1. Record Nr. UNISA996466526303316

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Titolo	Diophantine approximation : lectures given at the C.I.M.E. summer school held in Cetraro, Italy, June 28-July 6, 2000 / / David William Masser [and four others] ; editors, F. Amoroso, U. Zannier
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin : , : Springer-Verlag, , [2003] ©2003
ISBN	3-540-44979-5
Edizione	[1st ed. 2003.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (358 p.)
Collana	Lecture notes in mathematics (Springer-Verlag) ; ; 1819
Classificazione	11Jxx 00B30
Disciplina	512.73
Soggetti	Diophantine approximation
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Heights, Transcendence, and Linear Independence on Commutative Group Varieties -- Linear Forms in Logarithms of Rational Numbers -- Approximation of Algebraic Numbers -- Linear Recurrence Sequences -- Linear Independence Measures for Logarithms of Algebraic Numbers.
Sommario/riassunto	Diophantine Approximation is a branch of Number Theory having its origins intheproblemofproducing“best” rationalapproximationstogivenrealn- bers. Since the early work of Lagrange on Pell’s equation and the pioneering work of Thue on the rational approximations to algebraic numbers of degree ? 3, it has been clear how, in addition to its own speci?c importance and - terest, the theory can have fundamental applications to classical diophantine problems in Number Theory. During the whole 20th century, until very recent times, this fruitful interplay went much further, also involving Transcend- tal Number Theory and leading to the solution of several central conjectures on diophantine equations and class number, and to other important achie- ments. These developments naturally raised further intensive research, so at the moment the subject is a most lively one. This motivated our proposal for a C. I. M. E. session, with the aim to make it available to a public wider than specialists an overview of the subject, with special emphasis on modern advances and techniques.

Our project was kindly supported by the C. I. M. E. Committee and met with the interest of a largenumberofapplicants;forty-twoparticipantsfromseveralcountries,both graduatestudentsandseniormathematicians, intensivelyfollowedcoursesand seminars in a friendly and co-operative atmosphere. The main part of the session was arranged in four six-hours courses by Professors D. Masser (Basel), H. P. Schlickewei (Marburg), W. M. Schmidt (Boulder) and M. Waldschmidt (Paris VI). This volume contains expanded notes by the authors of the four courses, together with a paper by Professor Yu. V.