

Korselt Numbers Through Computational Algorithms

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Abstract: In this article, many concepts such as Korselt numbers that are related to Carmichael numbers have been studied. It deserves to mention that the Korselt numbers and sets were discussed for the first time in 2007 by Echi. Let N be a positive integer and a nonzero integer. If $N = \alpha$ and $p - \alpha$ divides $N - \alpha$ for each prime divisor p of N, then N is called an α -Korselt number (K α -number). Korselt numbers were determined by studying the converse of Fermat's Little Theorem. To validate the concerned theorems, illustrated examples are solved in order to support the correctness of these theories. In this article we addressed errors in the relevant literature, and we introduced proper corrections with proofs for them. Finally, many notes have been taken and directed us to build and develop a number of algorithms in order to find Korselt sets for relatively large numbers in an effective way which may require a great time and need tedious effort if it is to be calculated manually.

Keywords: Korselt numbers, Korselt sets, Carmichael numbers. Introduction

In 1640, Fermat proved his well-known result (Fermat's Little Theorem [6-9]) which states that: "If p is a prime number, then p divides a^p – a for every integer a". On the other hand, Korselt studied the converse of Fermat's Little Theorem [10]: If N divides a^{N} – a for any integer a, does it follow that N is prime? Actually, he proved that a composite odd number N divides a^{N} – a for any integer a if and only if N is square free and p - 1 divides N - 1for each prime divisor p of N, but he did not provide any numerical example of these numbers! In 1910, [5]. Carmichael observed that the number 561 provides a counterexample that proves the converse of Fermat's little theorem helped him to make the conclusion that the theorem is not true in general, which motivated the appearance of the Carmichael numbers.

A composite number N is called a *pseudoprime* to the base a iff $a^{N-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$ where $a \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$ and gcd(a, N) = 1 [11], it is called an absolute pseudoprime, or Carmichael number, if it is pseudoprime for all bases a with gcd(a, N) = 1 [8]. These numbers were first described by Robert D. Carmichael in 1910 [5], and the term Carmichael number was used by Beeger in 1950 [3]. In 1994, Alford, Granville and Pomerance showed that there are infinitely many Carmichael numbers [2].

In 2010, Echi, Bouallegue and Pinch introduced the notion of the Korselt number [4]. They defined that a natural number N > 1 is called an α -Korselt number with $\alpha \in Z \setminus \{0\}$ (denoted K_{α} number) iff $p - \alpha$ divides $N - \alpha$ for every prime factor p of N. The Korselt set of N, denoted by KS(N), is the set of all $\alpha \in Z \setminus \{0, 1\}$ such that N is K_{α} -number. The Korselt weight of N, denoted by $K_w(N)$ is the cardinality of KS(N). Notice that Carmichael numbers are exactly k1-numbers [12].

In general, numerical calculations need a lot of effort, and difficult to check errors unless automated algorithms are used by computer. This motivated us to construct algorithms to convert suggested definitions and propositions into algorithms built through detailed instructions, consequently, helped us to check and compare results relevant to Korselt numbers under different conditions. Three algorithms were proposed by us in this work for verification, noting that other literature are lack of algorithms.

Korselt Set of Square free Numbers That Have 2, 3 And 4 **Prime Factors**

We start this section by introducing the following definitions of Korselt numbers and Korselt sets.

Definition 1. [1, 4] Let $N \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0, 1\}$ and α be a non-zero integer. Then:

- 1. N is an α -Korselt number iff $N \neq \alpha$ and $p \alpha$ divides $N \alpha$ for every prime divisor p of N. If N is an α -Korselt number, then we write N is a K_{α} -number.
- 2. The set of all α such that N is a K_a-number is called the Korselt set of N, and denoted by KS(N).
- The cardinality of KS(N) is called the Korselt weight of N, З. and denoted by Kw(N).

Below is an example illustrating the above definition

Example 2.

- 6 is a K₄-number. Indeed, 6 = 2 * 3 and 2 4 = -2 | 6 4 =2 and 3 - 4 = -1 | 6 - 4 = 2. Here, $KS(6) = \{4\}$ and $K_w(6) = 1$.
- N = 770 = 2 * 5 * 7 * 11 is K_8 and K_{14} -number. Hence, $KS(770) = \{8, 14\} \text{ and } K_w(770) = 2.$

The following result helps in finding the Korselt set of a given square free integer N.

Proposition 3. [1] Let α be a non-zero integer and N be a composite number where largest prime factor is q and smallest prime factor is p. (eg. N = 30, here, p = 2 and q = 5). If N is a K_{α} number, then the following inequalities hold:

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$$\frac{3q-N}{2} \leq \alpha \leq \frac{N+p}{2}$$

Proof. To prove that $\frac{3q-N}{2} \leq \alpha$, assume that $\alpha \in KS(N)$. By definition of the Korselt number, $q - \alpha$ divides $N - \alpha$. Thus, there exists a natural number y such that $N - \alpha = y(q - \alpha)$. And as N > q, this implies that $y \geq 2$.

Claim: $y \neq 2$. By contradiction, suppose that y = 2. Hence, $N - \alpha = 2q - 2\alpha$, consequently $\alpha = 2q - N$.

Claim: $a \neq 2q - N$. Here, $N \neq q$ because *N* is a composite number and *q* is a prime number. Also, a being a non-zero implies that $N \neq 2q$, Thus, N = mq where $m \ge 3$, and hence a = 2q - mq = -(m - 2)q. Now, if s is a prime factor of m, then since *N* is a K_{a} -number, s - a = s + (m - 2)q divides N - a = q(2m - 2). But gcd(s + (m - 2)q, q) equals 1 or *q*. If gcd(s + (m - 2)q, q) = q, then this leads that q divides s which is not possible. Hence, gcd(s + (m - 2)q, q) = gcd(s, q) = 1, and this implies that s + (m - 2)q divides 2m - 2. But $2m - 2 = 2 + 2(m - 2) \le s + (m - 2)q$ because $s \ge 2$ and $q \ge 2$, this gives a contradiction. Therefore, $y \ge 3$. This leads 3q - N

that
$$N - \alpha = y(q - \alpha) \ge 3(q - \alpha)$$
. Hence, $\alpha \ge \frac{3q - r}{2}$

Now, the case $\alpha < 0$ is trivially as $\frac{N+p}{2} > 0$. If $0 < \alpha \le p$, then $\alpha \le \frac{p+p}{2} < \frac{N+p}{2}$. Also, when $p < \alpha < N$, then $|p - \alpha| \le |N - \alpha|$ and $\alpha - p \le N - \alpha$, hence $\alpha \le \frac{N+p}{2}$. Also, when $\alpha \ge N$ and as q < N, then $\alpha - q > \alpha - N \ge 0$. But $q - \alpha$ divides $N - \alpha$ (*N* is a K α -number),

which implies that $\alpha - N = 0$, and hence $\alpha = N$. But by definition of the Korselt number, $N \neq \alpha$, a contradiction. Thus $\alpha < N$.

Example 4. Let N = 165 = 3 * 5 * 11. Here, q = 11 and p = 3.

•
$$\alpha \ge \frac{3q-N}{2} = \frac{3*11-165}{2} = -664$$

• $\alpha \le \frac{N+p}{2} = \frac{165+3}{2} = 84.$

One application of Proposition 3 is that it can be used to find the Korselt set of numbers with 2, 3 and 4 prime factors after a deep understanding and analysis to this Proposition and converting it into stages and steps, we managed to build algorithm through clear sequential steps and converting it into a powerful program using MATLAB software shown in the next figure (Figure 1) where the input is any integer and the output is the KS of this number

The next tables (Tables 1, 2, 3) contain some squarefree numbers N with their prime factorization (Pf) and KS(N). Results of the proposed algorithm are presented in the following tables.

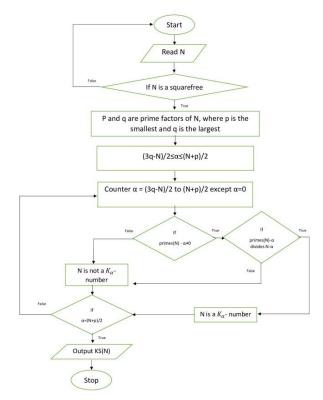


Figure (1): Flowchart represents the way to calculate the KS(N). Table (1): KS of squarefree numbers with 2 prime factors.

N	$\mathbf{Pf} \text{ of } N$	KS(N)
6	2 * 3	{4}
10	2 * 5	$\{4, 6\}$
14	2 * 7	$\{6, 8\}$
15	3 * 5	$\{4, 6, 7\}$
21	3 * 7	$\{5, 6, 9\}$
22	2 * 11	{12}
N	$\mathbf{Pf} \text{ of } N$	KS(N)
26	2 * 13	{14}
33	3 * 11	$\{9, 13\}$
34	2 * 17	{18}
35	5 * 7	$\{3, 6, 8, 11\},\$
38	2 * 19	{20}
	3 * 13	[10,15]
39	3 * 13	$\{12, 15\}$

Table (2): KS of squarefree numbers with 3 prime factors.

N	Pf of N	KS(N)
30	2 * 3 * 5	$\{4, 6\}$
42	2 * 3 * 7	$\{6\}$
66	2*3*11	$\{6, 10\}$
78	2*3*13	{}
102	2*3*17	$\{12\}$
N	Pf of N	KS(N)
105	3 * 5 * 7	$\{6, 9\}$
114	2 * 3 * 19	{}
138	2 * 3 * 23	{}
165	3 * 5 * 11	$\{-3,4,9\}$
174	2 * 3 * 29	{}

Table (3): KS of squarefree numbers with 4 prime factors.

N	Pf of N	KS(N)
210	2 * 3 * 5 * 7	$\{6\}$
330	2*3*5*11	{}
390	2*3*5*13	{}
462	2*3*7*11	$\{12\}$
N	Pf of N	KS(N)
510	2*3*5*17	{}
570	2*3*5*19	{}
690	2 * 3 * 5 * 23	{}
770	2*5*7*11	$\{8, 14\}$

Also, to find all composite squarefree $N \in [0, 1000]$ for any α , we constructed a new algorithm to count the number of K α -numbers, in addition to it's value/s. The following flowchart (Figure 2) shows how to find them, which works in an opposite direction to find N by using α .

Table 4 contains all existing composite squarefree $K\alpha$ -numbers of less than 1000 for $\alpha \in \{-10, 20\}$

A summary representing the number of K_a-numbers as $\alpha \in$ [-10, 20] is depicted in Figure 3, there is no clear tend for the number of K_a as $\alpha \in$ [-10, 20], making it difficult to describe the behaviour of number of Ka-

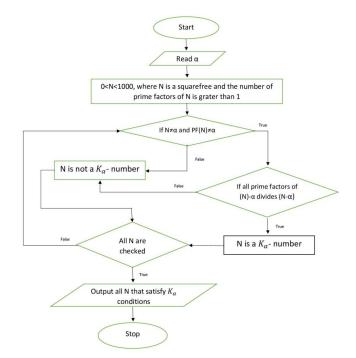


Figure (2): Flowchart represents the way to find K α -numbers for a specific α if exist.

number, but the results of the algorithm totally agree with definition of Korselt numbers which illustrate the theory involved.

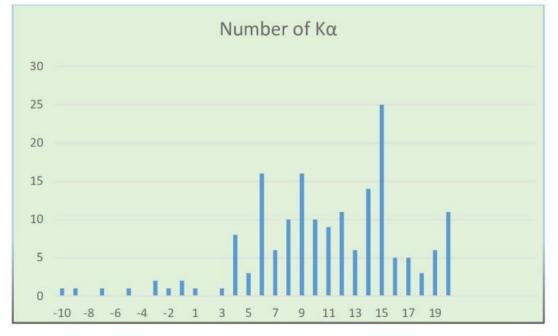


Figure (3): Bar chart represents $-10 \le \alpha \le 20$ with corresponding number of K_a-numbers of less than 1000

Korselt Set of N = Pq and The Correction of [7, Theorem 14]

In this section, a focus on the Korselt set of a product of two distinct prime numbers is introduced by repro- ducing paper [7]. During that, we were able to discover and verify the existence of a fundamental error in [7, Theorem 14(6)], and after a lot of research and expert- imenting with numbers, we were able to find an alternative theory that can be considered as a correction to

α	Number of K_{α}	Ka	
-10	1	935	
-9	1	231	
-8	0	-	
-7	1	273	
-6	0	-	
-5	1	715	
-4	0	-	
-3	2	165,357	
-2	1	598	
-1	2	399,935	
1	1	561	
2	0	-	
3	1	35	
4	8	6,10,15,30,70,130,165,238	
5	3	21,77,221	
6	16	10,14,15,21,30,35,42,66,70,	
		105,195,210,231,266,286,805	
7	6	15,55,187,247,715,759	
8	10	14,35,77,110,143,170,273,638,	
		770,935	
9	16	21,33,65,77,105,165,209,231,	
		273,345,385,399,429,561,609,969	
10	10	55,66,91,130,154,255,322,385,	
		682,715	
11	9	35,65,91,119,221,299,323,455,651	
12	11	22,39,77,102,143,182,187,442,462,	
		782,962	
13	6	33,85,133,253,493,589	
14	14	26,77,91,119,143,182,209,221,230,	
		374,399,455,494, 770	
15	25	39,51,55,65,85,95,119,143,187,195,	
		221, 231, 247, 255, 323, 391, 399, 435,	
		455,527, 627, 663,715,759,935	
16	5	133,170,247,506,646	
17	5	65,77,209,377,437	
18	3	34,323,663	
19	6	51,91,187,391,403,943	
20	11	38,95,110,209,290,323,437,506,551,	
		713,902	

Table (4): All K_{α} -number of less than 1000 for all $\alpha \in \{-10, 20\}$.

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the theory presented by both Echi and Ghanmi in their paper [7]. Throughout the section, *p* and *q* are prime numbers with p < q, *q* = ip + s such that $i \ge 1$ and $1 \le s \le p - 1$ and N = pq. The theme throughout this section is how are some conditions on p and q deter- mines KS(N). The next theorem was proved in [7], we provide it here to be used along with our new result at the end of this section in building algorithm that deter- mine α 's for which given positive integer is Ka as well as the korselt set of that integer.

Theorem 5. [7]

- 1. If $q > 2p^2$, then $KS(N) = \{p + q 1\}$.
- 2. If $p^2 p < q < 2p^2$ and $p \ge 5$, then KS(N) $\subseteq \{ip, p + q 1\}$.
- 3. If $4p < q < p^2 p$, then $KS(N) \subseteq \{ip, (i+1)p, p+q-1\}$.
- 4. Suppose that 3p < q < 4p. Then the following conditions are satisfied:
- (a) If q = 4p 3, then the following properties hold:
 - i. If $p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$, then $KS(N) = \{4p, q p + 1, p + q 1\}$.

- ii. If $p \neq 1 \pmod{3}$, then $KS(N) = \{q p + 1, p + q 1\}$ except when p = 5, because in this case $KS(N) = \{3p, q\}$ -p+1, p+q-1.
- (b) If $q \neq 4p 3$, then $KS(N) \subseteq \{3p, 4p, p + q 1\}$.

 $\frac{2p+q-1}{2}$

, q – p + 1, p + q – 1}. [7]

The following examples illustrate the above-mentioned properties:

Example 6. 1. Let N = 123 = 3 * 41. Here, p = 3, q = 41 and 41 $> 2 * 3^2 = 18$. Therefore, KS(123) = {3 + 41 - 1} = {43}.

- 2. Let N = 185 = 5 \times 37. Here, p = 5, q = 37 and 5² 5 = 20 < $37 < 2 * 5^2 = 50$. Therefore, $KS(123) \subseteq \{7 * 5, 5 + 37 - 1\} =$ {35, 41}.
- 3. Let N = 217 = 7 * 31. Here, p = 7, q = 31 and 4 * 7 = 28 < 31 $< 7^2 - 7 = 42$. Therefore, KS(217) $\subseteq \{4 * 7, 5 * 7, 7 + 31 - 1\}$ $= \{28, 35, 37\}.$
- 4. Let N = 1387 = 19 * 73. Here, p = 19, q = 73 where 73 = 4 * 19 - 3 and $19 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$. Therefore, KS(1387) = {4 * 19, 73 - 19 + 1, 19 + 73 - 1 = {76, 55, 91}.
- 5. Let N = 2047 = 23 * 89. Here, p = 23, q = 89 where 89 = 4 * 23 - 3 and 23 ≠ 1 (mod 3). Therefore, KS(2047) = {89 - 23 +1, 23 + 89 - 1 = {67, 111}. Note that in case p = 5, then q = 4 * 5 - 3 = 17 which leads N = 85. Therefore, KS(85) = $\{3*5, 17-5+1, 5+17-1\} = \{15, 13, 21\}$
- 6. Let N = 473 = 11 * 43. Here, p = 11, q = 43 where $43 \neq 4 *$ 11 - 3. Therefore, $KS(473) \subseteq \{3 * 11, 4 * 11, 11 + 43 - 1\} =$ {33, 44, 53}.
- 7. Let N = 629 = 17 * 37. Here, p = 17, q = 37 where 2 * 17 = 34 < 37 < 3 * 17 = 51. Therefore, $KS(629) \subseteq \{2 * 17, 3 * 17, 3 + 1$ 3 * 37 - 5 * 17 + 3, $\frac{2*17+37-1}{2}$ (37 - 17 + 1, 17 + 37 - 1)= {34, 51, 29, 35, 21, 53}.

While reproducing paper [7] which is related to Korselt numbers of the form N = p * q, we were able to introduce examples where Theorem 14(6) was not satisfied. Below are the result and the counterexample which ensures its mistake:

The claimed mistaken result ([7, Theorem 14(6)]) is:

Suppose that α be an integer and p < q < 2p. If $\alpha \in KS(N)$, then $\alpha \in (I(p, q) \cap J(p, q)) \cup \{2p\}$, where

$$I(p,q) := \{p - \frac{q-1}{k} \mid k \text{ divides } q - 1\}$$

$$J(p,q) := \{q - rac{p-1}{l} \mid l ext{ divides } p-1\}.$$

The counterexample is:

Example 7. Let N = 77. Here, p = 7, q = 11 and p < q < 2p

$$I(7,11) = \{7 - \frac{10}{k} | k \text{ divides } 10\},\$$

hence, getting k = 1, 2, 5 and 10 which give $I(7, 11) = \{-3, 2, 5, ..., 2,$ 6}. Also,

$$J(7,11) = \{11 - rac{6}{l} | \ l \ divides \ 6\},$$

hence, having I = 1, 2, 3 and 6 which gives J(7, 11) = {5, 8, 9, 10}. Therefore, $(I(p, q) \cap J(p, q)) \cup \{2p\} = \{5, 1, 4\}$. Note that $KS(77) = \{5, 8, 9, 12, 14, 17\} \subseteq \{5\}.$

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In the next theorem, we introduce a correction of aforementioned mistaken result along with it's proof, and hence we overcome the detected mistake.

Theorem 8. Suppose that p < q < 2p. Then, setting

$$I(p,q) := \{p + \frac{q-1}{k} | k \text{ divides}(q-1)\}$$

$$J(p,q):=\{q-rac{p-1}{k}|k \ divides\,(p-1)\},$$

we have $KS(N) \subseteq \{2p\} \cup I(p, q) \cup J(p, q)$.

Proof. The proof divided into two cases:

Case1: *p* divides α . By [7, Lemma 7], $\alpha = p$ or $\alpha = 2p$. But if $\alpha = p$ then i - 1 must divide p + s - 1 with q = ip + s, and here, i = 1 that leads i - 1 = 0 which does not divide p + s - 1, hence, $\alpha = 2p$.

Case 2: p doesn't divide α , which means that $gcd(p, \alpha) = 1$. By [7, Proposition 4(2)], then

$$q - p + 1 \le \alpha \le p + q - 1$$
,

SO

 $q-(p-1)\leq\alpha\leq p+(q-1).$

By Proposition [7, Pr**oposit**ion 4(1)], $gcd(q, \alpha) = 1$. Hence, by Proposition [7, Lemma 5(2)], $q - \alpha$ di- vides p - 1. Thus, $p - 1 = l(q - \alpha)$ which implies $\alpha = q - p - 1$ l with a non-zero integer l. Also, by hy- pothesis, $gcd(p, \alpha) = 1$. Hence, by [7, Lemma 5(3)], $p - \alpha$ divides q - 1 which yields $\alpha - p$ divides q - 1 Thus, $q - 1 = k(\alpha - p)$ which implies $\alpha = p + q - 1 k$ with a non-zero integer k. Therefore, $\alpha \in \{q - p - 1 \mid 1, q - p - 1 \mid 2, ..., q - p - 1 \mid s\} \cup \{p + q - 1 \mid k1, p + q - 1 \mid k2, ..., p + q - 1 \mid kt\}$, where (k1, ..., kt) are factors of q - 1 and (11, ..., ls) are factors of p - 1. Hence, from case1 and case2, it is concluded that $\alpha \in I(p, q) \cup J(p, q) \cup \{2p\}$.

Example 9. *Let N* = 77. *Here*, *p* = 7, *q* = 11 and 7 < 11 < 22.

$$I(7,11) = \{7 + \frac{10}{k} | k \text{ divides } 10\},\$$

hence, getting k = 1, 2, 5 and 10 which gives I (7, 11) = {17, 12, 9, 8}. Also,

$$J(7,11) = \{11 - \frac{6}{l} \mid l \text{ divides } 6\},\$$

hence, having I = 1, 2, 3 and 6 which gives $J(7, 11) = \{5, 8, 9, 10\}$. Therefore, $KS(77) \subseteq (I(7, 11) \cup J(7, 11)) \cup \{2 * 7\} = \{17, 14, 12, 10, 9, 8, 5\}.$

In our final algorithm, we introduced a comprehend structure that takes *N* as an input and then selects only those values of *N* satisfying the condition N = p * q where *p* and *q* are primes to obtain first, the cate- gory which the algorithm used to find α , secondly, the KS(N). This algorithm puts our new theorem along with the old mentioned ones in this article and is used to give a modified new table. The following diagram (Figure 4) illustrates the algorithm.

Applying this algorithm on the values of *N* which is less than 10000 and satisfying the condition N = p * q, giving the outputs: The category and $\alpha \in KS(N)$ which are presented in the next table (Table 5).

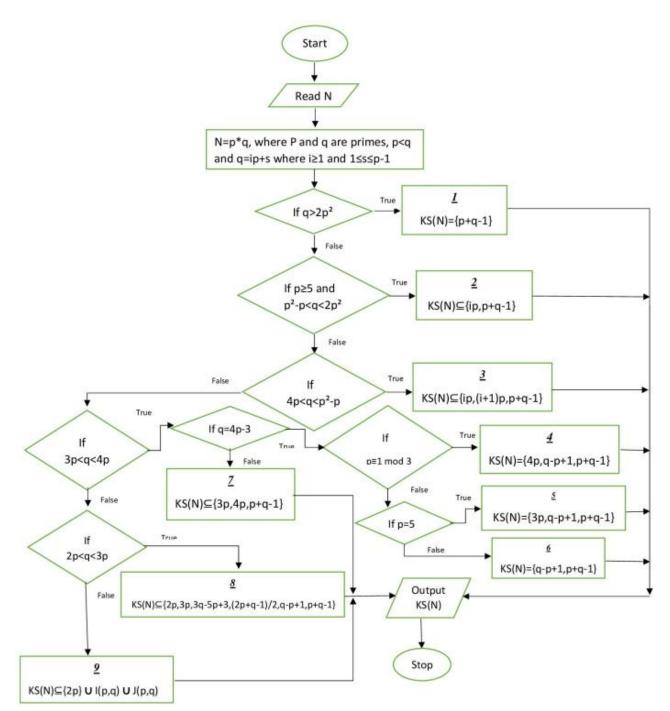


Figure (4): A flowchart representing the fast approach to calculate the KS(N)

N	p	q	Category	$\alpha \in KS(N)$
6	2	3	9	4
10	2	5	8	4, 6
14	2	7	7	6, 8
15	3	5	9	4, 6, 7
21	3	7	8	5, 6, 9
22	2	11	1	12
26	2 2	13	1	14
33	-	11	7	9, 13
34	2	17	1	18
35	5	7	9	3, 6, 8, 11
38	2	19	1	20
39	3	13	9	12, 15
46	2	23	1	24
51	3	17	9	15, 19
55	5	11	8	7, 10, 15
57	3	19	1	21
58	2	29	1	30
62	2	31	1	32
65	5	13	8	9, 11, 15, 17
69	3	23	1	25
74	2	37	1	38
77	7	11	9	5, 8, 9, 12, 14, 17
			-	
			_	
			_	
9939	3	3313	1	3315
9943			8	183, 223
9946	-	4973	-	4974
9953			3	305
9957		3319		3321
9959	-		3	455
		1423		1429
9965	_			1997
		1993		
9969		3323		3325
9974	_	4987	-	4988
9977			1	917
9979		587	1	603
9983		149	8	215
9985		1997	1	2001
9986		4993	1	4994
9987		3329	1	3331
9989		1427	1	1433
9991	97	103	9	91, 95, 99, 100, 199
9993	3	3331	1	3333
9995	5	1999	1	2003
9997	13	769	1	781
9998		4999	1	5000

Table 5: A collection of KS(N) for N = pq which are less than 10000.

Finally, the complexity of the suggested algo-rithms are of orders O(N) (linear running time); as the loop depends on N. An emphasis of the complexity was empirically proved through implementing the suggested modified algorithm with different values and measured corresponding elapsed times, the best regression repre- sentation was linear regression which complies with the O(N) complexity (See Figure 5). However, a compar- ison between the different methods for calculating the Korselt numbers is made by defining composite squar- free N from 1 to 10000 that have the form pq. Results showed that the way for calculating the Korselt number by checking all numbers $\frac{3q-N}{2}$ and $\frac{N+p}{2}$ consumed more time between rather than the proposed technique in this section, such that the first method needed 3.110 sec on a laptop with i7 processor, while the improved tech- nique consumed 0.618 sec. This gives us the right to say the modified technique is more efficient, although the program was not yet fully optimized for the time

Summary

beina.

- This article for the first time introduces a set of algorithms implemented to enrich the literature with tables of Korselt relatively large numbers. In previous works, the authors provide tables with- out algorithms. Moreover, we expanded the set of tested numbers covering more than what the literature covered previously.
- While reproducing the different theorems and propositions in the literature, we detected an important mistake in [7, Theorem 14 (6)] and through a robust work, one original theorem is introduced by us to overcome the detected mistake.
- Through preparing the proper algorithms and writing program, we modified a compounded al-gorithm which showed a remarkable performance compared to traditional ones.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

The authors confirm that they respect the publication ethics and that they consent the publication of their work.

Consent for publication

The authors consent the publication of this work. Availability of data and materials Data is available upon the request

Author's contribution

The results presented here are mainly based on the original ideas from Abeer Eshtaya and Khalid Adarbeh, Full Analysis and numarical analysis was Carried by Hadi Hamad. The original draft had been produced by Abeer Eshtaya in her master thesis.

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Conflicts of interest

All authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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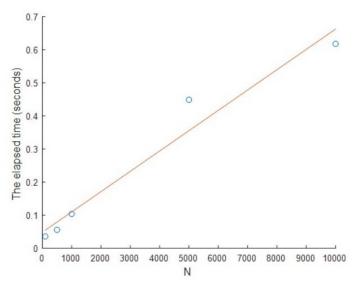


Figure 5: The performance of the suggested algorithm.

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