

## On square factors of terms of binary recurring sequences and the *ABC* Conjecture

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**Abstract.** Assuming that the (*ABC*) Conjecture is true, we prove that for each binary recurring sequence with terms  $U_n$ , there exist infinitely many primes  $p$  such that  $p^2$  does not divide  $U_{p-\left(\frac{D}{p}\right)}$ . This generalizes the result of Silverman about the incongruence of Wieferich  $a^{p-1} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$ .

### § 1. Introduction

By Fermat's little theorem, if  $a > 1$  and  $p$  is a prime number not dividing  $a$ , then  $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ . If  $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$  we say that  $p$  satisfies the congruence of Wieferich for the basis  $a$ . This congruence has first appeared in a theorem of Wieferich concerning Fermat's last theorem (see RIBENBOIM [9]). Due to the work of INKERI [5], AALTONEN and INKERI [1], and more recently of MIHĂILESCU [6], [7] the study of this congruence has become relevant in connection with Catalan's conjecture. Very few examples of primes satisfying the congruence of Wieferich are known, despite extensive calculations. For base 2, the only known primes  $p$  satisfying the congruence are 1093 and 3511 (the search was done for  $p < 4 \times 10^{12}$  in [2] and continued to  $p < 42 \times 10^{12}$  by R. BROWN and R. MCINTOSH, unpublished). Therefore in most computed cases the incongruence of Wieferich  $a^{p-1} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$  holds. Nevertheless the following statement has never been proved:

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1.1. For each basis  $a \geq 2$  there exist infinitely many primes  $p$  such that  $a^{p-1} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$ .

In [17] SILVERMAN proved:

1.2. If the  $(ABC)$  Conjecture is true then the statement 1.1 is also true.

In [14] we gave a different and simpler proof of 1.2.

For more information about Wieferich's congruence the reader may consult [10], [11].

For each integer  $a \geq 2$  the numbers  $a^n - 1$  (for  $n \geq 0$ ) are the terms of a binary recurring sequence. Our purpose in this paper is to extend the concept of Wieferich congruence and incongruence to binary recurring sequences, to formulate the analogue of 1.1 and to prove the result corresponding to 1.2.

## §2. Preliminaries and requisite results

### A. Binary recurring sequences

Let  $P > 0$ ,  $Q \neq 0$  be integers such that  $\gcd(P, Q) = 1$  and  $D = P^2 - 4Q \neq 0$ . Let  $U_0 = 0$ ,  $U_1 = 1$ ,  $V_0 = 2$ ,  $V_1 = P$  and for all  $n \geq 2$  let

$$U_n = PU_{n-1} - QU_{n-2}$$

$$V_n = PV_{n-1} - QV_{n-2}.$$

$\mathcal{U} = \mathcal{U}(P, Q) = (U_n)_{n \geq 0}$  and  $\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{V}(P, Q) = (V_n)_{n \geq 0}$  are the *binary recurring sequences of first kind* (respectively *of second kind*) with parameters  $(P, Q)$ . If  $\alpha = \frac{P+\sqrt{D}}{2}$ ,  $\beta = \frac{P-\sqrt{D}}{2}$  then  $\alpha, \beta$  are the roots of  $X^2 - PX + Q = 0$ . Below we list well-known facts about these sequences which will be required in this paper. For details, see [11] or [15].

2.1. For all  $n \geq 0$ :

$$U_n = \frac{\alpha^n - \beta^n}{\alpha - \beta}, \quad V_n = \alpha^n + \beta^n.$$

2.2. For all  $n \geq 0$ :

$$V_n^2 - DU_n^2 = 4Q^n.$$

2.3. If  $1 \leq m < n$  then  $U_m \mid U_n$  if and only if  $m \mid n$ .

2.4. If  $1 < m < n$  then  $V_m \mid V_n$  if and only if  $m \mid n$  and  $\frac{n}{m}$  is odd.

Let  $d = \gcd(m, n)$ . Then we have:

2.5.  $\gcd(U_m, U_n) = U_d.$

2.6.  $\gcd(V_m, V_n) = \begin{cases} V_d & \text{when } \frac{m}{d}, \frac{n}{d} \text{ are odd,} \\ 1 \text{ or } 2 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

2.7.  $\gcd(U_m, V_n) = \begin{cases} V_d & \text{when } \frac{m}{d} \text{ is even so } \frac{n}{d} \text{ is odd,} \\ 1 \text{ or } 2 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

2.8.  $\gcd(U_m, Q) = \gcd(V_m, Q) = 1$

for all  $m \geq 1$ ,  $\gcd(D, Q) = 1$ .

2.9. 
$$\begin{aligned} U_{2m} &= U_m V_m, \\ V_{2m} &= V_m^2 - 2Q^m \end{aligned} \quad \text{for all } m \geq 0.$$

2.10. If  $r \geq 1$ ,  $m \geq 1$  and  $m$  is odd then  $U_{rm} = U_r Z$  where

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= D^{\frac{m-1}{2}} U_r^{m-1} + \frac{m}{1} Q^r D^{\frac{n-3}{2}} U_r^{m-3} + \frac{m}{2} \binom{m-3}{1} Q^{2r} D^{\frac{m-5}{2}} U_r^{m-5} \\ &+ \dots + \frac{m}{i} \binom{m-i-1}{i-1} Q^{ir} D^{\frac{m-2i-1}{2}} U_r^{m-2i-1} + \dots + m Q^{\frac{m-1}{2}r}. \end{aligned}$$

2.11. If  $r \geq 1$ ,  $m \geq 1$  and  $m$  is odd, then  $V_{mr} = V_r T$  where

$$\begin{aligned} T &= V_r^{m-1} - \frac{m}{1} Q^r V_r^{m-3} + \frac{m}{2} \binom{m-3}{1} Q^{2r} V_r^{m-5} - \dots \\ &\dots + (-1)^i \frac{m}{i} \binom{m-i-1}{i-1} Q^{ir} V_r^{m-2i-1} \pm \dots + (-1)^{\frac{m-1}{2}} m Q^{\frac{m-1}{2}r}. \end{aligned}$$

We write  $p \mid \mathcal{U}$ , respectively  $p \mid \mathcal{V}$  and we say that the prime  $p$  divides the sequence  $\mathcal{U}$ , respectively  $\mathcal{V}$ , if there exists  $n \geq 1$  such that  $p \mid U_n$ , respectively  $p \mid V_n$ . In this situation there exists the smallest such index, which is denoted by  $r = r(p)$  for the sequence  $\mathcal{U}$ , and denoted by  $s = s(p)$

for the sequence  $\mathcal{V}$ . The index  $r(p)$ , respectively  $s(p)$  is called the *rank of appearance of  $p$  in  $\mathcal{U}$* , respectively in  $\mathcal{V}$ . Then  $p \mid U_n$  if and only if  $r(p) \mid n$ , while  $p \mid V_n$  if and only if  $s(p) \mid n$  and  $\frac{n}{s(p)}$  is odd.

For the sequences  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $\mathcal{V}$  we have the following results about the rank of appearance:

2.12. If  $P$  is even and  $Q$  is odd then  $r(2) = 2$  and  $s(2) = 1$ . If  $P$  is odd and  $Q$  is even then 2 does not divide  $\mathcal{U}$ , nor  $\mathcal{V}$ . If  $P$  and  $Q$  are both odd, then  $r(2) = 3$  and  $s(2) = 3$ .

2.13. Let  $p$  be an odd prime. If  $p \mid P$  but  $p \nmid Q$  then  $r(p) = 2$ . If  $p \nmid P$  but  $p \mid Q$  then  $p$  does not divide  $\mathcal{U}$ . If  $p \nmid PQ$  but  $p \mid D$  then  $r(p) = p$ . Finally, if  $p \nmid PQD$  then  $r(p) \mid \left(p - \left(\frac{D}{p}\right)\right)$ , where  $\left(\frac{D}{p}\right)$  is the Legendre symbol.

For  $p > 2$ , no analogous fully satisfactory result is valid for the sequence  $\mathcal{V}$  (see [11] or [15]).

The following lemma, proved in [12] will be needed; the proof below is simpler and it is included for the convenience of the reader.

**Lemma 2.14.** For  $r \geq 1$  and  $m \geq 1$ ,  $U_{rm} = U_r Z$ , where  $\gcd(U_r, Z)$  divides  $m$ .

PROOF. If  $m$  is odd, by 2.10  $U_{rm} = U_r Z$  and  $\gcd(U_r, Z)$  divides  $m$ . Now let  $m = 2^e n$ , where  $e \geq 1$  and  $n$  is odd. Then

$$U_{rm} = U_{nr} V_{nr} V_{2nr} \dots V_{2^{e-1}nr}.$$

Since  $n$  is odd we have  $U_{nr} = U_r Z_0$  with  $\gcd(U_r, Z_0)$  dividing  $n$ . Let  $Z = Z_0 V_{nr} V_{2nr} \dots V_{2^{e-1}nr}$ . Then  $U_{rm} = U_r Z$ . Since  $\gcd(U_r, V_{2^i nr}) = 1$  or 2 (for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, e - 1$ ). Then  $\gcd(U_r, Z)$  divides  $2^e n = m$ .  $\square$

For the sequence  $\mathcal{V}$  we also have:

**Lemma 2.15.** If  $r \geq 1$ ,  $m \geq 1$  and  $m$  is odd, then  $V_{rm} = V_r T$  where  $\gcd(V_r, T)$  divides  $m$ .

PROOF. This follows at once from 2.11.  $\square$

*Note 2.16.* The condition that  $D \neq 0$  implies that the terms of  $\mathcal{U}$ , as well as the terms of  $\mathcal{V}$  are all distinct.

## B. Powerful numbers

Let  $p$  be any prime number; we denote by  $v_p$  the  $p$ -adic valuation.

Let  $k \geq 2$ . The non-zero integer  $n$  is said to be  $k$ -powerful when  $v_p(n) = 0$  or  $v_p(n) \geq k$  for every prime number  $p$ . A 2-powerful number is simply called a powerful number. If  $k \leq h$  every  $h$ -powerful number is also a  $k$ -powerful number.

The reader may wish to consult RIBENBOIM [10] or [15] to learn about the interesting properties of powerful numbers.

It is immediate that every powerful number  $n$  may be written (but not in a unique way) in the form  $n = a^2b^3$ . For any number  $n$ , the factor  $n^* = \prod p^{v_p(n)}$  (for all  $p$  such that  $v_p(n) \geq k$ ) is called the  $k$ -powerful part of  $n$ . Then  $n = n^*n'$  with  $\gcd(n^*, n') = 1$ .

If  $n$  is any non-zero integer, its *radical* is defined to be

$$\text{rad}(n) = \prod_{p|n} p.$$

We note:

2.17. If  $m, n \neq 0$  then  $\text{rad}(mn) \leq \text{rad}(m) \cdot \text{rad}(n)$ . If  $m \mid n$  then  $\text{rad}(m) \mid \text{rad}(n)$ . If  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$  then  $\text{rad}(mn) = \text{rad}(m) \cdot \text{rad}(n)$ .

2.18. If  $n$  is  $k$ -powerful then

$$(\text{rad}(n))^k \leq |n|.$$

## C. Consequences of the (ABC) Conjecture

First we recall the statement of the (ABC) Conjecture.

2.19. (ABC) Conjecture. For every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $K > 0$  (depending on  $\varepsilon$ ) such that if  $A, B, C$  are non-zero coprime integers such that  $A + B + C = 0$ . Then

$$\max \{|A|, |B|, |C|\} < K [\text{rad}(ABC)]^{1+\varepsilon}.$$

There are many consequences of the (ABC) Conjecture for solutions of diophantine equations.

The following statement is not very different from some results in [13] and in [14]. For the convenience of the reader we give the proof below.

2.20. Let  $A, B, C, R$  be positive square-free integers. Let  $S$  be the set of all triples  $(x, y, z)$  of non-zero integers such that:

- 1) There exist integers  $\ell, m \geq 2$  such that  $\frac{1}{\ell} + \frac{1}{m} < 1$  and  $x$  is  $\ell$ -powerful and  $y$  is  $m$ -powerful;
- 2)  $\text{rad}(z) \mid R$ ;
- 3) there exist non-zero integers  $a, b, c$  (which depend on the triple  $(x, y, z)$ ) such that  $\text{rad}(a) \mid A, \text{rad}(b) \mid B, \text{rad}(c) \mid C, \text{gcd}(ax, by, cz) = 1$  and  $ax + by + cz = 0$ .

If the  $(ABC)$  Conjecture is assumed to be true then  $S$  is a finite set.

PROOF. Let  $S_1 = \{(x, y, z) \in S \mid |y| \leq |x|\}$ , and  $S_2 = \{(x, y, z) \in S \mid |x| \leq |y|\}$ . We show that  $S_1$  is a finite set. By symmetry, we deduce that  $S$  is also finite.

Let  $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{6}$ . By the  $(ABC)$  Conjecture there exists  $K > 0$  such that if  $(x, y, z) \in S_1$  then

$$|x| \leq |ax| < Kr^{\frac{7}{6}}$$

where

$$r = \text{rad}(ax \cdot by \cdot cz) \leq \text{rad}(abc) \cdot |x|^{\frac{1}{\ell}} |y|^{\frac{1}{m}} \text{rad}(z) \leq ABCR |x|^{\frac{1}{\ell} + \frac{1}{m}}.$$

So  $|x| < K'|x|^{\left(\frac{1}{\ell} + \frac{1}{m}\right)\frac{7}{6}}$  where  $K' = K(ABCR)^{\frac{7}{6}}$ . Since  $\frac{1}{\ell} + \frac{1}{m} \leq \frac{5}{6}$  then  $|x| < K'|x|^{\frac{35}{36}}$  hence  $|x| < (K')^{36}$ . So  $|x|$  is bounded, hence also  $|y|$  is bounded. Since  $ax + by + cz = 0$  then  $|z|$  is also bounded, showing that  $S_1$  is a finite set.  $\square$

We shall now indicate a consequence of the  $(ABC)$  Conjecture concerning powerful terms in binary recurring sequences. A proof that there are only finitely many powerful Fibonacci numbers (under the assumption of the  $(ABC)$  Conjecture may be found in the paper of MOLLIN [8]. It should be noted that the proofs constants flaws (it considers only Fibonacci numbers with odd indices and does not take into account that if  $3 \mid n$  then the Fibonacci number  $U_n$  and the Lucas number  $V_n$  are both even); these flaws are, of converse very easy to repair.

In the paper of RIBENBOIM and WALSH [16] there are results about the powerful part of terms  $U_n$  and  $V_n$ . As a special case, it was shown for any binary recurring sequences:

2.21. If the  $(ABC)$  Conjecture is assumed to be true then the sets  $\{n \geq 1 \mid U_n \text{ is powerful}\}$  and  $\{n \geq 1 \mid V_n \text{ is powerful}\}$  are finite.

A direct proof of this result is very simple. But we shall actually prove a stronger statement which will be needed in the main Theorem 3.1.

For the sequence  $\mathcal{V}(P, Q)$  we write each terms as a product  $V_n = V_n^\# V_n'$  where  $V_n^\# = \prod_{p \mid 2P} p^{v_p(V_n)}$ ,  $V_n' = \prod_{p \nmid 2P} p^{v_p(V_n)}$ . So  $\gcd(V_n^\#, V_n') = 1$ ; moreover  $V_n$  is powerful if and only if both  $V_n'$  and  $V_n^\#$  are powerful. Thus  $\{n \geq 1 \mid V_n \text{ is powerful}\} \subseteq \{n \geq 1 \mid V_n' \text{ is powerful}\}$ . These sets may be different:  $V_2(4, -1) = 18 = 2 \times 9$  is not powerful but  $V_2'(4, -1) = 9$  is.

Our purpose now is to prove:

2.22. If the  $(ABC)$  Conjecture is assumed to be true then the sets  $\{n \geq 1 \mid U_n \text{ is powerful}\}$  and  $\{n \geq 1 \mid V_n' \text{ is powerful}\}$  are finite.

PROOF. Let  $N = \{n \geq 1 \mid U_n \text{ is powerful or } V_n' \text{ is powerful}\}$ . The proof hinges on the identity  $V_n^2 - DU_n^2 = 4Q^n$  and we shall use the facts that  $\gcd(V_n, Q) = \gcd(U_n, Q) = 1$  for every  $n \geq 1$  and  $\gcd(D, Q) = 1$ . We distinguish several cases, according to the parity of  $P, Q$ .

Let  $A = \text{rad}(2P)$ ,  $B = \text{rad}(2D)$ ,  $C = 2$ ,  $R = \text{rad}(Q)$  and let  $S$  be the set of triples associated to  $A, B, C, R$ , introduced in 2.20. We shall define an injective mapping  $n \mapsto (W_n^2, T_n^2, Q^n)$  from  $N$  to  $S$ . By 2.20  $S$  is a finite set, so  $N$  is also a finite set. Now we come to the actual proof.

Case 1.  $P$  is even, hence  $Q$  is odd.  $4 \mid D$  and  $V_n$  is even for every  $n \geq 1$ . Let  $a_n = \left(\frac{V_n^\#}{2}\right)^2$ ,  $b_n = -\frac{D}{4}$ ,  $c_n = -1$ ,  $W_n = V_n'$ ,  $T_n = U_n$ . So  $a_n W_n^2 + b_n T_n^2 + c_n Q^n = 0$ ,  $\gcd(a_n W_n^2, b_n T_n^2, c_n Q^n) = 1$ . Also if  $U_n$  is powerful, then  $T_n^2$  is 4-powerful,  $W_n^2$  is 2-powerful. If  $V_n'$  is powerful, then  $W_n^2$  is 4-powerful and  $T_n^2$  is 2-powerful. Therefore  $(W_n^2, T_n^2, Q^n) \in S$  for every  $n \in N$ . Clearly the mapping  $n \mapsto (W_n^2, T_n^2, Q^n)$  is injective, hence in Case 1 the set  $N$  is finite.

Case 2.  $P$  is odd and  $Q$  is even, so  $D$  is odd and  $V_n$  is odd for every  $n \geq 1$ . Now let  $a_n = (V_n^\#)^2$ ,  $b_n = -D$ ,  $c_n = -4$ ,  $W_n = V_n'$ ,  $T_n = U_n$ . We verify in the same way that  $(W_n^2, T_n^2, Q^n) \in S$  and so  $N$  is also finite in Case 2.

Case 3.  $P$  and  $Q$  are odd, hence  $D$  is odd. If  $3 \nmid n$  then  $U_n$  and  $V_n$  are odd; if  $3 \mid n$  then  $U_n$  and  $V_n$  are even.

- (a)  $3 \nmid n$ . We put  $a_n = (V_n^\sharp)^2$ ,  $b_n = -D$ ,  $c_n = -4$ ,  $W_n = V_n'$ ,  $T_n = U_n$ .  
As before if  $n \in N$  then  $(W_n^2, T_n^2, Q^n) \in S$ .
- (b)  $3 \mid n$ . We consider two possibilities
- (b1)  $U_n$  is powerful. Since  $U_n$  is even, then  $v_2(U_n) \geq 2$ .
- If  $v_2(U_n) = 2$  let  $a_n = \left(\frac{V_n^\sharp}{2}\right)^2$ ,  $b_n = -4D$ ,  $c_n = -1$ ,  
 $W_n = V_n'$  and  $T_n = \frac{U_n}{4}$ , hence  $T_n$  is powerful. As before  
 $(W_n^2, T_n^2, Q^n) \in S$ .
  - If  $v_2(U_n) \geq 3$  let  $a_n = \left(\frac{V_n^\sharp}{2}\right)^2$ ,  $b_n = -D$ ,  $c_n = -1$ ,  $W_n = V_n'$   
and  $T_n = \frac{U_n}{2}$  so  $T_n$  is powerful and again  $(W_n^2, T_n^2, Q^n) \in S$ .
- (b2)  $V_n'$  is powerful. Let  $a_n = \left(\frac{V_n^\sharp}{2}\right)^2$ ,  $b_n = -D$ ,  $c_n = -1$ ,  $W_n = V_n'$ ,  
 $T_n = \frac{U_n}{2}$ ; then  $(W_n^2, T_n^2, Q^n) \in S$ .

This completes the discussion of all the cases. □

Now let  $a > b \geq 1$  with  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ . Let  $P = a + b$ ,  $Q = ab$ , so  
 $D = (a - b)^2$ . The integers  $U_n \in \mathcal{U}$ ,  $V_n \in \mathcal{V}$  are given by  $U_n = \frac{a^n - b^n}{a - b}$ ,  
 $V_n = a^n + b^n$ .

In particular, if  $a = 2$ ,  $b = 1$  then  $U_n = 2^n - 1$ ,  $V_n = 2^n + 1$ .  
Thus, we obtain, in particular the well-known consequences of the  $(ABC)$   
Conjecture:

*2.23.* The  $(ABC)$  Conjecture implies that there are only finitely num-  
bers  $2^n - 1$  or  $2^n + 1$  which are powerful.

In particular these are only finitely many Mersenne numbers  $M_q =$   
 $2^q - 1$  (with  $q$  prime) or Fermat numbers  $F_m = 2^{2^m} + 1$  (with  $m \geq 0$ )  
which are powerful.

No proof of these statements is known without assuming the truth of  
the  $(ABC)$  Conjecture. This matter has been more fully discussed in [15].

### §3. The new theorem

We keep the same notations. In particular,  $r(p)$  denotes the rank of  
appearance of  $p$  in  $\mathcal{U}$ , when  $p \mid \mathcal{U}$ , and  $s(p)$  denotes the rank of appearance  
of  $p$  in  $\mathcal{V}$  when  $p \mid \mathcal{V}$ .



**Theorem 3.1.** *We assume that the (ABC) Conjecture is true. Then:*

- 1) *The set  $\left\{ p \text{ prime, } p \nmid 2PQD \mid \text{for every } n, \text{ either } p^2 \nmid U_n \text{ or } p \mid \frac{n}{r(p)} \right\}$  is infinite.*
- 2) *The set  $\left\{ p \text{ prime, } p \nmid 2PQD \mid p \text{ divides } \mathcal{V} \text{ and for every } n \text{ either } p^2 \nmid V_n \text{ or } p \mid \frac{n}{s(p)} \right\}$  is infinite.*

PROOF. 1) By 2.22 there exists  $n_0$  such that  $U_n$  is not powerful for every  $n > n_0$ . Let  $n_0 < q_1 < q_2 < \dots$  where each  $q_i$  is a prime number. Then  $\gcd(U_{q_i}, U_{q_j}) = 1$  for  $i \neq j$ . For each  $i \geq 1$  there exists a prime  $p_i$  such that  $p_i \mid U_{q_i}$  but  $p_i^2 \nmid U_{q_i}$ . Since  $\gcd(U_{q_i}, U_{q_j}) = 1$  for  $i \neq j$  then  $p_i \neq p_j$ . Hence there exists  $i_0 \geq 1$  such that  $p_i \nmid 2PQD$  for all  $i \geq i_0$ .

Let  $r_i = r(p_i)$  so  $r_i \neq 1$  and  $r_i \mid q_i$  hence  $r_i = q_i$ .

Let  $n$  be such that  $p_i^2 \mid U_n$ , so  $r_i = q_i$  divides  $n$  and by Lemma 2.14  $U_n = U_{q_i}Z$  where  $\gcd(U_{q_i}, Z)$  divides  $\frac{n}{q_i}$ . By hypothesis  $p_i \mid U_{q_i}$  but  $p_i^2 \nmid U_{q_i}$ ; hence  $p_i \mid Z$  and so  $p_i \mid \frac{n}{q_i} = \frac{n}{r_i}$ .

This shows that the set of all primes  $p \nmid 2PQD$ , such that if  $p^2 \mid U_n$  then  $p \mid \frac{n}{r(p)}$ , is an infinite set.

2) By 2.22 there exists  $n_0$  such that if  $n > n_0$  then  $V'_n$  is not powerful. Let  $n_0 < q_1 < q_2 < \dots$  where each  $q_i$  is an odd prime. We have  $\gcd(V'_{q_i}, V'_{q_j}) \mid \gcd(V_{q_i}, V_{q_j}) = P$ , but  $\gcd(V'_{q_i}, P) = 1$ , so  $\gcd(V'_{q_i}, V'_{q_j}) = 1$  for all  $i \neq j$ . For each  $i \geq 1$  there exists a prime  $p_i$  such that  $p_i \mid V'_{q_i}$  but  $p_i^2 \nmid V'_{q_i}$ . Then  $p_i \neq p_j$  for all  $i \neq j$ . Hence there exists  $i_0$  such that  $p_i \nmid 2PQD$  for all  $i \geq i_0$ . Each  $p_i \mid V'_{q_i}$ , so  $p_i \mid V_{q_i}$ . Let  $n$  be such that  $p_i^2 \mid V_n$ ; we denote by  $s_i = s(p_i)$ . Since  $p_i \mid V'_{q_i}$  then  $p_i \mid V_{q_i}$  hence  $s_i \mid q_i$ . But  $p_i \nmid P$  so  $s_i \neq 1$  therefore  $s_i = q_i$ . We also have:  $s_i = q_i$  divides  $n$  with  $\frac{n}{q_i}$  odd and by Lemma 2.14.  $V_n = V_{q_i}T$  where  $\gcd(V_i, T)$  divides  $\frac{n}{q_i}$ . Since  $p_i \mid V'_{q_i}$  then  $p_i \mid V_{q_i}$ ; if  $p_i^2 \mid V_{q_i}$ , since  $p_i \nmid 2P$  then  $p_i^2 \mid V'_{q_i}$  which is absurd. So  $p_i^2 \nmid V_{q_i}$ , hence  $p_i \mid T$  and  $p_i \mid \frac{n}{q_i}$ . This shows that the set of all primes  $p, p \nmid 2PQD$  such that if  $p^2 \mid V_n$  then  $p \mid \frac{n}{s(p)}$  is an infinite set.

□

We obtain the immediate corollary:

**Corollary 3.2.** *There exist infinitely many primes  $p$  such that  $p^2 \nmid U_{p-\left(\frac{D}{p}\right)}$ .*

PROOF. Consider the set  $S$  of all primes  $p$  such that  $p \nmid 2PQD$  and if  $p^2 \mid U_n$  then  $p \mid \frac{n}{r(p)}$ . Let  $p \in S$ . Since  $p \mid U_{p-\left(\frac{D}{p}\right)}$  but  $p \nmid \frac{p-\left(\frac{D}{p}\right)}{r(p)}$  because  $\left(\frac{D}{p}\right) = \pm 1$ , then  $p^2 \nmid U_{p-\left(\frac{D}{p}\right)}$ , by Theorem 3.1, we deduce that there are infinitely many primes  $p$  such that  $p^2 \nmid U_{p-\left(\frac{D}{p}\right)}$ .  $\square$

We obtain the following corollary, which includes Silverman's result mentioned in the Introduction. Let  $a > 1$ ,  $P = a + 1$ ,  $Q = a$  and consider the sequences  $\mathcal{U}(P, Q)$ ,  $\mathcal{V}(P, Q)$ . Then  $U_n = \frac{a^n - 1}{a - 1}$ ,  $V_n = a^n + 1$ . We have  $D = P^2 - 4Q = (a - 1)^2$ , so  $U_{p-\left(\frac{D}{p}\right)} = \frac{a^{p-1} - 1}{a - 1}$ . We also note that  $p$  divides  $\mathcal{V}$  if and only if  $p \nmid a$  and there exists the smallest  $s$  such that  $a^s \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$  so the order of  $a$  modulo  $p$  is even, namely  $2s$ . Now we indicate the corollary.

**Corollary 3.3.** *We assume that the (ABC) Conjecture is true. Let  $a > 1$ , then:*

- 1) *There exist infinitely many primes  $p$  such that  $a^{p-1} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$ .*
- 2) *There exist infinitely many primes  $p$  such that  $p \nmid a$ , the order of  $a$  modulo  $p$  is  $2s$  and  $a^s \not\equiv -1 \pmod{p^2}$ .*

PROOF. 1) We consider the sequence  $\mathcal{U}(a + 1, a)$ , with  $D = (a - 1)^2$ . By Corollary 3.2 there exist infinitely many primes  $p \nmid a(a + 1)(a - 1)$  such that  $p^2 \nmid U_{p-\left(\frac{D}{p}\right)} = \frac{a^{p-1} - 1}{a - 1}$ , hence  $a^{p-1} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$ .

2) By Theorem 3.1 there are infinitely many primes  $p$  such that  $p \mid \mathcal{V}(a + 1, a)$  and  $p^2 \nmid V_s$  where  $2s$  is the order of  $a$  modulo  $p$ . This translates into the statement (2).  $\square$

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