



## An algebraic proof of Fermat's last theorem

James E. Joseph  
Department of Mathematics  
Howard University  
Washington, DC 20059.

### Abstract:

In 1995, A. Wiles announced, using cyclic groups, a proof of Fermat's Last Theorem, which is stated as follows: If  $\pi$  is an odd prime and  $x, y, z$  are relatively prime positive integers, then  $z^\pi \neq x^\pi + y^\pi$ . In this note, a proof of this theorem is offered, using elementary Algebra. It is proved that if  $\pi$  is an odd prime and  $x, y, z$  are positive integers satisfying  $z^\pi = x^\pi + y^\pi$ , then  $x, y,$  and  $z$  are each divisible by  $\pi$ .

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The special case  $z^4 = x^4 + y^4$  is impossible for relatively prime integers  $x, y, z$  [1]; it is only necessary to show that if  $x, y, z,$  are relatively prime positive integers,  $\pi$  is an odd prime,  $z^\pi \neq x^\pi + y^\pi$ . If  $x$  and  $\pi$  are positive integers, the notation  $x \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}$  will mean  $x$  is divisible by  $\pi$ . Let  $C(\pi, k)$  represent the  $k^{\text{th}}$  coefficient of the binomial expansion of  $(x + y)^\pi$ ; if  $\pi$  is prime, then  $C(\pi, k) \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}$  for every  $1 < k < \pi$ .

**Theorem 1.** *If  $x, y, z$  are positive integers,  $\pi$  an odd prime and  $x^\pi + y^\pi = z^\pi$ , then  $x \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}$ ,  $y \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}$ ,  $z \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}$ .*

Theorem 1 is arrived at as a result of two Lemmas.

**Lemma 1.** *If  $x, y, z$  are positive integers,  $\pi$  an odd prime, and  $z^\pi = x^\pi + y^\pi$ , then*

- (1)  $(x + y)^\pi - z^\pi \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}$ ;
- (2)  $(z - x)^\pi - y^\pi \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}$ ;
- (3)  $(z - y)^\pi - x^\pi \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}$ ;
- (4)  $x + y - z \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}$ ;
- (5)  $(x + y)^\pi - z^\pi \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^2}$ ;
- (6)  $(z - x)^\pi - y^\pi \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^2}$ ;
- (7)  $(z - y)^\pi - x^\pi \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^2}$ ;

$$(8) \quad x + y - z \neq 0.$$

Proof. Using the equation  $z^\pi = x^\pi + y^\pi$ , statements (1), (2), and (3) are obvious; (4), (5), (6), and (7) come from the equations

$$(eq.1) \quad (x + y)^\pi - z^\pi - (x + y - z)^\pi = \sum_1^{\pi-1} C(\pi, k)(x + y - z)^{\pi-k} z^k;$$

$$(eq.2) \quad (z - y)^\pi - x^\pi - (z - x - y)^\pi = \sum_1^{\pi-1} C(\pi, k)(z - x - y)^{\pi-k} x^k;$$

$$(eq.3) \quad (z - x)^\pi - y^\pi - (z - x - y)^\pi = \sum_1^{\pi-1} C(\pi, k)(z - x - y)^{\pi-k} y^k;$$

and the fundamental theorem of Arithmetic; (8) is obvious. leading to  $xy = 0$ .

**Lemma 2.** If  $\pi$  is an odd prime and  $x, y, z$  are positive integers such that  $z^\pi = x^\pi + y^\pi$ , then

$$(1) \quad xy \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi};$$

$$(2) \quad yz \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi};$$

$$(3) \quad xz \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}.$$

Proof.

$$(x + y)^\pi - z^\pi = \sum_1^{\pi-1} C(\pi, k)x^{\pi-k}y^k \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^2};$$

there is a  $k$  with  $C(\pi, k)x^{\pi-k}y^k \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^2}$ ; order  $C(\pi, k)x^{\pi-k}y^k$  by inclusion and there exists  $k$  such that  $C(\pi, k)x^{\pi-k}y^k \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^2}$ ;

$$(F1) \quad x^{\pi-k}y^k \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi};$$

multiplying by  $x^k y^{\pi-k}$  gives  $(xy)^\pi \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}$  which implies

$$(F1^*) \quad xy \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}.$$

$$(z - y)^\pi - x^\pi = \sum_1^{\pi-1} C(\pi, k)(-1)^k y^{\pi-k} z^k \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^2};$$

there is a  $k$  with  $C(\pi, k)y^{\pi-k}z^k \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^2}$ ; order  $C(\pi, k)y^{\pi-k}z^k$  by inclusion and there exists  $k$  such that  $C(\pi, k)y^{\pi-k}z^k \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^2}$ ;

$$(F2) \quad y^{\pi-k}z^k \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi};$$

multiplying by  $y^k z^{\pi-k}$  gives  $(yz)^\pi \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}$  which implies

$$(F2^*) \quad yz \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}.$$

$$(z - x)^\pi - y^\pi = \sum_1^{\pi-1} C(\pi, k)(-1)^k x^{\pi-k} z^k \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^2};$$

there is a  $k$  with  $C(\pi, k)x^{\pi-k}z^k \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^2}$ ; order  $C(\pi, k)x^{\pi-k}z^k$  by inclusion and there exists  $k$  such that  $C(\pi, k)x^{\pi-k}z^k \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^2}$ ;

$$(F3) \quad x^{\pi-k} z^k \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi};$$

multiplying by  $x^k z^{\pi-k}$  gives  $(xz)^\pi \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}$  which implies

$$(F3^*) \quad xz \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}.$$

The last three equivalences  $(F1^*), (F2^*), (F3^*)$ , along with  $x + y - z \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}$  complete the proof.

**Fermat's Last Theorem.** If  $\pi$  is an odd prime and  $x, y, z$  are relatively prime positive integers, then  $z^\pi \neq x^\pi + y^\pi$ .

Proof. If  $\pi$  is an odd prime. then  $z \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}; y \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}; x \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}$ .

### References

- [1] H. Edwards, *Fermat's Last Theorem: A Genetic Introduction to Algebraic Number Theory*, Springer-Verlag, New York, (1977).
- [2] A. Wiles, *Modular elliptic curves and Fermat's Last Theorem*, Ann. Math. 141 (1995), 443-551.
- [3] A. Wiles and R. Taylor, *Ring-theoretic properties of certain Hecke algebras*, Ann. Math. 141 (1995), 553-573. \*\*\*\*\*Order  $C(\pi, k)x^{\pi-k}y^k$  by magnitude and there exists  $k$  such that  $C(\pi, k)x^{\pi-k}y^k \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^2}$  \*\*\*\*\*Wiles and R. Taylor, Ring-theoretic properties of certain Hecke algebras, Ann. Math. 141 (1995), 553-573. \*\*\*\*\*

$$(x + y)^\pi - z^\pi = \sum_0^{\pi-1} C(\pi, k)(x + y - z)^{\pi-k} z^k;$$

$$(x + y)^\pi - z^\pi = \sum_0^{\pi-1} C(\pi, k)(x + y - z)^{\pi-k} z^k;$$

$$(x + y - z)^\pi + \pi(x + y - z)z^{\pi-1} \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^2};$$

$$(x + y - z)^{\pi-2} + z^{\pi-1} \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi};$$

$$z^{\pi-1} \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi};$$

$$z \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}.$$

$$(z-y)^\pi - x^\pi = \sum_0^{\pi-1} C(\pi, k)(z-x-y)^{\pi-k} x^k;$$

$$(z-x)^\pi - y^\pi = \sum_0^{\pi-1} C(\pi, k)(z-x-y)^{\pi-k} x^k;$$

$$(z-x-y)^\pi + \pi(z-x-y)x^{\pi-1} \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^2};$$

$$(z-x-y)^{\pi-2} + x^{\pi-1} \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi};$$

$$x^{\pi-1} \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi};$$

$$x \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi}.$$