

## Equal and odd values of Generalized Euler Functions

**Comment [H1]:** Change to study the equal and odd of generalization euler functions

**Abstract:** Euler function  $\phi(n)$  and generalized Euler function  $\phi_e(n)$  are two important functions in number theory. Using the idea of classified discussion and determination of prime types, we study the solutions of odd number of generalized Euler function equations  $\phi_e(n) = \phi_e(n+1)$  and obtain all the solutions satisfying the corresponding conditions, where  $e=2,3,4$ .

**Key Words:** Euler function; Generalized Euler function; Parity; Diophantine equation

### 1 Introduction

Euler function  $\phi(n)$  is a relatively important in number theory, and it is also studied by the majority of researchers. Euler function  $\phi(n)$  is defined as the number of positive integers not greater than  $n$  and prime to  $n$ . If  $n > 1$ , let canonical form of  $n$  be  $n = p_1^{r_1} p_2^{r_2} \dots p_k^{r_k}$ , where  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k$  are different primes,  $r_i \geq 1$  ( $1 \leq i \leq k$ ), then

**Comment [H2]:** In fact  $n$  is contain factors of prime not always is prime

$$\phi(n) = n \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_1}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_2}\right) \dots \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_k}\right).$$

Generalized Euler function  $\phi_e(n)$  is defined as

$$\phi_e(n) = \sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ (i,n)=1}}^{\left[\frac{n}{e}\right]} 1.$$

where  $[x]$  is the greatest integer not greater than  $x$ . If  $e=1$ , the generalized Euler function is just Euler function.

**Comment [H3]:** explain the floor or cell  $[x]$  if is real number and not greater than  $x$  if integer and  $(i,n)$  is gcd.

Cai<sup>[1,8]</sup> studied the parity of  $\phi_e(n)$  when  $e=2,3,4,6$ , and gives the conditions that both  $\phi_e(n)$  and  $\phi_e(n+1)$  are odd numbers, Liang<sup>[3]</sup>, Cao<sup>[2]</sup> studied the solutions to the equations involving Euler function, Zhang<sup>[4,5,6]</sup> investigated the solutions to two equations involving Euler function  $\phi(n)$  and generalized Euler function  $\phi_2(n)$ , Jiang<sup>[7]</sup> investigated

the solutions of generalized Euler function  $\varphi_2(n)$ .

In «Unsolved Problems in Number Theory» [13], proposing whether there are infinitely many pairs of consecutive integer pairs  $n$  and  $n+1$  such that  $\varphi(n)=\varphi(n+1)$ ? Jud McGranville found 1267 solutions to  $\varphi(n)=\varphi(n+1)$  with  $n \leq 10^9$ , and the largest of which is  $n=9985705$   $\varphi(n)=\varphi(n+1)=2^{13} \cdot 7 \cdot 11$ . We find the following conclusions on the basis of the fact that the documents [1] and [8], both  $\varphi_e(n)$  and  $\varphi_e(n+1)$  are odd numbers, and then obtain the solutions of the equation  $\varphi_e(n)=\varphi_e(n+1)$ .

**Theorem 1.1** Both  $\varphi_2(n)$  and  $\varphi_2(n+1)$  are odd and equal if and only if  $n=2$  or 3.

**Theorem 1.2** Both  $\varphi_3(n)$  and  $\varphi_3(n+1)$  are odd and equal if and only if  $n=3$  or 4 or 5 or 15.

**Theorem 1.3** Both  $\varphi_4(n)$  and  $\varphi_4(n+1)$  are odd and equal if and only if  $n=4$  or 5 or 6 or 7.

## 2 Lemmas

**Lemma 2.1**<sup>[1]</sup> Except for  $n=2,3,242$ , both  $\varphi_2(n)$  and  $\varphi_2(n+1)$  are odd if and only if  $n=2p^\beta$ , where  $\beta \geq 1, p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ , both  $2p^\beta+1$  and  $p$  are primes.

**Lemma 2.2**<sup>[12]</sup>  $\varphi_2(1)=0$ ,  $\varphi_2(2)=1$ ; when  $n \geq 3$ ,  $\varphi_2(n)=\frac{1}{2}\varphi(n)$ .

**Lemma 2.3**<sup>[1]</sup> Except for  $n=3,15,24$ , both  $\varphi_3(n)$  and  $\varphi_3(n+1)$  are odd if and only if

(1)  $n+1=2^{2^m}+1 (m \geq 1)$  is prime; or

(2)  $n=2^q, q \equiv 5 \pmod{6}$ , both  $q$  and  $\frac{2^q+1}{3}$  are primes, where  $n=2^q, q \equiv 5 \pmod{6}$ , or

(3)  $n=3 \cdot 2^\beta - 1 (\beta \geq 1)$  is prime.

**Lemma 2.4**<sup>[1]</sup> If  $n > 3$ ,  $n=3^i \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{a_i}, (p_i, 3)=1, 1 \leq i \leq k$ , then

Comment [H4]: Write " , "

Comment [H5]: with

Comment [H6]: preliminary

Comment [H7]: basics

Comment [H8]: articles

Comment [H9]: subtitle need instead lemmas

$$\varphi_3(n) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{3}\varphi(n) + \frac{(-1)^{\Omega(n)} 2^{\omega(n)-1}}{3}, & a=0 \text{ or } 1, p_i \equiv 2 \pmod{3}, 1 \leq i \leq k, \\ \frac{1}{3}\varphi(n), & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where  $\Omega(n)$  is the number of prime factors of  $n$  (counting repetitions) and  $\omega(n)$  is the number of distinct prime factors of  $n$ .

**Lemma 2.5<sup>[12]</sup>** For any positive integer  $m, n$ , we have

$$\varphi(mn) = \frac{(m, n) \varphi(m) \varphi(n)}{\varphi((m, n))},$$

where  $(m, n)$  represents the greatest common factor of  $m$  and  $n$ .  
 $\varphi(m) = \varphi(m) \varphi(n)$  when  $(m, n) = 1$ .

**Comment [H10]:** same (i, n) is gcd

**Comment [H11]:** what value of  $\varphi((m, n))$  when  $(m, n) = 1$ ?

**Lemma 2.6<sup>[8]</sup>** The value of  $n$  such that both  $\varphi(n)$  and  $\varphi(n+1)$  are odd are listed in Table 1.

Table 1 The value of  $n$  such that both  $\varphi(n)$  and  $\varphi(n+1)$  are odd

$n$	$n+1$	conditions
4	5	
7	8	
57121	57122	
$p^2$	$2q^2$	$p \equiv 7 \pmod{8}, q \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ are primes
$2q^\beta - 1$	$2q^\beta$	$2q^\beta - 1 \equiv 5 \pmod{8}, q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ are primes, and $\beta$ is prime
$2q^\beta$	$2q^\beta + 1$	$2q^\beta + 1 \equiv 7 \pmod{8}, q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ are primes, and $\beta$ is prime
$p^2$	$p^2 + 1$	$p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}, \frac{p^2 + 1}{2} \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ are primes
$5^\alpha - 1$	$5^\alpha$	$\frac{5^\alpha - 1}{4} \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ is a prime
$4q^\beta$	$4q^\beta + 1$	$4q^\beta + 1, q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ are primes, $\beta \geq 1$

**Lemma 2.7<sup>[8]</sup>** If  $n > 4$ ,  $n = 2^a \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{a_i}$ ,  $(p_i, 2) = 1$ ,  $a \geq 0$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , then

$$\varphi_2(n) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{4}\varphi(n) + \frac{(-1)^{\varphi(n)} 2^{a(n)-a}}{4}, & a=0 \text{ or } 1, p_i \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, 1 \leq i \leq k, \\ \frac{1}{4}\varphi(n), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

### 3 Proof of Theorems

#### 3.1 Proof of Theorem 1.1

We have  $\varphi_2(2) = \varphi_2(3) = \varphi_2(4) = 1$  by definition of the generalized Euler function  $\varphi_2(n)$ , and  $\varphi_2(242) = 55$ ,  $\varphi_2(243) = 81$  by Lemma 2.2.

By lemma 2.1, except for  $n = 2, 3, 242$ , both  $\varphi_2(n)$  and  $\varphi_2(n+1)$  are odd if and only if  $n = 2p^\beta$ , where  $\beta \geq 1$ ,  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ , both  $2p^\beta + 1$  and  $p$  are primes. By lemma 2.2, When  $n \geq 3$ ,  $\varphi_2(n) = \frac{1}{2}\varphi(n)$ , and  $\varphi_2(n+1) = \frac{1}{2}\varphi(n+1)$ . Then for the equation  $\varphi_2(n) = \varphi_2(n+1)$ , we just need to solve the equation

$$\varphi(n) = \varphi(n+1). \quad (1)$$

Put  $n = 2p^\beta$ ,  $n+1 = 2p^\beta + 1$  in (1), since  $n+1 = 2p^\beta + 1$  is prime, then  $\varphi(n+1) = n$ . We just need to solve the equation

$$\varphi(n) = n,$$

and it has only a solution  $n = 1$ , but the solution is not satisfied with the form  $n = 2p^\beta$ , so there is no solution.

Hence both  $\varphi_2(n)$  and  $\varphi_2(n+1)$  are odd and equal if and only if  $n = 2$  or  $3$ .

#### 3.2 Proof of Theorem 1.2

By the definition of  $\varphi_3(n)$ , We have

$$\varphi_3(3) = 1, \varphi_3(4) = 1, \varphi_3(15) = 3, \varphi_3(16) = 3, \varphi_3(24) = 3, \varphi_3(25) = 7,$$

hence  $\varphi_3(3) = \varphi_3(4)$ ,  $\varphi_3(15) = \varphi_3(16)$ . Except  $n = 3, 15, 24$ , we discuss the solutions in 3 cases by lemma 2.3.

**Comment [H12]:** subtitle need instead of proof theorems

**Comment [H13]:** but this is principle concept in number theory that is  $\varphi(n) = \varphi(n+1)$  dependent on the resident set which is relatively prime with  $n$ .

**Comment [H14]:** same above note H10

**Case 1** When  $n=2^m$ ,  $n+1=2^m+1(m \geq 1)$ , and  $n+1=2^m+1(m \geq 1)$  is prime, by lemma 2.4, we have

$$\varphi_3(n) = \frac{1}{3}\varphi(n) + \frac{1}{3}.$$

Since  $n+1=2^m+1$  is prime and  $n+1 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ , we have

$$\varphi_3(n+1) = \frac{1}{3}\varphi(n+1) - \frac{1}{3}.$$

If  $\varphi_3(n) = \varphi_3(n+1)$ , then

$$\frac{1}{3}\varphi(n) + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{3}\varphi(n+1) - \frac{1}{3}.$$

Simplify it, we obtain  $2^{m-1}+1=2^m-1$ , thus we have  $m=1$ ,  $n=2$ .

**Case 2** When  $n=2^q$ ,  $n+1=2^q+1$ , and both  $q \equiv 5 \pmod{6}$ ,  $\frac{2^q+1}{3}$  are primes, by lemma 2.4, we have

$$\varphi_3(n) = \frac{1}{3}\varphi(n) - \frac{1}{3}.$$

Since  $\frac{2^q+1}{3}$  is prime,  $q \equiv 5 \pmod{6}$  and  $\varphi(9)=6$ , we have

$$2^q+1 \equiv 2^5+1 \equiv 33 \pmod{9},$$

thus  $\frac{2^q+1}{3} \equiv 11 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ .  $n+1=3 \times \frac{2^q+1}{3}$ , then by lemma 2.4, we obtain

$$\varphi_3(n+1) = \frac{\varphi(n+1)}{3} + \frac{1}{3}.$$

If  $\varphi_3(n) = \varphi_3(n+1)$ , then  $\varphi(n) = \varphi(n+1) + 2$ , namely

$$2^q \cdot (1 - \frac{1}{2}) = 2 \times (\frac{2^q+1}{3} - 1) + 2,$$

simplified to  $2^q = -4$ , we have no solutions in this case.

**Case 3** When  $n=3 \cdot 2^\beta - 1$ ,  $n+1=3 \cdot 2^\beta$ , and  $n=3 \cdot 2^\beta - 1 (\beta \geq 1)$  is prime, by lemma 2.4, we have

**Comment [H15]:** repeat

**Comment [H16]:** if can explain how you get it and the value  $\Omega(n)$ ,  $\sigma(n)$  and  $a$ ?

$$\varphi_3(n) = \frac{1}{3}\varphi(n) - \frac{1}{3},$$

meanwhile,

$$\varphi_3(n+1) = \frac{1}{3}\varphi(n+1) + \frac{(-1)^{1+\beta}2^{\alpha(n)-\alpha-1}}{3} = \frac{1}{3}\varphi(n+1) + \frac{(-1)^{1+\beta}}{3}.$$

If  $\beta = 2k, k > 0$

$$\frac{1}{3}\varphi(n) - \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{3}\varphi(n+1) - \frac{1}{3},$$

simplified to  $\varphi(n) = \varphi(n+1)$ . Since  $n = 3 \cdot 2^\beta - 1 (\beta \geq 1)$  is prime, then

$$3 \cdot 2^\beta - 2 = 3 \cdot 2^\beta \cdot (1 - \frac{1}{2}) \cdot (1 - \frac{1}{3}),$$

We get  $\beta = 0$ , this is contradicted with the condition  $\beta \geq 1$ . If  $\beta = 2k+1, k \geq 0$ ,

$$\frac{1}{3}\varphi(n) - \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{3}\varphi(n+1) + \frac{1}{3},$$

simplified to  $\varphi(n) = \varphi(n+1) + 2$ , then

$$3 \cdot 2^\beta - 2 = 3 \cdot 2^\beta \cdot (1 - \frac{1}{2}) \cdot (1 - \frac{1}{3}) + 2,$$

We have  $\beta = 1, n = 5$ .

Sum up, both  $\varphi_3(n)$  and  $\varphi_3(n+1)$  are odd and equal if and only if  $n = 3$  or 4 or

5 or 15.

### 3.3 Proof of Theorem 1.3

By lemma 2.7, we have  $\varphi_4(4) = 1, \varphi_4(5) = 1, \varphi_4(7) = 1, \varphi_4(8) = 1$  and

$$\varphi_4(57121) = 14221, \varphi_4(57122) = 6591,$$

hence  $\varphi_4(4) = \varphi_4(5), \varphi_4(7) = \varphi_4(8)$ . Then we discuss the solutions in 6 cases by lemma 2.6.

**Case 1** When  $n = p^2, n+1 = 2q^2$ , and both  $p \equiv 7 \pmod{8}, q \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$  are primes. By lemma 2.7, we have  $\varphi_4(n) = \frac{1}{4}\varphi(n) + \frac{1}{2}$ . Since  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , then  $\varphi_4(n+1) = \frac{1}{4}\varphi(n+1)$ ,

**Comment [H17]:** so the proof  $n=5$  with  $\beta=1$

**Comment [H18]:** same up

namely

$$\frac{1}{4}\phi(n)+\frac{1}{2}=\frac{1}{4}\phi(n+1).$$

Simplified to  $\phi(n)+2=\phi(n+1)$ , namely

$$p^2 \cdot (1-\frac{1}{p})+2=2q^2 \cdot (1-\frac{1}{2}) \cdot (1-\frac{1}{q}).$$

Then  $q \cdot (q-1) - p \cdot (p-1) = 2$ , by  $p^2+1 \equiv 2q^2$ , we have  $p=q^2+q+1$ . Then

$$p^2=(q^2+q+1)^2 \geq (q^2+q)^2 \geq 3q^2 > 2q^2,$$

which is contradicted with the condition  $p^2+1 \equiv 2q^2$ , no solution.

**Case 2** When  $n=2q^\beta-1, n+1=2q^\beta$ , and both  $2q^\beta-1 \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ ,  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$  are primes, where  $\beta$  is a odd. By lemma 2.7, we have  $\phi_4(n+1)=\frac{1}{4}\phi(n+1)+\frac{1}{2}$ .

Comment [H19]: ?

Since  $2q^\beta-1 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , we have  $\phi_4(n)=\frac{1}{4}\phi(n)$ , namely

$$\frac{1}{4}\phi(n)=\frac{1}{4}\phi(n+1)+\frac{1}{2}.$$

Simplified to  $\phi(n)=\phi(n+1)+2$ , namely

$$(2q^\beta-1)-1=2q^\beta \cdot (1-\frac{1}{2}) \cdot (1-\frac{1}{q})+2$$

Then  $(q+1) \cdot q^{\beta-1} = 4$ , since both  $q$  and  $q+1$  are positive integers, and  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ , so  $q+1 \geq 4$ , then  $q=3, \beta=1, n=5$ .

Comment [H20]:  $n=5$  with  $q=3$  and  $\beta=1$  not general case

**Case 3** When  $n=2q^\beta, n+1=2q^\beta+1$ , and both  $2q^\beta+1 \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$ ,  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$  are primes, where  $\beta$  is a odd. By lemma 2.7, we have  $\phi_4(n)=\frac{1}{4}\phi(n)+\frac{1}{2}$  and

Comment [H21]: ?

$$\phi_4(n+1)=\frac{1}{4}\phi(n+1)-\frac{1}{2},$$

then

$$\frac{1}{4}\phi(n)+\frac{1}{2}=\frac{1}{4}\phi(n+1)-\frac{1}{2}.$$

Simplified to  $\varphi(n)+4=\varphi(n+1)$ , namely

$$2q^\beta \cdot (1-\frac{1}{2}) \cdot (1-\frac{1}{q}) + 4 = 2q^\beta.$$

Then  $(q+1) \cdot q^{\beta-1} = 4$ , since  $q$  and  $q+1$  both are positive integers, and  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ , so  $q+1 \geq 4$ , then  $q=3, \beta=1, n=6$

**Comment [H22]:**  $n=6$  with  $q=3$  and  $\beta=1$  not general case

**Case 4** When  $n=p^2, n+1=p^2+1$ , and both  $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ ,  $\frac{p^2+1}{2} \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$  are primes. By lemma 2.7, we have  $\varphi_4(n) = \frac{1}{4}\varphi(n)$  and

$$\varphi_4(n+1) = \frac{1}{4}\varphi(n+1).$$

When  $\varphi_4(n) = \varphi_4(n+1)$ , we have

$$\frac{1}{4}\varphi(n) = \frac{1}{4}\varphi(n+1).$$

Simplified to

$$p^2 \cdot (1-\frac{1}{p}) = \frac{p^2+1}{2} - 1,$$

then  $p=1$ . Which contradicts  $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ .

**Case 5** When  $n=5^\alpha-1, n+1=5^\alpha$ , and  $\frac{5^\alpha-1}{4} \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  is a prime, then  $n=4 \cdot \frac{5^\alpha-1}{4} = 2 \cdot \frac{5^\alpha-1}{2}$ . By lemma 2.7, we have  $\varphi_4(n) = \frac{1}{4}\varphi(n)$  and

$$\varphi_4(n+1) = \frac{1}{4}\varphi(n+1),$$

namely  $\frac{1}{4}\varphi(n) = \frac{1}{4}\varphi(n+1)$ , simplified to  $\varphi(n) = \varphi(n+1)$ , i.e.,  $2 \cdot (\frac{5^\alpha-1}{4} - 1) = 5^\alpha \cdot \frac{4}{5}$ ,

Then  $5^\alpha = -\frac{25}{3}$ , which is impossible.

**Case 6** When  $n=4q^\beta, n+1=4q^\beta+1$ , and both  $4q^\beta+1, q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  are primes, where  $\beta \geq 1$ .

By lemma 2.7, we have  $\varphi_4(n) = \frac{1}{4}\varphi(n)$  and  $\varphi_4(n+1) = \frac{1}{4}\varphi(n+1)$ , namely



$$\frac{1}{4}\phi(n)=\frac{1}{4}\phi(n+1).$$

Simplified to  $\phi(n)=\phi(n+1)$ , namely

$$4q^\beta \cdot (1-\frac{1}{2}) \cdot (1-\frac{1}{q}) = 4q^\beta.$$

Then  $q=-1$ . Which contradicts the condition that  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  is a prime.

Sum up, both  $\phi(n)$  and  $\phi(n+1)$  are odd and equal if and only if  $n=4$  or 5 or 6 or 7.

Comment [H23]: delete

Comment [H24]: same

Comment [H25]: not proof this situation

#### 4 Expectation

Euler function  $\phi(n)$  and generalized Euler function  $\phi_e(n)$  are two important functions in number theory. which this article has studied is the odd solutions of generalized Euler function equation  $\phi_e(n)=\phi_e(n+1)$ , where  $e=2,3,4$ . Similarly, we can use a similar method to study the odd solutions of  $\phi_e(n)=\phi_e(n+1)$  in combination with the relevant conclusions of the literature [8]. In the future, we can study all the solutions of the equations  $\phi_e(n)=\phi_e(n+1)$  and  $\phi_e(n)=\phi_e(n+k)$  for positive  $k$  further.

Comment [H26]: real or integer

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