

A number such that its square finishes on it and Veselov's comment on it

Find a number x such that its square , a number x^2 finishes with it. More precisely this means the following: We say that a number x *has m -digits and it is finished with it* if

$$10^m \leq x < 10^{m+1}, \text{ and } x^2 - x \text{ divides } 10^m. \quad (1)$$

Remark E.g. a number $x = 0625$ has 4 digits and it is finished with it:

$$625^2 - 625 = 390000.$$

This is very old problem for me It is one of the first problems which I solved.

Theorem There are two exactly two sequences

$$a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, \dots = 5, 25, 625,$$

and

$$b_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, \dots = 6, 76, 376,$$

such that

1) all the numbers in these sequences obey the condition, that their squares finishes by them.

2) Any number a_n in the first sequence possesses not more than n digits: $a_n < 10^n$.

2) Any number such that its square finish by it belongs to the first or to the second sequence

This follows from the following induction statement

Lemma

Suppose by induction that a number a_n contains n digits (zeroes are permitted (see the Remark)) and *it is finished by it*:

$$a_n < 10^n, \text{ and } a_n^2 - a_n \text{ divides } 10^n. \quad (3)$$

Then there exists a number $x = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9$ such that a number $a_{n+1} = 10^n x + a_n$ contains $n + 1$ digits and *it is finished by it*:

$$a_{n+1} < 10^{n+1}, a_{n+1}^2 - a_{n+1} \text{ divides } 10^{n+1}. \quad (4)$$

(if $x = 0$ then a number a_{n+1} may "slip" a digit. (see the remark after equation (1).))

Prove the lemma, i.e. prove that (3) implies (4). First note that by inductive hypothesis (3)

$$a_n^2 - a_n = 10^n s_n$$

with s_n integer. Hence

$$a_{n+1}^2 - a_{n+1} = (10^n x + a_n)^2 - (10^n x + a_n) = 10^n (10^n x^2 + 2xa_n + s_n - x).$$

This expression has to be divisible on 10^{n+1} . Hence one has to choose x such that

$$2xa_n + s_n - x \text{ has to be divisible on } 10 \quad (5)$$

Consider examples.

Take $N = 1$ and $a_1 = 5$. $a_1^2 - a_1 = 20$, $s_1 = \frac{a_1^2 - a_1}{10} = 2$. Choose x in (5). We have

$$2xa_n + s_n - x = 2 \cdot x \cdot 5 + 2 - x \text{ is divisible on } 10 \Rightarrow x = 2, a_2 = 2, a_2 = 25.$$

take $N = 2$ and $a_2 = 25$. $a_2^2 - a_2 = 600$, $x = s_2 = \frac{a_2^2 - a_2}{100} = 6$. $a_3 = 10^2 x + a_2 = 625$

take $N = 3$ and $a_3 = 625$. $a_3^2 - a_3 = 390.000$, $x = s_3 = \frac{a_3^2 - a_3}{1000} = 39$. $a_4 = a_3 = 625$

take $N = 4$ and $a_4 = 0625$. , $x = s_4 = \frac{a_4^2 - a_4}{10000} = 39$. $a_5 = 90625$

$N = 5$ and $a_5 = 90625$. , $x = s_5 = \frac{a_5^2 - a_5}{100000} = 39$. $a_5 = 90625$