
ANDREW BREMNER, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-1804, USA

A problem in right triangles

We investigate the following problem mentioned in Dickson's History, Vol. 2, Chapter 4, on rational right triangles (evidently it was posed in obscure verse in The Ladies Diary for 1728 as Question 133, but seems to be based on a numerical example of Ozanam from 1702):

Find a right triangle each of whose sides exceeds double the area by a square.

We analyze the mathematics behind the problem, and *inter alia* find an example with smallest possible standard generators for the underlying Pythagorean triangle.

The observation is also made that mathematicians whose names are anagrams of rivers seem to be particularly scarce.