

## A New Method of Solving Diophantine Equation

$$a^3 + b^3 + c^3 = d$$

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### Abstract

The article is dedicated to the famous Diophantine equation of the form  $a^3 + b^3 + c^3 = d$ . We solve this problem in some particular cases. Using the package Mathematica 11 we find an efficient algorithm to solve this problem. This algorithm is simpler and uses a significantly smaller number of operations than the other known algorithms for solving these equations.

**Keywords:** Diophantine equations, the sum of three cubes, Parametric solutions, Polynomial identities.

### 1. Introduction

Fermat's equation for odd exponents  $n$  asks for three integers, each with an absolute value greater than 0, such that the sum of their  $n$ -th powers is zero. A related problem is to find three integers, each with an absolute value greater than the  $n$ -th root of  $k$ , such that the sum of their  $n$ -th powers equals  $k$ .

For example, determine the integers  $a, b, c$ , with  $|a|, |b|, |c| > 1$  such that

$$a^3 + b^3 + c^3 = d. \tag{1}$$

This has infinitely many solutions because of the identity

$$(1 - 9m^3)^3 + (9m^4)^3 + (-9m^4 + 3m)^3 = 1. \tag{2}$$

However, there are other solutions as well. Are there any other identities that give a different 1-parameter family of solutions?

Is every solution of (1) a member of a family like this? In general, it is known that there is no finite method for determining whether a given Diophantine equation has solutions. However, it is an open problem, whether there is a general method for determining if a given Diophantine equation has "algebraic" solutions, i.e., an algebraic identity like the one above that gives an infinite family of solutions. More specifically, is there a proposition, that only equations of *genus*  $< 2$  can have an algebraic solution?

It may be worth mentioning that the complete rational-solution of the equation  $a^3 + b^3 + c^3 = t^3$  is known, and is given by

$$a = q \left[ 1 - (x - 3y) (x^2 + 3y^2) \right],$$

$$\begin{aligned} b &= -q \left[ 1 - (x + 3y) (x^2 + 3y^2) \right], \\ c &= q \left[ (x^2 + 3y^2)^2 - (x + 3y) \right], \\ t &= q \left[ (x^2 + 3y^2)^2 - (x - 3y) \right], \end{aligned}$$

where  $q, x, y$  are any rational numbers.

Thus, if we set  $q$  equal to the inverse of  $\left[ (x^2 + 3y^2)^2 - (x - 3y) \right]$  we have rational solutions of (1). However, I think the problem of finding the integer-solutions is more difficult. If  $t$  is allowed to be any integer (not just 1) then Ramanujan gave the integer solutions as

$$\begin{aligned} a &= 3n^2 - 5nm - 5m^2 \\ b &= 4n^2 - 4nm + 6m^2 \\ c &= 5n^2 - 5nm - 3m^2 \\ t &= 6n^2 - 4nm - 4m^2 \end{aligned}$$

This occasionally gives a solution of equation (1) (with appropriate changes in sign), as in the following cases

$n$	$m$	$a$	$b$	$c$
1	-1	1	2	-2
1	-2	9	10	-12
5	-12	-135	-138	172
19	-8	-791	-812	1010
46	-109	11161	11468	-14258
73	-173	65601	67402	-83802
419	-993	-951690	-926271	1183258

However, this does not cover all the solutions given by (2). By the way, the equation  $a^3 + b^3 + c^3 = 1$  has algebraic solutions [1], [2] other than (2). There are known to be infinitely many algebraic solutions, for instance:

$$(1 - 9t^3 + 648t^6 + 3888t^9)^3 + (-135t^4 + 3888t^{10})^3 + (3t - 81t^4 - 1296t^7 - 3888t^{10})^3 = 1$$

However, it is not known whether every solution of the equation lies in some family of solutions with an algebraic parameterization.

Interestingly, note, that if you replace 1 by 2, then again there is a parametric solution:

$$(6t^3 + 1)^3 - (6t^3 - 1)^3 + (6t^2)^3 = 2 \quad (3)$$

and again this does not cover all the known integer solutions. Note, that precisely one solution is known that is not given by (3) (see [1]):

$$1214928^3 + 3480205^3 - 3528875^3 = 2.$$

It is evidently not known until today, if there are any other algebraic solutions besides the one noted above.

For  $d > 2$  Kenji Koyama [3] has generated a large table of integer solutions of  $a^3 + b^3 + c^3 = d$  for noncubes  $d$  in the range  $1 \leq d \leq 1000$  and  $|a| \leq |b| \leq |c| \leq 2^{21} - 1$

consists of two tables: Table 1 (55 pages) contains the integer solutions, sorted by  $d$ , and Table 2 (2 pages) lists the number of primitive solutions found for each  $d$  in the search range.

In general, it seems to be a difficult problem to characterize all the solutions of  $a^3 + b^3 + c^3 = d$  for some arbitrary integer  $d > 2$ . In particular, the question of whether all integer solutions are given by an algebraic identity seems both difficult and interesting.

Nevertheless, for instance, in the case of  $d = 3$ , there is still no solution known apart from the obvious ones:  $(1, 1, 1)$ ,  $(4, 4, 5)$ ,  $(4, 5, 4)$ , and  $(5, 4, 4)$ . For  $d = 30$ , the first solution was found by N. Elkies and his coworkers in 2000 [5]. It is interesting, that in 1992, D. R. Heath-Brown [6] made a prediction on the density of the solutions for  $d = 30$  without knowing any solution explicitly. Over the years, a number of algorithms have been developed in order to attack the general problem. Concerning the various approaches, an excellent overview, invented before 2000, was given in [7], which was published in 2007. Historically, the first algorithm, which has a complexity of  $O(B^{1+\epsilon})$  for a search bound of  $B$  is the method by R. Heath-Brown [8].

Return the interested representations

$$d = a^3 + b^3 + c^3 \quad (4)$$

of various integers  $d$  as sums of three cubes.

The cubic residues with respect to module 9 are: 0, 1, 8, thus, it follows by inspection of cases that for every integer solution to (4) we obtain  $d \not\equiv 6 \pmod{9}$ . Any given solution can be written in one of the following forms for non-negative  $a, b, c$  :

$$|d| = a^3 + b^3 + c^3 \text{ or } |d| = a^3 + b^3 - c^3 \text{ or } |d| = a^3 - b^3 - c^3$$

Therefore, it suffices to consider non-negative solutions to the equations  $a^3 + b^3 = c^3 \pm d$  and  $a^3 + b^3 + c^3 = d$  (for  $d = 0$  it is a case of Fermats theorem that there are no integer solutions).

In practice, we need to search for primitive solutions, i.e.,  $GCD(a, b, c)$  is not divisible by  $d$ , since the non-primitive solutions for fixed  $n$  are routinely obtained from the primitive solutions for their divisors.

Considering  $d = m^3$ ,  $d = m^{12}$  and  $d = 2m^9$  type values of  $d$ , and multiplying both sides of (3) by  $m^9$ , after applying the change of variable  $tt/m$ , one can obtain the more general solution

$$(6t^3 + m^3)^3 - (6t^3 - m^3)^3 - (6t^2)^3 = 2m^9 \quad (5)$$

which is primitive for  $GCD(6t, m) = 1$ . If  $GCD(6t, m) > 1$ , then dividing (5) by  $(GCD(6t^3, m^3))^3$  gives a primitive solution. For  $l, k \geq 1$  the solutions are:

$$(3t^3 + 2^{3l-1}m^3)^3 - (3t^3 - 2^{3l-1}m^3)^3 - (2^l 3mt^2)^3 = 2^{9l-2}m^9 \quad (6)$$

$$(2t^3 + 3^{3k-1}m^3)^3 - (2t^3 - 3^{3k-1}m^3)^3 - (2^k 3mt^2)^3 = 23^{9k-3}m^9 \quad (7)$$

$$(t^3 + 2^{3l-1}3^{3k-1}m^3)^3 - (t^3 - 2^{3l-1}3^{3k-1}m^3)^3 - (2^l 3^k mt^2)^3 = 2^{9l-2}3^{9k-3}m^9 \quad (8)$$

Note, that they are primitive for  $GCD(3t, 2m) = 1$ ,  $GCD(2t, 3m) = 1$  and  $GCD(t, 6m) = 1$ , respectively.

The last equations give polynomial families for  $n = 2, 128, 1458, 65536, 93312, 3906250, 28697814$ , etc.

An analogous procedure may be applied for 3 to obtain families of solutions for numbers of the form  $m^{12}$ . Multiplying both sides by  $m^{12}$  and applying the transformation  $t/m$ , we will get

$$(9mt^3 + m^4)^3 - (9t^4 + 3mt)^3 + (9t^4)^3 = m^{12} \quad (9)$$

which is primitive for  $GCD(t, 3m) = 1$ . In particular, for  $3 - m$  and  $k1$ ,

$$(3^k mt^3 + 3^{4k-2} m^4)^3 - (t^4 + 3^{3k-1} lm^3 t)^3 + (t^4)^3 = 3^{12k-6} m^{12} \quad (10)$$

is primitive for  $GCD(t, 3m) = 1$ . Equations (9) and (10) give families of solutions for  $n = 1, 729, 4096, 2985984, 16777216, 244140625, 387420489, \text{etc.}$

## 2. New Method and Results

Considering the more generalized problem of the sum of three cubes, we are seeking  $P_1(y), P_2(y), P_3(y)$  with the highest possible degree polynomials and  $Q(y)$  with the lowest possible degree polynomial, such as

$$P_1^3(y) + P_2^3(y) + P_3^3(y) = Q(y)$$

Actually, the solution of this problem has a close relation with the above trivial problem, since the case of  $\deg Q(y) = 0$  coincides with our problem. Nevertheless, the estimation of possibility of minimization of  $\deg Q(y)$  itself is also an interesting problem.

**Result 1:** The first result of this paper is devoted to the case of degrees (8, 8, 6). We search the desired polynomials within the class of polynomials of the form

$$(ax^8 + bx^5 + cx^2)^3 - (ax^8 + b_1x^5 + c_1x^2)^3 - (Ax^6 + Bx^3 + C)^3 \quad (11)$$

First of all, we expand it

$$\begin{aligned} & -C^3 - 3BC^2x^3 + (c^3 - 3B^2C - 3AC^2 - c_1^3)x^6 + (-B^3 + 3bc^2 - 6ABC - 3b_1c_1^2)x^9 \\ & + (-3AB^2 + 3b^2c + 3ac^2 - 3A^2C - 3b_1^2c_1 - 3ac_1^2)x^{12} + (b^3 - 3A^2B - b_1^3 + 6abc - 6ab_1c_1)x^{15} \\ & + (-A^3 + 3ab^2 - 3ab_1^2 + 3a^2c - 3a^2c_1)x^{18} + (3a^2b - 3a^2b_1)x^{21} \end{aligned}$$

Further, we take  $b_1 = b, c_1 = \frac{-A^3+3a^2c}{3a^2}, B = \frac{2Ab}{3a}, C = \frac{-A^4-aAb^2+6a^2Ac}{9a^3}$  and get the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{A^{12}}{729a^9} + \frac{A^9b^2}{243a^8} + \frac{A^6b^4}{243a^7} + \frac{A^3b^6}{729a^6} - \frac{2A^9c}{81a^7} - \frac{4A^6b^2c}{81a^6} - \frac{2A^3b^4c}{81a^5} + \frac{4A^6c^2}{27a^5} + \frac{4A^3b^2c^2}{27a^4} - \frac{8A^3c^3}{27a^3} + \\ & + \left( -\frac{2A^9b}{81a^7} - \frac{4A^6b^3}{81a^6} - \frac{2A^3b^5}{81a^5} + \frac{8A^6bc}{27a^5} + \frac{8A^3b^3c}{27a^4} - \frac{8A^3bc^2}{9a^3} \right) x^3 + \\ & + \left( \frac{2A^6b^2}{27a^5} + \frac{A^3b^4}{9a^4} + \frac{A^6c}{9a^4} - \frac{4A^3b^2c}{9a^3} - \frac{A^3c^2}{3a^2} \right) x^6 + \left( \frac{A^6b}{9a^4} + \frac{4A^3b^3}{27a^3} - \frac{2A^3bc}{3a^2} \right) x^9 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, further considerations are devoted to finding the cases, which are interesting for us:

**Case 1:**  $b = 0$ . The result has the form

$$\frac{A^{12}}{729a^9} - \frac{2A^9c}{81a^7} + \frac{4A^6c^2}{27a^5} - \frac{8A^3c^3}{27a^3} + \left( \frac{A^6c}{9a^4} - \frac{A^3c^2}{3a^2} \right) x^6$$

**Subcase 1.1:**  $c = 0$ . The result gets the form  $\frac{A^{12}}{729a^9}$ , which is a cube of an integer, thus, it is primitive and not interesting.

**Subcase 1.2:**  $c = \frac{A^3}{3a^2}$ , the result is  $-\frac{A^{12}}{729a^9}$ , again primitive.

**Case 2:**  $c = \frac{3A^3+4ab^2}{18a^2}$ . The result:

$$-\frac{A^3b^6}{19683a^6} - \frac{2A^3b^5x^3}{729a^5} + \left( \frac{A^9}{108a^6} - \frac{A^3b^4}{243a^4} \right) x^6$$

Factorizing the coefficient of the last term, one can obtain:

$$-\frac{A^3(-3A^3+2ab^2)(3A^3+2ab^2)}{972a^6}$$

Substituting  $a = \frac{3A^3}{2b^2}$ . Then the result will get the form:

$$-\frac{64b^{18}}{14348907A^6} - \frac{64b^{15}x^3}{177147A^3}$$

Finally, taking  $x = \frac{2yb}{A}$  we obtain the result, which is interesting for us:  $-1 - 648y^3$ .

**Practical considerations:** Now we investigate this result for applications to solve the process of the equation (4). Since for  $\max[abs[a, b, c]] \leq 10^{14}$  there are well-known tables in [4], thus, we seek solutions of (4) satisfying the condition  $\max[abs[a, b, c]] \geq 10^{15}$  with possible small values of  $abs[d]$  (desirably less than 1000).

Thus, the result is:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( 54y^2 (1 + 36y^3 + 432y^6) \right)^3 - \left( 18y^2 (1 + 108y^3 + 1296y^6) \right)^3 - \left( 1 + 216y^3 + 3888y^6 \right)^3 \\ & = -1 - 648y^3 \end{aligned}$$

Sure, calculations were expected to be significantly hard, for which we will use Mathematica 11.0 code:

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G8[y_]:=1/GCD[(54y^2(1+36y^3+432y^6)),(18y^2(1+108y^3+1296y^6)),
(1+216y^3+3888y^6)]
F8[y_]:=G8[y]{(54y^2(1+36y^3+432y^6)),(18y^2(1+108y^3+1296y^6)),(1+216y^3+3888y^6)}
V8[y_]:=G8[y]^3(-1-648y^3)

For[i=-50,i<=50,i++
If[Abs[V8[i]]<1000000,If[Max[Abs[F8[i]]]>1000000000000,Print[{i,F8[i],V8[i]}]]]]]

```

The result is:

$$\{-11, \{5000250899358, 5000250895002, 6887541673\}, 862487\}$$

$\{-10, \{2332605605400, 2332605601800, 3887784001\}, 647999\}$   
 $\{-9, \{1004079120606, 1004079117690, 2066085145\}, 472391\}$   
 $\{9, \{1004308703118, 1004308700202, 2066400073\}, -472393\}$   
 $\{10, \{2332994405400, 2332994401800, 3888216001\}, -648001\}$   
 $\{11, \{5000877065646, 5000877061290, 6888116665\}, -862489\}$

This means that, for instance:

$$1004079120606^3 - 1004079117690^3 - 2066085145^3 = 472391.$$

**Result 2:** More enhanced result is obtained for the case (9, 9, 7):

$$(3 + 360y^3 + 10368y^6 + 93312y^9)^3 - (-1 + 216y^3 + 10368y^6 + 93312y^9)^3 - (4y(5 + 324y^3 + 3888y^6))^3 = 28 + 1072y^3$$

$$G_9[y_-] := 1/GCD[(3 + 360y^3 + 10368y^6 + 93312y^9), (-1 + 216y^3 + 10368y^6 + 93312y^9), (4y(5 + 324y^3 + 3888y^6))]$$

$$F_9[y_-] := G_9[y] * \{(3(1 + 120y^3 + 3456y^6 + 31104y^9)), ((-1 + 216y^3 + 10368y^6 + 93312y^9)), (4y(5 + 324y^3 + 3888y^6))\}$$

$$V_9[y_-] := G_9[y]^3 * (28 + 1072y^3)$$

$$For[i = -50, i \leq 50, i ++,$$

$$If[Abs[V_9[i]] < 10000000, If[Max[Abs[F_9[i]]] > 1000000000000000, Print[\{i, F_9[i], V_9[i]\}]]]$$

The result is:

$\{-21, \{-74114970486757701, -74114970485424121, -28010276942676\}, -9927764\}$   
 $\{-20, \{-47775080450879997, -47775080449728001, -19906352640400\}, -8575972\}$   
 $\{-19, \{-30110146685929077, -30110146684941385, -13901324389292\}, -7352820\}$   
 $\{-18, \{-18508949466179901, -18508949465340097, -9521109889128\}, -6251876\}$   
 $\{-17, \{-11065421675141349, -11065421674433881, -6381478799620\}, -5266708\}$   
 $\{-16, \{-6412177868488701, -6412177867898881, -4174623277376\}, -4390884\}$   
 $\{-15, \{-3587108653214997, -3587108652729001, -2657139390300\}, -3617972\}$   
 $\{-14, \{-1927845532267197, -1927845531872065, -1639341027352\}, -2941540\}$   
 $\{14, \{1928001664725699, 1928001664330559, 1639440601624\}, 2941596\}$   
 $\{15, \{3587344849215003, 3587344848728999, 2657270610300\}, 3618028\}$   
 $\{16, \{6412525760839683, 6412525760249855, 4174793146688\}, 4390940\}$   
 $\{17, \{11065922191772139, 11065922191064663, 6381695286052\}, 5266764\}$   
 $\{18, \{18509654743656771, 18509654742816959, 9521381986920\}, 6251932\}$   
 $\{19, \{30111122229317499, 30111122228329799, 13901662181324\}, 7352876\}$

{20, {47776407554880003, 47776407553727999, 19906767360400}, 8576028}  
 {21, {74116748933042763, 74116748931709175, 28010781037428}, 9927820}

Here the most interesting triplet is:

$$1928001664725699^3 - 1928001664330559^3 - 1639440601624^3 = 2941596$$

**Result 3:** Now, considering the case when (25, 25, 18), using the same approach we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{1}{18}y(63 + 36y^3 + 280y^6 + 672y^{12} + 768y^{18} + 512y^{24}) \right)^3 \\ & - \left( \frac{1}{18}y(63 - 36y^3 + 280y^6 + 672y^{12} + 768y^{18} + 512y^{24}) \right)^3 - \left( \frac{2}{3}(3 + 20y^6 + 32y^{12} + 32y^{18}) \right)^3 \\ & = -8 - 13y^6 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, one uses the following code:

$$\begin{aligned} G_{25}[y_-] &:= 1/GCD\left[\left(\frac{1}{18}y(63 + 36y^3 + 280y^6 + 672y^{12} + 768y^{18} + 512y^{24})\right), \right. \\ & \left. \left(\frac{1}{18}y(63 - 36y^3 + 280y^6 + 672y^{12} + 768y^{18} + 512y^{24})\right), \left(\frac{2}{3}(3 + 20y^6 + 32y^{12} + 32y^{18})\right)\right] \\ F_{25}[y_-] &:= G_{25}[y] * \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{18}y(63 + 36y^3 + 280y^6 + 672y^{12} + 768y^{18} + 512y^{24})\right), \right. \\ & \left. \left(\frac{1}{18}y(63 - 36y^3 + 280y^6 + 672y^{12} + 768y^{18} + 512y^{24})\right), \left(\frac{2}{3}(3 + 20y^6 + 32y^{12} + 32y^{18})\right) \right\} \\ V_{25}[y_-] &:= G_{25}[y]^3 * (-8 - 13y^6) \\ \text{For}[i = -50, i \leq 13, i + +, \\ \text{If}[Abs[V_{25}[i]] < 1000000000, \quad \text{If}[Max[Abs[F_{25}[i]]] > 10000000000000000000, \\ \text{Print}[\{i, F_{25}[i], V_{25}[i]\}]]]] \end{aligned}$$

The result is:

{-28, {-21474261883010575951072188890073079601,  
 -21474261883010575951072188890074308913, 1193639792964388519010222081}, -783071745}  
 {-24, {-455248482071553635586938761943642154, -455248482071553635586938761944305706,  
 74444235905117108623638529}, -310542337}  
 {-20, {-4772185996292552640284454399840035, -4772185996292552640284454400160035,  
 2796202710357333760000001}, -104000001}  
 {-18, {-685188558884868266867584546812447, -685188558884868266867584547232351,  
 839390063618729392197122}, -442158920}  
 {-16, {-18028810148480439485764921655324, -18028810148480439485764921786396,  
 50371912153009412374529}, -27262977}  
 {-14, {-1279966002355352271319733014033, -1279966002355352271319733167697,

$$\begin{aligned}
& 9106750099297148243458\}, -97883976\} \\
\{-13, \{-401431450040755185937727808239, -401431450040755185937728036727, \\
& 4798098357335276047604\}, -501988200\} \\
\{-12, \{-13567468738287354512175542037, -13567468738287354512175583509, \\
& 283982316767867289601\}, -4852225\} \\
\{-11, \{-6163749044483681037311693681, -6163749044483681037311810809, \\
& 237223272615326524916\}, -184242408\} \\
\{-10, \{-284444871111484444599980035, -284444871111484444600020035, \\
& 21333354666680000002\}, -13000008\} \\
\{-9, \{-40840534128228425942658291, -40840534128228425942710779, \\
& 6404049823013024116\}, -55269928\} \\
\{-8, \{-537303438740776265183246, -537303438740776265191438, \\
& 192154317110640641\}, -425985\} \\
\{-7, \{-76292876409395782365173, -76292876409395782384381, \\
& 69479570742237044\}, -12235560\} \\
\{-6, \{-808709748243399993333, -808709748243399998517, \\
& 2166658847571458\}, -606536\} \\
\{6, \{808709748243399998517, 808709748243399993333, \\
& 2166658847571458\}, -606536\} \\
\{7, \{76292876409395782384381, 76292876409395782365173, \\
& 69479570742237044\}, -12235560\} \\
\{8, \{537303438740776265191438, 537303438740776265183246, \\
& 192154317110640641\}, -425985\} \\
\{9, \{40840534128228425942710779, 40840534128228425942658291, \\
& 6404049823013024116\}, -55269928\} \\
\{10, \{284444871111484444600020035, 284444871111484444599980035, \\
& 21333354666680000002\}, -13000008\} \\
\{11, \{6163749044483681037311810809, 6163749044483681037311693681, \\
& 237223272615326524916\}, -184242408\} \\
\{12, \{13567468738287354512175583509, 13567468738287354512175542037, \\
& 283982316767867289601\}, -4852225\} \\
\{13, \{401431450040755185937728036727, 401431450040755185937727808239, \\
& 4798098357335276047604\}, -501988200\}
\end{aligned}$$

Here the most interesting triple is:

$$\begin{aligned}
& (-21474261883010575951072188890073079601)^3 + (21474261883010575951072188890074308913)^3 \\
& - (1193639792964388519010222081)^3 = -783071745
\end{aligned}$$



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$a^3 + b^3 + c^3 = d$  տեսքի դիոֆանտյան հավասարման լուծման նոր մեթոդ

Ա. Ավագյան

### Անփոփում

Հոդվածը նվիրված է հայտնի  $a^3 + b^3 + c^3 = d$  տեսքի դիոֆանտյան հավասարումների որոշ մասնավոր դեպքերի լուծմանը: Կիրառելով “Mathematica 11” փաթեթը, հաջողվել է գտնել նշված խնդրի լուծման արդյունավետ ալգորիթմ, որն այս խնդրի լուծման այլ ալգորիթմների համեմատ ավելի պարզ է և օգտագործում է զգալիորեն փոքր քանակությամբ գործողություններ:

## Новый метод решения Диофантового уравнения $a^3 + b^3 + c^3 = d$

А. Авагян

### Аннотация

Статья посвящена решению известного диофантового уравнения вида  $a^3 + b^3 + c^3 = d$  в некоторых частных случаях. Используя пакет “Mathematica 11” удалось найти эффективный алгоритм нахождения решений этой задачи, который по сравнению с другими известными алгоритмами, дающими решения этой задачи, является более простым и использует значительно меньшее количество операций.