

SOME DIOPHANTINE EQUATIONS RELATED TO THE QUADRATIC FORM $ax^2 + by^2$

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Introduction. We have been preparing a survey paper on diophantine equations associated with the positive definite quadratic form $ax^2 + by^2$. The effective results of Baker [2] lead to very large explicit bounds on the number and size of solutions for the two equations discussed below. By other methods which rely heavily on the forms of the equations, these general bounds can be markedly improved. Since the general results are too lengthy to report here, we will give some particular results of special interest.

THE EQUATION $ax^2 + D = N^z$. Suppose a , N and D are positive integers, and that N is prime to $2D$. What is the number σ of positive integral solutions x, z to the equation $ax^2 + D = N^z$? If D is not an odd square and $N > D + 12$, then σ does not exceed twice the number of divisors of $h(\sqrt{-aD})$, the class number of $Q(\sqrt{-aD})$. We have constructed a table of bounds on σ for $aD < 25$ and believe the fact that $\sigma = 1$ for the following cases of a, D to be new:

$$(a, D) = (1, 6), (2, 3), (1, 8), (1, 10), (1, 14), (1, 15), \\ (5, 3), (1, 18), (1, 20), (3, 7), (1, 23), (1, 24).$$

Among the many earlier results with $\sigma = 1$ we mention [5], [6]. We have also shown that when $D < 4N$ is not an odd square and there are no solutions with z dividing $3h(\sqrt{-aD})$, then $\sigma = 0$.

Because of its interest elsewhere [4], we note that $3x^2 + 8 = N^z$ has a solution with $z = 1$ if it has any solutions, has at most two solutions, and has no second if $11 < N < 2.7 \times 10^{19}$.

THE EQUATION $ax^2 + D = z^n$. Suppose a , n and D are positive integers. What are the positive integer solutions of $ax^2 + D = z^n$? If n does