

## SOME RESULTS CONCERNING EXPONENTIAL DIVISORS

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**ABSTRACT.** If the natural number  $n$  has the canonical form  $p_1^{a_1} p_2^{a_2} \dots p_r^{a_r}$  then  $d = p_1^{b_1} p_2^{b_2} \dots p_r^{b_r}$  is said to be an exponential divisor of  $n$  if  $b_i | a_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, r$ . The sum of the exponential divisors of  $n$  is denoted by  $\sigma^{(e)}(n)$ .  $n$  is said to be an  $e$ -perfect number if  $\sigma^{(e)}(n) = 2n$ ;  $(m; n)$  is said to be an  $e$ -amicable pair if  $\sigma^{(e)}(m) = m+n = \sigma^{(e)}(n)$ ;  $n_0, n_1, n_2, \dots$  is said to be an  $e$ -aliquot sequence if  $n_{i+1} = \sigma^{(e)}(n_i) - n_i$ . Among the results established in this paper are: the density of the  $e$ -perfect numbers is .0087; each of the first 10,000,000  $e$ -aliquot sequences is bounded.

**KEYS WORDS AND PHRASES.** Exponential divisors,  $e$ -perfect numbers,  $e$ -amicable numbers,  $e$ -aliquot sequences.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION.

If  $n$  is a positive integer greater than one whose prime-power decomposition is given by

$$n = p_1^{a_1} p_2^{a_2} \dots p_r^{a_r} \quad (1.1)$$

then  $d$  is said to be an "exponential divisor" of  $n$  if  $d = p_1^{b_1} p_2^{b_2} \dots p_r^{b_r}$  where  $b_i | a_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, r$ . The sum of all of the exponential divisors of  $n$  is denoted by  $\sigma^{(e)}(n)$ . This function was first studied by Subbarao [1] who also initiated the study of exponentially perfect (or  $e$ -perfect) numbers.

The positive integer  $n$  is said to be an  $e$ -perfect number if  $\sigma^{(e)}(n) = 2n$ . If  $\sigma^{(e)}(n) = kn$ , where  $k$  is an integer which exceeds 2,  $n$  is said to be an  $e$ -multi-perfect number. The properties of  $e$ -perfect and  $e$ -multi-perfect numbers have been investigated by Straus and Subbarao [2] and Fabrykowski and Subbarao [3]. It has been proved, for example, that all  $e$ -perfect and  $e$ -multi-perfect numbers are even. Also, if  $n$  is an  $e$ -perfect number and  $3 \nmid n$  then  $2^{110} | n$  and  $n > 10^{618}$ .

While it is easy to show that there are an infinite number of  $e$ -perfect numbers, whether or not any  $e$ -multi-perfect numbers exist is still an open question. Subbarao, Hardy and Aiello [4] have conjectured that there are no  $e$ -multi-perfect numbers. They have proved that any which exist are very large.

In Section 2 of the present paper the density of the set of  $e$ -perfect numbers is investigated. Section 3 is devoted to a study of  $e$ -amicable pairs, integers  $m$  and  $n$  such that  $\sigma^{(e)}(m) = m+n = \sigma^{(e)}(n)$ . Finally,  $e$ -aliquot sequences  $n_0, n_1, n_2, \dots$  where  $n_{i+1} = \sigma^{(e)}(n_i) - n_i$  for  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  are studied in Section 4.

## 2. THE DENSITY OF THE $e$ -PERFECT NUMBERS.

By definition,  $\sigma^{(e)}(1) = 1$  and it is easy to see that  $\sigma^{(e)}(n)$  is multiplicative. Therefore, since  $\sigma^{(e)}(p) = p$  if  $p$  is a prime, we see that  $\sigma^{(e)}(m) = m$  if  $m$  is square-free.

Now suppose that  $n$ , as given by (1.1), is a powerful  $e$ -perfect number (so that  $a_i \geq 2$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, r$  and  $\sigma^{(e)}(n) = 2n$ ). Then if  $(m, n) = 1$  and  $m$  is squarefree then  $\sigma^{(e)}(mn) = 2mn$  so that  $mn$  is an  $e$ -perfect number. Therefore, if  $x$  is a (fixed) positive number and  $n_1 < n_2 < \dots < n_s$  are the powerful  $e$ -perfect numbers which do not exceed  $x$  then  $E(x)$ , the set of (all)  $e$ -perfect numbers less than or equal to  $x$ , is given by  $E(x) = \bigcup_{i=1}^s A_i$  where

$$A_i = \{mn_i : (m, n_i) = 1, m \leq x/n_i \text{ and } m \text{ is squarefree}\} \quad (2.1)$$

Let  $N$  be a positive integer and let  $X$  be a positive real number. If  $Q(N, X)$  is the number of positive, squarefree integers which do not exceed  $X$  and which are relatively prime to  $N$ , then E. Cohen (Lemma 5.2 in [5]) has shown that

$$Q(N, X) = \beta(N) \cdot X + O(\theta(N) \cdot X^{1/2}) \quad (2.2)$$

where  $\beta(N) = (\zeta(2) \prod_{p|N} (1+1/p))^{-1}$  and  $\theta(N)$  is the number of squarefree divisors of  $N$ . It is easy to see that  $\theta(N) = \prod_{p|N} 2$ .  $\zeta(k)$  is the Riemann Zeta function, so that  $\zeta(2) = \pi^2/6$ , and the constant implied by the 0-term is independent of  $N$  and  $X$ .

If  $Q(e, x)$  is the number of  $e$ -perfect numbers which do not exceed  $x$  (so that  $Q(e, x)$  is the cardinality of  $E(x)$ ) it follows from (2.1) and (2.2) that

$$Q(e, x) = x \sum_{i=1}^s \beta(n_i)/n_i + O(x^{1/2} \sum_{i=1}^s \theta(n_i)/n_i^{1/2}).$$

Therefore,

$$Q(e, x)/x = \sum_{i=1}^s \beta(n_i)/n_i + O(x^{-1/2} \sum_{i=1}^s \theta(n_i)/n_i^{1/2}). \quad (2.3)$$

The following results concerning powerful numbers will be needed in what follows. Proofs may be found in Golomb [6].

LEMMA 1. If  $r_1 < r_2 < \dots$  is the sequence of powerful numbers then  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} 1/r_i$  is convergent.

LEMMA 2. If  $P(X)$  is the number of powerful numbers not exceeding  $x$  then  $P(x) < 2.2x^{1/2}$  for large  $x$ .

Now let  $\epsilon$  be a given positive number and let  $P_i$  denote the  $i$ th prime. There exists a positive integer  $k$  such that

$$2/P_k < \epsilon \cdot (2.2K)^{-1/3} \quad (2.4)$$

where  $K$  is the constant implied by the 0-term in (2.3).

Since there are only a finite number of powerful e-perfect numbers which are divisible by fewer than  $k$  distinct primes (see Theorem 2.3 in [2]) there exists a positive integer  $J$  such that if  $n_1 < n_2 < \dots$  is the sequence of powerful e-perfect numbers then for all  $i > J$   $n_i$  has at least  $k$  distinct prime factors and  $n_i$  has a prime factor, say  $Q_i$ , such that  $Q_i \geq P_k$ . Since  $n_i$  is powerful,  $n_i^{1/2} \geq \prod p$  where the product is taken over the distinct prime factors of  $n_i$ , and it follows from (2.4) that if  $i > J$  then

$$\theta(n_i)/n_i^{1/2} \leq \prod_{p|n_i} 2/p < 2/Q_i \leq 2/P_k < \varepsilon \cdot (2.2K)^{-1/3}. \quad (2.5)$$

Splitting the sum in the 0-term in (2.3) at  $i = J$  (with  $J$  held fixed) we can take  $x$  large enough so that  $x^{-1/2} \cdot K \cdot \sum_{i=1}^J \theta(n_i)/n_i^{1/2} < \varepsilon/3$ . At the same time, since every  $n_i$  is powerful, we see from (2.5) and Lemma 2 that we can also take  $x$  large enough so that

$$\begin{aligned} x^{-1/2} \cdot K \cdot \sum_{i=J+1}^s \theta(n_i)/n_i^{1/2} &< x^{-1/2} \cdot K \cdot \sum_{i=J+1}^s \varepsilon \cdot (2.2K)^{-1/3} \\ &< x^{-1/2} \cdot P(x) \cdot \varepsilon \cdot (2.2)^{-1/3} < \varepsilon/3. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, since  $\beta(n_i) < 1$  and every  $n_i$  is powerful we see from Lemma 1 that  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \beta(n_i)/n_i$  is convergent. (This series may be finite since whether or not the set of powerful e-perfect numbers is finite or infinite is an open question). It follows that we can take  $x$  (and consequently  $s$ ) large enough so that the tail of this series is less than  $\varepsilon/3$ . Therefore, from (2.3) we have for all large values of  $x$ ,

$$|Q(e, x)/x - \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \beta(n_i)/n_i| < \varepsilon. \quad (2.6)$$

We have proved

**THEOREM 1.** Let  $Q(e, x)$  denote the number of e-perfect numbers which do not exceed  $x$  and let  $n_1 < n_2 < n_3 < \dots$  be the sequence of powerful numbers. Then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} Q(e, x)/x = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \beta(n_i)/n_i = C$$

where  $\beta(n) = 6\pi^{-2} \prod_{p|n} (1+1/p)^{-1}$ . Correct to ten decimal places,  $C = .0086941940$ .

(There are eight powerful e-perfect numbers less than  $10^{10}$ : 36; 1800; 2700; 17,424; 1,306,800; 4,769,856; 238,492,800; 357,739,200. The approximate value of  $C$  given above was calculated using these eight numbers).

The "theoretical" density of the e-perfect numbers as given in Theorem 1 agrees very nicely with the following exact computational results:  $Q(e, 10^5)/10^5 = .00871$ ;  $Q(e, 10^6)/10^6 = .008690$ ;  $Q(e, 10^7)/10^7 = .0086940$ ;  $Q(e, 10^8)/10^8 = .00869417$ .

### 3. EXPONENTIALLY AMICABLE NUMBERS.

We shall say that  $m$  and  $n$  are exponentially amicable (or e-amicable) numbers if

$$\sigma^{(e)}(m) = m + n = \sigma^{(e)}(n). \quad (3.1)$$

LEMMA 3. If  $(m;n)$  is an e-amicable pair and  $p$  is a prime, then  $p|m$  if and only if  $p|n$ .

PROOF. Suppose that  $p^a || m$  where  $a \geq 1$ . Then  $p|\sigma^{(e)}(m)$  since  $p|\sigma^{(e)}(p^a)$  and  $\sigma^{(e)}$  is a multiplicative function. It is now obvious from (3.1) that  $p|n$ . By the same argument, if  $p|n$  then  $p|m$ .

COROLLARY 3.1. If  $(m;n)$  is an e-amicable pair then  $m \equiv n \pmod{2}$ .

If  $(m;n)$  is an e-amicable pair and there is no prime  $p$  such that  $p||m$  and  $p||n$  we shall say that  $m$  and  $n$  are primitive e-amicable numbers. It is easy to see that if  $(m;n)$  is a primitive e-amicable pair and  $r$  is a squarefree positive integer such that  $(m,r) = 1$ , then  $(rm;rn)$  is an amicable pair.

A search was made for all primitive e-amicable pairs  $(m;n)$  such that  $m < n$  and  $m < 10^7$ . The search required about 1.5 hours on the CDC CYBER 750 and three pairs were found. They are as follows:  $(2^2 3^{27} \cdot 19^2; 2^2 3^3 7^2 19)$ ;  $(2^2 3^{27} \cdot 61^2; 2^2 3^4 7^2 61)$ ;  $(2^3 3^2 5^2 7 \cdot 19^2; 2^3 3^3 5^2 7^2 19)$ .

This list suggests the following questions. Are there any odd e-amicable numbers? Are there any powerful e-amicable numbers? Is every e-amicable number divisible by at least four distinct primes? (It is easy to show that every e-amicable number has at least three different prime factors).

The following result can sometimes be used to generate new e-amicable pairs from known pairs.

THEOREM 2. Suppose that  $(aM;aN)$  is an e-amicable pair such that  $(a,M) = (a,N) = 1$ . If  $(b,M) = (b,N) = 1$  and  $\sigma^{(e)}(a)/a = \sigma^{(e)}(b)/b$  then  $(bM,bN)$  is an e-amicable pair.

PROOF.  $\sigma^{(e)}(bM) = \sigma^{(e)}(b) \cdot \sigma^{(e)}(M) = a^{-1} b \sigma^{(e)}(a) \cdot \sigma^{(e)}(M) = a^{-1} b \sigma^{(e)}(aM) = \sigma^{(e)}(aM) \cdot b = bM + bN$ . Similarly,  $\sigma^{(e)}(bN) = bM + bN$ .

The results of a computer search for powerful numbers  $a$  and  $b$  such that  $4 \leq a < b \leq 10000$  and  $\sigma^{(e)}(a)/a = \sigma^{(e)}(b)/b$  are given in Table I.

TABLE I

$\sigma^{(e)}(a)/a$	$a$	$b$
3/2	$2^2$	$2^3 5^2$ or $2^4 11^2$
4/3	$3^2$	$3^3 5^2$
2	$2^2 3^2$	$2^3 3^5 5^2$ or $2^2 3^3 5^2$
39/32	$2^6$	$2^7 5^2$
5/3	$2^3 3^2$	$2^2 3^3$ or $2^3 3^3 5^2$
12/7	$2^2 7^2$	$2^3 5^2 7^2$
65/48	$2^7 3^2$	$2^6 3^3$
40/21	$2^3 3^2 7^2$	$2^2 3^3 7^2$

EXAMPLE. Since  $(2^2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 7 \cdot 19^2; 2^2 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 7^2 \cdot 19)$  is an e-amicable pair and since  $\sigma^{(e)}(2^2)/2^2 = \sigma^{(e)}(2^4 \cdot 11^2)/2^4 \cdot 11^2$  it follows from Theorem 2 that  $(2^4 \cdot 11^2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 7 \cdot 19^2; 2^4 \cdot 11^2 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 7^2 \cdot 19)$  is an e-amicable pair.

#### 4. EXPONENTIAL ALIQUOT SEQUENCES.

The function  $s^{(e)}$  is defined by  $s^{(e)}(n) = \sigma^{(e)}(n) - n$ , the sum of the exponential aliquot divisors of  $n$ .  $s^{(e)}(1) = s^{(e)}(r) = 0$  for every squarefree number  $r$  and we define  $s^{(e)}(0) = 0$ . A  $t$ -tuple of distinct natural numbers  $(n_0; n_1; \dots; n_{t-1})$  with  $n_i = s^{(e)}(n_{i-1})$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, t-1$  and  $s^{(e)}(n_{t-1}) = n_0$  is called an exponential  $t$ -cycle. An exponential 1-cycle is an e-perfect number and an exponential 2-cycle is an e-amicable pair. A search was made for all exponential  $t$ -cycles with smallest member not exceeding  $10^7$ . None with  $t > 2$  was found.

The exponential aliquot sequence (or e-aliquot sequence)  $\{n_i\}$  with leader  $n$  is defined by  $n_0 = n, n_1 = s^{(e)}(n_0), n_i = s^{(e)}(n_{i-1}), \dots$ . Such a sequence is said to be terminating if  $n_k$  is squarefree for some index  $k$  (so that  $n_i = 0$  for  $i > k$ ). An exponential aliquot sequence is said to be periodic if there is an index  $k$  such that  $(n_k; n_{k+1}; \dots; n_{k+t-1})$  is an exponential  $t$ -cycle. An e-aliquot sequence which is neither terminating nor periodic is unbounded.

An investigation was made of all aliquot sequences with leader  $n \leq 10^7$ . About 2.3 hours of computer time was required. 9,896,235 were found to be terminating and 103,765 were periodic (103,694 ended in 1-cycles and 71 ended in 2-cycles).

The fact that the first ten million exponential aliquot sequences are bounded might tempt one to conjecture that the set of unbounded e-aliquot sequences is empty. However, the following theorem shows that e-aliquot sequences exist which contain arbitrarily long strings of monotonically increasing terms. Therefore, whether or not unbounded e-aliquot sequences exist would seem to be a very open and difficult question.

THEOREM 3. Let  $N$  be a positive integer which exceeds 2. Then there exist infinitely many exponential aliquot sequences such that  $n_0 < n_1 < n_2 < \dots < n_{N-2}$ .

PROOF. Let  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_N$  be a sequence of  $N$  primes such that  $q_1 = 2, q_2 = 3$  and  $q_1^2 \mid (q_{i+1} + 1)$  for  $i = 2, 3, \dots, N-1$ . (Infinitely many such sequences exist since, by Dirichlet's theorem, the arithmetic progression  $aq_1^2 - 1$  contains an infinite number of primes.) We shall write  $q_{i+1} + 1 = K_i q_1^2$ .

Now let  $n_0, n_1, n_2, \dots$  be the exponential aliquot sequence with leader  $n_0$  given by  $n_0 = q_1^2 q_2^2 \dots q_N^2$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma^{(e)}(n_0) &= \prod_{i=1}^N (q_i + q_i^2) = 3 \cdot q_1 q_2 \dots q_N \cdot \prod_{i=2}^N (1 + q_i) \\ &= 3 \cdot q_1 q_2 \dots q_N \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{N-1} K_i q_1^2, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$n_1 = \sigma^{(e)}(n_0) - n_0 = (3 \cdot q_1 q_2 \dots q_N \cdot K_1 \dots K_{N-1} - q_N^2) \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{N-1} q_i^2.$$

Therefore,  $n_1 = M_1 \prod_{i=1}^{N-1} q_i^2$  where  $(M_1, q_i) = 1$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N-1$ .

Since  $n_0/36$  is not squarefree,  $n_1 = \sigma^{(e)}(n_0) - n_0 = \sigma^{(e)}(36) \cdot \sigma^{(e)}(n_0/36) - n_0$   
 $= 72 \cdot \sigma^{(e)}(n_0/36) - n_0 > 72 \cdot n_0/36 - n_0 = n_0$ .

Similarly, we find that for  $k = 2, 3, \dots, N-2$

$$n_k = M_k \prod_{i=1}^{N-k} q_i^2 \text{ where } (M_k, q_i) = 1 \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, N-k$$

and

$$n_k = \sigma^{(e)}(n_{k-1}) - n_{k-1} = \sigma^{(e)}(36) \cdot \sigma^{(e)}(n_{k-1}/36) - n_{k-1}$$

$$> 72 \cdot n_{k-1}/36 - n_{k-1} = n_{k-1}.$$

Therefore,  $n_0 < n_1 < \dots < n_{N-2}$ .

REMARK 1.  $n_{N-2} = 36M_{N-2}$  where  $(6, M_{N-2}) = 1$ . If  $M_{N-2}$  is not squarefree, then  
 $n_{N-1} = 72 \cdot \sigma^{(e)}(M_{N-2}) - 36M_{N-2} > 72M_{N-2} - 36M_{N-2} = 36M_{N-2} = n_{N-2}$ .

REMARK 2. The proof of Theorem 3 is modeled on that of Theorem 2.1 in [7].

Our next objective is to determine  $M(\sigma^{(e)}(n)/n)$ , the mean value of  $\sigma^{(e)}(n)/n$ .  
 The mean value of an arithmetic function  $f$  is defined by  $M(f) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} N^{-1} \sum_{n=1}^N f(n)$ .

We shall need the following lemma due to van der Corput (See Theorem A in [8].)

LEMMA 4. If  $f$  and  $h$  are arithmetic functions such that  $f(n) = \sum_{d|n} h(d)$  and  
 $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} h(n)/n$  is absolutely convergent then  $M(f) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} h(n)/n$ .

We wish to apply this lemma to the function  $f(n) = \sigma^{(e)}(n)/n$ . By the Moebius  
 inversion formula,  $h(n) = \sum_{d|n} \mu(n/d) \sigma^{(e)}(d)/d$ .  $h$  is multiplicative and  $h(1) = 1$ .

If  $p$  is a prime and  $a$  is a positive integer then  $h(p^a) = \sigma^{(e)}(p^a)/p^a - \sigma^{(e)}(p^{a-1})/p^{a-1}$ .

If  $a < 6$  it is easy to verify that  $|h(p^a)| < p^{-a/4}$ . (For example,

$|h(p^3)| = p^{-1} - p^{-2} < p^{-1} < p^{-3/4}$ .) Suppose that  $a \geq 6$ . Then

$|h(p^a)| = \sigma^{(e)}(p^a)/p^a - \sigma^{(e)}(p^{a-1})/p^{a-1}$  or  $|h(p^a)| = \sigma^{(e)}(p^{a-1})/p^{a-1} - \sigma^{(e)}(p^a)/p^a$ .

Since  $\sigma^{(e)}(p^m)/p^m < 1 + p/(p-1)p^{m/2}$  (see [2] or [4]) and  $\sigma^{(e)}(p^b)/p^b \geq 1$ ,

$|h(p^a)| < p/(p-1)p^{(a-1)/2}$ . Since  $a \geq 6$  it follows easily that  $|h(p^a)| < p^{-a/4}$ .

Since  $h$  is multiplicative,  $|h(n)| \leq n^{-1/4}$  for every positive integer  $n$ . It follows

that  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} h(n)/n$  is absolutely convergent so that Lemma 4 applies if  $f(n) = \sigma^{(e)}(n)/n$ .

From Theorem 286 in [9] we have

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} h(n)/n = \prod_p \{1 + h(p)/p + h(p^2)/p^2 + \dots\}$$

$$= \prod_p \{1 + p^{-1}(\sigma^{(e)}(p)/p - 1) + p^{-2}(\sigma^{(e)}(p^2)/p^2 - \sigma^{(e)}(p)/p) + \dots\}$$

$$= \prod_p \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \sigma^{(e)}(p^j)/p^{2j} - p^{-1} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \sigma^{(e)}(p^j)/p^{2j} \right\}$$

$$= \prod_p \left\{ (1 - p^{-1}) \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \sigma^{(e)}(p^j)/p^{2j} \right\}.$$

Now the last infinite series can be "split up" by first taking all the terms  
 with numerator  $p^j$  to form the series  $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} p^j/p^{2j} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} 1/p^j$ ; then taking the remaining

terms with numerators  $p$  to form the series  $\sum_{j=2}^{\infty} p/p^{2j} = p^{-3} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (p^{-2})^j$ ; then taking the terms with numerators  $p^2$  to form the series  $\sum_{j=2}^{\infty} p^2/p^{4j} = p^{-6} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (p^{-4})^j$ ; then taking the terms with numerators  $p^3$  to form the series  $\sum_{j=2}^{\infty} p^3/p^{6j} = p^{-9} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (p^{-6})^j$ ; etc. It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} h(n)/n &= \prod_p \{ (1 - p^{-1})((1 - p^{-1})^{-1} + p^{-3}(1 - p^{-2})^{-1} \\ &\quad + p^{-6}(1 - p^{-4})^{-1} + p^{-9}(1 - p^{-6})^{-1} + \dots) \} \\ &= \prod_p \{ (1 - p^{-1})((1 - p^{-1})^{-1} + (p^3 - p)^{-1} + (p^6 - p^2)^{-1} \\ &\quad + (p^9 - p^3)^{-1} + \dots) \} \\ &= \prod_p \{ 1 + (1 - p^{-1}) \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (p^{3j} - p^j)^{-1} \}. \end{aligned}$$

From Lemma 4 we have

$$\text{THEOREM 4. } M(\sigma^{(e)}(n)/n) = \prod_p \{ 1 + (1 - p^{-1}) \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (p^{3j} - p^j)^{-1} \} = C.$$

Correct to 6 decimal places,  $C = 1.136571$ .

(This approximate value of  $C$  was calculated using all primes less than  $10^6$  in the infinite product.)

Since  $s^{(e)}(n) = \sigma^{(e)}(n) - n$  we have

$$\text{COROLLARY 4.1. } M(s^{(e)}(n)/n) = .136571.$$

Finally, since  $n_{i+1}/n_i = s^{(e)}(n_i)/n_i$  we see that, in some sense, the average value of the ratio of two consecutive non-zero terms of an  $e$ -aliquot sequence is about .136571.

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