

3. Let a_1 be a positive integer and for all $n > 0$, a_{n+1} is the largest odd divisor of $a_n + 2^n - 1$. Let r be a positive integer greater than 1, determine if there exists infinitely many pair (u, v) with $u > v$ and $a_u = ra_v$

First, note that the number of 1s in binary of a_n is non increasing, therefore it will become a constant for sufficient large n . Let m be the number of 1s in binary of a_n when n is large enough and WLOG $m > 1$ since it is trivial when $m = 1$.

Suppose $a_u = ra_v$, then since both a_u and a_v has the same number of 1s in binary, consider both sides in binary, and it will be easy to consider the sum of digit in base 2 of both sides, we observe that if the distance between 2 consecutive 1s of a_n is too large, then we will reach a contradiction, since $S_2(\text{LHS}) = m$ and $S_2(\text{RHS}) = mS_2(r)$.

Now for a large n , suppose we have $a_n = 1 + 2^{t_1} + 2^{t_2} + \dots + 2^{t_m}$. Now we wish to calculate a_{n+1} , but in order to do that, we need to know if $t_1 < n$ or not. Thus, we try several values of a_1 to compare t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m and n . And we can see that

$$a_n < 2^n. \text{ The proof is easy, since } a_{n+1} \leq \frac{a_n + 2^n - 1}{2}$$

Now for large n , we have $c = 1 + 2^{t_1} + 2^{t_2} + \dots + 2^{t_m}$, then:

$$a_{n+1} = 1 + 2^{t_2 - t_1} + 2^{t_3 - t_1} + \dots + 2^{t_m - t_1} + 2^{n - t_1}$$

$$a_{n+2} = 1 + 2^{t_3 - t_2} + 2^{t_4 - t_2} + \dots + 2^{t_m - t_2} + 2^{n - t_2} + 2^{n+1 - t_2 + t_1}$$

$$a_{n+3} = 1 + 2^{t_4 - t_3} + 2^{t_5 - t_3} + \dots + 2^{t_m - t_3} + 2^{n - t_3} + 2^{n+1 - t_3 + t_1} + 2^{n+2 - t_3 + t_2}$$

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$$a_{n+m} = 1 + 2^{n - t_m} + 2^{n+1 - t_m + t_1} + 2^{n+2 - t_m + t_2} + \dots + 2^{n+m-1 - t_m + t_{m-1}}$$

$$a_{n+m+1} = 1 + 2^{t_1+1} + 2^{t_2+2} + \dots + 2^{n+m+t_m}$$

Look at a_n and a_{n+m+1} , if we let d_n = the minimal distance between 2 consecutive 1s in binary of a_n , in other word, $d_n = \min(t_2 - t_1, t_3 - t_2, \dots, t_m - t_{m-1})$, then

$d_{n+m+1} > d_n$ for all large n , thus $\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} d_n = +\infty$, thus $S_2(ra_v) = mS_2(r)$ for all large

v , and since $u > v$ we have $S_2(a_u) = m$, thus $a_u \neq ra_v$ for all large u, v .

If v is not large, then it is easy to see that $\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} a_n = +\infty$, thus $a_u > ra_v$ for all

large u and small v . And our conclusion follows.