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Davenport's Constant of a Finite Abelian Group

Abstract for the Combinatorics and Number Theory Seminar 2003 February 3

Davenport's constant D(G) of a finite abelian group G is defined as the smallest integer k such that every sequence S of k elements of G has a subsequence with sum zero. We will discuss some reasons for looking at this constant and various results and open problems related to it. The methods combine ideas from number theory, algebra, and combinatorics.