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Quadratic forms over function fields of p -adic curves

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Abstract: Let \mathbb{Q}_p be the p -adic completion of the field of rational numbers \mathbb{Q} at the discrete valuation given by a prime p . Every quadratic form in 5 variables over \mathbb{Q}_p has a non-trivial zero. It has been a long standing open question whether every quadratic form in 9 variables over the rational function field $\mathbb{Q}_p(t)$ over \mathbb{Q}_p has a non-trivial zero. In this talk we shall trace the history of this question as well as the current status.

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