Year: 2010 | Vol.: 77 | Fasc.: 3-4

Title: On the exponential diophantine equation $(a^n - 1)(b^n - 1) = x^2$

Author(s): Li Lan and László Szalay

Let a and b be fixed positive integers such that $a \neq b$ and $\min(a, b) > 1$. In this paper, we combine some divisibility properties of the solutions of Pell equations with elementary arguments to prove that if $a \equiv 2 \pmod{6}$ and $b \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$, then the title equation $(a^n - 1)(b^n - 1) = x^2$ has no positive integer solution (n, x). Moreover, we show that in case of $a \equiv 2 \pmod{20}$ and $b \equiv 5 \pmod{20}$, where b - 1 is a full square, the only possible solution belongs to n = 1.

Address:

Li Lan Department of Mathematics Xi'an University of Arts & Science Xi'an 710065 P.R. China Address:

László Szalay Institute of Mathematics and Statistics University of West Hungary Sopron Hungary