

MATHEMATISCHES FORSCHUNGSINSTITUT OBERWOLFACH

Tagungsbericht 11/1988

Diophantische Approximationen

13.3. bis 19.3.1988

Die Tagung, die unter der Leitung von P. Bundschuh (Köln) und R. Tijdeman (Leiden) stand, führte 43 auf dem Gebiet der Diophantischen Approximationen arbeitende Wissenschaftler zusammen. Bei ihren Vorträgen standen arithmetische Fragestellungen (Irrationalität, Transzendenz, algebraische Unabhängigkeit) sowie diophantische Gleichungen im Vordergrund des Interesses. Einen weiteren Schwerpunkt bildeten Probleme aus der Gleichverteilungstheorie.

Auf die Durchführung der in der Vergangenheit üblichen "Problem Session" wurde diesmal verzichtet; stattdessen enthält der vorliegende Bericht im Anschluß an die Vortragsauszüge eine Sammlung offener Probleme, die den Tagungsleitern von verschiedenen Teilnehmern eingereicht wurden. Darunter befindet sich auch ein Problem von K. Mahler, das dieser kürzlich - wenige Tage vor seinem Tod - noch P. Erdős mitgeteilt hatte.

Vortragsauszüge

J. BECK:

Irregularities of distribution (An improvement of Roth's theorem)

In 1954 K.F. Roth proved the following result: Let P_1, P_2, \dots, P_N be N points in $[0,1]^k$. Then there is a box $B(\underline{x}) = \prod_{i=1}^k [0, x_i]$ such that

$$|D(\underline{x})| = \left| \sum_{P_i \in B(\underline{x})} 1 - Nx_1 x_2 \dots x_k \right| \gg (\log N)^{\frac{k-1}{2}}.$$

The case $k = 2$ was improved by W.M. Schmidt. In 1972 he proved the best possible result $\log N$.

For $k \geq 3$ we can write $(\log N)^{\frac{k-1}{2}} \cdot (\log \log N)^{c_k}$ ($c_k > 0$)

instead of $(\log N)^{\frac{k-1}{2}}$. This improvement enables us to prove e.g. the 2-dimensional analogue of van Aardenne-Ehrenfest's theorem.

P.-G. BECKER:

P-adic continued fractions

In the year 1968 Schneider introduced a special type of p-adic continued fractions with properties similar to those known in the real case. Although, as recently found by de Weger, the analogon to the theorem of Lagrange is not true for p-adic continued fractions, one can prove that for periodic p-adic continued fractions an analogon to the theorem of Legendre holds.

Theorem: Let p be an odd prime and let c be a rational number with $|c|_p = 1$ and $\sqrt{c} \in \mathbb{Q}_p \setminus \mathbb{Q}$.

i) If the p-adic continued fraction of \sqrt{c} is periodic, then it is nearly purely periodic (i.e. there are

$$a_i \in \mathbb{N}, b_j \in \{1, \dots, p-1\} \text{ with } \sqrt{c} = b_0 + \frac{a_0}{b_1} + \dots + \frac{a_{h-1}}{b_h}.$$

ii) Furthermore, if $b_h = 2b_0$, then the p-adic continued fraction is symmetric (i.e. $b_v = b_{h-v}$ for $v=1, \dots, h-1$ and $a_v = a_{h-v-1}$ for $v=0, \dots, h-1$).

V.I. BERNIK:

Die inhomogenen metrischen Sätze über Approximationen auf Mannigfaltigkeiten

Es sei $P(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0$, $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}$, $H = \max_{0 \leq i < n} |a_i|$

und $L_n(w, c)$ die Menge der $x \in \mathbb{R}$, für welche die Ungleichung

$|P(x) + c| < H^{-w}$ unendlich viele Lösungen hat. Es ist bekannt,

daß für $c \in \mathbb{Q}$ und $w > n$ gilt: $\mu L_n(w, c) = 0$. Hier bezeichnet μA das Lebesguesche Maß von A.

Satz: Für $w > n$ und beliebige $c \in \mathbb{R}$ gilt

$$\mu L_n(w, c) = 0.$$

D. BERTRAND:

Heights and volumes in Baker's theory

Let G be a commutative algebraic group defined over a number

field K , and embedded in some projective space. We shall study the behaviour of the associated height function:

- a) on algebraic subgroups of G and b) on quotients of G , in suitable projective embeddings.
- a) yields estimates for the linear dependence relations linking n -tuple (P_1, \dots, P_n) of points in $G(K)$, extending the results of Loxton, van der Poorten and Masser in the multiplicative or elliptic case.
- b) provides a new proof of Baker type inequalities for linear forms in logarithms or abelian integrals in the rational case.

F. BEUKERS:

A p -adic proof of the Lindemann-Weierstrass theorem following Bézivin and Robba

The statement (LW) of the Lindemann-Weierstrass theorem is well-known. Consider now the following statement:

(BR) Let $L \in \mathbb{Q}[x, \frac{d}{dx}]$ be the differential operator defined by $Ly := x^2 y'(x) + (x-1)y(x)$; and let $u(x) \in \mathbb{Q}[[x]]$ be a locally convergent power series with rational coefficients. If Lu is an element of $\mathbb{Q}(x)$, then so is u .

Bézivin and Robba prove that (LW) and (BR) are equivalent assertions. Moreover, they prove (BR) either directly or by applying a general result of theirs on differential operators with many large p -adic radii of convergence. The proof ultimately relies on F. Bertrandias' sharpening of the Borel-Polya-Dwork criterion

for rationality of power series.

In addition, during the conference it turned out that an even simpler proof of (LW) exists. It is based on the ideas of the above approach, but requires no p-adic analysis.

D.W. BOYD:

Multiplication modulo one by Salem numbers

We consider the mapping of the interval defined by $Tx = \beta x \pmod{1}$, where $\beta > 1$. The question of interest is whether 1 is a periodic point of T. This is known to be the case if β is a Pisot number but it is unknown whether it must be true if β is a Salem number. If β is a Salem number of degree 4, then the result is true and the periods depend in a rather regular way on the coefficients of the minimal polynomial of β . If β has degree 6, we describe some computations which show that this is not the case. There are some very small β which have very large periods and pre-periods. We give a heuristic explanation of the differences between $d = 4$ and $d > 4$.

B. BRINDZA:

On Thue's equation

Let $F(X, Y) = \prod_{i=1}^n (X - \alpha_i Y)$ be an irreducible binary form with rational integer coefficients ($n > 2$) and m be a non-zero rational integer. Further, let H , D and d denote the height, discriminant and the degree of the splitting field of F , respectively.

Theorem: All the rational integer solutions x and y of the equation

$$F(x,y) = m$$

satisfy

$$|y| < \max\left\{2nH^{1+\frac{3}{n-2}}|m|^{\frac{1}{n}}, \exp(C(\log|2D|)^3(\log|2m|)^3)\right\}$$

where C is an effectively computable constant depending only on n and d .

W.D. BROWNAWELL:

Criteria for measures of algebraic independence

P. Philippon and the speaker have given criteria furnishing measures of algebraic independence in dimension d . Philippon's criterion has recently been rendered effective by E.M. Jabbouri. We show that these criteria are the two extreme cases of a family of criteria in which increasing radii of zero-free regions (of polynomial ideals in $\mathbb{Z}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$) correspond to ever shorter sequences of ideals, until finally the sequence degenerates to a single ideal.

P. BUNDSCHUH:

Linear independence of certain algebraic numbers

Let $k > 0$ and $q > 2$ be integers, and let T denote a set of $\frac{1}{2}\varphi(q)$

representatives mod q such that $TU(-T)$ is a complete set of residues mod q coprime with q . Then we sketch a new proof of Theorem 1: The numbers $(\cot \pi z)^{(k-1)} \Big|_{z=a/q}$ ($a \in T$) are linearly independent over \mathbb{Q} .

The same method can be applied to show

Theorem 2: If $k \geq 2$, then the numbers $(\frac{1}{\sin \pi z})^{(k-1)} \Big|_{z=a/q}$ ($a \in T$) are linearly independent over \mathbb{Q} . In the case $k = 1$ this is true iff $\chi(2) \neq 1$ for every Dirichlet-character χ with $\chi(-1) = -1$. Theorem 1 is due to T. Okada and K. Wang and contains earlier results of S. Chowla, H. Hasse, and H. Jager-H.W. Lenstra. We give also (best possible) linear independence measures for the numbers involved in the above theorems. Furthermore we give a Baker-Birch-Wirsing-style result concerning non-vanishing of the values of certain Dirichlet-series at positive integers.

W.W.L. CHEN:

Irregularities of distribution (Joint work with J. Beck)

Let P be a distribution of N points in the unit torus $U^{K+L} = [0,1]^{K+L}$, where $K \geq 2$ and $L \geq 1$. For every compact and convex body A in U^K , any number $\lambda \in (0,1]$, any proper orthogonal transformation τ in \mathbb{R}^K and any vector $\underline{u} \in U^K$, let $A(\lambda, \tau, \underline{u}) = \{\tau(\lambda \underline{x}) + \underline{u} : \underline{x} \in A\}$. For every $\underline{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_L) \in U^L$, let $B(\underline{y}) = [0, y_1] \times \dots \times [0, y_L]$. Write

$$D[P; A(\lambda, \tau, \underline{u}) \times B(\underline{y})] = \frac{\sum_{P \in P \cap (A(\lambda, \tau, \underline{u}) \times B(\underline{y}))} 1}{P \cap (A(\lambda, \tau, \underline{u}) \times B(\underline{y}))} - N \cdot \mu_K(A(\lambda, \tau, \underline{u})) \mu_L(B(\underline{y})),$$

where μ_K and μ_L denote respectively K - and L -dimensional volume. Further, let \mathcal{T} denote the group of all proper orthogonal transformations τ in \mathbb{R}^K , and $d\tau$ the volume element of the invariant measure on \mathcal{T} , normalized such that $\int_{\mathcal{T}} d\tau = 1$.

Theorem: Let A be a given compact and convex body in U^K . For every natural number N , there exists a distribution P of N points in U^{K+L} such that

$$\int_0^1 \int_{\mathcal{T}} \int_{U^K} \int_{U^L} |D[P; A(\lambda, \tau, \underline{u}) \times B(\underline{y})]|^2 d\underline{y} d\underline{u} d\tau d\lambda \ll_{A,L} N^{1-1/K}$$

P. COHEN:

Some transcendence problems for automorphic functions

One knows that if A is a projective group (or abelian) variety defined over the field $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}$ and one imposes on the exponential map $\exp: \mathbb{T}^n \rightarrow A(\mathbb{T})$, $n = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} A$, the normalisation condition that $\exp(\underline{0})$ and $\text{dexp}(\underline{0})$ be algebraic, that $\exp(P)$ is transcendental for P algebraic, $P \neq \underline{0}$.

We propose the following conjecture whose solution would give an analogous result for projective varieties which are not necessarily group varieties:

Conjecture: Let X be a compact connected complex manifold carrying a (Hodge) metric $\| \cdot \|_H^2$, endowing it with the structure of a projective variety definable over the field of algebraic numbers.

Suppose that the universal covering \tilde{X} of X may be realized as a domain in complex Euclidean space of dimension $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} X$, with covering group freely acting bi-holomorphic automorphisms of \tilde{X} , and corresponding holomorphic covering map $\varphi: \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$.

Then not all the following are algebraic:

(I) for any $u, v \in \tilde{X}$, $u \neq v$:

$$u, \varphi(u), d\varphi(u), v, \varphi(v)$$

(II) for any $u \in \tilde{X}$, $\underline{e} \in T(\tilde{X})$:

$$u, \varphi(u), d\varphi(u), c_H \cdot (\varphi^* \|\underline{e}\|_H^2)(u)$$

where $\|\underline{e}\|_E^2(u) = 1$ with $\|\cdot\|_E^2$ the natural Euclidean metric of the ambient space of \tilde{X} and

$$\begin{aligned} c_H &= 1 & \text{if curvature } (\|\cdot\|_H^2) &\equiv 0 \\ &= \pi & \text{if curvature } (\|\cdot\|_H^2) &\neq 0. \end{aligned}$$

P. DEBES:

Arithmetic variation of fibers in families of curves

(Joint work with M. Fried, Univ. of Florida)

Simple data given entirely by Group Theory, called a Nielsen class, determines families of covers of the affine line that are complete with respect to a simple moduli problem. Hurwitz monodromy action determines much about the geometry of the family: field of definition K , the possibility that the parameter space for the family is a rational variety. We will explain an arithmetical use of the monodromy action: a criteria for the existence of rational points on each K -fiber of the family. We will illustrate the theory with an example which originates

in an exceptional case of the Hilbert-Siegel problem. Exploration of application of this kind of results to the elliptic curve rank problem will be continued in later work.

J.M. EVERTSE:

Weighted unit equations (Joint work with K. Györy)

Let \mathbb{A} be the field of algebraic numbers, let K be an algebraic number field of degree d , and let S be a finite set of places on K containing all infinite places. Let U_S be the group of S -units, $\bar{U}_S := \{\xi \in \mathbb{A}^* \mid \exists n \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ with } \xi^n \in U_S\}$ (\bar{U}_S is called the group of division points of U_S).

We consider the equation:

(WU_n) : $\alpha_1 x_1 + \dots + \alpha_n x_n = 1$ in $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \Gamma$, where $\Gamma = U_S$ or $\Gamma = \bar{U}_S$, and $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in (\mathbb{A}^*)^n$.

(WU_2) has only finitely many solutions. If $\Gamma = U_S$ then (WU_2) has at most $3 \cdot 7^{d+2|S|}$ solutions. This can be generalized as follows:

Theorem 1: If $\Gamma = \bar{U}_S$ then (WU_2) has at most $3 \cdot 7^{d+2|S|} + (12d \log \log 3d)^4$ solutions.

If $n \geq 3$ then (WU_n) has infinitely many solutions in general, but the minimal number of $(n-1)$ -dimensional subspaces of \mathbb{A}^n containing all solutions of (WU_n) is finite. Denote this number by $B(n, \underline{\alpha}, \Gamma)$. Call two tuples $\underline{\alpha}, \underline{\beta} \in (\mathbb{A}^*)^n$ Γ -equivalent if $\alpha_i / \beta_i \in \Gamma$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$ (notation $\underline{\alpha} \stackrel{\Gamma}{\sim} \underline{\beta}$). If $\underline{\alpha} \stackrel{\Gamma}{\sim} \underline{\beta}$ then $B(n, \underline{\alpha}, \Gamma) = B(n, \underline{\beta}, \Gamma)$,

hence we may write $B(n, \alpha, \Gamma)$ for any Γ -equivalence class α .

Then we have

Theorem 2: For all but finitely many Γ -equivalence classes α

$$B(n, \alpha, \Gamma) < (n!)^{2n+2}.$$

K.GYÖRY:

Unit equations with rational coefficients (Joint work with B. Brindza)

Let K be a normal extension of \mathbb{Q} of finite degree n , U_K the unit group of K , and $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$. We deal with the unit equation

$$(1) \quad ax + by = c \quad \text{in} \quad x, y \in U_K.$$

One may assume without loss of generality that a, b, c are coprime positive integers with $c \geq \max(a, b)$. We do not distinguish between conjugate solutions of (1).

Theorem 1: There exists an effectively computable number $C_1(K)$ such that if $c > C_1(K)$ then with at most one exception, each solution of (1) satisfies

$$(2) \quad \min\{\overline{|x|}, \overline{|y|}\} < c^{-1} \exp((\log 2a)(\log 2b)(\log c))^{2/3}.$$

Further, if $ab > 1$ or n is odd then each solution of (1) satisfies (2).

If $ab = 1$ and n is even then (1) can have a solution for which (2) does not hold. Theorem 1 implies that if $c > C_2(K, a, b)$ then (1) has at most one solution, and if $ab > 1$ or n is odd then (1) is not solvable.

Theorem 2: Apart from finitely many triples $(a, b, c) \in \mathbb{N}^3$ with coprime a, b, c , (1) is solvable if and only if either

- $c = a+b$ when $x = y = 1$ is the only solution of (1) or
- $c = \epsilon + \epsilon'$ for some real quadratic units ϵ, ϵ' which are conjugates to each other. In this case $x = \epsilon, y = \epsilon'$ is the only solution of (1).

M. LAURENT:

Some new results on the non vanishing of p-adic regulators

Using tools from transcendental number theory we give lower bounds for the p-adic rank of certain matrices whose entries are logarithms of algebraic numbers, in terms of the Galois action on these numbers.

J. LOXTON:

Zeros of Newman polynomials

A Newman polynomial is a polynomial

$$P_n(z) = \sum_{m=0}^n c_{nm} z^m \text{ with } c_{nm} = 0 \text{ or } 1.$$

These polynomials are named after some conjectures of D.J. Newman on the order of magnitude of

$$\min_{P_n} \max_{|z|=1} |P_n(z)| \quad \text{and} \quad \max_{P_n} \min_{|z|=1} |P_n(z)|.$$

Clearly the zeros of such $P_n(z)$ lie in the annulus $\frac{1}{2} < |z| < 2$. Computer experiments suggest that these zeros fill out a rather interesting shape S . The extreme zeros include the omnipresent number $\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{5}+1)$.

In fact $\overline{S \cap \mathbb{R}} = [-\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{5}+1), -\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{5}-1)]$ and the convex hull of S is tangent to the positive real axis at 1.

H. LUCKHARDT:

Herbrand-Analysen zweier Beweise des Satzes von Roth: polynomiale Anzahlschranken

A previously unexplored method, combining logical and mathematical elements, is shown to yield substantial numerical improvements in the area of diophantine approximations. Kreisel illustrated the method abstractly by noting that effective bounds on the number of elements are ensured if Herbrand terms from ineffective proofs of Σ_2 -finiteness theorems satisfy certain simple growth conditions. Here several efficient growth conditions for the same purpose are presented that are actually satisfied in practice, in particular, by the proofs of Roth's theorem due to Roth himself and to Esnault/Viehweg. The analysis of the former yields an exponential bound of

order $\exp(70\epsilon^{-2}d^2)$ in place of $\exp(285\epsilon^{-2}d^2)$ given by Davenport/Roth in 1955, where α is (real) algebraic of degree $d \geq 2$ and $|\alpha - pq^{-1}| < q^{-2-\epsilon}$. (Thus the new bound is less than the fourth root of the old one.) - The new bounds extracted from the other proof are polynomial of low degree (in $\epsilon^{-1}, \log d$).

Corollaries: Apart from a new bound for the number of solutions of the corresponding diophantine equations and inequalities (among them Thue's inequality), $\log \log q_\nu < C_{\alpha, \epsilon} \nu^{5/6+\epsilon}$, where q_ν are the denominators of the convergents to the continued fraction of α .

M. MENDES FRANCE:

On Euler like products (Joint work with A. van der Poorten)

Consider the dynamical system $\mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$, $(x_0, y_0) \neq (0, 0)$,

$$x_{n+1} := \varphi(x_n, y_n)$$

$$y_{n+1} := \psi(x_n, y_n)$$

where we assume

(i) $y_{n+1}/x_{n+1} = F(y_n/x_n)$,

(ii) $y_{n+1}/y_n = G(y_n/x_n)$,

(iii) $x_n \rightarrow x_\infty$,

(iv) there exists a continuous V with $V(\varphi(x, y), \psi(x, y)) = V(x, y)$.

Then y_n converges to y_∞

$$y_\infty := y_0 \prod_{n=0}^{\infty} G(F^n(y_0/x_0))$$

where F^n is the n^{th} iterate of F . The value of y_∞ is determined

by $V(x_\infty, y_\infty) = V(x_0, y_0)$.

Several examples are discussed:

1. $\varphi(x, y) = \frac{x^2}{x+y}$, $\psi(x, y) = \frac{y^2}{x+y}$, $V(x, y) = y-x$.

Then one obtains the well known Euler product

$$\prod_{n=0}^{\infty} (1 + \xi^{2^n}) = (1 - \xi)^{-1} \quad |\xi| < 1$$

2. $\varphi(x, y) = \frac{(x+y)(2y^2-x^2)}{xy}$, $\psi(x, y) = y \cdot \frac{x+y}{x}$, $V(x, y) = y^2 \frac{x^2-4y^2}{(x-y)^2}$.

Then

$$\prod_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{F^n(\xi)}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{\xi^2-4}}{|\xi-1|}, \quad |\xi| \geq 2$$

where $F(\xi) = 2 - \xi^2$.

The value of the last product was discovered by R. Ostrowski.

M. MIGNOTTE:

Arithmetical applications of a theorem of Erdős-Turan

A theorem of Erdős-Turan says that the arguments of the roots of a complex polynomial are well-distributed when the coefficients of the polynomial are "not to big".

We apply this result to integer polynomials, but after a preparation via some Siegel's lemma. Our result contains a theorem of Michel Langevin.

J. MUELLER:

On the number of good rational approximations to algebraic numbers

Recently, Bombieri and van der Poorten obtained a result (H. Luckhart obtained a similar result in 1984 but unpublished) on the number of exceptional approximations in Roth's theorem: Let $0 < \delta < \delta_0$ where δ_0 is a fixed number less than 1. Let α be an algebraic number of degree n and of absolute height $H(\alpha)$ which is defined as the largest coefficient in absolute value of the defining polynomial of α over \mathbb{Q} . Denote by $N(\frac{x}{y})$ the number of rational approximations to α with

$$|\alpha - \frac{x}{y}| < \frac{1}{64 \max(|x|, |y|)^{2+\delta}},$$

then

$$N(\frac{x}{y}) < \frac{\log \log 4 H(\alpha)}{\log(1+\delta)} + 3000 \frac{(\log n)^2}{\delta^5} \log\left(\frac{50 \log n}{\delta^2}\right).$$

Schmidt and I observed that the first term in the above inequality is best possible.

Theorem: (Mueller & Schmidt) There are infinitely many algebraic numbers α of degree n such that

$$N(\frac{x}{y}) > \frac{\log \log H}{\log(1+\delta)} + \frac{\log(n\delta(4+2\delta)^{-1})}{\log(1+\delta)}.$$

H. NIEDERREITER:

New low-discrepancy sequences

We generalize and improve earlier constructions of low-discrepancy

sequences given by Sobol', Faure, and the speaker. For any $s \geq 2$ this yields sequences in the s -dimensional unit cube with the smallest discrepancy that is currently known. The construction is based on the theory of nets and (t,s) -sequences developed by the speaker and on algebraic techniques using formal Laurent series.

K. NISHIOKA:

Algebraic independence of gap series

We shall discuss the necessary and sufficient conditions of algebraic independence of certain power series using Evertse theorem.

Example 1. Let $f(z) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} z^{k!}$ and $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ be algebraic numbers with $0 < |\alpha_i| < 1$. If no α_i/α_j ($i \neq j$) is a root of unity, then $f(\alpha_1), \dots, f(\alpha_n)$ are algebraically independent.

Example 2. Let $f(z) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} z^{k!+k}$ and $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ be algebraic numbers with $0 < |\alpha_i| < 1$. If $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ are all distinct, then $f(\alpha_1), \dots, f(\alpha_n)$ are algebraically independent.

Example 3. Let $f(z) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} [k\epsilon]z^k$ and $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ be algebraic numbers with $0 < |\alpha_i| < 1$. If $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ are all distinct, then $f(\alpha_1), \dots, f(\alpha_n)$ are algebraically independent.

P. PHILIPPON:

Zero estimates in finite characteristic

We show that the classical zero estimates on commutative algebraic

groups extend when the base field is not required to be of characteristic zero provided that the notion of order of vanishing is appropriately modified.

G. RHIN:

Transfinite diameter and irrationality measures

We use some results on the "integral transfinite diameter" of a real interval to get a new method that provides effective irrationality measures for logarithms of rational numbers. We prove that if a, b are positive integers such that $(\sqrt{a}-\sqrt{b})^2 \leq 0,6$ then it is possible to give an effective irrationality measure of $\log(\frac{a}{b})$. The previous bound was $\frac{1}{e} = 0,367\dots$. We give some information on the limit of the irrationality measure given by this method for $\log 2$.

A. SCHINZEL:

A decomposition of integer vectors

A proof is outlined of the following theorem.

For all positive integers $k > 1$ and $\ell \leq k$ and for every integer vector $\bar{n} = [n_1, \dots, n_k] \neq 0$ with the height $h(\bar{n}) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq k} |n_i|$ there exists a decomposition

$$\bar{n} = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} u_i \bar{p}_i$$

where $u_i \in \mathbb{Q}$, $\bar{p}_i \in \mathbb{Z}^k$ and linearly independent vectors \bar{p}_i satisfy

the inequality

$$\prod_{i=1}^k h(\bar{p}_i) \leq h(\bar{n})^{\frac{k-1}{k-1}} \approx 1.$$

H.P. SCHLICKWEI:

The subspace theorem

Generalizing W. Schmidt's recent quantitative version of the subspace theorem we prove.

Theorem 1 : Let K be a number field of degree d . Let $s = \{0, p_1, \dots, p_s\}$, where the p_i are rational primes. Write $|\cdot|_j$ for the p_j -adic valuation ($|\cdot|_0$ denoting the standard absolute value). Suppose that for each j ($0 \leq j \leq s$) we are given linearly independent linear forms $L_1^{(j)}, \dots, L_n^{(j)}$ in n variables with coefficients in K . Consider the inequality

$$(1) \quad \prod_{j=0}^s |L_1^{(j)}(\underline{x}) \dots L_n^{(j)}(\underline{x})|_j \leq \left(\prod_{j=0}^s |\det(L_1^{(j)}, \dots, L_n^{(j)})|_j \right) |\underline{x}|^{-\delta}$$

where $0 < \delta < 1$ is given, where $\det(L_1^{(j)}, \dots, L_n^{(j)})$ denotes the determinant of the coefficient matrix of the $L_i^{(j)}$ and where

$$|\underline{x}| = (x_1^2 + \dots + x_n^2)^{1/2}.$$

There exist proper subspaces T_1, \dots, T_t of \mathbb{Q}^n with

$$t \leq (8(s+1)d!)^{2 \cdot 26n} (s+1)^6 \delta^{-2}$$

such that each rational integral solution \underline{x} of (1) either lies

in one of T_1, \dots, T_t or has norm

$$|\underline{x}| < \max \{ (n!)^{8/\delta}, H(L_1^{(0)}), \dots, H(L_n^{(s)}) \}$$

where $H(L_i^{(j)})$ is a suitable defined height.

As an application we obtain an explicit upper bound for the number of solutions of S-unit equations.

We can give a version of the above result where the variables x_i lie in K instead of \mathbb{Q} .

J. SCHOISSENGEIER:

On the number of lattice-points in a right-angled triangle

Die Anzahl der Gitterpunkte in einem rechtwinkligen Dreieck der

Form $\{(x, y) \mid 0 \leq x \leq N, 0 \leq y \leq \alpha x\}$ hängt wesentlich von der Summe

$\sum_{n=1}^N B_1(n\alpha)$ ab, wobei $B_1(x) = \{x\} - \frac{1}{2}$. Es genügt, den Fall $\alpha \in (0, 1) \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ zu betrachten. Ist $\alpha = [0; a_1, a_2, \dots]$ die Kettenbruchentwicklung von α mit den Näherungsbrüchen $\frac{p_n}{q_n}$,

$$s_{ij} = q_{\min(i, j)} q_{\max(i, j)}^{-p_{\max(i, j)}} \text{ für } i, j \geq 0 \text{ und}$$

$$k_i = \frac{1}{2} (1 - (-1)^{a_{i+1}}) \prod_{\substack{j=0 \\ j \neq i(2)}}^{i-1} (-1)^{a_{j+1}} \text{ für } i \geq 0,$$

so gelten die Abschätzungen

$$\min_{1 \leq N < q_{m+1}} \sum_{n=1}^N B_1(n\alpha) = -\frac{1}{8} \left(\sum_{2 \mid i \leq m} a_{i+1} - \sum_{\substack{2 \mid i < m \\ 2 \mid j \leq m}} \kappa_i \kappa_j s_{ij} \right) + O(1),$$

$$\max_{1 \leq N < \alpha_{m+1}} \sum_{n=1}^N B_1(n\alpha) = \frac{1}{8} \left(\sum_{2 \nmid i \leq m} a_{i+1} + \sum_{\substack{2 \nmid i \leq m \\ 2 \nmid j \leq m}} \kappa_{ij} s_{ij} \right) + O(1).$$

Daraus ergeben sich eine Reihe von Folgerungen. Z.B. ist für

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{t^2+4}-t) \quad (t \text{ eine positive ganze Zahl}) \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\log N} \sum_{n=1}^N B_1(n\alpha)$$

$$= \frac{t}{16 \log(t+\alpha)} \quad \text{für gerades } t, \text{ und für ungerades } t \text{ ergibt sich}$$

$$\frac{t}{16 \log(t+\alpha)} \frac{t^2+2}{t^2+3}.$$

J. SILVERMAN:

Heights and integral points

Lang has conjectured:

I $\hat{h}(P) \gg_K h(E)$ for non-torsion points $P \in E(K)$.

II $|E(R)| \leq c_K^{1+\text{rank}E(K)}$ for integral points on a minimal equation for E .

Earlier I proved that I \Rightarrow II. Recently, Marc Hindry and I proved a version of I in which the \gg constant depends also on the Szpiro ratio $\sigma_E = h(\Delta_E)/h(N_E)$. Since it is known that $\sigma_E \ll_K 1$ for function fields, we obtain an unconditional proof of I and II in this case.

C.L. STEWART:

On the number of solutions of the Thue equation

Let $F(x,y) = x^n + a_{n-1}x^{n-1}y + \dots + a_0y^n \in \mathbb{Z}[x,y]$ with non-zero dis-

criminant and with $n \geq 3$. Let $\epsilon > 0$, let h be a positive integer and let h_1 be any divisor of h with $h_1 > h^{2/n+\epsilon}$. We shall show that the number of solutions of the equation

$$F(x,y) = h,$$

in coprime integers x and y is at most $C_1 n^{\omega(h_1)+1}$ for $h > C_2$, where C_1 is a number which is effectively computable in terms of ϵ and C_2 is a number which is computable in terms of n, ϵ and $H := \max_i |a_i|$. Here $\omega(h_1)$ denotes the number of distinct prime factors of h_1 .

R.F. TICHY:

The discrepancy of digit-depending sequences

For a wide class of number-theoretical functions $t(n)$ depending on the digit representation of n to a certain base q , distribution properties of the sequences $(t(n) \cdot x)_{n=0}^{\infty}$ are studied and best possible discrepancy-estimates are given. The estimates depend on the approximation type of x . First results are due to M. Mendes France, J. Coquet et al. Several refinements and generalizations are obtained.

Theorem: Let x be of finite approximation type η . Then the discrepancy D_N of $(t(n)x)$ satisfies the estimate

$$D_N \ll (\log N)^{-\frac{1}{2\eta} + \epsilon} \quad (\epsilon > 0),$$

and this estimate is best possible if x is not of type $\eta' < \eta$.

R. TIJDEMAN:

Representations as sums of elements of finitely generated groups

Report on the following results proved jointly with Lianxiang Wang.

1. (To appear in Pacific J.Math.)

Every sufficiently large integer has at most four representations of the form

$$N = 2^a 3^b + 2^c + 3^d \quad \text{with } a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}.$$

If N is large and admits four representations, then it is of the form $2^\alpha + 3^\beta$ with $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Z}$.

2. (To appear in Indag.Math.)

Let G and H be finitely generated subgroups of $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ and $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. Let a_1, \dots, a_m and b_1, \dots, b_n in \mathbb{C} . Put $F = G \cap H$.

If α admits non-degenerate representations

$$\alpha = a_1 g_1 + \dots + a_m g_m = b_1 h_1 + \dots + b_n h_n \quad \text{with}$$

$$g_1, \dots, g_m \in G, \quad h_1, \dots, h_n \in H,$$

then there are finite subsets V of G and W of H , the cardinalities of which depend only on G, H, m and n , such that $g_i = v_i f_i, h_j = w_j f'_j$ with $v_i \in V, w_j \in W, f_i, f'_j \in G \cap H$ for all i and j . Moreover, the representations have a common contraction over $G \cap H$.

K. VÄÄNÄNEN:

On arithmetic properties of G-functions

Let K be an algebraic number field of finite degree over \mathbb{Q} . For every place v of K we denote by $|\cdot|_v$ the corresponding normalized absolute value. Let $g_1(z), \dots, g_n(z)$ be algebraically independent (over $K(z)$) KG-functions satisfying $g_i(z) = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij}(z)g_j(z)$ ($i=1, \dots, n$), where $A_{ij}(z) \in K(z)$. Then we have the following

Theorem: Let $P \in K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, $P \neq 0$, be a polynomial of degree $\leq \lambda$ and height $h(P)$. Then there exist positive constants c, Λ , depending only on the functions $g_i(z)$ and n such that for any $\theta \in K$ of height $h(\theta) \leq h$ ($\geq e^e$) satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} \log h &\geq (1 + \max(3, \lambda))^{4n} \log \log h, \\ |\theta|_v &< e^{-c\lambda(\log h)^{(4n-1)/4n} (\log \log h)^{1/4n}}, \end{aligned}$$

we have $|P(g_1(\theta), \dots, g_n(\theta))|_v > h(P)^{-\Lambda} (\log h)^{1/4} (\log \log h)^{-1/4}$

for all $h(P)$ large enough.

P. VOJTA:

A refinement of Schmidt's subspace theorem

Schmidt's subspace theorem asserts that a certain diophantine inequality pertaining to hyperplanes in projective space holds for all points outside a finite set of linear subspaces. As ori-

ginally proved, this set depends on the number field, the set of excluded primes, and on $\varepsilon > 0$, as well as the set of hyperplanes. We show that Schmidt's inequality holds for all points outside $Z_1 \cup Z_2$, where Z_1 is a finite set of points (depending on all data, as before) and Z_2 is a finite set of linear subspaces depending on the set of hyperplanes but independent of the number field, the set of excluded primes and $\varepsilon > 0$.

G. WAGNER:

On means of distances on the surface of a sphere

On the surface S of the unit sphere in 3-dimensional euclidean space we study two extremal problems. Let x_1, \dots, x_N be a fixed set of points on S and let $x \in S$ be a variable point. $|\dots|$ denotes the euclidean distance.

1. We obtain sharp lower (upper) bounds for the maximum (minimum) on S of the α -Riesz potentials $\sum_{j=1}^N |x-x_j|^\alpha$ ($-2 < \alpha < \infty$) and the logarithmic potential $\sum_{j=1}^N \log|x-x_j|$.
2. We obtain sharp lower (upper) bounds for the α -energies

$$\sum_{j < k} |x_j - x_k|^\alpha \quad (-2 < \alpha < 2) \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{j < k} \log|x_j - x_k|.$$

To give an example, we prove the inequality

$$\prod_{j < k} |x_j - x_k| \leq \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right)^{\frac{N(N-1)}{2}} \frac{N}{N^4} (1+o(1))$$

I. WAKABAYASHI:

Algebraic values of functions on Riemann surfaces and the unit disk

First we generalize the Schneider-Lang theorem to functions on punctured Riemann surfaces by using Jensen's formula for Riemann surfaces. Next we improve the Schneider-Lang theorem which was generalized to functions on the unit disk by Gramain-Mignotte-Waldschmidt. This improvement is achieved by estimating more precisely the Blaschke terms in Jensen's formula.

M. WALDSCHMIDT:

Some topics in transcendental number theory

We first give irrationality results for theta functions by Gel'fond-Schneider's method (joint work with P. Bundschuh). Next we consider the algebraic independence of Liouville numbers (joint work with Zhu Yao Chen). We mention recent results on lower bounds for linear forms in logarithms (work of Blass, Glass, Manski, Meronk and Steiner on Baker's method, and joint work with M. Mignotte on Schneider's method for linear forms in two logarithms). Finally we state some results due to D. Ray on finitely generated dense subgroups of \mathbb{R}^n .

B.M.M. DE WEGER:

The sum of two S-units being a square

Let p_1, \dots, p_s be fixed primes. The set of S-units is

$$\zeta = \{\pm p_1^{x_1} \dots p_s^{x_s} \mid x_i \in \mathbb{Z}\}.$$

We study the diophantine equation

$$(1) \quad x + y = z^2$$

in $x, y \in \zeta$, $z \in \mathbb{Q}$. Without loss of generality we may study

(1) with conditions

$$(2) \quad \begin{cases} x \in \zeta \cap \mathbb{N}, & y \in \zeta \cap \mathbb{Z}, & z \in \mathbb{Z}, \\ x \geq y, & z > 0, \\ \gcd(x, y) \text{ is squarefree.} \end{cases}$$

The generalized Ramanujan-Nagell equation $x+k = z^2$ (k fixed) is a special case of (1).

Theorem A: The solutions of equation (1) with conditions (2) satisfy

$$\max(x, |y|, z) < C,$$

where C depends on p_1, \dots, p_s only, and is effectively computable. The proof is based on (Yu's) bounds for p -adic linear forms in logarithms.

Theorem B: For $s = 4$, $p_1, \dots, p_4 = 2, \dots, 7$, equation (1) with conditions (2) has exactly 388 solutions. The one with largest $\max(x, |y|, z)$ is $x = 3^{13} \cdot 5^3$, $y = -2 \cdot 7^3$, $z = 14117$.

The method of proof works in principle for any p_1, \dots, p_s . It uses computational p -adic diophantine approximation techniques, based on the L^3 -algorithm for lattice case reduction.

(Ref.: B.M.M. de Weger, Algorithms for diophantine equations, PhD thesis, Univ. of Leiden, 1987, Chapter 7)

J. YU:

Transcendence theory in char p. Special zeta values

We propose to prove the transcendence of Carlitz zeta values at all positive integers. These are the values in $\mathbb{F}_q((T))$ given by

$$\zeta(m) = \sum_{\text{monic } N \in \mathbb{F}_q[T]} N^{-m} \quad m \geq 1 \text{ integer.}$$

Let E_c be the Carlitz module, with period $\tilde{\pi}$. If m is "even", i.e., $m \equiv 0 \pmod{q-1}$, Carlitz showed that $\zeta(m)/\tilde{\pi}^m$ is essentially the m -th Bernoulli-Carlitz numbers in $\mathbb{F}_q(T)$. If $m \not\equiv 0 \pmod{q-1}$, we manage also to prove that $\zeta(m)/\tilde{\pi}^m$ is transcendental. Our starting point is the tensor products of Carlitz modules introduced by G. Anderson and a formula of G. Anderson and D. Thakur relating the zeta values with the exponential maps parametrizing Anderson's tensor products. We shall prove versions of Hermite-Lindemann and qualitative Baker's theorems for the algebraic groups in question, which imply the transcendence of $\zeta(m)$, and $\zeta(m)/\tilde{\pi}^m$ (when m "odd") respectively.

K. YU:

Linear forms in p-adic logarithms

Let $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ ($n \geq 2$) be non-zero algebraic numbers $K_0 := \mathbb{Q}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$,

p an odd prime number and set $K := K_0(\zeta_4)$. ($\zeta_n := e^{2\pi i/h}$). Let $D := [K:\mathbb{Q}]$, $m := \max\{t \in \mathbb{Z}, t \geq 0 \mid \zeta_{2^t} \in K\}$. Let \mathfrak{p} be a prime ideal of the ring of integers in K , lying above p ; denote by $e_{\mathfrak{p}}$ and $f_{\mathfrak{p}}$ the ramification index and residue class degree, respectively. For $\alpha \in K^*$ denote by $\text{ord}_{\mathfrak{p}}\alpha$ the order to which \mathfrak{p} divides the fractional ideal (α) generated by α . Let $v_1 \leq v_2 \leq \dots \leq v_n$ be real numbers such that for $1 \leq j \leq n$

$$v_j \geq \max(h(\alpha_j), f_{\mathfrak{p}} |\log \alpha_j| (2\pi D)^{-1}, f_{\mathfrak{p}} D^{-1} \log p),$$

where $h(\alpha)$ denotes the logarithmic absolute height of α . If $\log \alpha_n$ is linearly dependent on $\pi i, \log \alpha_1, \dots, \log \alpha_{n-1}$ over \mathbb{Q} , we assume, in addition, that $v_n \geq (f_{\mathfrak{p}} D^{-1} \log p) \cdot \max(1, \log(f_{\mathfrak{p}} \log p))$.

Let $b_1, \dots, b_n \in \mathbb{Z}$, not all zero, and $B \geq \max_j |b_j|$. Set

$$v := \begin{cases} v_{n-1}, & \text{if } \text{ord}_{\mathfrak{p}} b_n = \min_j (\text{ord}_{\mathfrak{p}} b_j) \\ v_n, & \text{if } \text{ord}_{\mathfrak{p}} b_n > \min_j (\text{ord}_{\mathfrak{p}} b_j). \end{cases}$$

Theorem: Suppose that $\text{ord}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha_j = 0$ ($1 \leq j \leq n$) and $\alpha_1^{b_1} \dots \alpha_n^{b_n} \neq 1$.

Then we have

$$\text{ord}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\alpha_1^{b_1} \dots \alpha_n^{b_n} - 1) < \frac{2844000}{2^m} 25^{n \cdot (n+1)} 2^{n+2 \cdot 25} \frac{f_{\mathfrak{p}}}{(f_{\mathfrak{p}} \log p)^n} \cdot D^{n+2} \cdot v_1 \dots v_n \cdot$$

$$\max(\log(D^2 B), \log(2^{12} n D)) \log(2^{11} n^2 D v).$$

Remark: A similar result holds for the case $p = 2$.

Probleme

V. BERNIK:

Man zeige:

1. Die Ungleichung $|P(X)| < \Psi(H) \cdot H^{-n+1}$ hat für fast alle X unendlich viele Lösungen, wenn $P(X) \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$, $\partial P = n$, $H = H(P)$ und $\Psi(H)$ eine monoton fallende Funktion mit $\Psi(H) \rightarrow 0$ für $H \rightarrow \infty$ und $\sum_{H=1}^{\infty} \Psi(H) = \infty$ ist.
2. Die schwache Vermutung: In 1. setze man $n = 2$ und $\Psi(H) = H^{-1}(\log H)^{-\gamma}$ mit $0 < \gamma < 1$.

P. ERDÖS:

1. (Mahler's last problem)

A few days before his death Mahler told me that he conjectures that for every $k > 4$

$$\sum_{i=0}^l \epsilon_i k^i = x^2, \quad \epsilon_i \in \{0,1\}, \quad \sum_{i=0}^l \epsilon_i > 1$$

has only a finite number of solutions. He showed that for $k \leq 4$ the number of solutions is infinite. Mahler found only one non-trivial solution for $k > 4$: $1+7+7^2+7^3 = 400$. (Remark: to avoid a "trivial" solution of this problem one has to assume $(k,x) = 1$.)

2. Is it true that

$$x^k = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \epsilon_i i!, \quad \epsilon_i \in \{0,1\}, \quad \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \epsilon_i < \infty$$

has only a finite number of solutions? In fact it probably can be powerful (i.e. of the form x^2y^3) only finitely often. A weaker result will be in a forthcoming paper of Brindza and myself.

A. SCHINZEL:

1. Does there exist an absolute constant c with one of the following properties?

For all integers k and ℓ , $k \geq \ell > 1$ and every vector $\bar{n} \in \mathbb{Z}^k \setminus \{0\}$ there exist linearly independent vectors $\bar{p}_1, \dots, \bar{p}_\ell$ such that

$$\prod_{i=1}^{\ell} h(\bar{p}_i) \leq c h(\bar{n})^{\frac{k-\ell}{k-1}}$$

and

$$(a) \quad \bar{n} = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} u_i \bar{p}_i, \quad u_i \in \mathbb{Q}$$

$$(b) \quad \bar{n} = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} u_i \bar{p}_i, \quad u_i \in \mathbb{Z}$$

2. Estimate (or evaluate) the function $f(\ell)$ defined on positive integers by the formula

$$f(\ell) = \sup_A \inf_U \prod_{i=1}^{\ell} \left(\sum_{j=1}^{\ell} d_{ij} \right),$$

where $[d_{ij}] = UA^{-1}$, A and U run through all lower triangular

non-singular integral matrices and all lower triangular unimodular integral matrices of order k , respectively.

Remark: It is known that

$$f(\ell) \geq \left(\frac{5}{2}\right)^{\left[\frac{\ell}{5}\right]}$$

and

$$f(\ell) \leq \frac{(\ell+m+1)!}{4^{\ell-m} (2m+1)!}$$

where

$$m = \left[\frac{1 + \sqrt{16\ell + 17}}{4} \right]$$

C.L. STEWART:

We conjecture that there exists an absolute constant c such that for any binary form $F(x,y)$ with integer coefficients non-zero discriminant and degree at least three, there exists a number C , which depends on F , such that if h is an integer larger than C then the equation $F(x,y) = h$ has at most c solutions in coprime integers x and y .

R. TIJDEMAN:

Is it true that if $f \in \mathbb{Z}[X,Y]$ is of degree d , then the number of (coprime) solutions $(x,y) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ of the equation $f(x,y) = 0$ is

either infinite or bounded by a number depending only on d ?

B.M.M. DE WEGER:

Let p_1, \dots, p_s be fixed prime numbers. For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $a_1, \dots, a_s \in \mathbb{N}_0$ be such that $|n! - p_1^{a_1} \cdot \dots \cdot p_s^{a_s}|$ is minimal. Using p -adic linear forms in logarithms I could prove that

$$|n! - p_1^{a_1} \cdot \dots \cdot p_s^{a_s}| > \exp\left(C \cdot \frac{n}{\log n}\right)$$

for some constant C . Numerical experiments suggest that

$$|n! - p_1^{a_1} \cdot \dots \cdot p_s^{a_s}| > \exp(C' \cdot n \cdot \log n)$$

might be true for some constant C' . Is this true?

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