

Primitive Pythagorean Triples

D Joyce, Clark University

March 2006, March 2010

This is a table of primitive Pythagorean triples. A Pythagorean triple (x, y, z) is a triple of positive integers such that $x^2 + y^2 = z^2$. It is primitive if the greatest common divisor of x , y , and z is 1. For any primitive Pythagorean triple, either x or y is even, but not both, so we may always choose x to be odd. When that is done, then every primitive Pythagorean triple (x, y, z) is of the form

$$(x, y, z) = \left(ab, \frac{a^2 - b^2}{2}, \frac{a^2 + b^2}{2} \right)$$

where the parameters a and b are relatively prime odd numbers, $1 \leq b < a$.

This parameterization is the one given by Euclid in Proposition 29 of Book X of his *Elements*. See

<http://aleph0.clarku.edu/~djoyce/java/elements/bookX/prop29.html>

Here's a short explanation why these are all the primitive Pythagorean triples. First, we can move the y^2 to the other side of the equation $x^2 + y^2 = z^2$ and rewrite it as $x^2 = z^2 - y^2$ so that we can factor the the new right side as $(z + y)(z - y)$. Next, we can divide by x^2 . Then we have $1 = \left(\frac{z}{x} + \frac{y}{x}\right) \left(\frac{z}{x} - \frac{y}{x}\right)$. Thus, the two terms on the right are reciprocals of each other. Let the first one be a/b in lowest terms, so the second is b/a . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{z}{x} + \frac{y}{x} &= \frac{a}{b} \\ \frac{z}{x} - \frac{y}{x} &= \frac{b}{a} \end{aligned}$$

Solving those two equations for z/x and y/x we find

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{z}{x} &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{a}{b} + \frac{b}{a} \right) = \frac{a^2 + b^2}{2ab} \\ \frac{y}{x} &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{a}{b} - \frac{b}{a} \right) = \frac{a^2 - b^2}{2ab} \end{aligned}$$

Note that $b < a$. Since x , y , and z have no common factor, x is odd, and a and b are relatively prime, it follows that $x = ab$, both a and b are odd, $y = (a^2 - b^2)/2$, and $z = (a^2 + b^2)/2$.

The table shows all primitive Pythagorean triples with $1 \leq b < a \leq 81$. Dots appear in place of the nonprimitive Pythagorean triples.

In the first box $a = 3$ and $b = 1$. In the second box $a = 5$ and $b = 1, 3$. In the third $a = 7$ and $b = 1, 3, 5$. Etc.

3	4	5	5	12	13	7	24	25	9	40	41	11	60	61
			15	8	17	21	20	29	.	.	.	33	56	65
						35	12	37	45	28	53	55	48	73
									63	16	65	77	36	85
												99	20	101
13	84	85	15	112	113	17	144	145	19	180	181	21	220	221
39	80	89	.	.	.	51	140	149	57	176	185	.	.	.
65	72	97	.	.	.	85	132	157	95	168	193	105	208	233
91	60	109	105	88	137	119	120	169	133	156	205	.	.	.
117	44	125	.	.	.	153	104	185	171	140	221	.	.	.
143	24	145	165	52	173	187	84	205	209	120	241	231	160	281
			195	28	197	221	60	229	247	96	265	273	136	305
						255	32	257	285	68	293	.	.	.
									323	36	325	357	76	365
												399	40	401
23	264	265	25	312	313	27	364	365	29	420	421	31	480	481
69	260	269	75	308	317	.	.	.	87	416	425	93	476	485
115	252	277	.	.	.	135	352	377	145	408	433	155	468	493
161	240	289	175	288	337	189	340	389	203	396	445	217	456	505
207	224	305	225	272	353	.	.	.	261	380	461	279	440	521
253	204	325	275	252	373	297	304	425	319	360	481	341	420	541
299	180	349	325	228	397	351	280	449	377	336	505	403	396	565
345	152	377	.	.	.	.	.	.	435	308	533	465	368	593
391	120	409	425	168	457	459	220	509	493	276	565	527	336	625
437	84	445	475	132	493	513	184	545	551	240	601	589	300	661
483	44	485	525	92	533	.	.	.	609	200	641	651	260	701
			575	48	577	621	100	629	667	156	685	713	216	745
						675	52	677	725	108	733	775	168	793
									783	56	785	837	116	845
												899	60	901

33	544	545	35	612	613	37	684	685	39	760	761	41	840	841
.	.	.	105	608	617	111	680	689	.	.	.	123	836	845
165	532	557	.	.	.	185	672	697	195	748	773	205	828	853
231	520	569	.	.	.	259	660	709	273	736	785	287	816	865
.	.	.	315	572	653	333	644	725	.	.	.	369	800	881
.	.	.	385	552	673	407	624	745	429	700	821	451	780	901
429	460	629	455	528	697	481	600	769	.	.	.	533	756	925
.	.	.	.	.	.	555	572	797	.	.	.	615	728	953
561	400	689	595	468	757	629	540	829	663	616	905	697	696	985
627	364	725	665	432	793	703	504	865	741	580	941	779	660	1021
.	.	.	.	.	.	777	464	905	.	.	.	861	620	1061
759	280	809	805	348	877	851	420	949	897	496	1025	943	576	1105
825	232	857	.	.	.	925	372	997	975	448	1073	1025	528	1153
.	.	.	945	248	977	999	320	1049	.	.	.	1107	476	1205
957	124	965	1015	192	1033	1073	264	1105	1131	340	1181	1189	420	1261
1023	64	1025	1085	132	1093	1147	204	1165	1209	280	1241	1271	360	1321
.	.	.	1155	68	1157	1221	140	1229	.	.	.	1353	296	1385
.	.	.	.	.	.	1295	72	1297	1365	148	1373	1435	228	1453
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1443	76	1445	1517	156	1525
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1599	80	1601
43	924	925	45	1012	1013	47	1104	1105	49	1200	1201	51	1300	1301
129	920	929	.	.	.	141	1100	1109	147	1196	1205	.	.	.
215	912	937	.	.	.	235	1092	1117	245	1188	1213	255	1288	1313
301	900	949	315	988	1037	329	1080	1129	.	.	.	357	1276	1325
387	884	965	.	.	.	423	1064	1145	441	1160	1241	.	.	.
473	864	985	495	952	1073	517	1044	1165	539	1140	1261	561	1240	1361
559	840	1009	585	928	1097	611	1020	1189	637	1116	1285	663	1216	1385
645	812	1037	.	.	.	705	992	1217	735	1088	1313	.	.	.
731	780	1069	765	868	1157	799	960	1249	833	1056	1345	.	.	.
817	744	1105	855	832	1193	893	924	1285	931	1020	1381	969	1120	1481
903	704	1145	.	.	.	987	884	1325	.	.	.	.	.	.
989	660	1189	1035	748	1277	1081	840	1369	1127	936	1465	1173	1036	1565
1075	612	1237	.	.	.	1175	792	1417	1225	888	1513	1275	988	1613
1161	560	1289	.	.	.	1269	740	1469	1323	836	1565	.	.	.
1247	504	1345	1305	592	1433	1363	684	1525	1421	780	1621	1479	880	1721
1333	444	1405	1395	532	1493	1457	624	1585	1519	720	1681	1581	820	1781
1419	380	1469	.	.	.	1551	560	1649	1617	656	1745	.	.	.
1505	312	1537	.	.	.	1645	492	1717	.	.	.	1785	688	1913
1591	240	1609	1665	328	1697	1739	420	1789	1813	516	1885	1887	616	1985
1677	164	1685	.	.	.	1833	344	1865	1911	440	1961	.	.	.
1763	84	1765	1845	172	1853	1927	264	1945	2009	360	2041	2091	460	2141
.	.	.	1935	88	1937	2021	180	2029	2107	276	2125	2193	376	2225
.	.	.	.	.	.	2115	92	2117	2205	188	2213	.	.	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2303	96	2305	2397	196	2405
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2499	100	2501

53	1404	1405	55	1512	1513	57	1624	1625	59	1740	1741	61	1860	1861
159	1400	1409	165	1508	1517	.	.	.	177	1736	1745	183	1856	1865
265	1392	1417	.	.	.	285	1612	1637	295	1728	1753	305	1848	1873
371	1380	1429	385	1488	1537	399	1600	1649	413	1716	1765	427	1836	1885
477	1364	1445	495	1472	1553	.	.	.	531	1700	1781	549	1820	1901
583	1344	1465	.	.	.	627	1564	1685	649	1680	1801	671	1800	1921
689	1320	1489	715	1428	1597	741	1540	1709	767	1656	1825	793	1776	1945
795	1292	1517	.	.	.	.	.	.	885	1628	1853	915	1748	1973
901	1260	1549	935	1368	1657	969	1480	1769	1003	1596	1885	1037	1716	2005
1007	1224	1585	1045	1332	1693	.	.	.	1121	1560	1921	1159	1680	2041
1113	1184	1625	1155	1292	1733	.	.	.	1239	1520	1961	1281	1640	2081
1219	1140	1669	1265	1248	1777	1311	1360	1889	1357	1476	2005	1403	1596	2125
1325	1092	1717	.	.	.	1425	1312	1937	1475	1428	2053	1525	1548	2173
1431	1040	1769	1485	1148	1877	.	.	.	1593	1376	2105	1647	1496	2225
1537	984	1825	1595	1092	1933	1653	1204	2045	1711	1320	2161	1769	1440	2281
1643	924	1885	1705	1032	1993	1767	1144	2105	1829	1260	2221	1891	1380	2341
1749	860	1949	.	.	.	.	.	.	1947	1196	2285	2013	1316	2405
1855	792	2017	.	.	.	1995	1012	2237	2065	1128	2353	2135	1248	2473
1961	720	2089	2035	828	2197	2109	940	2309	2183	1056	2425	2257	1176	2545
2067	644	2165	2145	752	2273	.	.	.	2301	980	2501	2379	1100	2621
2173	564	2245	2255	672	2353	2337	784	2465	2419	900	2581	2501	1020	2701
2279	480	2329	2365	588	2437	2451	700	2549	2537	816	2665	2623	936	2785
2385	392	2417	.	.	.	.	.	.	2655	728	2753	2745	848	2873
2491	300	2509	2585	408	2617	2679	520	2729	2773	636	2845	2867	756	2965
2597	204	2605	2695	312	2713	2793	424	2825	2891	540	2941	2989	660	3061
2703	104	2705	2805	212	2813	.	.	.	3009	440	3041	3111	560	3161
			2915	108	2917	3021	220	3029	3127	336	3145	3233	456	3265
						3135	112	3137	3245	228	3253	3355	348	3373
									3363	116	3365	3477	236	3485
												3599	120	3601

63	1984	1985	65	2112	2113	67	2244	2245	69	2380	2381	71	2520	2521
.	.	.	195	2108	2117	201	2240	2249	.	.	.	213	2516	2525
315	1972	1997	.	.	.	335	2232	2257	345	2368	2393	355	2508	2533
.	.	.	455	2088	2137	469	2220	2269	483	2356	2405	497	2496	2545
.	.	.	585	2072	2153	603	2204	2285	.	.	.	639	2480	2561
693	1924	2045	715	2052	2173	737	2184	2305	759	2320	2441	781	2460	2581
819	1900	2069	.	.	.	871	2160	2329	897	2296	2465	923	2436	2605
.	.	.	.	.	.	1005	2132	2357	.	.	.	1065	2408	2633
1071	1840	2129	1105	1968	2257	1139	2100	2389	1173	2236	2525	1207	2376	2665
1197	1804	2165	1235	1932	2293	1273	2064	2425	1311	2200	2561	1349	2340	2701
.	.	.	1365	1892	2333	1407	2024	2465	.	.	.	1491	2300	2741
1449	1720	2249	1495	1848	2377	1541	1980	2509	.	.	.	1633	2256	2785
1575	1672	2297	.	.	.	1675	1932	2557	1725	2068	2693	1775	2208	2833
.	.	.	1755	1748	2477	1809	1880	2609	.	.	.	1917	2156	2885
1827	1564	2405	1885	1692	2533	1943	1824	2665	2001	1960	2801	2059	2100	2941
1953	1504	2465	2015	1632	2593	2077	1764	2725	2139	1900	2861	2201	2040	3001
.	.	.	2145	1568	2657	2211	1700	2789	.	.	.	2343	1976	3065
.	.	.	.	.	.	2345	1632	2857	2415	1768	2993	2485	1908	3133
2331	1300	2669	2405	1428	2797	2479	1560	2929	2553	1696	3065	2627	1836	3205
.	.	.	.	.	.	2613	1484	3005	.	.	.	2769	1760	3281
2583	1144	2825	2665	1272	2953	2747	1404	3085	2829	1540	3221	2911	1680	3361
2709	1060	2909	2795	1188	3037	2881	1320	3169	2967	1456	3305	3053	1596	3445
.	.	.	.	.	.	3015	1232	3257	.	.	.	3195	1508	3533
2961	880	3089	3055	1008	3217	3149	1140	3349	3243	1276	3485	3337	1416	3625
.	.	.	3185	912	3313	3283	1044	3445	3381	1180	3581	3479	1320	3721
.	.	.	3315	812	3413	3417	944	3545	.	.	.	3621	1220	3821
3339	580	3389	3445	708	3517	3551	840	3649	3657	976	3785	3763	1116	3925
3465	472	3497	.	.	.	3685	732	3757	3795	868	3893	3905	1008	4033
.	.	.	3705	488	3737	3819	620	3869	.	.	.	4047	896	4145
3717	244	3725	3835	372	3853	3953	504	3985	4071	640	4121	4189	780	4261
3843	124	3845	3965	252	3973	4087	384	4105	4209	520	4241	4331	660	4381
.	.	.	4095	128	4097	4221	260	4229	.	.	.	4473	536	4505
.	.	.	.	.	.	4355	132	4357	4485	268	4493	4615	408	4633
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4623	136	4625	4757	276	4765
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4899	140	4901

73	2664	2665	75	2812	2813	77	2964	2965	79	3120	3121	81	3280	3281
219	2660	2669	.	.	.	231	2960	2969	237	3116	3125	.	.	.
365	2652	2677	.	.	.	385	2952	2977	395	3108	3133	405	3268	3293
511	2640	2689	525	2788	2837	.	.	.	553	3096	3145	567	3256	3305
657	2624	2705	.	.	.	693	2924	3005	711	3080	3161	.	.	.
803	2604	2725	825	2752	2873	.	.	.	869	3060	3181	891	3220	3341
949	2580	2749	975	2728	2897	1001	2880	3049	1027	3036	3205	1053	3196	3365
1095	2552	2777	.	.	.	1155	2852	3077	1185	3008	3233	.	.	.
1241	2520	2809	1275	2668	2957	1309	2820	3109	1343	2976	3265	1377	3136	3425
1387	2484	2845	1425	2632	2993	1463	2784	3145	1501	2940	3301	1539	3100	3461
1533	2444	2885	.	.	.	.	.	.	1659	2900	3341	.	.	.
1679	2400	2929	1725	2548	3077	1771	2700	3229	1817	2856	3385	1863	3016	3545
1825	2352	2977	.	.	.	1925	2652	3277	1975	2808	3433	2025	2968	3593
1971	2300	3029	.	.	.	2079	2600	3329	2133	2756	3485	.	.	.
2117	2244	3085	2175	2392	3233	2233	2544	3385	2291	2700	3541	2349	2860	3701
2263	2184	3145	2325	2332	3293	2387	2484	3445	2449	2640	3601	2511	2800	3761
2409	2120	3209	.	.	.	.	.	.	2607	2576	3665	.	.	.
2555	2052	3277	.	.	.	.	.	.	2765	2508	3733	2835	2668	3893
2701	1980	3349	2775	2128	3497	2849	2280	3649	2923	2436	3805	2997	2596	3965
2847	1904	3425	.	.	.	3003	2204	3725	3081	2360	3881	.	.	.
2993	1824	3505	3075	1972	3653	3157	2124	3805	3239	2280	3961	3321	2440	4121
3139	1740	3589	3225	1888	3737	3311	2040	3889	3397	2196	4045	3483	2356	4205
3285	1652	3677	.	.	.	3465	1952	3977	3555	2108	4133	.	.	.
3431	1560	3769	3525	1708	3917	3619	1860	4069	3713	2016	4225	3807	2176	4385
3577	1464	3865	3675	1612	4013	.	.	.	3871	1920	4321	3969	2080	4481
3723	1364	3965	.	.	.	3927	1664	4265	4029	1820	4421	.	.	.
3869	1260	4069	3975	1408	4217	4081	1560	4369	4187	1716	4525	4293	1876	4685
4015	1152	4177	.	.	.	.	.	.	4345	1608	4633	4455	1768	4793
4161	1040	4289	.	.	.	4389	1340	4589	4503	1496	4745	.	.	.
4307	924	4405	4425	1072	4553	4543	1224	4705	4661	1380	4861	4779	1540	5021
4453	804	4525	4575	952	4673	4697	1104	4825	4819	1260	4981	4941	1420	5141
4599	680	4649	.	.	.	.	.	.	4977	1136	5105	.	.	.
4745	552	4777	.	.	.	5005	852	5077	5135	1008	5233	5265	1168	5393
4891	420	4909	5025	568	5057	5159	720	5209	5293	876	5365	5427	1036	5525
5037	284	5045	.	.	.	5313	584	5345	5451	740	5501	.	.	.
5183	144	5185	5325	292	5333	5467	444	5485	5609	600	5641	5751	760	5801
			5475	148	5477	5621	300	5629	5767	456	5785	5913	616	5945
						5775	152	5777	5925	308	5933	.	.	.
									6083	156	6085	6237	316	6245
												6399	160	6401