CIMPA School Valparaiso 2025

Exercise

Diophantine Approximation and Diophantine Equations Michel Waldschmidt

Consider the three following statements.

(TM) Thue-Mahler equation.

For any algebraic number field K, any finite set S of places of K containing all the archimedean places, any $k \in K^{\times}$ and any binary homogeneous form F(X, Y) having at least three non proportional linear factors in \mathbb{C} , the equation

$$F(x,y) = k\epsilon$$

has but a finite number of classes of solutions $(x, y, \varepsilon) \in \mathcal{O}_S^2 \times \mathcal{O}_S^{\times}$.

Recall that two solutions (x, y, ε) and (x', y', ε') in $\mathcal{O}_S^2 \times \mathcal{O}_S^{\times}$ of the equation $F(x, y) = k\epsilon$ are equivalent if there exists a unit u in \mathcal{O}_S^{\times} such that x' = ux, y' = uy, $\epsilon' = u^d \varepsilon$, where d is the degree of F.

(S) Siegel S-unit equation.

For any algebraic number field K and any finite set S of places of K containing all the archimedean places, the equation

$$\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2 = 1$$

has but a finite number of solutions $(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2)$ in $\mathcal{O}_S^{\times} \times \mathcal{O}_S^{\times}$.

(HE) Hyperelliptic equation.

For any algebraic number field K, any finite set S of places of K containing all the archimedean places and any polynomial f in K[X] with at least three distinct complex roots, the orders of multiplicity of which are odd, the equation

$$y^2 = f(x)$$

has but a finite number of solutions (x, y) in $\mathcal{O}_S \times \mathcal{O}_S$.

(SE) Superelliptic equation.

For any algebraic number field K, any finite set S of places of K containing all the archimedean places, any integer $m \ge 3$ and any polynomial f in K[X]with at least two distinct complex roots, the orders of multiplicity of which are prime to m, the equation

$$y^m = f(x)$$

has but a finite number of solutions (x, y) in $\mathcal{O}_S \times \mathcal{O}_S$.

In the course of January 9, 2025, a sketch of proof was given for each of the implications

$$(S) \Longrightarrow (TM), \quad (S) \Longrightarrow (HE), \quad (TM) \Longrightarrow (SE).$$

The exercise is to select one (or two, or three) of these implications and to give a complete proof filling all the details.