

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

Find all positive integers such that:

$$6^x + 2^y + 2 = z^2$$

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Here, if both x, y are > 1 , then the given equation becomes:

$$z^2 = 6^x + 2^y + 2 \equiv 0 + 0 + 2 \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$$

which is a contradiction because 2 is not a quadratic residue of mod 4.

Case I: $x = 1$,

$$6^1 + 2^y + 2 = z^2 \Rightarrow 2^y + 8 = z^2 \text{ if } y \geq 4 \text{ then } z^2 = 2^y + 8 \equiv 0 + 8 \equiv 8 \pmod{16}$$

which is also a contradiction because 8 is not a quadratic residue of mod 16.

$\therefore y < 4$. Testing gives $(x, y, z) = (1, 3, 4)$ as the only solution of this case.

Case II: $y = 1$,

$$6^x + 2^1 + 2 = z^2 \Rightarrow z^2 = 6^x + 4$$

$$\Rightarrow z^2 = 6^x + 4 \equiv (-1)^x + 4 \equiv 1 + 4, -1 + 4 \equiv 3, 5 \pmod{7}$$

which is again a contradiction because 3, 5 are not quadratic residues of mod 7.

$\Rightarrow$ No solution from this case.

Therefore, the only solution to the given equation is $(x, y, z) = (1, 3, 4)$.