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> Representation of integers by cyclotomic binary forms

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Abstract

The homogeneous form $\Phi_n(X, Y)$ of degree $\varphi(n)$ which is associated with the cyclotomic polynomial $\phi_n(t)$ is dubbed a cyclotomic binary form. A positive integer $m \ge 1$ is said to be representable by a cyclotomic binary form if there exist integers n, x, y with $n \ge 3$ and $\max\{|x|, |y|\} \ge 2$ such that $\Phi_n(x, y) = m$. These definitions give rise to a number of questions that we plan to address.

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This is a joint work with Étienne Fouvry and Claude Levesque



Étienne Fouvry



Claude Levesque

Representation of integers by cyclotomic binary forms. Acta Arithmetica, 20p. Online First March 2018. arXiv: 712.09019 [math.NT]

Definition by induction :

$$\phi_1(t) = t - 1,$$
 $t^n - 1 = \prod_{d|n} \phi_d(t).$

For p prime,

$$t^{p} - 1 = (t - 1)(t^{p-1} + t^{p-2} + \dots + t + 1) = \phi_{1}(t)\phi_{p}(t),$$

$$\phi_p(t) = t^{p-1} + t^{p-2} + \dots + t + 1.$$

For instance

 $\phi_2(t) = t+1, \quad \phi_3(t) = t^2+t+1, \quad \phi_5(t) = t^4+t^3+t^2+t+1.$

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For instance

$$\phi_4(t) = \frac{t^4 - 1}{t^2 - 1} = t^2 + 1 = \phi_2(t^2),$$

$$\phi_6(t) = \frac{t^6 - 1}{(t^3 - 1)(t + 1)} = \frac{t^3 + 1}{t + 1} = t^2 - t + 1 = \phi_3(-t).$$

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The degree of $\phi_n(t)$ is $\varphi(n)$, where φ is the Euler totient function.

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Cyclotomic polynomials and roots of unity

For $n \geq 1$, if ζ is a primitive *n*-th root of unity,

$$\phi_n(t) = \prod_{\gcd(j,n)=1} (t - \zeta^j).$$

For $n \ge 1$, $\phi_n(t)$ is the irreducible polynomial over \mathbb{Q} of the primitive *n*-th roots of unity,

Let K be a field and let n be a positive integer. Assume that K has characteristic either 0 or else a prime number p prime to n. Then the polynomial $\phi_n(t)$ is separable over K and its roots in K are exactly the primitive n-th roots of unity which belong to K.

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Properties of $\phi_n(t)$

• For $n \geq 2$ we have

 $\phi_n(t) = t^{\varphi(n)} \phi_n(1/t)$

• Let $n = 2^{e_0} p_1^{e_1} \cdots p_r^{e_r}$ where p_1, \ldots, p_r are different odd primes, $e_0 \ge 0$, $e_i \ge 1$ for $i = 1, \ldots, r$ and $r \ge 1$. Denote by R the radical of n, namely

$$R = \begin{cases} 2p_1 \cdots p_r & \text{if } e_0 \ge 1, \\ p_1 \cdots p_r & \text{if } e_0 = 0. \end{cases}$$

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 $\phi_n(1)$

For $n \geq 2$, we have $\phi_n(1) = e^{\Lambda(n)}$, where the von Mangoldt function is defined for $n \geq 1$ as

$$\Lambda(n) = \begin{cases} \log p & \text{if } n = p^r \text{ with } p \text{ prime and } r \ge 1 \text{ ;} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In other terms we have

$$\phi_n(1) = \begin{cases} p & \text{if } n = p^r \text{ with } p \text{ prime and } r \ge 1; \\ 1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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Hence $\phi_n(-1) = 1$ when n is odd or when n = 2m where m has at least two distinct prime divisors.

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Hence $\phi_n(-1) = 1$ when *n* is odd or when n = 2m where *m* has at least two distinct prime divisors.

Lower bound for $\phi_n(t)$

For $n \geq 3$, the polynomial $\phi_n(t)$ has real coefficients and no real root, hence it takes only positive values (and its degree $\varphi(n)$ is even).

For $n \geq 3$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$, we have

 $\phi_n(t) \ge 2^{-\varphi(n)}.$

Consequence : from

 $\phi_n(t) = t^{\varphi(n)} \phi_n(1/t)$

we deduce, for $n \geq 3$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$,

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 $\phi_n(t) \geq 2^{-\varphi(n)} \text{ for } n \geq 3 \text{ and } t \in \mathbb{R}$ Proof. Let ζ_n be a primitive *n*-th root of unity in \mathbb{C} ;

$$\phi_n(t) = \mathcal{N}_{\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)/\mathbb{Q}}(t - \zeta_n) = \prod_{\sigma} (t - \sigma(\zeta_n)),$$

where σ runs over the embeddings $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n) \to \mathbb{C}$. We have

 $|t - \sigma(\zeta_n)| \ge |\Im m(\sigma(\zeta_n))| > 0,$

 $(2i)\Im(\sigma(\zeta_n)) = \sigma(\zeta_n) - \overline{\sigma(\zeta_n)} = \sigma(\zeta_n - \overline{\zeta_n}).$ Now $(2i)\Im(\zeta_n) = \zeta_n - \overline{\zeta_n} \in \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)$ is an algebraic integer : $2^{\varphi(n)}\phi_n(t) \ge |\mathbb{N}_{\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)/\mathbb{Q}}((2i)\Im(\zeta_n))| \ge 1.$

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The cyclotomic binary forms For $n \ge 2$, define

 $\Phi_n(X,Y) = Y^{\varphi(n)}\phi_n(X/Y).$

This is a binary form in $\mathbb{Z}[X, Y]$ of degree $\varphi(n)$. Consequence of the lower bound for $\phi_n(t)$: for $n \ge 3$ and $(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$,

 $\Phi_n(x,y) \ge 2^{-\varphi(n)} \max\{|x|, |y|\}^{\varphi(n)}.$

Therefore, if $\Phi_n(x,y)=m$, then $\max\{|x|,|y|\}\leq 2m^{1/arphi(n)}$

If $\max\{|x|, |y|\} \ge 3$, then n is bounded :

$$\varphi(n) \le \frac{\log m}{\log(3/2)}$$

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Therefore, if $\Phi_n(x, y) = m$, then $\max\{|x|, |y|\} \le 2m^{1/\varphi(n)}.$ If $\max\{|x|, |y|\} \ge 3$, then *n* is bounded :

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The cyclotomic binary forms For $n \ge 2$, define

$$\Phi_n(X,Y) = Y^{\varphi(n)}\phi_n(X/Y).$$

This is a binary form in $\mathbb{Z}[X, Y]$ of degree $\varphi(n)$. Consequence of the lower bound for $\phi_n(t)$: for $n \ge 3$ and $(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$,

 $\Phi_n(x,y) \ge 2^{-\varphi(n)} \max\{|x|, |y|\}^{\varphi(n)}.$

Therefore, if $\Phi_n(x,y) = m$, then

 $\max\{|x|, |y|\} \le 2m^{1/\varphi(n)}.$

If $\max\{|x|, |y|\} \ge 3$, then n is bounded :

$$\varphi(n) \le \frac{\log m}{\log(3/2)}$$

Generalization to CM fields (Győry, 1977)

Let K be a CM field of degree d over \mathbb{Q} . Let $\alpha \in K$ be such that $K = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$; let f be the irreducible polynomial of α over \mathbb{Q} and let $F(X, Y) = Y^d f(X/Y)$ the associated homogeneous binary form :

$$f(t) = a_0 t^d + a_1 t^{d-1} + \dots + a_d,$$

$$F(X,Y) = a_0 X^d + a_1 X^{d-1} Y + \dots + a_d Y^d.$$

For $(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ we have

 $x^{d} \leq 2^{d} a_{d}^{d-1} F(x,y) \quad \text{and} \quad y^{d} \leq 2^{d} a_{0}^{d-1} F(x,y).$

Kálmán Győry, László Lovász



K. Győry



L. Lovász

K. GYŐRY & L. LOVÁSZ, Representation of integers by norm forms II, Publ. Math. Debrecen **17**, 173–181, (1970). K. GYŐRY, Représentation des nombres entiers par des formes binaires, Publ. Math. Debrecen **24**, 363–375, (1977).

Let $n \ge 3$, not of the form p^a nor $2p^a$ with p prime and $a \ge 1$, so that $\phi_n(1) = \phi_n(-1) = 1$. Then the binary form

$$F_n(X,Y) = \Phi_n(X,Y-X)$$

has degree $d = \varphi(n)$ and $a_0 = a_d = 1$. For $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ we have $F_n(x, 2x) = \Phi_n(x, x) = x^d$. Hence, for y = 2x, we have

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Binary cyclotomic forms (EF-CL-MW 2018)

Let *m* be a positive integer and let n, x, y be rational integers satisfying $n \ge 3$, $\max\{|x|, |y|\} \ge 2$ and $\Phi_n(x, y) = m$. Then

$$\max\{|x|,|y|\} \leq \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} m^{1/\varphi(n)}, \quad \text{hence} \quad \varphi(n) \leq \frac{2}{\log 3} \log m.$$

These estimates are optimal, since for $\ell\geq 1$,

 $\Phi_3(\ell, -2\ell) = 3\ell^2.$

If we assume arphi(n)>2, namely $arphi(n)\geq 4$, then

$$\varphi(n) \le \frac{4}{\log 11} \log m$$

which is best possible since $\Phi_5(1,-2) = 11$.

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Lower bound for the cyclotomic polynomials

The upper bound

$$\max\{|x|, |y|\} \le \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} m^{1/\varphi(n)}$$

for $\Phi_n(x,y) = m$ is equivalent to the following result :

For $n \geq 3$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\phi_n(t) \ge \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)^{\varphi(n)}.$$

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$$c_n = \inf_{t \in \mathbb{R}} \phi_n(t) \qquad (n \ge 3).$$

Let $n \geq 3$. Write

$$n = 2^{e_0} p_1^{e_1} \cdots p_r^{e_r}$$

where p_1, \ldots, p_r are odd primes with $p_1 < \cdots < p_r$, $e_0 \ge 0$, $e_i \ge 1$ for $i = 1, \ldots, r$ and $r \ge 0$. (i) For r = 0, we have $e_0 \ge 2$ and $c_n = c_{2^{e_0}} = 1$. (ii) For $r \ge 1$ we have

$$c_n = c_{p_1 \cdots p_r} \ge p_1^{-2^{r-2}}.$$

End of the proof of
$$\phi_n(t) \ge \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)^{\varphi(n)}$$
.

Lemma. For any odd squarefree integer $n = p_1 \cdots p_r$ with $p_1 < p_2 < \cdots < p_r$ satisfying $n \ge 11$ and $n \ne 15$, we have

 $\varphi(n) > 2^{r+1} \log p_1.$

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$$\Phi_n(x,y) \ge c_n \max\{|x|, |y|\}^{\varphi(n)}.$$

$$c_n \ge \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)^{\varphi(n)}.$$

- $\liminf_{n \to \infty} c_n = 0$ and $\limsup_{n \to \infty} c_n = 1$.
- The sequence $(c_p)_{p \text{ odd prime}}$ is decreasing from 3/4 to 1/2.

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$$p_1$$
 and p_2 primes, $c_{p_1p_2} \geq rac{1}{p_1} \cdot$

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The sequence $(a_m)_{m\geq 1}$

For each integer $m \geq 1$, the set

 $\{(n, x, y) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{Z}^2 \mid n \ge 3, \max\{|x|, |y|\} \ge 2, \Phi_n(x, y) = m\}$

is finite. Let a_m the number of its elements.

The sequence of integers $m \ge 1$ such that $a_m \ge 1$ starts with the following values of a_m

3	4		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	16	17
8	16	8	24	4	16	8	8	12			16

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m	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	16	17
a_m	8	16	8	24	4	16	8	8	12	40	40	16

https://oeis.org/A299214

Number of representations of integers by cyclotomic binary forms.

The sequence $(a_m)_{m\geq 1}$ starts with 0, 0, 8, 16, 8, 0, 24, 4, 16, 8, 8, 12, 40, 0, 0, 40, 16, 4, 24, 8, 24, 0, 0, 0, 24, 8, 12, 24, 8, 0, 32, 8, 0, 8, 0, 16, 32, 0, 24, 8, 8, 0, 32, 0, 8, 0, 0, 12, 40, 12, 0, 32, 8, 0, 8, 0, 32, 8, 0, 0, 48, 0, 24, 40, $16, 0, 24, 8, 0, 0, 0, 4, 48, 8, 12, 24, \dots$

https://oeis.org/A296095

Integers represented by cyclotomic binary forms.

 $\begin{array}{l} a_m \neq 0 \ \text{for} \ m = \\ 3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,16,17,18,19,20,21,25,26,27, \\ 28,29,31,32,34,36,37,39,40,41,43,45,48,49,50,52,53, \\ 55,57,58,61,63,64,65,67,68,72,73,74,75,76,79,80,81, \\ 82,84,85,89,90,91,93,97,98,100,101,103,104,106,108, \\ 109,111,112,113,116,117,121,122, \ldots \end{array}$

https://oeis.org/A293654

Integers not represented by cyclotomic binary forms.

 $\begin{array}{l} a_m = 0 \ \text{for} \ m = \\ 1, 2, 6, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 30, 33, 35, 38, 42, 44, 46, 47, 51, 54, \\ 56, 59, 60, 62, 66, 69, 70, 71, 77, 78, 83, 86, 87, 88, 92, 94, 95, \\ 96, 99, 102, 105, 107, 110, 114, 115, 118, 119, 120, 123, 126, \\ 131, 132, 134, 135, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 150, \ldots \end{array}$

Integers represented by cyclotomic binary forms

For $N \ge 1$, let $\mathcal{A}(N)$ be the number of $m \le N$ which are represented by cyclotomic binary forms :

 $\mathcal{A}(N) = \#\{m \in \mathbb{N} \mid m \le N, a_m \ne 0\}.$

We have

$$\mathcal{A}(N) = \alpha \frac{N}{(\log N)^{\frac{1}{2}}} - \beta \frac{N}{(\log N)^{\frac{3}{4}}} + O\left(\frac{N}{(\log N)^{\frac{3}{2}}}\right)$$
s $N \to \infty$.

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as $N \to \infty$.

$$\alpha = \alpha_3 + \alpha_4$$

The number of positive integers $\leq N$ represented by Φ_4 (namely the sums of two squares) is

$$\alpha_4 \frac{N}{(\log N)^{\frac{1}{2}}} + O\left(\frac{N}{(\log N)^{\frac{3}{2}}}\right)$$

The number of positive integers $\leq N$ represented by Φ_3 (namely $x^2 + xy + y^2$: Loeschian numbers) is

$$\alpha_3 \frac{N}{(\log N)^{\frac{1}{2}}} + O\left(\frac{N}{(\log N)^{\frac{3}{2}}}\right)$$

The number of positive integers $\leq N$ represented by Φ_4 and by Φ_3 is

$$\beta \frac{N}{(\log N)^{\frac{3}{4}}} + O\left(\frac{N}{(\log N)^{\frac{7}{4}}}\right).$$

The Landau-Ramanujan constant





Edmund Landau 1877–1938

Srinivasa Ramanujan 1887–1920

The number of positive integers $\leq N$ which are sums of two squares is asymptotically $\alpha_4 N (\log N)^{-1/2}$, where

$$\alpha_4 = \frac{1}{2^{\frac{1}{2}}} \cdot \prod_{p \equiv 3 \mod 4} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^2}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}.$$

OEIS A064533 Decimal expansion of Landau-Ramanujan constant.

 $\alpha_4 = 0.764\,223\,653\,589\,220\,\ldots$

• Ph. Flajolet and I. Vardi, Zeta function expansions of some classical constants, Feb 18 1996.

• Xavier Gourdon and Pascal Sebah, Constants and records of computation.

• David E. G. Hare, $125\,079$ digits of the Landau-Ramanujan constant.

The Landau-Ramanujan constant

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- Simon Plouffe, Landau Ramanujan constant.
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- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landau-Ramanujan_constant.

Sums of two squares

If a and q are two integers, we denote by $N_{a,q}$ any integer ≥ 1 satisfying the condition

$$p \mid N_{a,q} \Longrightarrow p \equiv a \mod q.$$

An integer $m \geq 1$ is of the form

$$m = \Phi_4(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$$

if and only if there exist integers $a \geq 0$, $N_{3,4}$ and $N_{1,4}$ such that

$$m = 2^a N_{3,4}^2 N_{1,4}.$$

Sums of two squares

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Loeschian numbers : $m = x^2 + xy + y^2$

An integer $m \geq 1$ is of the form

$$m = \Phi_3(x, y) = \Phi_6(x, -y) = x^2 + xy + y^2$$

if and only if there exist integers $b\geq 0,~N_{2,3}$ and $N_{1,3}$ such that

$$m = 3^b N_{2,3}^2 N_{1,3}.$$

The number of positive integers $\leq N$ which are represented by the quadratic form $X^2 + XY + Y^2$ is asymptotically $\alpha_3 N (\log N)^{-1/2}$ where

$$\alpha_3 = \frac{1}{2^{\frac{1}{2}}3^{\frac{1}{4}}} \cdot \prod_{p \equiv 2 \mod 3} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^2}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}.$$

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 $\alpha_3 = 0.638\,909\,405\,44\,\ldots$

 $\alpha = \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 = 1.403\,133\,059\,\ldots$

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Zeta function expansions of some classical constants, Feb 18 1996.



Philippe Flajolet



Bill Allombert



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 $\begin{array}{l} \alpha_3 = & 0.63890940544534388 \\ & 22549426749282450937 \\ & 54975508029123345421 \\ & 69236570807631002764 \\ & 96582468971791125286 \\ & 64388141687519107424 \ \ldots \end{array}$

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$\beta = 0.302\,316\,142\,35\ \dots$

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Zeta function expansions of some classical constants, Feb 18 1996.



Philippe Flajolet



Bill Allombert



llan Vardi

$$\begin{split} \beta &= 0.302316142357065637 \\ & 94776990048019971560 \\ & 24127951893696454588 \\ & 67841288865448752410 \\ & 51089948746781397927 \\ & 27085677659132725910\ldots \end{split}$$

• Prove similar estimates for the number of integers represented by other binary forms (done for quadratic forms); e.g. : prove similar estimates for the number of integers which are sums of two cubes, two biquadrates,...

• Prove similar estimates for the number of integers which are represented by Φ_n for a given n.

• Prove similar estimates for the number of integers which are represented by Φ_n for some n with $\varphi(n) \ge d$.

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Let F be a binary form of degree $d \ge 3$ with nonzero discriminant.

There exists a positive constant $C_F > 0$ such that the number of integers of absolute value at most N which are represented by F(X, Y) is asymptotic to $C_F N^{2/d}$.

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Cam Stewart and Stanley Yao Xiao



Cam Stewart



Stanley Yao Xiao

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C.L. Stewart and S. Yao Xiao, *On the representation of integers by binary forms*, arXiv:1605.03427v2 (March 23, 2018).

Cam Stewart and Stanley Yao Xiao



Cam Stewart



Stanley Yao Xiao

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K. Mahler (1933)

Let F be a binary form of degree $d \ge 3$ with nonzero discriminant.

Denote by A_F the area (Lebesgue measure) of the domain

 $\{(x,y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \ | \ F(x,y) \le 1\}.$

For Z > 0 denote by $N_F(Z)$ the number of $(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ such that $0 < |F(x, y)| \le Z$. Then

$$N_F(Z) = A_F Z^{2/d} + O(Z^{1/(d-1)})$$

as $Z \to \infty$.

Kurt Mahler



Kurt Mahler 1903 – 1988

Über die mittlere Anzahl der Darstellungen grosser Zahlen durch binäre Formen, Acta Math. **62** (1933), 91-166.

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https://carma.newcastle.edu.au/mahler/biography.html

The situation for positive definite forms of degree ≥ 3 is different for the following reason :

• If a positive integer m is represented by a positive definite quadratic form, it usually has many such representations; while if a positive integer m is represented by a positive definite binary form of degree $d \ge 3$, it usually has few such representations.

If F is a positive definite quadratic form, the number of (x, y) with $F(x, y) \leq N$ is asymptotically a constant times N, but the number of F(x, y) is much smaller.

If F is a positive definite binary form of degree $d \ge 3$, the number of (x, y) with $F(x, y) \le N$ is asymptotically a constant times $N^{1/d}$, the number of F(x, y) is also asymptotically a constant times $N^{1/d}$.

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Sums of k-th powers

If a positive integer m is a sum of two squares, there are many such representations.

Indeed, the number of (x, y) in $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ with $x^2 + y^2 \leq N$ is asymptotic to πN , while the number of values $\leq N$ taken by the quadratic form Φ_4 is asymptotic to $\alpha_4 N/\sqrt{\log N}$ where α_4 is the Landau–Ramanujan constant. Hence Φ_4 takes each of these values with a high multiplicity, on the average $(\pi/\alpha)\sqrt{\log N}$.

On the opposite, it is extremely rare that a positive integer is a sum of two biquadrates in more than one way (not counting symmetries).

$635\,318\,657 = 158^4 + 59^4 = 134^4 + 133^4.$



The smallest integer represented by $x^4 + y^4$ in two essentially different ways was found by Euler, it is 635318657 = $41 \times 113 \times 241 \times 569$.

Leonhard Euler 1707 – 1783

[OEIS A216284] Number of solutions to the equation $x^4 + y^4 = n$ with $x \ge y > 0$. An infinite family with one parameter is known for non trivial solutions to $x_1^4 + x_2^4 = x_3^4 + x_4^4$. http://mathworld.wolfram.com/DiophantineEquation4thPowers.html

Sums of k-th powers

One conjectures that given $k \ge 5$, if an integer is of the form $x^k + y^k$, there is essentially a unique such representation. But there is no value of k for which this has been proved.

The situation for positive definite forms of degree ≥ 3 is different also for the following reason.

A necessary and sufficient condition for a number m to be represented by one of the quadratic forms Φ_3 , Φ_4 , is given by a congruence.

By contrast, consider the quartic binary form $\Phi_8(X,Y) = X^4 + Y^4$. On the one hand, an integer represented by Φ_8 is of the form

 $N_{1,8}(N_{3,8}N_{5,8}N_{7,8})^4.$

On the other hand, there are many integers of this form which are not represented by Φ_8 .

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[OEIS A002645] Quartan primes: primes of the form $x^4+y^4 \text{, } x>0 \text{, } y>0 \text{.}$

The list of prime numbers represented by Φ_8 start with 2, 17, 97, 257, 337, 641, 881, 1297, 2417, 2657, 3697, 4177, 4721, 6577, 10657, 12401, 14657, 14897, 15937, 16561, 28817, 38561, 39041, 49297, 54721, 65537, 65617, 66161, 66977, 80177, 83537, 83777, 89041, 105601, 107377, 119617, ...

It is not known whether this list is finite or not.

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Primes of the form $x^{2^k} + y^{2^k}$

[OEIS A002313] primes of the form $x^2 + y^2$. [OEIS A002645] primes of the form $x^4 + y^4$, [OEIS A006686] primes of the form $x^8 + y^8$, [OEIS A100266] primes of the form $x^{16} + y^{16}$, [OEIS A100267] primes of the form $x^{32} + y^{32}$.

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Primes of the form $X^2 + Y^4$





John Friedlander



But it is known that there are infinitely many prime numbers of the form $X^2 + Y^4$.

Friedlander, J. & Iwaniec, H. *The polynomial* $X^2 + Y^4$ *captures its primes*, Ann. of Math. (2) **148** (1998), no. 3, 945–1040.

https://arxiv.org/pdf/math/9811185.pdf

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> Representation of integers by cyclotomic binary forms

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