

# ABOUT THE SMARANDACHE COMPLEMENTARY CUBIC FUNCTION

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**DEFINITION.** Let  $g: \mathbb{N}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^+$  be a numerical function defined by  $g(n) = k$ , where  $k$  is the smallest natural number such that  $nk$  is a perfect cube:  $nk = s^3, s \in \mathbb{N}^+$ .

*Examples:* 1)  $g(7) = 49$  because 49 is the smallest natural number such that  $7 \cdot 49 = 7 \cdot 7^2 = 7^3$ ;

2)  $g(12) = 18$  because 18 is the smallest natural number such that  $12 \cdot 18 = (2^2 \cdot 3) \cdot (2 \cdot 3^2) = 2^3 \cdot 3^3 = (2 \cdot 3)^3$ ;

3)  $g(27) = g(3^3) = 1$ ;

4)  $g(54) = g(2 \cdot 3^3) = 2^2 = g(2)$ .

**PROPERTY 1.** For every  $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ ,  $g(n^3) = 1$  and for every prime  $p$  we have  $g(p) = p^2$ .

**PROPERTY 2.** Let  $n$  be a composite natural number and  $n = p_{i_1}^{\alpha_1} \cdot p_{i_2}^{\alpha_2} \cdot \dots \cdot p_{i_r}^{\alpha_r}$ ,  $0 < p_{i_1} < p_{i_2} < \dots < p_{i_r}$ ,  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_r \in \mathbb{N}^+$  its prime factorization. Then  $g(n) = p_{i_1}^{d(\bar{\alpha}_1)} \cdot p_{i_2}^{d(\bar{\alpha}_2)} \cdot \dots \cdot p_{i_r}^{d(\bar{\alpha}_r)}$ , where  $\bar{\alpha}_i$  is the remainder of the division of  $\alpha_i$  by 3 and  $d: \{0, 1, 2\} \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2\}$  is the numerical function defined by  $d(0) = 0, d(1) = 2$  and  $d(2) = 1$ .

If we take into account of the above definition of the function  $g$ , it is easy to prove the above properties.

**OBSERVATION:**  $d(\bar{\alpha}_i) = 3 - \bar{\alpha}_i$ , for every  $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , and in the sequel we use this writing for its simplicity.

**REMARK 1.** Let  $m \in \mathbb{N}^+$  be a fixed natural number. If we consider now the numerical function  $\tilde{g}: \mathbb{N}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^+$  defined by  $\tilde{g}(n) = k$ , where  $k$  is the smallest natural number such that  $nk = s^m, s \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , then we can observe that  $\tilde{g}$  generalize the function  $g$ , and we also have:

$\tilde{g}(n^m) = 1, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}^+, \tilde{g}(p) = p^{m-1}, \forall p$  prime and  $\tilde{g}(n) = p_{i_1}^{m-\bar{\alpha}_1} \cdot p_{i_2}^{m-\bar{\alpha}_2} \cdot \dots \cdot p_{i_r}^{m-\bar{\alpha}_r}$ , where  $n = p_{i_1}^{\alpha_1} \cdot p_{i_2}^{\alpha_2} \cdot \dots \cdot p_{i_r}^{\alpha_r}$  is the prime factorization of  $n$  and  $\bar{\alpha}_i$  is the remainder of the division of  $\alpha_i$  by  $m$ , therefore the both above properties holds for  $\tilde{g}$ , too.

**REMARK 2.** Because  $1 \leq g(n) \leq n^2$ , for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$ , we have:  $\frac{1}{n} \leq \frac{g(n)}{n} \leq n$ , thus

$\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{g(n)}{n}$  is a divergent serie.

In a similar way, using that we have  $1 \leq \tilde{g}(n) \leq n^{m-1}$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}^m$ , it results that  $\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{\tilde{g}(n)}{n}$  is also divergent.

**PROPERTY 3.** The function  $g: \mathbb{N}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^m$  is multiplicative:  $g(x \cdot y) = g(x) \cdot g(y)$  for every  $x, y \in \mathbb{N}^m$  with  $(x, y) = 1$ .

*Proof.* For  $x = 1 = y$  we have  $(x, y) = 1$  and  $g(1 \cdot 1) = g(1) \cdot g(1)$ . Let  $x = p_{i_1}^{\alpha_1} \cdot p_{i_2}^{\alpha_2} \cdot \dots \cdot p_{i_r}^{\alpha_r}$  and  $y = q_{j_1}^{\beta_1} \cdot q_{j_2}^{\beta_2} \cdot \dots \cdot q_{j_s}^{\beta_s}$  be the prime factorization of  $x$  and  $y$ , respectively, so that  $x \cdot y = 1$ .

Because  $(x, y) = 1$  we have  $p_{i_h} = q_{j_k}$ , for every  $h = \overline{1, r}$  and  $k = \overline{1, s}$ .

$$\text{Then } g(x \cdot y) = p_{i_1}^{\overline{3-\alpha_1}} \cdot p_{i_2}^{\overline{3-\alpha_2}} \cdot \dots \cdot p_{i_r}^{\overline{3-\alpha_r}} \cdot q_{j_1}^{\overline{3-\beta_1}} \cdot q_{j_2}^{\overline{3-\beta_2}} \cdot \dots \cdot q_{j_s}^{\overline{3-\beta_s}} = g(x) \cdot g(y).$$

**REMARK 3.** The property holds also for the function  $\tilde{g}: \tilde{g}(x \cdot y) = \tilde{g}(x) \cdot \tilde{g}(y)$ , where  $(x, y) = 1$ .

**PROPERTY 4.** If  $(x, y) = 1$ ,  $x$  and  $y$  are not perfect cubes and  $x, y > 1$ , then the equation  $g(x) = g(y)$  has not natural solutions.

*Proof.* Let  $x = \prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\alpha_h}$  and  $y = \prod_{k=1}^s q_{j_k}^{\beta_k}$  (where  $p_{i_h} \neq q_{j_k}, \forall h = \overline{1, r}, k = \overline{1, s}$ , because  $(x, y) = 1$ ) be their prime factorizations. Then  $g(x) = \prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\overline{3-\alpha_h}}$  and  $g(y) = \prod_{k=1}^s q_{j_k}^{\overline{3-\beta_k}}$  and there exist at least  $\overline{\alpha_{i_a}} \neq 0$  and  $\overline{\beta_{j_b}} \neq 0$  (because  $x$  and  $y$  are not perfect cubes), therefore  $1 \neq p_{i_a}^{\overline{3-\alpha_h}} = q_{j_b}^{\overline{3-\beta_k}} \neq 1$ , so  $g(x) \neq g(y)$ .

**CONSEQUENCE 1.** The equation  $g(x) = g(x+1)$  has not natural solutions because for  $x \geq 1$ ,  $x$  and  $x+1$  are not both perfect cubes and  $(x, x+1) = 1$ .

**REMARK 4.** The property and the consequence is also true for the function  $\tilde{g}$ : if  $(x, y) = 1$ ,  $x > 1$ ,  $y > 1$ , and it does not exist  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}^m$  so that  $x = a^m$ ,  $y = b^m$  (where  $m$  is fixed and has the above significance), then the equation  $\tilde{g}(x) = \tilde{g}(y)$  has not natural solutions; the equation  $\tilde{g}(x) = \tilde{g}(x+1)$ ,  $x \geq 1$  has not natural solutions, too.

It is easy to see that the proofs are similar, but in this case we denote by  $\overline{\alpha_{ij}} = \alpha_{ij} \pmod{m}$  and we replace  $\overline{3-\alpha_{i_1}}$  by  $\overline{m-\alpha_{i_1}}$ .

**PROPERTY 5.** We have  $g(x \cdot y^3) = g(x)$ , for every  $x, y \in \mathbb{N}^m$ .

*Proof.* If  $(x, y) = 1$ , then  $(x, y^3) = 1$  and using property 1 and property 3, we have:  $g(x \cdot y^3) = g(x) \cdot g(y^3) = g(x)$ .

If  $(x, y) = 1$  we can write:  $x = \prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\alpha_h} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{\alpha_t}$  and  $y = \prod_{k=1}^s q_{j_k}^{\beta_k} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{\beta_t}$  where

$$\begin{aligned} p_{i_h} &= d_{l_t}, q_{j_k} = d_{l_t}, p_{i_h} = q_{j_k}, \forall h = \overline{1, r}, k = \overline{1, s}, t = \overline{1, n}. \text{ We have } g(x \cdot y^3) = g\left(\prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\alpha_h} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{\alpha_t} \cdot \prod_{k=1}^s q_{j_k}^{3\beta_k} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{3\beta_t}\right) \\ &= g\left(\prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\alpha_h} \cdot \prod_{k=1}^s q_{j_k}^{3\beta_k} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{\alpha_t + 3\beta_t}\right) = g\left(\prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\alpha_h} \cdot \prod_{k=1}^s q_{j_k}^{3\beta_k}\right) \cdot g\left(\prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{\alpha_t + 3\beta_t}\right) = \\ &= \prod_{h=1}^r \overline{3 - \alpha_h} \cdot \prod_{k=1}^s \overline{3 - 3\beta_k} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n \overline{3 - \alpha_t + 3\beta_t} = \prod_{h=1}^r \overline{3 - \alpha_h} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n \overline{3 - \alpha_t} = g\left(\prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\alpha_h}\right) \cdot g\left(\prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{\alpha_t}\right) = \\ &= g\left(\prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\alpha_h} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{\alpha_t}\right) = g(x). \end{aligned}$$

We used that  $\left(\prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\alpha_h} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{\alpha_t}\right) = 1$  and  $\left(\prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\alpha_h} \cdot \prod_{k=1}^s q_{j_k}^{3\beta_k} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{\alpha_t - 3\beta_t}\right) = 1$  and the above properties.

**REMARK 5.** It is easy to see that we also have  $\tilde{g}(x \cdot y^m) = \tilde{g}(x)$ , for every  $x, y \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

**OBSERVATION .** If  $\frac{x}{y} = \frac{u^3}{v^3}$ , where  $\frac{u}{v}$  is a simplified fraction, then  $g(x) = g(y)$ . It is easy to prove this because  $x = kn^3$  and  $y = kv^3$ , and using the above property we have:

$$g(x) = g(k \cdot u^3) = g(k) = g(k \cdot v^3) = g(y)$$

**OBSERVATION.** If  $\frac{x}{y} = \frac{u^m}{v^m}$  where  $\frac{u}{v}$  is a simplified fraction, then, using remark 5, we have  $\tilde{g}(x) = \tilde{g}(y)$ , too.

**CONSEQUENCE 2.** For every  $x \in \mathbb{N}^*$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$g(x^n) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n = 3k; \\ g(x), & \text{if } n = 3k + 1; \\ g^2(x), & \text{if } n = 3k + 2, k \in \mathbb{N}, \end{cases}$$

where  $g^2(x) = g(g(x))$ .

*Proof.* If  $n=3k$ , then  $x^n$  is a perfect cube, therefore  $g(x^n) = 1$ .

If  $n=3k+1$ , then  $g(x^n) = g(x^{3k} \cdot x) = g(x^{3k}) \cdot g(x) = g(x)$ .

If  $n=3k+2$ , then  $g(x^n) = g(x^{3k} \cdot x^2) = g(x^{3k}) \cdot g(x^2) = g(x^2)$ .

**PROPERTY 6.**  $g(x^2) = g^2(x)$ , for every  $x \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

*Proof.* Let  $x = \prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\alpha_h}$  be the prime factorization of  $x$ . Then

$$g(x^2) = g\left(\prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{2\alpha_h}\right) = \prod_{h=1}^r \overline{3 - 2\alpha_h} \text{ and } g^2(x) = g(g(x)) = g\left(\prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\overline{3 - \alpha_h}}\right) = \prod_{h=1}^r \overline{3 - 3 - \alpha_h}, \text{ but it is}$$

easy to observe that  $\overline{3 - 2\alpha_h} = \overline{3 - 3 - \alpha_h}$ , because for :

$$\overline{\alpha_{i_h}} = 0 \quad \overline{3-2\alpha_{i_h}} = \overline{3-0} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{3-3-\alpha_{i_h}} = \overline{3-3-0} = \overline{3-0} = 0$$

$$\overline{\alpha_{i_h}} = 1 \quad \overline{3-2\alpha_{i_h}} = \overline{3-2} = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{3-3-\alpha_{i_h}} = \overline{3-3-1} = \overline{3-2} = 1$$

$$\overline{\alpha_{i_h}} = 2 \quad \overline{3-2\alpha_{i_h}} = \overline{3-4} = \overline{3-1} = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{3-3-\alpha_{i_h}} = \overline{3-3-2} = \overline{3-1} = 2,$$

therefore  $g(x^2) = g^2(x)$ .

**REMARK 6.** For the function  $\tilde{g}$  is not true that  $\tilde{g}(x^2) = \tilde{g}^2(x)$ ,  $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}^*$ . For example, for  $m=5$  and  $x=3^2$ ,  $\tilde{g}(x^2) = \tilde{g}(3^4) = 3$  while  $\tilde{g}(\tilde{g}(3^2)) = \tilde{g}(3^3) = 3^2$ .

More generally  $\tilde{g}(x^k) = \tilde{g}^k(x)$ ,  $\forall x \in \mathbb{N}^*$  is not true. But for particular values of  $m, k$  and  $x$  the above equality is possible to be true. For example for  $m=6$ ,  $x=2^2$  and  $k=2$ :  $\tilde{g}(x^2) = \tilde{g}(2^4) = 2^2$  and  $\tilde{g}^2(x) = \tilde{g}(\tilde{g}(2^2)) = \tilde{g}(2^4) = 2^2$ .

**REMARK 6'.** a)  $\tilde{g}(x^{m-1}) = \tilde{g}^{m-1}(x)$  for every  $x \in \mathbb{N}^*$  iff  $m$  is an odd number, because we have  $\overline{m-(m-1)\alpha_{i_h}} = \overline{m-m+\dots+m-\alpha_{i_h}}$ , for every  $\alpha_{i_h} \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Example: For  $m=5$ ,  $\tilde{g}(x^4) = \tilde{g}^4(x)$ , for every  $x \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

b)  $\tilde{g}(x^{m-1}) = \tilde{g}^m(x)$ , for every  $x \in \mathbb{N}^*$  iff  $m$  is an even number, because we have  $\overline{m-(m-1)\alpha_{i_h}} = \overline{m-m+\dots+m-\alpha_{i_h}}$ , for every  $\alpha_{i_h} \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Example: For  $m=4$ ,  $\tilde{g}(x^3) = \tilde{g}^4(x)$ , for every  $x \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

**PROPERTY 7.** For every  $x \in \mathbb{N}^*$  we have  $g^3(x) = g(x)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $x = \prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\alpha_{i_h}}$  be the prime factorization of  $x$ . We saw that  $g(x) = \prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\overline{3-\alpha_{i_h}}}$  and

$$g^3(x) = g(g^2(x)) = g\left(\prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\overline{3-3-\alpha_{i_h}}}\right) = \prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\overline{3-3-3-\alpha_{i_h}}}.$$

But  $\overline{3-\alpha_{i_h}} = \overline{3-3-3-\alpha_{i_h}}$ , for every  $\alpha_{i_h} \in \mathbb{N}$ , because for:

$$\overline{\alpha_{i_h}} = 0 \quad \overline{3-\alpha_{i_h}} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{3-3-3-\alpha_{i_h}} = \overline{3-3-3-0} = \overline{3-3-0} = \overline{3-0} = 0$$

$$\overline{\alpha_{i_h}} = 1 \quad \overline{3-\alpha_{i_h}} = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{3-3-3-\alpha_{i_h}} = \overline{3-3-3-1} = \overline{3-3-2} = \overline{3-1} = 2$$

$$\overline{\alpha_{i_h}} = 2 \quad \overline{3-\alpha_{i_h}} = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{3-3-3-\alpha_{i_h}} = \overline{3-3-3-2} = \overline{3-3-1} = \overline{3-2} = 1,$$

therefore  $g^3(x) = g(x)$ , for every  $x \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

**REMARK 7.** For every  $x \in \mathbb{N}^*$  we have  $\bar{g}^3(x) = \bar{g}(x)$  because  $\overline{m - \alpha_{i_h}} = m - m - m - \alpha_{i_h}$ , for every  $\alpha_{i_h} \in \mathbb{N}$ . For  $\overline{\alpha_{i_h}} = a \in \{1, \dots, m-1\} = A$ , we have  $\overline{m - \alpha_{i_h}} = m - a \in A$ , therefore  $\overline{m - m - \alpha_{i_h}} = \overline{m - (m - a)} = \overline{a} = a$ , so that  $\overline{m - m - m - \alpha_{i_h}} = \overline{m - a} = \overline{m - \alpha_{i_h}}$ , which is also true for  $\overline{\alpha_{i_h}} = 0$ , therefore it is true for every  $\alpha_{i_h} \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

**PROPERTY 8.** For every  $x, y \in \mathbb{N}^*$  we have  $g(x \cdot y) = g^2(g(x) \cdot g(y))$ .

*Proof.* Let  $x = \prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\alpha_{i_h}} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{\alpha_{l_t}}$  and  $y = \prod_{k=1}^s q_{j_k}^{\beta_{j_k}} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{\beta_{l_t}}$  be the prime factorization of  $x$  and  $y$ , respectively, where  $p_{i_h} \neq d_{l_t}, q_{j_k} \neq d_{l_t}, p_{i_h} \neq q_{j_k}, \forall h = \overline{1, r}, k = \overline{1, s}, t = \overline{1, n}$ . Of course  $x \cdot y = \prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\alpha_{i_h}} \cdot \prod_{k=1}^s q_{j_k}^{\beta_{j_k}} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{\alpha_{l_t} + \beta_{l_t}}$ , so  $g(x \cdot y) = \prod_{h=1}^r \overline{3 - \alpha_{i_h}} \cdot \prod_{k=1}^s \overline{3 - \beta_{j_k}} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n \overline{3 - (\alpha_{l_t} + \beta_{l_t})}$ . On the other hand,  $g(x) = \prod_{h=1}^r \overline{3 - \alpha_{i_h}} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n \overline{3 - \alpha_{l_t}}$  and  $g(y) = \prod_{k=1}^s \overline{3 - \beta_{j_k}} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n \overline{3 - \beta_{l_t}}$ , so that  $g^2(g(x) \cdot g(y)) = g^2\left(\prod_{h=1}^r \overline{3 - \alpha_{i_h}} \cdot \prod_{k=1}^s \overline{3 - \beta_{j_k}} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n \overline{3 - \alpha_{l_t} + 3 - \beta_{l_t}}\right) = \prod_{h=1}^r \overline{3 - 3 - 3 - \alpha_{i_h}} \cdot \prod_{k=1}^s \overline{3 - 3 - 3 - \beta_{j_k}} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n \overline{3 - 3 - (3 - \alpha_{l_t} + 3 - \beta_{l_t})} = \prod_{h=1}^r \overline{3 - \alpha_{i_h}} \cdot \prod_{k=1}^s \overline{3 - \beta_{j_k}} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n \overline{3 - (\alpha_{l_t} + \beta_{l_t})} = g(x \cdot y)$ , because  $\overline{3 - 3 - 3 - a} = \overline{3 - a}$  and  $\overline{3 - 3 - (3 - a + 3 - b)} = \overline{3 - (a + b)}, \forall a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**REMARK 8.** In the case when  $(x, y) = 1$  we obtain more simply the same result. Because  $(x, y) = 1 \Rightarrow (g(x), g(y)) = 1 \Rightarrow (g^2(x), g^2(y)) = 1$  so we have:

$$\begin{aligned} g^2(g(x) \cdot g(y)) &= g(g(g(x) \cdot g(y))) = g(g(g(x)) \cdot g(g(y))) = g(g^2(x) \cdot g^2(y)) = \\ &= g(g^2(x)) \cdot g(g^2(y)) = g^3(x) \cdot g^3(y) = g(x) \cdot g(y) = g(x \cdot y). \end{aligned}$$

**REMARK 9.** If  $(x, y) = 1$ , then  $g(xyz) = g^2(g(xy) \cdot g(z)) = g^2(g(x)g(y)g(z))$  and this property can be extended for a finite number of factors, therefore if  $(x_1, x_2) = (x_2, x_3) = \dots = (x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}) = 1$ , then  $g(\prod_{i=1}^n x_i) = g^2(\prod_{i=1}^n g(x_i))$ .

**PROPERTY 9.** The function  $g$  has not fixed points  $x \neq 1$ .

*Proof.* We must prove that the equation  $g(x) = x$  has not solutions  $x > 1$ .

Let  $x = p_{i_1}^{\alpha_{i_1}} \cdot p_{i_2}^{\alpha_{i_2}} \cdot \dots \cdot p_{i_r}^{\alpha_{i_r}}, \alpha_{i_j} \geq 1, j = \overline{1, r}$  be the prime factorization of  $x$ . Then  $g(x) = \prod_{j=1}^r \overline{3 - \alpha_{i_j}}$  implies that  $\alpha_{i_j} = 3 - \alpha_{i_j}, \forall j \in \overline{1, r}$  which is not possible.

**REMARK 10.** The function  $\bar{g}$  has fixed points only in the case  $m = 2k, k \in \mathbb{N}^*$ . These points are  $x = p_{i_1}^k \cdot p_{i_2}^k \cdot \dots \cdot p_{i_r}^k$ , where  $p_{i_j}, j = \overline{1, r}$  are prime numbers.

**PROPERTY 10.** If  $\left(\frac{x}{(x,y)}, y\right) = 1$  and  $\left(\frac{y}{(x,y)}, x\right) = 1$  then we have  $g((x,y)) = (g(x), g(y))$ , where we denote by  $(x,y)$  the greatest common divisor of  $x$  and  $y$ .

*Proof.* Because  $\left(\frac{x}{(x,y)}, y\right) = 1$  and  $\left(\frac{y}{(x,y)}, x\right) = 1$ , we have  $\left(\frac{x}{(x,y)}, (x,y)\right) = 1$  and  $\left(\frac{y}{(x,y)}, (x,y)\right) = 1$ , then  $x$  and  $y$  have the following prime factorization:  $x = \prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\alpha_h} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{\alpha_t}$  and  $y = \prod_{k=1}^s q_{j_k}^{\beta_k} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{\alpha_t}$ ,  $p_{i_h} \neq d_{l_t}, q_{j_k} \neq d_{l_t}, p_{i_h} \neq q_{j_k}, \forall h = \overline{1,r}, k = \overline{1,s}, t = \overline{1,n}$ . Then  $(x,y) = \prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{\alpha_t}$ , therefore  $g((x,y)) = \prod_{t=1}^n \overline{3^{-\alpha_t}}$ . On the other hand  $(g(x), g(y)) = \left(\prod_{h=1}^r \overline{3^{-\alpha_{i_h}}} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n \overline{3^{-\alpha_t}}, \prod_{k=1}^s \overline{3^{-\beta_{j_k}}} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n \overline{3^{-\alpha_t}}\right) = \prod_{t=1}^n \overline{3^{-\alpha_t}}$  and the assertion follows.

**REMARK 11.** In the same conditions,  $\tilde{g}((x,y)) = (\tilde{g}(x), \tilde{g}(y)), \forall x, y \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

**PROPERTY 11.** If  $\left(\frac{x}{(x,y)}, y\right) = 1$  and  $\left(\frac{y}{(x,y)}, x\right) = 1$  then we have:  $g([x,y]) = [g(x), g(y)]$ , where  $(x,y)$  has the above significance and  $[x,y]$  is the least common multiple of  $x$  and  $y$ .

*Proof.* We have the prime factorization of  $x$  and  $y$  used in the proof of the above property, therefore:

$$g([x \cdot y]) = g\left(\prod_{h=1}^r p_{i_h}^{\alpha_h} \cdot \prod_{k=1}^s q_{j_k}^{\beta_k} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n d_{l_t}^{\alpha_t}\right) = \prod_{h=1}^r \overline{3^{-\alpha_{i_h}}} \cdot \prod_{k=1}^s \overline{3^{-\beta_{j_k}}} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n \overline{3^{-\alpha_t}}$$

$$[g(x), g(y)] = \left[ \prod_{h=1}^r \overline{3^{-\alpha_{i_h}}} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n \overline{3^{-\alpha_t}}, \prod_{k=1}^s \overline{3^{-\beta_{j_k}}} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n \overline{3^{-\alpha_t}} \right] =$$

$$= \prod_{h=1}^r \overline{3^{-\alpha_{i_h}}} \cdot \prod_{k=1}^s \overline{3^{-\beta_{j_k}}} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^n \overline{3^{-\alpha_t}},$$

so we have  $g([x,y]) = [g(x), g(y)]$ .

**REMARK 12.** In the same conditions,  $\tilde{g}([x,y]) = [\tilde{g}(x), \tilde{g}(y)], \forall x, y \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

**CONSEQUENCE 4.** If  $\left(\frac{x}{(x,y)}, y\right) = 1$  and  $\left(\frac{y}{(x,y)}, x\right) = 1$ , then  $g(x) \cdot g(y) = g((x,y)) \cdot g([x,y])$  for every  $x, y \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

*Proof.* Because  $[x, y] = \frac{xy}{(x, y)}$  we have  $[g(x), g(y)] = \frac{g(x) \cdot g(y)}{(g(x), g(y))}$  and using the last two properties we have:

$$g(x) \cdot g(y) = (g(x), g(y)) \cdot [g(x), g(y)] = g((x, y)) \cdot g([x, y]).$$

**REMARK 13.** In the same conditions, we also have  $\tilde{g}(x) \cdot \tilde{g}(y) = \tilde{g}((x, y)) \cdot \tilde{g}([x, y])$  for every  $x, y \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

**PROPERTY 13.** The sumatory numerical function of the function  $g$  is

$$F(n) = \prod_{j=1}^k \left( \frac{\alpha_j + 3 - \overline{\alpha_j}}{3} (1 + p_j + p_j^2) + h_{p_j}(\alpha_j) \right),$$

where  $n = p_1^{\alpha_1} \cdot p_2^{\alpha_2} \cdot \dots \cdot p_k^{\alpha_k}$  is the prime factorization of  $n$ , and  $h_p: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  is the numerical function defined by  $h_p(\alpha) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } \alpha = 3k \\ -p & \text{for } \alpha = 3k + 1, \text{ where } p \text{ is a given number.} \\ 0 & \text{for } \alpha = 3k + 2 \end{cases}$

*Proof.* Because the sumatory function of  $g$  is defined as  $F(n) = \sum_{d|n} g(d)$  and because

$(p_1^{\alpha_1}, \prod_{t=2}^k p_t^{\alpha_t}) = 1$  and  $g$  is a multiplicative function, we have:

$$F(n) = \left( \sum_{d_1 | p_1^{\alpha_1}} g(d_1) \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{d_2 | p_2^{\alpha_2} \dots p_k^{\alpha_k}} g(d_2) \right) \text{ and so on, making a finite number of steps we}$$

obtain:  $F(n) = \prod_{j=1}^k F(p_j^{\alpha_j})$ .

But it is easy to prove that:

$$F(p^\alpha) = \begin{cases} \frac{\alpha}{3}(1+p+p^2)+1 & \text{for } \alpha = 3k; \\ \frac{\alpha+2}{3}(1+p+p^2)-p & \text{for } \alpha = 3k+1; \\ \frac{\alpha+1}{3}(1+p+p^2) & \text{for } \alpha = 3k, k \in \mathbb{N}, \text{ for every prime } p \end{cases}$$

Using the function  $h_p$ , we can write  $F(p^\alpha) = \frac{3-\overline{\alpha}}{3}(1+p+p^2) + h_p(\alpha)$ , therefore we have the demanded expression of  $F(n)$ .

**REMARK 14.** The expression of  $F(n)$ , where  $F$  is the sumatory function of  $\tilde{g}$ , is similar, but it is necessary to replace

$\frac{\overline{\alpha_1 + 3 - \alpha_1}}{3}$  by  $\frac{\overline{\alpha_1 + m - \alpha_1}}{m}$  (where  $\overline{\alpha_1}$  is now the remainder of the division of  $\alpha_1$  by  $m$  and the sum  $1 + p_{i_1} + p_{i_1}^2$  by  $\sum_{k=0}^{m-1} p_{i_1}^k$ ) and to define an adapted function  $h_p$ .

In the sequel we study some equations which involve the function  $g$ .

1. Find the solutions of the equations  $x \cdot g(x) = a$ , where  $x, a \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

If  $a$  is not a perfect cube, then the above equation has not solutions.

If  $a$  is a perfect cube,  $a = b^3, b \in \mathbb{N}^*$ , where  $b = p_{i_1}^{\alpha_1} \cdot p_{i_2}^{\alpha_2} \cdots p_{i_k}^{\alpha_k}$  is the prime factorization of  $b$ , then, taking into account of the definition of the function  $g$ , we have the solutions  $x = b^3 / d_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k}$  where  $d_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k}$  can be every product  $p_{i_1}^{\beta_1} p_{i_2}^{\beta_2} \cdots p_{i_k}^{\beta_k}$  where  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_k$  take an arbitrary value which belongs of the set  $\{0, 1, 2\}$ .

In the case when  $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_k = 0$  we find the special solution  $x = b^3$ , when  $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_k = 1$ , the solution  $p_{i_1}^{3\beta_1-1} p_{i_2}^{3\beta_2-1} \cdots p_{i_k}^{3\beta_k-1}$  and when  $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_k = 2$ , the solution  $p_{i_1}^{3\beta_1-2} p_{i_2}^{3\beta_2-2} \cdots p_{i_k}^{3\beta_k-2}$ .

We find in this way  $1 + 2C_k^1 + 2^2 C_k^1 + \dots + 2^k C_k^k = 3^k$  different solutions, where  $k$  is the number of the prime divisors of  $b$ .

2. Prove that the following equations have not natural solutions:

$xg(x) + yg(y) + zg(z) = 4$  or  $xg(x) + yg(y) + zg(z) = 5$ . Give a generalization.

Because  $xg(x) = a^3, yg(y) = b^3, zg(z) = c^3$  and the equations  $a^3 + b^3 + c^3 = 4$  or  $a^3 + b^3 + c^3 = 5$  have not natural solutions, then the assertion holds.

We can also say that the equations  $(xg(x))^n + (yg(y))^n + (zg(z))^n = 4$  or  $(xg(x))^n + (yg(y))^n + (zg(z))^n = 5$  have not natural solutions, because the equations  $a^{3n} + b^{3n} + c^{3n} = 4$  or  $a^{3n} + b^{3n} + c^{3n} = 5$  have not.

3. Find all solutions of the equation  $xg(x) - yg(y) = 999$ .

Because  $xg(x) = a^3$  and  $yg(y) = b^3$  we must give the solutions of the equation  $a^3 - b^3 = 999$ , which are  $(a=10, b=1)$  and  $(a=12, b=9)$ .

In the first case:  $a=10, b=1$  we have  $xa(x) = 10^3 = 2^3 \cdot 5^3$

$$\Rightarrow x_0 \in \{10^3, 2^2 \cdot 5^3, 2^3 \cdot 5^2, 2 \cdot 5^3, 2^3 \cdot 5, 2^2 \cdot 5^2, 2^2 \cdot 5, 2 \cdot 5^2, 2 \cdot 5\}$$

and  $yb(y)=1 \Rightarrow y_0 = 1$  so we have 9 different solutions  $(x_0, y_0)$ .

In the second case:  $a=12, b=9$  we have  $xa(x) = 12^3 = 2^6 \cdot 3^3$

$$\Rightarrow x_0 \in \{2^6 \cdot 3^3, 2^5 \cdot 3^3, 2^6 \cdot 3^2, 2^4 \cdot 3^3, 2^6 \cdot 3, 2^5 \cdot 3^2, 2^4 \cdot 3^2, 2^5 \cdot 3, 2^4 \cdot 3\}$$

and  $yb(y)=9^3 = 3^9 \Rightarrow y_0 \in \{3^9, 3^8, 3^7\}$  so we have another  $9 \cdot 3 = 27$  different solutions

$(x_0, y_0)$ .

4. It is easy to observe that the equation  $g(x)=1$  has an infinite number of solutions: all perfect cube numbers.



5. Find the solutions of the equation  $g(x) + g(y) + g(z) = g(x)g(y)g(z)$ .

The same problem when the function is  $\tilde{g}$ .

It is easy to prove that the solutions are, in the first case, the permutations of the sets  $\{u^3, 4v^3, 9t^3\}$ , where  $u, v, t \in \mathbb{N}^*$ , and in the second case  $\{u^m, 2^{m-1}v^m, 3^{m-1}t^m\}$ ,  $u, v, t \in \mathbb{N}^*$ .

Using the same idea of [1], it is easy to find the solutions of the following equations which involve the function  $g$ :

a)  $g(x) = kg(y)$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$ ,  $k > 1$

b)  $Ag(x) + Bg(y) + Cg(z) = 0$ ,  $A, B, C \in \mathbb{Z}^*$

c)  $Ag(x) + Bg(y) = C$ ,  $A, B, C \in \mathbb{Z}^*$ , and to find also the solutions of the above equations when we replace the function  $g$  by  $\tilde{g}$ .

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