

# POW 2018-15

2016\_\_\_\_ Chae Jiseok

September 17, 2018

We will call that the solution is trivial for the solution  $x_1 = x_2 = \cdots = x_n = 0$ .

The Diophantine equation of the case when  $n = 1$  has only a trivial solution  $x_1 = 0$  so we reject this case.

If  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  is a solution to the Diophantine equation then for any nonzero integer  $q$ , letting  $p = \prod_{i=1}^n b_i$  we can see, by substituting, that  $(x_1 q^{p/b_1}, x_2 q^{p/b_2}, \dots, x_n q^{p/b_n})$  is also a solution. Therefore showing that the Diophantine equation has a nontrivial solution is sufficient to show that there are infinitely many solutions.

For the case  $n = 2$  for convenience of notation we will solve the Diophantine equation  $ax^k + by^m = 0$  where  $k, m$  are positive integers with  $(k, m) = 1$ , and  $a, b$  are nonzero integers. Not both  $k$  and  $m$  can be even, so we may assume  $m$  odd. By multiplying  $\text{sgn}(a)$  on both sides we may also assume that  $a$  is positive. Furthermore, since  $m$  is odd, by substituting  $-y$  instead of  $y$  if necessary, we may solve the equation  $ax^k = by^m$  assuming that  $b$  is also positive. We claim that there exists a nontrivial solution of the form  $(x, y) = (a^\alpha b^\beta, a^\gamma b^\delta)$  where  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$  are all positive integers. Substituting such form gives us  $a^{k\alpha+1} b^{k\beta} = a^{m\gamma} b^{m\delta+1}$ . Therefore if  $k\alpha + 1 = m\gamma$  and  $k\beta = m\delta + 1$  then we are done. By Bézout's Identity we know that there exists an integer solution  $\alpha = \alpha', \beta = \beta', \gamma = \gamma', \delta = \delta'$  for  $k\alpha + 1 = m\gamma$  and  $k\beta = m\delta + 1$ . Then for any integers  $s$  and  $t$  we can see that  $\alpha = \alpha' + ms, \beta = \beta' + mt, \gamma = \gamma' + ks, \delta = \delta' + kt$  is also a solution. Therefore taking  $s$  and  $t$  sufficiently large we may assume  $\alpha', \beta', \gamma', \delta'$  all positive. Then as we observed,  $(x, y) = (a^{\alpha'} b^{\beta'}, a^{\gamma'} b^{\delta'})$  becomes a nontrivial integer solution of the Diophantine equation  $ax^k = by^m$ .

Now consider the case  $n > 2$ . By letting  $x_2 = x_3 = \cdots = x_{n-1} = 0$  the Diophantine equation reduces to the case when  $n = 2$ . Since there exists a nontrivial integer solution for the reduced equation, we conclude that there also exists a nontrivial integer solution for the Diophantine equation  $a_1 x_1^{b_1} + a_2 x_2^{b_2} + \cdots + a_n x_n^{b_n} = 0$ .

Therefore the given Diophantine equation  $a_1 x_1^{b_1} + a_2 x_2^{b_2} + \cdots + a_n x_n^{b_n} = 0$  has a nontrivial solution whenever  $n > 1$ . As discussed at the beginning, we conclude that the given Diophantine has infinitely many integer solutions.