

# A NOTE ON $S(n)$ , WHERE $n$ IS AN EVEN PERFECT NUMBER

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In a recent paper [1] the following result is proved:

If  $n = 2^{k-1}(2^k-1)$ ,  $2^k-1 = \text{prime}$ , is an even perfect number, then  $S(n) = 2^k-1$ , where  $S(n)$  is the well-known Smarandache Function.

Since  $S(ab) = \max \{S(a), S(b)\}$  for  $(a, b) = 1$ , and  $S(a) \leq a$  with equality for  $a = 1, 4$ , and  $a = \text{prime}$  (see [3]), we have the following one-line proof of this result:

$S(2^{k-1}(2^k-1)) = \max \{S(2^{k-1}), S(2^k-1)\} = 2^k-1$ ,  
since  $S(2^{k-1}) \leq 2^{k-1} < 2^k-1$  for  $k \geq 2$ .

On the other hand, if  $2^k-1$  is prime, then we have  $S(2^k-1) \equiv 1 \pmod{k}$ ; an interesting table is considered in [2]. Indeed,  $k$  must be a prime too,  $k = p$ ; while Fermat's little theorem gives  $2^p-1 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ . From  $2^{2p}-1 = (2^p-1)(2^p+1)$  and  $(2^p-1, 2^p+1) = 1$  we can deduce  $S(2^{2p}-1) = \max \{S(2^p-1), S(2^p+1)\} = 2^p-1$  since  $2^p+1$  is being composite,  $S(2^p+1) < 2/3(2^p+1) < 2^p-1$  for  $p \geq 3$ . Thus, if  $2^k-1$  is a Mersenne prime, then  $S(2^k-1) \equiv S(2^{2k}-1) \equiv 1 \pmod{k}$ . If  $2^p-1$  and  $2^{2p}+1$  are both primes, then

$S(2^{4p}-1) = \max \{S(2^{2p}-1), S(2^{2p}+1)\} = 2^{2p}+1 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{4p}$ .

## References:

1. Sebastian Martin Ruiz, "Smarandache's Function Applied to Perfect Numbers", <Smarandache Notions J.>, 10 (1999), No. 1-2-3, 114-115.
2. Sebastian Martin Ruiz, "A Congruence with Smarandache's Function", <Smarandache Notions J.>, 10 (1999), No. 1-2-3, 130-132.
3. Charles Ashbacher, "An Introduction to the Smarandache Function", Erhus Univ. Press, Vail, AZ, 1995.