

Zeitschrift: L'Enseignement Mathématique
Herausgeber: Commission Internationale de l'Enseignement Mathématique
Band: 39 (1993)
Heft: 1-2: L'ENSEIGNEMENT MATHÉMATIQUE

Artikel: DENSITY RESULTS ON FAMILIES OF DIOPHANTINE EQUATIONS
WITH FINITELY MANY SOLUTIONS

Autor: Ribenboim, P.

Bibliographie

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-60411>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. Voir Informations légales.

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. See Legal notice.

Download PDF: 18.04.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

According to the theorem of Schinzel and Tijdeman, for every $m \geq 2$ there exists $C_m > 0$ (and effectively computable) such that if (x, y, z) is a non-trivial solution of (E_m) , then $|x|, y, z < C_m$.

LEMMA 7. *With above hypotheses, if $m \geq 2$ and $k > C_m$, then (E_{km}) has only trivial solutions.*

Proof. Let $k > C_m$, let (x, y, z) be a non-trivial solution of (E_{km}) . So $f(x^{km}) = y^z$, thus (x^k, y, z) is a non-trivial solution of (E_m) . Hence $|x^k| < C_m < k$. Then $|x| \leq 1$ and therefore $f(0), f(1)$ or $f(-1)$ is a proper power, which is contrary to the hypothesis. \square

Let $F = \{m \geq 2 \mid (E_m) \text{ has only trivial solutions}\}$.

PROPOSITION 8. $\mu(F) = 1$.

Proof. Let F' be the complement of the set F ; it suffices to show that $\mu(F') = 0$.

For each prime p , $kp \in F$ for each $k > C_p$, according to lemma 7. So $\mathbf{N}p \cap F'$ is finite. By lemma 2, $\mu(F') = 0$. \square

Actually, the complement of F is finite, if f has at least two simple zeroes.

We note the following interesting application. Let a, b, c be non-zero integers, such that $-\frac{c}{b}$ and $\pm\frac{a}{b} - \frac{c}{b}$ are not zero, nor 1, nor proper powers.

Let $f = \frac{a}{b}X - \frac{c}{b}$. The above result is applicable to the polynomial f and yields:

The set of $m \geq 3$ such that there exist integers $n \geq 2$, and x, y , with $y \geq 2$, satisfying $ax^m - by^n = c$, has uniform density equal to zero.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- [B-F] BROWN, T.C. and A.R. FREEDMAN. The uniform density of sets of integers and Fermat's last theorem. *C. R. Math. Rep. Acad. Sci. Canada* 12 (1990), 1-6.
- [F] FILASETA, M. An application of Faltings' theorem to Fermat's last theorem. *C. R. Math. Rep. Acad. Sci. Canada* 6 (1984), 31-32.
- [G1] GRANVILLE, A. The set of exponents, for which Fermat's last theorem is true, has density one. *C. R. Math. Rep. Acad. Sci. Canada* 7 (1985), 55-60.

- [G2] —— Powerful numbers and Fermat's last theorem. *C. R. Math. Rep. Acad. Sci. Canada* 8 (1986), 215-218.
- [H-B] HEATH-BROWN, D.R. Fermat's last theorem for "almost all" primes. *Bull. London Math. Soc.* 17 (1985), 15-16.
- [P-R] POWELL, B. and P. RIBENBOIM. Note on a paper by M. Filaseta regarding Fermat's last theorem. *Ann. Univ. Turkuensis* 187 (1985), 3-22.
- [R1] RIBENBOIM, P. Remarks on exponential congruences and powerful numbers. *J. Nb. Th.* 29 (1988), 251-263.
- [R2] —— A note on Catalan's equation. *J. Nb. Th.* 24 (1986), 245-248.
- [R3] —— Recent results on Fermat's last theorem. *Expo. Math.* 5 (1987), 75-90.
- [S-T] SCHINZEL, A. and R. TIJDEMAN. On the equation $y^m = P(x)$. *Acta Arithm.* 31 (1976), 199-204.
- [T] TIJDEMAN, R. On the equation of Catalan. *Acta Arithm.* 29 (1976), 197-209.

(Reçu le 28 janvier 1992)

Paulo Ribenboim

Department of Mathematics and Statistics
 Queen's University
 Kingston, Ontario
 Canada K7L, 3N6

vide-leer-empty