

Primitive Pythagorean Triples

A Pythagorean triple is a triple (x,y,z) of positive integers such that $x^2 + y^2 = z^2$.

A triple is said to be primitive if hcf(x,y)=1.

The two most famous examples of Primitive Pythagorean Triples are (3,4,5) and (5,12,13).

There are many examples of Primitive Pythagorean Triples. The Babylonians were aware of many some 3500 years ago.

Primitive Pythagorean Triples

Pythagoras was credited with discovering the following set of triples.

$$x = 2k+1$$
, $y = 2k^2 + 2k$, $z = 2k^2 + 2k + 1$

In this example, k can take any positive integer greater than or equal to 1. ie k≥1.

 $(2mn, m^2 - n^2, m^2 + n^2)$