

ON RATIONAL RIGHT-ANGLED TRIANGLES

BY ARTEMAS MARTIN.

—“and are you such fools,
To Square for this?”—*Titus Andronicus*, ii, 1.

In a former paper the writer gave three methods of proof of the celebrated proposition that the square on the hypotenuse of a right-angled triangle is equal to the sum of the squares on the legs (sides including the right angle). Other proofs are presented here which may be of interest.

IX. Let ABC be any right-angled triangle (Fig. 1), B the right angle, O the centre of the inscribed circle.

Put $OD, OE, OF = r$ = radius of inscribed circle, $AC = a$, $AB = b$, $BC = c$.

Then

$$\text{area of triangle } ABC = \frac{1}{2}bc = \frac{1}{2}r(a+b+c) \dots (1).$$

From the figure we have

$$BF + BD = b + c - a = 2r \dots (2),$$

since

$$AE = AF, DC = FC, \text{ and } BD = BE = r.$$

Hence from (2) we have

$$r = \frac{1}{2}(b + c - a) \dots (3).$$

Substituting this value in (1) and reducing we get

$$a^2 = b^2 + c^2 \dots (4).$$

This proof was communicated in May, 1891, by Dr L. A. Bauer, then of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, now of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Another method of the same proof.

Let $CD = CF = m$, $AE = AF = n$, $OD = OE = OF = r$, in Fig. 1; then

$$AC = a = m + n, AB = b = n + r, BC = c = m + r.$$

Now $(m + r)(n + r) = r(2m + 2n + 2r) \dots (1)$,

since each expression is double the area of the triangle ABC .

Therefore

$$mn = mr + nr + r^2,$$

and

$$2mn = 2mr + 2nr + 2r^2 \dots (2).$$

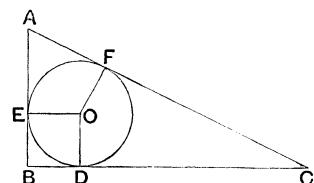


Fig. 1.

Adding $m^2 + n^2$ to each member of (2),

$$(m+n)^2 = (m+r)^2 + (n+r)^2,$$

or

$$a^2 = b^2 + c^2.$$

This method was communicated by Lucius Brown, Hudson, Mass.

The following is not new, but is of interest because of its simplicity.

Let ABC (Fig. 2) be any right-angled triangle (right-angled at B), $DEAC$ the square on the hypotenuse AC . Produce BC to H , making $CH = AB$; produce BA to F , making $AF = BC$; draw EH perpendicular to BH , and produce HE to G , making $EG = CH$; draw FG through D ; then

$$FD = AB = CH = GE,$$

and

$$DG = EH = BC = AF.$$

Let $AC = a$, $AB = b$, $BC = c$; then

$$BH = BF = FG = GH = b + c; \quad \square DEAC = c^2,$$

$$\triangle ABC = \triangle DFA = \triangle GED = \triangle CHE = \frac{1}{2}bc.$$

$$\square FGBH = \square DEAC + 4\triangle ABC;$$

therefore

$$(b+c)^2 = a^2 + 2bc,$$

or

$$b^2 + 2bc + c^2 = a^2 + 2bc.$$

Dropping $2bc$ from each side we have left

$$b^2 + c^2 = a^2.$$

X. Every prime number of the form $4m+1$ is the hypotenuse of a prime rational right-angled triangle.

The hypotenuse of a prime rational right-angled triangle is either a prime number of the form $4m+1$ or the product of two or more such primes.

A number that is the product of n different prime numbers of the form $4m+1$ is the common hypotenuse of 2^{n-1} different prime rational right-angled triangles.

Every number which contains a prime factor of the form $4m+1$ is the hypotenuse of a rational (but not prime) right-angled triangle.

The hypotenuse of any rational right-angled triangle is n times a prime number of the form $4m+1$, or n times the product of two or more such primes, where n may be any whole number. The triangle will be prime when n is a prime of the form $4m+1$.

A prime number of the form $4n+3$ can not be the hypotenuse of a rational right-angled triangle.

A number which does not contain a prime factor of the form $4m+1$ can not be the hypotenuse of a rational right-angled triangle.

XI. In *Miscellaneous Notes and Queries*, edited by the late S. C. Gould, Manchester, N.H., Vol. IX, No. 6 (June, 1892), p. 141, in a paper on "Rational Right-Angled Triangles," the late Benjamin F. Burleson of Oneida Castle, N.Y., in his solution of Problem 4, "Write out all the rational right-angled triangles there

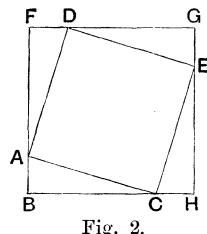


Fig. 2.

are whose hypotenuses do not exceed 100," stated that there are 55 such triangles; but he inadvertently included in his second series of triangles three that are in the first series, so that three triangles (10, 24, 26), (14, 48, 50), (54, 72, 90), were counted twice. Deducting 3 from 55 we have left 52, which is the number of rational right-angled triangles whose hypotenuses do not exceed 100.

See *Mathematical Magazine*, Vol. II, No. 12 (Sept. 1910), pp. 319—20; *Miscellaneous Notes and Queries*, Vol. x, No. 3 (Sept. 1892), p. 230; *Educational Times Reprint*, Vol. XXXIX (London, 1883), pp. 37—8, Quest. 6966.

The prime rational right-angled triangles whose hypotenuses are less than 3000 are given in the appended table for reference, and are arranged in the order of the magnitude of the hypotenuses for convenience of use in this paper. I have extended this table, in manuscript, so as to include all prime rational right-angled triangles whose hypotenuses are less than 10000. For triangles whose hypotenuses exceed 3000, consult the table on pp. 301—8 of No. 12, Vol. II, of the *Mathematical Magazine*, beginning with p. 304. I have extended this table in manuscript to $p = 101$, $q = 100$.

There are 158 prime rational right-angled triangles whose hypotenuses are less than 1000; 161 whose hypotenuses are between 1000 and 2000; 158 whose hypotenuses are between 2000 and 3000; or 477 whose hypotenuses are less than 3000.

I have checked the number of these triangles in the appended table with the table by Edward Sang (*Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*, Vol. xiii, 1864, pp. 757—58), and both agree to the extent of Sang's table, except that he omitted the following two triangles (576, 943, 1105), (744, 817, 1105), at the end of his table.

XII. To find rational right-angled triangles whose sides are whole numbers and hypotenuses consecutive whole numbers.

Examples. 1. To find pairs or couples of right-angled triangles whose hypotenuses are consecutive integers.

Let u, v, w ; $x, y, w+1$ denote the sides of a pair of such triangles, and, to get a general solution, we must solve the equations

but it is much easier to find the triangles wanted by trial from the appended table with the aid of Table I in Barlow's Tables (London, 1814), when the hypotenuses are not greater than 3000; when the hypotenuses are greater than 3000, use the table of right-angled triangles in the *Mathematical Magazine* on pp. 301—8, beginning with p. 304.

If we multiply the sides of the first triangle in the table at the end of this paper by 5, we have a triangle whose sides are

15, 20, 25.

Multiplying the sides of the second triangle in the table by 2, we get the triangle whose sides are

10, 24, 26;

and we have two triangles whose hypotenuses differ by unity or are consecutive numbers.

In a similar manner we find from the first and fifth triangles in the table the pair

$$20, 21, 29;$$

$$18, 24, 30.$$

From the first and third triangles we get the pair

$$16, 30, 34;$$

$$21, 28, 35.$$

The following pairs, and many others, are easily found:

15, 36, 39;	14, 48, 50;	20, 48, 52;
24, 32, 40.	24, 45, 51.	28, 45, 53.
48, 55, 73;	60, 80, 100;	40, 96, 104;
24, 70, 74.	20, 99, 101.	63, 84, 105.
24, 143, 145;	119, 120, 169;	65, 156, 169;
96, 110, 146.	102, 136, 170.	80, 150, 170.
252, 844, 900;	696, 697, 985;	324, 945, 999;
451, 780, 901.	680, 714, 986.	352, 936, 1000.

2. To find groups of three rational right-angled triangles whose hypotenuses are consecutive numbers.

Multiplying the second triangle in the appended table by 3, the first triangle by 8, we have, with the seventh triangle,

$$15, 36, 39;$$

$$24, 32, 40;$$

$$9, 40, 41;$$

a group of three triangles whose hypotenuses are consecutive numbers.

In a similar manner the following groups of three such triangles have been found, and many other groups may be found with hypotenuses not exceeding 1000.

48, 55, 73;	60, 80, 100;	40, 96, 104;
24, 70, 74;	20, 99, 101;	63, 84, 105;
45, 60, 75.	48, 90, 102.	56, 90, 106.
69, 92, 115;	81, 108, 135;	48, 140, 148;
80, 84, 116;	64, 120, 136;	51, 140, 149;
45, 108, 117.	88, 105, 137.	90, 120, 150.
52, 165, 173;	95, 168, 193;	160, 168, 232;
120, 126, 174;	130, 144, 194;	105, 208, 233;
105, 140, 175.	117, 156, 195.	90, 216, 234.

44, 240, 244;	84, 245, 259;	128, 240, 272;
147, 196, 245;	100, 240, 260;	105, 252, 273;
54, 240, 246.	180, 189, 261.	176, 210, 274.
102, 280, 298;	140, 336, 364;	81, 360, 369;
115, 276, 299;	240, 275, 365;	222, 296, 370;
180, 240, 300.	66, 360, 366.	196, 315, 371.
155, 372, 403;	280, 294, 406;	120, 391, 409;
80, 396, 404;	132, 385, 407;	168, 374, 410;
243, 324, 405.	192, 360, 408.	264, 315, 411.

3. To find groups of four rational right-angled triangles whose hypotenuses are consecutive numbers less than 1000.

In the *School Messenger*, edited by G. H. Harvill, Vol. II, No. 6 (June, 1885), p. 218, the late B. F. Burleson, in a paper on "Complementary Squares" (right-angled triangles), said: "With hypotenuses less than 1000 I have found 21 sets of series, 4 in each, in which the hypotenuses differ by unity"; but he did not give the triangles.

The present writer has found 45 such sets or groups of four triangles which are exhibited below. It is to be regretted that Mr Burleson did not publish the groups he found so that it could be seen whether any of them are missing here.

30, 40, 50;	108, 144, 180;	40, 198, 202;
24, 45, 51;	19, 180, 181;	140, 147, 203;
20, 48, 52;	70, 168, 182;	96, 180, 204;
28, 45, 53.	33, 180, 183.	45, 200, 205.
120, 182, 218;	160, 168, 232;	44, 240, 244;
144, 165, 219;	105, 208, 233;	147, 196, 245;
132, 176, 220;	90, 206, 234;	54, 240, 246;
21, 220, 221.	120, 225, 235.	95, 228, 247.
128, 240, 272;	136, 255, 289;	120, 288, 312;
105, 252, 273;	200, 210, 290;	25, 312, 313;
176, 210, 274;	195, 216, 291;	170, 264, 314;
77, 264, 275.	192, 220, 292.	189, 252, 315.
75, 308, 317;	175, 288, 337;	240, 252, 348;
168, 270, 318;	130, 312, 338;	180, 299, 349;
220, 231, 319;	45, 336, 339;	210, 280, 350;
192, 256, 320.	160, 300, 340.	135, 324, 351.
260, 288, 388;	155, 372, 403;	132, 385, 407;
189, 340, 389;	80, 396, 404;	192, 360, 408;
150, 360, 390;	243, 324, 405;	120, 391, 409;
184, 345, 391.	280, 294, 406.	168, 374, 410.

280, 351, 449 ;	168, 425, 457 ;	108, 480, 492 ;
126, 432, 450 ;	120, 442, 458 ;	340, 357, 493 ;
99, 440, 451 ;	216, 405, 459 ;	190, 456, 494 ;
60, 448, 452.	276, 368, 460.	287, 396, 495.
168, 490, 518 ;	57, 540, 543 ;	352, 420, 548 ;
156, 495, 519 ;	256, 480, 544 ;	99, 540, 549 ;
312, 416, 520 ;	100, 455, 545 ;	154, 528, 550 ;
279, 440, 521.	210, 504, 546.	380, 399, 551.
215, 516, 559 ;	48, 575, 577 ;	390, 432, 582 ;
336, 448, 560 ;	272, 511, 578 ;	408, 495, 583 ;
264, 495, 561 ;	285, 504, 579 ;	384, 440, 584 ;
320, 462, 562.	400, 420, 580.	225, 540, 585.
354, 472, 590 ;	420, 441, 609 ;	273, 560, 623 ;
84, 585, 591 ;	110, 600, 610 ;	440, 576, 624 ;
192, 560, 592 ;	235, 564, 611 ;	175, 600, 625 ;
368, 465, 593.	288, 540, 612.	50, 624, 626.
150, 616, 634 ;	315, 572, 653 ;	385, 552, 673 ;
381, 508, 635 ;	360, 546, 654 ;	350, 576, 674 ;
336, 540, 636 ;	393, 524, 655 ;	189, 648, 675 ;
245, 588, 637.	144, 640, 656.	260, 624, 676.
52, 675, 677 ;	480, 504, 696 ;	196, 672, 700 ;
90, 672, 678 ;	153, 680, 697 ;	260, 651, 701 ;
455, 504, 679 ;	360, 598, 698 ;	270, 648, 702 ;
104, 672, 680.	315, 624, 699.	228, 665, 703.
480, 550, 730 ;	481, 600, 769 ;	217, 744, 775 ;
344, 645, 731 ;	462, 616, 770 ;	520, 576, 776 ;
132, 720, 732 ;	96, 765, 771 ;	252, 735, 777 ;
108, 725, 733.	380, 672, 772.	378, 640, 778.
324, 768, 800 ;	310, 744, 806 ;	315, 756, 819 ;
351, 720, 801 ;	207, 780, 807 ;	180, 800, 820 ;
80, 798, 802 ;	160, 792, 808 ;	421, 700, 821 ;
498, 605, 803.	280, 759, 809.	528, 630, 822.
540, 629, 829 ;	504, 672, 840 ;	600, 630, 870 ;
498, 664, 830 ;	580, 609, 841 ;	335, 804, 871 ;
345, 756, 831 ;	58, 840, 842 ;	480, 728, 872 ;
320, 768, 832.	480, 693, 843.	585, 648, 873.

345, 828, 897 ;	75, 936, 939 ;	365, 876, 949 ;
560, 702, 898 ;	564, 752, 940 ;	266, 912, 950 ;
620, 651, 899 ;	580, 741, 941 ;	225, 924, 951 ;
252, 864, 900.	510, 792, 942.	448, 840, 952.

These groups of four triangles are distinct and independent; no group contains a triangle found in any other group.

4. To find groups of five triangles whose hypotenuses are consecutive whole numbers less than 1000.

I have found the following 15 groups of five such triangles whose hypotenuses are less than 1000.

120, 182, 218 ;	136, 255, 289 ;	155, 372, 403 ;
144, 165, 219 ;	200, 210, 290 ;	80, 396, 404 ;
132, 176, 220 ;	195, 216, 291 ;	243, 324, 405 ;
21, 220, 221 ;	192, 220, 292 ;	280, 294, 406 ;
72, 210, 222.	68, 285, 293.	132, 385, 407.
168, 490, 518 ;	390, 432, 582 ;	385, 552, 673 ;
156, 495, 519 ;	408, 495, 583 ;	350, 576, 674 ;
312, 416, 520 ;	384, 440, 584 ;	189, 648, 675 ;
279, 440, 521 ;	225, 540, 585 ;	260, 624, 676 ;
360, 378, 522.	136, 570, 586.	52, 675, 677.
480, 504, 696 ;	481, 600, 769 ;	217, 744, 775 ;
153, 680, 697 ;	462, 616, 770 ;	520, 576, 776 ;
360, 598, 698 ;	96, 765, 771 ;	252, 735, 777 ;
315, 624, 699 ;	380, 672, 772 ;	378, 640, 778 ;
196, 672, 700.	195, 748, 773.	171, 760, 779.
483, 644, 805 ;	240, 782, 818 ;	540, 629, 829 ;
310, 744, 806 ;	315, 756, 819 ;	498, 664, 830 ;
207, 780, 807 ;	180, 800, 820 ;	345, 756, 831 ;
160, 792, 808 ;	421, 700, 821 ;	320, 768, 832 ;
280, 759, 809.	528, 630, 822.	392, 735, 833.
345, 828, 897 ;	75, 936, 939 ;	365, 876, 949 ;
560, 702, 898 ;	564, 752, 940 ;	266, 912, 950 ;
620, 651, 899 ;	580, 741, 941 ;	225, 924, 951 ;
252, 864, 900 ;	510, 792, 942 ;	448, 840, 952 ;
451, 780, 901.	207, 920, 943.	615, 728, 953.

5. To find groups of six triangles whose hypotenuses are consecutive whole numbers less than 1000.

I have found the following seven groups of six such triangles:

155, 372, 403;	385, 552, 673;	417, 556, 695;
80, 396, 404;	350, 576, 674;	480, 504, 696;
243, 324, 405;	189, 648, 675;	153, 680, 697;
280, 294, 406;	260, 624, 676;	360, 598, 698;
132, 385, 407;	52, 675, 677;	315, 624, 699;
192, 360, 408.	90, 672, 678.	196, 672, 700.
217, 744, 775;	483, 644, 805;	345, 828, 897;
520, 576, 776;	310, 744, 806;	560, 702, 898;
252, 735, 777;	207, 780, 807;	620, 651, 899;
378, 640, 778;	160, 792, 808;	252, 864, 900;
171, 760, 779;	280, 759, 809;	451, 780, 901;
396, 672, 780.	486, 648, 810.	198, 880, 902.
365, 876, 949;	225, 924, 951;	615, 728, 953;
266, 912, 950;	448, 840, 952;	504, 810, 954.

6. To find groups of seven right-angled triangles whose hypotenuses are consecutive whole numbers less than 1000.

I have found the following four groups of seven such right-angled triangles:

155, 372, 403;	385, 552, 673;
80, 396, 404;	350, 576, 674;
243, 324, 405;	189, 648, 675;
280, 294, 406;	260, 624, 676;
132, 385, 407;	52, 675, 677;
192, 360, 408;	90, 672, 678;
120, 391, 409.	455, 504, 679.
417, 556, 695;	365, 876, 949;
480, 504, 696;	266, 912, 950;
153, 680, 697;	225, 924, 951;
360, 598, 698;	448, 840, 952;
315, 624, 699;	615, 728, 953;
196, 672, 700;	504, 810, 954;
260, 651, 701.	573, 764, 955.

7. To find groups of eight right-angled triangles whose hypotenuses are consecutive whole numbers.

I have found the following seven groups of eight such triangles. The hypotenuses of the first three are less than 1000.

155, 372, 403;	385, 552, 673;	417, 556, 695;
80, 396, 404;	350, 576, 674;	480, 504, 696;

243, 324, 405 ;	189, 648, 675 ;	153, 680, 697 ;
280, 294, 406 ;	260, 624, 676 ;	360, 598, 698 ;
132, 385, 407 ;	52, 675, 677 ;	315, 624, 699 ;
192, 360, 408 ;	90, 672, 678 ;	196, 672, 700 ;
120, 391, 409 ;	455, 504, 679 ;	260, 651, 701 ;
168, 374, 410.	104, 672, 680.	270, 648, 702.
528, 1025, 1153 ;	715, 1428, 1597 ;	1008, 1344, 1680 ;
96, 1150, 1154 :	752, 1410, 1598 ;	720, 1519, 1681 :
693, 924, 1155 :	351, 1560, 1599 ;	82, 1680, 1682 ;
644, 960, 1156 ;	448, 1536, 1600 ;	792, 1485, 1683 ;
765, 868, 1157 :	80, 1599, 1601 ;	116, 1680, 1684 ;
570, 1008, 1158 :	702, 1440, 1602 ;	164, 1677, 1685 ;
209, 1140, 1159 ;	420, 1547, 1603 ;	960, 1386, 1686 ;
800, 840, 1160.	160, 1596, 1604.	840, 1463, 1687.
	1240, 1302, 1798 :	
	224, 1785, 1799 ;	
	504, 1728, 1800 ;	
	649, 1680, 1801 ;	
	952, 1530, 1802 ;	
	720, 1653, 1803 ;	
	396, 1760, 1804 ;	
	1083, 1444, 1805.	

The late B. F. Burleson gave the first and second of the foregoing groups of eight right-angled triangles whose hypotenuses are consecutive numbers in the late S. C. Gould's *Notes and Queries*, Vol. III, No. 12 (December, 1886), p. 201, and remarked: "These are the only 2 sets of 8 triangles in a series in which the hypotenuses are in regular sequence ever obtained. They were found by Charles Kriele, of Pennsylvania, when aged, infirm, and nearly blind, and sent by him to the writer of this article."

Mr Burleson gave these two groups in Harvill's *School Messenger*, Vol. II, No. 6 (June, 1885), p. 219, saying he had found "2 sets of series, 8 in each, in which the hypotenuses differ only by unity," and made no mention there of Kriele.

I have added five other groups of 8 triangles, so *seven* such groups are now known. I have also added another triangle to the first, third and fifth groups, making three groups of *nine* triangles whose hypotenuses are consecutive whole numbers, which are exhibited below:

155, 372, 403 ;	417, 556, 695 ;	715, 1428, 1597 ;
80, 396, 404 ;	480, 504, 696 ;	752, 1410, 1598 ;
243, 324, 405 ;	153, 680, 697 ;	351, 1560, 1599 ;
280, 294, 406 ;	360, 598, 698 ;	448, 1536, 1600 ;

132, 385, 407 ;	315, 624, 699 ;	80, 1599, 1601 ;
192, 360, 408 ;	196, 672, 700 ;	702, 1440, 1602 ;
120, 391, 409 ;	260, 651, 701 ;	420, 1547, 1603 ;
168, 374, 410 ;	270, 648, 702 ;	160, 1596, 1604 ;
264, 315, 411.	420, 665, 703.	963, 1284, 1605.

I have added another triangle to the last of the groups above and thus have *one* group of 10 rational right-angled triangles whose hypotenuses are consecutive whole numbers which is given below :

715, 1428, 1597 ;	702, 1440, 1602 ;
752, 1410, 1598 ;	420, 1547, 1603 ;
351, 1560, 1599 ;	160, 1596, 1604 ;
448, 1536, 1600 ;	963, 1284, 1605 ;
80, 1599, 1601 ;	1056, 1210, 1606.

Since what precedes was written, Mr B. O. M. De Beck of Cincinnati, Ohio, has sent me, from notes he made from Barlow's Tables more than 60 years ago, eight groups of 10 triangles whose hypotenuses are consecutive numbers; eight groups of 11 such triangles; six groups of 12 triangles; two groups of 13 triangles, and one group of 14 triangles, the hypotenuses of all the groups being between 1000 and 10000.

He also sent me later the following groups with hypotenuses between 10000 and 20000: thirteen groups of 10 triangles; nine groups of 11 triangles; ten groups of 12 triangles; three groups of 13 triangles; one group of 14 triangles, and one group of 15 triangles.

Mr De Beck also contributed one group of 15 triangles with hypotenuses from 85478 to 85492, inclusive.

Space considerations prevent me from giving here more than one of each of the different groups whose hypotenuses are between 1000 and 10000. I give also the group of 15 triangles whose hypotenuses are between 10000 and 20000.

1247, 2140, 3103 ;	1440, 1650, 2190 ;	1692, 2256, 2820 ;
2080, 2304, 3104 ;	175, 2184, 2191 ;	1085, 2604, 2821 ;
1863, 2484, 3105 ;	1408, 1680, 2192 ;	1328, 2490, 2822 ;
990, 2944, 3106 ;	1032, 1935, 2193 ;	1740, 2223, 2823 ;
1195, 2868, 3107 ;	1170, 1856, 2194 ;	1800, 2176, 2824 ;
1008, 2940, 3108 ;	1317, 1756, 2195 ;	1695, 2260, 2825 ;
1309, 2820, 3109 ;	396, 2160, 2196 ;	1530, 2376, 2826 ;
1866, 2488, 3110 ;	845, 2028, 2197 ;	352, 2805, 2827 ;
561, 3060, 3111 ;	1190, 1848, 2198 ;	560, 2772, 2828 ;
1512, 2720, 3112.	324, 2175, 2199 ;	621, 2760, 2829 ;
	1320, 1760, 2200.	1698, 2264, 2830 ;
		969, 2660, 2831.

3630, 4840, 6050;	5535, 6552, 8577;	2460, 12177, 12423;
2376, 5565, 6051;	2080, 8322, 8578;	3960, 11776, 12424;
2848, 5340, 6052;	5796, 6325, 8579;	3479, 11928, 12425;
1635, 5828, 6053;	5148, 6864, 8580;	6840, 10374, 12426;
3354, 5040, 6054;	131, 8580, 8581;	5848, 10965, 12427;
3633, 4844, 6055;	490, 8568, 8582;	4780, 11472, 12428;
3744, 4760, 6056;	5700, 6417, 8583;	8379, 9180, 12429;
3465, 4968, 6057;	3584, 7800, 8584;	1650, 12320, 12430;
3142, 4600, 6058;	5151, 6868, 8585;	1240, 12369, 12431;
3984, 4565, 6059;	4536, 7290, 8586;	4032, 11760, 12432;
3636, 4848, 6060;	3565, 7812, 8587;	4495, 11592, 12433;
4180, 4389, 6061;	1140, 8512, 8588;	6384, 10670, 12434;
2030, 5712, 6062.	2520, 8211, 8589;	8100, 9435, 12435;
	5154, 6872, 8590.	5236, 11280, 12436;
		2355, 12212, 12437.

XIII. In each of the following nine groups of three right-angled triangles, the three *hypotenuses* of each group are the sides of a right-angled triangle.

21, 72, 75;	40, 96, 104;	56, 105, 119;
60, 80, 100;	72, 135, 153;	72, 96, 120;
35, 120, 125.	57, 176, 185.	65, 156, 169.
64, 120, 136;	60, 63, 87;	60, 144, 156;
60, 252, 273;	160, 384, 416;	460, 483, 667;
55, 300, 305.	243, 324, 425.	440, 525, 685.
240, 320, 400;	480, 504, 696;	387, 516, 645;
264, 495, 561;	455, 528, 697;	560, 588, 812;
111, 680, 689.	473, 864, 985.	315, 988, 1037.

Such groups of right-angled triangles could be obtained by solving the following simultaneous equations, but it is easier to find them from the table of right-angled triangles, with the aid of Barlow's Table I, as I have done.

Let p, q, r be the legs and hypotenuse of the first triangle; s, t, u the legs and hypotenuse of the second triangle; v, w, x the legs and hypotenuse of the third triangle; then we shall have

$$p^2 + q^2 = r^2,$$

$$s^2 + t^2 = u^2,$$

$$v^2 + w^2 = x^2,$$

$$r^2 + u^2 = x^2.$$

XIV. In the following six groups of three rational right-angled triangles, the *hypotenuses* of each group form a rational scalene triangle.

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 5, 12, 13; & 15, 36, 39; & 8, 15, 17; \\
 24, 32, 40; & 9, 40, 41; & 16, 63, 65; \\
 27, 36, 45. & 14, 48, 50. & 48, 64, 80. \\
 \\
 15, 112, 113; & 27, 120, 123; & 88, 105, 137; \\
 24, 143, 145; & 48, 140, 148; & 96, 110, 146; \\
 130, 144, 194. & 21, 220, 221. & 140, 225, 265.
 \end{array}$$

In each of the groups below the three *hypotenuses* of each group are the sides of a rational scalene triangle whose sides are consecutive numbers.

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 24, 45, 51; & 95, 168, 193; & 360, 627, 723; \\
 20, 48, 52; & 130, 144, 194; & 76, 720, 724; \\
 28, 45, 53. & 117, 156, 195. & 120, 715, 725. \\
 \\
 1776, 2035, 2701; & 5040, 8733, 10083; \\
 1330, 2352, 2702; & 280, 10080, 10084; \\
 1428, 2295, 2703. & 3960, 9275, 10085.
 \end{array}$$

XV. As stated on a preceding page, a number which is the product of n different prime factors of the form $4m + 1$ is the hypotenuse of 2^{n-1} (incorrectly given 2^n in Barlow's *Theory of Numbers*, p. 177) different prime right-angled triangles.

See Matteson's *Diophantine Problems with Solutions* (Washington, 1888), p. 10.

Examples. 1. The least two primes of the form $4m + 1$ are 5 and 13, and their product $= 65 = 8^2 + 1^2 = 7^2 + 4^2$, is the hypotenuse of each of the two prime triangles

$$16, 63, 65; \quad 33, 56, 65.$$

There are also two other triangles, not prime triangles, with hypotenuses = 65, obtained as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3, 4, 5) \times 13 &= 39, 52, 65; \\
 (5, 12, 13) \times 5 &= 25, 60, 65.
 \end{aligned}$$

The product of 5 and 17 = 85 = $9^2 + 2^2 = 7^2 + 6^2$, and therefore 85 is the common hypotenuse of the two prime triangles

$$13, 84, 85; \quad 36, 77, 85.$$

The other two triangles in this case are

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3, 4, 5) \times 17 &= 51, 68, 85; \\
 (8, 15, 17) \times 5 &= 40, 75, 85.
 \end{aligned}$$

The product of 13 and 17 = 221 = $14^2 + 5^2 = 11^2 + 10^2$, and 221 is the common hypotenuse of the two prime triangles

$$21, 220, 221; \quad 140, 171, 221.$$

The other two triangles with hypotenuses = 221 are

$$\begin{aligned}
 (5, 12, 13) \times 17 &= 85, 204, 221; \\
 (8, 15, 17) \times 13 &= 104, 195, 221.
 \end{aligned}$$

And, generally,

$$(a^2 + b^2)(c^2 + d^2) = (ac + bd)^2 + (ad - bc)^2 = (ad + bc)^2 + (ac - bd)^2.$$

There are 36 couples or pairs of prime right-angled triangles having a common hypotenuse less than 1000, 41 such pairs of triangles whose hypotenuses are between 1000 and 2000, 39 pairs whose hypotenuses are between 2000 and 3000; or, 116 pairs with hypotenuses less than 3000. See table of prime rational right-angled triangles at end of paper.

2. The product of three prime numbers of the form $4m + 1$ is the common hypotenuse of $2^2 = 4$ prime right-angled triangles. The product of the least three primes of this form is

$$5 \times 13 \times 17 = 1105 = 33^2 + 4^2 = 32^2 + 9^2 = 31^2 + 12^2 = 24^2 + 23^2,$$

which is, therefore, the hypotenuse of each of the following four prime right-angled triangles, viz.:

$$47, 1104, 1105;$$

$$264, 1073, 1105;$$

$$576, 943, 1105;$$

$$744, 817, 1105.$$

The last two of these triangles are omitted at the end of Edward Sang's table of right-angled triangles referred to on a preceding page.

There are nine other triangles having 1105 for hypotenuse which are not prime triangles, but are multiples of prime triangles. They are given below with the method of obtaining them.

$$(3, 4, 5) \times 13 \times 17 = 663, 884, 1105;$$

$$(5, 12, 13) \times 5 \times 17 = 425, 1020, 1105;$$

$$(8, 15, 17) \times 5 \times 13 = 520, 975, 1105;$$

$$(16, 63, 65) \times 17 = 272, 1071, 1105;$$

$$(33, 56, 65) \times 17 = 561, 952, 1105;$$

$$(36, 77, 85) \times 13 = 468, 1001, 1105;$$

$$(13, 84, 85) \times 13 = 169, 1092, 1105;$$

$$(21, 220, 221) \times 5 = 105, 1100, 1105;$$

$$(140, 171, 221) \times 5 = 700, 885, 1105.$$

In general,

$$\begin{aligned} (a^2 + b^2)(c^2 + d^2)(e^2 + f^2) &= [e(ad + bc) + f(ac - bd)]^2 + [e(ac - bd) - f(ad + bc)]^2, \\ &= [e(ac - bd) + f(ad + bc)]^2 + [e(ad + bc) - f(ac - bd)]^2, \\ &= [e(ad - bc) + f(ac + bd)]^2 + [e(ac + bd) - f(ad - bc)]^2, \\ &= [e(ac + bd) + f(ad - bc)]^2 + [e(ad - bc) - f(ac + bd)]^2. \end{aligned}$$

Take $a = 2, b = 1; c = 3, d = 2; e = 4, f = 1$; then

$$5 \times 13 \times 17 = 1105 = 32^2 + 9^2 = 24^2 + 23^2 = 31^2 + 12^2 = 33^2 + 4^2,$$

as found before.

$$5 \times 13 \times 29 = 1885 = 43^2 + 6^2 = 42^2 + 11^2 = 38^2 + 21^2 = 34^2 + 27^2;$$

hence 1885 is the common hypotenuse of the four prime right-angled triangles

$$\begin{aligned} & 427, 1836, 1885; \\ & 516, 1813, 1885; \\ & 924, 1643, 1885; \\ & 1003, 1596, 1885. \end{aligned}$$

There are also nine other right-angled triangles having 1885 for a common hypotenuse that are not prime triangles, which are given below:

$$\begin{array}{lll} 221, 1872, 1885; & 675, 1760, 1885; & 957, 1624, 1885; \\ 312, 1859, 1885; & 725, 1740, 1885; & 1131, 1508, 1885; \\ 464, 1787, 1885; & 760, 1725, 1885; & 1300, 1365, 1885. \end{array}$$

There are only two groups of four prime rational right-angled triangles having a common hypotenuse less than 2000, and only three groups of such triangles with hypotenuses between 2000 and 3000, viz.:

$$\begin{aligned} 5 \times 13 \times 37 &= 2405, \quad 5 \times 17 \times 29 = 2465, \quad 5 \times 13 \times 41 = 2665; \\ 2405 &= 49^2 + 2^2 = 47^2 + 14^2 = 46^2 + 17^2 = 38^2 + 31^2; \\ 2465 &= 49^2 + 8^2 = 47^2 + 16^2 = 44^2 + 23^2 = 41^2 + 28^2; \\ 2665 &= 51^2 + 8^2 = 48^2 + 19^2 = 44^2 + 27^2 = 37^2 + 36^2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence the three groups of 4 prime triangles are

$$\begin{array}{lll} 196, 2397, 2405; & 784, 2337, 2465; & 73, 2664, 2665; \\ 483, 2356, 2405; & 897, 2296, 2465; & 816, 2537, 2665; \\ 1316, 2013, 2405; & 1407, 2024, 2465; & 1207, 2376, 2665; \\ 1564, 1827, 2405. & 1504, 1953, 2465. & 1824, 1943, 2665. \end{array}$$

The following curious theorem is given without proof in Matteson's *Diophantine Problems with Solutions*, p. 11.

If a number N is the product of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, ... or n different prime factors of the form $4m+1$, the terms of the following series,

$$1_1, 4_2, 13_3, 40_4, 121_5, 364_6, 1093_7, 3280_8, \text{ etc.,}$$

will represent the number of ways N^2 can be the sum of two squares, where the subscripts, 1, 2, 3, 4, ... n , denote the number of prime factors composing N . Any term of this series is equal to three times the preceding term, + 1. Thus the square of a prime number of the form $4m+1$ is the sum of two squares in one way only; the square of a number which is the product of two different primes of the form $4m+1$ is the sum of two squares in $1 \times 3 + 1 = 4$ different ways; the square of a number which is the product of three different primes of the form $4m+1$ is the sum of two squares in $4 \times 3 + 1 = 13$ different ways; the square of a number which is the product of four different primes of the form $4m+1$ is the sum of two squares in $13 \times 3 + 1 = 40$ different ways, etc.

If we put u_n for the n th term in the above series we have

$$u_{n+1} = 3u_n + 1.$$

The solution of this Finite-Difference equation gives

$$u_n = \frac{1}{2} (3^n - 1).$$

See Boole's *Calculus of Finite Differences*, second edition (London, 1872), p. 165.

Hence if a number is the product of n different prime numbers of the form $4m + 1$, it is the common hypotenuse of $\frac{1}{2}(3^n - 1)$ different rational integral-sided right-angled triangles, 2^{n-1} of which are *prime* triangles and $\frac{1}{2}(3^n - 2^n - 1)$ are *not* prime triangles.

Examples. 1. If $n = 1$, then $\frac{1}{2}(3^1 - 1) = 1$, and a prime number of the form $4m + 1$ can be the hypotenuse of but *one* rational right-angled triangle.

2. If $n = 2$, then $\frac{1}{2}(3^2 - 1) = 4$, and any number which is the product of two different primes of the form $4m + 1$ is the common hypotenuse of four different rational right-angled triangles.

3. If $n = 3$, then $\frac{1}{2}(3^3 - 1) = 13$, and any number which is the product of three different primes of the form $4m + 1$ is the common hypotenuse of 13 different rational right-angled triangles.

4. If $n = 4$, then $\frac{1}{2}(3^4 - 1) = 40$, and any number which is the product of four different primes of the form $4m + 1$ is the common hypotenuse of 40 different rational right-angled triangles.

5. If $n = 5$, then $\frac{1}{2}(3^5 - 1) = 121$, and any number which is the product of five different primes of the form $4m + 1$ is the common hypotenuse of 121 different rational right-angled triangles.

And so on, to any value of n .

Find all the rational right-angled triangles whose hypotenuses are 32045.

Solution.

$$32045 = 5 \times 13 \times 17 \times 29$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 179^2 + 2^2 = 178^2 + 19^2 = 173^2 + 46^2 = 166^2 + 67^2 \\ &= 163^2 + 74^2 = 157^2 + 86^2 = 144^2 + 109^2 = 131^2 + 122^2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence the eight *prime* right-angled triangles whose hypotenuses are 32045 are as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ll} 716, 32037, 32045; & 15916, 27813, 32045; \\ 2277, 31964, 32045; & 17253, 27004, 32045; \\ 6764, 31323, 32045; & 21093, 24124, 32045; \\ 8283, 30956, 32045; & 22244, 23067, 32045. \end{array}$$

The other thirty-two triangles are found as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} (3, 4, 5) \times 13 \times 17 \times 29 &= 19227, 25636, 32045; \\ (5, 12, 13) \times 5 \times 17 \times 29 &= 12325, 29580, 32045; \\ (8, 15, 17) \times 5 \times 13 \times 29 &= 15080, 28275, 32045; \\ (20, 21, 29) \times 5 \times 13 \times 17 &= 22100, 23205, 32045; \\ (16, 63, 65) \times 17 \times 29 &= 7888, 31059, 32045; \\ (33, 56, 65) \times 17 \times 29 &= 16269, 27608, 32045; \\ (13, 84, 85) \times 13 \times 29 &= 4901, 31668, 32045; \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&(36, 77, 85) \times 13 \times 29 = 13572, 29029, 32045; \\
&(17, 144, 145) \times 13 \times 17 = 3757, 31824, 32045; \\
&(24, 143, 145) \times 13 \times 17 = 5304, 31603, 32045; \\
&(21, 220, 221) \times 5 \times 29 = 3045, 31900, 32045; \\
&(140, 171, 221) \times 5 \times 29 = 20300, 24795, 32045; \\
&(135, 352, 377) \times 5 \times 17 = 11475, 29920, 32045; \\
&(152, 345, 377) \times 5 \times 17 = 12920, 29325, 32045; \\
&(132, 425, 493) \times 5 \times 13 = 8580, 30875, 32045; \\
&(155, 468, 493) \times 5 \times 13 = 10075, 30420, 32045; \\
&(47, 1104, 1105) \times 29 = 1363, 32016, 32045; \\
&(264, 1073, 1105) \times 29 = 7656, 31117, 32045; \\
&(576, 943, 1105) \times 29 = 16704, 27347, 32045; \\
&(744, 817, 1105) \times 29 = 21576, 23693, 32045; \\
&(427, 1836, 1885) \times 17 = 7259, 31212, 32045; \\
&(516, 1813, 1885) \times 17 = 8772, 30821, 32045; \\
&(924, 1643, 1885) \times 17 = 15708, 27931, 32045; \\
&(1003, 1596, 1885) \times 17 = 17051, 27132, 32045; \\
&(784, 2337, 2465) \times 13 = 10192, 30381, 32045; \\
&(897, 2296, 2465) \times 13 = 11661, 29848, 32045; \\
&(1407, 2024, 2465) \times 13 = 18291, 26312, 32045; \\
&(1504, 1953, 2465) \times 13 = 19552, 25389, 32045; \\
&(480, 6391, 6409) \times 5 = 2400, 31955, 32045; \\
&(791, 6360, 6409) \times 5 = 3955, 31800, 32045; \\
&(3959, 5040, 6409) \times 5 = 19795, 25200, 32045; \\
&(4200, 4841, 6409) \times 5 = 21000, 24205, 32045.
\end{aligned}$$

See Matteson's *Diophantine Problems with Solutions*, p. 10; also, *Miscellaneous Notes and Queries*, Vol. x, No. 3 (Sept., 1892), p. 225.

XVI. As stated elsewhere, a prime number of the form $4m + 1$ is the sum of two squares in one way only, and therefore is the hypotenuse of only one rational right-angled triangle; but the *square* of such a prime is the sum of two squares in two ways, and therefore is the common hypotenuse of two different right-angled triangles; the *cube* of such a prime is the sum of two squares in three ways, and so is the common hypotenuse of three different right-angled triangles; and, generally, the *nth power* of a prime number of the form $4m + 1$ is the sum of two squares in n ways, and is the common hypotenuse of n right-angled triangles, but only *one* of the triangles is prime.

Examples. 1. $5^2 = 3^2 + 4^2$,

and there is *one* triangle whose hypotenuse is 5.

$$25^2 = 7^2 + 24^2 = 15^2 + 20^2,$$

and 25 is the common hypotenuse of the two triangles

$$7, 24, 25;$$

$$15, 20, 25.$$

$$125^2 = (5^3)^2 = 44^2 + 117^2 = 35^2 + 120^2 = 75^2 + 100^2,$$

and we have the three triangles

$$44, 117, 125;$$

$$35, 120, 125;$$

$$75, 100, 125.$$

$$(5^4)^2 = 625^2 = 336^2 + 527^2 = 220^2 + 585^2 = 175^2 + 600^2 = 375^2 + 500^2;$$

hence we have the four triangles

$$175, 600, 625;$$

$$220, 585, 625;$$

$$336, 527, 625;$$

$$375, 500, 625.$$

2. The next prime of the form $4m + 1$ being 13, we have

$$13^2 = 5^2 + 12^2,$$

and there is only *one* triangle whose hypotenuse is 13.

$$169^2 = 119^2 + 120^2 = 65^2 + 156^2,$$

and the two triangles with hypotenuse 169 are

$$65, 156, 169;$$

$$119, 120, 169.$$

$$13^3 = 2197, \text{ and } 2197^2 = 828^2 + 2035^2 = 1547^2 + 1560^2 = 845^2 + 2028^2;$$

therefore the three triangles having hypotenuse = 2197 are

$$828, 2035, 2197;$$

$$845, 2028, 2197;$$

$$1547, 1560, 2197.$$

$13^4 = 28561$ is beyond the limit of the table of right-angled triangles given at the end of this paper, but the triangles can be computed by the aid of Barlow's Tables, before-mentioned, Table 1, p. 3. I find

$$28561^2 = 239^2 + 28560^2 = 10764^2 + 26455^2 = 20111^2 + 20280^2 = 10895^2 + 26364^2,$$

and therefore the four triangles are

$$239, 28560, 28561;$$

$$10764, 26455, 28561;$$

$$10895, 26364, 28561;$$

$$20111, 20280, 28561.$$

Table of Prime Rational Right-Angled Triangles whose Hypotenuses are less than 3000.

3	4	5	152	345	377	39	760	761	423	1064	1145
5	12	13	189	340	389	481	600	769	704	.903	1145
8	15	17	228	325	397	195	748	773	528	1025	1153
7	24	25	40	399	401	56	783	785	68	1155	1157
20	21	29	120	391	409	273	736	785	765	868	1157
12	35	37	29	420	421	168	775	793	204	1147	1165
9	40	41	87	416	425	432	665	793	517	1044	1165
28	45	53	297	304	425	555	572	797	340	1131	1181
11	60	61	145	408	433	280	759	809	611	1020	1189
16	63	65	84	437	445	429	700	821	660	989	1189
33	56	65	203	396	445	540	629	829	832	855	1193
48	55	73	280	351	449	41	840	841	49	1200	1201
13	84	85	168	425	457	116	837	845	147	1196	1205
36	77	85	261	380	461	123	836	845	476	1107	1205
39	80	89	31	480	481	205	828	853	245	1188	1213
65	72	97	319	360	481	232	825	857	705	992	1217
20	99	101	44	483	485	287	816	865	140	1221	1229
60	91	109	93	476	485	504	703	865	612	1075	1237
15	112	113	132	475	493	348	805	877	280	1209	1241
44	117	125	155	468	493	369	800	881	441	1160	1241
88	105	137	217	456	505	60	899	901	799	960	1249
17	144	145	336	377	505	451	780	901	420	1189	1261
24	143	145	220	459	509	464	777	905	539	1140	1261
51	140	149	279	440	521	616	663	905	748	1035	1277
85	132	157	92	525	533	43	924	925	637	1116	1285
119	120	169	308	435	533	533	756	925	893	924	1285
52	165	173	341	420	541	129	920	929	560	1161	1289
19	180	181	33	544	545	215	912	937	72	1295	1297
57	176	185	184	513	545	580	741	941	51	1300	1301
104	153	185	165	532	557	301	900	949	255	1288	1313
95	168	193	276	493	565	420	851	949	735	1088	1313
28	195	197	396	403	565	615	728	953	360	1271	1321
84	187	205	231	520	569	124	957	965	357	1276	1325
133	156	205	48	575	577	387	884	965	884	987	1325
21	220	221	368	465	593	248	945	977	504	1247	1345
140	171	221	240	551	601	473	864	985	833	1056	1345
60	221	229	35	612	613	696	697	985	561	1240	1361
105	208	233	105	608	617	372	925	997	840	1081	1369
120	209	241	336	527	625	559	840	1009	148	1365	1373
32	255	257	100	621	629	45	1012	1013	931	1020	1381
23	264	265	429	460	629	660	779	1021	296	1353	1385
96	247	265	200	609	641	64	1023	1025	663	1216	1385
69	260	269	315	572	653	496	897	1025	53	1404	1405
115	252	277	300	589	661	192	1015	1033	444	1333	1405
160	231	281	385	552	673	315	988	1037	159	1400	1409
161	240	289	52	675	677	645	812	1037	265	1392	1417
68	285	293	37	684	685	320	999	1049	792	1175	1417
136	273	305	156	667	685	620	861	1061	371	1380	1429
207	224	305	111	680	689	731	780	1069	592	1305	1433
25	312	313	400	561	689	448	975	1073	76	1443	1445
75	308	317	185	672	697	495	952	1073	477	1364	1445
36	323	325	455	528	697	132	1085	1093	228	1435	1453
204	253	325	260	651	701	585	928	1097	583	1344	1465
175	288	337	259	660	709	47	1104	1105	936	1127	1465
180	299	349	333	644	725	264	1073	1105	380	1419	1469
225	272	353	364	627	725	576	943	1105	740	1269	1469
27	364	365	108	725	733	744	817	1105	969	1120	1481
76	357	365	216	713	745	141	1100	1109	689	1320	1489
252	275	373	407	624	745	235	1092	1117	532	1395	1493
135	352	377	468	595	757	329	1080	1129	55	1512	1513

Table of Prime Rational Right-Angled Triangles whose Hypotenuses are less than 3000 (cont.)