

## Congruent numbers, quadratic forms and algebraic $K$ -theory

We show that if a square-free and odd (respectively, even) positive integer  $n$  is a congruent number, then

$$\#\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{Z}^3 | n = x^2 + 2y^2 + 32z^2\} = \#\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{Z}^3 | n = 2x^2 + 4y^2 + 9z^2 - 4yz\},$$

respectively,

$$\#\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{Z}^3 | \frac{n}{2} = x^2 + 4y^2 + 32z^2\} = \#\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{Z}^3 | \frac{n}{2} = 4x^2 + 4y^2 + 9z^2 - 4yz\}.$$

If we assume that the weak Brich-Swinnerton-Dyer conjecture is true for the elliptic curves  $E_n : y^2 = x^3 - n^2x$ , then, conversely, these equalities imply that  $n$  is a congruent number.

We shall also discuss some applications of the proposed method. In particular, for a prime  $p$ , we show that if  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$  is a congruent number, then the 8-rank of  $K_2O_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p})}$  equals one, and if  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{16}$  with  $h(-p) \not\equiv h(-2p) \pmod{16}$ , then  $2p$  is not a congruent number.