## On (a, b)-balancing numbers

By TÜNDE KOVÁCS (Debrecen), KÁLMÁN LIPTAI (Eger) and PÉTER OLAJOS (Miskolc)

Dedicated to Professors K. Győry and A. Sárközy on their 70th birthdays and Professors A. Pethő and J. Pintz on their 60th birthdays

**Abstract.** A positive integer n is called a balancing number if  $1+\ldots+(n-1)=(n+1)+\cdots+(n+r)$  for some positive integer r. Balancing numbers and their generalizations have been investigated by several authors, from many aspects. In this paper we introduce the concept of balancing numbers in arithmetic progressions, and prove several effective finiteness and explicit results about them. In the proofs of our results, among others, we combine Baker's method, the modular method developed by Wiles and others, a result of Bennett about the diophantine equation  $|ax^n-by^n|=1$ , the Chabauty method and the theory of elliptic curves.

## 1. Introduction and main results

A positive integer n is called a balancing number (see [2] and [14]) if

$$1 + \cdots + (n-1) = (n+1) + \cdots + (n+r)$$

holds for some positive integer r. The sequence of balancing numbers is denoted by  $B_m$  (m = 1, 2, ...). As one can easily check, we have  $B_1 = 6$  and  $B_2 = 35$ .

Mathematics Subject Classification: 11D25, 11D41.

 $Key\ words\ and\ phrases:$  balancing number, hyperelliptic equations, Chabauty method, elliptic curves.

Supported in part by Grants T-48945, T-48791, T-75566 from the Hungarian National Foundation for Scientific Research and TéT SK-8/2008.

Note that by a result of BEHERA and PANDA [2], we have

$$B_{m+1} = 6B_m - B_{m-1} \quad (m > 1).$$

In particular, there are infinitely many balancing numbers.

The literature of balancing numbers is very rich. In [26] and [27] LIPTAI proved that there are no Fibonacci and Lucas balancing numbers, respectively. Later, Szalay [39] derived the same results by a different method.

In [28] LIPTAI, LUCA, PINTÉR and SZALAY generalized the concept of balancing numbers in the following way. Let y, k, l be fixed positive integers with  $y \geq 4$ . A positive integer x with  $x \leq y-2$  is called a (k,l)-power numerical center for y if

$$1^k + \dots + (x-1)^k = (x+1)^l + \dots + (y-1)^l$$
.

In [28] several effective and ineffective finiteness results were proved for (k, l)power numerical centers.

Recently, the "balancing" property has been investigated in recurrence sequences (see [6]). In the present paper we extend the concept of balancing numbers to arithmetic progressions. Let a>0 and  $b\geq 0$  be coprime integers. If for some positive integers n and r we have

$$(a+b) + \cdots + (a(n-1)+b) = (a(n+1)+b) + \cdots + (a(n+r)+b)$$

then we say that an + b is an (a, b)-balancing number. The sequence of (a, b)-balancing numbers is denoted by  $B_m^{(a,b)}$  (m = 1, 2, ...). We mention that since  $B_m^{(1,0)} = B_m$  for all m, we obtain a generalization of balancing numbers.

We prove several effective finiteness and explicit results concerning polynomial values in the sequences  $B_m^{(a,b)}$ . That is, we consider the equation

$$B_m^{(a,b)} = f(x) \tag{1}$$

in integers m and x with  $m \ge 1$ , where f is some polynomial with rational coefficients, taking only integral values at integers. From this point on, when we refer to equation (1) we always assume that a and b are arbitrary, but fixed coprime integers such that a > 0 and  $b \ge 0$ .

Our first result is the following.

**Theorem 1.** Let f(x) be a monic polynomial with integer coefficients, of degree  $\geq 2$ . If a is odd, then for the solutions of (1) we have  $\max(m,|x|) < c_0(f,a,b)$ , where  $c_0(f,a,b)$  is an effectively computable constant depending only on a, b and f.

Our next result concerns the case where  $f(x) = x^l$  with some  $l \ge 2$ . In this case solving equation (1) is equivalent to finding (a, b)-balancing numbers which are perfect powers.

**Theorem 2.** If  $a^2 - 4ab - 4b^2 = 1$ , then there is no perfect power (a,b)-balancing number.

Remark 1. One can easily check that the equation  $a^2 - 4ab - 4b^2 = 1$  has infinitely many solutions in integers a, b with a > 0,  $b \ge 0$ . Hence Theorem 2 completely solves the proposed problem for infinitely many pairs (a, b).

The following theorem takes up the problem where the polynomial f(x) in (1) has some combinatorial meaning. More precisely, we investigate binomial coefficients  $\binom{x}{k}$ , products of consecutive integers, power sums and alternating power sums. For positive integers k, x let

$$\Pi_k(x) = x(x+1)\dots(x+k-1),$$

$$S_k(x) = 1^k + 2^k + \dots + (x-1)^k,$$

$$T_k(x) = -1^k + 2^k - \dots + (-1)^{x-1}(x-1)^k.$$

We mention that  $\Pi_k(x)$ ,  $S_k(x)$  and  $T_k(x)$  are polynomials in x, of degrees k, k+1 and k, respectively. Note that the coefficients of  $\binom{x}{k}$ ,  $S_k(x)$  and  $T_k(x)$  are not integers. Further, in the case  $f(x) = \Pi_k(x)$  Theorem 1 yields a finiteness result, however, only for the odd values of the parameter a.

For these combinatorial choices of f(x) our next statement yields a bound for the solutions of (1), without any assumptions for the parameters a and b.

**Theorem 3.** Let  $k \geq 2$  and f(x) be one of the polynomials  $\binom{x}{k}$ ,  $\Pi_k(x)$ ,  $S_{k-1}(x)$ ,  $T_k(x)$ . Then the solutions of equation (1) satisfy  $\max(m, |x|) < c_1(a, b, k)$ , where  $c_1(a, b, k)$  is an effectively computable constant depending only on a, b and k.

In our final result, under the assumption  $a^2 - 4ab - 4b^2 = 1$ , we provide the complete solution of (1) with the above choices of f(x), for some small values of the parameter k. More precisely, we consider all cases where (1) can be reduced to an equation of genus 1. Further, we also solve a particular case of (1) which can be reduced to the resolution of a genus 2 equation.

**Theorem 4.** Suppose that  $a^2-4ab-4b^2=1$ . Let  $f(x) \in \{\binom{x}{2}, \binom{x}{3}, \binom{x}{4}, \Pi_2(x), \Pi_3(x), \Pi_4(x), S_1(x), S_2(x), S_3(x), S_5(x)\}$ . Then the solutions (m, x) of equation (1) are those contained in Table 1. For the corresponding parameter values we have (a, b) = (1, 0) in all cases.

f(x)	Solutions $(m, x)$ of $(1)$
$\binom{x}{2}$	(1,-3),(1,4)
$\binom{x}{3}$	(2,-5),(2,7)
$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}$	(2,-4),(2,7)
$\Pi_2(x)$	(1,-3),(1,2)
$\Pi_3(x)$	(1, -3), (1, 1)
$\Pi_4(x)$	Ø
$S_1(x)$	(1,-4),(1,3)
$S_2(x)$	(3,-8), (3,9), (5,-27), (5,28)
$S_3(x)$	Ø
$S_5(x)$	Ø

Table 1

Remark 2. We considered some other related equations that lead to genus 2 equations. However, because of certain technical difficulties, we could not solve them by the Chabauty method. We checked that under the assumption  $a^2 - 4ab - 4b^2 = 1$  equation (1) has no "small" solutions (i.e. solutions with  $|x| \leq 10000$ ) in cases  $f(x) \in \left\{ \binom{x}{6}, \binom{x}{8}, \Pi_6(x), \Pi_8(x), S_7(x) \right\}$ .

## 2. Proof of the theorems

For the proof of our theorems we need several lemmas. The first one is of principal importance, because it opens access to the application of deep methods.

**Lemma 1.** For any a > 0,  $b \ge 0$  and  $m \ge 1$ 

$$y^{2} - 8\left(B_{m}^{(a,b)}\right)^{2} = a^{2} - 4ab - 4b^{2}$$
(2)

holds with some  $y \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

PROOF. Using the definition of  $B_m^{(a,b)}$  and writing  $B_m^{(a,b)}=an+b$ , a simple calculation shows that

$$ar^{2} + (a + 2B_{m}^{(a,b)})r - (n-1)(B_{m}^{(a,b)} + b) = 0.$$

The left hand side of this equality is a polynomial in r of degree two. Thus its discriminant must be a square in  $\mathbb{Z}$ . Since the discriminant in question is given by

$$8\left(B_m^{(a,b)}\right)^2 + a^2 - 4ab - 4b^2,$$

the statement follows.

A polynomial f(x) with complex coefficients is called *non-degenerate* if it has at least three zeros of odd multiplicities. For the proof of Theorem 1 we need the following two lemmas. The next result is due to BRINDZA [8].

**Lemma 2.** Let B be a non-zero rational number and  $g(x) \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  a non-degenerate polynomial. Then for the integral solutions x, y of the hyperelliptic equation

$$g(x) = By^2$$

we have  $\max(|x|, |y|) < c_2(B, g)$ , where  $c_2(B, g)$  is an effectively computable constant depending only on B and g.

If p is a prime and t is an integer, then by  $p^{\alpha}||t$  we mean that  $p^{\alpha}|t$  but  $p^{\alpha+1} \nmid t$ . The following result of BRINDZA and PINTÉR [9] provides information on the structure of zeros of certain polynomials.

**Lemma 3.** Let  $P(X) = a_n X^n + \cdots + a_1 X + a_0$  be a polynomial with integral coefficients, for which  $a_0$  is odd,  $4|a_i$  (i = 1, ..., n) and  $2^3||a_n$ . Then every zero of P is simple.

PROOF OF THEOREM 1. Using Lemma 1, from (1) we get the equation

$$8f^2(x) + a^2 - 4ab - 4b^2 = y^2.$$

It is easy to see that since a is odd, the left hand side of the above equation is a polynomial satisfying the conditions of Lemma 3. So, by Lemma 3 we know that the zeros of the left hand side are simple. Hence, by Lemma 2 the theorem follows.

To prove Theorem 2, we need the following deep result of Bennett [3] about binomial Thue equations. Note that recently this result has been considerably generalized in certain sense (see e.g. the papers [4], [5] and the references given there). However, the following lemma is sufficient for our present purposes.

**Lemma 4.** If A, B and n are integers with  $AB \neq 0$  and  $n \geq 3$ , then the equation

$$|Ax^n - By^n| = 1$$

has at most one solution in positive integers x, y.

PROOF OF THEOREM 2. Using Lemma 1 and substituting  $B_m^{(a,b)}=x^l$  into (2), by  $a^2-4ab-4b^2=1$  we obtain

$$y^2 - 8x^{2l} = 1, (3)$$

with some  $y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Rewrite (3) as

$$y^2 - 1 = 8x^t$$

where t = 2l with  $t \ge 4$ , as  $l \ge 2$ .

Obviously, y must be odd. Introducing the notation y=2k+1, we get

$$k(k+1) = 2x^t.$$

Thus we have  $k = 2^{\alpha} x_1^t$  and  $k + 1 = 2^{\beta} x_2^t$  with  $\alpha \beta = 0$ ,  $\alpha + \beta = 1$ , where  $x_1, x_2$  are some positive integers. This yields

$$|2^{\beta}x_2^t - 2^{\alpha}x_1^t| = 1. (4)$$

Observe that  $x_1 = x_2 = 1$  is a solution to (4). Hence by Lemma 4 there are no other solutions. Thus the only possible value for x is x = 1, which yields  $B_m^{(a,b)} = 1$ . Since this is impossible, the theorem follows.

For the proof of Theorem 3, we need three more lemmas. The first result is due to Ping-Zhi [29].

**Lemma 5.** Let k be an integer with  $k \geq 5$  and B an algebraic number. Then apart form the cases where k = 6,  $B = \frac{10 \pm 7\sqrt{7}}{1215}$ , the polynomial  $\binom{x}{k} + B$  is non-degenerate.

Let  $B_k(x)$  and  $E_k(x)$  denote the kth Bernoulli and Euler polynomials, respectively (see e.g. [33]). The next lemmas are due to PINTÉR and RAKACZKI [31] and RAKACZKI [34], respectively.

**Lemma 6.** If k is an integer with  $k \geq 5$  and A, B are complex numbers with  $B \neq 0$ , then the polynomial  $(B_k(x) + A)^2 + B$  is non-degenerate.

**Lemma 7.** If k is an integer with  $k \ge 5$  and A, B are complex numbers with  $B \ne 0$ , then the polynomial  $(E_k(x) + A)^2 + B$  is non-degenerate.

PROOF OF THEOREM 3. Assume first that  $k \geq 5$ . Using Lemma 1 and (1), we get the equation

$$y^{2} = 8(f(x))^{2} - C(a,b), \tag{5}$$

where  $C(a,b) = -(a^2 - 4ab - 4b^2)$ . Observe that  $C(a,b) \neq 0$ . We consider the possible choices for f(x) in turn.

Let  $f(x) = \binom{x}{k}$ . Factorizing the right hand side of (5), we obtain

$$y^{2} = 8\left(f(x) + \sqrt{\frac{C(a,b)}{8}}\right)\left(f(x) - \sqrt{\frac{C(a,b)}{8}}\right).$$
 (6)

Since  $C(a,b) \neq 0$ , the zeros of the factors on the right hand side of equation (6) are distinct. Moreover, as one can readily check,  $\pm \sqrt{\frac{C(a,b)}{8}} \neq \frac{10\pm7\sqrt{7}}{1215}$ , since  $C(a,b) \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Thus, by Lemmas 2 and 5 the theorem follows in this case.

Now assume that  $f(x) = \Pi_k(x)$ . In this case Lemma 1 and (1) give

$$y^2 = 8 (\Pi_k(x))^2 - C(a, b).$$

Since  $\Pi_k(x) = k! \binom{x+k-1}{k}$ , we get

$$y^2 = 8(k!)^2 \left( \binom{x+k-1}{k} + \sqrt{\frac{C(a,b)}{8(k!)^2}} \right) \left( \binom{x+k-1}{k} - \sqrt{\frac{C(a,b)}{8(k!)^2}} \right).$$

Since  $C(a,b) \neq 0$ , the zeros of the factors on the right hand side are distinct again. Moreover, it is easy to see that  $\pm \sqrt{\frac{C(a,b)}{8k!^2}} \neq \frac{10\pm7\sqrt{7}}{1215}$ . Hence using Lemmas 2 and 5 the theorem follows also in this case.

Next let  $f(x) = S_k(x)$ . It is well-known that

$$S_{k-1}(x) = \frac{1}{k} (B_k(x) - B_k(0)).$$

Then by Lemma 1 and (1) again, we obtain that

$$y^{2} = \frac{8}{k^{2}} \left( \left( B_{k}(x) - B_{k}(0) \right)^{2} - \frac{k^{2}C(a,b)}{8} \right).$$

Applying Lemma 6 with  $A = -B_k(0)$  and  $B = -\frac{k^2C(a,b)}{8} \neq 0$ , we see that the right hand side of this equation is non-degenerate. Thus, the theorem follows from Lemma 2.

Finally, let  $f(x) = T_k(x)$ . It is also well-known that for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ 

$$T_k(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left( E_k(x) + (-1)^{x+1} E_k(0) \right)$$

is valid. Lemma 1 and (1) now yield

$$y^{2} = 2\left( (E_{k}(x) + (-1)^{x+1}E_{k}(0))^{2} - \frac{C(a,b)}{2} \right).$$

Applying Lemma 7 with  $A = (-1)^{x+1}E_k(0)$  and  $B = -\frac{C(a,b)}{2} \neq 0$ , we get that the right hand side of the above equation is non-degenerate. Again, the theorem follows from Lemma 2.

Consider now the cases when  $2 \le k \le 4$ . In all cases we get that the polynomial on the right hand side of (5) is non-degenerate because its discriminant is non-zero. We consider only one example, all the other cases can be handled similarly.

Let  $f(x) = {x \choose 2}$ . In this case the discriminant of the polynomial on the right hand side of (5) is  $D := -256C(a,b)^2(8C(a,b)-1)$ . Since C(a,b) is a non-zero integer, we get  $D \neq 0$ , indeed. Therefore, the polynomial on the right side of (5) is non-degenerate, and by Lemma 2 the theorem follows.

As it was mentioned already, in our numerical results we consider all cases with the above choices of f(x) and with  $a^2-4ab-4b^2=1$ , where (1) can be reduced to an equation of genus 1. Such equations can be handled by a method developed by Stroeker, Tzanakis [36] and independently by Gebel, Pethő, Zimmer [16]. We mention that a similar approach has been used to solve several combinatorial Diophantine equations of different types, for example in [17], [18], [20], [21], [24], [25], [30], [32], [38], [42], [43]. Further, we also solve a particular case of (1) which can be reduced to a genus 2 equation. To solve this equation, we shall use the Chabauty method by the help of explicit techniques developed by Bruin. We note that the Chabauty method has already been successfully used to solve certain other combinatorial Diophantine equations, see e.g. the corresponding results in the papers [13], [19], [22], [23], [35], [40] and the references given there.

PROOF OF THEOREM 4. Using Lemma 1 and the assumption  $a^2 - 4ab - 4b^2 = 1$ , equation (1) can be written as

$$y^2 = 8f(x)^2 + 1. (7)$$

Actually, we solve equation (7) for all the cases of f(x) listed in Theorem 4. We prove that the solutions are those contained in Table 2. Having the solutions of (7), the solutions of the original equation (1) can be determined with simple calculations.

As it will be clear from the presentation, it is worth to split the resolution of (10) into three parts. Assume first that  $f(x) \in \{\binom{x}{3}, \Pi_3(x), S_2(x)\}$ . Then the right hand side of equation (7) can be transformed into a polynomial of degree 3. As the computations are similar in all cases, we consider only one example. Let  $f(x) = S_2(x)$ . Then (7) is given by

$$y^2 = 8(S_2(x))^2 + 1.$$

f(x)	Solutions $(x, y)$ of $(7)$
$\binom{x}{2}$	$(-3,\pm 17), (-1,\pm 3), (0,\pm 1), (1,\pm 1), (2,\pm 3), (4,\pm 17)$
$\binom{x}{3}$	$(0,\pm 1), (1,\pm 1), (2,\pm 1), (-1,\pm 3), (3,\pm 3), (-5,\pm 99), (7,\pm 99)$
$\binom{x}{4}$	$(-4, \pm 99), (-1, \pm 3), (0, \pm 1), (1, \pm 1),$
	$(2,\pm 1), (3,\pm 1), (4,\pm 3), (7,\pm 99)$
$\Pi_2(x)$	$(-3,\pm 17), (-1,\pm 1), (0,\pm 1), (2,\pm 17)$
$\Pi_3(x)$	$(-3,\pm 17), (-1,\pm 1), (0,\pm 1), (1,\pm 17)$
$\Pi_4(x)$	$(-3,\pm 1), (-2,\pm 1), (-1,\pm 1), (0,\pm 1)$
$S_1(x)$	$(-4,\pm 17), (-2,\pm 3), (-1,\pm 1), (0,\pm 1), (1,\pm 3), (3,\pm 17)$
$S_2(x)$	$(-27, \pm 19601), (-8, \pm 577), (-1, \pm 3), (0, \pm 1),$
	$(1,\pm 1), (2,\pm 3), (9,\pm 577), (28,\pm 19601)$
$S_3(x)$	$(-1,\pm 3), (0,\pm 1), (1,\pm 1), (2,\pm 3)$
$S_5(x)$	$(-1,\pm 3), (0,\pm 1), (1,\pm 1), (2,\pm 3)$

Table 2

Using the well-known fact  $S_2(x) = \frac{x(x-1)(2x-1)}{6}$ , we get

$$y^2 = \frac{32x^6 - 96x^5 + 104x^4 - 48x^3 + 8x^2 + 36}{36}.$$

This leads to the elliptic equation

$$Y^2 = X^3 + 2X^2 + 576.$$

where  $X = 8(x^2 - x)$ , Y = 24y. One can compute the integer solutions of this equation with the procedure IntegralPoints of Magma [7]. Note that the procedure is based upon a method developed by Gebel, Pethő, Zimmer [16] and Stroeker, Tzanakis [36]. Following the substitutions backwards, we can determine the solutions x, y of the equation (7). The solutions are exactly the ones listed in Table 2. In all the other cases we get the solutions of (7) by a similar calculation.

Assume next that  $f(x) \in \{\binom{x}{2}, \binom{x}{4}, \Pi_2(x), \Pi_4(x), S_1(x), S_3(x)\}$ . Then the right hand side of equation (7) can be transformed into a polynomial of degree 4. Since the different choices of f can be handled similarly, we consider only one example, again. Let  $f(x) = \Pi_4(x)$ . Then (7) has the form

$$y^2 = 8(\Pi_4(x))^2 + 1.$$

Using  $\Pi_4(x) = x(x+1)(x+2)(x+3)$ , introducing the notation  $X = x^2 + 3x$ , this yields

$$y^2 = 8X^4 + 32X^3 + 32X^2 + 1.$$

This equation is of genus 1 and can be solved using the Magma procedure IntegralQuarticPoints. We note that this procedure is based upon results of Stroeker and Tzanakis [37] and Tzanakis [41]. Hence, we can find all integral solutions of equation (7), again. The solutions (x, y) are exactly the ones listed in Table 2. All the other cases are similar.

Finally, assume that  $f(x) = S_5(x)$ . In this case, equation (7) has the form

$$y^2 = 8(S_5(x))^2 + 1.$$

Hence, using the well-known assertion  $S_5(x) = \frac{1}{12}(x-1)^2x^2(2x^2-2x-1)$ , we get

$$Y^2 = 8X^6 - 8X^5 + 2X^4 + 36, (8)$$

where  $X = x^2 - x$  and Y = 6y. Equation (8) defines a curve of genus 2 over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . All its solutions can be determined by applying recent explicit Chabauty techniques due to Bruin. Here we only indicate the main steps of the method without explaining the background theory. For details we refer to the papers of Bruin [10], [11], [12], and the references given there.

Since the Jacobian of the hyperelliptic curve determined by (8) has Mordell-Weil rank 3, the classical Chabauty-type method (see e.g. [15]) does not suffice to find the rational points on (8). To deal with this situation, we apply the elliptic Chabauty method, combined with Magma, following [12]. In the first step, we factorize the right-hand side of equation (8) over the number field  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$  where  $\alpha = \sqrt{-2}$ . For later use, we mention that  $\{1, \alpha\}$  is an integral basis of K, and that the ring of integers  $O_K$  of K is a Euclidean ring. We obtain

$$Y^{2} = (2\alpha X^{3} - \alpha X^{2} + 6)(-2\alpha X^{3} + \alpha X^{2} + 6).$$
(9)

This yields that

$$\delta Z^2 = 2\alpha X^3 - \alpha X^2 + 6 \tag{10}$$

is valid with some  $\delta, Z \in O_K$ , where  $\delta$  is square-free in  $O_K$ . Observe that (9) and (10) imply that

$$\delta W^2 = -2\alpha X^3 + \alpha X^2 + 6$$

is also valid with some  $W \in O_K$ . Hence  $\delta$  divides  $(2\alpha X^3 - \alpha X^2 + 6) + (-2\alpha X^3 + \alpha X^2 + 6)$  in  $O_K$ , that is  $\delta|12$ . Thus, using that the only units in  $O_K$  are  $\pm 1$ ,

 $\alpha^2 = -2$ , and 3 is a prime in  $O_K$ , we get that  $\delta = \pm \alpha^{t_1} 3^{t_2}$  with  $t_1, t_2 \in \{0, 1\}$ . Taking norms on both sides of (10), we obtain that  $\delta \in \{-3, -1, 1, 3\}$ . In the cases  $\delta = \pm 1$ , simple computations show that equation (10) has no solutions. We illustrate this only for  $\delta = 1$ . Write  $Z = Z_1 + \alpha Z_2$  in (10) with  $Z_1, Z_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then comparing the coefficients of 1 and  $\alpha$  on both sides of (10), we get  $Z_1^2 - 2Z_2^2 = 6$ . However, this is impossible modulo 16. The case of  $\delta = -1$  can be excluded in a similar way.

Let now  $\delta=3$ . Equation (10) defines a genus 1 curve over K that can be transformed into a Weierstrass-form elliptic curve E over K by the help of its point  $P=(2,\alpha+2)$ . A minimal model of E is given by

$$ME: v^2 = u^3 + 6u + (4\alpha - 1296).$$

Note that all these curves, together with the transformations among them can be handled by Magma. Now, as X,Y are known to be rational coordinates of the hyperelliptic curve defined by (8), one can apply the elliptic Chabauty method to solve (8) completely (following Bruin [12]). To have the method work, the rank of ME(K) should be strictly less than the degree of K (which is 2). It turns out that the rank of ME(K) is 1, so the elliptic Chabauty method is applicable. The procedure PseudoMordellWeilGroup of Magma is able to find a subgroup G of ME(K) of finite odd index. Then using the procedure Chabauty with the prime 59, we get that  $(X,Y)=(2,\pm 18)$  are the only solutions for equation (8) in this case. Substituting back, we obtain that the corresponding solutions to equation (7) are  $(x,y)=(0,\pm 1),(1,\pm 1)$ .

In case of  $\delta=-3$  we can follow a similar argument. The rank of the corresponding elliptic curve is 1 again, so we can proceed as previously. The solutions for equation (8) can be found by using the prime 7 with Aux:=19 in the procedure Chabauty of Magma. We obtain that all solutions of equation (8) are given by  $(X,Y)=(0,\pm 6)$  in this case. Following the substitutions backwards, we get that the corresponding solutions to equation (7) are  $(x,y)=(-1,\pm 3),(2,\pm 3)$ .

From the solutions of equation (7), using (1) and  $B_m^{(a,b)} = an + b$  with some integer n > 0, the parameters a, b, m can be found by simple calculations. Thus we obtain all solutions (m, x) of (1). They are exactly the ones listed in Table 1, all corresponding to the parameters (a, b) = (1, 0).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. The authors are grateful to KÁLMÁN GYŐRY, LA-JOS HAJDU and ÁKOS PINTÉR for their useful and helpful remarks and suggestions.

## References

- [1] A. BAKER and H. DAVENPORT, The equations  $3x^2 2 = y^2$  and  $8x^2 7 = z^2$ , Quart. J. Math. Oxford **20** (1969), 129–137.
- [2] A. Behera and G. K. Panda, On the square roots of triangular numbers, Fibonacci Quarterly 37 (1999), 98–105.
- [3] M. A. Bennett, Rational approximation to algebraic numbers of small height: the Diophantine equation  $|ax^n by^n| = 1$ , J. Reine Angew. Math. **535** (2001), 1–49.
- [4] M. A. Bennett, Products of consecutive integers, Bull. London Math. Soc. 36 (2004), 683–694.
- [5] M. A. BENNETT, K. GYŐRY, M. MIGNOTTE and Á. PINTÉR, Binomial Thue equations and polynomial powers, Compositio Math. 142 (2006), 1103–1121.
- [6] A. BÉRCZES, K. LIPTAI and I. PINK, On balancing recurrence sequences, Fibonacci Quart. (to appear).
- [7] W. BOSMA, J. CANNON and C. PLAYOUST, The Magma algebra system. I. The user language, J. Symbolic Comput. 24 (1997), 235–265.
- [8] B. Brindza, On S-integral solutions of the equation  $y^m = f(x)$ , Acta Math. Hungar. 44 (1984), 133–139.
- [9] B. Brindza and Á. Pintér, On equal values of power sums, Acta Arith. 77 (1996), 97–101.
- [10] N. Bruin, Chabauty methods and covering techniques applied to generalized Fermat equations, Vol. 133, CWI Tract, Stichting Mathematisch Centrum, Centrum voor Wiskunde en Informatica. Amsterdam. 2002.
- [11] N. Bruin, Chabauty methods using elliptic curves, J. Reine Angew. Math. 562 (2003), 27–49.
- [12] N. Bruin, Some ternary Diophantine equations of signature (n, n, 2), In: Discovering Mathematics with Magma, Algorithms Comput. Math. 19 (2006), 63–91.
- [13] N. Bruin, K. Győry, L. Hajdu and Sz. Tengely, Arithmetic progressions consisting of unlike powers, *Indag. Math.* 17 (2006), 539–555.
- [14] R. P. FINKELSTEIN, The House Problem, American Math. Monthly 72 (1965), 1082–1088.
- [15] E. V. Flynn, A flexible method for applying Chabauty's theorem, Compositio Math. 105 (1997), 79–94.
- [16] J. GEBEL, A. PETHŐ and H. G. ZIMMER, Computing integral points on elliptic curves, Acta Arith. 68 (1994), 171–192.
- [17] L. HAJDU, On a diophantine equation concerning the number of integer points in special domains II, Publ. Math. Debrecen 51 (1997), 331–342.
- [18] L. HAJDU, On a diophantine equation concerning the number of integer points in special domains, Acta Math. Hungar. 78 (1998), 59–70.
- [19] L. Hajdu, Powerful arithmetic progressions, Indag. Math. 19 (2008), 547–561.
- [20] L. HAJDU and Á. PINTÉR, Square product of three integers in short intervals, Math. Comp. 68 (1999), 1299–1301.
- [21] L. HAJDU and Á. PINTÉR, Combinatorial diophantine equations, Publ. Math. Debrecen 56 (2000), 391–403.
- [22] L. HAJDU and Sz. TENGELY, Arithmetic progressions of squares, cubes and n-th powers, J. Functiones et Approximatio 41 (2009), 129–138.
- [23] L. HAJDU, SZ. TENGELY and R. TIJDEMAN, Cubes in products of terms in arithmetic progression, Publ. Math. Debrecen 74 (2009), 215–232.

- [24] T. Kovács, Combinatorial diphantine equations the genus 1 case, *Publ. Math. Debrecen* **72** (2008), 243–255.
- [25] T. Kovács, Combinatorial numbers in binary recurrences, Period. Math. Hungar. 58 (2009), 83–98.
- [26] K. Liptai, Fibonacci balancing numbers, Fibonacci Quarterly 42 (2004), 330–340.
- [27] K. LIPTAI, Lucas balancing numbers, Acta Math. Univ. Ostrav. 14 (2006), 43-47.
- [28] K. LIPTAI, F. LUCA, Á. PINTÉR and L. SZALAY, Generalized balancing numbers, Indag. Math. N. S. 20 (2009), 87–100.
- [29] Y. Ping-Zhi, On a special diophantine equation  $a\binom{x}{n} = by^r + c$ , Publ. Math. Debrecen 44 (1994), 137–143.
- [30] Á. PINTÉR, A note on the Diophantine equation  $\binom{x}{4} = \binom{y}{2}$ , Publ. Math. Debrecen 47 (1995), 411–415.
- [31] Á. PINTÉR and Cs. RAKACZKI, On the zeros of shifted Bernoulli polynomials, Appl. Math. Comput. 187 (2007), 379–383.
- [32] Á. PINTÉR and B. M. M. DE WEGER,  $210 = 14 \times 15 = 5 \times 6 \times 7 = \binom{21}{2} = \binom{10}{4}$ , Publ. Math. Debrecen **51** (1997), 175–189.
- [33] H. RADEMACHER, Topics in analytic number theory, Die Grundlehren der math., Wissenschaften, Band 169, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1973.
- [34] Cs. Rakaczki, On some Diophantine results related to Euler polynomials, Period. Math. Hungar. 57 (2008), 61–71.
- [35] T. N. Shorey, S. Laishram and Sz. Tengely, Squares in products in arithmetic progression with at most one term omitted and common difference a prime power, *Acta Arith.* 135 (2008), 143–158.
- [36] R. J. STROEKER and N. TZANAKIS, Solving elliptic diophantine equations by estimating linear forms in elliptic logarithms, Acta Arith. 67 (1994), 177–196.
- [37] R. J. STROEKER and N. TZANAKIS, Computing all integer solutions of a genus 1 equation, Comp. Math. 72 (2003), 1935–1946.
- [38] R. J. STROEKER and B. M. M. DE WEGER, Elliptic binomial diophantine equations, Math. Comp. 68 (1999), 1257–1281.
- [39] L. SZALAY, On the resolution of simultaneous Pell equations, Ann. Math. Info. 34 (2007), 77–87.
- [40] Sz. TENGELY, Note on a paper "An extension of a theorem of Euler" by Hirata-Kohno et al., Acta Arith. 134 (2008), 329–335.
- [41] N. TZANAKIS, Solving Elliptic Diophantine Equations by estimating Linear Forms in Elliptic Logarithms. The case of Quartic Equations, Acta Arith. 75 (1996), 165–190.
- [42] B. M. M. DE WEGER, A binomial Diophantine equation, Quart. J. Math. Oxford 47 (1996), 221–231.

[43] B. M. M. DE WEGER, Equal binomial coefficients: some elementary considerations, J. Number Theory **63** (1997), 373–386.

TÜNDE KOVÁCS INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS UNIVERSITY OF DEBRECEN H-4010 DEBRECEN, P.O. BOX 12 HUNGARY

 $\hbox{\it $E$-mail:} \ {\sf tkovacs@math.klte.hu}$ 

KÁLMÁN LIPTAI INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS AND INFORMATICS ESZTERHÁZY KÁROLY COLLEGE H-3300 EGER, ESZTERHÁZY TÉR 1 HUNGARY

 $E ext{-}mail: liptaik@ektf.hu}$ 

PÉTER OLAJOS DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED MATHEMATICS UNIVERSITY OF MISKOLC H-3515 MISKOLC-EGYETEMVÁROS HUNGARY

 $E ext{-}mail: matolaj@uni ext{-}miskolc.hu$ 

(Received March 1, 1010; revised July 22, 2010)