

40. All Congruent Numbers less than 10000

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(Communicated by Shokichi IYANAGA, M. J. A., June 8, 1993)

1. Notations and result. If n is a square free positive integer such that

$$n = xy/2, \quad x^2 + y^2 = z^2$$

for some rational numbers x, y, z , then n is said to be a congruent number. If $x/y = u^2$ for some rational number u , we write $x \simeq y$. Because of the well-known expressions of Pythagorean numbers, it is clear that n is a congruent number if and only if

$$(1) \quad n \simeq ab(a-b)(a+b)$$

for some positive integers $a, b, 0 < b < a$. If

$$(2) \quad n \simeq cd(c^2 + d^2)/2$$

for some positive integers $c, d, 0 < d < c$, then

$$n \simeq (c+d)^2(c-d)^2\{(c+d)^2 - (c-d)^2\}\{(c+d)^2 + (c-d)^2\}.$$

Therefore n is a congruent number (cf. [3], [10]).

Now, let E_n be the elliptic curve

$$E_n : y^2 = x^3 - n^2x.$$

It is known that n is a congruent number if and only if the rank $r(E_n)$ of E_n is positive (cf. [4], [7]). It was conjectured by Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer [1] that $L(E_n, 1) = 0$ is equivalent with $r(E_n) > 0$ where $L(E_n, s)$ is the Hasse-Weil L -function of E_n . It was proved, furthermore, by [5], that if $r(E_n) > 0$ then $L(E_n, 1) = 0$, and Tunnell's theorem [11] permits us easily to determine if $L(E_n, 1) = 0$ or not for given n . Using computer we got the next result.

Main result. Let n be a square free positive integer less than 10000, then

$$n = \text{a congruent number} \iff L(E_n, 1) = 0.$$

More precisely, if $n \equiv 5, 6, 7 \pmod{8}$ then n is a congruent number and if $n \equiv 1, 2, 3 \pmod{8}$ then all such congruent numbers are listed in Table II.

2. Methods. If $n \equiv 5, 6, 7 \pmod{8}$, then we have $L(E_n, 1) = 0$ (this can be shown without using [11]. Cf. [7]). In [6] it was proved that if $L(E_n, 1) = 0, L'(E_n, 1) \neq 0$ then $r(E_n) > 0$. We computed $L'(E_n, 1)$ in the range $n \equiv 5, 6, 7 \pmod{8}, n < 10000$ (cf. [2]). We got $L'(E_n, 1) \neq 0$ except for next 15 numbers: $n = 1254, 2605, 2774, 3502, 4199, 4669, 4895, 6286, 6671, 7230, 7766, 8005, 9015, 9430, 9654$. For these 15 numbers we got $L^{(3)}(E_n, 1) \neq 0$ (cf. [2]) and we could easily find the solutions of (1) in the range $0 < b < a \leq 1601$ (cf. [9]). Therefore if $n \equiv 5, 6, 7 \pmod{8}$ and $n < 10000$, then n is a congruent number. There are 3050 such numbers.

Using [11] we got 453 numbers such that $n \equiv 1, 2, 3 \pmod{8}, n < 10000, L(E_n, 1) = 0$. For these 453 numbers we can find solutions of