

Summary

This paper is correct in substance, reasonably well written, and is appropriate for publication in the Rose-Hulman Journal.

Math Corrections**p.1**

P(-2) The solution to the 3×3 problem given is incorrect, and is, in fact, rational: $s = \frac{1}{2}$. Further, in any problem, only one square root should be used to obtain a viable solution. (Any solution must be positive and less than half the smallest dimension.) Choose different dimensions for the rectangle and correct the solution.

p.2

P(2) "We know 4 is a perfect square ..." should be 16.

p.3

Proof of Lemma 2. In the expression $\sqrt{-48 + \frac{4p}{q}}$, it should be $\frac{4p^2}{q^2}$. This occurs in two places on p.3 and one on p.4.

p.4

1.2 Correct the expression $\sqrt{-48 + \frac{4p}{q}}$ as above.

Theorem 2.1 Proof, P(3) Why is $k^2 + k + 1$ not a perfect square? It's not because it doesn't factor over the integers, as $k^2 + k + 47$ doesn't factor, but when $k = 1$ it does give a perfect square.

One argument is that $k^2 < k^2 + k + 1 < (k + 1)^2$.

The same argument works with the next case also, as $4k^2 + 4k + 4 = 2^2(k^2 + k + 1)$. To be a perfect square, $k^2 + k + 1$ must be a perfect square.

P(-3) ($a = 2$) "Substituting $a = 1$ " should be "Substituting $a = 2$."

p.5

Table of values for a, b, m

In general, give only the positive values of m .

When $a = 3$ and $b = 2$, the value of m should be $\frac{6 - \sqrt{28}}{2}$.

Style Suggestions**p.1**

Abstract. Spell out the word "two."

Wording: "... proving *that* the smallest possible distinct dimensions that *produce* a rational ..."
(This occurs twice.)

P(-2) "In order to solve this ..." Add the word "problem" and a comma: "In order to solve this *problem*, ..."

Add a comma: "... not very satisfying to the student, ..."

l(-1) "student" should be singular.

p.2

P(2) Add a comma: "We know 4 is a perfect square, ..." (Also see math correction above.)

Move the comma: "... with the expression $(a + b)^2 - 3ab$, ..."

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Change "use" to "us."

There are only two open questions from reference [2] that are addressed. Correct the word "three" just before Open Question 1.

The third conjecture does not belong to [2], so change the wording: "We end with a conjecture ..."

p.3

P(2) Change "divides into 4" to "is a factor of 4."

Just before Lemma 2.2, eliminate the word "I." Change the wording, perhaps, "A search for examples suggested that a cannot be 4; indeed, we have the following result."

Lemma 2.2, proof. Put the reference number [3] before the period after "Proof."

Change the word "discriminant" to "expression." In the expression $\sqrt{-48 + \frac{4p}{q}}$, only what is under the radical sign is the discriminant. (Note also the math correction to this expression above.)

p.4

Theorem 2.1 Proof, P(2) In the solution for b , put the $\frac{1}{2}$ in front, as that is the way it appears in the next paragraph. It's easier to compare that way.

p.5

Rather than solving equation (4) numerically for one value each of a and b , plug in $a = 3$, solve algebraically for b , then evaluate the expression for all values of b that are of interest.

Reduce the solutions to simplest form for those readers who are checking the work via a computer algebra system.

p.6

line after eq. (5) Insert word: "... solution to *the* box problem ..."

P(-3) Sentence beginning "When $a = 4$..." refer to "Lemma 2.2", not just "2.2."

See comments for p.5 regarding equation (4) about using equation (6).

p.7

Section 4. I believe that computer searches should be documented somehow. (This is not universally practiced.) And some readers would probably appreciate an indication of the type of computer search used — i.e., software and (pseudo-)code.