

## Perfect if and only if Triangular

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### Abstract

A number  $n$  is perfect when  $\sigma(n) = \sum_{\substack{0 \leq d \leq n \\ d|n}} d = 2n$ . It was Euclid who proved that if  $(2^k - 1)$  is a prime number, Mersenne prime, then  $N = 2^{k-1}(2^k - 1)$  is an even perfect number. Moreover, if  $N$  is an even perfect number then  $N = T_m$  for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $m \geq 3$  is a triangular number where  $T_m = \sum_{i=1}^m i$ .

In this paper we proved the necessary and sufficient condition for an even triangular number  $T_m$  to be a perfect number  $N = 2^{k-1}(2^k - 1)$  besides  $T_m \not\equiv 4 \pmod{10}$  and  $T_m \not\equiv 2 \pmod{10}$ .

**Keywords:** Perfect Numbers, Triangular Numbers and Mersenne Primes.

**Mathematical subject Classification:** 11B72, MSC 2010

### INTRODUCTION

A Perfect Number is a positive integer with the property that it coincides with the sum of all its positive divisors other than the number itself [1]. Thus, an integer  $n \geq 1$  is a perfect number if

$$\sum_{\substack{0 \leq d < n \\ d|n}} d = n$$

The  $n$ th triangular number is the number of dots composing a triangle with  $n$  dots on a side, and is equal to the sum of the  $n$  natural numbers from 1 to  $n$ . [2]

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

**Example 1:**

**Triangular Numbers:** 1, 3, 6,10,15,21,28,36,45. . .

**Perfect Numbers:** 6, 28,496, 8126, 33550336, 8589869056,137438691328, 2305843008139952128, 2658455991569831744654692615953842176,...

The number 6 is unique in that  $6 = 1 + 2 + 3$  where 1, 2 and 3 are all of the proper divisors of 6. The number 28 also shares this property, for  $28 = 1 + 2 + 4 + 7 + 14$ .

These perfect numbers have been a great deal of mathematical study- indeed, many of the basic theorems of numbers theory stem from the investigation of the Greeks into the problem of perfect and Pythagorean numbers. The Pythagoreans introduced the name perfect and there are speculations that there could be religious or astrological origins because the earth was created in 6 and the moon needs 28 days to circle the earth, mystical associations are natural. The early Hebrews also studied perfect numbers [3].

**Definition 1:** The sum of divisors is the function  $\sigma(n) = \sum_{d|n} d$ , where  $d$  runs over the positive divisors of  $n$  including 1 and  $n$  itself.

**Definition 2:** The number  $n$  is called *perfect* if  $\sigma(n) = 2n$ , when  $\sigma(n) < 2n$  we say  $n$  is *deficient*,  $\sigma(n) > 2n$  we say  $n$  is *abundant*.

**Example 2:**

6 and 28 are perfect as  $\sigma(6) = 1 + 2 + 3 + 6 = 12 = 2(6)$  and

$$\sigma(28) = 1 + 2 + 4 + 7 + 14 + 28 = 56 = 2(28).$$

Euclid was the first mathematician who categorized even perfect numbers. He noticed that

$$\begin{aligned} 6 &= 2^1 \cdot 3^1 = 2^1(2^2 - 1) \\ 28 &= 2^2 \cdot 7 = 2^2(2^3 - 1) \\ 496 &= 16 \cdot 31 = 2^4(2^5 - 1) \\ 8126 &= 64 \cdot 127 = 2^6(2^7 - 1) \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 3 (Euclid)**[4,9]: *If  $(2^n - 1)$  is prime then  $N = 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1)$  is perfect.*

**Proof:** The only prime divisors of  $N$  are  $(2^n - 1)$  and 2. Since  $(2^n - 1)$  occurs as a single prime, we have that  $\sigma(2^n - 1) = (1 + (2^n - 1)) = 2^n$ , and thus

$$\sigma(N) = \sigma(2^{n-1})\sigma(2^n - 1) = \left(\frac{2^n - 1}{2 - 1}\right) 2^n = 2^n(2^n - 1) = 2 \cdot 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1) = 2N$$

So  $N$  is perfect.

**Mersenne primes:** Monk Martin Mersenne, a colleague of Descartes, Fermat and Pascal created with investigating these unique primes as early as 1644. He knew  $(2^n - 1)$  is prime for  $n = 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17$  and 19. [5, 6]

**Definition 4:** A Mersenne prime is a prime number of the form  $M_n = 2^{P_n} - 1$  where  $P_n$  is a prime number.

**Proposition 5:**[5] (Cateldi – Fermat) *If  $(2^n - 1)$  is prime, then  $n$  itself is prime.*

**Proof:**  $x^n - 1 = (x - 1)(x^{n-1} + \dots + x + 1)$ . Suppose we can write  $n = rs$  where  $r, s > 1$ . Then

$$2^n - 1 = (2^r)^s - 1 = (2^r - 1)((2^r)^{s-1} + \dots + 2^r + 1)$$

so that  $(2^r - 1) | (2^n - 1)$  which is prime, a contradiction. ■

**Theorem 6:** *If  $N$  is an even perfect number, then  $N = 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1)$  where  $(2^n - 1)$  is prime.*

**Proof:** Since  $2^n m = (2^n - 1)\sigma(m)$ , every prime divisor of  $(2^n - 1)$  must also divide  $m$ , for it is odd and cannot divide  $2^n$ . So, suppose  $p^\alpha$  divides  $(2^n - 1)$  with  $p$  prime.

From the fact that if  $a|b$ , then  $\frac{\sigma(a)}{a} \leq \frac{\sigma(b)}{b}$  where equality holds only if  $a = b$  we have,

$$\frac{\sigma(m)}{m} \leq \frac{\sigma(p^\alpha)}{p^\alpha} = \frac{1+p+\dots+p^\alpha}{p^\alpha} \geq \frac{p^{\alpha-1}+p^\alpha}{p^\alpha} = \frac{1+p}{p}. \text{ Hence}$$

$$1 = \frac{\sigma(N)}{2N} = \frac{\sigma(2^{n-1})\sigma(m)}{2^n m} \geq \frac{(2^n-1)(1+p)}{2^n p} = 1 + \frac{(2^n-1)-p}{2^n p}.$$

This is only satisfied when the fraction on the right is zero, so that  $p = (2^n - 1)$ ,  $\alpha = 1$  and  $m = p$ .

$$\text{Hence } N = 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1). \quad \blacksquare$$

**Proposition 7:** Even perfect number ends in either 6 or 8.

**Proof:** Every prime number  $p \geq 2$  is of the form  $p = 4m + 3$  or  $p = 4m + 1$ . In the former case,

$$N = 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1) = 2^{4m}(2^{4m+1} - 1) = (16)^m(2 \cdot (16)^m - 1)$$

$$\equiv 6^m(2(6)^m - 1) \equiv 6(\text{mod}10)$$

Since by induction one can show that  $6^m \equiv 6(\text{mod}10)$  for all  $m$ .

Similarly in the latter case,

$$N = 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1) = 2^{4m+2}(2^{4m+3} - 1) = 4(16)^m(8 \cdot (16)^m - 1)$$

$$\equiv (4)(6)(8(6) - 1) \equiv 4(8 - 1) \equiv 8(\text{mod}10).$$

Finally, if  $n = 2$ ,  $N = 2^{2-1}(2^2 - 1) = 6$  and so we have the result that even perfect number ends in either 6 or 8.  $\blacksquare$

## MAIN RESULTS

Let  $A(x) = \sum_{i=0}^m a_i x^i$  and  $B(x) = \sum_{i=0}^n b_i x^i$ . Then  $A(x)B(x) = C(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{n+m} c_k x^k$  where

$$C_k = \sum_{i=0}^k a_i b_{k-i} \text{ for } 0 \leq k \leq m+n.$$

The decimal expansion of a positive integer  $N$ ,  $0 \leq a_k < 10$  where  $a_0$  is the unit digit of  $N$  is given by

$$N = A(10) = a_m 10^m + a_{m-1} 10^{m-1} + \dots + a_1 10^1 + a_0 10^0$$

$$= (a_m a_{m-1} a_{m-2} \dots a_1 a_0)_{10}$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^m a_i 10^i$$

**Theorem 8 [7]:** A triangular number  $T_m = \sum_{i=1}^m i$  is even if and only if  $m = (4k - 1)$  or  $m = 4k$  for some  $\epsilon \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

**Theorem 9:** Even triangular numbers  $T_m$  end not with 2 or 4. That is neither  $T_m \equiv 4 \pmod{10}$  nor  $T_m \equiv 2 \pmod{10}$ .

**Proof:** Suppose  $T_m$  is an even triangular number. Then either  $m = (4k - 1)$  or  $m = 4k$ .

a) Suppose  $m = 4k - 1$ .

This implies  $T_m = T_{4k-1} = \sum_{i=1}^{4k-1} i$   

$$= \frac{(4k-1)(4k)}{2} = 2k(4k-1).$$

Let  $A(10) = 2k = \sum_{i=0}^m a_i 10^i = (a_m a_{m-1} a_{m-2} \dots a_1 a_0)_{10}$  be decimal expansion of the factor  $(2k)$  of an even triangular number  $T_{4k-1}$  where the unit digit  $a_0 \in \{0, 2, 4, 6, 8\}$ .

Let  $b_0$  be the unit digit of the factor  $B(10) = (4k - 1)$  of  $T_m$  where the decimal expansion is

$$B(10) = 4k - 1 = \sum_{i=0}^n b_i 10^i = (b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_1 b_0)_{10}.$$

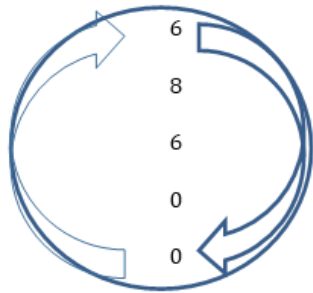
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Consider } T_m = T_{4k-1} &= (2k)(4k - 1) = (2k)(2(2k) - 1) = A(10)B(10) \\ &= (\sum_{i=0}^m a_i 10^i) (\sum_{i=0}^n b_i 10^i) = C(10) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{n+m} c_i 10^i = (c_{m+n} c_{m+n-1} \dots c_1 c_0)_{10} \end{aligned}$$

The constant term  $c_0$  of  $C(10) = T_m = T_{4k-1}$  is  $c_0 = a_0 b_0$ .

We consider each unit digit  $a_0 \in \{0, 2, 4, 6, 8\}$  of  $2k = A(10)$  to determine unit digits  $b_0$  of

$$B(10) = (4k - 1) \text{ and } c_0 \text{ of } C(10).$$

- 1)  $a_0 = 0 \Rightarrow c_0 = 0$
- 2)  $a_0 = 2, b_0 = 2*2 - 1 = 3 \Rightarrow c_0 = 6$
- 3)  $a_0 = 4, b_0 = 2*4 - 1 = 7 \Rightarrow a_0 b_0 = c_0 = 8$  (Because  $(4)*(7) = 28 = 2 * 10^1 + 8 * 10^0$ )
- 4)  $a_0 = 6, b_0 = 1$ , because  $2*6 - 1 = 11 = 1 * 10^1 + 1 * 10^0 \Rightarrow c_0 = 6$
- 5)  $a_0 = 8$ , the unit digit  $b_0 = 5$  because  $2*8 - 1 = 15 = 1 * 10^1 + 5 * 10^0 \Rightarrow c_0 = 0$ .



Cycle for unit digits in

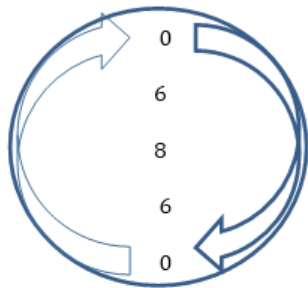
$$T_m = T_{4k-1}$$

$T_3$	$T_7$	$T_{11}$	$T_{15}$	$T_{19}$
6	28	66	120	190

$T_{23}$	$T_{27}$	$T_{31}$	$T_{35}$	$T_{39}$
276	378	496	630	780

Table I:  $T_m = T_{4k-1}$

b) Form  $m = 4k$ , in similar approach one can show that an even triangular number  $T_m$  has the following sequence of unit digits.



Cycles for unit digits in

$$T_m = T_{4k}$$

$T_4$	$T_8$	$T_{12}$	$T_{16}$	$T_{20}$	$T_{24}$
10	36	78	136	210	300

$T_{28}$	$T_{32}$	$T_{36}$	$T_{40}$	$T_{44}$	$T_{48}$
406	528	666	820	990	1176

Table II:  $T_m = T_{4k}$

Hence if a triangular number is even, then its unit digit is either 0, 6 or 8 but not 2 and 4. This implies

$$T_m \not\equiv 4 \pmod{10} \text{ and } T_m \not\equiv 2 \pmod{10} . \quad \blacksquare$$

**Proposition 10** [8]: Every even perfect number ends in either 6 or 8.

**Theorem 11:** An even triangular number  $T_{4k}$  for each  $k \geq 1$  cannot be written in the form of

$$2^{n-1}(2^n - 1) \text{ for any } n \geq 2 .$$

**Proof:** Suppose  $T_{4k} = \frac{4k(4k+1)}{2} = 2k(4k + 1) = 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1)$  for some  $n \geq 2$  and  $k \geq 1$ . Then,

$$2k(4k + 1) = 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1) \quad \text{iff} \quad 4k^2 + k = 2^{n-2}(2^n - 1)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 4k^2 + k - 2^{n-2}(2^n - 1) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (4k - (2^n - 1))(k + 2^{n-2}) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 4k = 2^n - 1 \text{ or } k + 2^{n-2} = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow k = \frac{2^n - 1}{4} \text{ (not an integer) or } k = -2^{n-2} \text{ (not a positive integer)}$$

$$\Rightarrow k \in \emptyset \rightarrow \leftarrow$$

Hence  $T_{4k} \neq 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1)$  for any  $k \geq 1$  and  $n \geq 2$ . ■

**Corollary 12:** If an even triangular number  $T_m$  is perfect, then  $m = (4k - 1)$  for some  $k \geq 1$ .

6	10	28	36	66	78	120	136	190	210	276	300	378	406
2*3	2*5	4*7	4*9	6*11	6*13	8*15	8*17	10*19	10*21	12*23	12*25	14*27	14*29
$t_3$	$t_4$	$t_7$	$t_8$	$t_{11}$	$t_{12}$	$t_{15}$	$t_{16}$	$t_{19}$	$t_{20}$	$t_{23}$	$t_{24}$	$t_{27}$	$t_{28}$
$2^{2-1}$ * $(2^2 - 1)$		$2^{3-1}$ * $(2^3 - 1)$				$2^{4-1}$ * $(2^4 - 1)$							

496	528	630	666	780	820	946	990	1128	1176	1326	1378	1540	1540
16*31	16*33	18*35	18*37	20*39	20*41	22*43	22*45	24*47	24*49	26*51	26*53	28*55	28*57
$t_{31}$	$t_{32}$	$t_{33}$	$t_{36}$	$t_{35}$	$t_{40}$	$t_{37}$	$t_{44}$	$t_{39}$	$t_{48}$	$t_{41}$	$t_{52}$	$t_{43}$	$t_{56}$
$2^{5-1}$ * $(2^5 - 1)$													

Table III: Even Triangular Numbers with some in  $2^{n-1}(2^n - 1)$  form.

**Theorem 13:** An even triangular number  $T_m$  is perfect if and only if  $m = (2^t - 1)$  for some prime number  $t$ .

**Proof:** A triangular number  $T_m$  is even if and only if either  $m = (4k - 1)$  or  $m = 4k$  for some  $k \geq 1$  and an every prime number  $p > 2$  is of the form  $p = (4l + 3)$  or  $p = 4l + 1$ . [7]

Suppose  $T_m$  is perfect.

This implies  $T_m = 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1)$  and  $(2^n - 1)$  is prime. But  $(2^n - 1)$  prime only if  $n$  is prime number. By

(Theorem 11) and the later remark above the only choice for  $m$  is  $m = (4k - 1) = 4(k - 1) + 3 = 4l + 3$

but not  $m = 4k$ .

Hence,  $T_m = \sum_{i=1}^m i = \sum_{i=1}^{4k-1} i = (2k)(4k - 1) = 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1)$  and

$$T_m = 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1) \Leftrightarrow (4k - 1)(2k) = 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1) \quad (1)$$

It is easy to show that  $\gcd(2k, 4k - 1) = \gcd(2^{n-1}, 2^n - 1) = 1$

$$= \gcd(2k, 2^n - 1) = \gcd(2^{n-1}, 4k - 1). \quad (2)$$

We use (2) to show that  $(4k - 1) = (2^n - 1)$ .

Because  $(2^n - 1)$  is prime, either  $\gcd(4k - 1, 2^n - 1) = 1$  or  $(2^n - 1) | (4k - 1)$ .

If the former is true, incorporating with what we have in (2),

$$\gcd(2k, 4k - 1) = \gcd(2^{n-1}, 2^n - 1) = 1$$

$$= \gcd(2k, 2^n - 1) = 1 = \gcd(2^{n-1}, 4k - 1)$$

$$= \gcd(4k - 1, 2^n - 1) = 1 \text{ and is clear to see that } (4k - 1) = (2^n - 1) \text{ and}$$

then  $2k = 2^{n-1}$ .

$$\text{If the later holds, then there exists } d \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \text{ such that } (4k - 1) = d(2^n - 1). \quad (3)$$

As  $(4k - 1)$  and  $(2^n - 1)$  are both odd, this implies  $d$  is an odd integer too.

Substituting (3) into (1) we have,

$$(4k - 1)(2k) = (2k)(2^n - 1)d = 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1). \text{ This implies } (2k)d = 2^{n-1} \text{ and}$$

either

$$d = \frac{2^{n-1}}{2k} \in \mathbb{Q} \wedge d = \frac{2^{n-1}}{2k} \notin \mathbb{Z}^+ \text{ or } d = \frac{2^{n-1}}{2k} \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \text{ and is an even integer for the only}$$

factors of

$2^{n-1}$  are multiples of 2, which is a contradiction to  $d$  is an odd integer.



Hence  $(2^n - 1) | (4k - 1)$  only when  $d = 1$  and hence  $(4k - 1) = (2^n - 1)$  and  $2k = 2^{n-1}$ .

Consequently,

$$(2k)(4k - 1) = 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1) \Leftrightarrow (4k - 1) = (2^n - 1) \text{ and } 2k = 2^{n-1}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 4k = 2^n \text{ and } k = 2^{n-2} \Leftrightarrow k = 2^{n-2} \quad \text{for some prime } n.$$

Thus  $m = 4k - 1 = 2^2 2^{n-2} - 1 = (2^n - 1)$ , and if an even Triangular number  $T_m$  is perfect,  $m = (2^t - 1)$  for some prime number  $t$ . ■

Alternative proof:

$$(2k)(4k - 1) = 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1) \Leftrightarrow 8k^2 - 2k = 2^{n-1}(2^n - 1)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 4k^2 - k = 2^{n-2}(2^n - 1)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 4k^2 - k - 2^{n-2}(2^n - 1) = 0 \Leftrightarrow 4k^2 - k - 2^{n-2}(2^n - 1) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 4k^2 - 2^n k + (2^n - 1)k - 2^{n-2}(2^n - 1) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 4k(k - 2^{n-2}) + (2^n - 1)(k - 2^{n-2}) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (k - 2^{n-2})(4k + 2^n - 1) = 0 \Leftrightarrow k = 2^{n-2} \text{ or } 4k = 1 - 2^n$$

$$\Leftrightarrow k = 2^{n-2} \text{ or } k = 2^2 - 2^{n-2} = 2^{-2}(1 - 2^n)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow k = 2^{n-2} \text{ or } k \in \emptyset \text{ (because } (1 - 2^n) < 0, \forall n \geq 3 \text{ and } k = \frac{1-2^n}{2^2} \notin \mathbb{Z}^+).$$

$$\Rightarrow k = 2^{n-2}.$$

Consequently,  $m = 4k - 1 = 4(2^{n-2}) - 1 = (2^n - 1)$ , where  $n$  is prime. ■

Conversely, suppose  $T_m$  is an even triangular number where  $m = (2^t - 1)$  for some prime number  $t$ .

$$\text{Then } T_m = T_{2^t-1} = \sum_{i=1}^{2^t-1} i$$

$$= \frac{(2^t-1)(2^t-1+1)}{2} = (2^{t-1})(2^t - 1) = N \text{ and which is perfect.} \quad \blacksquare$$

**Corollary 14:** An even triangular  $T_M$  is perfect if and only if  $M$  is a **Mersenne prime**.

**Theorem 15:** An even triangular number  $T_{4k-1}$  is not perfect if  $k \equiv -1 \pmod{5}$  or  $k \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ .

**Proof:** Consider an even triangular number  $T_{4k-1}$ . Suppose  $k \equiv -1 \pmod{5}$  or

$k \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ . Then  $k \equiv -1 \pmod{5}$  if and only if  $k \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$  if and only if  $5 \mid (k - 4)$

if and only if  $k = 4 + 5t$  for some  $t \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hence } T_{4k-1} &= T_{4(4+5t)-1} = T_{15+20t} = \frac{(15+20t)(20t+16)}{2} \\ &= \frac{20(3+4t)(4+5t)}{2} = 10(3+4t)(4+5t) \text{ and } 10 \mid T_{4k-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently  $T_{4k-1}$  is not a perfect number. (Proposition 10).

Similarly if  $k \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$  one can show that  $10 \mid T_{4k-1}$  which implies it is not perfect. ■

**Theorem 16 :** *If a triangular number  $T_m$  is perfect, then*

$$T_{(2^n-1)} = T^2\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right) - 2^3 T^2\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right) = \sum_{k=1}^{\binom{n-1}{2}} (2k-1)^3.$$

**Proof:** If a triangular number  $T_m$  is perfect then  $m = (2^n - 1)$  where  $n$  is a prime number (Theorem 13).

$$\begin{aligned} T_n^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^n i^3 = \left(\frac{n(n+1)}{2}\right)^2. \\ \Rightarrow T^2\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right) &= \sum_{i=1}^{\binom{n+1}{2}} i^3 = \left(\frac{2\binom{n+1}{2}\binom{n+1}{2}+1}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{2^{(n+1)}\left(2\binom{n+1}{2}+1\right)^2}{4} = \\ &2^{n-1}\left(2\binom{n+1}{2}+1\right)^2 \text{ and} \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

$$\begin{aligned} T^2\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right) &= \sum_{i=1}^{\binom{n-1}{2}} i^3 = \left(\frac{2\binom{n-1}{2}\binom{n-1}{2}+1}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{2^{(n-1)}\left(2\binom{n-1}{2}+1\right)^2}{4} = \\ &2^{(n-3)}\left(2\binom{n-1}{2}+1\right)^2 \\ \Rightarrow 2^3 T^2\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right) &= 2^3 \cdot 2^{(n-3)}\left(2\binom{n-1}{2}+1\right)^2 = 2^n\left(2\binom{n-1}{2}+1\right)^2 \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Combining (4) and (5) we have,

$$\begin{aligned}
 T^2\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right) - T^2\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right) &= 2^{(n-1)}\left(2^{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} + 1\right)^2 - 2^n\left(2^{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} + 1\right)^2 \\
 &= (2^{n-1})\left(\left(2^{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} + 1\right)^2 - 2\left(2^{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} + 1\right)^2\right) \\
 &= (2^{n-1})\left(2^{n+1} + 2 \cdot 2^{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} + 1\right) - 2^1\left(2^{n-1} + 2 \cdot 2^{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} + 1\right) \\
 &= (2^{n-1})\left(2^{n+1} + 2 \cdot 2^{\left(\frac{n+3}{2}\right)} + 1\right) - 2^1\left(2^{n-1} + 2 \cdot 2^{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} + 1\right) \\
 &= (2^{n-1})\left(2^{n+1} + 2^{\left(\frac{n+3}{2}\right)} + 1 - 2^n - 2^{\left(\frac{n+3}{2}\right)} - 2\right) \\
 &= (2^{n-1})\left(2^{n+1} - 2^n - 1\right) = (2^{n-1})\left(2 \cdot 2^n - 2^n - 1\right) \\
 &= (2^{n-1})\left(2^n - 1\right) = \frac{2^n(2^{n-1})}{2} = T_{(2^{n-1})} \quad \blacksquare \quad (6)
 \end{aligned}$$

Next we show that,  $T_{(2^{n-1})} = \sum_{i=1}^{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} (2i - 1)^3$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 T_{(2^{n-1})} &= T^2\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right) - 2^3 T^2\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right) = \sum_{i=1}^{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} (i)^3 - 2^3 \sum_{i=1}^{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} (i)^3 \\
 &= \left(1^2 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + \left(2^{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)}\right)^3\right) - 2^3 \left(1^2 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + \left(2^{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)}\right)^3\right) \\
 &= \left(1^2 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots + \left(2^{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)}\right)^3\right) - \left(2^3 + 4^3 + 6^3 + \dots + \left(2^{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)}\right)^3\right) \\
 &= \left(1^2 + 2^3 + 3^3 + 4^3 + 5^3 + 6^3 + 7^3 + 8^3 + \dots + \left(2^{\frac{n+1}{2}} - 2\right)^3 + \left(2^{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} - 1\right)^3 + \left(2^{\frac{n+1}{2}}\right)^3\right) \\
 &\quad - \left(2^3 + 4^3 + 6^3 + 8^3 \dots + \left(2^{\frac{n+1}{2}} - 2\right)^3 + \left(2^{\frac{n+1}{2}}\right)^3\right) \\
 &= \left(1^2 + 3^3 + 5^3 + 7^3 + \dots + \left(2^{\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right)} - 1\right)^3\right) = \left(1^2 + 3^3 + 5^3 + 7^3 + \dots + \left(2 \cdot 2^{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} - 1\right)^3\right) \\
 &= (1^2 + 3^3 + 5^3 + 7^3 + \dots + (2k - 1)^3) \text{ where } k = 2^{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} \\
 &= \sum_{k=1}^{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} (2k - 1)^3
 \end{aligned}$$

This implies  $T_{2^{n-1}} = \sum_{k=1}^{2^{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)}} (2k - 1)^3$ . \blacksquare (7)

From (6) and (7) it follows,

$$T_{(2^n-1)} = T^2\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right) - 2^3 T^2\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right) = \sum_{k=1}^{\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)} (2k-1)^3 . \quad \blacksquare$$

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