

ON THE FACTORIZATION OF $n(n + 1)$

by Michael Filaseta

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Joint Work with M. Bennett & O. Trifonov

Part I: On the factorization of $x^2 + x$

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Problem: Can we narrow the gap between these ineffective and effective results?

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Theorem (R. Gow, 1989): If $n > 2$ is even and

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Work in Progress with Trifonov: We're attempting to show the irreducibility of $L_n^{(n)}(x)$ for all $n > 2$.

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Classical Ramanujan-Nagell Theorem: If x and n are integers satisfying

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$$x^2 + 7 = 2^n m$$

$$\left(\frac{x + \sqrt{-7}}{2}\right) \left(\frac{x - \sqrt{-7}}{2}\right) = \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{-7}}{2}\right)^{n-2} \left(\frac{1 - \sqrt{-7}}{2}\right)^{n-2} m$$

Theorem: If x , n and m are positive integers satisfying

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$$m \geq x^{0.4345}.$$

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Use Padé approximations for $(1 - z)^k$ to obtain P , Q , and E .

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In the case of $x^2 + 7 = 2^n m$, the difference of the primes $(1 + \sqrt{-7})/2$ and $(1 - \sqrt{-7})/2$ each raised to the 13th power has absolute value ≈ 2.65 and the prime powers themselves have absolute value ≈ 90.51 .