

1035-11-1139

Joshua D. Batson* (joshua.batson@yale.edu), 20282 Carol Lane, Saratoga, CA 95070.

Nathanson Heights in Finite Vector Spaces.

Let p be a prime, and let \mathbb{Z}_p denote the field of integers modulo p . The *Nathanson height* of a point $v \in \mathbb{Z}_p^n$ is the sum of the least nonnegative integer representatives of its coordinates. The Nathanson height of a subspace $V \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_p^n$ is the least Nathanson height of any of its nonzero points. In this paper, we resolve a conjecture of Nathanson [M. B. Nathanson, Heights on the finite projective line, International Journal of Number Theory, to appear], showing that on subspaces of \mathbb{Z}_p^n of codimension one, the Nathanson height function can only take values about $p, p/2, p/3, \dots$. We show this by proving a similar result for the coheight on subsets of \mathbb{Z}_p , where the *coheight* of $A \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_p$ is the minimum number of times A must be added to itself so that the sum contains 0. We conjecture that the Nathanson height function has a similar constraint on its range regardless of the codimension, and produce some evidence that supports this conjecture. (Received September 18, 2007)