

A remark on Puzzle 435

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I send the following result on Puzzle 435,

Proposition. Let m be a solution of

$$\varphi(x) + \sigma(x) = kx \quad (1)$$

where $k > 2$ is an integer.

- i) If k is odd then any odd solution m must have the form $4\lambda + 1$, for some integer λ .
- ii) If m has the form $3\rho + 2$ for some integer ρ , then $\varphi(m) \equiv 2k \pmod{3}$.

Proof. In the papers [1], [2] or [3] we can find the following recursion relation derived by Balth. Van der Pol for the numbers $\sigma(k)$

$$\frac{n^2(n-1)}{12}\sigma(n) = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} (5k(n-k) - n^2)\sigma(k)\sigma(n-k) \quad (2)$$

it is easily seen that from (2) I obtain the following congruences

$$n^2(n-1)\sigma(n) \equiv 0 \pmod{3} \quad (3)$$

$$n^2(n-1)\sigma(n) \equiv 0 \pmod{4} \quad (4)$$

Thus if I multiply (1) by $m^2(m-1)$ and using the congruences (3) y (4) for an integer $m > 1$ I obtain the following congruences

$$\varphi(m)m^2(m-1) \equiv km^3(m-1) \pmod{3} \quad (5)$$

$$\varphi(m)m^2(m-1) \equiv km^3(m-1) \pmod{4} \quad (6)$$

From the congruence (6) I obtain the proof of i) since if m is odd then $(m^2, 4) = 1$, thus by Euler's Theorem I obtain

$$\varphi(m)(m-1) \equiv km(m-1) \pmod{4} \quad (7)$$

now since m is an odd number greater than 1 both numbers $\varphi(m)$ and $m-1$ are even so $\varphi(m)(m-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ thus from (7) I obtain

$$km(m-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{4} \quad (8)$$

Since by hypothesis k is odd then using the simplification rule for congruences I obtain

$$m - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{4} \quad (9)$$

that is the first result that I have deduced. For ii) I begin from (5) and using the Fermat's Little Theorem because m has the form $3\rho + 2$ then $(m,3) = 1$ I obtain

$$\varphi(m) \equiv 2k \pmod{3} \quad (10)$$

and it conclude the proof of the second result.

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Rererences:

- [1] Balth van der Pol, *On a Non-linear Partial Differential Equation satisfied by the Logarithm of the Jacobian Theta Functions Theorem with Arithmetical Applications I, II*, Nederl. Akad. Wetensch. Proc., Ser. A, **54** (1951), p. 261-271.
- [2] J. Touchard, *On prime numbers and perfect numbers*, Scripta Math. **19** (1953), p. 35-39.
- [3] Judy A. Holdener, *A Theorem of Touchard on the Form of Odd Perfect Numbers*, Amer. Math. Monthly **109** (2002), p. 661-663.