



## Prime Pythagorean triangles

Harvey Dubner

449 Beverly Road, Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

Tony Forbes

Department of Pure Mathematics, The Open University, Walton Hall,  
Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, United Kingdom

Email addresses: [hdubner1@compuserve.com](mailto:hdubner1@compuserve.com) and  
[tonyforbes@ltkz.demon.co.uk](mailto:tonyforbes@ltkz.demon.co.uk)

### Abstract

*A prime Pythagorean triangle has three integer sides of which the hypotenuse and one leg are primes. In this article we investigate their properties and distribution. We are also interested in finding chains of such triangles, where the hypotenuse of one triangle is the leg of the next in the sequence. We exhibit a chain of seven prime Pythagorean triangles and we include a brief discussion of primality proofs for the larger elements (up to 2310 digits) of the associated set of eight primes.*

1991 *Mathematics Subject Classification*: Primary 11A41

*Keywords*: Pythagorean triangles, prime numbers, primality proving

### 1. INTRODUCTION

While investigating the distribution of special forms of primes, the first author accidentally came across a conjecture about Pythagorean triangles (right triangles with integral sides). The conjecture, based on the famous Conjecture (H) of Sierpiński and Schinzel, states that there is an infinite number of Pythagorean triangles which have a leg and hypotenuse both prime [9, page 408].

Pythagorean triangles have been the subject of much recreational material [1] as well as the basis of some of the most important and fundamental topics in number theory. However, we could not find any significant references to such two-prime Pythagorean triangles, and hoping that we had found a new topic to study we enthusiastically started

- (1) developing appropriate theory and computer programs;
- (2) searching for large two-prime triangles;
- (3) searching for sequences of two-prime triangles where the hypotenuse of the previous triangle becomes the leg of the next one.

The largest two-prime Pythagorean triangle that was found had a leg of 5357 digits and an hypotenuse of 10713 digits. It soon became apparent that finding sequences of triangles was exceptionally interesting and challenging. Eventually a sequence of seven triangles was found. More significant than the seven triangles is the improvement by the second author of the general method, APRCL, for primality proving so that the seventh hypotenuse of 2310 digits could be proved prime.

## 2. THEORY

A two-prime Pythagorean triangle,  $A^2 + B^2 = C^2$ , must be primitive, so that

$$A = u^2 - v^2, \quad B = 2uv, \quad C = u^2 + v^2,$$

with  $\gcd(u, v) = 1$ , and  $u, v$  of different parity. Since  $A = (u + v)(u - v)$ , for  $A$  to be prime it is necessary that  $(u - v) = 1$  so that

$$A = 2v + 1, \quad B = 2v^2 + 2v, \quad C = 2v^2 + 2v + 1.$$

Thus

$$(2.1) \quad C = \frac{A^2 + 1}{2}.$$

Note that the even leg is only one less than the hypotenuse. The triangles get quite thin as  $A$  increases.

To find two-prime Pythagorean triangles it is necessary to find pairs of primes  $A, C$  that satisfy the above equation. Table 1 lists the smallest two-prime Pythagorean triangles.

TABLE 1. Pythagorean triangles with two prime sides

rank	prime leg	even leg	hypotenuse
1	3	4	5
2	5	12	13
3	11	60	61
4	19	180	181
5	29	420	421
6	59	1740	1741
7	61	1860	1861
8	71	2520	2521
9	79	3120	3121
10	101	5100	5101
100	4289	9197760	9197761
1000	91621	4197203820	4197203821

Small triangles are easy to find by a simple search, but finding large triangles with thousands of digits is complicated by the difficulty of proving true primality

of the hypotenuse,  $C$ . However, if  $(C - 1)$  has many factors then it is easy to prove primality using [2], assuming that the factored part of  $(C - 1)$  exceeds  $\sqrt[3]{C}$ . Since

$$(2.2) \quad C - 1 = \frac{A^2 + 1}{2} - 1 = (A^2 - 1)/2 = (A - 1)(A + 1)/2,$$

by picking an appropriate form for  $A$ , then  $(A - 1)$  can be completely factored so that  $(C - 1)$  will be about 50% factored.

Using the form  $A = k \cdot 10^n + 1$ , a computer search of a few days gave the following large triangle:

$$A = 491140 \cdot 10^{1300} + 1, \quad 1306 \text{ digits}, \quad C = 2612 \text{ digits}.$$

A few days after this result was posted to the NMBRTHRY list we received a message from Iago Camboa announcing a much larger triangle:

$$A = 1491 \cdot 2^{17783} + 1, \quad 5357 \text{ digits}, \quad C = 10713 \text{ digits}.$$

He cleverly used a previously computed list of primes as a source for  $A$  thus eliminating the large amount of time required to find the first prime.

### 3. TWO-PRIME PYTHAGOREAN TRIANGLE SEQUENCES

It is possible to find a series of primes,  $P_0, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_k, \dots, P_n$  such that

$$(3.1) \quad P_{k+1} = \frac{P_k^2 + 1}{2}.$$

This represents a sequence of  $n$  two-prime triangles where  $P_k$  is the hypotenuse of the  $k$ -th triangle and the leg of the  $(k + 1)$ -th triangle. Each  $P$  has about twice the number of digits as the previous  $P$ . Table 2 is a list of the smallest sets of two sequential prime Pythagorean triangles.

TABLE 2. Two sequential prime Pythagorean triangles

	triangle 1			triangle 2		
1	3	4	5	5	12	13
2	11	60	61	61	1860	1861
3	19	180	181	181	16380	16381
4	59	1740	1741	1741	1515540	1515541
5	271	36720	36721	36721	674215920	674215921
6	349	60900	60901	60901	1854465900	1854465901
7	521	135720	135721	135721	9210094920	9210094921
8	929	431520	431521	431521	93105186720	93105186721

Table 3 is a list of the starting primes for the smallest prime Pythagorean sequences for two, three, four and five triangles. These were found by straight forward unsophisticated searching and took about 10 computer-days (Pentium/200), mostly for finding five triangles.

Finding the starting prime for the smallest prime sequence of six triangles took about 120 computer days.

$$P_0 \text{ for 6 triangles} = 2500282512131.$$

TABLE 3. Starting prime for smallest prime Pythagorean sequences

	2 triangles	3 triangles	4 triangles	5 triangles
1	3	271	169219	356498179
2	11	349	1370269	432448789
3	19	3001	5965699	5380300469
4	59	10099	15227879	10667785241
5	271	11719	17750981	11238777509
6	349	12281	19342559	12129977791
7	521	25889	21828601	23439934621
8	929	39901	24861761	28055887949
9	1031	46399	27379621	33990398249
10	1051	63659	34602049	34250028521
11	1171	169219	39844619	34418992099
12	2381	250361	48719711	34773959159
13	2671	264169	50049281	34821663421
14	2711	287629	51649019	36624331189
15	2719	289049	52187371	40410959231
16	3001	312581	52816609	43538725229
17	3499	353081	58026659	47426774869
18	3691	440681	73659239	48700811941
19	4349	473009	79782821	49177751131
20	4691	502501	86569771	59564407571

Next, we attempted to derive the number of  $n$  triangle sequences that could be expected. If the  $(n + 1)$  numbers that make up the  $n$  triangles were selected randomly but were of the proper size then the probability that  $P$  is the start of  $n$  triangles is

$$(3.2) \quad Q(P, n) = \prod_0^n \frac{1}{\log P_i} = \prod_0^n \frac{1}{2^i(\log P)} = \frac{1}{2^{n(n+1)/2}(\log P)^{n+1}}.$$

However, there are correlations between the primes that affect the prime probabilities. It is easy to show from equation (2.1) that  $P_0$  can only end in 1 or 9, which eliminates half the possible  $P_0$ 's, and assures that all subsequent potential primes cannot be divisible by 2, 3 or 5. Thus, the probability of each subsequent number being prime is increased by the factor  $(2/1)(3/2)(5/4) = 3.75$ . The probability that  $P$  is the start of  $n$  prime triangles now becomes,

$$(3.3) \quad Q(P, n) = \frac{0.5(3.75)^n}{2^{n(n+1)/2}(\log P)^{n+1}}.$$

The expected number of prime triangles up to a given  $P_0$  is

$$(3.4) \quad E(P_0, n) = \sum_{P=3}^{P_0} Q(P, N) = \frac{0.5(3.75)^n}{2^{n(n+1)/2}} \sum_{P=3}^{P_0} \frac{1}{(\log P)^{n+1}}.$$

The last summation can be approximated by an integral, which after integrating by parts becomes,

$$R(P, n) = \frac{1}{n!} Li(P) - \frac{1}{n!} \frac{P}{\log P} - \dots - \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \frac{P}{(\log P)^{(n-1)}} - \frac{1}{n} \frac{P}{(\log P)^n},$$

where  $Li(P)$  is the logarithmic integral. Equation (3.4) now becomes

$$(3.5) \quad E(P_0, n) = \frac{0.5(3.75)^n}{2^{n(n+1)/2}} R(P_0, n) (1.3)^n.$$

Note the inclusion of a correction factor,  $(1.3)^n$ . As is discussed in the following section on sieving, there are other correlations between the primes which affect the expectation. These are difficult to derive theoretically so we determined it empirically. Table 4 compares the estimated and actual number of triangles found. The corrected estimate appears adequate to assist in estimating the search time for seven prime Pythagorean triangles.

TABLE 4. Estimated and actual number of prime Pythagorean triangles

triangles $n$	$P_0$	actual	estimate	corrected estimate
1	130000	1302	1090	1420
2	1980000	1005	741	1252
3	$10^8$	953	469	1030
4	$18 \cdot 10^8$	205	53	151
5	$63 \cdot 10^9$	21	4	15
6	$28 \cdot 10^{12}$	1	0.14	0.7

Next, we use equation (3.5) to estimate the smallest  $P_0$  that will give seven triangles. The following table shows we can expect that  $P_0$  for seven triangles will be about 6700 times larger than  $P_0$  for six triangles. Using performance data from the search for six triangles, this means that the search for the smallest sequence of seven prime Pythagorean triangles could be expected to take about 200 computer-years!

$n$	$P_0$ for expectation=1	actual $P_0$
2	28	3
3	1,350	271
4	1,000,000	169, 219
5	$1.5 \cdot 10^9$	$3.5 \cdot 10^8$
6	$4.0 \cdot 10^{12}$	$2.5 \cdot 10^{12}$
7	$2.7 \cdot 10^{16}$	

It was clear that the search for the smallest sequence of seven triangles as presently constituted was impractical. For every  $P_0$  the search method included testing by division to see if each of the  $(n + 1)$  potential primes was free of small factors. The second author then proposed an efficient sieving method that limited the search to sequences that had a high probability of success. This made a search for seven triangles reasonable.

## 4. THE SIEVE

A set of seven Pythagorean triangles with the desired properties is equivalent to a chain of eight primes,  $P_0, P_1, \dots, P_7$ , linked by the condition  $P_{i+1} = (P_i^2 + 1)/2$ ,  $i = 0, 1, \dots, 6$ .

The purpose of the sieve is to eliminate from further consideration numbers  $P_0$  for which either  $P_0$  itself or one of the numbers  $P_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, 7$ , is divisible by a small prime. Let  $q$  be an odd prime and suppose  $P$  is to be considered as a possible value of  $P_0$ . Clearly, we can reject  $P$  if  $P \equiv 0 \pmod{q}$ . Furthermore, we can reject  $P$  if  $P_1$  is divisible by  $q$ , that is, if

$$P \equiv \sqrt{-1} \pmod{q},$$

on the assumption that  $\left(\frac{-1}{q}\right) = 1$ . Continuing in this way, we can reject  $P$  if

$$P \equiv \sqrt{2\sqrt{-1} - 1} \pmod{q}$$

(for then  $P_2$  is divisible by  $q$ ), or if

$$P \equiv \sqrt{2\sqrt{2\sqrt{-1} - 1} - 1} \pmod{q},$$

and so on, provided that the various square roots  $\pmod{q}$  exist. In each case, where there is a square root  $\pmod{q}$  there are two possible values and hence two extra residues  $\pmod{q}$  that can be eliminated.

For prime  $q$ , we compute the set  $E(q)$  of forbidden residues  $\pmod{q}$  as follows. Start with  $E_0(q) = \{0\}$ . Given  $E_i(q)$ , let

$$E_{i+1} = \left\{ \pm\sqrt{2e-1} \pmod{q} : e \in E_i \text{ and } \left(\frac{2e-1}{q}\right) = 1 \right\}.$$

Then  $E(q)$  is the union of  $E_0(q), E_1(q), \dots, E_7(q)$ . In Table 5 we list  $E(q)$  for the first few primes  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

Now let

$$P = NQ + H,$$

where  $Q$  is the product of small primes and  $H$  is allowed to run through all the permitted residues  $\pmod{Q}$ . We sieve the numbers  $N$ . That is, we start with an interval  $N_0 \leq N < N_1$  and for each sieving prime  $q$ ,  $\gcd(q, Q) = 1$ , we remove all those  $N \in [N_0, N_1)$  for which  $NQ + H$  is divisible by  $q$ .

We split  $Q$  into pairwise coprime divisors  $m_0, m_1, \dots, m_r$ . For each divisor  $m_j$  of  $Q$ ,  $j = 0, 1, \dots, r$ , we make a list of the permitted residues  $\pmod{m_j}$ ;  $h$  is a permitted residue  $\pmod{m_j}$  if  $h$  is not zero  $\pmod{m_j}$  and if the function  $h \rightarrow (h^2 + 1)/2 \pmod{m_j}$  does not produce zero  $\pmod{m_j}$  during the first seven iterations. The permitted residues  $H \pmod{Q}$  are constructed from permitted residues  $h \pmod{m_j}$  using the Chinese Remainder Theorem. It works well if  $Q$  is the product of primes which have small percentages of permitted residues. From this perspective the best primes, in descending order of merit, turn out to be: 29 (34%), 5 (40%), 2 (50%), 17 (59%), 13 (62%), 3 (67%), 53 (68%), 101 (71%), 89 (74%) and 233 (77%).

For the actual search we chose  $Q = 21342962305470$ , with divisors  $6630 = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 13 \cdot 17$ , 29, 89, 101, 53, and 233. The number of values of  $H \pmod{Q}$  turns out to be  $320 \cdot 10 \cdot 66 \cdot 72 \cdot 36 \cdot 180 = 98537472000$ , the indicated factors of this product being the numbers of permitted residues modulo the corresponding factors of  $Q$ .

The construction of the sieve and the method of computing  $H \pmod{Q}$  were based on computer programs designed for finding prime  $k$ -tuplets; see [6] for the details. We set up a table of sieving primes  $q$  together with pre-computed values of  $-1/Q \pmod{q}$  as well as, for  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ ,  $e/Q \pmod{q}$  for each pair  $e, q - e$  in  $E(q)$ . We can then rapidly calculate the index of the first  $N$  to be removed from the sieve array for  $P \equiv e \pmod{q}$ :  $e/Q - H/Q - N_0 \pmod{q}$ .

The program also allows us to limit the size of primes  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  used by the sieve. One reason for doing so would be to give priority to primes  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ ; they have more residues for sieving and therefore one would expect them to be in some sense more efficient. In fact it was found by experiment that if  $P$  has about 19 digits, a sieve limit  $L_0 = 20000$  for  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  and 480000 for  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  was approximately optimal.

Further performance improvements are possible by limiting the influence of primes  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . For each  $P$  that survives the sieve we do a probable-primality test,  $2^P \equiv 2 \pmod{P}$ , on  $P$  as well as, if  $P$  turns out to be a probable-prime, the numbers that follow  $P$  in the chain, stopping as soon as a composite is found. The effort required to perform the probable-primality test increases by a factor of about eight as we move from  $P_i$  to  $P_{i+1}$ . Therefore it might be better if priority were given to sieving primes  $q$  and residues  $e \pmod{q}$  which would eliminate composite numbers from the larger elements of the chain.

For controlling the effect of primes  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  we provided a set of parameters  $L_1, L_2, \dots$ . If  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  is a sieving prime and  $e \in E_i(q)$  then we do not use residue  $e \pmod{q}$  for sieving unless  $q < L_i$ . As a result of a certain amount of experimentation we found that the optimum sieving rate occurs with the limits set approximately as follows:  $L_1 = 120000$ ,  $L_2 = 240000$ ,  $L_3 = 360000$ , together with a limit  $L_0 = 20000$  for primes  $\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  and an overall sieve limit of 480000. From these values we can compute an expected survival rate of

$$\prod_{q \text{ prime}} \frac{q - \nu_q}{q} = \frac{1}{3770},$$

approximately, where  $\nu_q$  is the number of residues  $\pmod{q}$  used by the sieve.

## 5. EIGHT PRIMES

In September 1999 the search was successful and this chain of eight probable primes was found:

$$\begin{aligned} P_0 &= 2185103796349763249 && (19 \text{ digits}), \\ P_1 &= (P_0^2 + 1)/2 && (37 \text{ digits}), \\ P_2 &= (P_1^2 + 1)/2 && (73 \text{ digits}), \\ P_3 &= (P_2^2 + 1)/2 && (145 \text{ digits}), \\ P_4 &= (P_3^2 + 1)/2 && (289 \text{ digits}), \\ P_5 &= (P_4^2 + 1)/2 && (579 \text{ digits}), \\ P_6 &= (P_5^2 + 1)/2 && (1155 \text{ digits}), \\ P_7 &= (P_6^2 + 1)/2 && (2310 \text{ digits}). \end{aligned}$$

The search program was designed to run on standard IBM PCs. We employed about 15 such machines, with clock speeds ranging from 200 MHz to 400 MHz. The

faster computers were sieving and testing numbers at rates of about ten billion per hour. We also found 174 additional chains of seven (probable) primes.

## 6. PRIMALITY PROOFS

The first six numbers,  $P_0, P_1, \dots, P_5$ , as well as other small primes mentioned in this section are easily verified by the UBASIC [3] program APRT-CLE, a straightforward implementation of the APRCL test. For  $i = 6$  and  $7$  we attempt to factorize

$$P_i - 1 = (P_0 - 1) \prod_{j=0}^{i-1} \frac{1}{2} (P_j + 1).$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} P_0 - 1 &= 2^4 \cdot 233 \cdot 586132992583091, \\ (P_0 + 1)/2 &= 3^2 \cdot 5^3 \cdot 13 \cdot 761 \cdot 19087 \cdot 5143087, \\ (P_1 + 1)/2 &= 7^2 \cdot 1063 \cdot 189043 \cdot 7552723 \cdot 113558719 \cdot 141341652553, \\ (P_2 + 1)/2 &= 7058053 \cdot 5848063479673576700713235221 \\ &\quad \cdot 34520041584369005634844907730019249777, \\ (P_3 + 1)/2 &= 2179 \cdot 1847645923 \cdot C_{132}, \\ (P_4 + 1)/2 &= 307 \cdot 769 \cdot 262513 \cdot P_{278}, \\ (P_5 + 1)/2 &= 108139 \cdot 11360649709 \cdot 5586562264501 \cdot C_{550}, \\ (P_6 + 1)/2 &= 4177 \cdot 1372052449 \cdot 5098721569 \cdot 84098816095916212867 \cdot C_{1113}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $C_{132}$ ,  $C_{550}$  and  $C_{1113}$  are composite numbers of 132, 550 and 1113 digits, respectively, and  $P_{278}$  is a 278-digit prime:

$$\begin{aligned} P_{278} &= 66505518540598996114987486506055236521044267373138 \\ &\quad 69473288000457727001877127498646545001634613677898 \\ &\quad 53932112480508999228232340454335875401889420451888 \\ &\quad 17780482079524485531037464472393979852934170207932 \\ &\quad 02663155485302406204947222346461607409301255277393 \\ &\quad 4788467292248055697961196019. \end{aligned}$$

The 28-digit factor of  $P_2 + 1$  and the 20-digit factor of  $P_6 + 1$  were found by Manfred Toplic and Paul Zimmermann.

Since we have a 41% partial factorization of  $P_6 - 1$  we can establish the primality of  $P_6$  by the methods of Brillhart, Lehmer and Selfridge [2]. (Similarly a 77% factorization of  $P_5 - 1$  provides an alternative proof for  $P_5$ .)

It remains to deal with  $P_7$ . We do not have enough prime factors of  $P_7 - 1$  for a simple proof, so we use a combination of methods. Suppose  $d < P_7$  is a prime factor of  $P_7$ . The proof that no such  $d$  exists proceeds in several stages.



Gathering together the prime factors of  $P_7$  listed above, let

$$\begin{aligned}
F_1 = & 11364028773118678645863393880225035110068188490680 \\
& 74284625807644534721210969640169863192044176288720 \\
& 57382836214336492569310719940321645143241641366672 \\
& 31704620613678520580684280352992373327229897947340 \\
& 09917692032743575475918022578947700337216860293874 \\
& 96561498464943981086970289943873321681460108830000 \\
& 00131801406514260770804840415255291401064877989705 \\
& 76202962420323563098312300324091122817224414751412 \\
& 15123765209184430598589590008879997663256918503367 \\
& 07250451432160496252649191808276871593840887080642 \\
& 91103468534974000 \text{ (517 digits)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Then, after confirming that the conditions of Pocklington's theorem [8] hold, we have

$$(6.1) \quad d \equiv 1 \pmod{F_1}.$$

Similarly, by Morrison's theorem [2, Theorem 16],

$$(6.2) \quad d \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{F_2},$$

where  $F_2 = 43^2 \cdot 73 = 134977$ .

Next, we confirm that the conditions for the APRCL test (see, for example, Cohen and A. K. Lenstra [4] or Cohen and H. W. Lenstra [5]) are satisfied with the prime powers  $p^k$ :  $\{2^5, 3^3, 5^2, 7, 11, 13\}$ , and primes  $q$ :  $\{11, 17, 19, 23, 29, 31, 37, 41, 53, 61, 67, 71, 79, 89, 97, 101, 109, 113, 127, 131, 151, 157, 181, 199, 211, 241, 271, 281, 313, 331, 337, 353, 379, 397, 401, 421, 433, 463, 521, 541, 547, 601, 617, 631, 661, 673, 701, 757, 859, 881, 911, 937, 991, 1009, 1051, 1093, 1171, 1201, 1249, 1301, 1321, 1801, 1873, 1951, 2003, 2017, 2081, 2161, 2311, 2341, 2377, 2521, 2731, 2801, 2861, 2971, 3121, 3169, 3301, 3361, 3433, 3511, 3697, 3851, 4159, 4201, 4621, 4951, 5281, 5851, 6007, 6301, 6553, 7151, 7393, 7561, 7723, 8009, 8191, 8317, 8581, 8737, 9241, 9829, 9901, 11551, 11701, 12601, 13729, 14561, 14851, 15121, 15401, 15601, 16381, 16633, 17551, 18481, 19801, 20021, 20593, 21601, 21841, 23761, 24571, 25741, 26209, 28081, 30241, 34651, 36037, 38611, 39313, 42901, 47521, 48049, 50051, 51481, 54601, 55441, 65521, 66529, 70201, 72073, 79201, 81901, 92401, 93601, 96097, 103951, 108109, 109201, 110881, 118801, 120121, 123553, 131041, 140401, 150151, 151201, 180181, 193051, 196561, 200201, 216217, 218401, 257401, 270271, 300301, 332641, 393121, 415801, 432433, 450451\}$ . The result is that

$$(6.3) \quad d \equiv P_7^i \pmod{S} \text{ for some } i = 1, 2, \dots, T - 1,$$

where  $T = 21621600$  is the product of the  $p^k$ s and  $S = 8.164364 \cdot 10^{634}$ , approximately, is the product of the  $q$ s.

Let  $G = F_1 F_2 S$  and observe that  $F_1$ ,  $F_2$  and  $S$  are pairwise coprime. We combine (6.1), (6.2) and (6.3) by the Chinese Remainder Theorem to obtain

$$d \equiv \left( \frac{1}{F_2 S} \pmod{F_1} \right) F_2 S + \left( \frac{e}{F_1 S} \pmod{F_2} \right) F_1 S$$

$$+ \left( \frac{P_7^i}{F_1 F_2} \pmod{S} \right) F_1 F_2 \pmod{G}$$

for some  $e = \pm 1$  and  $i = 1, 2, \dots, T-1$ . After eliminating all possible  $d < \sqrt{P_7} < G$  by trial division we can conclude that  $P_7$  is prime.

#### 7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Jeremy Humphries, Manfred Toplic and Paul Zimmermann for contributing their own computer resources to the search for seven prime Pythagorean triangles. We are specifically grateful to Paul Zimmermann, who also made his Elliptic Curve program available to us for the partial factorization of  $P_7 - 1$ .

#### REFERENCES

1. A. H. Beiler, *Recreations In the Theory of Numbers*, 2nd ed., Dover Publications, New York, ch. XIV, 1966.
2. John Brillhart, D. H. Lehmer and J. L. Selfridge, *New primality criteria and factorizations of  $2^m \pm 1$* , Math. Comp., **29** (1975), 620-647.
3. C. K. Caldwell, *UBASIC*, J. Recreational Math., **25** (1993), 47-54.
4. H. Cohen and A. K. Lenstra, *Implementation of a new primality test*, Math. Comp., **48** (1987), 103-121.
5. H. Cohen and H. W. Lenstra, *Primality testing and Jacobi sums*, Math. Comp., **42** (1984), 297-330.
6. Tony Forbes, *Prime clusters and Cunningham chains*, Math. Comp., **68** (1999), 1739-1747.
7. G. H. Hardy and E. M. Wright, *An Introduction to the Theory of Numbers*, 5th ed., Oxford University Press, 1979.
8. H. C. Pocklington, *The determination of the prime or composite nature of large numbers by Fermat's theorem*, Proc. Cambridge Philos. Soc., **18** (1914-16), 29-30.
9. P. Ribenboim, *The New Book of Prime Number Records*, 3rd ed., Springer-Verlag, New York, 1995.

(Mentions sequences [A048161](#), [A048270](#) and [A048295](#).)

Received May 6, 2001; revised version received Sept. 3, 2001. Published in Journal of Integer Sequences Sept. 13, 2001.

Return to [Journal of Integer Sequences home page](#).

TABLE 5.  $E(q)$ 

$q$	$E(q)$
5	{0, 2, 3}
13	{0, 3, 5, 8, 10}
17	{0, 3, 4, 5, 12, 13, 14}
29	{0, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27}
37	{0, 6, 8, 14, 23, 29, 31}
41	{0, 9, 32}
53	{0, 4, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 49}
61	{0, 11, 50}
73	{0, 23, 27, 46, 50}
89	{0, 9, 26, 27, 30, 34, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 44, 45, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 55, 59, 62, 63, 80}
97	{0, 7, 22, 25, 72, 75, 90}
101	{0, 7, 10, 12, 15, 16, 22, 23, 25, 26, 34, 35, 37, 38, 50, 51, 63, 64, 66, 67, 75, 76, 78, 79, 85, 86, 89, 91, 94}
109	{0, 33, 76}
113	{0, 2, 15, 46, 54, 59, 67, 98, 111}
137	{0, 22, 37, 100, 115}
149	{0, 44, 105}
157	{0, 10, 28, 31, 126, 129, 147}
173	{0, 32, 80, 93, 141}
181	{0, 2, 9, 19, 30, 33, 41, 47, 54, 56, 64, 78, 80, 88, 93, 101, 103, 117, 125, 127, 134, 140, 148, 151, 162, 172, 179}
193	{0, 57, 81, 112, 136}
197	{0, 14, 37, 94, 103, 160, 183}
229	{0, 18, 19, 30, 48, 54, 59, 69, 91, 107, 110, 119, 122, 138, 160, 170, 175, 181, 199, 210, 211}
233	{0, 3, 5, 7, 12, 13, 16, 21, 25, 27, 30, 42, 43, 44, 48, 52, 53, 55, 61, 67, 71, 80, 85, 89, 101, 104, 115, 118, 129, 132, 144, 148, 153, 162, 166, 172, 178, 180, 181, 185, 189, 190, 191, 203, 206, 208, 212, 217, 220, 221, 226, 228, 230}
241	{0, 64, 177}
257	{0, 16, 51, 206, 241}
269	{0, 82, 187}
277	{0, 8, 52, 60, 106, 171, 217, 225, 269}
281	{0, 53, 228}
293	{0, 4, 121, 138, 155, 172, 289}
313	{0, 7, 21, 25, 92, 221, 288, 292, 306}
317	{0, 17, 23, 24, 31, 44, 50, 52, 56, 74, 97, 114, 115, 126, 130, 134, 141, 142, 145, 153, 164, 172, 175, 176, 183, 187, 191, 202, 203, 220, 243, 261, 265, 267, 273, 286, 293, 294, 300}
337	{0, 21, 31, 34, 50, 71, 73, 90, 110, 114, 116, 144, 148, 153, 157, 162, 175, 180, 184, 189, 193, 221, 223, 227, 247, 264, 266, 287, 303, 306, 316}