

# A strengthened form of the strong Goldbach conjecture

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**Abstract.** This note disproves a strengthened form of the strong Goldbach conjecture.

**Notations.** Let  $\mathbb{N}$  denote the natural numbers starting from 1, let  $\mathbb{N}_n$  denote the natural numbers starting from  $n > 1$  and let  $\mathbb{P}_3$  denote the prime numbers starting from 3.

Strengthened strong Goldbach conjecture (SSGB): *Every even integer greater than 6 can be expressed as the sum of two different primes.*

**Theorem.** *SSGB does not hold.*

*Proof.* We define the set  $S_g := \{ (pk, mk, qk) \mid k, m \in \mathbb{N}; p, q \in \mathbb{P}_3, p < q; m = (p + q) / 2 \}$ .

SSGB is equivalent to saying that every integer  $x \geq 4$  is the arithmetic mean of two different odd primes and so it is equivalent to saying that all integers  $x \geq 4$  appear as  $m$  in a middle component  $mk$  of  $S_g$ .

There are two possibilities for  $S_g$ , exactly one of which must occur: Either there is an  $n \in \mathbb{N}_4$  in addition to all the numbers  $m$  defined in  $S_g$  or there is not. The latter corresponds to SSGB and the former corresponds to the negation  $\neg$ SSGB.

The set  $S_g$  has the following property: The whole range of  $\mathbb{N}_3$  can be expressed by the triple components of  $S_g$ , since every integer  $x \geq 3$  can be written as some  $pk$  with  $k = 1$  when  $x$  is prime, as some  $pk$  with  $k \neq 1$  when  $x$  is composite and not a power of 2, or as  $(3 + 5)k / 2$  when  $x$  is a power of 2;  $p \in \mathbb{P}_3, k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We can split  $S_g$  into two complementary subsets: For any  $y \in \mathbb{N}_3$ ,  $S_g = S_{g+(y)} \cup S_{g-(y)}$ , with

$$S_{g+(y)} = \{ (pk', mk', qk') \in S_g \mid \exists k \in \mathbb{N} \quad pk' = yk \vee mk' = yk \vee qk' = yk \}$$
$$S_{g-(y)} = \{ (pk', mk', qk') \in S_g \mid \forall k \in \mathbb{N} \quad pk' \neq yk \wedge mk' \neq yk \wedge qk' \neq yk \}.$$

In the case of  $\neg$ SSGB, there is at least one  $n \geq 4$  additional to all the  $m$  that are defined in  $S_g$ . The following steps work regardless of the choice of  $n$  if there is more than one  $n$ .

According to the above three types of expression by  $S_g$  triple components, for  $n$  we have  $\forall k \in \mathbb{N} \quad \exists (pk', mk', qk') \in S_g \quad nk = pk' \vee nk = mk' = 4k'$ .

Let  $S_{g+}$  be shorthand for  $S_{g+(n)}$  and let  $S_{g-}$  be shorthand for  $S_{g-(n)}$ . Then,  $S_g = S_{g+} \cup S_{g-}$ .

By definition,  $S_{g+(y)} \cup S_{g-(y)}$  equals  $S_g$  for every  $y$ , whether or not we assume  $\neg$ SSGB. Therefore, we obtain

$$\forall S \quad (\neg\text{SSGB} \Rightarrow S_g = S) \Rightarrow S = S_g,$$

which is equivalent to  $\neg$ SSGB, because it is true if  $\neg$ SSGB is true, and false if SSGB is true.

□