

# On the torsion group of elliptic curves induced by $D(4)$ -triples

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## Abstract

A  $D(4)$ - $m$ -tuple is a set of  $m$  integers such that the product of any two of them increased by 4 is a perfect square. A problem of extendibility of  $D(4)$ - $m$ -tuples is closely connected with the properties of elliptic curves associated with them. In this paper we prove that the torsion group of an elliptic curve associated with a  $D(4)$ -triple can be either  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  or  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$ , except for the  $D(4)$ -triple  $\{-1, 3, 4\}$  when the torsion group is  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$ .

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## 1 Introduction

Let  $n$  be a given nonzero integer. A set of  $m$  nonzero integers  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m\}$  is called a  $D(n)$ - $m$ -tuple (or a Diophantine  $m$ -tuple with the property  $D(n)$ ) if  $a_i a_j + n$  is a perfect square for all  $1 \leq i < j \leq m$ . Diophantus found the  $D(256)$ -quadruple  $\{1, 33, 68, 105\}$ , while the first  $D(1)$ -quadruple, the set  $\{1, 3, 8, 120\}$ , was found by Fermat (see [1], [2]).

One of the most interesting questions in the study of  $D(n)$ - $m$ -tuples is how large these sets can be. In this paper we will examine sets with the property  $D(4)$ . Mohanty and Ramasamy [17] were first to achieve a significant result on the nonextendibility of  $D(4)$ - $m$ -tuples. They proved that a  $D(4)$ -quadruple  $\{1, 5, 12, 96\}$  cannot be extended to a  $D(4)$ -quintuple. Kedlaya [14] later proved that if  $\{1, 5, 12, d\}$  is a  $D(4)$ -quadruple, then  $d$  has to be 96. Dujella and Ramasamy [9] generalized this result to the parametric family of  $D(4)$ -quadruples  $\{F_{2k}, 5F_{2k}, 4F_{2k+2}, 4L_{2k}F_{4k+2}\}$  involving Fibonacci and Lucas numbers. Other generalization to a two-parametric family of  $D(4)$ -triples can be found in [13]. Dujella [6] proved that there does not exist a

$D(1)$ -sextuple and that there are only finitely many  $D(1)$ -quintuples. By observing congruences modulo 8, it is not hard to conclude that a  $D(4)$ - $m$ -tuple can contain at most two odd numbers (see [9, Lemma 1]). Thus, the results from [6] imply that there does not exist a  $D(4)$ -8-tuple and that there are only finitely many  $D(4)$ -7-tuples. Filipin [10, 11] significantly improved these results by proving that there does not exist a  $D(4)$ -sextuple and that there are only finitely many  $D(4)$ -quintuples.

Let  $\{a, b, c\}$  be a  $D(4)$ -triple. Then there exist nonnegative integers  $r, s, t$  such that

$$ab + 4 = r^2, \quad ac + 4 = s^2, \quad bc + 4 = t^2. \quad (1)$$

In order to extend this triple to a quadruple, we have to solve the system

$$ax + 4 = \square, \quad bx + 4 = \square, \quad cx + 4 = \square. \quad (2)$$

We assign to the system (2) the elliptic curve

$$E : y^2 = (ax + 4)(bx + 4)(cx + 4). \quad (3)$$

The purpose of this paper is to examine possible forms of torsion groups of elliptic curves obtained in this manner. Additional motivation for this paper is a gap found in the proof of [4, Lemma 1] concerning torsion groups of elliptic curves induced by  $D(1)$ -triples. Namely, if  $\{a', b', c'\}$  is a  $D(1)$ -triple, then  $\{2a', 2b', 2c'\}$  is a  $D(4)$ -triple. Thus, the proof of Lemma 2 in present paper also provides a valid proof of [4, Lemma 1].

## 2 Torsion group of $E$

The coordinate transformation

$$x \mapsto \frac{x}{abc}, \quad y \mapsto \frac{y}{abc}$$

applied on the curve  $E$  leads to the elliptic curve

$$E' : y^2 = (x + 4bc)(x + 4ac)(x + 4ab).$$

There are three rational points on  $E'$  of order 2:

$$A' = (-4bc, 0), \quad B' = (-4ac, 0), \quad C' = (-4ab, 0),$$

and also other obvious rational points

$$P' = (0, 8abc), \quad S' = (16, 8rst).$$

It is not so obvious, but it is easy to verify that  $S' \in 2E'(\mathbb{Q})$ . Namely,  $S' = 2R'$ , where

$$R' = (4rs + 4rt + 4st + 16, 8(r + s)(r + t)(s + t)).$$

In this section we will first examine one special case and after that we may assume without the loss of generality that  $a, b, c$  are positive integers such that  $a < b < c$ . Since  $\{-a, -b, -c\}$  induces the same curve as  $\{a, b, c\}$ , a problem may arise only when there are mixed signs. It is easily seen that the only such possible  $D(4)$ -triple is  $\{-1, 3, 4\}$  (and the equivalent one  $\{-4, -3, 1\}$ ). The elliptic curve associated with this  $D(4)$ -triple has rank 0 and the torsion group isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$ . In this special case  $B' \in 2E'(\mathbb{Q})$ , more precisely  $B' = 2P'$ , so the point  $P'$  is of order 4. Note that in this case the point  $R'$  is also of order 4 since  $R' = P' + A'$  and thus  $2R' = 2P'$ .

Thus, we assume from now on that  $a, b, c$  are positive integers such that  $a < b < c$ .

**Lemma 1.** *If  $\{a, b, c\}$  is  $D(4)$ -triple, then  $c = a + b + 2r$  or  $c > ab + a + b + 1 > ab$ .*

*Proof.* By [5, Lemma 3], there exists an integer

$$e = 4(a + b + c) + 2(abc - rst) \tag{4}$$

and nonnegative integers  $x, y, z$  such that

$$ae + 16 = x^2, \tag{5}$$

$$be + 16 = y^2, \tag{6}$$

$$ce + 16 = z^2 \tag{7}$$

and  $c = a + b + \frac{e}{4} + \frac{1}{8}(abe + rxy)$ . From (7), it follows that  $e \geq 0$  (the case  $e = -1$  implies  $c \leq 16$ , but the only such  $D(4)$ -triple  $\{1, 5, 12\}$  does not satisfy (5) and (6)). For  $e = 0$  we get  $c = a + b + 2r$ , while for  $e \geq 1$  we have  $c > \frac{1}{4}abe + a + b + \frac{e}{4}$ . By observing congruences modulo 8, we can easily prove that at most two of the integers  $a, b, c$  are odd, which implies that  $abc - rst$  is even. Hence, from (4) we conclude that  $e \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ . It follows  $e \geq 4$  and thus  $c > ab + a + b + 1$ .  $\square$

*Remark 1.* Filipin (see [12, Lemma 4]) proved that  $c = a + b + 2r$  or  $c > \frac{1}{4}abe$ . Lemma 1 may be considered as a slight improvement of that result.

*Remark 2.* Lemma 1 implies  $c \geq a + b + 2r$ . Indeed, the inequality  $ab + a + b + 1 \geq a + b + 2r$  is equivalent to  $(r - 3)(r + 1) \geq 0$ , and this is satisfied for all  $D(4)$ -triples with positive elements.

*Remark 3.* The statement of Lemma 1 is sharp in the sense that the inequality  $c > ab$  cannot be replaced by  $c > (1 + \varepsilon)ab$  for any fixed  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Indeed, for an integer  $k \geq 3$ , if we put  $a = k^2 - 4$ ,  $b = k^2 + 2k - 3$ ,  $c = k^4 + 2k^3 - 3k^2 - 4k$ , then  $\{a, b, c\}$  is a  $D(4)$ -triple and  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{c}{ab} = 1$ .

In the next lemma we show that  $E'$  cannot have a point of order 4. We follow the strategy of the proof of an analogous result for  $D(1)$ -triples [4, Lemma 1]. However, we have noted a serious gap in the proof of [4, Lemma 1]. Namely, [4, formula (7)] should be  $(\beta^2 - 1)^2 = b(4c\beta^2 - a^2b - 2a(1 + \beta^2))$ , instead of  $(\beta^2 - 1)^2 = b(4c - a^2b - 2a(1 + \beta^2))$ , so later arguments are not accurate in the case  $\beta \neq 1$ . Here we will prove more general result, but by taking  $a, b, c$  to be even, in the same time we fill the mentioned gap in the proof of [4, Lemma 1].

**Lemma 2.**  $A', B', C' \notin 2E'(\mathbb{Q})$

*Proof.* If  $A' \in 2E'(\mathbb{Q})$ , then the 2-descent Proposition [15, 4.2, p.85] implies that  $c(a - b)$  is a square. But  $c(a - b) < 0$ , a contradiction. Similarly,  $B' \notin 2E'(\mathbb{Q})$ . If  $C' \in 2E'(\mathbb{Q})$ , then

$$a(c - b) = X^2, \quad (8)$$

$$b(c - a) = Y^2, \quad (9)$$

for integers  $X$  and  $Y$ .

If  $\{a, b, c\}$  is a  $D(4)$ -triple where  $a < b < c$ , then  $c = a + b + 2r$  or  $c > ab + a + b + 1$  by Lemma 1.

Assume first that  $c = a + b + 2r$ . From (8) and (9), we get that  $a = kx^2$ ,  $c - b = ky^2$ ,  $b = lz^2$ ,  $c - a = lu^2$ , where  $k, l, x, y, z, u$  are positive integers. We have  $c = kx^2 + lu^2 = ky^2 + lz^2$ , and from  $c = a + b + 2r$  we get

$$2r = k(y^2 - x^2) = l(u^2 - z^2). \quad (10)$$

By squaring (10), we obtain

$$4r^2 = 16 + 4ab = 16 + 4klx^2z^2 = k^2(y^2 - x^2)^2 = l^2(u^2 - z^2)^2,$$

which implies that  $k \in \{1, 2, 4\}$  and  $l \in \{1, 2, 4\}$ . Since  $kl$  is not a perfect square (otherwise  $(2r)^2 = 16 + (2xz\sqrt{kl})^2$  which implies  $2r = 5$ ), we may

take without loss of generality  $k = 1, l = 2$  or  $k = 2, l = 4$ . For  $k = 1, l = 2$ , we have  $4r^2 = 16 + 8x^2z^2$ , which implies  $r^2 = 4 + 2x^2z^2$ , which leads to the conclusion that  $r$  is even and  $xz$  is even. Therefore,  $r^2 \equiv 4 \pmod{8}$  and  $r \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ . But from  $2r = 2(u^2 - z^2)$  we conclude  $u^2 - z^2 \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ , and that is impossible. If  $k = 2, l = 4$ , then  $4r^2 = 16 + 32x^2z^2$ , which implies  $r^2 = 4 + 8x^2z^2$ , thus  $r^2 \equiv 4 \pmod{8}$  and  $r \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ . But from  $2r = 2(y^2 - x^2)$  we conclude  $y^2 - x^2 \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ , and that is impossible.

Assume now that  $c > ab + a + b + 1 > ab$ .

Let us write the conditions (8) and (9) in the form

$$ac - ab = s^2 - r^2 = (s - \alpha)^2, \quad (11)$$

$$bc - ab = t^2 - r^2 = (t - \beta)^2, \quad (12)$$

where  $0 < \alpha < s, 0 < \beta < t$ . Then we have

$$r^2 = 2s\alpha - \alpha^2 = 2t\beta - \beta^2. \quad (13)$$

From (13) we get

$$4(bc + 4)\beta^2 = (ab + 4 + \beta^2)^2$$

and

$$(\beta^2 - 4)^2 = b(4c\beta^2 - a^2b - 2a(4 + \beta^2)). \quad (14)$$

From (14) we conclude that either  $\beta = 1$  or  $\beta = 2$  or  $\beta^2 \geq \sqrt{b} + 4$ .

If  $\beta = 1$ , then

$$b(4c - a^2b - 10a) = 9 \quad (15)$$

which implies  $b \mid 9$ , but that is possible only for  $b = 9$  (there are no  $D(4)$ -triples with  $b < 4$ ). This implies  $a = 5$ , but (15) then gives  $c = 69$  and  $\{5, 9, 69\}$  is not a  $D(4)$ -triple.

If  $\beta = 2$ , then from (14) we find that

$$c = \frac{a^2b + 16a}{16}. \quad (16)$$

Now we have

$$s^2 = ac + 4 = \frac{1}{16}(a^3b + 16a^2 + 64) = \frac{1}{16}(a^2r^2 + 12a^2 + 64).$$

Hence  $s^2 > \left(\frac{ar}{4}\right)^2$  and  $s^2 < \left(\frac{ar+8}{4}\right)^2$ . Therefore we have to consider several cases:

1.  $s^2 = \left(\frac{ar+n}{4}\right)^2$ , where  $n$  is odd. That is equivalent to

$$2a(rn - 6a) = 64 - n^2. \quad (17)$$

The left hand side of (17) is even and the right hand side is odd, a contradiction.

2.  $s^2 = \left(\frac{ar+2}{4}\right)^2$ , or equivalently  $a(r - 3a) = 15$ . The cases  $a \leq 3$  and (16) imply that  $c < b$ . The case  $a = 5$  gives the triple  $\{5, 64, 105\}$  that does not satisfy  $c > ab$  ( $c$  equals  $a + b + 2r$ ), and  $a = 15$  leads to  $15b + 4 = 46^2$  which has no integer solutions.
3.  $s^2 = \left(\frac{ar+4}{4}\right)^2$ , or equivalently  $a(2r - 3a) = 12$ . We conclude that  $a$  must be even and we get triples:  $\{2, 16, 6\}$  (with  $c < b$ ) and  $\{6, 16, 42\}$  (with  $c = a + b + 2r$ ), so we can eliminate this case.
4.  $s^2 = \left(\frac{ar+6}{4}\right)^2$  is equivalent to  $3a(r - a) = 7$ , which is clearly impossible.

Thus, we may assume that  $\beta^2 \geq \sqrt{b} + 4$ , which implies

$$\beta > \max\{\sqrt[4]{b}, 2\} \quad (18)$$

The function  $f(\beta) = t^2 - (t - \beta)^2$  is increasing for  $0 < \beta < t$ . Thus we have

$$ab = t^2 - (t - \beta)^2 - 4 > 2t\sqrt[4]{b} - \sqrt{b} - 4 > 2\sqrt{bc}\sqrt[4]{b} - \sqrt{b} - 4,$$

which implies  $ab > \sqrt{bc}\sqrt[4]{b}$ , because  $\sqrt{b}(\sqrt{c}\sqrt[4]{b} - 1) > 4$  (since  $b \geq 4$  and  $c \geq 12$ , which follows from the fact that  $\{3, 4, 15\}$  and  $\{1, 5, 12\}$  are  $D(4)$ -triples with smallest  $b$  and  $c$  respectively). This further gives

$$c < a^2\sqrt{b}. \quad (19)$$

We will use (4) to define the integer  $d_-$  as

$$d_- = \frac{e}{4} = a + b + c + \frac{abc - rst}{2}$$

Then  $d_- \neq 0$  (since  $c \neq a + b + 2r$ ) and  $\{a, b, c, d_-\}$  is a  $D(4)$ -quadruple. In particular,

$$ad_- + 4 = \left(\frac{rs - at}{2}\right)^2. \quad (20)$$

Moreover,

$$c = a + b + d_- + \frac{1}{2}(abd_- + \sqrt{(ab+4)(ad_-+4)(bd_-+4)}) > abd_- \quad (21)$$

(see the proof of Lemma 1). By comparing this with (19), we get

$$d_- < \frac{a}{\sqrt{b}}. \quad (22)$$

Therefore, we have  $d_- < a < b$  which implies that  $b$  is the largest element in the  $D(4)$ -triple  $\{a, b, d_-\}$ . Thus, by Remark 2,  $b \geq a + d_- + 2\sqrt{ad_- + 4}$  or equivalently  $d_- \leq a + b - 2r$ . Let us define also

$$c' = a + b + d_- + \frac{1}{2}(abd_- - \sqrt{(ab+4)(ad_-+4)(bd_-+4)}).$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} cc' &= (a + b + d_- + \frac{1}{2}abd_-)^2 - \frac{1}{4}(ab+4)(ad_-+4)(bd_-+4) \\ &= (a + b + d_-)^2 - 4ab - 4ad_- - 4bd_- - 16 \\ &= (a + b - d_-)^2 - 4r^2 = (a + b + 2r - d_-)(a + b - 2r - d_-) \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

This implies

$$c < 2(a + b + d_- + \frac{1}{2}abd_-) < 4b + abd_- < 2abd_-. \quad (23)$$

(we use here  $ad_- > 4$  which is true because  $\{a, d_-\}$  is a  $D(4)$ -pair). Let us denote  $p = \frac{rs-at}{2}$ . Then  $p > 0$  and, by (20), we have  $ad_- + 4 = p^2$ . In order to estimate the size of  $p$ , we also define  $p' = \frac{rs+at}{2}$ . Then

$$pp' = \frac{1}{4}(a^2bc + 4ac + 4ab + 16 - a^2bc - 4a^2) = a(b + c - a) + 4,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} p &< \frac{2a(c+b)}{2at} < \frac{c+b}{\sqrt{bc}} = \frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sqrt{b}} + \frac{\sqrt{b}}{\sqrt{c}}, \\ p &> \frac{2(ac+4)}{2rs} = \frac{s}{r}. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, we have

$$\frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sqrt{b}} - \frac{s}{r} = \frac{r\sqrt{c} - s\sqrt{b}}{r\sqrt{b}} = \frac{4c - 4b}{r\sqrt{b}(r\sqrt{c} + s\sqrt{b})} < \frac{4c}{2rsb} < \frac{2\sqrt{c}}{ab\sqrt{b}},$$

and thus

$$p > \frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sqrt{b}} - \frac{2\sqrt{c}}{ab\sqrt{b}}. \quad (24)$$

The inequality (19) implies that  $c < \frac{ab^2}{2}$ , and this is equivalent to

$$\frac{\sqrt{b}}{\sqrt{c}} > \frac{2\sqrt{c}}{ab\sqrt{b}}$$

which gives

$$p > \frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sqrt{b}} - \frac{\sqrt{b}}{\sqrt{c}}. \quad (25)$$

By comparing both estimates for  $p$ , we get

$$\left| p - \frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sqrt{b}} \right| < \frac{\sqrt{b}}{\sqrt{c}}. \quad (26)$$

Let us now define an integer  $\alpha$  by

$$2d_-\beta = p + \alpha.$$

Assume that  $\alpha = 0$ . Then (20) implies that  $d_-(4\beta^2d_- - a) = 4$ , thus  $d_- \in \{1, 2, 4\}$ . We have three cases:

1.  $d_- = 1$ , which implies  $2\beta = p$ . With this assumption, (12) gives

$$r^2 + \frac{p^2}{4} = tp, \quad (27)$$

while  $c$  satisfies the inequalities

$$ab < ab + a + b + 1 < c < ab + 2a + 2b + 2 < ab + 4b < 2ab$$

(see Lemma 1 and (23) with  $d_- = 1$ ). The left hand side of (27) is

$$< ab + 4 + \frac{c^2 + 2bc + b^2}{4bc} < ab + 4 + \frac{a}{4} + 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4a} < ab + \frac{a}{4} + 6.$$

On the other hand, by (24), the right hand side of (27) is

$$> \sqrt{bc} \left( \frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sqrt{b}} - \frac{2\sqrt{c}}{ab\sqrt{b}} \right) = c - \frac{2c}{ab} > ab + a + b + 1 - 4 = ab + a + b - 3.$$

By comparing these two estimates for (27), we get

$$b + \frac{3}{4}a < 9,$$

but this is in contradiction with  $b \geq 12$  ( $b$  is the largest element in the  $D(4)$ -triple  $\{d_-, a, b\}$ ).

We treat similarly the other two cases.



2.  $d_- = 2$ , which implies  $4\beta = p$ , and this leads to

$$\frac{b}{2} + \frac{3}{8}a < 8,$$

which is in contradiction with  $b \geq 16$  ( $D(4)$ -triple of the form  $\{2, a, b\}$  with the smallest  $b$  is  $\{2, 6, 16\}$ ).

3.  $d_- = 4$  is equivalent to  $8\beta = p$ , which leads to

$$\frac{b}{4} + \frac{3}{16}a < 8,$$

but the only  $D(4)$ -triple of the form  $\{4, a, b\}$  with  $b < 35$  is  $\{4, 8, 24\}$ , which does not satisfy (22), so we have a contradiction here as well.

Therefore, we may now assume that  $\alpha \neq 0$ . We will estimate  $2d_-t\beta$  and compare it with  $c$ . First we will prove

$$\beta^2 < \frac{a^2b}{c}. \quad (28)$$

Since  $\beta < t$ , and the case  $\beta = t - 1$  gives  $b(c - a) = 1$ , which is impossible, we conclude that  $t \geq \beta + 2$ . This implies  $t\beta \geq \beta^2 + 2\beta$ , and  $ab - t\beta \geq 2\beta - 4 > 0$  because of (18). Hence, we get  $t\beta < ab$ , and this clearly implies (28).

Therefore,

$$0 < d_- \beta^2 < \frac{d_- a^2 b}{c} < a.$$

From  $2t\beta = r^2 + \beta^2 > ab + 4$ , we get  $2d_-t\beta > abd_- + 4d_-$ . On the other hand,

$$d_- \beta^2 < \frac{d_- a^2 b}{c} \Leftrightarrow 2d_-t\beta < abd_- + 4d_- + \frac{d_- a^2 b}{c} < abd_- + 4d_- + a.$$

By combining these two estimates, we get

$$abd_- + 4d_- < 2d_-t\beta < abd_- + 4d_- + a. \quad (29)$$

By comparing (29) with (21) and (23), we conclude that

$$|2d_-t\beta - c| < 4b. \quad (30)$$

By combining the estimate (26) for  $p$  with the trivial estimate for  $\alpha$ , namely  $|\alpha| \geq 1$ , we get

$$\left| 2d_- \beta - \frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sqrt{b}} \right| = \left| p + \alpha - \frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sqrt{b}} \right| \geq 1 - \frac{\sqrt{b}}{\sqrt{c}}.$$

Note that  $ad_- > 26$ . Namely, only  $D(4)$ -pairs such that  $ad_- \leq 26$  are  $\{1, 5\}, \{1, 12\}, \{1, 21\}, \{2, 6\}, \{3, 4\}$  and  $\{3, 7\}$ . From first three pairs, respecting (21) and (22), we find triples

$$\{5, 12, 96\}, \{12, 21, 320\}, \{12, 96, 1365\}, \{21, 32, 780\}, \{21, 320, 7392\}$$

that do not satisfy (8) nor (9). From the last three pairs we cannot obtain a  $D(4)$ -triple because of (22).

Finally, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |2d_-t\beta - c| &= |2d_-t\beta - t\frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sqrt{b}} + t\frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sqrt{b}} - c| \geq t \left| 2d_- \beta - \frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sqrt{b}} \right| - \left| t\frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sqrt{b}} - c \right| \\ &= t \left| 2d_- \beta - \frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sqrt{b}} \right| - \left( t\frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sqrt{b}} - c \right) \geq t \left( 1 - \frac{\sqrt{b}}{\sqrt{c}} \right) - \left( t\frac{\sqrt{c}}{\sqrt{b}} - c \right) \\ &= t \left( 1 - \frac{\sqrt{b}}{\sqrt{c}} \right) - c \left( \sqrt{1 + \frac{4}{bc}} - 1 \right) > \sqrt{bc} - b - c \left( \sqrt{1 + \frac{4}{bc}} - 1 \right) \\ &> \sqrt{ab^2d_-} - b - \frac{2}{b} \geq b(\sqrt{ad_-} - 1 - \frac{1}{72}) > 4b \end{aligned}$$

which contradicts (30).  $\square$

**Theorem 3.**  $E'(\mathbb{Q})_{tors} \simeq \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  or  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$ .

*Proof.* By Mazur's theorem [16] which characterizes all possible torsion groups for elliptic curves over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , since  $E'$  has three points of order 2, the only possibilities for  $E'(\mathbb{Q})_{tors}$  are  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2k\mathbb{Z}$  with  $k = 1, 2, 3, 4$ . But Lemma 2 shows that the cases  $k = 2, 4$  are not possible for an elliptic curve induced by a  $D(4)$ -triple with positive elements.  $\square$

**Corollary 4.** *Let  $\{a, b, c\}$  be a  $D(1)$ -triple. Then the torsion group of the elliptic curve  $y^2 = (ax + 1)(bx + 1)(cx + 1)$  is either  $\simeq \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  or  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$ .*

*Remark 4.* We note that an analogue of Theorem 3 and Corollary 4 is not valid for general  $D(n^2)$ -triples and their induced elliptic curves

$$y^2 = (ax + n^2)(bx + n^2)(cx + n^2).$$

For example, for the  $D(9)$ -triple  $\{8, 54, 104\}$  the torsion group of the induced elliptic curve is  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$ . Also, there are examples with torsion group  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}$ , e.g. for the  $D(52208405404435206419201940^2)$ -triple

$$\{3871249317729019929807383, 101862056999203416732147408, \\ 217448139952121636379025175\}$$

(there are much simpler examples with triples with mixed signs, see e.g. [7]).

We should also mention that we do not know any example of  $D(1)$  or  $D(4)$ -triples inducing elliptic curves with torsion group  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$ . Indeed, it is known that this torsion group cannot appear for certain families of  $D(1)$ -triples (see [3, 4, 8, 18]). Again, there are examples of such curves for general  $D(n^2)$ -triples. For example, the  $D(294^2)$ -triple  $\{32, 539, 1215\}$  induces an elliptic curve with torsion group  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$ .

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