

Missing Pythagoras

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All paintings by
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<https://everything-is-number.net/>



Pell equation

$$2x^2 = y^2 \pm 1$$

Pell(\pm)

Pell($-$)

Pell($+$)



Pell(\pm)

(1,1)

(2,3)

(5,7)

(12,17)

Recursion

$$x_n = 2x_{n-1} + x_{n-2}$$

Fibonacci for grown-ups

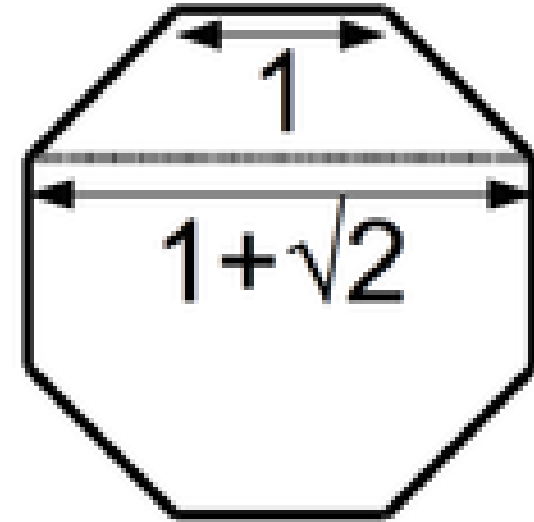


Silver Ratio

Golden ratio φ :

$$\lim \frac{F_n}{F_{n-1}} = \varphi = \text{Golden ratio}$$

$$\lim \frac{x_n}{x_{n-1}} = \psi = 1 + \sqrt{2} = \text{Silver ratio}$$



Pell(—)

$$2x^2 = y^2 - 1$$

y odd, replace with

$$y = 2y' + 1 \text{ etc}$$

Solutions correspond exactly to the triangle numbers that are square.



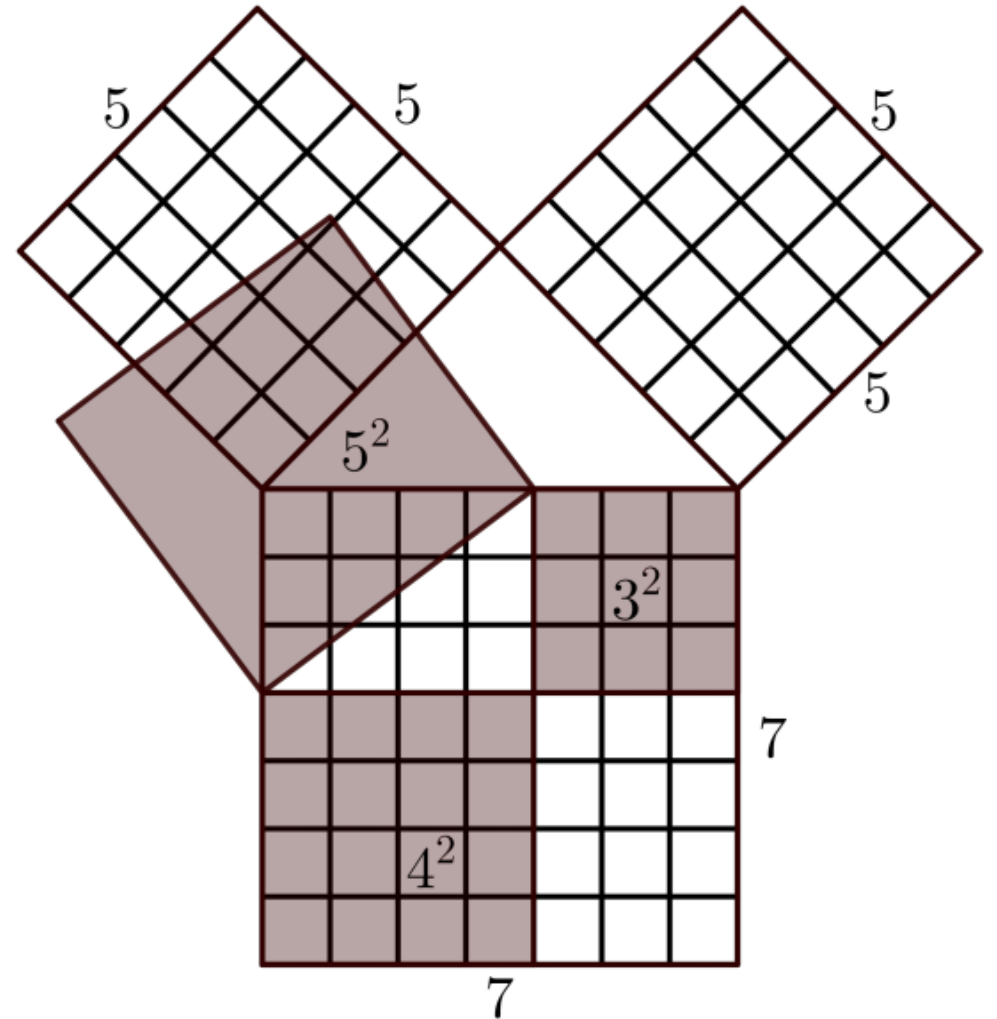
Pell(+)

$$2x^2 = y^2 + 1$$

Same trick

Solutions correspond exactly to Pythagorean triples where the legs differ by 1.

Pythagoras \Leftrightarrow fake Pythagoras



Question

Anyone knows
anything about

$$x^2 + y^2 = z^2 \pm 1?$$

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