

# Some open and elementary problems in number theory

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I will give a report and a list of open and elementary problems in number theory. Some are well-known, still open, and have been investigated by many authors. Some may be less well known and some are from my own list of problems. I would like to take this opportunity to share with the audiences the problems that might interest them. Some may be difficult but there are a few which are easy enough to assign to a student or obtain a complete answer within one semester. You can choose to work on any of this problem and publish the results all by yourself, with your colleagues, or with your students. I would only ask that after the formal publication of those results, please send me the news so that I can easily update my data. Thanks in advance!

## Problem 1: Analogue of primes in arithmetic progressions and arithmetic progressions of primes

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- (Euclid) There are infinitely many primes

(Euler)  $\sum_p \frac{1}{p}$  diverges.

(Dirichlet) If  $(a, q) = 1$ , then

$$\sum_{p \equiv a \pmod{q}} \frac{1}{p} \text{ diverges.}$$

So there are infinitely many primes in the arithmetic progression  $\{a + qn \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  whenever  $(a, q) = 1$ .

## Problem

- Q1 Are there infinitely many primes in the set  $\{a + bn + cn^2 \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ ?

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(“Dual” of Dirichlet’s theorem: Green-Tao theorem)

Primes contains arbitrarily long arithmetic progressions. If  $k$  is given, then there is an arithmetic progression of primes of length  $k$ .

## Question

- Q3 Can we find a constructive proof of Green-Tao theorem?  
Can we find an algorithm for Green-Tao theorem if  $k$  is given and is not too large?



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In the case of the Fibonacci sequence, Q5 is known:  $(0, 1, 2, 3)$  is the longest arithmetic progression. But Q4 is known only when  $q$  is given explicitly or when  $q$  is a power of 2, 3 or 5, or something similar to these.

You can pick any sequence you like or find what you may like in OEIS.

Consider the Fibonacci sequence

- Burr (1971) Yes for  $q = 5^k, 2 \cdot 5^k, 4 \cdot 5^k, 3^3 \cdot 5^k, 6 \cdot 5^k, 7 \cdot 5^k, 14 \cdot 5^k$ .

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- R. Bundschuh and P. Bundschuh (2011) yes and no for  $q = 3^k$  (the answer depends on  $a$ ).

## Problem 2: Generalized perfect numbers

Let  $\sigma(n)$  be the sum of positive divisors of  $n$ . Then  $n$  is called perfect if  $\sigma(n) = 2n$ .

Example 6, 28, 496, 8128, 33550336, ... (A000396 in OEIS)

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- (Euler) If  $n$  is even and perfect, then  $n = 2^{p-1}(2^p - 1)$ .

## Question

- Q6 Are there infinitely many even perfect numbers? Are there infinitely many Mersenne primes?
- Q7 Is there any odd perfect number?

## Generalization

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## Question

- Q8 Can we classify all even perfect-numbers? or extend the above results?

## Another generalization

$n$  is a multiply perfect number if  $n \mid \sigma(n)$ .

$n$  is a generalized multiply perfect number if  $n \mid \sigma_k(n)$  for some  $k$ .

- Jiang (2018) Let  $n = 2^a p^b$  where  $a, b > 1$  and  $p$  is odd. Then  $n \mid \sigma_3(n) \Leftrightarrow n$  is an even perfect number and  $n \neq 28$ .

## Question

- Q9 What are the corresponding results for  $n \mid \sigma_4(n)$ ,  $n \mid \sigma_5(n)$ ,  $n \mid \sigma_6(n)$ ,  $\dots$ , or  $n \mid \sigma_k(n)$  for a given  $k$ ?
- Q10 Can we classify  $n$  such that  $n \mid \sigma_3(n)$  with  $\omega(n) = 2$ ,  $\omega(n) = 3$ ,  $\dots$ , or  $\omega(n) = k$  for a given  $k$ ? (May be characterize is a more suitable word than classify).

### Problem 3: The order of appearance

Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be integers. The fundamental Lucas sequence  $U = U(P, Q)$  with parameters  $P$  and  $Q$  is defined by the recurrence relation  $U_n = PU_{n-1} - QU_{n-2}$  for  $n \geq 2$  with the initial values  $U_0 = 0$  and  $U_1 = 1$ . If  $U_2 U_3 U_4 U_6 \neq 0$ , then the sequence  $U$  is said to be nondegenerate.

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### Example

If  $P = 1$  and  $Q = -1$ , then  $U$  is the Fibonacci sequence.

If  $P = 2$  and  $Q = -1$ , then  $U$  is the sequence of Pell numbers.

If  $P = 6$  and  $Q = 1$ , then  $U$  is the sequence of balancing numbers.

## The order of appearance

Let  $U = U(P, Q)$  be a fundamental Lucas sequence and  $n$  a positive integer. The order (or rank) of appearance of  $n$  in  $U$ , denote by  $\rho(n)$ , is the smallest positive integer  $k$  such that  $n \mid U_k$ . In the case  $U$  is the Fibonacci sequence, we write  $z(n)$  for  $\rho(n)$ .

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## Example

|       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |     |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| $n$   | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12  |
| $F_n$ | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 13 | 21 | 34 | 55 | 89 | 144 |

$$z(1) = 1, z(2) = 3, z(3) = 4, z(4) = 6, z(5) = 5,$$

$$z(6) = 12, z(7) = 8, z(8) = 6, \text{ and } z(9) = 12.$$



(Well-known)  $z(F_n) = n$  and  $z(L_n) = 2n$  for all  $n \geq 3$ .

There is no general formula for  $z(m)$  for all  $m \geq 1$ . But some special cases have been obtained.

$$z(p_1^{a_1} p_2^{a_2} \cdots p_k^{a_k}) = [z(p_1^{a_1}), z(p_2^{a_2}), \dots, z(p_k^{a_k})].$$

(But there is no formula for  $z(p^a)$  for all  $a$  and  $p$ .)

D. Marques obtains  $z(m)$  when

$$m = F_n^k, \quad L_n^k, \quad F_n F_{n+1}, \quad F_n F_{n+1} F_{n+2}, \quad F_n F_{n+1} F_{n+2} F_{n+3}, \\ L_n L_{n+1}, \quad L_n L_{n+1} L_{n+2}, \quad L_n L_{n+1} L_{n+2} L_{n+3}, \quad \text{etc}$$

## D. Marques

(i) For  $n \geq 3$ ,

$$z(F_n F_{n+1}) = n(n+1).$$

(ii) For  $n \geq 2$ ,

$$z(F_n F_{n+1} F_{n+2}) = \begin{cases} n(n+1)(n+2), & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{2}, \\ \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)}{2}, & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{2}. \end{cases}$$

(iii) For  $n \geq 1$ ,

$$z(F_n \cdots F_{n+3}) = \begin{cases} \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)}{2}, & \text{if } n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}, \\ \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)}{3}, & \text{if } n \equiv 0, 9 \pmod{12}, \\ \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)}{6}, & \text{if } n \equiv 3, 6 \pmod{12}. \end{cases}$$

What is  $z(m)$  when  $m = F_n F_{n+1} \cdots F_{n+k}$  and  $k \geq 4$ ?

N. Khaochim and P

Let  $n \geq 1$  and  $b = F_n F_{n+1} F_{n+2} F_{n+3} F_{n+4}$ . Then

$$z(b) = \begin{cases} \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)(n+4)}{2}, & \text{if } n \equiv 1, 7 \pmod{12}; \\ \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)(n+4)}{3}, & \text{if } n \equiv 9, 11 \pmod{12}; \\ \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)(n+4)}{4}, & \text{if } n \equiv 10 \pmod{12} \\ & \text{or } n \equiv 0, 20, 48, 68 \pmod{72}; \\ \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)(n+4)}{6}, & \text{if } n \equiv 3, 5 \pmod{12}; \\ \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)(n+4)}{8}, & \text{if } n \equiv 4 \pmod{12} \\ & \text{or } n \equiv 12, 32, 36, 56 \pmod{72}; \\ \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)(n+4)}{12}, & \text{if } n \equiv 2, 6 \pmod{12} \\ & \text{or } n \equiv 24, 44 \pmod{72}; \\ \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)(n+4)}{24}, & \text{if } n \equiv 8, 60 \pmod{72}. \end{cases}$$

Let  $n \geq 1$ ,  $a = [n, n + 1, n + 2, n + 3, n + 4]$ , and  $b = F_n F_{n+1} F_{n+2} F_{n+3} F_{n+4}$ . Then

$$z(b) = \begin{cases} a, & \text{if } n \equiv 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 \pmod{12}, \\ & \text{or } n \equiv 8, 60 \pmod{72}; \\ 2a, & \text{if } n \equiv 9, 11 \pmod{12}, \\ & \text{or } n \equiv 24, 44 \pmod{72}; \\ 3a, & \text{if } n \equiv 12, 32, 36, 56 \pmod{72}; \\ 6a, & \text{if } n \equiv 0, 20, 48, 68 \pmod{72}. \end{cases}$$

Let  $n \geq 1$ ,  $a = [n, n+1, n+2, n+3, n+4]$ , and  $b = F_n F_{n+1} F_{n+2} F_{n+3} F_{n+4}$ . Then

$$z(b) = \begin{cases} a, & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ & \text{or } n \equiv 2, 3, 5, 6 \pmod{12}; \\ 2a, & \text{if } n \equiv 9, 11 \pmod{12}; \\ \frac{72a}{(8,n)(9,n+1)}, & \text{if } n \equiv 8 \pmod{12}; \\ \frac{72a}{(8,n+4)(9,n+3)}, & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{12}. \end{cases}$$

Let  $n \geq 1$ ,  $a = [n, n+1, \dots, n+5]$ ,  $b = F_n F_{n+1} \cdots F_{n+5}$ , and  $c = (5, n)$ . Then

$$z(b) = \begin{cases} ac, & \text{if } n \equiv 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 \pmod{12} \\ 2ac, & \text{if } n \equiv 9, 10 \pmod{12}; \\ \frac{72(5, n)a}{(8, n+|r-8|)(9, n+|r-9|)}, & \text{if } n \equiv r \pmod{12} \\ & \text{and } r \in \{7, 8, 12\}; \\ \frac{72(5, n)a}{(8, n+5)(9, n+4)}, & \text{if } n \equiv 11 \pmod{12}. \end{cases}$$

Let  $n \geq 1$ ,  $a = [n, n+1, \dots, n+6]$ ,  $b = F_n F_{n+1} \cdots F_{n+6}$ , and  $c = (5, n(n+1))$ . Then  $z(b) =$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} ac, & \text{if } n \equiv 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 \pmod{12}; \\ \frac{(64)(27)ac}{(64, n+2)(27, n(n+3))}, & \text{if } n \equiv 6 \pmod{24}; \\ \frac{(8)(27)ac}{(27, n(n+3))}, & \text{if } n \equiv 18 \pmod{24}; \\ \frac{72ac}{(8, n-r)(9, n-r)}, & \text{if } n \equiv r \pmod{12} \text{ and } r \in \{7, 8\}; \\ 4ac, & \text{if } n \equiv 9 \pmod{12}; \\ \frac{72ac}{(8, n+6)(9, n+5)}, & \text{if } n \equiv 10 \pmod{12}; \\ \frac{72ac}{(8, n+5)(9, n+4)}, & \text{if } n \equiv 11 \pmod{12}; \\ \frac{(64)(27)ac}{(64, n+4)(27, (n+3)(n+6))}, & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{12}. \end{array} \right.$$



## Open problems

$z(m) = ?$  when

$$m = F_n L_{n+1} F_{n+2} \cdots F_{n+k}$$

$$m = F_n L_{n+1} F_{n+2} \cdots L_{n+k}$$

$$m = L_n F_{n+1} L_{n+2} \cdots L_{n+k}$$

$$m = \binom{n}{k} \quad \vdots$$

The first 3 cases are easy and the algorithm given by Khaochim and P still works. For  $m = \binom{n}{k}$ , may be some special conditions are needed. For example, if  $k = 1$ , there is nothing we can do. May be, central binomial coefficients are more interesting.

## Question

- Q11 Can we extend these results to any fundamental Lucas sequence and to its companion?

## Example

Patel, Panda, etc are trying to do this for balancing and Lucas balancing numbers.

Problem 4: (From) Exact divisibility by powers of the Fibonacci and Lucas numbers (to...)

### Definition

The sequence  $F_n$  of Fibonacci numbers is defined by the recurrence relation:  $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$  for  $n \geq 3$  and  $F_1 = 1, F_2 = 1$ .

The sequence  $L_n$  of Lucas numbers is defined by the recurrence relation:  $L_n = L_{n-1} + L_{n-2}$  for  $n \geq 3$  and  $L_1 = 1, L_2 = 3$ .

### Example

|       |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| $n$   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| $F_n$ | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5  | 8  | 13 | 21 | 34 |
| $L_n$ | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 18 | 29 | 47 | 76 |

## Well-known

$$\begin{aligned}m \mid n &\Rightarrow F_m \mid F_n, \\F_m \mid F_n \text{ and } m \neq 2 &\Rightarrow m \mid n, \\ \gcd(F_m, F_n) &= F_{\gcd(m,n)}.\end{aligned}$$

A divisibility result which is used in Matiyasevich's solution to Hilbert's 10th Problem (1970)

$$F_n^2 \mid F_{nm} \Leftrightarrow F_n \mid m \quad (1)$$

Hoggatt and Bicknell-Johnson (1977) gives another proof of (1) and extend it to higher powers.

If  $n$  is odd, then  $F_m^3 \mid F_{mn} \Leftrightarrow F_m^2 \mid n$ .

If  $3 \nmid m$ , then  $F_m^3 \mid F_{mn} \Leftrightarrow F_m^2 \mid n$ .

If  $n \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{6}$  and  $s = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$ , then

$$F_m^s \mid F_{mn} \Leftrightarrow F_m^{s-1} \mid n.$$

If  $3 \nmid m$ ,  $4 \nmid m$ , and  $s = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$ , then

$$F_m^s \mid F_{mn} \Leftrightarrow F_m^{s-1} \mid n.$$

The result is not complete.

- Tangboonduangjit and Wiboonton, Panraksa, Tangboonduangjit and Wiboonton, consider a subsequence  $(G_k(n))_{k \geq 1}$  of the Fibonacci sequence  $G_1(n) = F(n)$ ,  $G_k(n) = F(nG_{k-1}(n))$

$$F(n), F(nF(n)), F(nF(nF(n))), \dots$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_n | G_1(n) &\Rightarrow F_n^2 | F(nG_1(n)) = G_2(n) \\ &\Rightarrow F_n^3 | F(nG_2(n)) = G_3(n) \\ &\Rightarrow F_n^4 | F(nG_3(n)) = G_4(n) \end{aligned}$$

$F_n^k | G_k(n)$  for all  $k \geq 1$ . (Tangboonduangjit and Wiboonton (2012))

$F_n^k \parallel G_k(n)$  for all  $k \geq 1$ . (Panraksa, Tangboonduangjit and Wiboonton (2012))

$$\frac{G_2(n)}{F_n^2} \equiv \begin{cases} \frac{F_{n-3}}{2}, & \text{if } 3 \mid n; \\ 1, & \text{if } 3 \nmid n. \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{G_3(n)}{F_n^3} \equiv \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } 3 \nmid n \text{ and } 4 \nmid n; \\ F_{n-1}, & \text{if } 3 \nmid n \text{ and } 4 \mid n; \\ \frac{(-1)^n}{4} F_{n-3}^2, & \text{if } 3 \mid n. \end{cases}$$



$$G(1, n, m) = F_n^m, \quad G(k+1, n, m) = F(nG(k, n, m)).$$

$$F_n^m, F_n F_n^m, F_n F_n F_n^m, F_n F_n F_n F_n^m, \dots$$

$$F_n^{k+m-1} \mid G(k, n, m) \text{ for every } k, n, m \geq 1$$

$$F_n^{k+m-1} \parallel G(k, n, m) \text{ for } k \geq 2, n \geq 4, m \geq 1$$

$$\frac{G(k, n, m)}{F_n^{k+m-1}} \equiv \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } 2 \mid k \text{ and } 3 \nmid n \text{ or if } 2 \nmid k, 3 \nmid n \text{ and} \\ F_{n-1}, & \text{if } 2 \nmid k, 3 \nmid n \text{ and } 4 \mid n; \\ \left(\frac{F_{n-3}}{2}\right)^{k-1}, & \text{if } 2 \nmid k, 3 \mid n \text{ and } m \geq 2 \text{ or} \\ & \text{if } 2 \mid k, 3 \mid n \text{ and } m = 1; \\ (-1)^n \left(\frac{F_{n-3}}{2}\right)^{k-1}, & \text{if } 2 \mid k, 3 \mid n \text{ and } m \geq 2 \text{ or} \\ & \text{if } 2 \nmid k, 3 \mid n \text{ and } m = 1. \end{cases}$$

### P (2014)

For  $n \geq 3$ , we have

- (i) if  $F_n^k \parallel m$  and  $n \not\equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ , then  $F_n^{k+1} \parallel F_{nm}$ ;
- (ii) if  $F_n^k \parallel m$ ,  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$  and  $\frac{F_n^{k+1}}{2} \nmid m$ , then  $F_n^{k+1} \parallel F_{nm}$ ;
- (iii) if  $F_n^k \parallel m$ ,  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$  and  $\frac{F_n^{k+1}}{2} \mid m$ , then  $F_n^{k+2} \parallel F_{nm}$ .

### P (2014)

Let  $m$  be an odd integer. Then

- (i) if  $L_n^k \mid m$ , then  $L_n^{k+1} \mid L_{nm}$ ;
- (ii) if  $n \geq 2$  and  $L_n^k \parallel m$ , then  $L_n^{k+1} \parallel L_{nm}$ .

## P (2014)

Let  $m$  be even and  $n \geq 2$ . Then the following statements hold.

- (i) If  $L_n^k \mid m$ , then  $L_n^{k+1} \mid F_{nm}$ .
- (ii) If  $L_n^k \parallel m$  and  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ , then  $L_n^{k+1} \parallel F_{nm}$ .
- (iii) If  $L_n^k \parallel m$ ,  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$  and  $\frac{L_n^{k+1}}{2} \nmid m$ , then  $L_n^{k+1} \parallel F_{nm}$ .
- (iv) If  $L_n^k \parallel m$ ,  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$  and  $\frac{L_n^{k+1}}{2} \mid m$ , then  $L_n^{k+2} \mid F_{nm}$ .
- (v) If  $L_n^k \parallel m$ ,  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$  and  $\frac{L_n^{k+1}}{4} \nmid m$ , then  $L_n^{k+1} \parallel F_{nm}$ .
- (vi) If  $L_n^k \parallel m$ ,  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$  and  $\frac{L_n^{k+1}}{4} \mid m$ , then  $L_n^{k+2} \mid 4F_{nm}$ .

## Onphaeng and P

Let  $k, m, n$  be positive integers and  $n \geq 3$ . Then the following statements hold.

- (i) If  $F_n^{k+1} \mid F_{nm}$  and  $n \not\equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ , then  $F_n^k \mid m$ .
- (ii) If  $F_n^{k+1} \mid F_{nm}$  and  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ , then  $F_n^k \mid 2m$  and  $F_n^{k-1} \mid m$ .
- (iii) If  $F_n^{k+1} \mid F_{nm}$ ,  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ , and  $2^k \mid m$ , then  $F_n^k \mid m$ .

## Onphaeng and P

Let  $k, m, n$  be positive integers and  $n \geq 3$ . Then the following statements hold.

- (i) If  $F_n^{k+1} \parallel F_{nm}$  and  $n \not\equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ , then  $F_n^k \parallel m$ .
- (ii) If  $F_n^{k+1} \parallel F_{nm}$ ,  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ , and  $2^k \mid m$ , then  $F_n^k \parallel m$ .
- (iii) If  $F_n^{k+1} \parallel F_{nm}$ ,  $n \equiv 3 \pmod{6}$ , and  $2^k \nmid m$ , then  $F_n^{k-1} \parallel m$ .

## Onphaeng and P

Let  $k, m, n$  be positive integers and  $n \geq 2$ . Then the following statements hold.

- (i) If  $L_n^{k+1} \mid L_{nm}$ , then  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ ,  $m$  is odd, and  $L_n^k \mid m$ .
- (ii) If  $L_n^{k+1} \parallel L_{nm}$ , then  $L_n^k \parallel m$ .

## Onphaeng and P

Let  $k, m, n$  be positive integers and  $n \geq 2$ . If  $L_n^{k+1} \mid F_{nm}$ , then  $m$  is even. Moreover, the following statements hold.

- (i) If  $L_n^{k+1} \mid F_{nm}$  and  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{6}$ , then  $L_n^k \mid m$ .
- (ii) If  $L_n^{k+1} \parallel F_{nm}$  and  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{6}$ , then  $L_n^k \parallel m$ .
- (iii) If  $L_n^{k+1} \mid F_{nm}$  and  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$ , then  $L_n^{\min\{v_2(m), k\}} \mid m$ .
- (iv) If  $L_n^{k+1} \parallel F_{nm}$  and  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{6}$ , then  $L_n^{\min\{v_2(m), k\}} \parallel m$ .

Let  $P, Q \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Define  $U_n(P, Q)$  by

$$U_0 = 0, U_1 = 1, U_n = PU_n - QU_{n-1}, \text{ for } n \geq 3.$$

### Question

- Q12 Find the corresponding results for  $U_n(P, Q)$  for all  $P, Q$  or a large class of  $P, Q$ .

Update: Define  $G_1(n) = U_n$  and  $G_k(n) = U(nG_{k-1}(n))$  for  $k \geq 2$ . The results on the exact divisibility of  $G_k(n)$  by powers of  $U_n$  has been recently obtained by Panraksa and Tangboonduangjit (communication after the seminar).

Nevertheless, some of the results analogous to those of Onphaeng and P for  $U_n$  are still open.

## Euler's function

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1, 5, 7, 11      So  $\varphi(12) = 4$

$$\varphi(100) = ?$$

$$n = p_1^{a_1} p_2^{a_2} \cdots p_k^{a_k}$$

$$\varphi(n) = n \prod_{p|n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right)$$

$$\varphi(100) = 100 \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{5}\right) = 40$$

## Lehmer's Problem

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Does the converse hold?

- Q13 If  $\varphi(n) \mid n - 1$ , then  $n$  is prime?

This is called Lehmer's problem on Euler's function.

## Carmichael's Problem

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$$\exists m \in \mathbb{N}, |\varphi^{-1}(m)| = 3$$

$$\exists m \in \mathbb{N}, |\varphi^{-1}(m)| = 4$$

$$\exists m \in \mathbb{N}, |\varphi^{-1}(m)| = k$$

## Question

- Q14  $\exists m \in \mathbb{N}, |\varphi^{-1}(m)| = 1?$

## Palindromes

A positive integer  $n$  is said to be a palindrome in base  $b$  (or  $b$ -adic palindrome) if the representation of  $n = (a_k a_{k-1} \cdots a_0)_b$  in base  $b$  with  $a_k \neq 0$  has the symmetric property  $a_{k-i} = a_i$  for every  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, k$ .

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## Example

The following numbers are palindromes.

- 1
- 121
- $(1001)_2$
- $(1234321)_5$

## Generalized Palindromes

A positive integer  $n$  is said to be a generalized palindrome in base  $b$  (or generalized  $b$ -adic palindrome) if the representation of  $n = (a_k a_{k-1} \cdots a_0)_b$  in base  $b$  has the symmetric property  $a_{k-i} = a_i$  for every  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, k$ .

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## Example

The following numbers are generalized palindromes.

- $(010)_2$
- $(11)_2$
- $(0110)_2$
- $(0003000)_5$

Banks (2016)

Every natural number is the sum of at most forty-nine 10-adic palindromes.

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Cilleruelo, Luca, and Baxter (2017)

For  $b \geq 5$ , every natural number is the sum of at most three  $b$ -adic palindromes.

Rajasekaran, Shallit, and Smith (2017)

Every natural number is the sum of at most four 2-adic palindromes.

Rajasekaran, Shallit, and Smith (2017)

Every natural number is the sum of at most three generalized 2-adic palindromes.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
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