ON ODD PERFECT NUMBERS. II

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One of the oldest unsolved mathematical problems is the following one: Are there odd perfect numbers? So many interesting necessary conditions for an odd integer to be perfect have been found out. A bibliography of previous work is given by McCarthy [5].

Throughout this paper n denotes an odd perfect number.

The following results have been proved in [1] and [2] respectively:

(i) $1/2 < \sum_{p|n} (1/p) < 2 \log (\pi/2)$ $(\sim \cdot 903)$,

(ii) n must be of the form $12t+1$ or $36t+9$.

The bounds for $\sum_{p|n} (1/p)$ given in [1] have been improved in [3] as

(a) $$\frac{\log 2}{5 \log \left(\frac{5}{4}\right)} < \sum_{p|n} \frac{1}{p} < \log 2 + \frac{1}{338},$$

if n is of the form $12t + 1$,

(b) $$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{\log \frac{4}{3}}{5 \log \frac{5}{4}} < \sum_{p|n} \frac{1}{p} < \log \frac{18}{13} + \frac{53}{150},$$

if n is of the form $36t + 9$.

The object of this paper is to further improve the bounds for $\sum_{p|n} (1/p)$.

The following Tables I and II give numerical values for the bounds obtained in [3] and the bounds obtained in this paper respectively.

TABLE I

	Lower bound	Upper bound	Difference
(a)	.621	.696	.075
(b)	.591	.679	.088

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It can be easily seen from Table II that (a) if n is of the form $12t+1$, $.644<\sum_{p|n}(1/p)<.693$, which is of range .049, a one-third cut in the length of the interval of [3] and (b) if n is of the form $36t+9$, $.596<\sum_{p|n}(1/p)<.674$, which is of range .078, an improvement over [3] of about 12 per cent.

TABLE II

(α)	.644	.679	.035
(β)	.657	.693	.036
(γ)	.596	.674	.078
(δ)	.600	.662	.062

The bounds obtained are given by the following:

THEOREM. (α) *If n is of the form* $12t+1$ *and* $5|n$,

$$\frac{1}{5}+\frac{1}{7}+\frac{\log\frac{48}{35}}{11\log\frac{11}{10}}<\sum_{p|n}\frac{1}{p}<\frac{1}{5}+\frac{1}{2738}+\log\frac{50}{31}\cdot$$

(β) *If n is of the form* $12t+1$ *and* $5\nmid n$,

$$\frac{1}{7}+\frac{\log\frac{12}{7}}{11\log\frac{11}{10}}<\sum_{p|n}\frac{1}{p}<\log 2.$$

(γ) *If n is of the form* $36t+9$ *and* $5|n$,

$$\frac{1}{3}+\frac{1}{5}+\frac{\log\frac{16}{15}}{17\log\frac{17}{16}}<\sum_{p|n}\frac{1}{p}<\frac{1}{3}+\frac{1}{5}+\frac{1}{13}+\log\frac{65}{61}\cdot$$

(δ) *If n is of the form $36t+9$ and $5\nmid n$,*

$$\frac{1}{3}+\frac{\log\frac{4}{3}}{7\log\frac{7}{6}}<\sum_{p\mid n}\frac{1}{p}$$

$$<\frac{1}{3}+\frac{1}{338}+\log\frac{18}{13}\cdot$$

PROOF. We prove this theorem in various cases and in each case one can see that either the lower bound or the upper bound for $\sum_{p\mid n}(1/p)$ as stated in this theorem is further improved.

Euler proved that n must be of the form $p_0^{\alpha_0}\cdot x^2$, where p_0 is a prime of the form $4\lambda+1$, α_0 is of the form $4\mu+1$, $x>1$ and $(p_0, x)=1$. Hence we can write $n=p_0^{\alpha_0}\cdot p_1^{\alpha_1}\cdot p_2^{\alpha_2}\cdots p_k^{\alpha_k}$, where α_r is even for $1\leqq r\leqq k$. We shall suppose as we may do without loss of generality that $p_1<p_2<\cdots<p_k$. Let $\sigma(n)$ denote the sum of the positive divisors of n. Since n is a perfect number, we have $\sigma(n)=2n$, from which it can easily be seen that

$$\text{(A)}\qquad 2\prod_{r=0}^{k}\left(1-\frac{1}{p_r}\right)=\prod_{r=0}^{k}\left(1-\frac{1}{p_r^{\alpha_r+1}}\right). < 1.$$

Therefore

$$\text{(B)}\qquad \begin{aligned}\log 2 &< -\sum_{r=0}^{k}\log\left(1-\frac{1}{p_r}\right)\\ &=\sum_{r=0}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r}+\frac{1}{2}\sum_{r=0}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r^2}+\frac{1}{3}\sum_{r=0}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r^3}+\cdots.\end{aligned}$$

Taking logarithms of both sides of (A) and expressing them in series, we have

$$\text{(C)}\qquad \begin{aligned}\log 2 &=\sum_{r=0}^{k}\sum_{i=1}^{\infty}\left[\frac{1}{ip_r^i}-\frac{1}{ip_r^{(\alpha_r+1)i}}\right]\\ &=\sum_{r=0}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r}+\sum_{r=0}^{k}\sum_{i=1}^{\infty}\left[\frac{1}{(i+1)p_r^{i+1}}-\frac{1}{ip_r^{(\alpha_r+1)i}}\right].\end{aligned}$$

(a) Suppose n is of the form $12t+1$. In this case it has been proved in [3, p. 134] that p_0 is of the form $12N+1$ and hence $p_0\geqq 13$.

(a_1) If $5|n$ and $7|n$, then $p_1=5$, $p_2=7$ and $p_r\geqq 11$ for $3\leqq r\leqq k$. Now $\alpha_2\geqq 4$ for, if $\alpha_2=2$, then $\sigma(p_2^{\alpha_2})=3.19$ and since $\sigma(n)=2n$ it would follow that $3|n$, which cannot hold.

From (B), we get that

$$\log 2 < -\log\left(1-\frac{1}{5}\right)-\log\left(1-\frac{1}{7}\right)+\frac{1}{p_0}+\frac{1}{2}\cdot\frac{1}{11}\cdot\frac{1}{p_0}$$
$$+\frac{1}{3}\cdot\frac{1}{11^2}\cdot\frac{1}{p_0}+\cdots$$
$$+\sum_{r=3}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r}+\frac{1}{2}\cdot\frac{1}{11}\cdot\sum_{r=3}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r}$$
$$+\frac{1}{3}\cdot\frac{1}{11^2}\cdot\sum_{r=3}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r}+\cdots$$
$$=\log\frac{5}{4}+\log\frac{7}{6}+\left(\frac{1}{p_0}+\sum_{r=3}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r}\right)$$
$$\cdot\left(1+\frac{1}{2}\cdot\frac{1}{11}+\frac{1}{3}\cdot\frac{1}{11^2}+\cdots\right)$$
$$=\log\frac{5}{4}+\log\frac{7}{6}$$
$$+11\log\frac{11}{10}\left[\sum_{r=0}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r}-\frac{1}{5}-\frac{1}{7}\right]$$

therefore

$$\sum_{r=0}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r}>\frac{1}{5}+\frac{1}{7}+\frac{\log\dfrac{48}{35}}{11\log\dfrac{11}{10}}\cdot \tag{a_{1L}}$$

Also from (C), we get that

$$\log 2=\sum_{r=0}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r}+\sum_{r=1}^{k}\sum_{i=1}^{\infty}\left[\frac{1}{(i+1)p_r^{i+1}}-\frac{1}{ip_r^{(\alpha_r+1)i}}\right]$$
$$+\left(\frac{1}{2p_0^2}-\frac{1}{p_0^{\alpha_0+1}}\right)+\sum_{i=2}^{\infty}\left[\frac{1}{(i+1)p_0^{i+1}}-\frac{1}{ip_0^{(\alpha_0+1)i}}\right]. \tag{D}$$

Now each term in the brackets of the second summation is positive, since $\alpha_r\geqq 2$ for $r>0$, and hence the second sum is positive. Similarly the fourth sum is also positive, and $1/2p_0^2 - 1/p_0^{\alpha_0+1} \geqq -1/2p_0^2 \geqq -1/338$, since $\alpha_0 \geqq 1$ and $p_0 \geqq 13$. Therefore

$$\log 2 > \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty}\left[\frac{1}{(i+1)5^{i+1}} - \frac{1}{i(5^3)^i}\right]$$

$$+ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty}\left[\frac{1}{(i+1)7^{i+1}} - \frac{1}{i(7^5)^i}\right] - \frac{1}{338}, \text{ since } \alpha_1 \geqq 2 \text{ and } \alpha_2 \geqq 4$$

$$= \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} - \log\left(1 - \frac{1}{5}\right) - \frac{1}{5} + \log\left(1 - \frac{1}{5^3}\right)$$

$$- \log\left(1 - \frac{1}{7}\right) - \frac{1}{7} + \log\left(1 - \frac{1}{7^5}\right) - \frac{1}{338}.$$

Therefore

$$(a_{1R}) \qquad \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} < \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{338} + \log \frac{50 \cdot 2401}{31 \cdot 2801} < \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{2738} + \log \frac{50}{31}.$$

Hence by (a_{1L}) and (a_{1R}), (α) follows in this case.

(a_2) If $5 \mid n$ and $7 \nmid n$, then $p_1 = 5$ and $p_r \geqq 11$ for $2 \leqq r \leqq k$. Since α_0 is odd $(1+p_0) \mid \sigma(p_0^{\alpha_0})$ and hence $(1+p_0)/2 \mid n$ since $\sigma(n) = 2n$. Now p_0 is not 13, since otherwise it would follow that $7 \mid n$, which is not the case. Since p_0 is of the form $12N+1$, $p_0 \geqq 37$.

From (B) as in (a_1) we can get that

$$\log 2 < \log \frac{5}{4} + 11 \log \frac{11}{10}\left[\frac{1}{p_0} + \sum_{r=2}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r}\right]$$

$$= \log \frac{5}{4} + 11 \log \frac{11}{10}\left[\sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} - \frac{1}{5}\right];$$

therefore

$$(a_{2L}) \qquad \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} > \frac{1}{5} + \frac{\log \frac{8}{5}}{11 \log \frac{11}{10}} > \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{7} + \frac{\log \frac{48}{35}}{11 \log \frac{11}{10}}.$$

From (D), arguing in a similar way as in (a_1), we can get that

$$\log 2 > \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty}\left[\frac{1}{(i+1)5^{i+1}} - \frac{1}{i(5^3)^i}\right] - \frac{1}{2(37)^2}$$
$$= \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} - \log\left(1-\frac{1}{5}\right) - \frac{1}{5} + \log\left(1-\frac{1}{5^3}\right) - \frac{1}{2738}\cdot$$

Therefore

$$(a_{2R}) \qquad \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} < \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{2738} + \log\frac{50}{31}\cdot$$

Hence by (a_{2L}) and (a_{2R}), (α) follows in this case.

Thus (α) is proved.

(a_3) If $5\nmid n$ and $7|n$, then $p_1=7$ and $p_r \geqq 11$ for $2\leqq r\leqq k$. Now $\alpha_1 \geqq 4$ as we have seen in (a_1) that $\alpha_1 \neq 2$. From (B) as in the case (a_1), we get that

$$\log 2 < \log\frac{7}{6} + 11\log\frac{11}{10}\left[\sum_{r=0}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r} - \frac{1}{7}\right].$$

Therefore

$$(a_{3L}) \qquad \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} > \frac{1}{7} + \frac{\log\frac{12}{7}}{11\log\frac{11}{10}}\cdot$$

From (D), arguing in a similar way as in (a_1), we get that

$$\log 2 > \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} - \log\left(1-\frac{1}{7}\right) - \frac{1}{7} + \log\left(1-\frac{1}{7^5}\right) - \frac{1}{338}\cdot$$

Therefore

$$(a_{3R}) \qquad \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} < \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{338} + \log\frac{4802}{2801} < \log 2.$$

Hence by (a_{3L}) and (a_{3R}), (β) follows in this case.

(a_4) If $5\nmid n$ and $7\nmid n$, then $p_r \geqq 11$ for $1\leqq r\leqq k$.

From (B) as in (a_1), we get that $\log 2 < 11\log 11/10\cdot\sum_{r=0}^{k} 1/p_r$.

Therefore

$$(a_{4L})\qquad \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} > \frac{\log 2}{11 \log \frac{11}{10}} > \frac{1}{7} + \frac{\log \frac{12}{7}}{11 \log \frac{11}{10}}.$$

Now as in (a_2), we see that $(1+p_0)/2 \mid n$. Let π be any prime dividing $(1+p_0)/2$, then $\pi \mid n$ and hence $\pi = p_j$ for some j satisfying $1 \leqq j \leqq k$.

From (D), arguing in a similar way as in (a_1), we see that

$$\log 2 > \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{(i+1)p_j^{i+1}} - \frac{1}{i(p_j^3)^i} \right]$$

$$+ \left(\frac{1}{2p_0^2} - \frac{1}{p_0^2} \right), \qquad \text{since } \alpha_0 \geqq 1 \text{ and } \alpha_j \geqq 2$$

$$> \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} + \left(\frac{1}{2p_j^2} - \frac{1}{p_j^3} \right) - \frac{1}{2p_0^2}$$

$$> \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r}, \qquad \text{since } 11 \leqq p_j \leqq \frac{1+p_0}{2}.$$

Therefore

$$(a_{4R})\qquad \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} < \log 2.$$

Hence by (a_{4L}) and (a_{4R}), (β) follows in this case.

Thus (β) is proved.

(b) Suppose n is of the form $36t+9$. Since $3 \mid n$, $p_1 = 3$.

(b_1) If $5 \mid n$, then $7 \nmid n$ in virtue of the result that 3.5.7 does not divide n (proved in Kühnel [4]).

($b_{1\cdot 1}$) If at least one of 11 and 13 divides n, then obviously

$$\sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} > \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{13} > \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{\log \frac{16}{15}}{17 \log \frac{17}{16}}.$$

Otherwise,

($b_{1\cdot 2}$) $p_r \geqq 17$ for $2 \leqq r \leqq k$, if $p_0 = 5$; or

($b_{1\cdot 3}$) $p_r \geqq 17$ for $3 \leqq r \leqq k$, if $p_2 = 5$. In this particular case p_0 is also $\geqq 17$, since $p_0 \neq 5$ and p_0 is not 13, since we are in the case where neither 11 nor 13 divides n.

In both the cases ($b_{1\cdot 2}$) and ($b_{1\cdot 3}$), from (B) as in (a_1) we can get that

$$\log 2 < \log\frac{3}{2} + \log\frac{5}{4} + 17\log\frac{17}{16}\left[\sum_{r=0}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r} - \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{5}\right].$$

Hence in any case under (b_1), we have that

$$(b_{1L}) \qquad \sum_{r=0}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r} > \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{\log\frac{16}{15}}{17\log\frac{17}{16}}\cdot$$

For the upper bound, the proof for the cases (1) $p_0 \neq 5$ and (2) $p_0 = 5$ and $\alpha_1 \geqq 4$ are omitted as they are similar to the previous proofs. In both these cases we easily verify that the bound obtained is less than the bound obtained for the case $p_0 = 5$ and $\alpha_1 = 2$.

For this case, since $\alpha_1 = 2$, $\sigma(p_1^{\alpha_1}) = 13$, so $13 \mid n$.

We then obtain from (D), arguing in a similar way as in (a_1),

$$\log 2 > \sum_{r=0}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r} + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty}\left[\frac{1}{(i+1)3^{i+1}} - \frac{1}{i(3^3)^i}\right]$$
$$+ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty}\left[\frac{1}{(i+1)5^{i+1}} - \frac{1}{i(5^2)^i}\right] + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty}\left[\frac{1}{(i+1)13^{i+1}} - \frac{1}{i(13^3)^i}\right]$$
$$= \sum_{r=0}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r} - \log\left(1-\frac{1}{3}\right) - \frac{1}{3} + \log\left(1-\frac{1}{3^3}\right) - \log\left(1-\frac{1}{5}\right) - \frac{1}{5}$$
$$+ \log\left(1-\frac{1}{5^2}\right) - \log\left(1-\frac{1}{13}\right) - \frac{1}{13} + \log\left(1-\frac{1}{13^3}\right).$$

Therefore

$$(b_{1R}) \qquad \sum_{r=0}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r} < \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{13} + \log\frac{65}{61}\cdot$$

Hence by (b_{1L}) and (b_{1R}), (γ) follows.

(b_2) If $5 \nmid n$, then $p_r \geqq 7$ for $2 \leqq r \leqq k$ and $p_0 \geqq 13$.

From (B) as in (a_1) we get that

$$\log 2 < \log\frac{3}{2} + 7\log\frac{7}{6}\left[\sum_{r=0}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r} - \frac{1}{3}\right];$$

therefore

$$(b_{2L}) \qquad \sum_{r=0}^{k}\frac{1}{p_r} > \frac{1}{3} + \log\frac{4}{3}\bigg/ 7\log\frac{7}{6}\cdot$$

From (D), arguing in a similar way as in (a_1), we get that

$$\log 2 > \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} - \log\left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right) - \frac{1}{3} + \log\left(1 - \frac{1}{3^3}\right) - \frac{1}{338} \cdot$$

Therefore

$$(b_{2R}) \qquad \sum_{r=0}^{k} \frac{1}{p_r} < \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{338} + \log \frac{18}{13} \cdot$$

Hence by (b_{2L}) and (b_{2R}), (δ) follows.

Thus the proof of the theorem is complete.

References

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