The Local-Global Principle and a Projective Twist on the Hasse Norm Theorem

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Under the Direction of Thomas Rüd

October 15th, 2023

Diophantine Equations

Question (c. 200 A.D.)

How can you determine if an equation has a solution over the integers?

Diophantine Equations

Example

$$\frac{x}{y + z} + \frac{y}{z + x} + \frac{z}{x + y} = 4$$

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Smallest positive solution:

$x = 154476802108746166441951315019919837485664325669565431700026634898253202035277999$

$y = 36875131794129999827197811565225474825492979968971970996283137471637224634055579$

$z = 4373612677928697257861252602371390152816537558161613618621437993378423467772036$

Using Parity

Example

$$x^2 + x^3 + 2y = 3$$

Figure 1: Gauss, 1801

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$$\overbrace{x^2}^{\text{odd}} + \overbrace{x^3}^{\text{odd}} + \overbrace{2y}^{\text{even}} \text{ or } \overbrace{x^2}^{\text{even}} + \overbrace{x^3}^{\text{even}} + \overbrace{2y}^{\text{even}}$$

This is never an odd number!

Question

Does this approach always work?

Figure 1: Gauss, 1801

Modular Reduction

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$x \pmod 8$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$x^2 \pmod 8$	0	1	4	1	0	1	4	1

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Thus we have no integer solutions!

- $x^2 + x^3 + 2y = 3$

  • • •

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- $3x^3 + 4y^3 + 5z^3 = 0?$

What did we learn?

Definition

A diophantine equation has a **local solution** if it has a solution modulo every n and over the real numbers and a **global solution** if it has a solution over the integers.
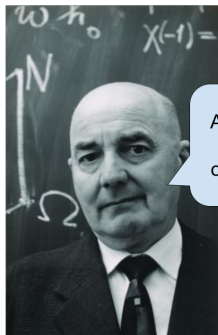
Remark

If the equation fails modulo some n, then it has no local solution, and thus no global solution either. But if it succeeds modulo every n, does it imply that there is a global solution too?

Helmut Hasse

Question (Hasse Principle)

Local $\implies$ Global?

Figure 2: Hasse, 1921

Helmut Hasse

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$$\text{Local} \implies \text{Global?}$$

Theorem (Hasse, 1921)

The local-global principle holds for homogeneous polynomial equations of degree 2 over arbitrarily many variables.
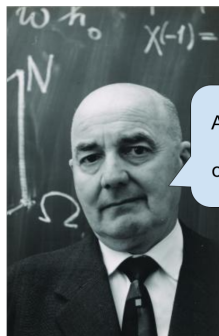
Are there any other obstructions?

Figure 2: Hasse, 1921
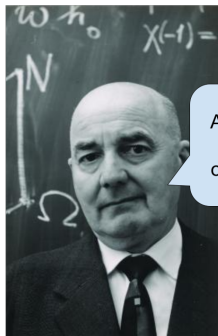
Helmut Hasse

Question (Hasse Principle)

$$\text{Local} \implies \text{Global?}$$

Theorem (Hasse, 1921)

The local-global principle holds for homogeneous polynomial equations of degree 2 over arbitrarily many variables.

Counterexample (Selmer, 1951)

The equation $3x^3 + 4y^3 + 5z^3 = 0$ always has a local solution, yet has no global solution.

Are there any other obstructions?

Figure 2: Hasse, 1921

Tate-Shafarevich Group

Remark

The Tate-Shafarevich group $Ш(A/K)$ measures the degree of failure of the local-global principle for some equation.

- $3x^3 + 4y^3 + 5z^3 = 0$ (Selmer, 1951)
- $x^4 - 17z^2 = 2y^2$ (Carl-Erik Lind, 1940)

If **Ш = 0**, then the local-global principle holds

Figure 3: Tate, 1959

Tate-Shafarevich Group

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> **Open Question**
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> Over what equations does the local-global principle hold?

Figure 3: Tate, 1959

Number Fields

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> A *number field* is a number system which contains the rational numbers adjoined together with the roots of some polynomial.

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- (Gaussian Numbers) $\mathbb{Q}(i) = \{a + bi : a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}$

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Examples

- (Gaussian Numbers) $\mathbb{Q}(i) = \{a + bi : a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}$
- $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}) = \{a + b\sqrt{2} + c\sqrt{3} + d\sqrt{6} : a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Q}\}$

Hasse Norm Theorem

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Definition

Each number field K comes equipped with a *norm N*, that maps elements of the field to rational numbers.

Theorem (Hasse Norm Theorem)

If N is a norm function on a cyclic Galois number field, then $\boxed{N(x) = c}$ satisfies the local-global principle where c is a fixed rational number.

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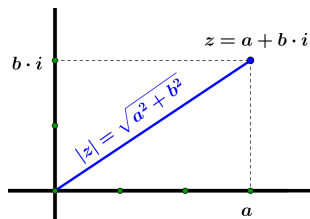
Theorem (Hasse Norm Theorem)

If N is a norm function on a cyclic Galois number field, then $\boxed{N(x) = c}$ satisfies the local-global principle where c is a fixed rational number.

This theorem allows us to tackle higher degree functions. Although it is very rare for any given function to be a norm of a cyclic Galois number field, it is a step in the right direction.
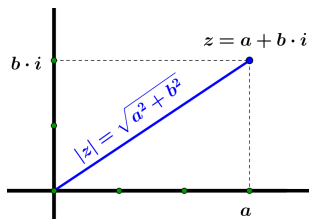
Hasse Norm Theorem

In the Gaussian rationals, $N(a + bi) = (a + bi)(a - bi) = a^2 + b^2$, which is the square of the complex magnitude. This implies that $a^2 + b^2 = 7$ satisfies the Hasse principle.

Hasse Norm Theorem

> **Example**
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> In the Gaussian rationals, $N(a + bi) = (a + bi)(a - bi) = a^2 + b^2$, which is the square of the complex magnitude. This implies that $a^2 + b^2 = 7$ satisfies the Hasse principle.

> **Remark**
>
> The Hasse Norm theorem is dependent the cyclic condition. For example, $N(x) = 25$ in $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{13}, \sqrt{17})$ has a local solution but no global solution.

Our Research

Problem

When does the local-global principle hold for $\frac{N_1(x)}{N_2(y)} = c$? Is the local-global principle in both N_1, N_2 enough to imply that it holds for $\frac{N_1(x)}{N_2(y)}$? What about the other direction?
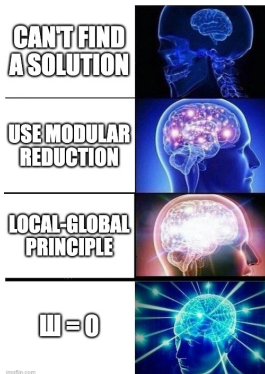
Our research

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More generally, we can define a projective ratio of n terms to be an n-tuple which can be freely scaled by a constant factor. For example, the ratio $(4, 2, 6)$ would be equal to $(2, 1, 3)$ (similarly to how $\frac{4}{6} = \frac{2}{3}$). When does the projective ratio of norms $N_1, N_2, \ldots, N_n$ satisfy the local-global principle?
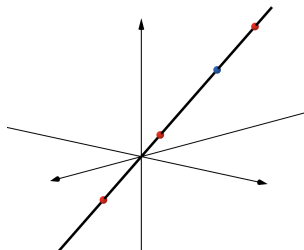
- Gauss's modular reduction method gives an easy approach to prove that a diophantine equation has no solutions.
- Hasse shows that sometimes, a local solution is enough to imply a global solution, but Selmer shows that this doesn't hold in general.
- The Hasse Norm theorem allows us to find higher-degree functions that satisfy the Hasse principle.

Summary of our research

- The Hasse principle in $\frac{N_1(x)}{N_2(y)}$ does not transfer to N_1 or N_2.
- In our paper, we develop a Sagemath program for Tate-Shafarevich group calculation.
- If the smallest field containing N_1, N_2 has squarefree degree, then Hasse principle in N_1, N_2 together implies the Hasse principle in $\frac{N_1(x)}{N_2(y)}$.
- The size of the relevant Tate-Shafarevich groups is used to study elliptic curves.

Acknowledgements

- Dr. Thomas Rüd
- Dr. Tanya Khovanova
- MIT PRIMES

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