

CHAPTER 6. THE EQUATION $X + Y = Z$ IN S-INTEGERS.

The results of this chapter have been published in de Weger [1987^a].

6.1. Introduction.

Let S be the set of all positive integers composed of primes from a fixed finite set $\{ p_1, \dots, p_s \}$, where $s \geq 3$. This chapter is devoted to the diophantine equation

$$x + y = z \quad (6.1)$$

in $x, y, z \in S$. Without loss of generality we may assume that x, y, z are relatively prime. For any $a \in S$ we define

$$m(a) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq s} \text{ord}_{p_i}(a).$$

It was proved by Mahler [1933] that (6.1) has only finitely many solutions, but his proof is ineffective. An effective version, i.e. an effectively computable upper bound for $m(x \cdot y \cdot z)$ for the solutions x, y, z of (6.1), can be derived from the results of Coates [1969], [1970] and Sprindžuk [1969], since (6.1) can be reduced to a finite number of Thue equations. See also Chapter 1 of Shorey and Tijdeman [1986].

We derive an explicit upper bound in Section 6.2. Section 6.3 is devoted to some details of the p -adic approximation lattices on which the reduction method of Sections 6.4 and 6.5 are based. In Section 6.4 we give a method of solving (6.1) in the one-dimensional case $s = 3$. This method is based on the reduction procedure given in Section 3.10. As an example we find all the solutions of the slightly more general equation $x \pm y = w \cdot z$, where x, y, z are powers of 2, 3 or 5, and $w \in \mathbb{Z}$, $|w| \leq 1000000$, $(w, z) = 1$. In Section 6.5 we give a procedure for solving (6.1) in the multi-dimensional case $s \geq 4$, based on the reduction procedure described in Section 3.11. We work out the example $\{ p_1, \dots, p_6 \} = \{ 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13 \}$, and actually determine all the solutions. This generalizes the result of Alex [1976], who

gave a complete solution of (6.1) for the case $\{ p_1, \dots, p_4 \} = \{ 2, 3, 5, 7 \}$ by elementary arguments. See also Rumsey and Posner [1964] and Brenner and Foster [1982]. We conclude in Section 6.6 with some remarks on the Oesterlé-Masser conjecture, also known as the 'abc'-conjecture, which is related to equation (6.1). In particular, our method of solving (6.1) leads to a method of finding examples that are of interest with respect to the abc-conjecture. Finally, we give tables in Section 6.7.

6.2. Upper bounds.

We give in this section an upper bound for the solutions of (6.1), based on lemma 2.6 (cf. Yu [1987^a]). Note that in our paper de Weger [1987^a] we used the result of van der Poorten [1977] instead of Yu's.

We introduce a lot of notation. Assume that $p_1 < \dots < p_s$. Let q_i be the smallest prime with $q_i \nmid p_i \cdot (p_i - 1)$ for $i = 1, \dots, s$. Put

$$t = [2 \cdot s / 3], \quad P = \prod_{i=1}^s p_i, \quad q = \max_i q_i,$$

$C_1(2, t)$ and a_1 as in lemma 2.6 with $n = t$,

$$U = C_1(2, t) \cdot a_1^t \cdot t^{t+5/2} \cdot q^{2 \cdot t} \cdot (q-1) \cdot \log^2(t \cdot q) \cdot \max_i \frac{(p_i - 1) \cdot \left(2 + \frac{1}{p_i - 1}\right)^t}{(\log p_i)^{t+2}}.$$

$$\cdot (\log p_s)^t \cdot \left(\log(4 \cdot \log p_s) + \frac{\log p_s}{8 \cdot t} \right),$$

$$C_1 = U / 6 \cdot t, \quad C_2 = U \cdot \log 4,$$

$$V_i = \max(1, \log p_i) \quad \text{for } i = s-t+1, \dots, s, \quad \Omega = \prod_{i=s-t+1}^s V_i,$$

$$C_3 = 2^{9 \cdot t + 26} \cdot t^{t+4} \cdot \Omega \cdot \log(e \cdot V_{s-1}),$$

$$C_4 = \max [7.4, (C_1 \cdot \log(P/p_1) + C_3) / \log p_1],$$

$$C_5 = [C_2 \cdot \log(P/p_1) + C_3 \cdot \log(e \cdot V_s) + 0.327] / \log p_1,$$

$$C_6 = \max [C_5, (C_2 \cdot \log(P/p_1) + \log 2) / \log p_1],$$

$$C_7 = 2 \cdot (C_6 + C_4 \cdot \log C_4),$$

$$c_8 = \max \left(p_s, \log(2 \cdot (P/p_1)^{p_s}) / \log p_1, c_2 + c_1 \cdot \log c_7, c_7 \right) .$$

Now we state the main result.

THEOREM 6.1. *The solutions of (6.1) satisfy $m(x \cdot y \cdot z) \leq c_8$.*

Proof. If we consider instead of (6.1) the equivalent equation

$$x \pm y = z \quad (6.2)$$

then we may assume that $x \cdot y$ has at most t prime divisors, p_{i_1}, \dots, p_{i_t} say. Suppose first that $m(x \cdot y) \leq p_s$. Then

$$p_1^{m(z)} \leq z \leq 2 \cdot \max(x, y) < 2 \cdot (P/p_1)^{p_s} ,$$

hence

$$m(x \cdot y \cdot z) < \max \left(p_s, \log(2 \cdot (P/p_1)^{p_s}) / \log p_1 \right) \leq c_8 .$$

Next suppose that $m(x \cdot y) \geq p_s$ and $m(z) \geq 2$. Then for some $p = p_i$,

$$m(z) = \text{ord}_p(z) = \text{ord}_p(\frac{\pm x}{y} - 1) = \text{ord}_p(\log_p(\frac{x}{y})) .$$

Put $x/y = \prod_{j=1}^t p_{i_j}^{x_{i_j}}$. Then $m(x \cdot y) = \max_{1 \leq j \leq t} |x_{i_j}|$. We apply Lemma 2.6 (Yu's lemma) with $n = t$, $B_0 = B_n = B' = B = m(x \cdot y)$. Since $m(x \cdot y) \geq p_s$ and $t \geq 2$ we have

$$W = \max \left(\log(1 + \frac{3}{4 \cdot t} \cdot B), \log B, \log p \right) = \log B .$$

Note that $c_1(p, n)$ is maximal for $p = 2$. We obtain

$$m(z) < c_1 \cdot \log m(x \cdot y) + c_2 . \quad (6.3)$$

Obviously (6.3) is also true if $m(z) < 2$. If in (6.2) the plus sign holds, then

$$(P/p_1)^{m(z)} \geq z > \max(x, y) \geq p_1^{m(x \cdot y)} .$$

By (6.3) and $c_3 > 0$ it then follows that

$$m(x \cdot y) < C_4 \cdot \log m(x \cdot y) + C_6 . \quad (6.4)$$

Next suppose that in (6.2) the minus sign holds. Then we apply Lemma 2.4 to prove (6.4) for this case, as follows. Suppose (6.4) is false. Then

$$\left| \frac{y}{x} - 1 \right| = \frac{z}{x} = \frac{z}{\max(x, y)} \leq \frac{(P/p_1)^{m(z)}}{p_1^{m(x \cdot y)}} < \frac{(P/p_1)^{C_1 \cdot \log m(x \cdot y) + C_2}}{p_1^{C_4 \cdot \log m(x \cdot y) + C_6}} ,$$

which is less than $\frac{1}{2}$, by the definition of C_4 and C_6 . Hence

$$\left| \log \frac{y}{x} \right| < (2 \cdot \log 2) \cdot \left| \frac{y}{x} - 1 \right| < (2 \cdot \log 2) \cdot \frac{(P/p_1)^{C_1 \cdot \log m(x \cdot y) + C_2}}{p_1^{m(x \cdot y)}} .$$

On the other hand, Lemma 2.4 yields

$$\left| \log \frac{y}{x} \right| > \exp \left[-C_3 \cdot (\log m(x \cdot y) + \log(e \cdot v_s)) \right] .$$

Thus we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} m(x \cdot y) \cdot \log p_1 &< \log(2 \cdot \log 2) + (C_1 \cdot \log m(x \cdot y) + C_2) \cdot \log(P/p_1) \\ &+ C_3 \cdot (\log m(x \cdot y) + \log(e \cdot v_s)) \leq (\log p_1) \cdot (C_4 \cdot \log m(x \cdot y) + C_6) . \end{aligned}$$

This contradicts our assumption that (6.4) is false. Consequently (6.4) is true in all cases. Now, by $C_4 > e^2$, Lemma 2.1 yields $m(x \cdot y) < C_7$, and (6.3) then yields $m(x \cdot y \cdot z) < C_8$. \square

Examples. If $s = 3$, $\{p_1, p_2, p_3\} = \{2, 3, 5\}$ then $C_8 < 3.98 \times 10^{17}$. If $s = 6$, $\{p_1, \dots, p_6\} = \{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13\}$ then $C_8 < 5.60 \times 10^{27}$.

6.3. The p -adic approximation lattices.

As in the proof of Theorem 6.1 we consider (6.2) instead of (6.1). Let p be any of the primes p_1, \dots, p_s . We may assume that $p \nmid x \cdot y$. Rename the other primes as p_0, \dots, p_{s-2} , such that $\text{ord}_p(\log_p(p_0))$ is minimal. For $i = 1, \dots, s-2$ put (cf. Section 3.11)

$$\theta_i = -\log_p(p_i)/\log_p(p_0) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} u_i, \ell \cdot p^\ell ,$$

where $u_{i,\ell} \in \{0, 1, \dots, p-1\}$. The ϑ_i take the place of the ϑ'_i of Section 3.11. Then it is clear from Section 3.11 how to define the p -adic approximation lattices Γ_μ for $\mu \in \mathbb{N}_0$. Put

$$\Lambda = \sum_{i=1}^{s-2} x_i \cdot \vartheta_i - x_0 .$$

Then Lemma 3.13 yields

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_\mu &= \{ (x_1, \dots, x_{s-2}, x_0) \mid |\Lambda|_p \leq p^{-\mu} \} \\ &= \{ (x_1, \dots, x_{s-2}, x_0) \mid |\log_p \left[\prod_{i=0}^{s-2} p_i^{x_i} \right]|_p \leq p^{-(\mu+\mu_0)} \} , \end{aligned}$$

where $\mu_0 = \text{ord}_p(\log_p(p_0))$. In Section 3.13 we studied the set

$$\Gamma_\mu^* = \{ (x_1, \dots, x_{s-2}, x_0) \mid \left| \prod_{i=0}^{s-2} p_i^{x_i} \pm 1 \right|_p \leq p^{-(\mu+\mu_0)} \} ,$$

which is a sublattice of Γ_μ . In Lemma 3.17 we showed how a basis of Γ_μ^* can be found from a basis of Γ_μ . In practice this is very easy, especially if for $p \geq 5$ it happens to be possible to choose p_0 such that not only $\text{ord}_p(\log_p(p_0))$ is minimal, but also p_0 is a primitive root $(\text{mod } p)$. Then, using the notation of Lemma 3.17 (with b_0 as the last element of the basis), choose $\xi \equiv p_0 \pmod{p}$. Then $k(b_0) = 1$, and it follows that $b'_i = b_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, s-2$. By $b_i = [0, \dots, 1, \dots, 0, \vartheta_i^{(\mu)}]^T$ we have

$$\frac{\vartheta_i^{(\mu)}}{p_i \cdot p_0} = \xi^{k(b_i)} \pmod{p^{\mu+\mu_0}} .$$

If $p_i \equiv p_0 \pmod{p}$, then it follows that

$$\gamma_i^* = \alpha_i + \vartheta_i^{(\mu)} = \alpha_i + \sum_{\ell=0}^{\mu-1} u_{i,\ell} \pmod{(p-1)/2} \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, s-2 ,$$

$$\gamma_0^* = (p-1)/2 .$$

Lemma 3.14 (with $c_1 = 0, c_2 = 1$) now yields: if

$$\ell(\Gamma_\mu^*) > \sqrt{(s-1) \cdot X_1} \tag{6.5}$$

then (6.2) has no solutions with

$$\mu + \mu_0 \leq \text{ord}_p(z) \leq m(x \cdot y \cdot z) \leq X_1 . \tag{6.6}$$

6.4. Reducing the upper bounds in the one-dimensional case.

In Section 3.10 we have described how an upper bound for the solutions of (6.1) in the case $s = 3$ can be reduced. We shall apply that method in this section to the following problem.

THEOREM 6.2. *The diophantine equation*

$$x \pm y = w \cdot z , \quad (6.7)$$

where $x = p_0^{x_0}$, $y = p_1^{x_1}$, $z = p^u$, $(p, p_0, p_1) = (2, 3, 5)$, $(3, 2, 5)$ or $(5, 2, 3)$, $x_0, x_1, u \in \mathbb{N}_0$, $w \in \mathbb{Z}$, $|w| \leq 10^6$, and $p \nmid w$, has exactly 291 solutions for $p = 2$, 412 solutions for $p = 3$, and 570 solutions for $p = 5$. In Table I all solutions with $u \geq 3$ are given. The solutions with $u \leq 2$ satisfy $x_0 \leq 14$, $x_1 \leq 9$ for $p = 2$, $x_0 \leq 23$, $x_1 \leq 10$ for $p = 3$, and $x_0 \leq 25$, $x_1 \leq 15$ for $p = 5$.

Remark. It is easy to find all solutions of (6.7) with $u \leq 2$. The Tables are presented in Section 6.7.

Proof. Put $X = \max_{p=2,3,5} \text{ord}_p(x \cdot y \cdot z)$. The example at the end of Section 6.2 shows that in the case $|w| = 1$ we have $X < 3.98 \times 10^{17}$. It can be checked without difficulties that the effect of the w with $|w| \leq 10^6$ in the proof of Theorem 6.1 can be neglected (it disappears in the rounding off), so that for the solutions of (6.7) also $X < X_0 = 3.98 \times 10^{17}$ holds. Put

$$\frac{x}{y} = p_0^{y_0} \cdot p_1^{y_1}, \quad \vartheta = -\log_p(p_1)/\log_p(p_0).$$

Note that ϑ is a p -adic integer. Define the lattices Γ_μ , Γ_μ^* as in Section 6.3, so Γ_μ is generated by

$$\underline{b}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \vartheta(\mu) \end{bmatrix}, \quad \underline{b}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ p^\mu \end{bmatrix}.$$

For $p = 2, 3$ we have $\Gamma_\mu^* = \Gamma_\mu$, and for $p = 5$ a basis of Γ_μ^* is

$$\underline{b}_1^* = \underline{b}_1 - \gamma \cdot \underline{b}_0, \quad \underline{b}_0^* = 2 \cdot \underline{b}_0,$$

where $\gamma = 0$ if $\vartheta^{(\mu)}$ is odd, $\gamma = 1$ if $\vartheta^{(\mu)}$ is even. Using the algorithm given in Section 3.10, Fig. 3, we can compute a basis $\underline{c}_1, \underline{c}_2$ of Γ_μ^* that is reduced in the sense that $|\underline{c}_1| = \ell(\Gamma_\mu^*)$. We did so, with μ as

in the following table.

P	p_0	p_1	μ_0	μ	γ	$ \underline{c}_1 >$	$u \leq$	W	$ y_0 \leq$	$ y_1 \leq$
2	3	5	2	143		2.68×10^{21}	144	$10^6 \cdot 2^{144}$	114	78
3	2	5	1	91		2.32×10^{21}	91	$10^6 \cdot 3^{91}$	182	78
5	2	3	1	65	0	5.28×10^{22}	65	$10^6 \cdot 5^{65}$	189	119

The values of $\vartheta^{(\mu)}$ can be found in Table III. Making an exception to our policy, we give the reduced bases of the Γ_μ^* below.

$$\begin{aligned}
 p = 2 : \quad \underline{c}_1 &= \left(\begin{array}{cccccccccc} 10 & 00000 & 00100 & 10001 & 10110 & 01110 & 01101 \\ 00001 & 11101 & 00101 & 00100 & 11100 & 01111 & 11010 & 00011 \\ -1 & 00010 & 00110 & 01000 & 01011 & 01110 & 00010 \\ 00101 & 11000 & 00000 & 11100 & 01111 & 01011 & 10111 & 00001 \end{array} \right), \\
 \underline{c}_2 &= \left(\begin{array}{cccccccccc} 10 & 11011 & 10000 & 01011 & 01101 & 11000 & 00111 \\ 11001 & 10100 & 11011 & 00000 & 11111 & 10110 & 10110 & 00001 \\ 10 & 01110 & 11101 & 10111 & 11000 & 00100 & 10101 \\ 00111 & 00001 & 10101 & 00110 & 10011 & 00111 & 00101 & 10101 \end{array} \right), \\
 p = 3 : \quad \underline{c}_1 &= \left(\begin{array}{cccccccccc} -102 & 01121 & 02221 & 00210 & 12120 & 20020 & 22222 & 10212 & 20222 \\ 21002 & 00122 & 21100 & 11102 & 22102 & 20001 & 11222 & 02212 & 21011 \end{array} \right), \\
 \underline{c}_2 &= \left(\begin{array}{cccccccccc} -10 & 12210 & 12111 & 01102 & 02010 & 12112 & 12210 & 21122 & 21011 & 20102 \\ -2 & 22021 & 11012 & 01000 & 12021 & 00211 & 12221 & 22121 & 21220 & 12122 \end{array} \right), \\
 p = 5 : \quad \underline{c}_1 &= \left(\begin{array}{cccccccccc} -211 & 32230 & 21042 & 22023 & 30141 & 33034 & 21420 \\ -22104 & 43102 & 43111 & 03114 & 30134 & 23410 \end{array} \right), \\
 \underline{c}_2 &= \left(\begin{array}{cccccccccc} 340 & 34003 & 02404 & 12120 & 03412 & 22030 & 32211 \\ -414 & 20001 & 42202 & 42210 & 34043 & 20120 & 00432 \end{array} \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

From this we found the lower bounds for $|\underline{c}_1|$ given above. They are all larger than $\sqrt{2} \cdot 3.98 \times 10^{17}$. Hence (6.5) holds for $x_1 = x_0$, and then we infer from (6.6) that $u \leq \mu + \mu_0 - 1$, and $|w| \cdot z \leq W$ as shown in the table above. We now find the new upper bounds for $|y_0|$, $|y_1|$ as follows. If in (6.7) the minus sign holds, then, on supposing that $\min(x, y) > W^{10/9}$, we infer

$$|x - y| = |w| \cdot z \leq W < \min(x, y)^{0.9}.$$

By Theorem 5.2(a), the inequality $|x - y| < \min(x, y)^{0.9}$ has no solutions with $\min(x, y) > W$, since $W > 10^{49}$. Hence $\min(x, y) \leq W^{10/9}$, and we infer

$$\max(x, y) \leq \min(x, y) + |w| \cdot z \leq W^{10/9} + W.$$

If in (6.7) the plussign holds, then this inequality follows at once. So now the bounds given in the above table for $|y_0|$, $|y_1|$ follow from

$$|y_i| \cdot \log p_i \leq \log \max(x, y) \leq \log(W^{10/9} + W).$$

We repeat the procedure with μ as in the following table.

p	μ	γ	$ \underline{c}_1 >$	$\sqrt{2} \cdot x_0 <$	$u \leq$	W	$ y_0 \leq$	$ y_1 \leq$
2	16		167.7	161.3	17	$10^6 \cdot 2^{17}$	31	21
3	13		535.8	257.4	13	$10^6 \cdot 3^{13}$	49	21
5	7	1	276.1	267.3	7	$10^6 \cdot 5^7$	49	31

The numbers are now so small that the computations can be performed by hand. For example, for $p = 5$, the lattice Γ_7^* is generated by

$$\underline{b}_1^* = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -45607 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \underline{b}_0^* = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 156250 \end{pmatrix},$$

and a reduced basis is

$$\underline{c}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 185 \\ 205 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \underline{c}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} -394 \\ 408 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We find upper bounds for u and W as given in the above table. In all three cases, $W^{10/9} < 10^{15}$. On supposing $\min(x, y) > 10^{15}$ we infer

$$|x - y| = |w| \cdot z \leq W < 10^{15 \cdot 0.9} \leq \min(x, y)^{0.9}.$$

By Theorem 5.2(a) we see that the inequality $|x - y| < \min(x, y)^{0.9}$ has only two solutions: $(x, y) = (2^{65}, 5^{28}), (2^{84}, 3^{53})$. However, both have $|x - y| > 10^{15 \cdot 0.9}$. So we infer $\min(x, y) \leq 10^{15}$, hence by $\max(x, y) \leq 10^{15} + W$ we obtain the bounds for $|y_0|$, $|y_1|$ as given above. These bounds are small enough to admit enumereation of the remaining cases. \square

Remark. The computer calculations for the above proof took less than 1 sec.

6.5. Reducing the upper bounds in the multi-dimensional case.

In Section 3.11 we have described how an upper bound for the solutions of (6.1) in the case $s \geq 3$ can be reduced. We shall apply that method in this section to the following problem.

THEOREM 6.3. *The diophantine equation*

$$x + y = z \quad (6.8)$$

in $x, y, z \in S = \{2^{x_1} \cdots 13^{x_6} \mid x_i \in \mathbb{N}_0 \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, 6\}$ with $(x, y) = 1$ and $x \leq y$ has exactly 545 solutions. Of them, 514 satisfy

$$\text{ord}_2(x \cdot y \cdot z) \leq 12, \quad \text{ord}_3(x \cdot y \cdot z) \leq 7, \quad \text{ord}_5(x \cdot y \cdot z) \leq 5,$$

$$\text{ord}_7(x \cdot y \cdot z) \leq 4, \quad \text{ord}_{11}(x \cdot y \cdot z) \leq 3, \quad \text{ord}_{13}(x \cdot y \cdot z) \leq 4.$$

The remaining 31 solutions are given in Table II.

Remark. From Theorem 6.3 it is not much effort to find all 545 solutions of (6.8).

Proof. In the example at the end of Section 6.2 we have seen that $m(x \cdot y \cdot z) < X_0 = 5.60 \times 10^{27}$. With the notation of Section 6.3 we choose the following parameters.

p	p_0	p_1	p_2	p_3	p_4	μ_0	μ	γ_0^*	γ_1^*	γ_2^*	γ_3^*	γ_4^*
2	3	5	7	11	13	2	605					
3	2	5	7	11	13	1	385					
5	2	3	7	11	13	1	275	2	0	1	1	1
7	3	2	5	11	13	1	220	3	0	1	1	0
11	2	3	5	7	13	1	165	5	-2	0	1	1
13	2	3	5	7	11	1	165	6	2	1	2	3

We computed the six values of the $\vartheta_i^{(\mu)}$ for $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ (and give them in Table III), and the reduced bases of the six lattices Γ_μ^* , by the L³-algorithm. Thus we obtained:

p	$\ell(\Gamma_\mu^*) \geq \underline{c}_1 /4 >$	$\text{ord}_p(x \cdot y \cdot z) \leq$
2	4.70×10^{35}	606
3	1.15×10^{36}	385
5	6.27×10^{37}	275
7	3.17×10^{36}	220
11	5.74×10^{33}	165
13	1.73×10^{36}	165

These lower bounds for $\ell(\Gamma_\mu^*)$ are all larger than $\sqrt{5} \cdot 5.60 \times 10^{27}$ (note that we have a very large margin here, we could have taken the μ 's probably about 20% smaller). So we apply Lemma 3.14 for $X_1 = X_0 = 5.60 \times 10^{27}$. For every p we thus find $\text{ord}_p(z) \leq \mu + \mu_0$. Since equation (6.2) is invariant under permutations of x, y, z , we even have $\text{ord}_p(x \cdot y \cdot z) \leq \mu + \mu_0$, as shown in the above table. Hence $m(x \cdot y \cdot z) \leq 606$.

We repeated the procedure with $X_0 = 606$ and μ as in the following table. After computing the reduced bases of the six lattices Γ_μ^* we found the following data. Note that in all cases $\ell(\Gamma_\mu^*) \geq \sqrt{5} \cdot 606$.

p	μ	γ_0^*	γ_1^*	γ_2^*	γ_3^*	γ_4^*	$\ell(\Gamma_\mu^*) >$	$\text{ord}_p(x \cdot y \cdot z) \leq$
2	66						1909	67
3	42						2304	42
5	30	2	0	0	1	1	3417	30
7	24	3	1	0	-1	1	2391	24
11	18	5	0	2	-2	1	1443	18
13	18	6	0	-1	-1	2	3196	18

Hence $m(x \cdot y \cdot z) \leq 67$. Next, we repeated the procedure with $X_0 = 67$, and μ as in the following table. We found

p	μ	γ_0^*	γ_1^*	γ_2^*	γ_3^*	γ_4^*	$\ell(\Gamma_\mu^*) >$	$\text{ord}_p(x \cdot y \cdot z) \leq$
2	55						364	56
3	35						301	35
5	25	2	1	1	1	0	622	25
7	20	3	1	-1	1	0	693	20
11	15	5	1	2	-2	-2	192	15
13	15	6	1	0	3	2	658	15

Hence $m(x \cdot y \cdot z) \leq 56$.

To find the solutions of (6.2) with $\text{ord}_p(x \cdot y \cdot z)$ below the bounds given in the above table, we followed the following procedure. Suppose that we are at a certain moment interested in finding the solutions with $\text{ord}_p(x \cdot y \cdot z) \leq f(p)$ where $f(p)$ is given for $p = 2, \dots, 13$. Choose p , and $\mu < f(p) - \mu_0$, and consider the lattice Γ_μ^* for these values of p, μ . If a solution x, y, z of (6.2) exists with $\text{ord}_p(z) \geq \mu + \mu_0$, then the vector $(x_1, \dots, x_4, x_0)^T$ with $x_i = \text{ord}_{p_i}(x/y)$ for $i = 0, \dots, 4$, is in the lattice. Its length is bounded by $\sqrt{(f(p_0))^2 + \dots + (f(p_4))^2}$. All vectors in Γ_μ^* with length below this bound can be computed by the algorithm of Fincke and Pohst, as given in Section 3.6. Then all solutions of (6.2) corresponding to lattice points can be selected. Then we replace $f(p)$ by $\mu + \mu_0 - 1$, and we repeat the procedure for newly chosen p, μ .

We performed this procedure, starting with the bounds for $\text{ord}_p(x \cdot y \cdot z)$ given in the above table for $f(p)$, and with p, m as in the table on the next page. Here, # stands for the number of solutions of (5.2) found at that stage. At the end we have $f(2) = 4$, $f(p) = 1$ for $p = 3, \dots, 13$. The remaining solutions can be found by hand. \square

Remark. Theorems 6.2 and 6.3 have applications in group theory (cf. Alex [1976]). We use Theorem 6.3 in Section 7.2.

Remark. The computer calculations for the proof of Theorem 6.3 took 438 sec., of which 412 were used for the first reduction step. In this first step we applied the L^3 -algorithm in 11 steps (cf. Section 3.5), which cost on average about 60 sec. per lattice. The remaining 50 sec. were mainly used for the computation of the 24 $\vartheta_i^{(\mu)}$'s.

6.6. Examples related to the abc-conjecture.

Let x, y, z be positive integers. Put

$$G = \prod_{\substack{p|xyz \\ p \text{ prime}}} p.$$

For all x, y, z with $(x, y) = 1$ and $x + y = z$ we define

$$c(x, y, z) = \log z / \log G.$$

Recently, Oesterlé posed the problem to decide whether there exists an

p	m	#	p	m	#	p	m	#
2	44	-	2	13	1	2	10	2
3	28	-	2	12	2	2	9	3
5	20	-	2	11	2	2	8	6
7	16	-	3	13	-	2	7	15
11	12	-	3	12	-	2	6	16
13	12	-	3	11	-	2	5	26
2	33	-	3	10	1	2	4	31
3	21	-	3	9	1	2	3	44
5	15	-	3	8	1	3	6	5
7	12	-	3	7	6	3	5	8
11	9	-	5	9	-	3	4	16
13	9	-	5	8	-	3	3	35
2	22	-	5	7	-	3	2	54
3	14	-	5	6	-	3	1	87
5	10	-	5	5	6	5	4	1
7	8	-	7	7	-	5	3	5
11	6	-	7	6	-	5	2	18
13	6	-	7	5	1	5	1	36
2	21	-	7	4	4	7	3	-
2	20	-	11	5	-	7	2	6
2	19	-	11	4	1	7	1	18
2	18	-	11	3	4	11	2	1
2	17	-	13	5	-	11	1	8
2	16	-	13	4	-	13	2	-
2	15	-	13	3	1	13	1	4
2	14	-						

absolute constant C such that $c(x,y,z) < C$ for all x, y, z . Masser conjectured the stronger assertion that $c(x,y,z) < 1 + \epsilon$, when z exceeds some bound depending on ϵ only, for all $\epsilon > 0$. For a survey of related results and conjectures, see Stewart and Tijdeman [1986] and Vojta [1987].

It might be interesting to have some empirical results on $c(x,y,z)$, and to search for x, y, z for which it is large. From the preceding sections it may be clear that such x, y, z correspond to relatively short vectors in appropriate p -adic approximation lattices.

As a byproduct of the proofs of Theorems 5.5 and 6.3 we computed the value of $c(x,y,z)$, corresponding to many short vectors that we came across in performing the algorithm of Fincke and Pohst. All examples that we found with $c(x,y,z) \geq 1.4$ are listed below. Our search was rather unsystematic, so we do not guarantee that this list is complete in any sense. The largest value for $c(x,y,z)$ that occurred is 1.626, which was reached by

$$x = 11^2 = 121, y = 3^2 \cdot 5^6 \cdot 7^3 = 48234375, z = 2^{21} \cdot 23 = 48234496.$$

This example was found on September 20, 1985, and has not yet been beaten, to the author's knowledge.

x	y	z	$c(x,y,z)$
11^2	$3^2 \cdot 5^6 \cdot 7^3$	$2^{21} \cdot 23$	1.62599
1	$2 \cdot 3^7$	$5^4 \cdot 7$	1.56789
7^3	3^{10}	$2^{11} \cdot 29$	1.54708
$5^2 \cdot 7937$	7^{13}	$2^{18} \cdot 3^7 \cdot 13^2$	1.49762
11^2	$3^9 \cdot 13$	$2^{11} \cdot 5^3$	1.48887
37	2^{15}	$3^8 \cdot 5$	1.48291
$2^7 \cdot 5^2$	$7^6 \cdot 41$	13^6	1.46192
1	$2^5 \cdot 3 \cdot 5^2$	7^4	1.45567
$2^{19} \cdot 13 \cdot 103$	7^{11}	$3^{11} \cdot 5^3 \cdot 11^2$	1.45261
1	$2^{12} \cdot 5^3$	$3^5 \cdot 7^2 \cdot 43$	1.44331
1	$2^4 \cdot 3^7 \cdot 547$	$5^8 \cdot 7^2$	1.43906
$2^{10} \cdot 7$	5^7	$3^8 \cdot 13$	1.43501
3	5^3	2^7	1.42657
5	3^{11}	$2^{10} \cdot 173$	1.41268

These results do not seem to yield any heuristical evidence for the truth or falsity of the abc-conjecture.

6.7. Tables.

Table I. (Theorem 6.2.)

$p = 2, p_0 = 3, p_1 = 5$

x_0	p^{x_0}	x_1	p^{x_1}	sign	u	w
2	9	10	9765625	-1	4	-610351
10	59049	10	9765625	-1	4	-606661
4	81	12	244140625	-1	9	-476837
6	729	10	9765625	-1	5	-305153
2	9	8	390625	-1	3	-48827
6	729	8	390625	-1	3	-48737
10	59049	8	390625	-1	3	-41447
14	4782969	10	9765625	-1	7	-38927
4	81	8	390625	-1	4	-24409
0	1	8	390625	-1	5	-12207
8	6561	8	390625	-1	6	-6001
0	1	6	15625	-1	3	-1953
4	81	6	15625	-1	3	-1943
8	6561	6	15625	-1	3	-1133
6	729	6	15625	-1	4	-931
2	9	4	625	-1	3	-77
2	9	6	15625	-1	8	-61
0	1	4	625	-1	4	-39
4	81	4	625	-1	5	-17
0	1	2	25	-1	3	-3
2	9	2	25	-1	4	-1
1	3	1	5	1	3	1
1	3	3	125	1	7	1
2	9	0	1	-1	3	1
3	27	1	5	1	5	1
4	81	0	1	-1	4	5
4	81	2	25	-1	3	7
6	729	2	25	-1	6	11
6	729	4	625	-1	3	13
3	27	3	125	1	3	19
5	243	3	125	1	4	23
5	243	1	5	1	3	31
7	2187	5	3125	1	6	83
6	729	0	1	-1	3	91
7	2187	1	5	1	4	137
11	177147	1	5	1	10	173
3	27	5	3125	1	4	197
8	6561	0	1	-1	5	205
7	2187	3	125	1	3	289
8	6561	4	625	-1	4	371

Table continued

Table I. (cont.)

x_0	$p_0^{v_0}$	x_1	$p_1^{v_1}$	sign	u	w
1	3	5	3125	1	3	391
5	243	5	3125	1	3	421
9	19683	3	125	1	5	619
8	6561	2	25	-1	3	817
10	59049	6	15625	-1	5	1357
5	243	7	78125	1	5	2449
9	19683	1	5	1	3	2461
9	19683	5	3125	1	3	2851
10	59049	2	25	-1	4	3689
12	531441	4	625	-1	7	4147
1	3	7	78125	1	4	4883
9	19683	7	78125	1	4	6113
13	1594323	7	78125	1	8	6533
10	59049	4	625	-1	3	7303
10	59049	0	1	-1	3	7381
12	531441	8	390625	-1	4	8801
3	27	7	78125	1	3	9769
7	2187	7	78125	1	3	10039
11	177147	5	3125	1	4	11267
3	27	9	1953125	1	7	15259
11	177147	3	125	1	3	22159
11	177147	7	78125	1	3	31909
12	531441	0	1	-1	4	33215
12	531441	6	15625	-1	3	64477
12	531441	2	25	--1	3	66427
11	177147	9	1953125	1	5	66571
13	1594323	3	125	1	4	99653
7	2187	9	1953125	1	4	122207
14	4782969	2	25	-1	5	149467
13	1594323	1	5	1	3	199291
13	1594323	5	3125	1	3	199681
1	3	9	1953125	1	3	244141
5	243	9	1953125	1	3	244171
9	19683	9	1953125	1	3	246601
14	4782969	6	15625	-1	4	297959
13	1594323	9	1953125	1	3	443431
15	14348907	5	3125	1	5	448501
14	4782969	8	390625	-1	3	549043
14	4782969	4	625	-1	3	597793
14	4782969	0	1	-1	3	597871
16	43046721	0	1	-1	6	672605
9	19683	11	48828125	1	6	763247
15	14348907	1	5	1	4	896807

Table continued

Table I. (cont.)

$p = 3, p_0 = 2, p_1 = 5$

x_0	$p_0^{x_0}$	x_1	$p_1^{x_1}$	sign	u	w
14	16384	10	9765625	-1	4	-120361
9	512	9	1953125	-1	3	-72319
4	16	8	390625	-1	3	-14467
12	4096	6	15625	-1	3	-427
7	128	5	3125	-1	4	-37
2	4	4	625	-1	3	-23
1	2	2	25	1	3	1
5	32	1	5	-1	3	1
6	64	3	125	1	3	7
11	2048	4	625	1	5	11
9	512	0	1	1	3	19
10	1024	2	25	-1	3	37
3	8	6	15625	1	4	193
15	32768	3	125	-1	4	403
14	16384	1	5	1	3	607
17	131072	7	78125	-1	3	1961
16	65536	5	3125	1	3	2543
8	256	7	78125	1	3	2903
19	524288	2	25	1	4	6473
18	262144	0	1	-1	3	9709
23	8388608	1	5	-1	6	11507
13	8192	8	390625	1	3	14771
22	4194304	8	390625	-1	5	15653
10	1024	11	48828125	1	7	22327
18	262144	9	1953125	1	4	27349
20	1048576	4	625	-1	3	38813
0	1	9	1953125	1	3	72338
21	2097152	6	15625	1	3	78251
5	32	10	9765625	1	3	361691
24	16777216	3	125	1	3	621383
23	8388608	10	9765625	1	3	672379
26	67108864	7	78125	1	4	829469

$p = 5, p_0 = 2, p_1 = 3$

x_0	$p_0^{x_0}$	x_1	$p_1^{x_1}$	sign	u	w
12	4096	16	43046721	-1	3	-344341
5	32	15	14348907	-1	3	-114791
7	128	1	3	-1	3	1
6	64	8	6561	1	3	53
14	16384	2	9	-1	3	131
13	8192	9	19683	1	3	223
20	1048576	10	59049	1	3	8861
21	2097152	3	27	-1	3	16777

Table II. (Theorem 6.3.)

x	y	z	$p = 2$	$\text{ord}_{p(x)}$	$p = 3$	$\text{ord}_{p(y)}$	$p = 5$	$\text{ord}_{p(z)}$	$p = 7$	$\text{ord}_{p(1)}$	$p = 11$	$\text{ord}_{p(5)}$	$p = 13$	$\text{ord}_{p(13)}$
2401	4160	6561	0	0	4	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	8	0
875	6561	7436	0	0	3	1	0	0	8	0	0	2	0	0
1183	6561	7744	0	0	1	0	2	0	8	0	0	6	0	2
1125	8192	9317	0	2	3	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	1	3
1183	8192	9375	0	0	1	0	2	13	0	0	0	0	1	0
16	14625	14641	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	4
81	14560	14641	0	4	0	0	0	5	0	1	1	0	0	4
1936	13689	15625	4	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	6	0
3718	11907	15625	1	0	0	1	2	0	5	0	2	0	0	0
5824	9801	15625	6	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	2	0	0
49	16335	16384	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	1	0	2	0	14
2695	13689	16384	0	0	1	2	1	0	4	0	0	2	14	0
8019	8788	16807	0	6	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	0	0
3584	14641	18225	9	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
1625	16807	18432	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	0
3993	16807	20800	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	5	0	0	1
49	28512	28561	0	0	2	0	0	5	4	0	1	0	0	4
12936	15625	28561	3	1	0	2	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	4
22000	6561	28561	4	0	3	0	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	4
15625	17303	32928	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	5	1
507	32768	33275	0	1	0	0	0	2	15	0	0	3	2	0
10985	41503	52488	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	8	0
10000	49049	59049	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0
14641	46875	61516	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	6	0	2	0
7168	78125	85293	10	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	0	0	8	0
20449	97200	117649	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	5	2	0	0	6
13	151250	151263	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	9	0	2	0
12005	161051	173056	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	5	0	10	0
121	255879	256000	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	9	0	0	11	0
2197	583443	585640	0	0	0	0	3	0	5	0	4	0	3	1
91	1771470	1771561	0	0	0	1	0	1	11	1	0	0	0	6

Table III.

$$= -\log_2 5 / \log_2 3$$

$$-\log_{10} \frac{1}{2} / \log_2 3 = -\log_{10} 10^{10} \dots$$

0.11011	110110	101110	101000	100011	01100	01000	00101	00011	00001	00000
0.11010	110110	101110	101000	100011	01101	01000	00101	00011	00001	00000
0.11001	110110	101110	101000	100011	01110	01000	00101	00011	00001	00000
0.11000	110110	101110	101000	100011	01111	01000	00101	00011	00001	00000
-	$\log_2 13$	$/ \log_2 3$	$=$							

$$= \log_3 5 / \log_2 5$$

$- \log_2 H_1 / H_2$	$\log_2 \frac{H_1}{H_2}$	H_1	H_2
0.023	2.303	0.023	0.023
0.0221	2.221	0.0221	0.0221
0.02002	2.0011	0.02002	0.02002
0.0111	1.1111	0.0111	0.0111
0.0110	1.1112	0.0110	0.0110
0.0112	1.1122	0.0112	0.0112
0.0222	2.2221	0.0222	0.0222
0.0011	1.0011	0.0011	0.0011
0.0020	2.00111	0.0020	0.0020

$-\log_5 3 / \log_5 5$	$-\log_5 7 / \log_5 5$
0.4411233200	0.4411233204
0.4411233200	0.4411233204

Table III. (cont.)

Table III. (cont.)

$$\begin{array}{r}
 -\log_5 11 / \log_5 2 = \\
 110112 \quad 13124 \quad 21134 \quad 03 \\
 00214 \quad 30123 \quad 11014 \quad 24 \\
 33142 \quad 14441 \quad 44113 \quad 21 \\
 -\log_5 13 / \log_5 2 =
 \end{array}$$

$$= -\log_7 \zeta / \log_7 z$$

$$-\log_7 11 / \log_7 3 = -\log_{13} 11 / \log_3 7$$

$$- \log_{\frac{7}{7}} 13 / \log_{\frac{7}{7}} 3 =$$

$\log_5 13 \neq \log_5 2$
 $\cdot 44032 \quad 21012 \quad 13124 \quad 21134 \quad 03320 \quad 33122 \quad 21041 \quad 12112 \quad 02420 \quad 00220 \quad 01143 \quad 12040 \quad 32144 \quad 21100 \quad 01304 \quad 24013 \quad 43401 \quad 23313 \quad 12022 \quad 34404$
 $\cdot 12413 \quad 10214 \quad 30123 \quad 11014 \quad 24110 \quad 42444 \quad 42030 \quad 02413 \quad 20241 \quad 22304 \quad 23423 \quad 13414 \quad 03234 \quad 03000 \quad 10334 \quad 44322 \quad 00330 \quad 01104 \quad 44410 \quad 44113$
 $\cdot 31022 \quad 33142 \quad 14461 \quad 44113 \quad 21413 \quad 23132 \quad 31413 \quad 21413 \quad 23132 \quad 32052 \quad 01221 \quad 40210 \quad 24101 \quad 350133 \quad 13110 \quad 13400 \quad 22110 \quad 2334 \dots$

Table III. (cont.)

$-\log_{11} 3 / \log_{11} 2 =$	$0.08248 A4245 06166 43468 58202 44A56 73171 16758 A203A 8A543 28431 86731 11411 4A296 993A7 31A79 00421 95444 80670 57433$
$-\log_{11} 5 / \log_{11} 2 =$	$0.351A9 7223A 31378 09193 42445 30A3 96588 11862 48667 AA6A2 39A03 77139 01693 21678 33652 12687 95AA8 24190 78276 28711$
$-\log_{11} 7 / \log_{11} 2 =$	$0.44804 92167 71327 83472 37453 00781 3256A 2A367 85671 88907 799A1 4AAA 784A1 29329 A6950 17481 86846 17379 94130 77091$
$-\log_{11} 13 / \log_{11} 2 =$	$0.9011A 94962 52990 39096 3A68A 7556A 1A9A3 94758 57692 20188 42770 072A3 9A977 8819A 97518 14396 07360 899A2 99391 26176$
$-\log_{13} 3 / \log_{13} 2 =$	$0.621B3 15581 0A077 3B5C8 49202 39A32 82105 848C7 70988 B863B 75151 52114 5C25A 04902 6B6C7 377B9 3122B 5CAC0 13945 A2471$
$-\log_{13} 5 / \log_{13} 2 =$	$0.44570 79C51 73665 3796C B7C61 335A0 79906 2B429 51211 4900B 481B1 621AB 2AC77 C2291 1662A BB03A 8CB9C 77331 74992 11C07$
$-\log_{13} 7 / \log_{13} 2 =$	$0.A1C78 9C71A 63110 51424 42CA9 0AAA7 B225B B0281 501B1 976C2 3C05B 09CA3 AB8A3 C3251 838AC 72502 A1844 03603 644A8 A8501$
$-\log_{13} 11 / \log_{13} 2 =$	$0.1760A A080C 20874 BD876 B2162 75989 CB19B B7CC2 26BB7 87093 5A833 A9375 AB4BA 8C0BC 1A698 96C6B A9411 34B75 4B718 63BC3$
	$571A9 14566 8619B A4B95 B4244 452A8 29623 49AA5 CB804 ACC1A CC513 08855 79185 43....$