

100. An Average Type Result on the Number of Primes Satisfying Generalized Wieferich Condition

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1. **Statement of results.** In 1909 Wieferich ([1]) proved that if an odd prime p satisfies the condition

$$2^{p-1} - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p^2},$$

then the case I of Fermat's Last Theorem is true for this prime p , i.e. under the condition $(xyz, p) = 1$, there exists no integral solution for the Diophantine equation $x^p + y^p = z^p$. Moreover, it is now known (see for example [2]) that we can deduce the same conclusion, if an odd prime p satisfies

$$a^{p-1} - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p^2}$$

for some prime value a , $2 \leq a \leq 43$.

Now we shall call

$$(*) \quad a^{p-1} - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p^2}$$

the generalized Wieferich condition for a (a may be any natural number). We define for real $x > 0$,

$$F_a(x) = \{p; p \text{ is an odd prime } \leq x, p \text{ satisfies } (*).\}$$

We have an average type result as to the cardinal $\#F_a(x)$ of $F_a(x)$, which states as follows:

Theorem 1. *Let δ be an arbitrary fixed real number satisfying $1/2 < \delta < 1$. We have, if $x \geq 286$,*

$$\#F_a(x) = \log \log x + \theta((\log \log x)^\delta) + \left(C - \frac{1}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\theta((\log x)^{-2})$$

for all a such that $2 \leq a \leq x^4$ with at most

$$2x^4(\log \log x)^{1-2\delta}$$

exceptions of a , where $C = \gamma + \sum_{p: \text{prime}} \{\log(1 - 1/p) + 1/p\}$ and γ is Euler's constant. ($f(x)$ being positive valued function of x , $\theta(f(x))$ denotes a function of x whose absolute value $\leq f(x)$.)

Similarly we have:

Theorem 2. *Let D be an arbitrary fixed real number > 0 and $y \geq x^6$. We defined for a natural number a and real $x > 0$,*

$$F_a^{(3)}(x) = \{p; p \text{ is an odd prime } \leq x, a^{p-1} - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p^3}\}.$$

Then we have

$$\left| \#F_a^{(3)}(x) - \sum_{\substack{3 \leq p \leq x \\ p: \text{prime}}} \frac{1}{p^2} \right| < D$$