IRREDUCIBILITY OF GENERALIZED HERMITE-LAGUERRE POLYNOMIALS

SHANTA LAISHRAM AND T. N. SHOREY

1. Introduction

Let n and $1 \leq \alpha < d$ be positive integers with $\gcd(\alpha, d) = 1$. Any positive rational q is of the form $q = u + \frac{\alpha}{d}$ where u is a non-negative integer. For integers $a_0, a_1, \cdots a_n$, let

$$G(x) := G_q(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1}(\alpha + (n-1+u)d)x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 \left(\prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (\alpha + (i+u)d) \right) x + a_0 \left(\prod_{i=0}^{n-1} (\alpha + (i+u)d) \right).$$

This is an extension of Hermite polynomials and generalized Laguerre polynomials. Therefore we call $G(x)$ the generalized Hermite-Laguerre polynomial. For an integer $\nu > 1$, we denote by $P(\nu)$ the the greatest prime factor of ν and we put $P(1) = 1$. We prove

Theorem 1. *Let $P(a_0 a_n) \leq 3$ and suppose $2 \nmid a_0 a_n$ if degree of $G_{\frac{2}{3}}(x)$ is 43. Then $G_{\frac{1}{3}}$ and $G_{\frac{2}{3}}$ are irreducible except possibly when $1 + 3(n-1)$ and $2 + 3(n-1)$ is a power of 2, respectively where it can be a product of a linear factor times a polynomial of degree $n - 1$.*

Theorem 2. *Let $1 \leq k < n$, $0 \leq u \leq k$ and $a_0 a_n \in \{\pm 2^t : t \geq 0, t \in \mathbb{Z}\}$. Then $G_{u+\frac{1}{2}}$ does not have a factor of degree k except possibly when $k \in \{1, n-1\}, u \geq 1$.*

Schur [Sch29] proved that $G_{\frac{1}{2}}(x^2)$ with $a_n = \pm 1$ and $a_0 = \pm 1$ are irreducible and this implies the irreducibility of H_{2n} where H_m is the $m-$th Hermite polynomial. Schur [Sch73] also established that Hermite polynomials H_{2n+1} are x times an irreducible polynomial by showing that $G_{\frac{3}{2}}(x^2)$ with $a_n = \pm 1$ and $a_0 = \pm 1$ is irreducible expect for some explicitly given finitely many values of n where it can have a quadratic factor. Further Allen and Filaseta [AlFi04] showed that $G_{\frac{1}{2}}(x^2)$ with $a_1 = \pm 1$ and $0 < |a_n| < 2n - 1$ is irreducible. Finch and Saradha [FiSa10] showed that $G_{u+\frac{1}{2}}$ with $0 \leq u \leq 13$ have no factor of degree $k \in [2, n-2]$ except for an explicitly given finite set of values of u where it may have a factor of degree 2.

From now onwards, we always assume $d \in \{2, 3\}$. A new ingredient in the proofs of Theorems 1 and 2 is the following result which we shall prove in Section 3.

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification: Primary 11A41, 11B25, 11N05, 11N13, 11C08, 11Z05.
Keywords: Irreducibility, Hermite-Laguerre Polynomials, Arithmetic Progressions, Primes.

Theorem 3. *Let $k \geq 2$ and $d = 2, 3$. Let m be a positive integer such that $d \nmid m$ and $m > dk$. Then*

$$P(m(m+d)\cdots(m+d(k-1))) > \begin{cases} 3.5k & \text{if } d=2 \text{ and } m \leq 2.5k \\ 4k & \text{if } d=2 \text{ and } m > 2.5k \\ 3k & \text{if } d=3 \end{cases} \tag{1}$$

unless $(m, k) \in \{(5, 2), (7, 2), (25, 2), (243, 2), (9, 4), (13, 5), (17, 6), (15, 7), (21, 8), (19, 9)\}$ *when* $d = 2$ *and* $(m, k) = (125, 2)$ *when* $d = 3$.

If $d = 2, 3$ and $m > dk$, this is an improvement of [LaSh06a].

In Section 4, we shall combine Theorem 3 with the irreducibility criterion from [ShTi10](see Lemma 4.1) to derive Theorems 1 and 2. This criterion come from Newton polygons. If p is a prime and m is a nonzero integer, we define $\nu(m) = \nu_p(m)$ to be the nonnegative integer such that $p^{\nu(m)}|m$ and $p^{\nu(m)+1} \nmid m$. We define $\nu(0) = +\infty$. Consider $f(x) = \sum_{j=0}^{n} a_j x^j \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ with $a_0 a_n \neq 0$ and let p be a prime. Let S be the following set of points in the extended plane:

$$S = \{(0, \nu(a_n)), (1, \nu(a_{n-1})), (2, \nu(a_{n-2})), \cdots, (n1, \nu(a_1)), (n, \nu(a_0))\}$$

Consider the lower edges along the convex hull of these points. The left-most endpoint is $(0, \nu(a_n))$ and the right-most endpoint is $(n, \nu(a_0))$. The endpoints of each edge belong to S, and the slopes of the edges increase from left to right. When referring to the edges of a Newton polygon, we shall not allow two different edges to have the same slope. The polygonal path formed by these edges is called the Newton polygon of $f(x)$ with respect to the prime p. For the proof of Theorems 1 and 2, we use [ShTi10, Lemma 10.1] whose proof depends on Newton polygons.

A part of this work was done when the authors were visiting Max-Planck Institute for Mathematics in Bonn during August-October, 2008 and February-April, 2009, respectively. We would like to thank the MPIM for the invitation and the hospitality. We also thank Pieter Moree for his comments on a draft of this paper. The authors are indebted to the referee for his suggestions and remarks which improved the exposition of the paper.

2. Preliminaries for Theorem 3

Let m and k be positive integers with $m > kd$ and $\gcd(m, d) = 1$. We write

$$\Delta(m, d, k) = m(m+d)\cdots(m+(k-1)d).$$

For positive integers ν, μ and $1 \leq l < \mu$ with $\gcd(l, \mu) = 1$, we write

$$\pi(\nu, \mu, l) = \sum_{\substack{p \leq \nu \\ p \equiv l (\text{mod } \mu)}} 1, \ \pi(\nu) = \pi(\nu, 1, 1)$$

$$\theta(\nu, \mu, l) = \sum_{\substack{p \leq \nu \\ p \equiv l (\text{mod } \mu)}} \log p.$$

Let $p_{i,\mu,l}$ denote the ith prime congruent to l modulo μ. Let $\delta_\mu(i,l) = p_{i+1,\mu,l} - p_{i,\mu,l}$ and $W_\mu(i,l) = (p_{i,\mu,l}, p_{i+1,\mu,l})$. Let $M_0 = 1.92367 \times 10^{10}$.

We recall some well-known estimates on prime number theory.

Lemma 2.1. *We have*

$$(i)\ \pi(\nu) \le \frac{\nu}{\log \nu}\left(1 + \frac{1.2762}{\log \nu}\right) \text{ for } \nu > 1$$
$$(ii)\ \nu(1 - \frac{3.965}{\log^2 \nu}) \le \theta(\nu) < 1.00008\nu \text{ for } \nu > 1$$
$$(iii)\ \sqrt{2\pi k}\ e^{-k}k^k e^{\frac{1}{12k+1}} < k! < \sqrt{2\pi k}\ e^{-k}k^k e^{\frac{1}{12k}} \text{ for } k > 1$$
$$(iv)\ \mathrm{ord}_p(k!) \ge \tfrac{k-p}{p-1} - \tfrac{\log(k-1)}{\log p} \text{ for } k > 1 \text{ and } p < k.$$

The estimates $(i), (ii)$ are due to Dusart [Dus98, p.14], [Dus99]. The estimate (iii) is [Rob55, Theorem 6]. For a proof of (iv), see [LaSh04b, Lemma 2(i)]. ☐

The following lemma is due to Ramaré and Rumely [RaRu96, Theorems 1, 2].

Lemma 2.2. *Let* $l \in \{1, 2\}$. *For* $\nu_0 \le 10^{10}$, *we have*

$$\theta(\nu, 3, l) \ge \begin{cases} \frac{\nu}{2}(1 - 0.002238) \text{ for } \nu \ge 10^{10} \\ \frac{\nu}{2}\left(1 - \frac{2\times 1.798158}{\sqrt{\nu_0}}\right) \text{ for } 10^{10} > \nu \ge \nu_0 \end{cases} \tag{2}$$

and

$$\theta(\nu, 3, l) \le \begin{cases} \frac{\nu}{2}(1 + 0.002238) \text{ for } \nu \ge 10^{10} \\ \frac{\nu}{2}\left(1 + \frac{2\times 1.798158}{\sqrt{\nu_0}}\right) \text{ for } 10^{10} > \nu \ge \nu_0 \end{cases}. \tag{3}$$

We derive from Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2 the following result.

Corollary 2.3. *Let* $M_0 < m \le 131 \times 2k$ *if* $d = 2$ *and* $6450 \le m \le 10.6 \times 3k$ *if* $d = 3$. *Then* $P(\Delta(m, d, k)) \ge m$.

Proof. Let $M_0 < m \le 131 \times 2k$ if $d = 2$ and $6450 \le m \le 10.6 \times 3k$ if $d = 3$. Then $k \ge k_1$ where $k_1 = 7.34 \times 10^7, 203$ when $d = 2, 3$, respectively. Let $1 \le l < d$ and assume $m \equiv l (\mathrm{mod}\ d)$. We observe that $P(\Delta(m, d, k) \ge m$ holds if

$$\theta(m + d(k-1), d, l) - \theta(m-1, d, l) = \sum_{\substack{m \le p \le m+(k-1)d \\ p \equiv l(d)}} \log p > 0.$$

Now from Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2, we have

$$\frac{\theta(m-1, d, l)}{\frac{m-1}{\phi(d)}} < \theta_1 := \begin{cases} 1.00008 & \text{if } d = 2 \\ 1 + \frac{2\times 1.798158}{\sqrt{6450}} & \text{if } d = 3 \end{cases}$$

and

$$\frac{\theta(m + (k-1)d, d, l)}{\frac{m+(k-1)d}{\phi(d)}} > \theta_2 := \begin{cases} 1 - \frac{3.965}{\log^2(10^{10})} & \text{if } d = 2 \\ 1 - \frac{2\times 1.798158}{\sqrt{6450}} & \text{if } d = 3. \end{cases}$$

Thus $P(\Delta(m,d,k) \geq m$ holds if

$$\theta_2(m + d(k-1)) > \theta_1 m$$

i.e., if

$$\frac{d(k-1)}{m} > \frac{\theta_1}{\theta_2} - 1.$$

This is true since for $k \geq k_1$, we have

$$\frac{dk(1-\frac{1}{k})}{\frac{\theta_1}{\theta_2}-1} \geq \frac{dk(1-\frac{1}{k_1})}{\frac{\theta_1}{\theta_2}-1} > (dk)\begin{cases}131.3 & \text{if } d=2\\ 10.6 & \text{if } d=3\end{cases}$$

and m is less than the last expression. Hence the assertion. □

Now we give some results for $d = 2$. The next result follows from Lemma 2.1 (ii).

Corollary 2.4. *Let $d = 2, k > 1$ and $2k < m < 4k$. Then*

$$P(\Delta(m,d,k)) > \begin{cases}3.5k & \text{if } m \leq 2.5k\\ 4k & \text{if } m > 2.5k\end{cases} \tag{4}$$

unless $(m,k) \in \{(5,2),(7,2),(9,4),(13,5),(17,6),(15,7),(21,8),(19,9)\}$.

Proof. We observe that the set $\{m, m+2, \ldots, m+2(k-1)\}$ contains all primes between $3.5k$ and $4k$ if $m \leq 2.5k$ and all primes between $4k$ and $4.5k$ if $2.5k < m < 4k$. Therefore (4) holds if

$$\theta(4k) > \theta(3.5k) \text{ and } \theta(4.5k) > \theta(4k).$$

Let $(r,s) = (3.5,4)$ or $(4,4.5)$. Then from Lemma 2.1, we see that $\theta(sk) > \theta(rk)$ if

$$sk(1 - \frac{3.965}{\log^2(sk)}) > 1.00008 \times rk$$

or

$$\frac{s - 1.00008r}{1.00008r} > \frac{s}{1.00008r}\frac{3.965}{\log^2(sk)}$$

or

$$k > \frac{1}{s}\exp\left(\sqrt{\frac{3.965s}{s-1.00008r}}\right).$$

This is true for $k \geq 88$. Thus $k \leq 87$. For $10 \leq k \leq 87$, we check that there is always a prime in the intervals $(3.5k, 4k)$ and $(4k, 4.5k)$ and hence (4) follows in this case. For $2 \leq k \leq 9$, the assertion follows by computing $P(\Delta(m,2,k))$ for each $2k < m < 4k$. □

The following result concerns Grimm's Conjecture, [LaSh06b, Theorem 1].

Lemma 2.5. *Let $m \leq M_0$ and l be such that $m+1, m+2, \cdots, m+l$ are all composite numbers. Then there are distinct primes P_i such that $P_i|(m+i)$ for each $1 \leq i \leq l$.*

As a consequence, we have

Corollary 2.6. *Let $4k < m \le M_0$. Then either $P(\Delta(m,2,k)) > 4k$ or $P(\Delta(m,2,k)) \ge p_{k+1}$.*

Proof. If $m+2i$ is prime for some i with $0 \le i < k$, then the assertion holds clearly since $P(\Delta(m,2,k)) \ge m+2i > 4k$. Thus we suppose that $m+2i$ is composite for all $0 \le i < k$. Since m is odd, we obtain that $m+2i+1$ with $0 \le i < k$ are all even and hence composite. Therefore $m, m+1, m+2, \cdots, m+2k-1$ are all composite and hence, by Lemma 2.5, there are distinct primes P_j with $P_j|(m-1+j)$ for each $1 \le j \le 2k$. Therefore $\omega(\Delta(m,2,k)) \ge k$ implying $P(\Delta(m,2,k)) \ge p_{k+1}$. □

Corollary 2.7. *Let $d = 2$ and $4k < m \le M_0$. Then $P(\Delta(m,2,k)) > 4k$ for $k \ge 30$.*

Proof. By Corollary 2.6, we may assume that $P(\Delta(m,2,k)) \ge p_{k+1}$. By Lemma 2.1, we get $p_{k+1} \ge k\log k$ which is $> 4k$ for $k \ge 60$. For $30 \le k < 60$, we check that $p_{k+1} > 4k$. Hence the assertion follows. □

The following result follows from [Leh64, Tables IIA, IIIA].

Lemma 2.8. *Let $d = 2$, $m > 4k$ and $2 \le k \le 37, k \ne 35$. Then $P(\Delta(m,2,k)) > 4k$.*

Proof. The case $k = 2$ is immediate from [Leh64, Table IIA]. Let $k \ge 3$ and $m \ge 4k$. For m and $1 \le i < k$ such that $m+2i = N$ with N given in [Leh64, Tables IIA, IIIA], we check that $P(\Delta(m,2,k)) > 4k$. Hence assume that $m+2i$ with $1 \le i < k$ is different from those N given in [Leh64, Tables IIA, IIIA].

For every prime $31 < p \le 4k$, we delete a term in $\{m, m+2, \cdots, m+2(k-1)\}$ divisible by p. Let $i_1 < i_2 < \ldots < i_l$ be such that $m+2i_j$ is in the remaining set where $l \ge k-(\pi(4k)-\pi(31))$. From [Leh64, Tables IIA, IIIA], we observe that $i_{j+1}-i_j \ge 3$ implying $k-1 \ge i_l - i_1 \ge 3(l-1) \ge 3(k-\pi(4k)+10)$. However we find that the inequality $k-1 \ge 3(k-\pi(4k)+10)$ is not valid except when $k = 28, 29$. Hence the assertion of the Lemma is valid except possibly for $k = 28, 29$.

Therefore we may assume that $k = 28, 29$. Further we suppose that $l = k-(\pi(4k)-\pi(31)) = 10$ otherwise $3(l-1) \ge 30 > k-1$, a contradiction. Thus we have either $i_{10}-i_1 = 27$ implying $i_1 = 0, i_{j+1} = i_j+3 = 3j$ for $1 \le j \le 9$ or $i_1 = 1, i_{j+1} = i_j+3 = 3j+1$ for $1 \le j \le 9$ or $i_{10}-i_1 = 28$ implying $i_1 = 0, i_{j+1} = \begin{cases} 3j & \text{if } 1 \le j \le r \\ 3j+1 & \text{if } r < j \le 9 \end{cases}$ for some $r \ge 1$. Let $X = m+2i_1-6$. Note that X is odd since m is odd. Also $X \ge 4k+1-6 \ge 107$. We have either

$$P((X+6)\cdots(X+54)(X+60)) \le 31 \tag{5}$$

or there is some $r \ge 1$ for which

$$P((X+6)\cdots(X+6r)(X+6(r+1)+2)\cdots(X+60+2)) \le 31. \tag{6}$$

Note that (5) is the only possibility when $k = 28$. Now we consider (5). Suppose $3|X$. Then putting $Y = \frac{X}{3}$, we get $P((Y+2)\cdots(Y+18)(Y+20)) \le 31$ which implies $Y+2 < 20$ by Corollary 2.4 and Lemma 2.8 with $k = 10$. Since $X+6 \ge m \ge 113$, we get a contradiction. Hence we may assume that $3 \nmid X$. Then $3 \nmid (X+6)\cdots(X+54)(X+60)$. After deleting terms $X + 6i$ divisible by primes $11 \leq p \leq 31$, we are left with three terms divisible by primes 5 and 7 and hence $m \leq X + 6 \leq 35$ which is again a contradiction. Therefore (5) is not possible.

Now we consider (6) which is possible only when $k = 29$. Since $X + 6 = m > 4k = 116$, we have $X > 110$. Suppose $r = 1, 9$. Then we have $P((X + 12 + 2)\cdots(X + 54 + 2)(X + 60 + 2)) \leq 31$ if $r = 1$ and $P((X + 6)\cdots(X + 54)) \leq 31$ if $r = 9$. Putting $Y = X+8$ in the first case and $Y = X$ in the latter, we get $P((Y+6)\cdots(Y+54)) \leq 31$. Suppose $3|Y$. Then putting $Z = \frac{Y}{3}$, we get $P((Z+2)\cdots(Z+18)) \leq 31$ which implies $Z + 2 \leq 18$ by Corollary 2.4 and Lemma 2.8 with $k = 9$. Since $Z + 2 \geq \frac{X}{3} > \frac{110}{3}$, we get a contradiction. Hence we may assume that $3 \nmid Y$. Then $3 \nmid (Y + 6)\cdots(Y + 54)$. After deleting terms $Y + 6i$ divisible by primes $11 \leq p \leq 31$, we are left with two terms divisible by primes 5 and 7 only. Let $Y + 6i = 5^{a_1}7^{b_1}$ and $Y + 6j = 5^{a_2}7^{b_2}$ where $b_1 \leq 1 < b_2$ and $a_2 \leq 1 < a_1$. Since $|i - j| \leq 8$, the equality $6(i - j) = 5^{a_1}7^{b_1} - 5^{a_2}7^{b_2}$ implies $5^a - 7^b = \pm 6, \pm 12, \pm 18, \pm 24, \pm 36, \pm 48$. By taking modulo 6, we get $(-1)^a \equiv 1$ modulo 6 implying a is even. Taking modulo 8 again, we get either

$$b \text{ is even}, \;\; 5^a - 7^b = (5^{\frac{a}{2}} - 7^{\frac{b}{2}})(5^{\frac{a}{2}} + 7^{\frac{b}{2}}) = \pm 24, \pm 48$$

giving

$$5^a = 25, 7^b = 49 \tag{7}$$

or

$$b \text{ is odd}, \;\; 5^a - 7^b = -6, 18.$$

Let $5^a - 7^b = -6$. Considering modulo 5, we get $2^b \equiv 1$ implying $4|b$, a contradiction. Let $5^a - 7^b = 18$. By considering modulo 7 and modulo 9 and since a is even, we get $3|(a - 2)$ and $3|(b - 1)$ implying $(5^{\frac{a+1}{3}})^3 + 35(-7^{\frac{b-1}{3}})^3 = 90$. Solving the Thue equation $x^3 + 35y^3 = 90$ gives $x = 5, y = -1$ or $25 - 7 = 18$ is the only solution. Hence $6 \cdot 3 = 25 - 7 = X + 6i - (X + 6j)$. Also the solution (7) implies $-6 \cdot 4 = 25 - 49 = X + 6i - (X + 6j)$. Thus $X \leq 25$ which is not possible.

Assume now that $2 \leq r \leq 8$. Then $P((X + 6)(X + 12)(X + 56)(X + 62)) \leq 31$. Suppose $3|X(X + 2)$. Putting $Y = \frac{X+6}{3}$ if $3|X$ and $Y = \frac{X+56}{3}$ if $3|(X + 2)$, we get either $P(Y(Y+2)(3Y+50)(6Y+56)) \leq 31$ or $P(Y(Y+2)(3Y-50)(3Y-44)) \leq 31$. In particular $P(Y(Y+2)) \leq 31$. For $Y = N-2$ given by [Leh64, Table IIA] such that $P(Y(Y+2)) \leq 31$, we check that $P((3Y+50)(3Y+56)) > 31$ and $P((3Y-50)(3Y-44)) > 31$ except when $Y \in \{55, 145, 297, 1573\}$. This gives $m = X + 6 = 3Y - 50$ and then we further check that $P(\Delta(m, 2, k)) > 116$. Hence we suppose $3 \nmid X(X+2)$. Then $3 \nmid (X+6)\cdots(X+6r)(X+6(r+1)+2)\cdots(X+60+2)$. If a prime power p^a divides two terms of the product, then $p^a|(X+6j), p^a|(X+6i)$ or $p^a|(X+6j+2), p^a|(X+6i+2)$ or $p^a|(X+6j), p^a|(X+6i+2)$ for some i, j. Hence $p^a|6(i-j)$ or $p^a|6(i-j)+2$. Since $1 \leq j < i \leq 10$, we get $p^a \in \{5, 7, 11, 13, 19, 25\}$. After deleting terms divisible by primes $5 \leq p \leq 31$ to their highest powers, we are left with two terms such that their product divides $25 \cdot 7 \cdot 11 \cdot 13 \cdot 19$ and hence $X + 6 \leq \sqrt{25 \cdot 7 \cdot 11 \cdot 13 \cdot 19}$ or $X + 6 \leq 689$. We check that $P((X + 6)(X + 12)(X + 56)(X + 62)) > 31$ for $110 \leq X \leq 683$ except when $X \in \{113, 379\}$. Further we check that $P(\Delta(m, 2, k)) > 116$ for $m = X + 6$. Hence the result. □

The remaining results in this section deal with the case $d = 3$. The first one is a computational result.

Lemma 2.9. *Let* $l \in \{1, 2\}$. *If* $p_{i,3,l} \leq 6450$, *then* $\delta_3(i, l) \leq 60$.

As a consequence, we obtain

Corollary 2.10. *Let* $d = 3$ *and* $3k < m \leq 6450$ *with* $gcd(m, 3) = 1$. *Then* (1) *holds unless* $(m, k) = (125, 2)$.

Proof. For $k \leq 20$, it follows by direct computation. For $k > 20$, (1) follows as $3(k - 1) \geq 60$ and, by Lemma 2.9, the set $\{m + 3i : 0 \leq i < k\}$ contains a prime. □

We shall also need the following result of Nagell [Nag58](see [Cao99]) on diophantine equations.

Lemma 2.11. *Let* $a, b, c \in \{2, 3, 5\}$ *and* $a < b$. *Then the solutions of*

$$a^x + b^y = c^z \text{ in integers } x > 0, y > 0, z > 0$$

are given by

$$(a^x, b^y, c^z) \in \{(2, 3, 5), (2^4, 3^2, 5^2), (2, 5^2, 3^3),\\ (2^2, 5, 3^2), (3, 5, 2^3), (3^3, 5, 2^5), (3, 5^3, 2^7)\}.$$

As a corollary, we have

Corollary 2.12. *Let* $X > 80, 3 \nmid X$ *and* $1 \leq i \leq 7$. *Then the solutions of*

$$P(X(X + 3i)) = 5 \text{ and } 2|X(X + 3i)$$

are given by

$$(i, X) \in \{(1, 125), (2, 250), (4, 500), (5, 625)\}.$$

Proof. Let $1 \leq i \leq 7$. We observe that $2|X, 2|(X + 3i)$ only if X and i are both even and $5|X, 5|(X + 3i)$ only if $i = 5$. Let the positive integers r, s and $\delta = \text{ord}_2(i) \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ be given by

$$X = 2^{r+\delta},\ X + 3i = 2^\delta 5^s \text{ or } X = 2^\delta 5^s,\ X + 3i = 2^{r+\delta} \text{ if } i \neq 5 \tag{8}$$

and

$$X = 5^{s+1},\ X + 3i = 5 \times 2^r \text{ or } X = 5 \times 2^r,\ X + 3i = 5^{s+1} \text{ if } i = 5, \tag{9}$$

where $r + 2 \geq r + \delta \geq 7$ and $s \geq 2$ since $X > 80$. Hence we have

$$2^r - 5^s = \pm \left(\frac{X + 3i}{2^{\text{ord}_2(i)} \cdot 5^{\text{ord}_5(i)}} - \frac{X}{2^{\text{ord}_2(i)} \cdot 5^{\text{ord}_5(i)}} \right) = \pm 3 \times \frac{i}{2^{\text{ord}_5(i)} \cdot 5^{\text{ord}_5(i)}}. \tag{10}$$

Let $i \in \{1, 2, 4, 5\}$. Then $2^r - 5^s = \pm 3$. By Lemma 2.11, we have $2^r = 2^7, 5^s = 5^3$ and $2^7 - 5^3 = 3$ implying $X = 2^{\text{ord}_2(i)} \cdot 5^{3+\text{ord}_5(i)}$ and $X + 3i = 2^{7+\delta} \cdot 5^{\text{ord}_5(i)}$. These give the solutions stated in the Corollary.

Let $i \in \{3, 6\}$. Then $2^r - 5^s = \pm 9 = \pm 3^2$. Since $\min(2^r, 5^s) > 16$, we observe from Lemma 2.11 that there is no solution.

Let $i = 7$. Then $2^r - 5^s = \pm 21$. Let s be even. Since $2^r > 16$, taking modulo 8, we find that $-1 \equiv \pm 21($ modulo $8)$ which is not possible. Hence s is odd. Then $2^r - 5^s \equiv 2^r + 2^s \equiv 0$ modulo 7. Since $2^r, 2^s \equiv 1, 2, 4$ modulo 7, we get a contradiction. □

3. Proof of Theorem 3

Let $D = 4, 3$ according as $d = 2, 3$, respectively. Let $v = \frac{m}{dk}$. Assume that

$$P(\Delta(m, d, k)) = P(m(m + d) \cdots (m + (k - 1)d) < Dk. \tag{11}$$

Then

$$\omega(\Delta(m, d, k)) \leq \pi(Dk) - 1. \tag{12}$$

For every prime $p \leq Dk$ dividing Δ, we delete a term $m + i_p d$ such that $\text{ord}_p(m + i_p d)$ is maximal. Note that $p|(m + id)$ for at most one i if $p \geq k$. Then we are left with a set T with $1 + t := |T| \geq k - \pi(Dk) + 1 := 1 + t_0$. Let $t_0 \geq 0$ which we assume in this section to ensure that T is non-empty. We arrange the elements of T as $m + i'_0 d < m + i'_1 d < \cdots < m + i'_{t_0} d < .. < m + i'_t d$. Let

$$\mathfrak{P} := \prod_{\nu=0}^{t_0} (m + i'_\nu d) \geq d^{k-\pi(Dk)+1} \prod_{i=0}^{k-\pi(Dk)} (vk + i). \tag{13}$$

We now apply [LaSh04b, Lemma 2.1, (14)] to get

$$\mathfrak{P} \leq (k - 1)! d^{-\text{ord}_d(k-1)!}.$$

Comparing the upper and lower bounds of $\mathfrak{P}$, we have

$$d^{\pi(Dk)} \geq \frac{d^{k+1} \prod_{i=0}^{k-\pi(Dk)} (vk + i)}{(k - 1)! d^{-\text{ord}_d(k-1)!}}$$

which imply

$$d^{\pi(Dk)} \geq \frac{d^{k+1} d^{\text{ord}_d(k-1)!} (vk)^{k+1-\pi(Dk)}}{(k - 1)!}. \tag{14}$$

By using the estimates for $\text{ord}_d((k - 1)!)$ and $(k - 1)!$ given in Lemma 2.1, we obtain

$$(vdk)^{\pi(Dk)} > \frac{(vdk)^{k+1} d^{(k-d)/(d-1)} (k - 1)^{-1}}{\sqrt{2(k - 1)\pi} (\frac{k-1}{e})^{k-1} exp(\frac{1}{12(k-1)})}$$

$$= \left(evd^{\frac{d}{d-1}} \frac{k}{k - 1} \right)^k \frac{v\sqrt{k}}{ed^{1/(d-1)}\sqrt{2\pi}} \sqrt{\frac{k}{k - 1}} exp(-\frac{1}{12(k - 1)})$$

implying

$$\pi(Dk) > \frac{k\log(evd^{\frac{d}{d-1}}) + (k+\frac{1}{2})\log(\frac{k}{k-1}) - \frac{1}{12(k-1)} + \frac{1}{2}\log\frac{v^2k}{2\pi e^2 d^{\frac{2}{d-1}}}}{\log(vdk)}. \tag{15}$$

Again by using the estimates for $\pi(\nu)$ given in Lemma 2.1 and $\frac{\log(vdk)}{\log(Dk)} = 1 + \frac{\log\frac{vd}{D}}{\log(Dk)}$, we derive

$$\begin{aligned} 0 >& \frac{1}{2}\log\frac{v^2k}{2\pi e^2 d^{\frac{2}{d-1}}} - \frac{1}{12(k-1)} \\ &+ k\left(\log(evd^{\frac{d}{d-1}}) - D\left(1+\frac{\log\frac{vd}{D}}{\log(Dk)}\right)\left(1+\frac{1.2762}{\log(Dk)}\right)\right). \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

Let v be fixed with $vd \geq D$. Then expression

$$F(k,v) := \log(evd^{\frac{d}{d-1}}) - D\left(1+\frac{\log\frac{vd}{D}}{\log(Dk)}\right)\left(1+\frac{1.2762}{\log(Dk)}\right)$$

is an increasing function of k. Let $k_1 := k_1(v)$ be such that $F(k,v) > 0$ for all $k \geq k_1$. Then we observe that the right hand side of (16) is an increasing function for $k \geq k_1$. Let $k_0 := k_0(v) \geq k_1$ be such that the right hand side of (16) is positive. Then (16) is not valid for all $k \geq k_0$ implying (15) and hence (14) are not valid for all $k \geq k_0$.

Also for a fixed k, if (16) is not valid at some $v = v_0$, then (14) is also not valid at $v = v_0$. Observe that for a fixed k, if (14) is not valid at some $v = v_0$, then (14) is also not valid when $v \geq v_0$.

Therefore for a given $v = v_0$ with $v_0 d \geq D$, the inequality (14) is not valid for all $k \geq k_0(v_0)$ and $v \geq v_0$.

3(a). Proof of Theorem 3 for the case $d = 3$

Let $d = 3$ and let the assumptions of Theorem 3 be satisfied. Let $2 \leq k \leq 11$ and $m > 3k$. Observe that $k - \pi(3k) + 1 = 0$ for $k \leq 8$ and $k - \pi(3k) + 1 = 1$ for $9 \leq k \leq 11$. If $T \neq \phi$, then $m \leq 2^3 \times 5 \times 7 = 280$.

By Corollary 2.10, we may assume that $2 \leq k \leq 8$, $m \geq 6450$ and $T = \phi$. Further i_p exists for each prime $p \leq 3k$, $p \neq 3$ and $i_p \neq i_q$ for $p \neq q$ otherwise $|T| \geq k - \pi(3k) + 1 + 1 > 0$. Also $pq \nmid (m + id)$ for any i whenever $p, q \geq k$ otherwise $T \neq \phi$. Thus $P((m + 3i_2)(m + 3i_5)) = 5$ if $k < 8$. For $k = 8$, we get $P((m + 3i_2)(m + 3i_5)) \leq 7$ with $P((m + 3i_2)(m + 3i_5)) = 7$ only if $7|m$ and $\{i_2, i_5\} \cap \{0, 7\} \neq \phi$.

Let $k \leq 7$ or $k = 8$ with $P((m+3i_2)(m+3i_5)) = 5$. Let $j_0 = \min(i_2, i_5)$, $X = m+3j_0$ and $i = |i_2 - i_5|$. Then $X \geq 6450$ and this is excluded by Corollary 2.12.

Let $k = 8$ and $P((m+3i_2)(m+3i_5)) = 7$. Then $7|m$ and $\{i_2, i_5\} \cap \{0, 7\} \neq \phi$. Hence $i_7 = 0$ or 7 and $7 \in \{i_2, i_5\}$ if $i_7 = 0$ and $0 \in \{i_2, i_5\}$ if $i_7 = 7$. If $5 \nmid m(m+21)$, then $\{i_2, i_7\} = \{0, 7\}$ and either

$$m = 7 \times 2^r,\ m + 21 = 7^{1+s} \text{ or } m = 7^{1+s},\ m + 21 = 7 \times 2^r$$

implying $2^r - 7^s = \pm 3$. Since $2^r \geq \frac{m}{7} > 40$, we get by taking modulo 8 that $(-1)^{s+1} \equiv \pm 3$ which is a contradiction. Thus $5|m(m+21)$ implying $2\times5\times7|m(m+21)$. By taking the prime factorization, we obtain

$$m = 2^{a_0}5^{b_0}7^{c_0},\ m + 21 = 2^{a_1}5^{b_1}7^{c_1}$$

with $\min(a_0, a_1) = \min(b_0, b_1) = 0$, $\min(c_0, c_1) = 1$ and further $b_0 + b_1 = 1$ if $i_2 \in \{0, 7\}$ and $a_0 + a_1 \leq 2$ if $i_5 \in \{0, 7\}$. From the identity $\frac{m+21}{7} - \frac{m}{7} = 3$, we obtain one of

$$(i)\ 2^a - 5 \cdot 7^c = \pm 3 \text{ or } (ii)\ 5 \cdot 2^a - 7^c = \pm 3$$

$$\text{or } (iii)\ 5^b - 2^\delta \cdot 7^c = \pm 3 \text{ or } (iv)\ 2^\delta \cdot 5^b - 7^c = \pm 3$$

with $\delta \in \{1, 2\}$. Further from $m \geq 6450$, we obtain $c \geq 3$ and

$$a \geq 9, a \geq 7, b \geq 4, b \geq 3 \tag{17}$$

according as $(i), (ii), (iii), (iv)$ hold, respectively. These equations give rise to a Thue equation

$$X^3 + AY^3 = B \tag{18}$$

with integers $X, Y, A > 0, B > 0$ given by

	c (mod 3)	Equation	A	B	X	Y
(i)	$0, 1$	$2^a - 5 \cdot 7^c = \pm 3$	$5 \cdot 2^{a'} \cdot 7^{c'}$	$3 \cdot 2^{a'}$	$\pm 2^{\frac{a+a'}{3}}$	$\pm 7^{\frac{c-c'}{3}}$
(ii)	$0, 1$	$5 \cdot 2^a - 7^c = \pm 3$	$25 \cdot 2^{a'} \cdot 7^{c'}$	$75 \cdot 2^{a'}$	$\pm 5 \cdot 2^{\frac{a+a'}{3}}$	$\pm 7^{\frac{c-c'}{3}}$
(iii)	$0, 1$	$5^b - 2^\delta \cdot 7^c = \pm 3$	$2^\delta \cdot 5^{b'} \cdot 7^{c'}$	$3 \cdot 5^{b'}$	$\pm 5^{\frac{b+b'}{3}}$	$\pm 7^{\frac{c-c'}{3}}$
(iv)	$0, 1$	$2^\delta \cdot 5^b - 7^c = \pm 3$	$2^{3-\delta} \cdot 5^{b'} \cdot 7^{c'}$	$2^{3-\delta} \cdot 5^{b'} \cdot 3$	$\pm 2 \cdot 5^{\frac{b+b'}{3}}$	$\pm 7^{\frac{c-c'}{3}}$
(v)	2	$2^a - 5 \cdot 7^c = \pm 3$	$175 \cdot 2^{a'}$	525	$\pm 5 \cdot 7^{\frac{c+1}{3}}$	$\pm 2^{\frac{a-a'}{3}}$
(vi)	2	$5 \cdot 2^a - 7^c = \pm 3$	$35 \cdot 2^{a'}$	21	$\pm 7^{\frac{c+1}{3}}$	$\pm 2^{\frac{a-a'}{3}}$
(vii)	2	$5^b - 2^\delta \cdot 7^c = \pm 3$	$2^{3-\delta} \cdot 5^{b'} \cdot 7$	$21 \cdot 2^{3-\delta}$	$\pm 2 \cdot 7^{\frac{c+1}{3}}$	$\pm 5^{\frac{b-b'}{3}}$
$(viii)$	2	$2^\delta \cdot 5^b - 7^c = \pm 3$	$2^\delta \cdot 5^{b'} \cdot 7$	21	$\pm 7^{\frac{c+1}{3}}$	$\pm 5^{\frac{b-b'}{3}}$

where $0 \leq a', b' < 3$ are such that X, Y are integers and $c' = 0, 1$ according as $c(\text{mod } 3) = 0, 1$, respectively. For example, $2^a - 5 \cdot 7^c = \pm 3$ with $c \equiv 0, 1(\text{mod } 3)$ implies $(\pm 2^{\frac{a+a'}{3}})^3 + 5 \cdot 2^{a'}7^{c'}(\pm 7^{\frac{c-c'}{3}})^3 = 3 \cdot 2^{a'}$ where a' is such that $3|(a + a')$. This give a Thue equation (18) with $A = 5 \cdot 2^{a'}7^{c'}$ and $B = 3 \cdot 2^{a'}$.

By using (17), we see that at least two of

$$\text{ord}_2(XY) \geq 2 \text{ or } \text{ord}_5(XY) \geq 1 \text{ or } \text{ord}_7(XY) \geq 1 \tag{19}$$

hold except for (vi) and $(viii)$ where $\text{ord}_2(XY) \geq 1$, $\text{ord}_7(XY) \geq 1$ in case of (vi) and $\text{ord}_2(XY) = 0$, $\text{ord}_7(XY) \geq 1$ in case of $(viii)$. Using the command

$$\text{T:=Thue}(X^3 + A);\ \text{Solutions}(T, B);$$

in *Kash*, we compute all the solutions in integers X, Y of the above Thue equations. We find that none of solutions of Thue equations satisfy (19).

Hence we have $k \geq 12$. For the proof of Theorem 3, we may suppose from Corollaries 2.10 and 2.3 that

$$m \geq \max(6450, 10.6 \times 3k). \tag{20}$$

Let $12 \leq k \leq 19$. Since $t_0 \geq 1, 2$ for $12 \leq k \leq 16$ and $17 \leq k \leq 19$, respectively, we have

$$m \leq \sqrt{\mathfrak{P}} \leq \sqrt{4 \times 8 \times 5^2 \times 7^2 \times 11 \times 13} < 6450 \qquad \text{if } 12 \leq k \leq 16$$

$$m \leq \sqrt[3]{\mathfrak{P}} \leq \sqrt[3]{4 \times 8 \times 16 \times 5^3 \times 7^2 \times 11 \times 13 \times 17} < 6450 \quad \text{if } 17 \leq k \leq 19.$$

This is not possible by (20).

Thus $k \geq 20$. Then $m \geq 6450$ and $v \geq 10.6$ by (20) satisfying $v_0 d \geq D = d = 3$. Now we check that $k_0 \leq 180$ for $v = 10.6$. Therefore (14) is not valid for $k \geq 180$ and $v \geq 10.6$. Thus $k < 180$. Further we check that (15) is not valid for $20 \leq k < 180$ at $v = \frac{6450}{3k}$ except when $k \in \{21, 25, 28, 37, 38\}$. Hence (14) is not valid for $20 \leq k < 180$ when $v \geq \frac{6450}{3k}$ except when $k \in \{21, 25, 28, 37, 38\}$. Thus it suffices to consider $k \in \{21, 25, 28, 37\}$ where we check that (14) is not valid at $v = \frac{6450}{3k}$ and hence it is not valid for all $v \geq \frac{6450}{3k}$. Finally we consider $k = 38$ where we find that (14) is not valid at $v = \frac{8000}{3k}$. Thus $m < 8000$. For $l \in \{1, 2\}$ and $p_{i,3,l} \leq 8000$, we find that $\delta_3(i, 3, l) < 90$ implying the set $\{m, m+3, \ldots, m+3(38-1)\}$ contains a prime. Hence the assertion follows since $m > 3k$. □

3(b). Proof of Theorem 3 for $d = 2$

Let $d = 2$ and let the assumptions of Theorem 3 be satisfied. The assertion for Theorem 3 with $k \geq 2$ and $m \leq 4k$ follows from Corollary 2.4. Thus $m > 4k$. For $2 \leq k \leq 37$, $k \neq 35$, Lemma 2.8 gives the result. Hence for the proof of Theorem 3, we may suppose that $k = 35$ or $k \geq 38$. Further from Corollaries 2.3 and 2.7, we may assume that

$$m \geq \max(M_0, 131 \times 2k). \tag{21}$$

Let $k = 35, 38$. Then $t_0 = 1, 2$ for $k = 35, 38$, respectively and we have

$$m \leq \sqrt{\mathfrak{P}} \leq \sqrt{27 \cdot 9 \cdot 25 \cdot 5 \cdot 7^2 \cdot 11^2 \cdot 13^2 \cdot 17^2 \cdot 19 \cdot 23 \cdot 29 \cdot 31} < 10^{10} \text{ if } k = 35$$

$$m \leq \sqrt[3]{\mathfrak{P}} \leq \sqrt[3]{27 \cdot 9^2 \cdot 25 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7^3 \cdot 11^3 \cdot 13^2 \cdot 17^2 \cdot 19 \cdot 23 \cdot 29 \cdot 31 \cdot 37} < 10^{10} \text{ if } k = 38.$$

This is not possible by (21).

Thus we assume that $k \geq 39$. Let $v \geq 131$ and we check that $k_0 \leq 500$ for $v = 131$. Therefore (14) is not valid for $k \geq 500$ and $v \geq 131$. Hence from (21), we get $k < 500$.

Further $v \geq \frac{M_0}{2\times 500} \geq 10^7$. We check that $k_0 \leq 70$ at $v = 10^7$ implying (14) is not valid for $k \geq 70$ and $v \geq 10^7$. Thus $k < 70$. For each $39 \leq k < 70$, we find that (14) is not valid at $v = \frac{M_0}{2k}$ and hence for all $v \geq \frac{M_0}{2k}$. This is a contradiction. □

4. Proof of Theorems 1 and 2

Recall that $q = u + \frac{\alpha}{d}$ with $1 \leq \alpha < d$. We observe that if $G(x)$ has a factor of degree k, then it has a cofactor of degree $n-k$. Hence we may assume from now on that if $G(x)$ has a factor of degree k, then $k \leq \frac{n}{2}$. The following result is [ShTi10, Lemma 10.1].

Lemma 4.1. *Let* $1 \leq k \leq \frac{n}{2}$ *and*

$$d \leq 2\alpha + 2 \quad \text{if} \quad (k, u) = (1, 0).$$

If there is a prime p *with*

$$p|(\alpha + (n+u-k)d)\cdots(\alpha + (n+u-1)d), \quad p \nmid a_0 a_n.$$

such that

$$p \geq \begin{cases} (k+u-1)d + \alpha + 1 & \text{if } u > 0 \\ (k+u-1)d + \alpha + 2 & \text{if } u = 0 \end{cases}$$

Then $G(x)$ *has no factor of degree* k.

Let $d = 3$. By putting $m = \alpha + 3(n-k)$ and taking $p = P(\Delta(m, 3, k))$, we find from Lemma 4.1 and Theorem 3 that $G_{\frac{1}{3}}$ and $G_{\frac{2}{3}}$ does not have a factor of degree $k \geq 2$ except possibly when $k = 2, \alpha = 2, m = 2 + 3(n-2) = 125$. This gives $n = 43$ and we use [ShTi10, Lemma 2.13] with $p = 2, r = 2$ to show that $G_{\frac{2}{3}}$ do not have a factor of degree 2. Further except possibly when $m = \alpha + 3(n-1) = 2^l$ for positive integers l, $G_{\frac{1}{3}}$ and $G_{\frac{2}{3}}$ do not have a linear factor. This proves Theorem 1.

Let $d = 2$. Let $k = 1, u = 0$. We have $P(1 + 2(n-1)) \geq 3$ and hence taking $p = P(1 + 2(n-1))$ in Lemma 4.1, we find that $G_{\frac{1}{2}}$ does not have a factor of degree 1. Hence from now on, we may suppose that $k \geq 2$ and $0 \leq u \leq k$. For $(m, k) \in \{((5, 2), (7, 2), (9, 4), (13, 5), (17, 6), (15, 7), (21, 8), (19, 9)\}$, we check that $P(\Delta(m, 2, k)) \geq m$. For $0 \leq u \leq k$, by putting $m = 1 + 2(n+u-k)$, we find from $n \geq 2k$ and Theorem 3 that

$$P(\Delta(m, 2, k)) > 2(k+u) = \begin{cases} \min(2(k+u), 3.5k) & \text{if } u \leq 0.5k \\ \min(2(k+u), 4k) & \text{if } 0.5k < u \leq k \end{cases}$$

except when $k = 2, (u, m) \in \{(1, 25), (2, 25), (2, 243)\}$. Observe that if $p > 2(k+u)$, then $p \geq 2(k+u) + 1$. Now we take $p = P(\Delta(m, 2, k))$ in Lemma 4.1 to obtain that $G_{u+\frac{1}{2}}$ do not have a factor of degree k with $k \geq 2$ except possibly when $k = 2, u = 1, n = 13$ or $k = 2, u = 2, n \in \{12, 121\}$. We use [ShTi10, Lemma 2.13] with $(p, r) = (3, 1), (7, 1)$ to show that $G_{u+\frac{1}{2}}$ do not have a factor of degree 2 when $(u, n) = (1, 13), (2, 12)$ and $(u, n) = (2, 121)$, respectively. □

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Stat-Math Unit, India Statistical Institute, 7, S. J. S. Sansanwal Marg, New Delhi, 110016, India

E-mail address: shanta@isid.ac.in

Department of Mathematics, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Powai, Mumbai 400076, India

E-mail address: shorey@math.iitb.ac.in