

# Calculating "small" solutions of relative Thue equations

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## Abstract

Diophantine equations can often be reduced to various types of classical Thue equations [20], [1]. These equations usually have only very small solutions, on the other hand to compute all solutions (i.e. to prove the non-existence of large solutions) is a time consuming procedure. Therefore it is very practical to have a fast algorithm to calculate the "small" solutions, especially if "small" means less than e.g.  $10^{100}$ . Such an algorithm was constructed by A.Pethő [17] in 1987 based on continued fractions.

In the present paper we construct a similar type of fast algorithm to calculate "small" solutions of *relative* Thue equations. Our method is based on the LLL reduction algorithm. We illustrate the method with explicit examples. The algorithm has several applications.

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# 1 Introduction

Let  $F \in \mathbb{Z}[x, y]$  be a binary form of degree  $\geq 3$ , irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . There is an extensive literature (cf. [20], [1], [7]) on *Thue equations* of the type

$$F(x, y) = m \text{ in } x, y \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (1)$$

Various types of diophantine equations, among others index form equations (cf. [4], [8]) can be reduced to Thue equations. Using the effective method of A.Baker [1] and reduction methods (for a survey see [7]) there is an algorithm for solving Thue equations completely. However, this procedure is rather time consuming while our experience shows that such equations only have small solutions. Hence the efforts are invested in the proof of the nonexistence of large solutions, not in the calculation of the solutions.

Therefore in many applications and practical methods the fast algorithm of A.Pethő [17], giving only the solutions with  $|y| < C$  was useful, especially because it remains fast also for e.g.  $C = 10^{100}$ . (In [13] we calculated "small" solutions of thousands of index form equations in pure cubic fields, in [12] we calculated "small" solutions of binomial Thue equations  $x^4 - my^4 = \pm 1$  for  $0 \leq m \leq 10^7$ .)

Note that if  $F$  has leading coefficient 1 (which can be assumed without restricting the generality),  $\alpha$  is a root of  $F(x, 1) = 0$  and  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$ , then equation (1) can be written in the form

$$N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(x - \alpha y) = m \text{ in } x, y \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (2)$$

Let  $M$  be an algebraic number field with ring of integers  $\mathbb{Z}_M$ . Let  $\alpha$  be an algebraic integer over  $M$  and set  $K = M(\alpha)$ . Let  $0 \neq \mu \in \mathbb{Z}_M$  and consider the *relative Thue equation*

$$N_{K/M}(X - \alpha Y) = \mu \text{ in } X, Y \in \mathbb{Z}_M. \quad (3)$$

This equation is a direct analogue of (2).

Diophantine problems often lead also to relative Thue equations. The index form equations of sextic fields with a quadratic subfield [5], [9], of nonic fields with a cubic subfield [6], of quartic relative extensions [10], all lead to relative Thue equations.

There is an algorithm for the complete resolution of relative Thue equations by I.Gaál and M.Pohst [11]. This involves Baker's method, a reduction

procedure using LLL and an enumeration method (see also [7]). The execution time takes some hours. As initial data the method needs the fundamental units of the number field involved and calculation of all non-associated elements of given relative norm. Note that often the main difficulty is to calculate these basic data in a higher degree field (of degree  $\geq 10$ ), requiring again considerable CPU time. For fields of degree  $\geq 15$  these procedures often fail.

It is therefore useful to have a faster algorithm calculating the "small" solutions of relative Thue equations that does not require initial data (e.g. fundamental units, elements of given relative norm) of the number field and is applicable also for higher degree relative Thue equations. In this paper our purpose is to construct such an algorithm.

As we shall see our new algorithm works efficiently even for higher degree relative Thue equations that cannot be attacked by the methods of [11]. It is very efficient over quadratic number fields  $M$  but usable also over cubic and quartic fields.

## 2 Elementary estimates for relative Thue equations

Let  $m = [M : \mathbb{Q}]$  and  $(1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_m)$  be an integral basis of the ring of integers of  $M$ . Denote by  $\gamma^{(j)}$ , ( $j = 1, \dots, m$ ) the conjugates of any  $\gamma \in M$ .

Denote by  $n$  the degree of  $\alpha$  over  $M$  and by  $f(x)$  its relative defining polynomial over  $M$ . Denote by  $\alpha^{(jk)}$ , ( $k = 1, \dots, n$ ) the relative conjugates of  $\alpha$  over  $M^{(j)}$ , that is the roots of the  $j$ -th conjugate of  $f(x)$ . We also denote by  $\gamma^{(jk)}$  the conjugates of any  $\gamma \in K$  corresponding to  $\alpha^{(jk)}$ .

We assume that  $n > m$  if  $K$  is not totally real and  $n > 2m$  if  $K$  is totally real. This condition ensures that our reduction procedure in Section 3 is efficient.

Our purpose is to determine all solutions of (3) with  $|\overline{Y}| < C$ , where  $C$  is a large given constant, say  $10^{100}$  or  $10^{500}$ . (For any algebraic number  $\gamma$  we denote by  $|\overline{\gamma}|$  the *size* of  $\gamma$ , that is the maximum absolute value of its conjugates.)

We represent  $X$  and  $Y$  in the form

$$X = x_1 + \omega_2 x_2 + \dots + \omega_m x_m, \quad Y = y_1 + \omega_2 y_2 + \dots + \omega_m y_m,$$

with  $x_i, y_i \in \mathbb{Z}$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ ). We set  $A = \max(\max |x_i|, \max |y_i|)$ .

Our algorithm is based on the well known fact that for any fixed solution  $X, Y \in \mathbb{Z}_M$  of equation (3) there is a conjugate of  $\beta = X - \alpha Y$  which is very small, assumed that  $Y$  is not very small.

To formulate the main result we need the following notation.

Let

$$c_{hji} = \frac{1}{2} |(\alpha^{(hj)} - \alpha^{(hi)})|, \text{ for } 1 \leq h \leq m, \ 1 \leq i, j \leq n, \ i \neq j,$$

$$c_{hi} = \frac{|\mu^{(h)}|}{\prod_{1 \leq j \leq n, j \neq i} c_{hji}}, \text{ for } 1 \leq h \leq m, \ 1 \leq i \leq n,$$

$$c_1 = \max_{h,j,i} \frac{\sqrt[n]{|\mu^{(h)}|}}{c_{hji}},$$

where the maximum is taken for  $1 \leq h \leq m, \ 1 \leq i, j \leq n, \ i \neq j$ .

Let  $S$  be the  $m \times m$  matrix with entries  $1, \omega_2^{(j)}, \dots, \omega_m^{(j)}$  in the  $j$ -th row. Denote by  $c_2$  the row norm of  $S^{-1}$  that is the maximum sum of the absolute values of the elements in its rows.

Let

$$c_3 = \frac{\sqrt[n]{|\mu|}}{|\alpha|},$$

$$c_4 = \max(c_1, c_3),$$

$$c_5 = 2c_2 |\overline{\alpha}|$$

and

$$d_{hi} = c_{hi} c_5^{n-1} \text{ for } 1 \leq h \leq m, \ 1 \leq i \leq n.$$

Finally, let  $C$  be a given constant.

**Theorem 1.** *If  $(X, Y) \in \mathbb{Z}_M^2$  is a solution of equation (3) with  $|\overline{Y}| > c_3$ , then*

$$A \leq c_5 \cdot |\overline{Y}|. \tag{4}$$

**Proof of Theorem 1.**

Set  $\beta = X - \alpha Y$ . For any  $k$  let  $\ell$  be the index with  $|\beta^{(k\ell)}| = \min_{1 \leq j \leq n} |\beta^{(kj)}|$ . Equation (3) implies

$$\beta^{(k1)} \dots \beta^{(kn)} = \mu^{(k)}.$$

Therefore  $|\beta^{(k\ell)}| \leq \sqrt[n]{|\mu^{(k)}|}$  whence we have

$$|X^{(k)}| \leq |\beta^{(k\ell)}| + |\alpha^{(k\ell)}| \cdot |Y^{(k)}| \leq \sqrt[n]{|\mu|} + |\alpha| \cdot |Y|$$

whence using  $|Y| > c_3$  we obtain

$$|X| \leq 2|\alpha| \cdot |Y|. \quad (5)$$

By

$$\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} = S^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} Y^{(1)} \\ \vdots \\ Y^{(m)} \end{pmatrix}$$

we obtain  $\max |y_j| \leq c_2|Y|$ . Similarly we have  $\max |x_j| \leq c_2|X|$ , whence by (5) we get the assertion (4).  $\square$

**Theorem 2.** *If  $(X, Y) \in \mathbb{Z}_M^2$  is a solution of equation (3) with  $|Y| > c_4$ , then there exist  $h, i$  ( $1 \leq h \leq m$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ), such that*

$$|\beta^{(hi)}| \leq d_{hi}A^{1-n}. \quad (6)$$

**Proof of Theorem 2.**

Let  $Y^{(h)}$  be the conjugate of  $Y$  with  $|Y^{(h)}| = |Y|$  and let  $i$  be determined by

$$|\beta^{(hi)}| = \min_{1 \leq j \leq n} |\beta^{(hj)}|.$$

Obviously

$$|\beta^{(hi)}| \leq \sqrt[n]{|\mu^{(h)}|} \quad (7)$$

and for any  $j \neq i$  ( $1 \leq j \leq n$ ) using  $|Y| > c_1$  we have

$$|\beta^{(hj)}| \geq |\beta^{(hj)} - \beta^{(hi)}| - |\beta^{(hi)}| \geq |(\alpha^{(hj)} - \alpha^{(hi)})Y^{(h)}| - \sqrt[n]{|\mu^{(h)}|} \geq c_{hji}|Y| \quad (8)$$

By equation (3) we have now

$$\beta^{(h1)} \dots \beta^{(hn)} = \mu^{(h)}$$

therefore

$$|\beta^{(hi)}| \leq c_{hi} \cdot |\overline{Y}|^{1-n} \quad (9)$$

By  $|\overline{Y}| > c_3$  Theorem 1 applies, therefore (4) is satisfied, whence  $|\overline{Y}|^{-1} \leq c_5 A^{-1}$ , that is

$$|\overline{Y}|^{1-n} \leq c_5^{n-1} A^{1-n}. \quad (10)$$

Therefore by inequality (9) we obtain the assertion (6).  $\square$

### 3 Reducing the bound for $A$

In this section we develop a reduction procedure for  $A$ . More exactly we apply the extension of M.Pohst [18] of the standard LLL algorithm of A.K.Lenstra, H.W.Lenstra Jr. and L.Lovász [16].

Let  $H$  be a large constant to be given later, let  $i, h$  be given indices with  $1 \leq h \leq m, 1 \leq i \leq n$  such that inequality (6) is satisfied, that is

$$\begin{aligned} |x_1 + \omega_2^{(h)} x_2 + \dots + \omega_m^{(h)} x_m - \alpha^{(hi)} y_1 - \alpha^{(hi)} \omega_2^{(h)} y_2 - \dots - \alpha^{(hi)} \omega_m^{(h)} y_m| \leq \\ \leq d_{hi} A^{1-n}. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Consider now the lattice  $\mathcal{L}$  generated by the columns of the matrix

$$\mathcal{L} = \left( \begin{array}{cccc|cccc} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \\ \hline H & H\operatorname{Re}(\omega_2^{(h)}) & \dots & H\operatorname{Re}(\omega_m^{(h)}) & H\operatorname{Re}(\alpha^{(hi)}) & H\operatorname{Re}(\alpha^{(hi)}\omega_2^{(h)}) & \dots & H\operatorname{Re}(\alpha^{(hi)}\omega_m^{(h)}) \\ H & H\operatorname{Im}(\omega_2^{(h)}) & \dots & H\operatorname{Im}(\omega_m^{(h)}) & H\operatorname{Im}(\alpha^{(hi)}) & H\operatorname{Im}(\alpha^{(hi)}\omega_2^{(h)}) & \dots & H\operatorname{Im}(\alpha^{(hi)}\omega_m^{(h)}) \end{array} \right)$$

In the totally real case we may omit the last row. Denote by  $b_1$  the first vector of an LLL-reduced basis of the lattice  $\mathcal{L}$ .

**Theorem 3.** Assume that  $x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_m$  are integers with  $A = \max(\max |x_i|, \max |y_i|)$ , such that (11) is satisfied. If  $A \leq A_0$  for some constant  $A_0$  and for the first vector  $b_1$  of the LLL reduced basis of  $\mathcal{L}$  we have

$$|b_1| \geq \sqrt{(2m+1)2^{2m-1}} \cdot A_0,$$

then

$$A \leq \left( \frac{d_{hi}H}{A_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \quad (12)$$

**Proof of Theorem 3.**

The proof is almost the same as in [7]. Denote by  $l_0$  the shortest vector in the lattice  $\mathcal{L}$ . Assume that the vector  $l$  is a linear combination of the lattice vectors with integer coefficients  $x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_m$ , respectively. Observe that the last two components of  $l$  are the real and imaginary parts of  $\beta^{(hi)}$ .

Using the inequalities of [18] we have  $|b_1|^2 \leq 2^{2m-1}|l_0|^2$ . Obviously  $|l_0| \leq |l|$ . The first  $2m$  components of  $l$  are in absolute value  $\leq A_0$ , for the last 2 components (11) is satisfied. Hence we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (2m+1)A_0^2 &= 2^{1-2m} \left( (2m+1) \cdot 2^{2m-1} A_0^2 \right) \\ &\leq 2^{1-2m}|b_1|^2 \leq |l_0|^2 \leq |l|^2 \leq 2m \cdot A_0^2 + H^2 d_{hi}^2 A^{2-2n}, \end{aligned}$$

whence

$$A_0 \leq d_{hi}H A^{1-n},$$

which implies the assertion.  $\square$

**Remark 1**

We made several tests to figure out how one can suitably choose  $H$ , for which  $m$  and  $n$  the procedure is applicable and what is the magnitude of the reduced bound. We summarize our experiences in the following table:

	complex case	totally real case
appropriate value for $H$	$H = A_0^m$	$H = A_0^{2m}$
the procedure is efficient for	$n > m$	$n > 2m$
the reduced bound is of magnitude	$A_0^{\frac{m-1}{n-1}}$	$A_0^{\frac{2m-1}{n-1}}$

This phenomenon can be detected in our examples, as well.

We start with an initial bound  $A_0$  for  $A$  (obtained from Theorem 1 and  $\overline{|Y|} < C$ ) and perform the reduction. In the following steps  $A_0$  is the bound obtained in the previous reduction step. In the first reduction steps the new bound is drastically smaller than the original one. Applying Theorem 3 in several steps (usually 5-10 steps) the procedure stops by giving (almost) the same bound like the previous one. This reduced bound  $A_R$  is usually between 10 and 500.

**Remark 2**

As it is seen we use the same lattice and our following reduction Theorem 3 is almost the same as in [9], [11] (see also [7]). However the approach and the way of application is completely different and just that is our main goal.

In the above cited papers, following the standard arguments of [11] we write  $X - \alpha Y$  as a product of an element of relative norm  $\mu$  and a power product of fundamental units. Using Siegel's identity, elementary estimates and Baker's method we arrive at a linear form in the logarithms of algebraic numbers, which is small. The coefficients of this linear form in the logarithms of algebraic numbers appear in the last rows of the matrix used instead of our matrix above to define the lattice. The variables are the exponents of the fundamental units in the representation of  $X - \alpha Y$ .

In our setting the variables are the  $x_j, y_j$  and their coefficients in (11) show up in the last rows of our matrix. This yields a much more direct way without calculating fundamental units, elements of given relative norm and without applying Baker's method.

## 4 Enumerating the tiny values

As we saw in the previous section, in our statements we assume that  $\overline{|Y|}$  is not very small, which is equivalent to  $A$  being large enough. The reduction process of the previous section produces a small bound for  $A$ . Hence the small values of  $x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_m$  must be tested separately. The purpose of this section is to develop an efficient algorithm for testing all  $x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_m$  with absolute values less than a prescribed bound  $A_R$ .

For a given  $m$  the number of  $x_i, y_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ ) with  $A \leq A_R$  is  $(2A_R+1)^{2m}$  which can still be a huge number for  $m \geq 3$ . We show how to overcome this difficulty. (Remember that in [11] we had to use a relatively complicated ellipsoid method to deal with the small exponents of the fundamental units.)

## 4.1 A direct procedure

The original equation (3) implies

$$\prod_{j=1}^n (X^{(h)} - \alpha^{(hj)} Y^{(h)}) = \mu^{(h)} \quad (13)$$

for  $h = 1, \dots, m$ . We let  $y_1, \dots, y_m$  run between  $-A_R$  and  $A_R$  (for even  $n$  it is sufficient to take nonnegative  $y_1$ ). For each  $y_1, \dots, y_m$  we calculate  $Y^{(h)} = y_1 + \omega_2^{(h)} y_2 + \dots + \omega_m^{(h)} y_m$  and calculate the roots  $X^{(h1)}, \dots, X^{(hn)}$  of polynomial equation (13) in  $X^{(h)}$ . Since we can not know which root corresponds to which conjugate, to get all solutions, we have to solve the system of equations

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + \omega_2^{(1)} x_2 + \dots + \omega_m^{(1)} x_m &= X^{(1 i_1)} \\ &\vdots \\ x_1 + \omega_2^{(m)} x_2 + \dots + \omega_m^{(m)} x_m &= X^{(m i_m)} \end{aligned}$$

for all possible permutations  $(i_1, \dots, i_m)$  of  $(1, \dots, m)$  and check whether the solution vector  $(x_1, \dots, x_m)$  has integer components.

For totally real  $M$  we exclude complex values of  $X^{(hj)}$ .

This procedure yields  $(2 \cdot A_R + 1)^m n^m$  tests. This can be used for  $m = 2$  but not in this simple form for  $m \geq 3$ .

## 4.2 The case $m \geq 3$

For  $m \geq 3$  we proceed as follows. We take a rather small initial value  $A_I$  (say 10 or 20) such that the above direct procedure of subsection 4.1 can be performed to test  $y_1, \dots, y_m$  with absolute values  $\leq A_I$  within feasible CPU time. Then we only have to consider values of  $y_1, \dots, y_m$  with  $\max |y_j| > A_I$  yielding  $A = \max(\max |x_j|, \max |y_j|) > A_I$ .

In some steps we construct intervals  $[A_s, A_S]$  the union of which covers the whole interval  $[A_I, A_R]$ . This means that in the first step we take  $A_s = A_I$  and an  $A_S$  with  $A_s \leq A_S \leq A_R$ . In the following step we set  $A_s$  to be the former  $A_S$  and take a new  $A_S$ , etc.

We describe now an efficient method to enumerate the variables with  $A_s \leq A \leq A_S$ . For a given  $h$  and  $i$  specified in the reduction procedure ( $1 \leq h \leq m, 1 \leq i \leq n$ ) by (11) we have

$$\begin{aligned} |x_1 + \omega_2^{(h)}x_2 + \dots + \omega_m^{(h)}x_m - \alpha^{(hi)}y_1 - \alpha^{(hi)}\omega_2^{(h)}y_2 - \dots - \alpha^{(hi)}\omega_m^{(h)}y_m| &\leq \\ &\leq d_{hi}A^{1-n} \leq d_{hi}A_s^{1-n}. \end{aligned}$$

We take  $H = A_S \cdot A_s^{n-1}/d_{hi}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} H \cdot |x_1 + \omega_2^{(h)}x_2 + \dots + \omega_m^{(h)}x_m - \alpha^{(hi)}y_1 - \alpha^{(hi)}\omega_2^{(h)}y_2 - \dots - \alpha^{(hi)}\omega_m^{(h)}y_m| &\leq \\ &\leq A_S \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

Denote by  $e_1, \dots, e_m, f_1, \dots, f_m$  the columns of the matrix defining the lattice  $\mathcal{L}$  in the preceding section. Using the above  $H$  implies that all coordinates of  $x_1e_1 + \dots + x_me_m + y_1f_1 + \dots + y_mf_m$  are less than or equal to  $A_S$  yielding

$$|x_1e_1 + \dots + x_me_m + y_1f_1 + \dots + y_mf_m|^2 \leq (n+1)A_S^2. \tag{15}$$

(In the totally real case we omit the last row.)

This defines an ellipsoid. The integer points can be enumerated by using the Cholesky decomposition (see M.Pohst [18], M.Pohst and H.Zassenhaus [19]). This means to construct an upper triangular matrix  $R = (r_{ij})$  with positive diagonal entries, such that the symmetric matrix of the above quadratic form is written as  $R^T R$ , that is (denoting here  $y_1, \dots, y_m$  by  $x_{m+1}, \dots, x_{2m}$ , for simplicity) (15) gets the form

$$\sum_{i=1}^{2m} \left( r_{ii}x_i + \sum_{j=i+1}^{2m} r_{ij}x_j \right)^2 \leq (n+1)A_S^2.$$

By enumerating  $x_{2m}, x_{2m-1}, \dots$  etc. we also use that fact that

$$-A_S \leq x_i \leq A_S \quad (1 \leq i \leq 2m).$$

Note that the Cholesky decomposition can be improved by using the Fincke-Pohst method [3] (see also M.Pohst [18], M.Pohst and H.Zassenhaus [19]), involving LLL reduction, but then we loose the above bounds for the  $x_i$ .

## 5 The complete algorithm

In this section we construct the algorithm using the components of the preceding sections.

**Problem.** Determine all solutions  $X, Y \in \mathbb{Z}_M$  with  $|\overline{Y}| < C$  of the equation

$$N_{K/M}(X - \alpha Y) = \mu.$$

We assume that  $n > m$  if  $K$  is not totally real and  $n > 2m$  if  $K$  is totally real.

**Step 1.** Calculate the constants  $c_{hji}, c_{hi}$  ( $1 \leq h \leq m, 1 \leq i, j \leq n, i \neq j$ ) and  $c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4, c_5$  and  $d_{hi}$  ( $1 \leq h \leq m, 1 \leq i \leq n$ ) of Section 2.

**Step 2.** Set  $A_B = c_5 \cdot \max(C, c_4)$ . (This is the initial upper bound for  $A$ .)

**Step 3.** For  $h \in \{1, \dots, m\}$  and  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  perform the reduction procedure of Section 3.

In the first step take  $A_0 = A_B$ , choose a suitable  $H$ , perform the LLL basis reduction and calculate the reduced bound  $A_1$  by (12). In the next step take  $A_0 = A_1$  and perform the reduction again. Continue until the reduced bound is not any more considerably less than the previous bound. Denote by  $A_{R,h,i}$  the final reduced bound.

**Step 4.** Set  $A_R = \max_{h,i} A_{R,h,i}$ .

**Step 5.** If  $c_5 c_4 > A_R$  then set  $A_R = c_5 c_4$ . (Our arguments are only valid for  $|\overline{Y}| > c_4$  that is  $A > c_5 c_4$ ).

**Step 6.** Enumerate the tiny values of  $x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_m$  with  $A \leq A_R$  using the procedure described in Section 4. Test all possible vectors by substituting it into the equation.

## 6 Computational aspects

All our algorithms were developed in Maple [2] under Linux and the execution times of our examples refer to a middle category laptop. However, especially at the final enumeration, to find appropriate values  $A_s, A_S$  we made several

test runs on the supercomputer located in Debrecen, Hungary. The HPC running times were 20-50 percent shorter even on a single node.

## 7 Examples

In this section we demonstrate our method with four explicit examples. To have a comparison, the complete resolution of a quartic Thue equation over a quadratic field in [11] took about one hour. Here we calculate "small" solutions of relative Thue equations of degrees 6, 9, 21, over quadratic fields within a few minutes. Our last example is a sextic relative Thue equation over a cubic field which could hardly be dealt with using the methods of [11] (the underlying number field is of degree 18).

### 7.1 Example 1

Let  $M = \mathbb{Q}(i)$  with integral basis  $\{1, i\}$ . Let  $\alpha$  be a root of  $f(x) = x^6 + x + 1$  and let  $K = M(\alpha)$ . Determine all  $X, Y \in \mathbb{Z}_M$  with  $\overline{|Y|} < 10^{500}$  satisfying

$$N_{K/M}(X - \alpha Y) = X^6 + XY^5 + Y^6 = 1. \quad (16)$$

We get  $A \leq 0.2252 \cdot 10^{501} = A_B$ . The reduction process ran as follows:

<i>step</i>	$A_0$	$H$	$\ b_1\  \geq$	<i>Digits</i>	$newA_0$	<i>CPU time</i>
1.	$0.2252 \cdot 10^{501}$	$10^{1003}$	$0.1424 \cdot 10^{501}$	1150	$0.9637 \cdot 10^{101}$	150sec
2.	$0.9637 \cdot 10^{101}$	$10^{205}$	$0.6095 \cdot 10^{102}$	250	$0.1809 \cdot 10^{22}$	7sec
3.	$0.1809 \cdot 10^{22}$	$10^{45}$	$0.1144 \cdot 10^{23}$	70	159562	2sec
4.	159562	$10^{13}$	$0.1009 \cdot 10^7$	30	103	1sec
5.	103	$10^6$	651.4291	20	17	1sec
6.	17	$10^5$	107.5174	20	16	1sec

The direct method of subsection (4.1) to enumerate the variables with absolute values  $\leq A_R = 16$  took 10 seconds. Finally all solutions (up to sign) are

$$(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2) = (1, 0, 0, 0), (1, 0, -1, 0), (0, 0, 1, 0).$$

## 7.2 Example 2

Let  $M = \mathbb{Q}(i\sqrt{2})$  with integral basis  $\{1, i\sqrt{2}\}$ . Let  $\alpha$  be a root of  $f(x) = x^{21} - x - 1$  and let  $K = M(\alpha)$ . Determine all  $X, Y \in \mathbb{Z}_M$  with  $|\overline{Y}| < 10^{500}$  satisfying

$$N_{K/M}(X - \alpha Y) = X^{21} - XY^{20} - Y^{21} = 1. \quad (17)$$

We get  $A \leq 0.2068 \cdot 10^{501} = A_B$ . The reduction process ran as follows:

<i>step</i>	$A_0$	$H$	$\ b_1\  \geq$	<i>Digits</i>	$newA_0$	<i>CPU time</i>
1.	$0.2068 \cdot 10^{501}$	$10^{1005}$	$0.1307 \cdot 10^{502}$	1200	$0.5897 \cdot 10^{26}$	420sec
2.	$0.5897 \cdot 10^{26}$	$10^{55}$	$0.3730 \cdot 10^{27}$	80	99	5sec
3.	99	$10^7$	626.1309	20	6	2sec

For a larger  $n$  the reduction is very efficient. In this example  $|\overline{Y}| > c_4$  implies that the main arguments are only valid for  $|\overline{Y}| > 9.9271$ , that is the variables with  $A \leq 20$  must be considered separately. Therefore we let the direct method of subsection (4.1) run for  $A_R = 20$ . This took about 5 minutes and resulted the solutions

$$(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2) = (1, 0, 0, 0), (1, 0, -1, 0), (0, 0, -1, 0), (-1, 0, -1, 0).$$

## 7.3 Example 3

This is an example for the totally real case. Let  $M = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$  with integral basis  $\{1, \sqrt{2}\}$ . Let  $\alpha$  be a root of  $f(x) = x^9 + 3x^8 - 5x^7 + 17x^6 + 7x^5 - 30x^4 - x^3 + 16x^2 - 2x - 1$ . This totally real nonic polynomial is taken from J.Voight [21]. Let  $K = M(\alpha)$ . Determine all  $X, Y \in \mathbb{Z}_M$  with  $|\overline{Y}| < 10^{500}$  satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} N_{K/M}(X - \alpha Y) = & X^9 + 3X^8Y - 5X^7Y^2 + 17X^6Y^3 + 7X^5Y^4 \\ & - 30X^4Y^5 - X^3Y^6 + 16X^2Y^7 - 2XY^8 - Y^9 = 1 \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

We get  $A \leq 0.5379 \cdot 10^{501} = A_B$ . The reduction process ran as follows:

<i>step</i>	$A_0$	$H$	$\ b_1\  \geq$	<i>Digits</i>	$newA_0$	<i>CPU time</i>
1.	$0.5379 \cdot 10^{501}$	$10^{2007}$	$0.3402 \cdot 10^{502}$	2200	$0.8862 \cdot 10^{189}$	840sec
2.	$0.8862 \cdot 10^{189}$	$10^{800}$	$0.5604 \cdot 10^{190}$	900	$0.1110 \cdot 10^{78}$	120sec
3.	$0.1110 \cdot 10^{78}$	$10^{313}$	$0.7022 \cdot 10^{78}$	400	$0.1439 \cdot 10^{31}$	60sec
4.	$0.1439 \cdot 10^{31}$	$10^{125}$	$0.9103 \cdot 10^{31}$	200	$0.3304 \cdot 10^{13}$	30sec
5.	$0.3304 \cdot 10^{13}$	$10^{55}$	$0.2089 \cdot 10^{14}$	80	941870	30sec
6.	941870	$10^{28}$	$0.5956 \cdot 10^7$	80	2612	30sec
7.	2612	$10^{18}$	16519.5940	80	306	30sec
8.	306	$10^{14}$	1935.2970	80	126	30sec

The direct method of subsection (4.1) with  $A_R = 126$  executed 21 minutes.

The solutions are

$$(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2) = (1, 0, 0, 0), (1, 0, -1, 0), (0, -1, -1, 0), (0, 0, -1, 0), \\ (-1, 0, -1, 0), (0, 1, -1, 0).$$

## 7.4 Example 4

Our last example demonstrates an equation with a cubic base field,  $m = 3$ . Let  $M = \mathbb{Q}(\rho)$ , where  $\rho$  is defined by the (totally real) polynomial  $x^3 - x^2 - 3x + 1$ . The field  $M$  has integral basis  $\{1, \rho, \rho^2\}$ . Let  $\alpha$  be a root of the (totally complex) polynomial  $f(x) = x^6 + 2x^5 + 3x^4 + 21$ . Let  $K = M(\alpha)$ . Determine all  $X, Y \in \mathbb{Z}_M$  with  $|Y| < 10^{500}$  satisfying

$$N_{K/M}(X - \alpha Y) = X^6 + 2X^5Y + 3X^4Y^2 + 21Y^6 = 1. \quad (19)$$

We get  $A \leq 0.4268 \cdot 10^{501} = A_B$ . In this example we used the constants  $c_{hi}$  and  $d_{hi}$  calculated for the given case  $h, i$  (while in all other examples we used values valid for all cases). This resulted a better reduction, giving a reduced bound about 15 percent sharper.

The reduction process ran as follows:

<i>step</i>	$A_0$	$H$	$\ b_1\  \geq$	<i>Digits</i>	$newA_0$	<i>CPU time</i>
1.	$0.4268 \cdot 10^{501}$	$10^{1513}$	$0.1277 \cdot 10^{503}$	1700	$0.9649 \cdot 10^{203}$	600sec
2.	$0.9649 \cdot 10^{203}$	$10^{615}$	$0.2888 \cdot 10^{205}$	800	$0.8196 \cdot 10^{83}$	160sec
3.	$0.8196 \cdot 10^{83}$	$10^{255}$	$0.2453 \cdot 10^{85}$	350	$0.8465 \cdot 10^{35}$	60sec
4.	$0.8465 \cdot 10^{35}$	$10^{111}$	$0.2534 \cdot 10^{37}$	200	$0.5308 \cdot 10^{16}$	30sec
5.	$0.5308 \cdot 10^{16}$	$10^{53}$	$0.1589 \cdot 10^{18}$	100	$0.9237 \cdot 10^8$	20sec
6.	$0.9237 \cdot 10^8$	$10^{29}$	$0.2764 \cdot 10^{10}$	60	52170	20sec
7.	52170	$10^{19}$	$0.1561 \cdot 10^7$	50	2328	20sec
8.	2328	$5 \cdot 10^{14}$	69684.4896	50	598	20sec
9.	598	$8 \cdot 10^{12}$	17900.0536	50	343	20sec
10.	343	$4 \cdot 10^{12}$	10267.0876	50	334	20sec

Note that in our example the direct method of Subsection 4.1 with  $A_R = 334$  yields to test

$$(2 \cdot A_R + 1)^m n^m = (2 \cdot 334 + 1)^3 \cdot 6^3 = 64.674.354.744$$

cases which is completely impossible.

We executed the direct method of Subsection 4.1 with  $A_I = 10$  taking 7 minutes. To cover the interval  $[10, 334]$  we applied the algorithm of Subsection 4.2 in several steps using 200 digits accuracy. It is worthy to choose  $A_s$  and  $A_S$  with a relatively large difference so that  $H$  also becomes large and inequality (14) becomes an efficient filter. We performed four steps of the algorithm of subsection 4.2:

<i>step</i>	$A_s$	$A_S$	<i>CPU time</i>
1.	10	50	3 min
2.	50	100	4 min
3.	100	150	10 min
4.	100	334	40 min

We had several test runs showing an optimal segmentation of the interval  $[10, 334]$ . It turned out that the running time for the last step with  $A_S = 334$  is not significantly different with  $A_s = 100, 150, 200, 250$ . Therefore it was not worthy to split this interval into further parts.

The only solution (up to sign) of equation (19) is  $(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2) = (1, 0, 0, 0)$ .

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