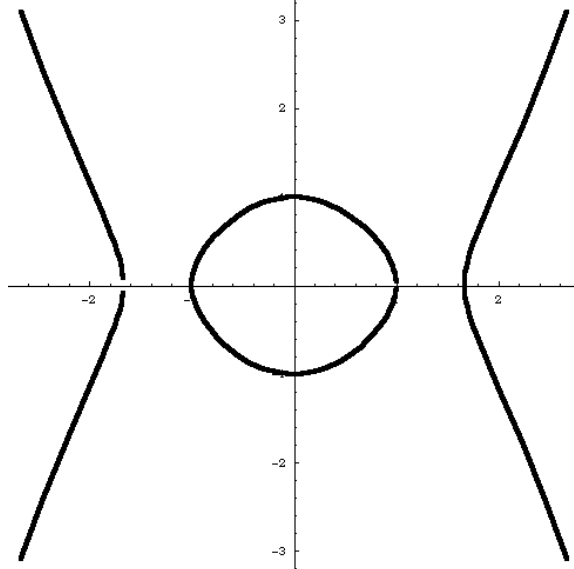
$$(14) \quad k = \frac{t^4 - 6t^2 + 1}{(t^2 + 1)^2} \quad \implies \quad \sqrt{1 - k^2} = \frac{4(t^3 - t)}{(t^2 + 1)^2}.$$

We conclude that if  $\sqrt{1 - k^2}$  is not rational, then by Propositions 2 and 3, we see that  $E(\mathbb{Q})_{tors} \simeq Z_2 \times Z_4$ .

The torsion elements on  $E$  can be precisely determined. Table 2 explicitly lists the points of finite order on  $y^2 = (1 - x^2)(1 - k^2x^2)$ . Note that the (affine) points of order 2 satisfy  $y = 0$ , whereas the (affine) points of order 4 satisfy  $x = 0$ . By assumption, there exists a rational point  $(x, y)$  such that  $xy \neq 0$ , so this must be a point of infinite order.  $\square$

TABLE 2. Torsion Points on  $y^2 = (1 - x^2)(1 - k^2x^2)$

Order of Point	Torsion Point on Quartic
1	(1, 0)
2	(1/k, 0)
2	(-1/k, 0)
2	(-1, 0)
4	(0, 1)
4	(0, -1)
4	[pt. at infinity]
4	[pt. at infinity]

FIGURE 1. Graph of  $y^2 = (1 - x^2)(1 - k^2x^2)$ 

We choose a grid of rational points  $(x, y)$  on the curve  $y^2 = (1 - x^2)(1 - k^2x^2)$ . By symmetry, we may assume both  $x$  and  $y$  are positive. More precisely, upon considering the graph in Figure 1, we may assume  $0 < x < 1$  and  $0 < y < 1$ . We let  $x = a/c$  and  $y = b/c$ , where  $a, b$ , and  $c$  are positive integers such that  $1 \leq a < c$  and  $1 \leq b < \sqrt{c^2 - a^2}$ . Upon solving for  $k$ , we find that

$$(15) \quad k = \frac{cd}{a(c^2 - a^2)}, \quad \text{where} \quad d = \sqrt{(c^2 - a^2)(c^2 - a^2 - b^2)}.$$

For each point  $(a, b, c)$  in the grid, we compute  $d$ . If  $d$  is an integer, we add  $k$  to our list.

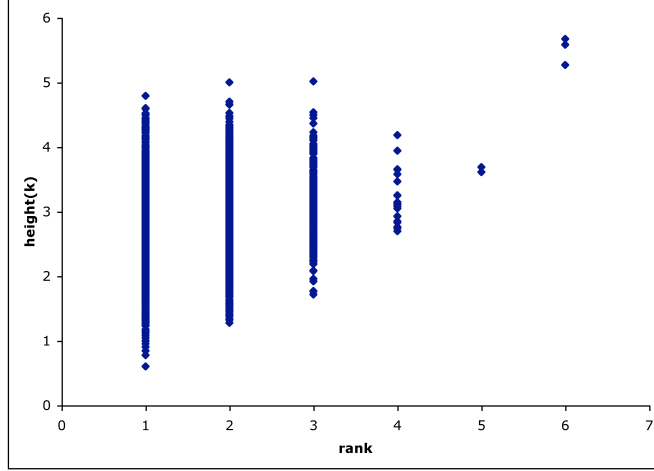
**3.2. Step 2: Logarithmic Height and Rank Bounds.** To find a lower bound on the rank  $r$ , we make use of the following conjecture:

**Conjecture 5.** *Let  $k \neq -1, 0, 1$  be a rational number. Write  $k = p/q$ , and define its logarithmic height as  $h(k) = \max\{\log |p|, \log |q|\}$ . Let  $r(k)$  denote the rank of the elliptic curve  $y^2 = (1 - x^2)(1 - k^2x^2)$ . There exists a positive real number  $m$  such that for all such  $k$  we have  $h(k) \geq m \cdot r(k)$ .*

A plot of  $h(k)$  versus  $r(k)$  for nearly 4000 rational  $k \neq -1, 0, 1$  (counting multiplicities) can be found in Figure 2. These  $k$  were chosen as explained in the previous section. We can determine the least height  $h(k)$  corresponding to curves of ranks 1, 2, 3, and 4. This data can be found in Table 3; a plot of this data can be found in Figure 3. Using linear regression on this data, we expect  $m = 0.61776 \pm 0.01771$ . Regardless of the veracity of the conjecture, we exclude rational  $k$  with  $h(k) < m \cdot r$ .

**3.3. Steps 3 – 4: Selmer Group Computations.** Recall the following well-known short exact sequence:

$$(16) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \frac{E(\mathbb{Q})}{2E(\mathbb{Q})} \longrightarrow \text{Sel}^{(2)}(E/\mathbb{Q}) \longrightarrow \text{III}(E/\mathbb{Q}).$$

FIGURE 2. Plot of  $h(k)$  versus  $r(k)$ TABLE 3. Data for Least  $h(k)$  for Each Rank  $r$ 

$k$	Height $h(k)$	Rank $r$
$\frac{3}{4}$	0.602060	1
$\frac{7}{19}$	1.278754	2
$\frac{51}{52}$	1.716003	3
$\frac{281}{360}$	2.556303	4
$\frac{2697}{4088}$	3.611511	5

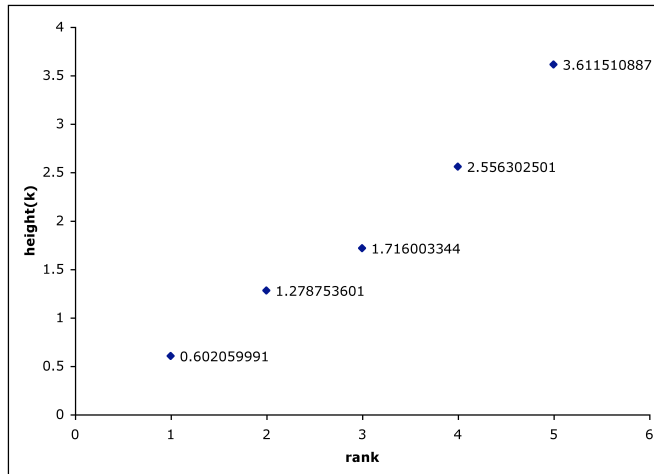
For more information, see [12]. Assuming  $E[2] \subseteq E(\mathbb{Q})$ , we have the cardinalities

$$(17) \quad \left| \frac{E(\mathbb{Q})}{2E(\mathbb{Q})} \right| = 2^{r+2} \quad \text{and} \quad |\text{Sel}^{(2)}(E/\mathbb{Q})| = 2^{s+2},$$

where  $r$  is the Mordell-Weil rank and  $s$  is the “2-Selmer rank”. Note that  $r \leq s$ . In particular, the size of the 2-torsion in the Shafarevich-Tate group is  $|\text{III}(E/\mathbb{Q})[2]| = 2^{s-r}$ .

In order to find an upper bound for the 2-Selmer rank  $s$ , we make the following observation. Consider an integral elliptic curve  $E : Y^2 = X^3 + AX + B$  with discriminant  $\Delta(E) = -16(4A^3 + 27B^2)$ . Denote  $\omega(d)$  as the number of primes dividing a non-zero integer  $d$ . It is easy to see that

$$(18) \quad r \leq s \leq 2 \cdot \omega(\Delta(E)).$$

FIGURE 3. Plot of Least  $h(k)$  for Each Rank  $r$ 

In other words, if the discriminant of  $E$  has a small number of prime factors, the rank must also be small. To find a curve  $E$  with large rank,  $\Delta(E)$  must have a large number of prime factors. For more along this line of reasoning, see [10].

Express  $k = p/q$  for integers  $p$  and  $q$ . Following the transformation in Proposition 1, it is easy to see that the quartic curve  $y^2 = (1 - x^2)(1 - k^2x^2)$  is birationally equivalent to the integral cubic curve  $Y^2 = X^3 + AX + B$  in terms of the integers

$$(19) \quad A = -27(p^4 + 14p^2q^2 + q^4), \quad B = -54(p^6 - 33p^4q^2 - 33p^2q^4 + q^6).$$

We eliminate those  $k$ 's such that  $\omega(pq(p^2 - q^2))$  is small, i.e. less than 10. We also eliminate those  $k$ 's such that  $pq(p^2 - q^2)$  has a prime factor larger than  $10^6$ . This is purely a computational restriction associated with Cremona's `mwrnk`.

Using the list of remaining  $k$ 's, we pass the integral models  $Y^2 = X^3 + AX + B$  to `mwrnk`. We use the flag `-s` so that the software computes the 2-Selmer rank  $s$ . In practice, our coefficients are so large that it seems best to skip the second descent, i.e. we use the flag `-d` as well. We eliminate those  $k$ 's with  $s \leq 6$ .

**3.4. Step 5: Rank Computations.** We use `mwrnk` to compute the Mordell-Weil rank  $r$  of the remaining list of  $k$ 's. In order to make sure the generators returned by the software are the true generators of the full Mordell-Weil group, we also use the flag `-S -1`. This guarantees saturation at all primes. For more details, see [2].

## 4. RESULTS

Our implementation of this algorithm found two curves of rank 6. We used personal computers at Miami University, as well as high-end machines at Harvard University and Purdue University. The longest runtime for the program was approximately 120 CPU hours.

**4.1. Curves of Rank 6.** The first curve is

$$(20) \quad Y^2 = X^3 - 6103004284457878297026267X + 5800027052776749881839037045625991626,$$

which corresponds to  $k = 307100/384569$ . The generators for this curve are:

$$(21) \quad \begin{aligned} & [2163523664640327 : 556078200897099270600 : 1331], \\ & [2889589925127 : 3506015239306639290 : 1], \\ & [6628502811663926 : 726601419375049946420 : 4913], \\ & [26165985283526847 : 115140606932837392613280 : 1331], \\ & [4546881938212050279 : 34353341747719623137040840 : 79507], \\ & [1461784359354504 : -1747413264343628597625 : 512]. \end{aligned}$$

The regulator for this curve is 26612.77.

The second curve is

$$(22) \quad \begin{aligned} Y^2 = X^3 - 2100953182527721596110832X \\ + 232328512961429750343111862628528256, \end{aligned}$$

which corresponds to  $k = 94939/471975$ . The generators for this curve are:

$$(23) \quad \begin{aligned} & [-283847517694018164 : 352616142480375100052880 : 300763], \\ & [29419960772944815852 : 56877771215361605537574000 : 6967871], \\ & [7177905387912779196 : 12273054532116623330857200 : 2048383], \\ & [5630923059584484 : 138746085894621294964875 : 314432], \\ & [-177675523009980 : 73616570450742310992 : 125], \\ & [-217894627787474076 : 61765176726680861926800 : 148877]. \end{aligned}$$

The regulator for this curve is 8988.402.

**4.2. Possible Improvements.** The largest known rank for rational elliptic curves with torsion subgroup  $Z_2 \times Z_4$  was found by Elkies [5] only recently. Although his curve has rank 8, our examples supplement the rank 6 curve found by Dujella [4]. Though we did not find a rank 8 or larger curve with this algorithm, we expect that given more time, we would find such a curve.

We should mention that we attempted to implement a second algorithm, motivated by [8]. Step 1 in our new algorithm was the same, but the remaining steps were different. We computed a histogram of rational numbers  $k$ , and then considered only those  $k$ 's which appeared most often. We used a hash table to create the histogram; the benefit of such a table is that its search time is independent of its size. Rogers constructed his hash table for integers, but we needed to construct one for rational numbers. For each rational  $k = p/q$ , we determined the integer  $\bar{p} \equiv p \pmod{N}$  for a fixed large prime  $N$ . Then  $k$  and its count were stored in the hash table at index  $\bar{p}$ . Once all the  $k$ 's were determined, a histogram was constructed. This algorithm did not fare as well as the first algorithm, however; the highest rank found was 4.

## 5. APPLICATIONS TO SOME DIOPHANTINE PROBLEMS

The study of elliptic curves of the form (3) yields several applications. By studying quartic curves of this form we can gain a better understanding of Heron triangles. We can also use high ranked elliptic curves to study rational Diophantine  $m$ -tuples.



**5.1. Heron Triangles.** Heron of Alexandria (c. 10–75AD) found the following formula for calculating the area of a triangle with sides of length  $a$ ,  $b$  and  $c$ :

$$(24) \quad A = \sqrt{s(s-a)(s-b)(s-c)}, \quad \text{where} \quad s = \frac{a+b+c}{2}.$$

In his honor, a triangle having rational sides of length  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  and rational area  $A$  is said to be a *Heron triangle*.

**Proposition 6.** *Say that we have an isosceles Heron triangle with base  $b$  and area  $A$ . Then all Heron triangles of area  $A$  with sides of length  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  correspond to rational points on the curve*

$$(25) \quad E : y^2 = (1-x^2)(1-k^2x^2), \quad \text{where} \quad k = \sqrt{\frac{16A^2 + b^4}{b^4}}.$$

This proposition essentially follows from [11]. The assumption that  $A$  is the area of an isosceles triangle forces  $k$  to be a rational number. The triangle of sides  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  must necessarily have the same base as the isosceles triangle, but itself need not be isosceles.

*Proof.* By assumption,  $A$  is the area of an isosceles triangle. Say this triangle has sides of length  $\ell$ ,  $\ell$ , and  $b$ , and height  $h$ . Then,

$$(26) \quad h = \sqrt{\ell^2 - \frac{b^2}{4}} \quad \text{and} \quad A = \frac{1}{2}bh \quad \implies \quad k = \frac{2\ell}{b}.$$

Thus  $k$  is indeed rational.

We make the following substitution:

$$(27) \quad \left. \begin{aligned} x &= \frac{b}{a+c} \\ y &= \frac{a-c}{b} \frac{(a+c)^2 - b^2}{(a+c)^2} \end{aligned} \right\} \iff \left\{ \begin{aligned} \frac{a}{b} &= \frac{1+xy-x^2}{2(x-x^3)} \\ \frac{c}{b} &= \frac{1-xy-x^2}{2(x-x^3)} \end{aligned} \right.$$

This transforms (24) into (25). □

**5.2. Rational Diophantine  $m$ -Tuples.** A set  $\{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_m\}$  of  $m$  rational numbers is called a *rational Diophantine  $m$ -tuple* if  $n_i n_j + 1$  is the square of a rational number for  $i \neq j$ . There are infinitely many rational Diophantine 3-tuples, some of which are easy to find. It is possible to extend a rational Diophantine 3-tuple to a tuple of greater length by considering the  $X$ -coordinates of certain rational points.

**Theorem 7** (Dujella, [3]). *Given a rational Diophantine 3-tuple  $\{n_1, n_2, n_3\}$ , consider a rational point  $P$  on the elliptic curve*

$$(28) \quad E : Y^2 = (n_1X + 1)(n_2X + 1)(n_3X + 1).$$

- (1) *Let  $n_4$  denote the  $X$ -coordinate of the point  $(0, 1) \oplus [2]P$ . Then  $\{n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4\}$  is a rational Diophantine 4-tuple.*
- (2) *There exists  $R \in E(\mathbb{Q})$  such that if  $n_5$  is the  $X$ -coordinate of  $(0, 1) \oplus [2]Q$  in terms of  $Q = R \oplus P$ , then  $\{n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4, n_5\}$  is a rational Diophantine 5-tuple.*

**Question 8.** *Do there exist rational Diophantine 7-tuples?*

**Proposition 9.** *Fix a rational number  $t \neq -1, 0, 1$ , and let  $n_1 = t$ ,  $n_2 = -1/t$ , and  $n_3 = n_1 + n_2$ . Then  $\{n_1, n_2, n_3\}$  is a rational Diophantine 3-tuple. A necessary condition to extend this 3-tuple to a 7-tuple is that there exists a rational point on the quartic curve*

$$(29) \quad y^2 = (1 - x^2)(1 - k^2 x^2), \quad \text{where} \quad k = \frac{1 - t^2}{1 + t^2}.$$

*Proof.* Note the relations

$$(30) \quad n_1 n_2 + 1 = 0^2, \quad n_1 n_3 + 1 = n_1^2, \quad \text{and} \quad n_2 n_3 + 1 = n_2^2;$$

hence  $\{n_1, n_2, n_3\}$  is a 3-tuple. Say that  $n_4, n_5, \dots$  form an extension of the 3-tuple. Then  $X = n_i$  would be the  $X$ -coordinate of a rational point on the curve

$$(31) \quad E : Y^2 = (n_1 X + 1)(n_2 X + 1)(n_3 X + 1).$$

Make the substitution

$$(32) \quad \left. \begin{aligned} x &= 1 + \frac{2t}{t^2 - 1} \frac{1}{X} \\ y &= \frac{4t^2}{t^4 - 1} \frac{Y}{X^2} \end{aligned} \right\} \iff \left\{ \begin{aligned} X &= \frac{2t}{t^2 - 1} \frac{1}{x - 1} \\ Y &= \frac{t^2 + 1}{t^2 - 1} \frac{y}{(x - 1)^2} \end{aligned} \right.$$

This sends the relation in (31) to the quartic curve in (29).  $\square$

We give an example of this proposition by extending the rational Diophantine 3-tuple

$$(33) \quad \left\{ \frac{2}{5}, -\frac{5}{2}, -\frac{21}{10} \right\} \quad \text{with} \quad t = \frac{2}{5}$$

to a rational Diophantine 5-tuple. To do so, we consider the elliptic curve

$$(34) \quad E : Y^2 = \left( \frac{2}{5}X + 1 \right) \left( -\frac{5}{2}X + 1 \right) \left( -\frac{21}{10}X + 1 \right)$$

with rational point  $P = (-40/21, 55/21)$ . (The Mordell-Weil group of this curve is  $E(\mathbb{Q}) \simeq \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}$ , where  $P$  is a generator of the free part.) This curve corresponds to the quartic curve with  $k = 21/29$ .

First, we compute the point

$$(35) \quad (0, 1) \oplus [2]P = \left( \frac{528}{1445}, \frac{3731}{24565} \right) \implies n_4 = \frac{528}{1445}.$$

Next, we compute the point  $Q = (0, 1) \oplus P = (5/8, -15/32)$ . (For any rational  $t$ , we may choose  $R = (0, 1)$  as in Theorem ???. Finally, we compute the point

$$(36) \quad (0, 1) \oplus [2]Q = \left( -\frac{2640}{1681}, -\frac{193372}{68921} \right) \implies n_5 = -\frac{2640}{1681}.$$

Hence, we have constructed the rational Diophantine 5-tuple

$$(37) \quad \left\{ \frac{2}{5}, -\frac{5}{2}, -\frac{21}{10}, \frac{528}{1445}, -\frac{2640}{1681} \right\}.$$

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