

On the numerical function S_{\min}^{-1}

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In [1] one defines $S_{\min}^{-1} : \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\} \mapsto \mathbb{N}$, $S_{\min}^{-1}(x) = \min \{S^{-1}(x)\}$, where $S^{-1}(x) = \{a \in \mathbb{N} \mid S(a) = x\}$, and S is the Smarandache function.

For example $S^{-1}(6) = \{2^4, 2^4 \cdot 3, 2^4 \cdot 3^2, 3^2, 3^2 \cdot 2, 3^2 \cdot 2^2, 3^2 \cdot 2^3, 2^4 \cdot 3 \cdot 5, 2^3 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5, 2^4 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5, 3^2 \cdot 5, 2^4 \cdot 5, 3^2 \cdot 5, 3^2 \cdot 2^4\}$ and $S_{\min}^{-1}(6) = 3^2$.

If $S(x) = n$ one knows that $\text{card}(S^{-1}(n)) = d(n!) - d((n-1)!)$ where d is the number of divisors of n .

If x is a prime number, then $\text{card}(S^{-1}(n)) = d((n-1)!)$.

We give below a table of the values of $S_{\min}^{-1}(n)$:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|-------|----------|----------|----------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| n | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 15 |
| $S_{\min}^{-1}(n)$ | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3^2 | 7 | 2^5 | 3^5 | 5^3 |
| n | 16 | 21 | 24 | 27 | 36 | 40 | 52 | 56 | 60 |
| $S_{\min}^{-1}(n)$ | 2^{12} | 7^3 | 3^{10} | 3^{11} | 3^{16} | 5^9 | 13^4 | 7^8 | 5^4 |

One knows [2] that if $p < q$ are two prime numbers, and $n > 1$ is a natural number such that $p \cdot q \mid n$, then $p^{l_p(n)} > q^{l_q(n)}$, where $l_p(n)$ is the exponent of p in the prime factors decomposition of $n!$.

According to the above properties we can deduce the calculus formula for function S_{\min}^{-1} :

$$S_{\min}^{-1}(n = p_1^{\alpha_1} p_2^{\alpha_2} \dots p_r^{\alpha_r}) = p_r^{l_{p_r}(n) - \alpha_r + 1} \quad (1)$$

where $p_1 < p_2 < \dots < p_r$ are the prime numbers in the canonical decomposition of the number n .

We list a set of properties of the function S_{\min}^{-1} , which result directly from the definition and from formula (1):

1. $S_{\min}^{-1}(p) = p$ if p is a prime number.

2. $S_{\min}^{-1}(p \cdot q) = q^p$ if p and q are prime numbers and $p < q$.
3. $S(S_{\min}^{-1}(x)) = x$.
4. $S_{\min}^{-1}(q^p) = p \cdot q$ if p and q are prime numbers and $p < q$.
5. $S_{\min}^{-1}(x) < S_{\min}^{-1}(y)$ if x and y contain as the greatest prime factor p_r and $x < y$.
6. The equation $S_{\min}^{-1}(x) = S_{\min}^{-1}(x + 1)$ has not solutions.
7. $S_{\min}^{-1}(S(x))$ is generally not equal to $S(x)$.
8. $\Lambda(S_{\min}^{-1}(x)) = \log p_r$, where Λ is the Mangoldt function.

It is open the problem to find other properties of the function S_{\min}^{-1} .

References

- [1] Smarandache Function Journal, vol. 1, 1993.
- [2] Florian Luca, *An inequality between prime powers dividing $n!$* (To appear in Smarandache Function Journal, vol. 9, 1998.)
- [3] Ion Bălăcenoiu, *Remarkable Inequalities*, Proceedings of the first International Conference on Smarandache Type Notions in Number Theory, Craiova, Romania, 1997.