

**Definition.** Let  $d(n)$  be the number of divisors of  $n$  and  $\sigma(n)$  be the sum of divisors of  $n$ . If  $d(n) \mid \sigma(n)$ , then  $n$  is called an arithmetic number.

**Lemma.** (a) Let  $p$  be a prime, then every prime factor of  $\frac{p^k - 1}{p - 1}$  is either a factor of  $k$  or congruent to 1 modulo  $k$ ;

(b) Let  $p$  be a prime,  $q$  be an odd prime factor of  $k$ , then  $v_q\left(\frac{p^k - 1}{p - 1}\right) \leq v_q(k)$ , where  $v_q$  is the  $q$ -adic valuation.

**Theorem.** Let  $r \geq 1$ ,  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r$  be distinct primes,  $k_1, k_2, \dots, k_r$  be odd numbers such that  $N = p_1^{k_1-1} p_2^{k_2-1} \dots p_r^{k_r-1}$  is an arithmetic number. Then there exists  $1 \leq i \leq r$  such that  $p_i^{k_i-1}$  is an arithmetic number.

*Proof.* We have  $d(N) = k_1 k_2 \dots k_r$  is divisible by  $\sigma(N) = \frac{p_1^{k_1} - 1}{p_1 - 1} \frac{p_2^{k_2} - 1}{p_2 - 1} \dots \frac{p_r^{k_r} - 1}{p_r - 1}$ . For an odd prime  $q$ , define

$$I_q = \left\{ 1 \leq i \leq r : v_q\left(\frac{p_i^{k_i} - 1}{p_i - 1}\right) < v_q(k_i) \right\},$$

If  $I_q$  is empty for all odd primes  $q$ , then every  $p_i^{k_i-1}$  is an arithmetic number.

Now suppose that  $q$  is the smallest prime such that  $I_q$  is nonempty. Since  $\sum_{i=1}^r v_q\left(\frac{p_i^{k_i} - 1}{p_i - 1}\right) \geq \sum_{i=1}^r v_q(k_i)$ , we must have  $v_q\left(\frac{p_i^{k_i} - 1}{p_i - 1}\right) > v_q(k_i) \geq 0$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq r$ . By part (b) of the Lemma above, we have  $q \mid k_i$ , so by part (a) we have  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{k_i}$ , hence every prime factor of  $k_i$  is  $< q$ . By the minimality of  $q$ ,  $v_p\left(\frac{p_i^{k_i} - 1}{p_i - 1}\right) = v_p(k_i)$  for every prime factor  $p$  of  $k_i$ , so  $p_i^{k_i-1}$  is an arithmetic number.  $\square$