

Show that, for any fixed integer  $n \geq 1$ , the sequence

$$2, 2^2, 2^{2^2}, 2^{2^{2^2}}, \dots \pmod{n}$$

is eventually constant.

[The tower of exponents is defined by  $a_1 = 2$ ,  $a_{i+1} = 2^{a_i}$ . Also  $a_i \pmod{n}$  means the remainder which results from dividing  $a_i$  by  $n$ .]

FTSOL, let " $a$ " be the minimum value of " $h$ " such that  
 $2, 2^2, 2^{2^2}, \dots \pmod{a}$  is not constant.

Since  $2, 2^2, 2^{2^2}, \dots \pmod{a}$  is not constant, let " $b$ " be the period of the sequence.

$$\therefore 1 \leq b \leq a-1 < a \text{ holds.}$$

①

Because  $2, 2^2, 2^{2^2}, \dots \pmod{a}$  is periodic,  $1, 2, 2^2, 2^{2^2}, \dots \pmod{b}$  must also be periodic.

Therefore,  $1, 2, 2^2, 2^{2^2}, \dots \pmod{b}$  is not constant.

As a result,  $2, 2^2, 2^{2^2}, \dots \pmod{b}$  is also not constant.

However,  $b < a$  and " $a$ " was assumed to be the least value of " $h$ " such that  $2, 2^2, 2^{2^2}, \dots \pmod{a}$  is not constant. Thus, contradiction is present.

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