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2. All **primitive Pythagorean triples** (those with no common divisors) are characterized by

$$a = st, \quad b = \frac{s^2 - t^2}{2}, \quad \text{and} \quad c = \frac{s^2 + t^2}{2},$$

for odd integers $s > t \geq 1$ with no common factors.

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Today: Another approach, using geometry.

Pythagorean triples and the unit circle

For any $c \neq 0$, we have

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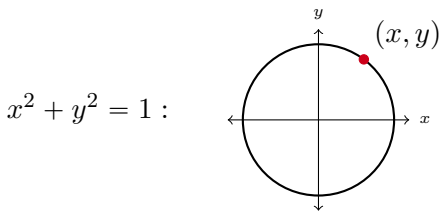
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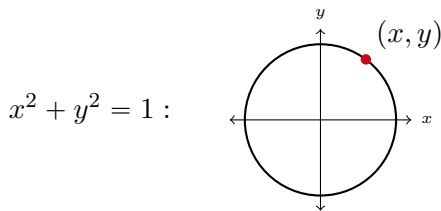
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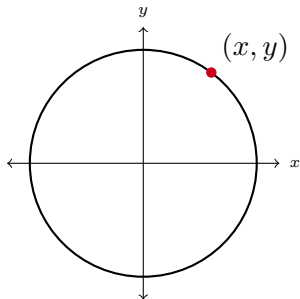
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Integer solutions (a, b, c) occur whenever x and y are *rational*.

Pythagorean triples and the unit circle

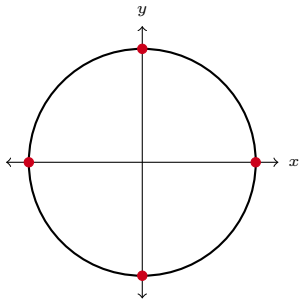
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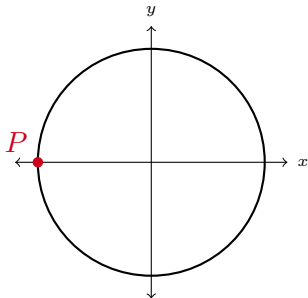
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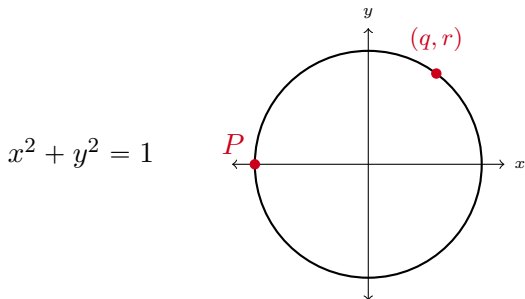


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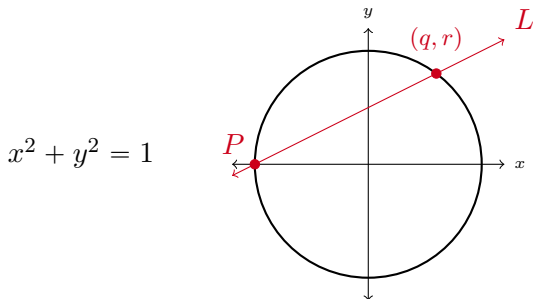
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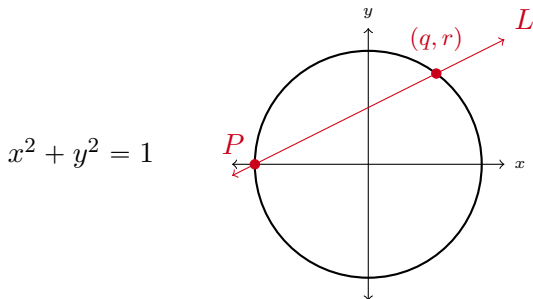
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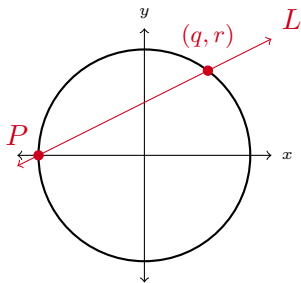
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Now let (q,r) be any other rational point ($q, r \in \mathbb{Q}$) on the circle. Consider the line L connecting those two points. Rational slope!

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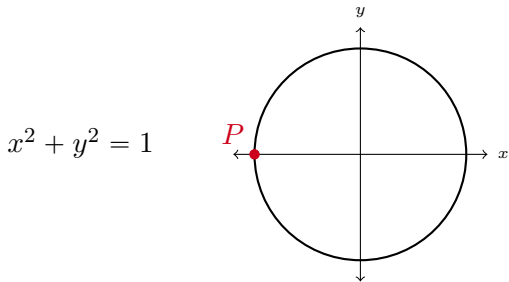
If we take a line through $P = (-1, 0)$ and another rational point (q, r) on the unit circle, that line will have rational slope.

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Pythagorean triples and the unit circle

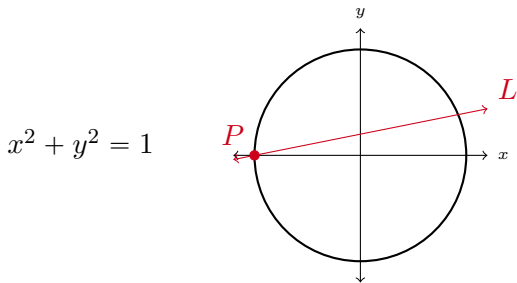
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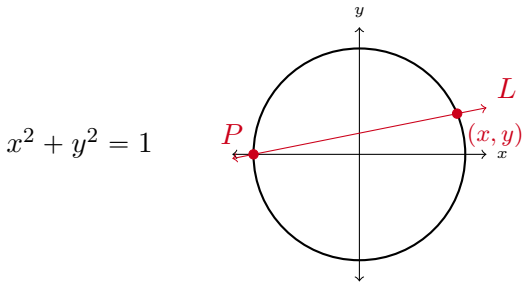
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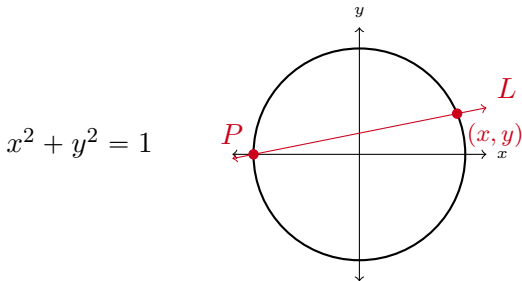
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Solve.

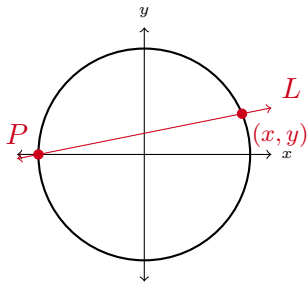
Pythagorean triples and the unit circle

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1$$

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Two points of intersection:

$$(-1, 0) \text{ and } \left(\frac{1-m^2}{1+m^2}, \frac{2m}{1+m^2} \right)$$



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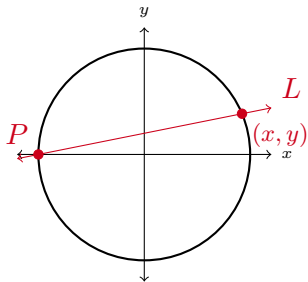
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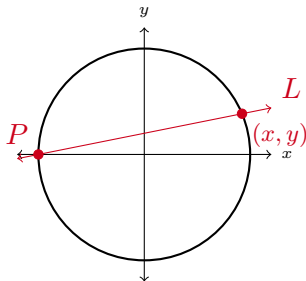
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Every point on the circle $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ whose coordinates are rational numbers can be obtained from the formula

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