

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910299974803321
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Titolo	Lecture Notes on Diophantine Analysis // by Umberto Zannier
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Pisa : , : Scuola Normale Superiore : , : Imprint : Edizioni della Normale, , 2014
ISBN	88-7642-517-9
Edizione	[1st ed. 2014.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XVI, 239 p.)
Collana	Lecture Notes (Scuola Normale Superiore) ; ; 8
Disciplina	512.74
Soggetti	Mathematical analysis Analysis (Mathematics) Analysis
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Sommario/riassunto	These lecture notes originate from a course delivered at the Scuola Normale in Pisa in 2006. Generally speaking, the prerequisites do not go beyond basic mathematical material and are accessible to many undergraduates. The contents mainly concern diophantine problems on affine curves, in practice describing the integer solutions of equations in two variables. This case historically suggested some major ideas for more general problems. Starting with linear and quadratic equations, the important connections with Diophantine Approximation are presented and Thue's celebrated results are proved in full detail. In later chapters more modern issues on heights of algebraic points are dealt with, and applied to a sharp quantitative treatment of the unit equation. The book also contains several Supplements, hinted exercises and an Appendix on recent work on heights.