

# Bi-unitary multiperfect numbers, IV(c)

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*Dedicated to the memory of Prof. Varanasi Sitaramaiah*

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**Abstract:** A divisor  $d$  of a positive integer  $n$  is called a unitary divisor if  $\gcd(d, n/d) = 1$ ; and  $d$  is called a bi-unitary divisor of  $n$  if the greatest common unitary divisor of  $d$  and  $n/d$  is unity. The concept of a bi-unitary divisor is due to D. Suryanarayana (1972). Let  $\sigma^{**}(n)$  denote the sum of the bi-unitary divisors of  $n$ . A positive integer  $n$  is called a bi-unitary multiperfect number if  $\sigma^{**}(n) = kn$  for some  $k \geq 3$ . For  $k = 3$  we obtain the bi-unitary triperfect numbers.

Peter Hagis (1987) proved that there are no odd bi-unitary multiperfect numbers. The present paper is part IV(c) in a series of papers on even bi-unitary multiperfect numbers. In parts I, II and III we determined all bi-unitary triperfect numbers of the form  $n = 2^a u$ , where  $1 \leq a \leq 6$  and  $u$  is odd. In part V we fixed the case  $a = 8$ . The case  $a = 7$  is more difficult. In Parts IV(a-b) we solved partly this case, and in the present paper (Part IV(c)) we continue the study of the same case ( $a = 7$ ).

**Keywords:** Perfect numbers, Triperfect numbers, Multiperfect numbers, Bi-unitary analogues.

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## 1 Introduction

Throughout this paper, all lower case letters denote positive integers;  $p$  and  $q$  denote primes. The letters  $u$ ,  $v$  and  $w$  are reserved for odd numbers.

A divisor  $d$  of  $n$  is called a unitary divisor if  $\gcd(d, n/d) = 1$ . If  $d$  is a unitary divisor of  $n$ , we write  $d \parallel n$ . A divisor  $d$  of  $n$  is called a *bi-unitary* divisor if  $(d, n/d)^{**} = 1$ , where the symbol

$(a, b)^{**}$  denotes the greatest common unitary divisor of  $a$  and  $b$ . The concept of a bi-unitary divisor is due to D. Suryanarayana (cf. [11]). Let  $\sigma^{**}(n)$  denote the sum of bi-unitary divisors of  $n$ . The function  $\sigma^{**}(n)$  is multiplicative, that is,  $\sigma^{**}(1) = 1$  and  $\sigma^{**}(mn) = \sigma^{**}(m)\sigma^{**}(n)$  whenever  $(m, n) = 1$ . If  $p^\alpha$  is a prime power and  $\alpha$  is odd, then every divisor of  $p^\alpha$  is a bi-unitary divisor; if  $\alpha$  is even, each divisor of  $p^\alpha$  is a bi-unitary divisor except for  $p^{\alpha/2}$ . Hence

$$\sigma^{**}(p^\alpha) = \begin{cases} \sigma(p^\alpha) = \frac{p^{\alpha+1}-1}{p-1}, & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is odd,} \\ \sigma(p^\alpha) - p^{\alpha/2}, & \text{if } \alpha \text{ is even.} \end{cases} \quad (1.3)$$

If  $\alpha$  is even, say  $\alpha = 2k$ , then  $\sigma^{**}(p^\alpha)$  can be simplified to

$$\sigma^{**}(p^\alpha) = \left( \frac{p^k - 1}{p - 1} \right) \cdot (p^{k+1} + 1). \quad (1.4)$$

From (1.3), it is not difficult to observe that  $\sigma^{**}(n)$  is odd only when  $n = 1$  or  $n = 2^\alpha$ .

The concept of a bi-unitary perfect number was introduced by C. R. Wall [12]; a positive integer  $n$  is called a bi-unitary perfect number if  $\sigma^{**}(n) = 2n$ . C. R. Wall [12] proved that there are only three bi-unitary perfect numbers, namely 6, 60 and 90. A positive integer  $n$  is called a bi-unitary multiperfect number if  $\sigma^{**}(n) = kn$  for some  $k \geq 3$ . For  $k = 3$  we obtain the bi-unitary triperfect numbers.

Peter Hagis [1] proved that there are no odd bi-unitary multiperfect numbers. Our present paper is part IV(c) in a series of papers on even bi-unitary multiperfect numbers. In Parts I, II and III (see [2–4]) we found all bi-unitary triperfect numbers of the form  $n = 2^a u$ , where  $1 \leq a \leq 6$  and  $u$  is odd. In part V we fixed the case  $a = 8$ . The case  $a = 7$  seems to be more difficult. In parts IV(a-b) we solved partly the case  $a = 7$ . In this paper we continue this study and obtain some further results in this case.

For general accounts on various perfect-type numbers, we refer to [8, 9].

*Note.* Investigation of the case  $c = 2$  below bases on notes by Professor Varanasi Sitaramaiah [10]. He sent them to me before he passed away in Oct 2020.

## 2 Preliminaries

We assume that the reader has Parts I, II, III, IV(a-b), V (see [2–7]) available. We, however, recall Lemmas 2.1–2.3 from these parts because they are so important also here.

**Lemma 2.1.** (I) *If  $\alpha$  is odd, then*

$$\frac{\sigma^{**}(p^\alpha)}{p^\alpha} > \frac{\sigma^{**}(p^{\alpha+1})}{p^{\alpha+1}}$$

*for any prime  $p$ .*

(II) For any  $\alpha \geq 2\ell - 1$  and any prime  $p$ ,

$$\frac{\sigma^{**}(p^\alpha)}{p^\alpha} \geq \left(\frac{1}{p-1}\right) \left(p - \frac{1}{p^{2\ell}}\right) - \frac{1}{p^\ell} = \frac{1}{p^{2\ell}} \left(\frac{p^{2\ell+1} - 1}{p-1} - p^\ell\right).$$

(III) If  $p$  is any prime and  $\alpha$  is a positive integer, then

$$\frac{\sigma^{**}(p^\alpha)}{p^\alpha} < \frac{p}{p-1}.$$

**Remark 2.1.** (I) and (III) of Lemma 2.1 are mentioned in C. R. Wall [12]; (II) of Lemma 2.1 has been used by him [12] without explicitly stating it.

**Lemma 2.2.** Let  $a > 1$  be an integer not divisible by an odd prime  $p$ , and let  $\alpha$  be a positive integer. Let  $r$  denote the least positive integer such that  $a^r \equiv 1 \pmod{p^\alpha}$ ; then  $r$  is usually denoted by  $\text{ord}_{p^\alpha} a$ . We have the following properties.

(i) If  $r$  is even, then  $s = r/2$  is the least positive integer such that  $a^s \equiv -1 \pmod{p^\alpha}$ . Also,  $a^t \equiv -1 \pmod{p^\alpha}$  for a positive integer  $t$  if and only if  $t = su$ , where  $u$  is odd.

(ii) If  $r$  is odd, then  $p^\alpha \nmid a^t + 1$  for any positive integer  $t$ .

**Remark 2.2.** Let  $a$ ,  $p$ ,  $r$  and  $s = r/2$  be as in Lemma 2.2 ( $\alpha = 1$ ). Then  $p \mid a^t - 1$  if and only if  $r \mid t$ . If  $t$  is odd and  $r$  is even, then  $r \nmid t$ . Hence  $p \nmid a^t - 1$ . Also,  $p \mid a^t + 1$  if and only if  $t = su$ , where  $u$  is odd. In particular, if  $t$  is even and  $s$  is odd, then  $p \nmid a^t + 1$ . In order to check the divisibility of  $a^t - 1$  (when  $t$  is odd) by an odd prime  $p$ , we can confine to those  $p$  for which  $\text{ord}_p a$  is odd. Similarly, for examining the divisibility of  $a^t + 1$  by  $p$  when  $t$  is even we need to consider primes  $p$  with  $s = (\text{ord}_p a)/2$  even.

**Lemma 2.3.** Let  $k$  be odd and  $k \geq 3$ . Let  $p \neq 5$ .

(a) If  $p \in [3, 2520] \setminus \{11, 19, 31, 71, 181, 829, 1741\}$ ,  $\text{ord}_p 5$  is odd and  $p \mid 5^k - 1$ , then we can find a prime  $p'$  (depending on  $p$ ) such that  $p' \mid \frac{5^k - 1}{4}$  and  $p' \geq 2521$ .

(b) If  $q \in [3, 2520] \setminus \{13, 313, 601\}$ ,  $s = \frac{1}{2} \text{ord}_q 5$  is even and  $q \mid 5^{k+1} + 1$ , then we can find a prime  $q'$  (depending on  $q$ ) such that  $q' \mid \frac{5^{k+1} + 1}{2}$  and  $q' \geq 2521$ .

**Lemma 2.4.** Let  $m$  be odd and  $m \geq 3$ . Let  $p \neq 29$ .

(a) If  $p \in [3, 519] \setminus \{7, 13, 67\}$ ,  $\text{ord}_p 29$  is odd and  $p \mid 29^m - 1$ , then there exists an odd prime  $p'$  such that  $p' \mid \frac{29^m - 1}{28}$  and  $p' > 519$ .

(b) If  $q \in [3, 519] \setminus \{37, 61, 313, 421\}$ ,  $s = \frac{1}{2} \text{ord}_q 29$  is even and  $q \mid 29^{m+1} + 1$ , then there exists an odd prime  $q'$  such that  $q' \mid \frac{29^{m+1} + 1}{2}$  and  $q' > 519$ .

*Proof.* (a) Let  $p \mid 29^m - 1$ . If  $r = \text{ord}_p 29$ , that is,  $r$  is the least positive integer such that  $29^r \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ , then  $r \mid m$ . Since  $m$  is odd,  $r$  must be odd. Also,  $29^r - 1 \mid 29^m - 1$ . Let

$$S_{29} = \{(p, r) : p \in [3, 519], p \neq 29 \text{ and } r = \text{ord}_p 29 \text{ odd}\}.$$

From Appendix A, we have

$$S_{29} = \{(7, 1), (13, 3), (23, 11), (59, 29), (67, 3), (71, 35), (83, 41), (103, 51), (107, 53), \\ (139, 69), (149, 37), (151, 25), (167, 83), (173, 43), (178, 89), (181, 15), (197, 49), \\ (199, 99), (223, 111), (227, 113), (239, 119), (283, 47), (347, 173), (373, 93), (383, 191), \\ (397, 99), (419, 209), (431, 215), (439, 219), (463, 231), (487, 81), (499, 249)\}.$$

Let  $p|29^m - 1$  and  $p \in [3, 519] \setminus \{7, 13, 67\}$ . Then  $(p, r) \in S_{29} \setminus \{(7, 1), (13, 3), (67, 3)\}$ , where  $r = \text{ord}_p 29$ . Also,  $29^r - 1 | 29^m - 1$ . To prove (a), it is enough to show that  $\frac{29^r - 1}{28}$  is divisible by a prime  $p' > 519$ . From Appendix B, we know the factors of  $29^r - 1$ . By examining the factors of  $29^r - 1$  for  $r \notin \{1, 3, 3\} = \{1, 3\}$ , which correspond to the primes 7, 13 and 67 respectively, we infer that we can find a prime  $p' | \frac{29^r - 1}{28} | \frac{29^m - 1}{28}$  satisfying  $p' > 519$ . This proves (a).

For example, if  $p = 23$ , then  $r = 11$ . From Appendix B,

$$29^{11} - 1 = \{ \{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{23, 1\}, \{18944890940537, 1\} \}.$$

Thus if  $23|29^m - 1$ , then  $p' = 18944890940537 | \frac{29^m - 1}{4}$  and trivially  $p' > 519$ .

(b) Let  $q|29^{m+1} + 1$  and  $q \in [3, 519] \setminus \{37, 61, 313, 421\}$ . Let  $r = \text{ord}_q 29$ . If  $r$  is odd, then  $q \nmid 29^{m+1} + 1$  (see Remark 2.2 ( $a = 29$ )). We may assume that  $r$  is even. Let  $s = r/2$ . Then  $s$  is the least positive integer such that  $q|29^s + 1$ . Again from Remark 2.2 ( $a = 29$ ),  $q \nmid 29^{m+1} + 1$  if  $s$  is odd. Since  $q|29^{m+1} + 1$ , we have that  $s$  is even. Also,  $m + 1 = su$ , where  $u$  is odd. This implies that  $29^s + 1 | 29^{m+1} + 1$ .

Let

$$T_{29} = \{(q, s) : q \neq 29, q \in [3, 519] \text{ and } s = \frac{1}{2} \text{ord}_q 29 \text{ even}\}.$$

From Appendix A, we have

$$T_{29} = \{(17, 8), (37, 6), (41, 20), (61, 6), (73, 36), (89, 44), (97, 48), (101, 50), \\ (113, 56), (137, 68), (157, 26), (193, 32), (229, 114), (241, 60), (257, 64), \\ (269, 134), (293, 146), (313, 6), (317, 158), (337, 168), (353, 44), \\ (389, 194), (409, 204), (421, 2), (433, 216), (449, 224), (461, 230)\}.$$

Let  $q|29^{m+1} + 1$  and  $q \in [3, 519] \setminus \{37, 61, 313, 421\}$ . Then

$$(q, s) \in T_{29} \setminus \{(37, 6), (61, 6), (313, 6), (421, 2)\},$$

where  $s = \frac{1}{2} \text{ord}_q 29$ . To prove (b), it is enough to show that  $\frac{29^s + 1}{2}$  is divisible by a prime  $q' > 519$  for all  $s \in T' = \{s : (q, s) \in T_{29} \setminus \{(37, 6), (61, 6), (313, 6), (421, 2)\}\}$ . This follows by examining the factors of  $29^t + 1$  given in Appendix C.

For example, if  $q = 41$ , then  $s = 20$ . Also,

$$29^{20} + 1 = \{\{2, 1\}, \{41, 1\}, \{353641, 1\}, \{6103563899172302171321, 1\}\}.$$

We can take  $q' = 353641$ .

The proof of Lemma 2.4 is complete. □

### 3 Partial results on bi-unitary triperfect numbers of the form $n = 2^7 u$

In part IV(a) we solved partly the case  $n = 2^7 u$ . We proved that if  $n$  is a bi-unitary triperfect number of the form  $n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^c \cdot v$ , where  $(v, 2 \cdot 5 \cdot 17) = 1$ , then  $b \geq 2$  and  $c \geq 1$ . We then solved completely the case  $b = 2$ . We proved that in this case  $c = 1$  and further showed that  $n = 2^7 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7 \cdot 13 \cdot 17 = 44553600$  is the only bi-unitary triperfect number of this form. In part IV(b), we presented some partial results concerning the case  $b \geq 3$  under the assumption  $3 \nmid n$  and  $7 \mid n$ . The object of the present paper (part IV(c)) is to provide some further results under the assumption  $3 \nmid n$  (which implies that  $b \geq 3$ ).

Let  $n$  be a bi-unitary triperfect number divisible unitarily by  $2^7$  so that  $\sigma^{**}(n) = 3n$  and  $n = 2^7 u$ , where  $u$  is odd. In addition, assume that  $3 \nmid n$ . Since  $\sigma^{**}(2^7) = 2^8 - 1 = 255 = 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 17$ , we get the following equations:

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^c \cdot v$$

and

$$2^7 \cdot 5^{b-1} \cdot 17^{c-1} \cdot v = \sigma^{**}(5^b) \cdot \sigma^{**}(17^c) \cdot \sigma^{**}(v), \text{ where } (v, 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 17) = 1.$$

Here  $b \geq 3$  and  $c \geq 1$ . In fact, the case  $b = 2$  is not possible since it implies that  $3 \mid n$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** *Assume that  $n$  is a bi-unitary triperfect number such that  $2^7 \parallel n$  and  $3 \nmid n$ . Let  $p$  ( $\neq 2, 3$ ) be a prime divisor of  $n$ . Denote by  $\alpha$  the largest number such that  $p^\alpha$  divides  $n$ , that is,  $p^\alpha \parallel n$ . If  $3 \nmid (p-1)$ , then  $\alpha = 2k$ , where  $k$  is odd and  $\geq 1$ .*

*Proof.* If  $\alpha$  is odd, say  $\alpha = 2m - 1$ , then

$$\sigma^{**}(p^\alpha) = \frac{p^{\alpha+1} - 1}{p - 1} = \frac{(p^2)^m - 1}{p - 1}.$$

Since  $p^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  and (by assumption)  $3 \nmid (p-1)$ , we have  $3 \mid \sigma^{**}(p^\alpha)$ . Further, since  $\sigma^{**}(p^\alpha) \mid n$ , we have  $3 \mid n$ . This is not possible, since by our assumption  $3 \nmid n$ .

If  $4 \mid \alpha$ , say  $\alpha = 4m$ , then

$$\sigma^{**}(p^\alpha) = \frac{p^{2m} - 1}{p - 1} (p^{2m+1} + 1).$$

This leads to a contradiction, too. Therefore,  $\alpha = 2k$ , where  $k$  is odd and  $\geq 1$ . □

**Theorem 3.2.** Assume that  $n$  is a bi-unitary triperfect number such that  $2^7 \parallel n$  and  $3 \nmid n$ . Denote  $n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^c \cdot v$ , where  $(v, 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 17) = 1$ . Then  $b = 2k$  and  $c = 2\ell$ , where  $k$  is odd ( $\geq 3$ ) and  $\ell$  is odd ( $\geq 1$ ).

*Proof.* We may apply Theorem 3.1 for  $p = 5$  and  $p = 17$ , since  $3 \nmid (5 - 1)$  and  $3 \nmid (17 - 1)$ . This shows that  $b = 2k$  and  $c = 2\ell$ , where  $k$  and  $\ell$  are odd ( $\geq 1$ ). The case  $k = 1$  (that is,  $b = 2$ ) is not possible as noted above.  $\square$

It appears that the case  $\ell = 1$  (that is,  $c = 2$ ) is not possible if we make an additional assumption  $7 \nmid n$ . The proof seems to be lengthy and is carried out below.

Let  $n$  be a bi-unitary triperfect number divisible unitarily by  $2^7$  so that  $\sigma^{**}(n) = 3n$  and  $n = 2^7 u$ , where  $u$  is odd. In addition, assume that  $3 \nmid n$  and  $7 \nmid n$ . Then we get the following equations:

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^c \cdot v \tag{3.1a}$$

and

$$2^7 \cdot 5^{b-1} \cdot 17^{c-1} \cdot v = \sigma^{**}(5^b) \cdot \sigma^{**}(17^c) \cdot \sigma^{**}(v), \tag{3.1b}$$

where

$$b \geq 3, c \geq 1, (v, 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 17) = 1 \text{ and } v \text{ has not more than five odd prime factors.} \tag{3.1c}$$

The number of prime factors of  $v$  is restricted on the basis of parity of the appropriate values of the function  $\sigma^{**}$ .

**Theorem 3.3.** Assume that  $n$  is a bi-unitary triperfect number such that  $2^7 \parallel n$ ,  $3 \nmid n$  and  $7 \nmid n$ . Denote  $n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^c \cdot v$ , where  $(v, 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 17) = 1$ . Then  $c \neq 2$ .

**Corollary 3.1.** Assume that  $n$  is a bi-unitary triperfect number such that  $2^7 \parallel n$ ,  $3 \nmid n$  and  $7 \nmid n$ . Denote  $n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^c \cdot v$ , where  $(v, 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 17) = 1$ . Then  $b = 2k$  and  $c = 2\ell$ , where  $k$  and  $\ell$  are odd and  $\geq 3$  (and thus  $b, c \geq 6$ ).

**Corollary 3.2.** Let  $n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^c \cdot v$ , where  $(v, 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 17) = 1$ . Then  $n$  is not a bi-unitary triperfect number if  $4 \mid b$  or  $4 \mid c$  or  $b$  is odd or  $c$  is odd or  $b = 2$  or  $c = 2$ .

Corollary 3.1 follows from Theorems 3.2 and 3.3, and Corollary 3.2 follows from Corollary 3.1.

For the proof of Theorem 3.3, we consider the case  $c = 2$  (that is,  $\ell = 1$ ). We show that this case is impossible. The rest of this paper is devoted to this case. Let  $c = 2$ . We have  $\sigma^{**}(17^2) = 290 = 2 \cdot 5 \cdot 29$ . From (3.1b), we see that  $29 \mid v$ . Let  $v = 29^d \cdot w$ . We obtain the following equations from (3.1a)–(3.1c):

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot w, \tag{3.2a}$$

and

$$2^6 \cdot 5^{b-2} \cdot 17 \cdot 29^{d-1} \cdot w = \sigma^{**}(5^b) \cdot \sigma^{**}(29^d) \cdot \sigma^{**}(w), \tag{3.2b}$$

where

$$(w, 2.3.5.7.17.29) = 1 \text{ and } w \text{ cannot have more than four odd prime factors.} \quad (3.2c)$$

**Remark 3.1.** It follows from Theorem 3.1 (with  $p = 29$ ) that  $d = 2m$ , where  $m$  is odd, and so  $d \geq 2$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $c = 2$  in (3.1a)–(3.1c) so that the equations (3.2a)–(3.2c) can be used. Then  $29^3 | n$ , that is,  $d \geq 3$ .*

*Proof.* We need to prove that  $d \geq 3$ . On the contrary let  $d = 2$ .

We have  $\sigma^{**}(29^2) = 842 = 2.421$ . Taking  $d = 2$  in (3.2b), we see that  $421 | w$ . Let  $w = 421^e . w'$ . From (3.2a) and (3.2b) we get

$$n = 2^7 . 5^b . 17^2 . 29^2 . (421)^e . w', \quad (3.3a)$$

and

$$2^5 . 5^{b-2} . 17 . 29 . (421)^{e-1} . w' = \sigma^{**}(5^b) . \sigma^{**}((421)^e) . \sigma^{**}(w'), \quad (3.3b)$$

where

$$(w', 2.3.5.7.17.29.421) = 1 \text{ and } w' \text{ cannot have more than three odd prime factors.} \quad (3.3c)$$

We prove that  $11 \nmid w'$ . On the contrary, let  $w' = 11^f . w''$ . From (3.3a) and (3.3b), we obtain

$$n = 2^7 . 5^b . 17^2 . 29^2 . (421)^e . 11^f . w'', \quad (3.4a)$$

and

$$2^5 . 5^{b-2} . 17 . 29 . (421)^{e-1} . 11^f . w'' = \sigma^{**}(5^b) . \sigma^{**}((421)^e) . \sigma^{**}(11^f) \sigma^{**}(w''), \quad (3.4b)$$

where

$$(w'', 2.3.5.7.11.17.29.421) = 1 \text{ and } w'' \text{ cannot have more than two odd prime factors.} \quad (3.4c)$$

Since  $3 | 11^t - 1$  if and only if  $t$  is even, it follows that  $3 | \sigma^{**}(11^f)$  if and only if  $f$  is odd or  $4 | f$ . From (3.4b),  $3 \nmid \sigma^{**}(11^f)$ . Hence we may assume that  $f = 2u$ , where  $u$  is odd.

We prove that  $u \geq 3$ . Assume that  $u = 1$  so that  $f = 2$ . We have  $\sigma^{**}(11^2) = 122 = 2.61$ . From (3.4b),  $61 | w''$ . Let  $w'' = 61^g . w'''$ . From (3.4c),  $w'''$  is unity or a power of an odd prime. If  $w''' = p^\alpha$ , then from (3.4b), we can assume that  $p \geq 13$ . Hence from (3.4a), we have  $n = 2^7 . 5^b . 17^2 . 29^2 . (421)^e . 11^2 . 61^g . p^\alpha$ , so that

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{842}{841} \cdot \frac{421}{420} \cdot \frac{122}{121} \cdot \frac{61}{60} \cdot \frac{13}{12} = 2.784866823 < 3,$$

a contradiction.

We may now assume that  $f = 2u$ , where  $u$  is odd and  $u \geq 3$ . We have

$$\sigma^{**}(11^f) = \left( \frac{11^u - 1}{10} \right) \cdot (11^{u+1} + 1).$$

We prove that:

- (A)  $\frac{11^u - 1}{10}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $p' | w''$  and  $p' \geq 23$ ; and  
 (B)  $\frac{11^{u+1} + 1}{2}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $q' | w''$  and  $q' \geq 31$ .

Proof of (A). We observe the following:

- (i)  $2 \parallel 11^u - 1$ .  
 (ii)  $7 | 11^u - 1 \iff 3 | u \iff 19 | 11^u - 1$ . Since  $7 \nmid n$  by our assumption,  $7 \nmid 11^u - 1$ . Hence  $19 \nmid 11^u - 1$ .  
 (iii)  $421 | 11^u - 1 \iff 105 | u$ . In particular,  $421 | 11^u - 1$  implies that  $3 | u$ . By (ii) above it follows that  $7 | 11^u - 1$ . This is not possible. Hence  $421 \nmid 11^u - 1$ .  
 (iv) Since  $u$  is odd,  $11^u - 1$  is not divisible by 3, 13, 17 and 29; trivially not divisible by 11.  
 (v) From (i)-(iv) above, it follows that  $\frac{11^u - 1}{10}$  is odd,  $> 1$  and not divisible by 3, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 29 and 421.  
 (vi) If  $5 | \frac{11^u - 1}{10}$ , then  $5^2 | 11^u - 1$ , which is equivalent to  $5 | u$ . In such a case,  $11^5 - 1 | 11^u - 1$ . Also,  $11^5 - 1 = 2 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 3221$ . Hence  $3221 | \frac{11^u - 1}{10} | \sigma^{**}(11^f)$ . From (3.4b),  $3221 | w''$ . So, we may take  $p' = 3221$ , and thus (A) holds in this case.  
 (vii) Assume that  $5 \nmid \frac{11^u - 1}{10}$ . Then from (v),  $\frac{11^u - 1}{10}$  is odd,  $> 1$  and not divisible by 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 29 and 421. From (3.4b), if  $p' | \frac{11^u - 1}{10}$ , then  $p' | w''$  and  $p' \geq 23$ .

From (vi) and (vii), it is clear that  $\frac{11^u - 1}{10}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $p' | w''$  and  $p' \geq 23$ .

The proof of (A) is complete.

Proof of (B). We have the following:

- (viii)  $\frac{11^{u+1} + 1}{2}$  is odd and  $> 1$ .  
 (ix)  $11^t + 1$  is not divisible by 3, 5, 7, 11 and 19 for any even positive integer  $t$ . In particular,  $11^{u+1} + 1$  is so.  
 (x)  $13 | 11^{u+1} + 1 \iff u + 1 = 6u'$ . Hence  $13 | 11^{u+1} + 1$  implies that

$$13 \cdot 61 \cdot 1117 = \frac{11^6 + 1}{2} \mid \frac{11^{u+1} + 1}{2} \mid \sigma^{**}(11^f).$$

From (3.4b), it follows that  $w''$  is divisible by 13, 61 and 1117. This contradicts (3.4c). Hence  $13 \nmid 11^{u+1} + 1$ .



(xi)  $17|11^{u+1} + 1 \iff u + 1 = 8u'$ . Hence  $17|11^{u+1} + 1$  implies that

$$17.6304673 \left| \frac{11^8 + 1}{2} \right| \frac{11^{u+1} + 1}{2} \left| \sigma^{**}(11^f) \right|.$$

From (3.4b), it follows that  $6304673|w''$ . Already by (A),  $p'| \frac{11^u - 1}{10}$ ,  $p'|w''$  and  $p' \geq 23$ . Also,  $p' \neq 6304673$  since  $\frac{11^u - 1}{10}$  and  $11^{u+1} + 1$  are relatively prime. By (3.4c), it follows that  $w'' = (p')^g \cdot (6304673)^h$ . From (3.4a),

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^2 \cdot (421)^e \cdot 11^f \cdot (p')^g \cdot (6304673)^h,$$

so that

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{842}{841} \cdot \frac{421}{420} \cdot \frac{11}{10} \cdot \frac{23}{22} \cdot \frac{6304673}{6304672} = 2.88394643 < 3,$$

a contradiction. Thus  $17 \nmid 11^{u+1} + 1$ .

(xii)  $29|11^{u+1} + 1$  if and only if  $u + 1 = 14u'$ . Also,  $11^{14} + 1 = 2 \cdot 29 \cdot 61 \cdot 1933 \cdot 55527473$ . It follows from (3.4b) that if  $29|11^{u+1} + 1$ , then  $w''$  will be divisible by three odd primes, namely 61, 1933 and 55527473. This violates (3.4c). Hence  $29 \nmid 11^{u+1} + 1$ .

(xiii)  $421 \nmid 11^t + 1$  for any positive integer  $t$ . In particular  $421 \nmid 11^{u+1} + 1$ .

From (viii)–(xiii), we can conclude that  $\frac{11^{u+1} + 1}{2}$  is odd,  $> 1$  and not divisible by 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 29 and 421. Since  $\frac{11^{u+1} + 1}{2} \left| \sigma^{**}(11^f) \right|$  it follows from (3.4b) that if  $q' \left| \frac{11^{u+1} + 1}{2} \right|$ , then  $q'|w''$  and from (3.4b),  $q' \geq 23$ . Since  $p' \neq q'$ , we can assume that  $p' \geq 23$  and  $q' \geq 31$  as  $q' \neq 29$ .

The proof of (B) is complete.

From (3.4c), it follows that  $w'' = (p')^g \cdot (q')^h$ . From (3.4a), we have

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^2 \cdot (421)^e \cdot 11^f \cdot (p')^g \cdot (q')^h,$$

so that

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{842}{841} \cdot \frac{421}{420} \cdot \frac{11}{10} \cdot \frac{23}{22} \cdot \frac{31}{30} = 2.98008 < 3,$$

a contradiction.

Thus  $11 \nmid w'$  in (3.3a) and (3.3b).

By (3.3c), we can assume that (in the most unfavourable situation)  $w'$  is divisible by three distinct odd primes say  $p_1, p_2$  and  $p_3$ , where  $p_1 \geq 13$ ,  $p_2 \geq 19$  and  $p_3 \geq 23$ . Hence from (3.3c),  $w' = (p_1)^f \cdot (p_2)^g \cdot (p_3)^h$  and so from (3.3a),  $n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^2 \cdot (421)^e \cdot (p_1)^f \cdot (p_2)^g \cdot (p_3)^h$ . Hence we obtain

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{842}{841} \cdot \frac{421}{420} \cdot \frac{13}{12} \cdot \frac{19}{18} \cdot \frac{23}{22} = 2.99804148 < 3,$$

a contradiction. This proves that  $d \geq 3$ . The proof of Lemma 3.1 is complete.  $\square$

**Remark 3.2.** By Lemma 3.1 and Remark 3.1, we can assume that  $d = 2m$ , where  $m$  is odd and  $m \geq 3$  (in the case  $c = 2$ ).

**Lemma 3.2.** Let  $c = 2$  in (3.1a)–(3.1c) so that the equations (3.2a)–(3.2c) can be used. Then

- (a)  $n$  is not divisible by 11 and 13 simultaneously,
- (b)  $n$  is not divisible by 11 and 19 simultaneously,
- (c) if  $11 \nmid n$ , then  $n$  is not divisible by 13 and 19 simultaneously.

*Proof.* (a) We assume that  $n$  given in (3.2a)–(3.2c) is divisible by 11 and 13. Hence  $w = 11^e \cdot 13^f \cdot w'$ . From (3.2a) and (3.2b), we obtain the following:

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 11^e \cdot 13^f \cdot w' \quad (3.5a)$$

and

$$2^6 \cdot 5^{b-2} \cdot 17 \cdot 29^{d-1} \cdot 11^e \cdot 13^f \cdot w' = \sigma^{**}(5^b) \cdot \sigma^{**}(29^d) \cdot \sigma^{**}(11^e) \cdot \sigma^{**}(13^f) \cdot \sigma^{**}(w'), \quad (3.5b)$$

where

$$(w', 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 17 \cdot 29 \cdot 11 \cdot 13) = 1 \text{ and } w' \text{ has not more than two odd prime factors.} \quad (3.5c)$$

By Lemma 3.1, we have  $d \geq 3$ . By Remark 3.2, we may assume that  $d = 2m$ , where  $m$  is odd and  $m \geq 3$ . We have

$$\sigma^{**}(29^d) = \left( \frac{29^m - 1}{28} \right) \cdot (29^{m+1} + 1).$$

We now prove the following by making use of (b) of Lemma 2.4:

(C)  $\frac{29^{m+1} + 1}{2}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $q' > 519$  and  $q' | w'$ .

Proof of (C). Let

$$T'_{29} = \{q | 29^{m+1} + 1 : q \in [3, 519] \setminus \{37, 61, 313, 421\} \text{ and } s = \frac{1}{2} \text{ord}_q 29 \text{ is even.}\}$$

If  $T'_{29}$  is non-empty, by (b) of Lemma 2.4, we can find an odd prime  $q' | \frac{29^{m+1} + 1}{2}$  and  $q' > 519$ . From (3.5b), clearly  $q' | w'$ .

Suppose that  $T'_{29}$  is empty. Since  $q \nmid 29^{m+1} + 1$ , if  $s = \frac{1}{2} \text{ord}_q 29$  is odd, it follows that  $q \nmid 29^{m+1} + 1$  for any  $q \in [3, 519]$  except possibly for  $q \in \{37, 61, 313, 421\}$ .

We note that  $37 | 29^{m+1} + 1 \iff 61 | 29^{m+1} + 1 \iff 313 | 29^{m+1} + 1 \iff m + 1 = 6u$ . Assume that  $37 | 29^{m+1} + 1$ . Then  $29^6 + 1 | 29^{m+1} + 1$ . Also,  $29^6 + 1 = 2 \cdot 37 \cdot 61 \cdot 313 \cdot 421$ . Hence from (3.5b),  $w'$  is divisible by 37, 61, 313 and 421. This violates (3.5c). Thus  $37 \nmid 29^{m+1} + 1$  and consequently  $29^{m+1} + 1$  is not divisible by 61 and 313.

If  $421 \nmid 29^{m+1} + 1$ , then  $29^{m+1} + 1$  is not divisible by any prime in  $[3, 519]$ . This is true with respect to  $\frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2}$  also. If  $q' \mid \frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2}$ , then  $q' > 519$ .

We may assume that  $421 \mid \frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2}$ . We claim that  $\frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $q' \neq 421$ . If this is not so, then we must have  $\frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2} = (421)^\alpha$ , for some positive integer  $\alpha$ . If  $\alpha \geq 2$ , then  $421^2 \mid 29^{m+1} + 1$ . But this is equivalent to  $m + 1 = 842.u$ . But  $6737 \mid \frac{29^{842}+1}{2} \mid \frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2} = (421)^\alpha$ . This is impossible. Hence  $\alpha = 1$  and so  $\frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2} = 421$  or  $m + 1 = 2$  or  $m = 1$ . But  $m \geq 3$ . This contradiction proves that  $\frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $q' \neq 421$ . Hence  $q' \notin [3, 519]$  so that  $q' > 519$ .

This proves (C).

By Lemma 2.1, we have  $\frac{\sigma^{**}(5^b)}{5^b} \geq \frac{19406}{15625}$  ( $b \geq 5$ );  $\frac{\sigma^{**}(29^d)}{29^d} \geq \frac{731700}{707281}$  ( $d \geq 3$ );  $\frac{\sigma^{**}(11^e)}{11^e} \geq \frac{15984}{14641}$  ( $e \geq 5$ ); and  $\frac{\sigma^{**}(13^f)}{13^f} \geq \frac{30772}{28561}$  ( $f \geq 3$ ).

Hence if  $e \geq 3$  and  $f \geq 3$ , using the above results and from (3.5a), we obtain

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} \geq \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{19406}{15625} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{731700}{707281} \cdot \frac{15984}{14641} \cdot \frac{30772}{28561} = 3.021234777 > 3,$$

a contradiction.

Hence  $e \leq 2$  or  $f \leq 2$ . Since  $e$  is even,  $e = 2$ . Also, if  $f$  is odd or  $4 \mid f$ , then  $7 \mid \sigma^{**}(13^f)$ . This is not possible from (3.5b). Hence  $f = 2u'$ , where  $u'$  is odd. Hence  $f \leq 2$  implies  $f = 2$ . Thus  $e = 2$  or  $f = 2$ .

Let  $e = 2$ . Since  $\sigma^{**}(11^2) = 122 = 2.61$ , by taking  $e = 2$  in (3.5b), we see that  $61 \mid w'$ . Already from (C),  $q' \mid w'$ . Hence from (3.5c),  $w' = 61^g \cdot (q')^h$ . Hence from (3.5a) ( $e = 2$ ), we have  $n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 11^2 \cdot 13^f \cdot 61^g \cdot (q')^h$ , so that

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{29}{28} \cdot \frac{122}{121} \cdot \frac{13}{12} \cdot \frac{61}{60} \cdot \frac{521}{520} = 2.879584826 < 3,$$

a contradiction. Thus  $e = 2$  is not admissible.

We now show that  $f = 2$  is also not admissible. Let  $f = 2$  in (3.5a) and (3.5b). We have  $\sigma^{**}(13^2) = 170 = 2.5.17$ . Taking  $f = 2$  in (3.5a) and (3.5b), we obtain

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 11^e \cdot 13^2 \cdot w' \tag{3.6a}$$

and

$$2^5 \cdot 5^{b-3} \cdot 29^{d-1} \cdot 11^e \cdot 13^2 \cdot w' = \sigma^{**}(5^b) \cdot \sigma^{**}(29^d) \cdot \sigma^{**}(11^e) \cdot \sigma^{**}(w'), \tag{3.6b}$$

where

$$(w', 2.3.5.7.17.29.11.13) = 1 \text{ and } w' \text{ has not more than two odd prime factors.} \tag{3.6c}$$

We now prove that (by making use of (a) of Lemma 2.4):

(D)  $\frac{29^m-1}{28}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $p' > 519$  and  $p'|w'$ .

Proof of (D). Let

$$S'_{29} = \{p|29^m - 1 : p \in [3, 519] \setminus \{7, 13, 67\} \text{ and } \text{ord}_p 29 \text{ is odd}\}.$$

If  $S'_{29}$  is non-empty, by (a) of Lemma 2.4, there exists  $p'|\frac{29^m-1}{28}$  and  $p' > 519$ . From (3.5b), it is clear that  $p'|w'$ . Thus (D) holds in this case.

Let  $S'_{29}$  be empty. Since  $p \nmid 29^m - 1$  when  $\text{ord}_p 29$  is even, it follows that  $p \nmid 29^m - 1$  for any  $p \in [3, 519]$  except for possibly  $p \in \{7, 13, 67\}$ . Since by our assumption  $7 \nmid n$  in (3.5a) or (3.6a), it follows that  $7 \nmid \frac{29^m-1}{28}$ .

We may note that  $13|29^m - 1 \iff 3|m \iff 67|29^m - 1$ . Assume that  $13|29^m - 1$ . Then  $67|\frac{29^m-1}{28}|\sigma^{**}(29^d)$ . From (3.6b),  $67|w'$ . From (C),  $q'|w'$ . From (3.6c),  $w' = 67^g \cdot (q')^h$ , and  $q' > 519$ . From (3.6a), we have  $n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 11^e \cdot 13^2 \cdot 67^g \cdot (q')^h$  and so we have

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{29}{28} \cdot \frac{11}{10} \cdot \frac{170}{169} \cdot \frac{67}{66} \cdot \frac{521}{520} = 2.91273178 < 3,$$

a contradiction. Hence  $13 \nmid 29^m - 1$  and consequently  $67 \nmid 29^m - 1$ .

Thus  $\frac{29^m-1}{28}$  which is odd,  $> 1$  and is not divisible by any prime in  $[3, 519]$ . If  $p'|\frac{29^m-1}{28}$ , then  $p' > 519$  and from (3.6b),  $p'|w'$ .

The proof of (D) is complete.

Already from (C),  $q'|w'$ . Hence from (3.6c),  $w' = (p')^g \cdot (q')^h$ . Since  $p' > 519$ ,  $q' > 519$  and  $p' \neq q'$ , we may assume that  $p' \geq 521$  and  $q' \geq 523$ . From (3.6a), we have

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 11^e \cdot 13^2 \cdot (p')^g \cdot (q')^h$$

and so we have

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{29}{28} \cdot \frac{11}{10} \cdot \frac{170}{169} \cdot \frac{521}{520} \cdot \frac{523}{522} = 2.874754834 < 3,$$

a contradiction. This proves that  $f = 2$  is not admissible.

This completes the proof of (a) of Lemma 3.2.

(b) *Proof of Lemma 3.2 (b).* Suppose 11 and 19 divide  $n$  in (3.2a) and (3.2b) so that  $w = 11^e \cdot 19^f \cdot w'$ . From (3.2a) and (3.2b), we have

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 11^e \cdot 19^f \cdot w', \quad (3.7a)$$

and

$$2^6 \cdot 5^{b-2} \cdot 17 \cdot 29^{d-1} \cdot 11^e \cdot 19^f \cdot w' = \sigma^{**}(5^b) \cdot \sigma^{**}(29^d) \cdot \sigma^{**}(11^e) \cdot \sigma^{**}(19^f) \cdot \sigma^{**}(w'), \quad (3.7b)$$

where

$$(w', 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 17 \cdot 29 \cdot 11 \cdot 19) = 1 \text{ and } w' \text{ has at most two odd prime factors.} \quad (3.7c)$$

Since  $3|\sigma^{**}(11^e)$  if  $e$  is odd or  $4|e$ , we may assume that  $e = 2u'$ , where  $u'$  is odd; also, in (3.7a) and (3.7b), we can assume that  $e \neq 2$ . For, let  $e = 2$  in (3.7b). Since  $\sigma^{**}(11^2) = 122 = 2 \cdot 61$ , from (3.7b),  $61|w'$ . Let  $w' = 61^f \cdot w''$ , where  $w''$  is 1 or a prime power  $p^\alpha$  with  $p \geq 23$ . Hence  $\frac{\sigma^{**}(w'')}{w''} < \frac{23}{22}$ . Since  $n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 11^2 \cdot 19^f \cdot 61^g \cdot w''$ , we have

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{29}{28} \cdot \frac{122}{121} \cdot \frac{19}{18} \cdot \frac{61}{60} \cdot \frac{23}{22} = 2.927653275 < 3,$$

a contradiction. Thus we may assume that  $e \neq 2$ , so that  $e \geq 6$  as  $e = 2u'$  and  $u'$  is odd.

**Remark 3.3.** As in (C) after (3.5c), it can be shown exactly in the same manner (see the proof of (a) of Lemma 3.3 below) that  $\frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $q' > 519$  and from (3.7b),  $q'|w'$ .

We now prove that in (3.7a) and (3.7b), the exponents  $b, e$  and  $f$  cannot exceed 7 simultaneously. On the contrary, let  $b \geq 7, e \geq 7$  and  $f \geq 7$ . By Lemma 2.1, we have  $\frac{\sigma^{**}(29^d)}{29^d} \geq \frac{616042622}{594823321}$  ( $d \geq 5$ );  $\frac{\sigma^{**}(11^e)}{11^e} \geq \frac{235780128}{214358881}$  ( $e \geq 7$ );  $\frac{\sigma^{**}(19^f)}{19^f} \geq \frac{17926964000}{16983563041}$  ( $f \geq 7$ ) and  $\frac{\sigma^{**}(5^b)}{5^b} \geq \frac{487656}{390625}$  ( $b \geq 7$ ).

Using the above results, from (3.7a), for  $b \geq 7, e \geq 7$  and  $f \geq 7$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} 3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} &\geq \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{487656}{390625} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{616042622}{594823321} \cdot \frac{235780128}{214358881} \cdot \frac{17926964000}{16983563041} \\ &= 3.000891774524 > 3, \end{aligned}$$

a contradiction. Thus  $b \geq 7, e \geq 7$  and  $f \geq 7$  cannot hold simultaneously.

Recalling that  $b$  and  $e$  are even and  $\geq 6$ , the following cases arise.

- (i)  $b = 6, e = 6, f \geq 7$ ;      (ii)  $b = 6, e \geq 7, f \leq 6$ ;      (iii)  $b \geq 7, e = 6, f \leq 6$ ;
- (iv)  $b = 6, e \geq 7, f \geq 7$ ;      (v)  $b \geq 7, e = 6, f \geq 7$ ;
- (vi)  $b \geq 7, e \geq 7, f \leq 6$ ;      (vii)  $b = 6, e = 6, f \leq 6$ .

Since  $\sigma^{**}(11^6) = \{\{2, 1\}, \{7, 1\}, \{19, 1\}, \{7321, 1\}\}$ , we have  $7|\sigma^{**}(11^6)$ . Taking  $e = 6$  in (3.7b), we see that  $7|w'$ . But  $w'$  is prime to 7. Thus  $e = 6$  is not admissible. It follows that we need to only examine the cases (ii), (iv) and (vi).

We now prove that  $f \leq 6$  is not possible so that the cases (ii) and (vi) would be wiped away.

Let  $f = 1$ . We have  $\sigma^{**}(19) = 20 = 2^2 \cdot 5$ . Taking  $f = 1$  in (3.7b), it follows that its right hand side is divisible by  $2^5$  and its left hand side is unitarily divisible by  $2^6$ . Hence  $w'$  is 1 or an odd prime power. Thus by taking  $f = 1$  in (3.7a) and (3.7b), we obtain

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 11^e \cdot 19 \cdot w', \quad (3.8a)$$

and

$$2^4 \cdot 5^{b-3} \cdot 17 \cdot 29^{d-1} \cdot 11^e \cdot 19 \cdot w' = \sigma^{**}(5^b) \cdot \sigma^{**}(29^d) \cdot \sigma^{**}(11^e) \cdot \sigma^{**}(w'), \quad (3.8b)$$

where

$$(w', 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 11 \cdot 17 \cdot 19 \cdot 29) = 1 \text{ and } w' \text{ has at most one odd prime factor.} \quad (3.8c)$$

By Remark 3.3,  $\frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $q' > 519$  and from (3.8b),  $q'|w'$ . Consider the factor  $\frac{29^m-1}{28}$ ; we now use Lemma 2.4 to show that this factor is divisible by an odd prime  $p' > 519$  and  $p'|w'$ . That  $w'$  will be divisible by two distinct primes  $p'$  and  $q'$  leads to a contradiction in virtue of (3.8c). Let

$$S'_{29} = \{p|29^m - 1 : p \in [3, 519] \setminus \{7, 13, 67\} \text{ and } \text{ord}_p 29 \text{ is odd}\}.$$

If  $S'_{29}$  is non-empty, by (a) of Lemma 2.4, there exists an odd prime  $p'|\frac{29^m-1}{2}$ ,  $p' > 519$  and from (3.8b),  $p'|w'$ .

Suppose that  $S'_{29}$  is empty. Since  $p \nmid 29^m - 1$  if  $\text{ord}_p 29$  is even, it follows that  $p \nmid 29^m - 1$  for any prime  $p$  in  $[3, 519]$  except for possible  $p \in \{7, 13, 67\}$ . We have  $7|29^m - 1$  but  $7 \nmid \frac{29^m-1}{28}$  as  $7 \nmid w'$  in (3.8b) (by our assumption that  $7 \nmid n$ ). We note that  $13|29^m - 1 \iff 67|29^m - 1$ . By (a) of Lemma 3.2,  $13 \nmid 29^m - 1$ . Hence  $67 \nmid 29^m - 1$ .

Thus  $\frac{29^m-1}{28} > 1$ , is odd and not divisible by any prime in  $[3, 519]$ . Hence if  $p'|\frac{29^m-1}{28}$ , then  $p' > 519$  and  $p'|w'$ . This proves that  $f = 1$  is not admissible.

We now prove that  $f = 2$  is not admissible. Let  $f = 2$ . Since  $\sigma^{**}(19^2) = 362 = 2 \cdot 181$ , taking  $f = 2$  in (3.7b), we see that  $181|w'$ . By Remark 3.3,  $q'|w'$  and  $q' > 519$ . Hence  $w'$  is divisible by 181 and  $q'$ . From (3.7c), we have  $w' = (181)^g \cdot (q')^h$ . Hence  $n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 11^e \cdot 19^2 \cdot (181)^g \cdot (q')^h$  and so

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{29}{28} \cdot \frac{11}{10} \cdot \frac{362}{361} \cdot \frac{181}{180} \cdot \frac{521}{520} = 2.876171965 < 3,$$

a contradiction.

Next we prove that  $f = 3$  is not admissible. Let  $f = 3$ . We have  $\sigma^{**}(19^3) = \frac{19^4-1}{18} = 2^3 \cdot 5 \cdot 181$ . Taking  $f = 3$  in (3.7b), we see that  $2^6$  is a factor of its right-hand side and  $2^6$  is a unitary divisor of its left hand side. Hence  $w' = 1$ . But by Remark 3.3,  $q'|w'$  and  $q' > 519$ . This is a contradiction.

We note that  $f = 4$  is not admissible since  $7|\sigma^{**}(19^4) = 2^4 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7^3$  and from (3.7b) ( $f = 4$ ), it follows that  $7|w'$  which is false.

Further,  $f = 5$  is not admissible since  $7|\sigma^{**}(19^5) = 2^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7^3 \cdot 381$ .

Also,  $f = 6$  is not admissible since  $3|\sigma^{**}(19^6) = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 17 \cdot 127 \cdot 3833$  and from (3.7b) ( $f = 6$ ), it follows that  $3|w'$  which is false.

The only case remaining is (vi):  $b = 6$ ,  $e \geq 7$  and  $f \geq 7$ . Then, we have  $\sigma^{**}(5^6) = 2 \cdot 31 \cdot 313$ , and taking  $b = 6$  in (3.7b), we see that  $w'$  is divisible by 31 and 313. Also by Remark 3.3,  $w'$  is divisible by  $q' > 519$ . Thus  $w'$  is divisible by three primes 31, 313 and  $q'$ . This is a contradiction to (3.7c).

This proves (b).

(c) *Proof of Lemma 3.2 (c).* Suppose 13 and 19 divide  $n$  in (3.2a) and (3.2b) so that  $w = 13^e \cdot 19^f \cdot w'$ . From (3.2a) and (3.2b), we have

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 13^e \cdot 19^f \cdot w', \quad (3.9a)$$

and

$$2^6 \cdot 5^{b-2} \cdot 17 \cdot 29^{d-1} \cdot 13^e \cdot 19^f \cdot w' = \sigma^{**}(5^b) \cdot \sigma^{**}(29^d) \cdot \sigma^{**}(13^e) \cdot \sigma^{**}(19^f) \cdot \sigma^{**}(w'), \quad (3.9b)$$

where

$$(w', 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 17 \cdot 29 \cdot 13 \cdot 19) = 1 \text{ and } w' \text{ has at most two odd prime factors.} \quad (3.9c)$$

We recall that  $b = 2k$ , where  $k$  is odd and  $k \geq 3$ . We have

$$\sigma^{**}(5^b) = \left( \frac{5^k - 1}{4} \right) \cdot (5^{k+1} + 1).$$

We now show that:

(E)  $\frac{5^k - 1}{4}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $P > 2520$  and  $P|w'$ ,

(F)  $\frac{5^{k+1} + 1}{2}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $Q > 2520$  and  $Q|w'$ .

Proof of (E). Let

$$S'_5 = \{p|5^k - 1 : p \in [3, 2520] \setminus \{11, 19, 31, 71, 181, 829, 1741\} \text{ and } ord_p 5 \text{ is odd}\}.$$

If  $S'_5$  is non-empty, then by (a) of Lemma 2.3, (E) holds. We may assume that  $S'_5$  is empty. Since  $p \nmid 5^k - 1$  if  $ord_p 5$  is even, it follows that  $5^k - 1$  is not divisible by any prime  $p \in [3, 2520]$  except for possibly  $p \in \{11, 19, 31, 71, 181, 829, 1741\}$ . We observe the following:

- (i)  $11|5^k - 1 \iff k = 5u \iff 71|5^k - 1$ . Since by hypothesis,  $11 \nmid 5^k - 1$ , it follows that  $71 \nmid 5^k - 1$ .
- (ii)  $19|5^k - 1 \iff k = 9u \iff 829|5^k - 1$ . Assume that  $19|5^k - 1$  so that  $829|5^k - 1$ . From (3.9a), we have  $n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 13^e \cdot 19^f \cdot (829)^g \cdot (q')^h$ , where  $q' > 519$ ,  $q' | \frac{29^{m+1} + 1}{2}$  and  $q' | w'$  (see Remark 3.3). Hence we have

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{29}{28} \cdot \frac{13}{12} \cdot \frac{19}{18} \cdot \frac{829}{828} \cdot \frac{521}{520} = 2.968808064 < 3,$$

a contradiction. Hence  $19 \nmid 5^k - 1$  and consequently  $829 \nmid 5^k - 1$ .

- (iii)  $181|5^k - 1 \iff k = 15u \iff 1741|5^k - 1$ . Suppose  $181|5^k - 1$ . Then  $1741|5^k - 1$ . Hence from (3.9a),  $n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 13^e \cdot 19^f \cdot (181)^g \cdot (1741)^h$ , so that we have

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{29}{28} \cdot \frac{13}{12} \cdot \frac{19}{18} \cdot \frac{181}{180} \cdot \frac{1741}{1740} = 2.977087654 < 3,$$

a contradiction. Hence  $5^k - 1$  is neither divisible by 181 nor 1741.

- (iv) If  $31 \nmid 5^k - 1$ , then from (i)–(iii) above, it follows that  $\frac{5^k - 1}{4}$  is not divisible by any prime in  $[3, 2520]$ . If  $P | \frac{5^k - 1}{4}$ , then  $P > 2520$  and by (3.9b),  $P | w'$ . This proves (E) in this case.
- (v) Suppose that  $31|5^k - 1$ . We show that  $\frac{5^k - 1}{4}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $P \neq 31$ . If this is not the case, let  $\frac{5^k - 1}{4} = 31^\alpha$ , for some positive integer  $\alpha$ . If  $\alpha \geq 2$ , then  $31^2|5^k - 1$ , which is equivalent to  $k = 93u = 31u'$ . Hence  $1861 | \frac{5^{31} - 1}{4} \cdot \frac{5^k - 1}{4} = 31^\alpha$  and this is impossible. Hence  $\alpha = 1$  so that  $\frac{5^k - 1}{4} = 31$  or  $k = 3$  and  $b = 6$ . We now show that  $b = 6$  is not admissible in (3.9b). We have  $\sigma^{**}(5^6) = 2 \cdot 31 \cdot 313$ . Taking  $b = 6$  in (3.9b), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & 2^5 \cdot 5^4 \cdot 17 \cdot 29^{d-1} \cdot 13^e \cdot 19^f \cdot 31^{g-1} \cdot (313)^{h-1} \\ & = \sigma^{**}(29^d) \cdot \sigma^{**}(13^e) \cdot \sigma^{**}(19^f) \cdot \sigma^{**}(31^g) \cdot \sigma^{**}(313^h). \end{aligned} \quad (3.9d)$$

By Remark 3.3,  $q' | \frac{29^{m+1} + 1}{2} | \sigma^{**}(29^d)$  and  $q' > 519$ . From (3.9d), it follows that its left hand side is not divisible by  $q'$ . This proves that  $b = 6$  is not admissible.

Thus  $\frac{5^k - 1}{4}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $P \neq 31$ . Clearly,  $P \notin [3, 2520]$  so that  $P > 2520$ . From (3.9b),  $P | w'$ .

The proof of (E) is complete.

Proof of (F). Let

$$T'_5 = \{q|5^{k+1} + 1 : q \in [3, 2520] \setminus \{13, 313, 601\} \text{ and } s = \frac{1}{2} \text{ord}_q 5 \text{ is even}\}.$$

If  $T'_5$  is non-empty, then by (b) of Lemma 2.3, (F) holds. We may assume that  $T'_5$  is



empty. Since  $q \nmid 5^{k+1} + 1$  if  $s = \frac{1}{2} \text{ord}_q 5$  is odd, it follows that  $5^{k+1} + 1$  is not divisible by any prime  $q \in [3, 2520]$  except for possibly  $q \in \{13, 313, 601\}$ .

We have the following:

- (vi) Assume that  $313 \mid 5^{k+1} + 1$ . From (3.9b), it follows that  $313 \mid w'$ . From (E),  $w'$  is divisible by  $P > 2520$ . Hence from (3.9c) and (3.9a), we have

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 13^e \cdot 19^f \cdot (313)^g \cdot P^h.$$

Therefore we have

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{29}{28} \cdot \frac{13}{12} \cdot \frac{19}{18} \cdot \frac{313}{312} \cdot \frac{2521}{2520} = 2.970199332 < 3,$$

a contradiction. Thus  $313 \nmid 5^{k+1} + 1$ .

- (vii) Suppose that  $601 \mid 5^{k+1} + 1$ . As in (vi) above, we have

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 13^e \cdot 19^f \cdot (601)^g \cdot P^h$$

and so

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{29}{28} \cdot \frac{13}{12} \cdot \frac{19}{18} \cdot \frac{601}{600} \cdot \frac{2521}{2520} = 2.965644393 < 3,$$

a contradiction. Thus  $601 \nmid 5^{k+1} + 1$ .

- (viii) If  $13 \nmid 5^{k+1} + 1$ , it follows from (vi) and (viii) that  $\frac{5^{k+1}+1}{2}$  is not divisible by any prime in  $[3, 2520]$ . Consequently, if  $Q \mid \frac{5^{k+1}+1}{2}$ , then  $Q > 2520$  and by (b),  $Q \mid w'$ . This proves (F) in this case.

- (ix) Assume that  $13 \mid 5^{k+1} + 1$ . We claim that  $\frac{5^{k+1}+1}{2}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $Q \neq 13$ . On the other hand, let  $\frac{5^{k+1}+1}{2} = 13^\alpha$ , for some positive integer  $\alpha$ .

If  $\alpha \geq 2$ , then  $13^2 \mid 5^{k+1} + 1$ . This is equivalent to  $k + 1 = 26u$ . Hence we have

$$53 \mid \frac{5^{26} + 1}{2} \mid \frac{5^{k+1} + 1}{2} = 13^\alpha,$$

which is not possible.

Therefore, we have  $\alpha = 1$  so that  $\frac{5^{k+1}+1}{2} = 13$ , i.e,  $k = 1$ . But  $k \geq 3$ . It now follows that  $\frac{5^{k+1}+1}{2}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $Q \neq 13$ . Hence  $Q \notin [3, 2520]$  so that  $Q > 2520$  and from (3.9b),  $Q \mid w'$ .

The proof of (F) is complete.

We are now in a position to complete the proof of (c). By (3.9c), (3.9a), (E) and (F), we have

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 13^e \cdot 19^f \cdot (P)^g \cdot (Q)^h,$$

so that

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{29}{28} \cdot \frac{13}{12} \cdot \frac{19}{18} \cdot \frac{2521}{2520} \cdot \frac{2531}{2530} = 2.805991691 < 3,$$

a contradiction.

This proves (c).

The proof of Lemma 3.2 is complete.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.3.** *Consider the equations (3.2a)–(3.2c) corresponding to the case  $c = 2$ . In (3.2b), we can assume that  $d = 2m$ , where  $m$  is odd and  $\geq 3$  (see Remark 3.2). Then*

- (a)  $\frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2}$ , a factor of  $\sigma^{**}(29^d)$  is divisible by an odd prime  $q' > 519$  and  $q'|w$ ,
- (b)  $n$  is divisible by exactly one of the primes 11, 13 and 19,
- (c)  $\frac{29^m-1}{28}$ , a factor of  $\sigma^{**}(29^d)$  is divisible by an odd prime  $p' > 519$  and  $p'|w$ .

*Proof.* (a) Let

$$T'_{29} = \{q|29^{m+1} + 1 : q \in [3, 519] \setminus \{37, 61, 313, 421\} \text{ and } s = \frac{1}{2}ord_q 29 \text{ is even}\}.$$

If  $T'_{29}$  is non-empty, then (a) holds by Lemma 2.4(b). We may assume that  $T'_{29}$  is empty. Since  $s = \frac{1}{2}ord_q 29$  is odd implies that  $q \nmid 29^{m+1} + 1$ , it follows that  $29^{m+1} + 1$  is not divisible by any prime  $q$  in  $[3, 519]$  except for possibly  $q \in \{37, 61, 313, 421\}$ .

We note that  $37|29^{m+1} + 1 \iff m + 1 = 6u \iff 61|29^{m+1} + 1 \iff 313|29^{m+1} + 1$ .

Assume that  $37|29^{m+1} + 1$  so that  $m + 1 = 6u$ . Hence  $29^6 + 1|29^{m+1} + 1$ . But  $29^6 + 1 = 2 \cdot 37 \cdot 61 \cdot 313 \cdot 421$ . It follows that  $\frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2}$  (a factor of  $\sigma^{**}(29^d)$  in (3.2b)) is divisible by the four primes 37, 61, 313 and 421. By (3.2c), it follows that  $w = 37^e \cdot 61^f \cdot 313^g \cdot 421^h$  and so

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 37^e \cdot 61^f \cdot 313^g \cdot 421^h.$$

Hence we have

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{29}{28} \cdot \frac{37}{36} \cdot \frac{61}{60} \cdot \frac{313}{312} \cdot \frac{421}{420} = 2.71945 < 3,$$

a contradiction.

Hence  $37 \nmid 29^{m+1} + 1$ . As a consequence  $29^{m+1} + 1$  is not divisible by 61 and 313.

If  $421 \nmid 29^{m+1} + 1$ , it follows that  $29^{m+1} + 1$  is not divisible by any prime in  $[3, 519]$ ; the same holds with respect to  $\frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2}$ . Hence if  $q'|\frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2}$ , then  $q' > 519$  and  $q'|w$  from (3.2b). Suppose  $421|29^{m+1} + 1$ . We claim that  $\frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $\neq 421$ . On the other hand, let  $\frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2} = (421)^\alpha$ , for some positive integer  $\alpha$ . If  $\alpha \geq 2$ , then  $421^2|29^{m+1} + 1$ . But this is equivalent to  $m + 1 = 842 \cdot u$ . Hence

$$6737 \left| \left( \frac{29^{842} + 1}{2} \right) \right| \left( \frac{29^{m+1} + 1}{2} \right) = (421)^\alpha,$$

and this is impossible. Hence  $\alpha = 1$  so that  $\frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2} = 421$  or  $m = 1$ . But  $m \geq 3$ . Thus  $\frac{29^{m+1}+1}{2}$  is divisible by an odd prime  $q' \neq 421$ . Hence  $q' \notin [3, 519]$  and so  $q' > 519$ . From (3.2b),  $q'|w$ .

This completes the proof of (a).

(b) *Proof of (b)*. We first prove that  $n$  is divisible by at least one of 11, 13 and 19. On the contrary assume that  $n$  is divisible by none of 11, 13 and 19. From (3.2b), it follows that every prime factor of  $w$  in (3.2b) is at least 23. By (a),  $q'|w$  and  $q' > 519$ . From (3.2a) and (3.2c), we have

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{29}{28} \cdot \frac{23}{22} \cdot \frac{31}{30} \cdot \frac{37}{36} \cdot \frac{521}{520} = 2.87912 < 3,$$

a contradiction. Thus,  $n$  is divisible by at least one of 11, 13 and 19. Now, part (b) follows from Lemma 3.2.

(c) *Proof of (c)*. Let

$$S'_{29} = \{p|29^m - 1 : p \in [3, 519] \setminus \{7, 13, 67\} \text{ and } \text{ord}_p 29 \text{ is odd}\}.$$

We distinguish three cases on the basis of part (b):

*Case 1.* Suppose that  $11|n$ . Then  $w$  in (3.2a) and (3.2b) cannot have more than three other odd prime factors. If  $S'_{29}$  is non-empty, by (a) of Lemma 2.4 and (3.2b), the statement in (c) holds. We may assume that  $S'_{29}$  is empty. Since  $p \nmid 29^m - 1$  if  $\text{ord}_p 29$  is even, it follows that  $29^m - 1$  is not divisible by any prime  $p \in [3, 519]$  except for possibly  $p \in \{7, 13, 67\}$ . The same is true with respect to  $\frac{29^m-1}{28}$ ; this is not divisible by 7 as  $7|\frac{29^m-1}{28}$  would imply that  $7|w|n$ , from (3.2b). But by our assumption  $7 \nmid n$ .

By part (b),  $13 \nmid 29^m - 1$  since  $11|n$ . Also,  $13|29^m - 1 \iff 67|29^m - 1$ . Hence  $67 \nmid 29^m - 1$ . Thus  $\frac{29^m-1}{28}$  is not divisible by 7, 13 and 67. It follows that  $\frac{29^m-1}{28}$  is not divisible by any prime in  $[3, 519]$ . Hence if  $p'|\frac{29^m-1}{28}$ , then  $p' > 519$  and from (3.2b),  $p'|w$ . Thus in this case, (c) holds.

*Case 2.* Assume that  $13|n$ . Then  $w$  in (3.2a) and (3.2b) cannot have more than three other odd prime factors. If  $S'_{29}$  is non-empty, by (a) of Lemma 2.4 and (3.2b), the statement in (c) holds. We may assume that  $S'_{29}$  is empty. Since  $p \nmid 29^m - 1$  if  $\text{ord}_p 29$  is even, it follows that  $29^m - 1$  is not divisible by any prime  $p \in [3, 519]$  except for possibly  $p \in \{7, 13, 67\}$ . The same is true with respect to  $\frac{29^m-1}{28}$ ; this is not divisible by 7 as in Case 1.

Assume that  $13|\frac{29^m-1}{28}$ . Then  $67|\frac{29^m-1}{28}$ , since  $13|29^m - 1 \iff 67|29^m - 1$ . Hence  $w$  is divisible by 67. By (a),  $w$  is divisible by  $q' > 519$ . Since  $19 \nmid n$ , a possible third

prime factor of  $w$ , say  $r$  is at least 23. Hence from (3.2a), we have

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot 13^e \cdot 67^f \cdot (q')^f \cdot r^g,$$

and so we obtain

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{29}{28} \cdot \frac{13}{12} \cdot \frac{67}{66} \cdot \frac{521}{520} \cdot \frac{23}{22} = 2.981349246 < 3,$$

a contradiction. Hence  $\frac{29^m-1}{28}$  is neither divisible by 13 nor 67.

It follows that  $\frac{29^m-1}{28}$  is not divisible by any prime in  $[3, 519]$ . Hence if  $p' | \frac{29^m-1}{28}$ , then  $p' > 519$  and from (3.2b),  $p' | w$ . This proves (c), in this case.

*Case 3.* Assume that  $19 | n$ . Then  $w$  in (3.2a) and (3.2b) cannot have more than three other odd prime factors. If  $S'_{29}$  is non-empty, by (a) of Lemma 2.4 and (3.2b), the statement in (c) holds. We may assume that  $S'_{29}$  is empty. Since  $p \nmid 29^m - 1$  if  $\text{ord}_p 29$  is even, it follows that  $29^m - 1$  is not divisible by any prime  $p \in [3, 519]$  except for possibly  $p \in \{7, 13, 67\}$ . The same is true with respect to  $\frac{29^m-1}{28}$ ; this is not divisible by 7 as in Case 1. Since by our assumption,  $13 \nmid 29^m - 1$ , we have  $67 \nmid 29^m - 1$ . It follows that  $\frac{29^m-1}{28}$  is not divisible by any prime in  $[3, 519]$ . Hence if  $p' | \frac{29^m-1}{28}$ , then  $p' > 519$  and from (3.2b),  $p' | w$ . This proves (c), in this case also.

The proof of (c) is complete.

The proof of Lemma 3.3 is complete. □

**Proof of Theorem 3.3.** Assume that  $c = 2$ . Then we have the equations (3.2a)–(3.2c). By Lemma 3.3,  $t | n$  for exactly one  $t \in \{11, 13, 19\}$ . By (3.2a)–(3.2c) and Lemma 3.3, we have  $w = t^e \cdot (p')^f \cdot (q')^g \cdot (t')^h$ , where  $p' \geq 521$ ,  $q' \geq 523$  and  $t'$  is the possible fourth prime factor of  $w$  with  $t' \geq 23$ . From (3.2a), we have

$$n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^2 \cdot 29^d \cdot t^e \cdot (p')^f \cdot (q')^g \cdot (t')^h,$$

so that

$$3 = \frac{\sigma^{**}(n)}{n} < \frac{255}{128} \cdot \frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{290}{289} \cdot \frac{29}{28} \cdot \frac{11}{10} \cdot \frac{521}{520} \cdot \frac{523}{522} \cdot \frac{23}{22} = 2.987746535 < 3,$$

a contradiction. Hence  $c \neq 2$ . The proof of Theorem 3.3 is complete.

Professor Sitaramaiah [10] proposes that the above results lead to the following inequality. The present author has not verified the proof. Therefore the inequality is presented as a conjecture.

**Conjecture.** Let  $n$  be a bi-unitary perfect number of the form  $n = 2^7 \cdot 5^b \cdot 17^c \cdot t^d \cdot w$ , where  $b \geq 3$ ,  $t \in \{11, 13, 19\}$  and  $w$  is prime to  $2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 17 \cdot t$ . (Here  $w$  cannot have more than four odd prime

factors.) Then

$$n > \begin{cases} 2.605 \times 10^{134} & \text{if } 5^6 \parallel n \text{ and } 11|n, \\ 9.25 \times 10^{167} & \text{if } 5^7|n \text{ and } 11|n, \\ 7.65 \times 10^{171} & \text{if } 13|n, \\ 6.079 \times 10^{180} & \text{if } 19|n. \end{cases}$$

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## Appendix A Table of $ord_p 29$

Let  $p$  denote an odd prime  $\neq 29$ . In the following table,  $r$  denotes the smallest positive integer such that  $29^r \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ ; that is,  $r = ord_p 29$ , and  $s$  denotes the smallest positive integer such that  $29^s \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$  if  $s$  exists. If  $s$  does not exist, that is, if  $29^t + 1$  is not divisible by  $p$  for any positive integer  $t$ , the entry in column  $s$  will be filled up by dash sign. If  $r$  is even, then  $s = r/2$ , and if  $r$  is odd,  $s$  does not exist.

SL.No	$p$	$r$	$s$	SL.No	$p$	$r$	$s$	SL.No	$p$	$r$	$s$
1	3	2	1	33	139	69	–	65	317	316	158
2	5	2	1	34	149	37	–	66	331	330	165
3	7	1	–	35	151	25	–	67	337	336	168
4	11	10	5	36	157	52	26	68	347	173	–
5	13	3	–	37	163	162	81	69	349	174	87
6	17	16	8	38	167	83	–	70	353	88	44
7	19	18	9	39	173	43	–	71	359	358	179
8	23	11	–	40	179	89	–	72	367	122	61
9	29	–	–	41	181	15	–	73	373	93	–
10	31	10	5	42	191	190	95	74	379	126	63
11	37	12	6	43	193	64	32	75	383	191	–
12	41	40	20	44	197	49	–	76	389	388	194
13	43	42	21	45	199	99	–	77	397	99	–
14	47	46	23	46	211	210	105	78	401	10	5
15	53	26	13	47	223	111	–	79	409	408	204
16	59	29	–	48	227	113	–	80	419	209	–
17	61	12	6	49	229	228	114	81	421	4	2
18	67	3	–	50	233	58	29	82	431	215	–
19	71	35	–	51	239	119	–	83	433	432	216
20	73	72	36	52	241	120	60	84	439	219	–
21	79	78	39	53	251	250	125	85	443	442	221
22	83	41	–	54	257	128	64	86	449	448	224
23	89	88	44	55	263	262	181	87	457	114	57
24	97	96	48	56	269	268	134	88	461	460	230
25	101	100	50	57	271	6	3	89	463	231	–
26	103	51	–	58	277	138	69	90	467	466	233
27	107	53	–	59	281	70	35	91	479	478	239
28	109	54	27	60	283	47	–	92	487	81	–
29	113	112	56	61	293	292	146	93	491	490	245
30	127	126	63	62	307	306	153	94	499	249	–
31	131	130	65	63	311	310	155	95	503	502	251
32	137	136	68	64	313	12	6	96	509	254	127

## Appendix B Factors of $29^t - 1$

$$\begin{aligned}
 29^{11} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{23, 1\}, \{18944890940537, 1\}\} \\
 29^{15} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{13, 1\}, \{67, 1\}, \{181, 1\}, \{22111, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{25} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{151, 1\}, \{732541, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{29} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{59, 1\}, \{16763, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{35} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 2\}, \{71, 1\}, \{732541, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{37} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{149, 1\}, \{13913, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{41} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{83, 1\}, \{2789, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{43} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{173, 1\}, \{13933, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{47} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{283, 1\}, \{659693, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{49} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 3\}, \{197, 1\}, \{88009573, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{51} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{13, 1\}, \{67, 1\}, \{103, 1\}, \{3911, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{53} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{107, 1\}, \{10601, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{69} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{13, 1\}, \{67, 1\}, \{139, 1\}, \{131327761273, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{81} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{13, 1\}, \{67, 1\}, \{487, 1\}, \{14437, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{83} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{167, 1\}, \{5118695830412449740993707190291471468836668205 \\
 &\quad 74964078991625754533333873607179556003789915482268910708915779275 \\
 &\quad 6778513, 1\}\} \\
 29^{89} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{179, 1\}, \{1069, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{93} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{13, 1\}, \{67, 1\}, \{373, 1\}, \{36767, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{99} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{13, 1\}, \{23, 1\}, \{67, 1\}, \{199, 1\}, \{397, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{111} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{13, 1\}, \{67, 1\}, \{149, 1\}, \{223, 1\}, \{13913, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{113} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{227, 1\}, \{2804076605208339275305401070695331526616940696 \\
 &\quad 30684961289427326872431929489749753183807662058116475449521522961 \\
 &\quad 049909031188217178659584119469734915010632321126523, 1\}\} \\
 29^{119} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 2\}, \{239, 1\}, \{3911, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{173} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{347, 1\}, \{58129, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{191} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{383, 1\}, \{40111, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{209} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{23, 1\}, \{419, 1\}, \{6271, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{215} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{173, 1\}, \{431, 1\}, \{13933, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{219} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{13, 1\}, \{67, 1\}, \{439, 1\}, \{6053603111, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{231} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 2\}, \{13, 1\}, \{23, 1\}, \{67, 1\}, \{463, 1\}, \{6637, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{249} - 1 &= \{\{2, 2\}, \{7, 1\}, \{13, 1\}, \{67, 1\}, \{167, 1\}, \{499, 1\}, \{2971220541375663902834967 \\
 &\quad 56148014971356023682195637782598641448348945531698896651105600856 \\
 &\quad 10522473351082608322557539966718721333911128435649453801835929153 \\
 &\quad 09037448135277050496366602273118845884172456898001890113591563896 \\
 &\quad 18091337806216112763277573768925208737895405732317891162357626325 \\
 &\quad 34094201009245510500265082025644139231, 1\}\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

## Appendix C Factors of $29^t + 1$

$$\begin{aligned}
 29^6 + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{37, 1\}, \{61, 1\}, \{313, 1\}, \{421, 1\}\} \\
 29^8 + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{17, 1\}, \{26209, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{20} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{41, 1\}, \{353641, 1\}, \{6103563899172302171321, 1\}\} \\
 29^{26} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{157, 1\}, \{421, 1\}, \{6917, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{32} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{193, 1\}, \{63354497, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{36} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{73, 1\}, \{9001, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{44} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{89, 1\}, \{353, 1\}, \{617, 1\}, \{353641, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{48} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{97, 1\}, \{80779687587600790135409621794092473189789604476398339 \\
 &\quad 268267830745473, 1\}\} \\
 29^{50} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{101, 1\}, \{421, 1\}, \{1061, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{56} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{17, 1\}, \{113, 1\}, \{26209, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{60} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{41, 1\}, \{241, 1\}, \{9001, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{64} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{257, 1\}, \{641, 1\}, \{7937, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{68} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{137, 1\}, \{132329, 1\}, \{353641, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{114} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{37, 1\}, \{61, 1\}, \{229, 1\}, \{313, 1\}, \{421, 1\}, \{131101, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{134} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{269, 1\}, \{421, 1\}, \\
 &\quad \{403893949176367594977601398470212660497224275451601009486390779653 \\
 &\quad 2557197391099291642318406711490210523652835313142583804949561622260 \\
 &\quad 4242907529468849630911488133406834061825422209051664115309, 1\}\} \\
 29^{146} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{293, 1\}, \{421, 1\}, \{139999693, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{158} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{317, 1\}, \{421, 1\}, \\
 &\quad \{429054354801500844601280749223231378196092396999916930871522769114 \\
 &\quad 1237324030732627347577996363252523654348272312548929299582663172416 \\
 &\quad 2150335813957152962966396123618197571059583125451593548425657091827 \\
 &\quad 40306506159684903775682733, 1\}\} \\
 29^{168} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{17, 1\}, \{113, 1\}, \{337, 1\}, \{673, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{194} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{389, 1\}, \{421, 1\}, \{1553, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{204} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{137, 1\}, \{409, 1\}, \{9001, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{216} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{17, 1\}, \{433, 1\}, \{673, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{224} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{193, 1\}, \{449, 1\}, \{63354497, 1\}, \dots\} \\
 29^{230} + 1 &= \{\{2, 1\}, \{421, 1\}, \{461, 1\}, \{829, 1\}, \dots\}.
 \end{aligned}$$