
Generalization of an Asymptotic Formula for the Smarandache kn -digital Sequence

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Abstract

The sequence $\{a(3,n)\}$ is called the Smarandache 3n-digital sequence, if the digital of $a(3,n)$ can be partitioned into two groups such that the second is 3 times of the first. Smarandache kn-digital sequence $\{a(k,n)\}$ in the base p is defined similarly. This paper studies an asymptotic formula for Smarandache kn-digital sequence $\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N)$, $N \rightarrow +\infty$, $1 \leq k \leq 9$ (defined in base ten) and generalizes the conclusion by proving that the asymptotic formula is true for any positive integer k and p ($p > 1$). Furthermore, this paper proves some more precise asymptotic formulas for $k=1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11$ (defined in base ten) and for general positive integer k and p, and conjectures a more precise asymptotic formula for $k=7$.

Key words

Smarandache sequence;Asymptotic formula;Base

Contents

Abstract	1
Key words.....	1
1 Introduction.....	4
2 Theoretical Discussions.....	5
2.1 Lemmas and Simple Corollaries	5
2.1.1 Taylor series with the Peano form of the remainder	5
2.1.2 Lemma: $\ln(x+1) = x + O(x^2)$, when $x \rightarrow 0$	5
2.1.3 Stirling's approximation	5
2.1.4 Lemma: $\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{(\ln N)^2}{N} = \lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln N}{N} = 0$	6
2.1.5 A computational result of dislocation subtraction	6
2.2 Proof When $k = 3$ in Base 10	6
2.2.1 Identical deformation of the target equation.....	6
2.2.2 Estimation of $N!$	7
2.2.3 Estimation of $3 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln(10^t + 3)$	8
2.2.4 Estimation of $\left[N - \frac{1}{3}(10^M - 1) \right] \ln(10^{M+1} + 3)$	8
2.2.5 Summate and analyze the error terms	9
2.3 For Some Specific k ($k = 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11$, in Base 10)	10
2.3.1 $k = 1$	10
2.3.2 $k = 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11$	12
2.4 For General k (in Base 10)	14
2.4.1 If there exists $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that $k = 10^\alpha$	14
2.4.2 If there exists $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that $k = 2^\alpha \cdot 5^\beta$	15

2.4.3 If there is no $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that $k = 2^\alpha \cdot 5^\beta$	18
2.5 New Smarandache kn-digital Sequence Defined Similarly in Base p	21
2.5.1 Any prime factor of k can divide p exactly (including $k=1$).....	22
2.5.2 Not all prime factors of k can divide p exactly ($k \neq 1$).....	24
3 Conclusion	28
4 Further Discussions	30
5 Appendix	30
5.1 $k=2$	30
5.2 $k=4$	32
5.3 $k=5$	34
5.4 $k=6$	36
5.5 $k=8$	38
5.6 $k=9$	40
5.7 $k=10$	42
5.8 $k=11$	44
5.8.1 Case 1 for $M \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that $10^{2M} \leq 11N < 10^{2M+1}$	44
5.8.2 Case 2 for $M \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that $10^{2M+1} \leq 11N < 10^{2M+2}$	46
5.8.3 summary of the two cases when $k=11$	48
6 Bibliography	49

1 Introduction

For any arbitrary positive integer k , the sequences $\{a_n\}$ is called the Smarandache kn -digital sequence, if the digital of a_n can be partitioned into two groups such that the second is k times of the first. This sequence was defined by Smarandache, F. (1993, 2006, cited in Gou, S. 2010). There are a number of subsequent works.

Wu(2008:120-122) considered Zhang Wenpeng's conjecture that the Smarandache 3n-digital sequence does not contain any square number. Although this conjecture is not completely solved, Wu did prove the following results:

- (1) a_n is not a square if n is square-free.
- (2) a_n is not a square if n is a square.
- (3) If a_n is a square, then $n = 2^{2\alpha_1} \cdot 3^{2\alpha_2} \cdot 5^{2\alpha_3} \cdot 11^{2\alpha_4} \cdot n_1$ holds, where $(n_1, 330) = 1$.

Lu, P.(2009:5-7, cited in Chen, J. 2012) considered whether there is a square number in the Smarandache 5n-digital sequence and got a negative answer when n equals some special values.

By using elementary method, Gou, S.(2010) proved that for any arbitrary positive integer N large enough, the asymptotic formula $\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N)$ holds when $k = 3$. (When $k = 3$, $\{a_n\} = \{13, 26, 39, 412, 515, 618, 721, 824, \dots\}$.)

Chen, J.(2012:9-14) pointed out that equation $\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N)$ still holds under the condition of $1 \leq k \leq 9$ when $N \rightarrow +\infty$.

This paper generalizes the above asymptotic formula $\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N)$ to arbitrary k and arbitrary base p , and improves

the estimates of the error term.

2 Theoretical Discussions

2.1 Lemmas and Simple Corollaries

2.1.1 Taylor series with the Peano form of the remainder

Let $f(x)$ be n times differentiable at x_0 , then there must be a neighborhood of x_0 , for any x in this neighborhood, the following holds:

$$f(x) = f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(x - x_0) + \frac{f''(x_0)}{2!}(x - x_0)^2 + \cdots + \frac{f^{(n)}(x_0)}{n!}(x - x_0)^n + r_n(x) ,$$

In the equation above, the remainder $r_n(x)$ equals $o((x - x_0)^n)$. When $x_0 = 0$, the above equation is called the Maclaurin series.

2.1.2 Lemma: $\ln(x+1) = x + O(x^2)$, when $x \rightarrow 0$

Because $\ln(x+1)' = \frac{1}{x+1}$ and $\ln(x+1)'' = -\frac{1}{(x+1)^2}$, using 2.1.1 (let $x_0 = 0, n = 2$), we get the target equation as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \ln(x+1) &= \ln(0+1) + \frac{1}{0+1}(x-0) + \frac{-\frac{1}{(0+1)^2}}{2!}(x-0)^2 + o((x-0)^2) \\ &= x - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + o(x^2) = x + O(x^2) \end{aligned}$$

2.1.3 Stirling's approximation

$$n! \approx \sqrt{2\pi n} \left(\frac{n}{e} \right)^n \left(1 + \frac{1}{12n} + \frac{1}{288n^2} - \frac{139}{51840n^3} + \dots \right)$$

2.1.4 Lemma: $\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{(\ln N)^2}{N} = \lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln N}{N} = 0$

Using L'Hospital's rule:

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{(\ln N)^2}{N} = \lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2 \ln N \cdot \frac{1}{N}}{1} = \lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2 \ln N}{N} = \lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2}{1} = 0$$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln N}{N} = \lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\frac{1}{N}}{1} = 0$$

This means that $(\ln N)^2$ and $\ln N$ are the lower order infinities of N .

2.1.5 A computational result of dislocation subtraction

Conclusion: $\sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot p^t = \frac{1}{p-1} M \cdot p^{M+1} - \frac{p}{(p-1)^2} (p^M - 1)$

We denote that $S = \sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot p^t$, 有 $p \cdot S = \sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot p^{t+1} = \sum_{k=2}^{M+1} (t-1) \cdot p^t$,

and we have: $(p-1)S = p \cdot S - S = M \cdot p^{M+1} - \frac{p}{p-1} (p^M - 1)$,

which means that $S = \frac{1}{p-1} M \cdot p^{M+1} - \frac{p}{(p-1)^2} (p^M - 1)$.

Specifically, when $p = 10$, we have $S = \frac{1}{9} M \cdot 10^{M+1} - \frac{10}{81} (10^M - 1)$. We will directly

use the computational result hereafter.

2.2 Proof When $k = 3$ in Base 10

2.2.1 Identical deformation of the target equation

Let a_n be in the sequence, and assume that $3n$ has t digits ($n \in \mathbb{Z}^+, t \in \mathbb{Z}^+$), then

$\frac{10^{t-1}}{3} \leq n < \frac{10^t}{3}$. Because of the definition of the sequence $\{a_n\}$, we know that

$a_n = n \cdot (10^t + 3)$. When N is large enough, there exists a unique $M \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that

$\frac{10^M}{3} \leq N < \frac{10^{M+1}}{3}$. This is because the intervals $J_t = \left[\frac{10^t}{3}, \frac{10^{t+1}}{3} \right], t = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ are

pair-wise disjoint, and their union is $\left(\frac{1}{3}, +\infty \right)$, which includes all positive integers, so

N must be included in one of these intervals, which means that there must be a unique M . We will use the uniqueness of M directly hereafter. Assume that $3N$ has $(M+1)$ digits, so $a_N = N \cdot (10^{M+1} + 3)$. Now we have the following identical equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n &= \prod_{n=1}^3 a_n \cdot \prod_{n=4}^{33} a_n \cdots \prod_{n=\frac{1}{3}(10^M-1)+1}^{\frac{1}{3}(10^M-1)} a_n \cdot \prod_{n=\frac{1}{3}(10^M-1)+1}^N a_n \\ &= N! \cdot (10+3)^3 \cdot (100+3)^{30} \cdots (10^M+3)^{3 \cdot 10^{M-1}} \cdot (10^{M+1}+3)^{N-\frac{1}{3}(10^M-1)} \end{aligned}$$

Take the natural logarithm of the both sides, and the equation becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M \ln (10^t + 3)^{3 \cdot 10^{t-1}} + \ln (10^{M+1} + 3)^{N - \frac{1}{3}(10^M - 1)} \\ &= \ln N! + 3 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln (10^t + 3) + \left[N - \frac{1}{3}(10^M - 1) \right] \ln (10^{M+1} + 3) \cdots (1) \end{aligned}$$

2.2.2 Estimation of $N!$

Using Stirling's approximation (Lemma 2.1.3):

$$n! \approx \sqrt{2\pi n} \left(\frac{n}{e} \right)^n \left(1 + \frac{1}{12n} + \frac{1}{288n^2} - \frac{139}{51840n^3} + \dots \right)$$

According to 2.1.2, we take the natural logarithm of the both sides, and we get the equation as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \ln N! &= \ln \sqrt{2\pi N} + N \ln N - N + \ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{12N} + \frac{1}{288N^2} - \frac{139}{51840N^3} + \dots \right) \\ &= \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln N - N + \ln \sqrt{2\pi} + O\left(\frac{1}{N}\right) \\ &= \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln N - N + O(1) \cdots (2) \end{aligned}$$

We will use equation (2) directly hereafter.

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left[N - \frac{1}{3}(10^M - 1) \right] \ln(10^{M+1} + 3) \\
&= \left[N - \frac{1}{3}(10^M - 1) \right] \cdot \left[\frac{3}{10^{M+1}} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2M}}\right) + (M+1) \cdot \ln 10 \right] \\
&= \left[N - \frac{1}{3}(10^M - 1) \right] \cdot (M+1) \cdot \ln 10 + O(1) \\
&= \ln 10 \cdot \left(MN - \frac{1}{3}M \cdot 10^M + \frac{1}{3}M + N - \frac{1}{3} \cdot 10^M + \frac{1}{3} \right) + O(1) \\
&= \ln 10 \cdot \left(MN - \frac{1}{3}M \cdot 10^M + \frac{1}{3}M + N - \frac{1}{3} \cdot 10^M \right) + O(1) \dots \dots \dots (4)
\end{aligned}$$

2.2.5 Summate and analyze the error terms

Finally we substitute (2)(3)(4) into (1):

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \left[\left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln N - N + O(1) \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\frac{\ln 10}{3} M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{27} (10^M - 1) + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1) \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\ln 10 \cdot \left(MN - \frac{1}{3}M \cdot 10^M + \frac{1}{3}M + N - \frac{1}{3} \cdot 10^M \right) + O(1) \right] \\
&= \textcolor{red}{N \ln N} + \frac{1}{2} \ln N - \textcolor{blue}{N} + \frac{\ln 10}{3} \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{27} \cdot 10^M + \frac{9}{10} M \\
&\quad + \textcolor{red}{\ln 10 \cdot MN} - \frac{\ln 10}{3} \cdot M \cdot 10^M + \frac{\ln 10}{3} \cdot M + \ln 10 \cdot \textcolor{blue}{N} - \frac{\ln 10}{3} \cdot 10^M + O(1) \\
&= (\textcolor{red}{N \ln N} + \textcolor{red}{MN \cdot \ln 10}) + \frac{1}{2} \ln N + (\ln 10 - 1) \textcolor{blue}{N} - \frac{10 \ln 10}{27} \cdot 10^M \\
&\quad + \left(\frac{\ln 10}{3} + \frac{9}{10} \right) \textcolor{green}{M} + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

then:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (\textcolor{red}{N \ln N} + \textcolor{red}{MN \cdot \ln 10}) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1) \textcolor{blue}{N} - \frac{10 \ln 10}{27} \cdot 10^M \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\left(\frac{\ln 10}{3} + \frac{9}{10} \right) \textcolor{green}{M} + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1) \dots \dots \dots (5)
\end{aligned}$$

This is the asymptotic formula with an $O(1)$ error term when $k = 3$.

Because the quotients of M over $\ln N$ and 10^M over N are bounded, the

following equations hold:

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{N \ln N + MN \ln 10}{N \ln N} = 2,$$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\frac{1}{2} \ln N + (\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{27} 10^M + \left(\frac{\ln 10}{3} + \frac{9}{10}\right)M}{N} = O(1).$$

This means that: $\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N).$

2.3 For Some Specific k ($k=1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11$, in Base 10)

The following proof is similar to $k=3$, but only different in the classification of n according to how many digits $k \cdot n$ has in the base 10. Chen, J.(2012:9-14) proved the asymptotic formula to be true when $1 \leq k \leq 9$, but in fact, the asymptotic formula is true even when $k=10, 11$.

2.3.1 $k=1$

Assume n has t digits ($n \in \mathbb{Z}^+, t \in \mathbb{Z}^+$), then $10^{t-1} \leq n < 10^t$. Because of the definition of the sequence $\{a_n\}$, we have $a_n = n \cdot (10^t + 1)$. For any N that is large enough, there exists a unique $M \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that $10^M \leq N < 10^{M+1}$.

By the same argument:

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n &= \prod_{n=1}^9 a_n \cdot \prod_{n=10}^{99} a_n \cdots \prod_{n=10^{M-1}}^{10^M-1} a_n \cdot \prod_{n=10^M}^N a_n \\ &= N! (10+1)^9 \cdot (100+1)^{90} \cdots (10^M+1)^{9 \cdot 10^{M-1}} \cdot (10^{M+1}+1)^{N-(10^M-1)} \\ \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M \ln (10^t+1)^{9 \cdot 10^{t-1}} + \ln (10^{M+1}+1)^{N-(10^M-1)} \\ &= \ln N! + 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln (10^t+1) + [N-(10^M-1)] \ln (10^{M+1}+1) \end{aligned}$$

We have: $\ln N! = \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) \ln N - N + O(1)$

When $x \rightarrow 0$, $\ln(x+1) = x + O(x^2)$, which means that:

$$\begin{aligned}
9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln(10^t + 1) &= 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \left[\ln(10^t) + \ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{10^t}\right) \right] \\
&= 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \left[t \cdot \ln 10 + \frac{1}{10^t} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2t}}\right) \right] \\
&= 9 \cdot \ln 10 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot 10^{t-1} + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1) \\
&= \ln 10 \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{9} (10^M - 1) + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
[N - (10^M - 1)] \ln(10^{M+1} + 1) &= [N - (10^M - 1)] \left[\ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{10^{M+1}}\right) + \ln(10^{M+1}) \right] \\
&= [N - (10^M - 1)] \left[\frac{1}{10^{M+1}} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2M}}\right) + (M+1) \cdot \ln 10 \right] \\
&= \ln 10 \cdot (M+1) [N - (10^M - 1)] + O(1) \\
&= \ln 10 \cdot (MN - M \cdot 10^M + M + N - 10^M + 1) + O(1) \\
&= \ln 10 \cdot (MN - M \cdot 10^M + M + N - 10^M) + O(1)
\end{aligned}.$$

At last we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \left[\left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln N - N + O(1) \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\ln 10 \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{9} \cdot (10^M - 1) + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1) \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\ln 10 \cdot (MN - M \cdot 10^M + M + N - 10^M) + O(1) \right] \\
&= \textcolor{red}{N} \ln \textcolor{red}{N} + \frac{1}{2} \ln N - \textcolor{blue}{N} + \ln 10 \cdot \textcolor{blue}{M} \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{9} \cdot 10^M + \frac{9}{10} \textcolor{violet}{M} \\
&\quad + \ln 10 \cdot \textcolor{red}{M} \textcolor{blue}{N} - \ln 10 \cdot \textcolor{blue}{M} \cdot 10^M + \ln 10 \cdot \textcolor{green}{M} + \ln 10 \cdot \textcolor{blue}{N} - \ln 10 \cdot 10^M + O(1) \\
&= (\textcolor{red}{N} \ln \textcolor{red}{N} + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \frac{1}{2} \ln N + (\ln 10 - 1) \textcolor{blue}{N} - \frac{10 \ln 10}{9} \cdot 10^M \\
&\quad + \left(\ln 10 + \frac{9}{10} \right) \textcolor{violet}{M} + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

which means that:

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = & (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{9} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ & + \left[\left(\ln 10 + \frac{9}{10} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1) \dots \dots \dots \quad (6)\end{aligned}$$

This is the asymptotic formula with an $O(1)$ error term when $k=1$.

Because the quotients of M over $\ln N$ and 10^M over N are bounded, the following equations hold:

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{N \ln N + MN \ln 10}{N \ln N} = 2,$$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{9} 10^M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N + \left(\ln 10 + \frac{9}{10} \right) M}{N} = O(1),$$

which means that: $\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N)$.

2.3.2 $k = 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11$

Because the proof for $k = 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11$ is tedious and highly similar to the proof of $k=1$ and $k=3$, the detailed proof is presented in ‘5 Appendix’ and here only the results are presented below. (Equations (7)~(17) are also in ‘5 Appendix’.)

For $k = 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11$, the asymptotic formula $\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N)$ is true.

Furthermore, we get the following asymptotic formulas with an $O(1)$ error term, in which $M = \lfloor \log_{10} kN \rfloor$. ($\lfloor x \rfloor$ is the floor function of x)

For $k=2$,

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = & (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{5 \ln 10}{9} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ & + \left[\left(\ln 10 + \frac{9}{10} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1)\end{aligned}$$

For $k=4$,

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{5 \ln 10}{18} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\left(\ln 10 + \frac{9}{10} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1)\end{aligned}$$

For $k = 5$,

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{2 \ln 10}{9} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\left(\ln 10 + \frac{9}{10} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1)\end{aligned}$$

For $k = 6$,

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{5 \ln 10}{27} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\left(\frac{3 \ln 10}{2} + \frac{9}{10} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1)\end{aligned}$$

For $k = 8$,

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{5 \ln 10}{36} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\left(\ln 10 + \frac{9}{10} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1)\end{aligned}$$

For $k = 9$,

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{81} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\left(\frac{\ln 10}{9} + \frac{9}{10} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1)\end{aligned}$$

For $k = 10$,

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{\ln 10}{9} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\left(\ln 10 + \frac{9}{10} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1)\end{aligned}$$

For $k = 11$,

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + \ln 10 \cdot MN) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{99} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln N + \left(\frac{9}{10} + \frac{\ln 10}{2} \right) M \right] + O(1)\end{aligned}$$

According the detailed proof of $k = 11$, the following conjecture arises.

For $k = 7$,

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + \ln 10 \cdot MN) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{63} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln N + \left(\frac{9}{10} + \frac{\ln 10}{2} \right) M \right] + O(1)\end{aligned}$$

2.4 For General k (in Base 10)

For general k , if the prime factors of k are good enough, we can still get the values of the exponential of $(10^t + k)$ accurately, thus giving a more precise asymptotic formula.

2.4.1 If there exists $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that $k = 10^\alpha$

Let $10^M \leq k \cdot N < 10^{M+1}$, we will have the following equation.

$$\begin{aligned}\prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n &= N! (10^{\alpha+1} + k)^9 \cdot (10^{\alpha+2} + k)^{90} \cdots (10^M + k)^{9 \cdot 10^{M-\alpha-1}} \cdot (10^{M+1} + k)^{N - (10^{M-\alpha} - 1)} \\ \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^{M-\alpha} \ln (10^{\alpha+t} + k)^{9 \cdot 10^{t-1}} + \ln (10^{M+1} + 1) k^{N - (10^{M-\alpha} - 1)} \\ &= \ln N! + 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^{M-\alpha} 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln (10^{t+\alpha} + k) + \left[N - (10^{M-\alpha} - 1) \right] \ln (10^{M+1} + k)\end{aligned}$$

It comes out that $\ln N! = \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln N - N + O(1)$ and

$$\begin{aligned}9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^{M-\alpha} 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln (10^{t+\alpha} + k) &= 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^{M-\alpha} 10^{t-1} \cdot \left[(t + \alpha) \cdot \ln 10 + \frac{k}{10^{t+\alpha}} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2t}}\right) \right] \\ &= 9 \ln 10 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^{M-\alpha} (t + \alpha) \cdot 10^{t-1} + \frac{9k}{10^{\alpha+1}} (M - \alpha) + O(1) \\ &= \ln 10 \cdot \left(M - \frac{1}{9} \right) \cdot 10^{M-\alpha} + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1)\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n = N! \left(10^1 + k\right)^{\frac{9}{k}} \cdot \left(10^2 + k\right)^{\frac{9 \cdot 10}{k}} \cdots \left(10^M + k\right)^{\frac{9 \cdot 10^{M-1}}{k}} \cdot \left(10^{M+1} + 1\right)^{N - \frac{10^M}{k} + 1} \cdot O(1) \quad (19)$$

Equation (19) holds because:

①: When $N \rightarrow +\infty, M \rightarrow +\infty$, we can find $m \geq \max\{\alpha, \beta\}, m \in \mathbb{Q}^+$, then $\frac{10^m}{k} \in \mathbb{Q}$,

which means that for m that is large enough, the exponential power $\frac{9 \cdot 10^m}{k}$ in the

above equation is a positive integer.

②: For a given positive integer t , we wonder what kind of integer n exists such that $a_n = n \cdot (10^t + 1)$ holds, which is that kn has t digits, namely $10^{t-1} \leq kn < 10^t$.

For t large enough, we can count the number of such n , which is exactly

$$\frac{10^t - 10^{t-1}}{k} = \frac{9 \cdot 10^{t-1}}{k}.$$

③: From ①②, for a given k , the exponentials on the right-hand side of equation

(19) can be replaced by $\frac{9 \cdot 10^m}{k}$ for m that is large enough, except some finite

terms at the first place. We still replace these exponentials by $\frac{9 \cdot 10^m}{k}$ for m that is

not large enough. The values of these finite terms is determined, which means that we might over-multiply the right-hand side by a value that is finite, so we can simply multiply the right-hand side by $O(1)$ to make the equation correct.

$$\text{Now we have: } \prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n = N! \prod_{t=1}^M \left(10^t + k\right)^{\frac{9 \cdot 10^{t-1}}{k}} \cdot \left(10^{M+1} + 1\right)^{N - \frac{10^M}{k} + 1} \cdot O(1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M \ln \left[\left(10^t + k\right)^{\frac{9 \cdot 10^{t-1}}{k}} \right] + \ln \left[\left(10^{M+1} + k\right)^{N - \frac{10^M}{k} + 1} \right] + O(1) \\ &= \ln N! + \frac{9}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln \left(10^t + k\right) + \left(N - \frac{10^M}{k} + 1\right) \ln \left(10^{M+1} + k\right) + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

Because the quotients of M over $\ln N$ and 10^M over N are bounded,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{N \ln N + \ln 10 \cdot MN}{N \ln N} = 2.$$

The orders of the other terms are no larger than N , which means that

$$\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N) \text{ holds.}$$

2.4.3 If there is no $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that $k = 2^\alpha \cdot 5^\beta$

If there is no $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that $k = 2^\alpha \cdot 5^\beta$, then $k > 1$ holds, so there exists a prime factor q of k such that $q \notin \{2, 5\}$. Let $10^M \leq k \cdot N < 10^{M+1}$ and we have the following equation.

$$\prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n = N! \left(10^1 + k\right)^{\frac{9}{k} + b_1} \cdot \left(10^2 + k\right)^{\frac{9 \cdot 10}{k} + b_2} \cdots \left(10^M + k\right)^{\frac{9 \cdot 10^{M-1}}{k} + b_M} \cdot \left(10^{M+1} + 1\right)^{N - \frac{10^M}{k} + c}, \quad (21)$$

where: $b_t = \left\lfloor \frac{10^t}{k} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{10^{t-1}}{k} \right\rfloor - \frac{9 \cdot 10^{t-1}}{k}$ ($t = 1, 2, 3, \dots, M$), and $|b_t| < 1, |c| < 1$. ($\lfloor x \rfloor$ is the floor function of x)

Equation (21) holds because:

①: For any given positive integer t , we wonder what kind of n exists such that $a_n = n \cdot (10^t + 1)$ holds, which is that kn has t digits (namely $10^{t-1} \leq kn < 10^t$). We

can count the number of such n , which is exactly $\left\lfloor \frac{10^t}{k} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{10^{t-1}}{k} \right\rfloor$. Therefore,

$$b_t = \left\lfloor \frac{10^t}{k} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{10^{t-1}}{k} \right\rfloor - \frac{9 \cdot 10^{t-1}}{k}.$$

②: The value of the exponential power of $(p^{M+1} + 1)$ should be $N - \left\lfloor \frac{p^M}{k} \right\rfloor$ exactly,

which can be denoted as $N - \frac{p^M}{k} + c$, and thereby $|c| < 1$. Therefore we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n &= N! \prod_{t=1}^M (10^t + k)^{\frac{9 \cdot 10^{t-1}}{k} + b_t} \cdot (10^{M+1} + k)^{N - \frac{10^M}{k} + c} \\
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M \ln \left[(10^t + k)^{\frac{9 \cdot 10^{t-1}}{k} + b_t} \right] + \ln \left[(10^{M+1} + k)^{N - \frac{10^M}{k} + c} \right] \\
&= \ln N! + \frac{9}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M \left(10^{t-1} + \frac{k}{9} \cdot b_t \right) \cdot \left(t \cdot \ln 10 + \frac{k}{10^t} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2t}}\right) \right) \\
&\quad + \left(N - \frac{10^M}{k} + c \right) \cdot \left[(M+1) \cdot \ln 10 + O\left(\frac{1}{10^M}\right) \right] \dots \dots \dots (22)
\end{aligned}$$

Because b_t and c are bounded, we can replace b_t and c by $O(1)$.

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M \ln \left[(10^t + k)^{\frac{9 \cdot 10^{t-1}}{k} + O(1)} \right] + \ln \left[(10^{M+1} + k)^{N - \frac{10^M}{k} + O(1)} \right] \\
&= \ln N! + \frac{9}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M (10^{t-1} + O(1)) \cdot \ln(10^t + k) \\
&\quad + \left(N - \frac{10^M}{k} + O(1) \right) \ln(10^{M+1} + k) \dots \dots \dots (23)
\end{aligned}$$

We deal with the first addend in equation (23).

$$\ln N! = \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln N - N + O(1) \dots \dots \dots (24)$$

We deal with the second addend in equation (23).

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{9}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M (10^{t-1} + O(1)) \cdot \ln(10^t + k) &= \frac{9}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M (10^{t-1} + O(1)) \cdot \left[t \cdot \ln 10 + \frac{k}{10^t} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2t}}\right) \right] \\
&= \frac{9 \ln 10}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot 10^{t-1} + \frac{9}{10} M + \frac{9}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M O(1) \cdot \left[t \cdot \ln 10 + \frac{k}{10^t} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2t}}\right) \right] + O(1) \dots \dots \dots (25)
\end{aligned}$$

We deal with the third addend in equation (23).

$$\begin{aligned}
\left(N - \frac{10^M}{k} + O(1) \right) \ln(10^{M+1} + k) &= \left(N - \frac{10^M}{k} + O(1) \right) \left[(M+1) \cdot \ln 10 + O\left(\frac{1}{10^M}\right) \right] \\
&= \ln 10 \cdot MN + \ln 10 \cdot N - \frac{\ln 10}{k} \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{k} \cdot 10^M + O(M) \dots \dots \dots (26)
\end{aligned}$$

We substitute the equations (24)(25)(26) into equation (23) and sum up.

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \left[\left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln N - N \right] + \left[\frac{\ln 10}{k} \cdot \left(M - \frac{1}{9} \right) \cdot 10^M \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\ln 10 \cdot MN + \ln 10 \cdot N - \frac{\ln 10}{k} \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{k} \cdot 10^M \right] + O(M^2) \\
&= N \ln N + \frac{1}{2} \ln N - N + \frac{\ln 10}{k} \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{9k} \cdot 10^M \\
&\quad + \ln 10 \cdot MN + \ln 10 \cdot N - \frac{\ln 10}{k} \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{k} \cdot 10^M + O(M^2) \\
&= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + (\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{9k} \cdot 10^M + O(M^2)
\end{aligned}$$

The error term $O(M^2)$ has the same order of $(\ln N)^2$. Because the quotients of M over $\ln N$ and 10^M over N are bounded, we know that

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{N \ln N + MN \ln 10}{N \ln N} = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\frac{1}{2} \ln N + (\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{9k} \cdot 10^M}{N} = O(1),$$

which leads to $\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N)$.

Go back to (24)(25)(26). Because the quotients of M over $\ln N$ and 10^M over N are bounded, in the sum $\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n$, only the second addend

$\frac{9}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M O(1) \cdot (t \cdot \ln 10)$ contains the expression that is of the order $(\ln N)^2$. Go back to

equation (21) and we find out that the expression is $A = \frac{9}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M \left(\frac{k}{9} \cdot b_t \right) \cdot (t \cdot \ln 10)$.

Now we prove that $A = O(\ln N)$, and thus proving that the error term has the same order of $\ln N$ rather than $(\ln N)^2$. To complete the proof, we only have to make

sure that $A' = \sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot b_t = O(\ln N)$. Now we divide k out of all the prime factors 2

and 5 to get a positive integer k_0 . It is obvious that $(k_0, 10) = 1$. Let the order of 10 modulo k_0 be δ . When the positive integer s is large enough, we can compute

$$B = \sum_{t=s+1}^{s+\delta} b_t.$$

$$B = \sum_{t=s+1}^{s+\delta} \left(\left[\frac{10^t}{k} \right] - \left[\frac{10^{t-1}}{k} \right] - \frac{9 \cdot 10^{t-1}}{k} \right) = \left[\frac{10^{s+\delta}}{k} \right] - \left[\frac{10^s}{k} \right] - \frac{10^{s+\delta}}{k} + \frac{10^s}{k} , \quad \text{where}$$

$$\frac{10^{s+\delta}}{k} - \frac{10^s}{k} = \frac{10^s \cdot (10^\delta - 1)}{k} = \frac{10^s}{r} \cdot \frac{10^\delta - 1}{k_0} \in \square . \text{ This is because of the definition of the}$$

order of 10 modulo k_0 and the order being large enough, where $r = \frac{k}{k_0}$ and r

only contains the prime factors 2 and 5). We know that the difference between two numbers with the same decimal part equals the difference between their integer parts,

so $\left[\frac{10^{s+\delta}}{k} \right] - \left[\frac{10^s}{k} \right] = \frac{10^{s+\delta}}{k} - \frac{10^s}{k}$, which means that $B = 0$. When the positive

integer s is not large enough, the sum of these terms is infinite and does not produce a number of the order $(\ln N)^2$. Now $B = 0$ means that after a finite number of terms,

the sum of δ consecutive terms of the sequence $\{b_n\}$ is 0, which means that $\{b_n\}$

is of period δ after a finite number of terms, namely $b_t = b_{t+\delta}$ for t large enough.

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} A' &= \sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot b_t = \left[\frac{M}{\delta} \right] \cdot \sum_{t=1}^{\delta} t \cdot b_t + \sum_{t=1}^{\left\{ \frac{M}{\delta} \right\} \delta} t \cdot b_t = \left[\frac{M}{\delta} \right] \cdot \sum_{t=1}^{\delta} t \cdot b_t + O(1) = \left[\frac{M}{\delta} \right] \cdot O(1) + O(1) . \\ &= O(M) \cdot O(1) + O(1) = O(\ln N) \end{aligned}$$

After we complete the proof, we can make sure that:

$$\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + (\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{9k} \cdot 10^M + O(\ln N) \cdots (27)$$

(by replacing $O(M^2)$ by $O(\ln N)$)

Now the estimate is more precise. ($k \neq 2^\alpha \cdot 5^\beta$)

2.5 New Smarandache kn-digital Sequence Defined

Similarly in Base p

For a positive integer $p \geq 2$, we can define a new Smarandache kn -digital sequence

in a similar way. The digital of any number in the sequence can be partitioned into two groups in base p such that the second is k times of the first. For example, when $p = 8, k = 3$, $\{a_n\} = \{13, 26, 311, 414, 517, 622, 725, 1030, 1133\ldots\}$.

2.5.1 Any prime factor of k can divide p exactly (including $k=1$)

If any prime factor of k can divide p exactly (including $k=1$), then there exists a

positive integer r that is large enough such that $\frac{p^r}{k} \in \mathbb{Q}$.

Let $p^M \leq k \cdot N < p^{M+1}$, we will have:

$$\prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n = N! \left(p^1 + k \right)^{\frac{(p-1)}{k}} \cdot \left(p^2 + k \right)^{\frac{(p-1) \cdot p}{k}} \cdots \left(p^M + k \right)^{\frac{(p-1) \cdot p^{M-1}}{k}} \cdot \left(p^{M+1} + 1 \right)^{N - \frac{p^M}{k} + 1} \cdot O(1) \dots \dots \dots \quad (28)$$

Equation (28) holds because:

①: When $N \rightarrow +\infty, M \rightarrow +\infty$, as long as $m \geq r, m \in \mathbb{Q}^+$, we have $\frac{p^m}{k} \in \mathbb{Q}$, for

which the exponential power $\frac{(p-1) \cdot p^m}{k}$ in the equation (28) is integer for m

large enough.

②: For any given positive integer t , if there is an n such that $a_n = n \cdot (p^t + 1)$ holds, kn must have t digits, which means that $p^{t-1} \leq kn < p^t$. For t large enough, the

number of such n is exactly $\frac{p^t - p^{t-1}}{k} = \frac{(p-1) \cdot p^{t-1}}{k}$.

③: According to ① and ②, for any given k , the exponentials on the right-hand

side of equation (28) can be replaced by $\frac{(p-1) \cdot p^m}{k}$ for m that is large enough,

except some finite terms at the first place. We still replace these exponentials by

$$\frac{(p-1) \cdot p^m}{k} \text{ for } m \text{ that is not large enough. The values of these finite terms is}$$

determined, which means that we might over-multiply the right-hand side by a value that is finite, so we can simply multiply the right-hand side by $O(1)$ to make the equation correct.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{We have: } \prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n &= N! \cdot \prod_{t=1}^M \left(p^t + k \right)^{\frac{(p-1) \cdot p^{t-1}}{k}} \cdot \left(p^{M+1} + k \right)^{N - \frac{p^M}{k} + 1} \cdot O(1) \\ \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M \ln \left[\left(p^t + k \right)^{\frac{(p-1) \cdot p^{t-1}}{k}} \right] + \ln \left[\left(p^{M+1} + k \right)^{N - \frac{p^M}{k} + 1} \right] + O(1) \\ &= \ln N! + \frac{(p-1)}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M p^{t-1} \cdot \ln(p^t + k) + \left(N - \frac{p^M}{k} + 1 \right) \ln(p^{M+1} + k) + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{we have: } \ln N! = \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln N - N + O(1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{(p-1)}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M p^{t-1} \cdot \ln(p^t + k) &= \frac{(p-1)}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M p^{t-1} \cdot \left[t \cdot \ln p + \frac{k}{p^t} + O\left(\frac{1}{p^{2t}}\right) \right] \\ &= \frac{(p-1) \ln p}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot p^{t-1} + \frac{(p-1)}{p} M + O(1) \\ &= \frac{\ln 10}{k} \cdot \left(M - \frac{1}{p-1} \right) \cdot p^M + \frac{(p-1)}{p} M + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \left(N - \frac{p^M}{k} + 1 \right) \ln(p^{M+1} + k) &= \left(N - \frac{p^M}{k} + 1 \right) \left[(M+1) \cdot \ln p + \frac{k}{p^{M+1}} + O\left(\frac{1}{p^{2M}}\right) \right] \\ &= \left(N - \frac{p^M}{k} + 1 \right) \left[(M+1) \cdot \ln p + O\left(\frac{1}{p^M}\right) \right] \\ &= \ln p \cdot MN + \ln p \cdot M + \ln p \cdot N - \frac{\ln p}{k} \cdot M \cdot p^M - \frac{\ln p}{k} \cdot p^M + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

At last we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \left[\left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln N - N \right] + \left[\frac{\ln p}{k} \cdot \left(M - \frac{1}{p-1} \right) \cdot p^M + \frac{p-1}{p} M \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\ln p \cdot MN + \ln p \cdot M + \ln p \cdot N - \frac{\ln p}{k} \cdot M \cdot p^M - \frac{\ln p}{k} \cdot p^M \right] + O(1) \\
&= N \ln N + \frac{1}{2} \ln N - N + \frac{\ln p}{k} \cdot M \cdot p^M - \frac{\ln p}{(p-1)k} \cdot p^M + \frac{p-1}{p} M \\
&\quad + \ln p \cdot MN + \ln p \cdot M + \ln p \cdot N - \frac{\ln p}{k} \cdot M \cdot p^M - \frac{\ln p}{k} \cdot p^M + O(1) \\
&= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln p) + \frac{1}{2} \ln N + (\ln p - 1) N - \frac{p \ln p}{(p-1)k} \cdot p^M \\
&\quad + \left(\ln p + \frac{p-1}{p} \right) M + O(1)
\end{aligned}.$$

Because the quotients of M over $\ln N$ and p^M over N are bounded, we have:

$$\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N). \text{ More precisely,}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln p) + \left[(\ln p - 1) N - \frac{p \ln p}{(p-1)k} \cdot p^M \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\left(\ln p + \frac{p-1}{p} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1) \dots \dots \dots (29)
\end{aligned}$$

where $M = \lfloor \log_p kN \rfloor$.

2.5.2 Not all prime factors of k can divide p exactly ($k \neq 1$)

If not all prime factors of k can divide p exactly ($k \neq 1$), there exists a prime factor q of k such that q cannot divide p exactly. Let $p^M \leq k \cdot N < p^{M+1}$, and we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n &= N! \left(p^1 + k \right)^{\frac{p-1}{k} + b_1} \cdot \left(p^2 + k \right)^{\frac{(p-1) \cdot p}{k} + b_2} \cdots \left(p^M + k \right)^{\frac{(p-1) \cdot p^{M-1}}{k} + b_M} \\
&\quad \cdot \left(p^{M+1} + 1 \right)^{N - \frac{p^M}{k} + c} \dots \dots \dots (30)
\end{aligned}$$

where $b_t = \left\lceil \frac{p^t}{k} \right\rceil - \left\lceil \frac{p^{t-1}}{k} \right\rceil - \frac{(p-1) \cdot p^{t-1}}{k}$ ($t = 1, 2, 3, \dots, M$) and $|b_t| < 1, |c| < 1$.

Equation (30) holds because:

①: For any given positive integer t , if there is an n such that $a_n = n \cdot (p^t + 1)$

holds, kn must have t digits, namely $p^{t-1} \leq kn < p^t$. We can count the number of

such n , which is exactly $\left[\frac{p^t}{k} \right] - \left[\frac{p^{t-1}}{k} \right]$ ($[x]$ is the floor function of x). Therefore,

$$b_t = \left[\frac{p^t}{k} \right] - \left[\frac{p^{t-1}}{k} \right] - \frac{(p-1) \cdot p^{t-1}}{k}.$$

②: The value of the exponential power of $(p^{M+1} + 1)$ should be $N - \left[\frac{p^M}{k} \right]$, denoted

as $N - \frac{p^M}{k} + c$, $|c| < 1$, so we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n &= N! \prod_{t=1}^M (p^t + k)^{\frac{(p-1) \cdot p^{t-1}}{k} + b_t} \cdot (p^{M+1} + 1)^{N - \frac{p^M}{k} + c} \\ \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M \ln \left[(p^t + k)^{\frac{(p-1) \cdot p^{t-1}}{k} + b_t} \right] + \ln \left[(p^{M+1} + k)^{N - \frac{p^M}{k} + c} \right] \\ &= \ln N! + \frac{p-1}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M \left(p^{t-1} + \frac{k}{p-1} \cdot b_t \right) \cdot \left(t \cdot \ln p + \frac{k}{p^t} + O\left(\frac{1}{p^{2t}}\right) \right) \\ &\quad + \left(N - \frac{p^M}{k} + c \right) \cdot \left[(M+1) \cdot \ln p + O\left(\frac{1}{p^M}\right) \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{31}$$

Because b_t and c are bounded, we replace b_t and c in the equation (31) by

$O(1)$ and find out that:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M \ln \left[(p^t + k)^{\frac{(p-1) \cdot p^{t-1}}{k} + O(1)} \right] + \ln \left[(p^{M+1} + k)^{N - \frac{p^M}{k} + O(1)} \right] \\ &= \ln N! + \frac{p-1}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M (p^{t-1} + O(1)) \cdot \ln(p^t + k) \\ &\quad + \left(N - \frac{p^M}{k} + O(1) \right) \ln(p^{M+1} + k). \end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

We deal with the first addend in equation (32).

$$\ln N! = \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln N - N + O(1) \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \quad (33)$$

We deal with the second addend in equation (32).

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{p-1}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M (p^{t-1} + O(1)) \cdot \ln(p^t + k) &= \frac{p-1}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M (p^{t-1} + O(1)) \cdot \left[t \cdot \ln p + \frac{k}{p^t} + O\left(\frac{1}{p^{2t}}\right) \right] \\ &= \frac{(p-1) \ln p}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot p^{t-1} + \frac{p-1}{p} M + \frac{p-1}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M O(1) \cdot \left[t \cdot \ln p + \frac{k}{p^t} + O\left(\frac{1}{p^{2t}}\right) \right] + O(1) \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \quad (34) \end{aligned}$$

We deal with the third addend in equation (32).

$$\begin{aligned} \left(N - \frac{p^M}{k} + O(1) \right) \ln(p^{M+1} + k) &= \left(N - \frac{p^M}{k} + O(1) \right) \left[(M+1) \cdot \ln p + O\left(\frac{1}{p^M}\right) \right] \\ &= \ln p \cdot MN + \ln p \cdot N - \frac{\ln p}{k} \cdot M \cdot p^M - \frac{\ln p}{k} \cdot p^M + O(M) \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \quad (35) \end{aligned}$$

We substitute (33)(34)(35) into (32) and make the summation.

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \left[\left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln N - N \right] + \left[\frac{\ln p}{k} \cdot \left(M - \frac{1}{p-1} \right) \cdot p^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\ln p \cdot MN + \ln p \cdot N - \frac{\ln p}{k} \cdot M \cdot p^M - \frac{\ln p}{k} \cdot p^M \right] + O(M^2) \\ &= N \ln N + \frac{1}{2} \ln N - N + \frac{\ln p}{k} \cdot M \cdot p^M - \frac{\ln p}{(p-1)k} \cdot p^M \\ &\quad + \ln p \cdot MN + \ln p \cdot N - \frac{\ln p}{k} \cdot M \cdot p^M - \frac{\ln p}{k} \cdot p^M + O(M^2) \\ &= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln p) + (\ln p - 1)N - \frac{p \ln p}{(p-1)k} \cdot p^M + O(M^2) \end{aligned}$$

Now the error term $O(M^2)$ has the same order as $(\ln N)^2$. Because the quotients of

M over $\ln N$ and p^M over N are bounded, $\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{N \ln N + MN \ln p}{N \ln N} = 2$ and

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\frac{1}{2} \ln N + (\ln p - 1)N - \frac{p \ln p}{(p-1)k} \cdot p^M}{N} = O(1) \quad \text{hold, which mean that}$$

$$\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N) \quad \text{is true.}$$

Now go back to the equations (33)(34)(35). Because the quotients of M over

$\ln N$ and p^M over N are bounded, in the summation $\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n$, only the second

addend $\frac{p-1}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M O(1) \cdot (t \cdot \ln p)$ contains the expression that is of the order $(\ln N)^2$.

Go back to equation (31) and we find out that the expression is

$$A = \frac{p-1}{k} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M \left(\frac{k}{p-1} \cdot b_t \right) \cdot (t \cdot \ln p). \text{ Now we prove that } A = O(\ln N), \text{ thus proving}$$

that the error term is of the order $\ln N$ rather than $(\ln N)^2$. To complete the proof,

we only have to make sure that $A' = \sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot b_t = O(\ln N)$. Let k_0 be a number of k

divided out of all the prime factors of p . It is obvious that $(k_0, p) = 1$. Let the order

of p modulo k_0 be δ . When the positive integer s is large enough, we can

compute $B = \sum_{t=s+1}^{s+\delta} b_t$.

$$B = \sum_{t=s+1}^{s+\delta} \left(\left[\frac{p^t}{k} \right] - \left[\frac{p^{t-1}}{k} \right] - \frac{(p-1) \cdot p^{t-1}}{k} \right) = \left[\frac{p^{s+\delta}}{k} \right] - \left[\frac{p^s}{k} \right] - \frac{p^{s+\delta}}{k} + \frac{p^s}{k}, \quad \text{where}$$

$$\frac{p^{s+\delta}}{k} - \frac{p^s}{k} = \frac{p^s \cdot (p^\delta - 1)}{k} = \frac{p^s}{r} \cdot \frac{p^\delta - 1}{k_0} \in \square. \text{ This is because of the definition of the}$$

order of p modulo k_0 and the exponential power being large enough, where

$r = \frac{k}{k_0}$, and it only contains the prime factors of p . The difference between two

numbers which have the same decimal part equals the difference of their integer parts,

so $\left[\frac{p^{s+\delta}}{k} \right] - \left[\frac{p^s}{k} \right] = \frac{p^{s+\delta}}{k} - \frac{p^s}{k}$, which means that $B = 0$. When the positive integer

s is not large enough, the sum of these terms is infinite, and does not produce a

number of the order $(\ln N)^2$. Now $B = 0$ means that after a finite number of terms,

the sum of δ consecutive terms of the sequence $\{b_n\}$ is 0, which means that $\{b_n\}$

is of period δ after a finite number of terms, namely $b_t = b_{t+\delta}$ for t large enough.

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} A' &= \sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot b_t = \left\lceil \frac{M}{\delta} \right\rceil \cdot \sum_{t=1}^{\delta} t \cdot b_t + \sum_{t=1}^{\left\lceil \frac{M}{\delta} \right\rceil - \delta} t \cdot b_t = \left\lceil \frac{M}{\delta} \right\rceil \cdot \sum_{t=1}^{\delta} t \cdot b_t + O(1) = \left\lceil \frac{M}{\delta} \right\rceil \cdot O(1) + O(1). \\ &= O(M) \cdot O(1) + O(1) = O(\ln N) \end{aligned}$$

After we complete the proof, we can make sure that:

$$\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln p) + (\ln p - 1)N - \frac{p \ln p}{(p-1)k} \cdot p^M + O(\ln N) \dots (36)$$

(replace $O(M^2)$ by $O(\ln N)$)

Now the estimate is more precise.

3 Conclusion

Let $\{a_n\}$ be a Smarandache kn -digital sequence in base p ($\forall k, p \in \mathbb{Q}^+, p \geq 2$),

then the equation $\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N)$ holds when $N \rightarrow +\infty$.

More precisely,

(1) If all prime factors of k can divide p exactly (including $k=1$), then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln p) + \left[(\ln p - 1)N - \frac{p \ln p}{(p-1)k} \cdot p^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\left(\ln p + \frac{p-1}{p} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1) \end{aligned} \quad , \quad \text{where}$$

$$M = \left\lfloor \log_p kN \right\rfloor, \quad N \rightarrow +\infty.$$

(2) If not all prime factors of k divide p exactly ($k=1$ is excluded in this case),

$$\text{then } \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln p) + (\ln p - 1)N - \frac{p \ln p}{(p-1)k} \cdot p^M + O(\ln N)$$

$$(N \rightarrow +\infty).$$

For some specific k (for example, $k=3, 6, 9, 11$) and $p=10$, we prove the asymptotic formulas, each of which has an $O(1)$ error term. (equation

(5)(10)(12)(16)). In the following formulas, $M = \lfloor \log_{10} kN \rfloor$.

When $k = 3$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{27} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\left(\frac{\ln 10}{3} + \frac{9}{10} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

When $k = 6$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{5 \ln 10}{27} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\left(\frac{3 \ln 10}{2} + \frac{9}{10} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

When $k = 9$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{81} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\left(\frac{\ln 10}{9} + \frac{9}{10} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

When $k = 11$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + \ln 10 \cdot MN) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{99} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\left(\frac{9}{10} + \frac{\ln 10}{2} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

A Conjecture:

When $k = 7$, if $10^M \leq 7N < 10^{M+1}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + \ln 10 \cdot MN) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{63} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln N + \left(\frac{9}{10} + \frac{\ln 10}{2} \right) M \right] + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

(That is equation (17))

4 Further Discussions

When any prime factors of k can divide p exactly, we can get an asymptotic formula with an $O(1)$ error term. When not all prime factors of k divide p exactly, we can only get an asymptotic formula with an $O(\ln N)$ error term for general k and p . But for some specific k in base 10, for example, when $k = 3, 6, 9, 11$, we can get an asymptotic formula with an $O(1)$ error term, so for general k and p , when not all prime factors of k divide p exactly, it will be necessary to get the asymptotic formula with an $O(1)$ error term. We can even preserve more small terms, find out the constant, and give the asymptotic formula with an $O\left(\frac{1}{N}\right)$ error term. After all, the Stirling's approximation is very precise.

5 Appendix

For $k = 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11$, detailed proof is presented below. (**Equations (7) ~ (17) are in this part.**)

5.1 $k = 2$

Let $M \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, $\frac{1}{2} \cdot 10^M \leq N < \frac{1}{2} \cdot 10^{M+1}$, and by the same argument we can get the following identity:

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n &= \prod_{n=1}^4 a_n \cdot \prod_{n=5}^{49} a_n \cdots \prod_{n=\frac{1}{2} \cdot 10^{M-1}}^{\frac{1}{2} \cdot 10^M - 1} a_n \cdot \prod_{n=\frac{1}{2} \cdot 10^M}^N a_n \\ &= N! \cdot (10+2)^4 \cdot (100+2)^{45} \cdots (10^M + 2)^{\frac{1}{2} \cdot 9 \cdot 10^{M-1}} \cdot (10^{M+1} + 2)^{N - \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot 10^M - 1\right)}, \end{aligned}$$

and:

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M \ln(10^t + 2)^{\frac{1}{2} \cdot 9 \cdot 10^{t-1}} - \frac{\ln 12}{2} + \ln(10^{M+1} + 2)^{N - \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot 10^M - 1\right)} \\ &= \ln N! + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln(10^t + 2) + \left[N - \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot 10^M - 1\right) \right] \ln(10^{M+1} + 2) - \frac{\ln 12}{2}.\end{aligned}$$

In the equation above, the subtraction of $\frac{\ln 12}{2}$ is because we replace the exponentials by $\frac{1}{2} \cdot 9 \cdot 10^{t-1}$, and only in the first term $(10+2)^4$, we cannot replace 4 by $\frac{1}{2} \cdot 9 \cdot 10^{1-1} = 4.5$. Thereby, to make the equation correct, we have to subtract $\ln \frac{(10^1 + 2)^{4.5}}{(10^1 + 2)^4} = \frac{\ln 12}{2}$ from the left-hand side. We will use $O(1)$ to substitute this finite difference.

Therefore, we have: $\ln N! = \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) \ln N - N + O(1)$.

When $x \rightarrow 0$, $\ln(x+1) = x + O(x^2)$, which means that:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{2} \cdot 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln(10^t + 2) &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \left[t \cdot \ln 10 + \frac{2}{10^t} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2t}}\right) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot 9 \cdot \ln 10 \cdot \sum_{k=1}^M k \cdot 10^{k-1} + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1) \\ &= \frac{\ln 10}{2} \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{18} (10^M - 1) + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1)\end{aligned},$$

and:

$$\begin{aligned}\left[N - \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot 10^M - 1\right) \right] \ln(10^{M+1} + 2) &= \left[N - \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot 10^M - 1\right) \right] \cdot \left[\frac{2}{10^{M+1}} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2M}}\right) + (M+1) \cdot \ln 10 \right] \\ &= \ln 10 \cdot (M+1) \cdot \left[N - \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot 10^M - 1\right) \right] + O(1) \\ &= \ln 10 \cdot \left(MN - \frac{1}{2} \cdot M \cdot 10^M + M + N - \frac{1}{2} \cdot 10^M \right) + O(1)\end{aligned}.$$

At last we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n &= \prod_{n=1}^2 a_n \cdot \prod_{n=3}^{24} a_n \cdot \prod_{n=25}^{249} a_n \cdots \prod_{n=\frac{1}{4} \cdot 10^{M-1}}^{\frac{1}{4} \cdot 10^M - 1} a_n \cdot \prod_{n=\frac{1}{4} \cdot 10^M}^N a_n \\
&= N! \cdot (10+4)^2 \cdot (100+4)^{22} \cdot (1000+4)^{225} \cdots (10^M+4)^{\frac{1}{4} \cdot 9 \cdot 10^{M-1}} \\
&\quad \cdot (10^{M+1}+4)^{N-\left(\frac{1}{4} \cdot 10^M - 1\right)}
\end{aligned}$$

and:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M \ln(10^t+4)^{\frac{1}{4} \cdot 9 \cdot 10^{t-1}} + \ln(10^{M+1}+4)^{N-\left(\frac{1}{4} \cdot 10^M - 1\right)} + O(1) \\
&= \ln N! + \frac{1}{4} \cdot 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln(10^t+4) + \left[N - \left(\frac{1}{4} \cdot 10^M - 1 \right) \right] \ln(10^{M+1}+4) + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

When $x \rightarrow 0$, $\ln N! = \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) \ln N - N + O(1)$, so $\ln(x+1) = x + O(x^2)$, which

means that:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{4} \cdot 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln(10^t+4) &= \frac{1}{4} \cdot 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \left[t \cdot \ln 10 + \frac{4}{10^t} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2t}}\right) \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{4} \cdot 9 \cdot \ln 10 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot 10^{t-1} + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1) \quad , \text{ and:} \\
&= \frac{\ln 10}{4} \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{36} (10^M - 1) + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\left[N - \left(\frac{1}{4} \cdot 10^M - 1 \right) \right] \ln(10^{M+1}+4) &= \left[N - \left(\frac{1}{4} \cdot 10^M - 1 \right) \right] \left[\frac{4}{10^{M+1}} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2M}}\right) + (M+1) \cdot \ln 10 \right] \\
&= \ln 10 \cdot (M+1) \left[N - \left(\frac{1}{4} \cdot 10^M - 1 \right) \right] + O(1) \\
&= \ln 10 \cdot \left(MN - \frac{1}{4} \cdot M \cdot 10^M + M + N - \frac{1}{4} \cdot 10^M \right) + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

At last we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \left[\left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln N - N + O(1) \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\frac{\ln 10}{4} \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{36} \cdot (10^M - 1) + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1) \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\ln 10 \cdot \left(MN - \frac{1}{4} \cdot M \cdot 10^M + M + N - \frac{1}{4} \cdot 10^M \right) + O(1) \right] \\
&= N \ln N + \frac{1}{2} \ln N - \cancel{N} + \frac{\ln 10}{4} \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{36} \cdot 10^M + \frac{9}{10} M \\
&\quad + \ln 10 \cdot MN - \frac{\ln 10}{4} \cdot M \cdot 10^M + \ln 10 \cdot M + \ln 10 \cdot N - \frac{\ln 10}{4} \cdot 10^M + O(1) \\
&= (\cancel{N \ln N} + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \frac{1}{2} \ln N + (\ln 10 - 1) N - \frac{5 \ln 10}{18} \cdot 10^M \\
&\quad + \left(\ln 10 + \frac{9}{10} \right) M + O(1)
\end{aligned},$$

which means that:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1) N - \frac{5 \ln 10}{18} \cdot 10^M \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\left(\ln 10 + \frac{9}{10} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1) \dots \dots \dots (8)
\end{aligned}.$$

This is the asymptotic formula with an $O(1)$ error term when $k = 4$.

Because the quotients of M over $\ln N$ and 10^M over N are bounded, the following equations hold:

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{N \ln N + MN \ln 10}{N \ln N} = 2, \text{ and}$$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\frac{1}{2} \ln N + (\ln 10 - 1) N - \frac{5 \ln 10}{18} 10^M + \left(\ln 10 + \frac{9}{10} \right) M}{N} = O(1), \text{ which means that:}$$

$$\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N).$$

5.3 $k = 5$

When N is large enough, there exists a unique $M \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that

$$\frac{1}{5} \cdot 10^M \leq N < \frac{1}{5} \cdot 10^{M+1}.$$

By the same argument we can get the following identity.

$$\prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n = \prod_{n=1}^1 a_n \cdot \prod_{n=2}^{19} a_n \cdot \prod_{n=20}^{199} a_n \cdots \prod_{n=\frac{1}{5} \cdot 10^{M-1}}^{\frac{1}{5} \cdot 10^M - 1} a_n \cdot \prod_{n=\frac{1}{5} \cdot 10^M}^N a_n \\ = N! \cdot (10+5)^1 \cdot (100+5)^{18} \cdot (1000+5)^{180} \cdots (10^M+5)^{\frac{1}{5} \cdot 9 \cdot 10^{M-1}} \cdot (10^{M+1}+5)^{N - (\frac{1}{5} \cdot 10^M - 1)} ,$$

and:

$$\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M \ln (10^t + 5)^{\frac{1}{5} \cdot 9 \cdot 10^{t-1}} + \ln (10^{M+1} + 5)^{N - (\frac{1}{5} \cdot 10^M - 1)} + O(1) \\ = \ln N! + \frac{1}{5} \cdot 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln (10^t + 5) + \left[N - \left(\frac{1}{5} \cdot 10^M - 1 \right) \right] \ln (10^{M+1} + 5) + O(1) .$$

When $x \rightarrow 0$, $\ln N! = \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln N - N + O(1)$, so $\ln(x+1) = x + O(x^2)$, which

means that:

$$\frac{1}{5} \cdot 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln (10^t + 5) = \frac{1}{5} \cdot 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \left[t \cdot \ln 10 + \frac{5}{10^t} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2t}}\right) \right] \\ = \frac{1}{5} \cdot 9 \cdot \ln 10 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot 10^{t-1} + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1) , \\ = \frac{\ln 10}{5} \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{45} (10^M - 1) + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1)$$

and:

$$\left[N - \left(\frac{1}{5} \cdot 10^M - 1 \right) \right] \ln (10^{M+1} + 5) = \left[N - \left(\frac{1}{5} \cdot 10^M - 1 \right) \right] \left[\frac{5}{10^{M+1}} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2M}}\right) + (M+1) \cdot \ln 10 \right] \\ = \ln 10 \cdot (M+1) \left[N - \left(\frac{1}{5} \cdot 10^M - 1 \right) \right] + O(1) \\ = \ln 10 \cdot \left(MN - \frac{1}{5} \cdot M \cdot 10^M + M + N - \frac{1}{5} \cdot 10^M \right) + O(1)$$

At last we have:

By the same argument we can get the following identity:

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n &= \prod_{n=1}^1 a_n \cdot \prod_{n=2}^{16} a_n \cdot \prod_{n=17}^{166} a_n \cdot \prod_{n=167}^{1666} a_n \cdots \prod_{n=\frac{10^{M-1}+2}{6}}^{\frac{10^M+2}{6}-1} a_n \cdot \prod_{n=\frac{10^M+2}{6}}^N a_n \\ &= N! \left(10+6\right)^1 \cdot \left(100+6\right)^{15} \cdot \left(1000+6\right)^{150} \cdots \left(10^M+6\right)^{\frac{3}{2} \cdot 10^{M-1}} \cdot \left(10^{M+1}+6\right)^{N-\left(\frac{10^M+2}{6}-1\right)} \end{aligned}$$

and:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M \ln \left(10^t+6\right)^{\frac{3}{2} \cdot 10^{t-1}} + \ln \left(10^{M+1}+6\right)^{N-\left(\frac{10^M+2}{6}-1\right)} + O(1) \\ &= \ln N! + \frac{3}{2} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln \left(10^t+6\right) + \left[N - \left(\frac{10^M+2}{6}-1\right)\right] \ln \left(10^{M+1}+6\right) + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

We have: $\ln N! = \left(N + \frac{1}{2}\right) \ln N - N + O(1)$.

When $x \rightarrow 0$, $\ln(x+1) = x + O(x^2)$, which means that:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{3}{2} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln \left(10^t+6\right) &= \frac{3}{2} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \left[t \cdot \ln 10 + \frac{6}{10^t} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2t}}\right)\right] \\ &= \frac{3}{2} \cdot \ln 10 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot 10^{t-1} + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1) \\ &= \frac{\ln 10}{6} \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{54} (10^M - 1) + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

and:

$$\begin{aligned} \left[N - \left(\frac{10^M+2}{6}-1\right)\right] \ln \left(10^{M+1}+6\right) &= \left[N - \left(\frac{10^M+2}{6}-1\right)\right] \left[\frac{6}{10^{M+1}} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2M}}\right) + (M+1) \cdot \ln 10\right] \\ &= \ln 10 \cdot (M+1) \cdot \left[N - \left(\frac{10^M-4}{6}\right)\right] + O(1) \\ &= \ln 10 \cdot \left(MN - \frac{1}{6} \cdot M \cdot 10^M + \frac{3}{2} M + N - \frac{1}{6} \cdot 10^M\right) + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

At last we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n &= \prod_{n=1}^1 a_n \cdot \prod_{n=2}^{12} a_n \cdot \prod_{n=13}^{124} a_n \cdot \prod_{n=125}^{1249} a_n \cdots \prod_{n=\frac{1}{8} \cdot 10^{M-1}}^{\frac{1}{8} \cdot 10^M - 1} a_n \cdot \prod_{n=\frac{1}{8} \cdot 10^M}^N a_n \\
&= N! \cdot (10+8)^1 \cdot (100+8)^{11} \cdot (1000+8)^{112} \cdots (10^M+8)^{\frac{1}{8} \cdot 9 \cdot 10^{M-1}} \\
&\quad \cdot (10^{M+1}+8)^{N-\left(\frac{1}{8} \cdot 10^M - 1\right)}
\end{aligned}$$

and:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M \ln (10^t + 8)^{\frac{1}{8} \cdot 9 \cdot 10^{t-1}} + \ln (10^{M+1} + 8)^{N-\left(\frac{1}{8} \cdot 10^M - 1\right)} + O(1) \\
&= \ln N! + \frac{1}{8} \cdot 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln (10^t + 8) + \left[N - \left(\frac{1}{8} \cdot 10^M - 1 \right) \right] \ln (10^{M+1} + 8) + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{We have: } \ln N! = \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln N - N + O(1).$$

$$\text{When } x \rightarrow 0, \ln(x+1) = x + O(x^2),$$

which means that:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{8} \cdot 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln (10^t + 8) &= \frac{1}{8} \cdot 9 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \left[t \cdot \ln 10 + \frac{8}{10^t} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2t}}\right) \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{8} \cdot 9 \cdot \ln 10 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot 10^{t-1} + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1) \\
&= \frac{\ln 10}{8} \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{72} (10^M - 1) + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

and:

$$\begin{aligned}
\left[N - \left(\frac{1}{8} \cdot 10^M - 1 \right) \right] \ln (10^{M+1} + 8) &= \left[N - \left(\frac{1}{8} \cdot 10^M - 1 \right) \right] \left[\frac{8}{10^{M+1}} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2M}}\right) + (M+1) \cdot \ln 10 \right] \\
&= \ln 10 \cdot (M+1) \left[N - \left(\frac{1}{8} \cdot 10^M - 1 \right) \right] + O(1) \\
&= \ln 10 \cdot \left(MN - \frac{1}{8} \cdot M \cdot 10^M + M + N - \frac{1}{8} \cdot 10^M \right) + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

Finally we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n &= \prod_{n=1}^1 a_n \cdot \prod_{n=2}^{11} a_n \cdot \prod_{n=12}^{111} a_n \cdot \prod_{n=112}^{1111} a_n \cdots \prod_{n=\frac{10^{M-1}+8}{9}}^{\frac{10^M+8}{9}-1} a_n \cdot \prod_{n=\frac{10^M+8}{9}}^N a_n \\
&= N! \cdot (10+9)^1 \cdot (100+9)^{10} \cdot (1000+9)^{100} \cdots (10^M+9)^{10^{M-1}} \\
&\quad \cdot (10^{M+1}+9)^{N-\left(\frac{10^M+8}{9}-1\right)}
\end{aligned}$$

and:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M \ln (10^t+9)^{10^{t-1}} + \ln (10^{M+1}+9)^{N-\left(\frac{10^M+8}{9}-1\right)} + O(1) \\
&= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln (10^t+9) + \left[N - \left(\frac{10^M+8}{9} - 1 \right) \right] \ln (10^{M+1}+9) + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{We have: } \ln N! = \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln N - N + O(1).$$

When $x \rightarrow 0$, $\ln(x+1) = x + O(x^2)$, which means that:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \ln (10^t+9) &= \sum_{t=1}^M 10^{t-1} \cdot \left[t \cdot \ln 10 + \frac{9}{10^t} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2t}}\right) \right] \\
&= \ln 10 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot 10^{t-1} + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1) \\
&= \frac{\ln 10}{9} \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{81} (10^M - 1) + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

and:

$$\begin{aligned}
\left[N - \left(\frac{10^M+8}{9} - 1 \right) \right] \ln (10^{M+1}+9) &= \left[N - \left(\frac{10^M+8}{9} - 1 \right) \right] \left[\frac{9}{10^{M+1}} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2M}}\right) + (M+1) \cdot \ln 10 \right] \\
&= \ln 10 \cdot (M+1) \cdot \left[N - \left(\frac{10^M-1}{9} \right) \right] + O(1) \\
&= \ln 10 \cdot \left(MN - \frac{1}{9} \cdot M \cdot 10^M + \frac{1}{9} M + N - \frac{1}{9} \cdot 10^M \right) + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

Finally we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \left[\left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln N - N + O(1) \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\frac{\ln 10}{9} \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{81} (10^M - 1) + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1) \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\ln 10 \cdot \left(MN - \frac{1}{9} \cdot M \cdot 10^M + \frac{1}{9} M + N - \frac{1}{9} \cdot 10^M \right) + O(1) \right] \\
&= N \ln N + \frac{1}{2} \ln N - N + \frac{\ln 10}{9} \cdot M \cdot 10^M - \frac{\ln 10}{81} \cdot 10^M + \frac{9}{10} M \\
&\quad + \ln 10 \cdot MN - \frac{\ln 10}{9} \cdot M \cdot 10^M + \frac{\ln 10}{9} \cdot M + \ln 10 \cdot N - \frac{\ln 10}{9} \cdot 10^M + O(1) \\
&= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \frac{1}{2} \ln N + (\ln 10 - 1) N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{81} \cdot 10^M \\
&\quad + \left(\frac{\ln 10}{9} + \frac{9}{10} \right) M + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

which means that:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1) N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{81} \cdot 10^M \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\left(\frac{\ln 10}{9} + \frac{9}{10} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1) \dots \dots \dots (12)
\end{aligned}$$

This is the asymptotic formula with an $O(1)$ error term when $k = 9$.

Because the quotients of M over $\ln N$ and 10^M over N are bounded, the following equations hold:

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{N \ln N + MN \ln 10}{N \ln N} = 2,$$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\frac{1}{2} \ln N + (\ln 10 - 1) N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{81} \cdot 10^M + \left(\frac{\ln 10}{9} + \frac{9}{10} \right) M}{N} = O(1),$$

which means that: $\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N)$.

5.7 $k = 10$

When N is large enough, there exists a unique $M \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that $10^M \leq 10N < 10^{M+1}$.

By the same argument we can get the following identity:

$$\prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n = N! \cdot (10^2 + 10)^9 \cdots (10^M + 10)^{9 \cdot 10^{M-2}} \cdot (10^{M+1} + 10)^{N - 10^{M-1} + 1}$$

and:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M \ln (10^t + 10)^{9 \cdot 10^{t-2}} + \ln (10^{M+1} + 10)^{N - 10^{M-1} + 1} + O(1) \\ &= \ln N! + \sum_{t=1}^M 9 \cdot 10^{t-2} \cdot \ln (10^t + 10) + (N - 10^{M-1} + 1) \ln (10^{M+1} + 10) + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

We have: $\ln N! = N \ln N - N + \frac{1}{2} \ln N + O(1)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{t=1}^M 9 \cdot 10^{t-2} \cdot \ln (10^t + 10) &= \sum_{t=1}^M 9 \cdot 10^{t-2} \cdot \left[t \cdot \ln 10 + \frac{1}{10^{t-1}} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2t}}\right) \right] \\ &= 9 \ln 10 \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M t \cdot 10^{t-2} + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1) \\ &= 9 \ln 10 \cdot \left[\frac{1}{9} \left(M - \frac{1}{9} \right) \cdot 10^{M-1} + \frac{1}{810} \right] + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1) \\ &= \ln 10 \cdot M \cdot 10^{M-1} - \frac{\ln 10}{9} \cdot 10^{M-1} + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

and:

$$\begin{aligned} (N - 10^{M-1} + 1) \ln (10^{M+1} + 10) &= (N - 10^{M-1} + 1) \cdot \left[(M+1) \cdot \ln 10 + \frac{1}{10^M} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2M}}\right) \right] \\ &= \ln 10 \cdot (MN + N - M \cdot 10^{M-1} - 10^{M-1} + M) + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

Finally we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \left[N \ln N - N + \frac{1}{2} \ln N + O(1) \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\ln 10 \cdot M \cdot 10^{M-1} - \frac{\ln 10}{9} \cdot 10^{M-1} + \frac{9}{10} M + O(1) \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\ln 10 \cdot (MN + N - M \cdot 10^{M-1} - 10^{M-1} + M) + O(1) \right] \\ &= \textcolor{red}{N \ln N} + \frac{1}{2} \ln N - \textcolor{blue}{N} + \ln 10 \cdot \textcolor{blue}{M} \cdot 10^{M-1} - \frac{\ln 10}{9} \cdot 10^{M-1} + \frac{9}{10} M \\ &\quad + \ln 10 \cdot \textcolor{red}{MN} - \ln 10 \cdot \textcolor{blue}{M} \cdot 10^{M-1} + \ln 10 \cdot \textcolor{green}{M} + \ln 10 \cdot \textcolor{blue}{N} - \ln 10 \cdot 10^{M-1} + O(1) \\ &= (\textcolor{red}{N \ln N} + \textcolor{red}{MN} \cdot \ln 10) + \frac{1}{2} \ln N + (\ln 10 - 1) \textcolor{blue}{N} - \frac{10 \ln 10}{9} \cdot 10^{M-1} \\ &\quad + \left(\ln 10 + \frac{9}{10} \right) \textcolor{green}{M} + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

which means that:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + MN \cdot \ln 10) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{\ln 10}{9} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\left(\ln 10 + \frac{9}{10} \right) M + \frac{1}{2} \ln N \right] + O(1) \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

This is the asymptotic formula with an $O(1)$ error term when $k = 10$.

Because the quotients of M over $\ln N$ and 10^M over N are bounded, the following equations hold:

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{N \ln N + MN \ln 10}{N \ln N} = 2,$$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\frac{1}{2} \ln N + (\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{\ln 10}{9} 10^M + \left(\ln 10 + \frac{9}{10} \right) M}{N} = O(1),$$

which means that: $\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N)$.

5.8 $k = 11$

When $k = 11$ and when N is large enough, we can also find a unique $M \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that $10^M \leq 11N < 10^{M+1}$. But the order of 10 modulo 11 is 2 (that is $\delta_{11}(10) = 2$), so we have to consider two cases. They are that M is odd and that M is even.

5.8.1 Case 1 for $M \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that $10^{2M} \leq 11N < 10^{2M+1}$

If there exists an M such that $M \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ and $10^{2M} \leq 11N < 10^{2M+1}$, then

$a_N = N \cdot (10^{2M+1} + 11)$, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n &= N! \cdot (10^2 + 11)^9 \cdot (10^3 + 11)^{81} \cdot (10^4 + 11)^{819} \cdots \\ &\quad \cdot (10^{2M-1} + 11)^{\frac{9}{11}(10^{2M-2}-1)} \cdot (10^{2M} + 11)^{\frac{9}{11}(10^{2M-1}+1)} \cdot (10^{2M+1} + 11)^{N-\frac{10^{2M}-1}{11}} \\ &= N! \prod_{t=0}^{M-1} (10^{2t+2} + 11)^{\frac{9}{11}(10^{2t+1}+1)} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^{M-1} (10^{2t+1} + 11)^{\frac{9}{11}(10^{2t}-1)} \cdot (10^{2M+1} + 11)^{N-\frac{10^{2M}-1}{11}} \end{aligned}$$

Take the natural logarithm of the both sides, and the equation becomes:

$$\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = \ln(N!) + \frac{9}{11} \cdot \sum_{t=0}^{M-1} (10^{2t+1} + 1) \ln(10^{2t+2} + 11) + \frac{9}{11} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^{M-1} (10^{2t} - 1) \ln(10^{2t+1} + 11) + \left(N - \frac{10^{2M} - 1}{11} \right) \ln(10^{2M+1} + 11).$$

We deal with every addend in the equation above.

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{t=0}^{M-1} (10^{2t+1} + 1) \ln(10^{2t+2} + 11) &= \sum_{t=0}^{M-1} (10^{2t+1} + 1) \left[(2t+2) \ln 10 + \frac{11}{10^{2t+2}} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{4t}}\right) \right] \\ &= \sum_{t=0}^{M-1} \left((2t+2) \ln 10 \cdot 10^{2t+1} + \frac{11}{10} + (2t+2) \ln 10 \right) + O(1) \\ \sum_{t=1}^{M-1} (10^{2t} - 1) \ln(10^{2t+1} + 11) &= \sum_{t=1}^{M-1} (10^{2t} - 1) \left[(2t+1) \ln 10 + \frac{11}{10^{2t+1}} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{4t}}\right) \right] \\ &= \sum_{t=1}^{M-1} \left((2t+1) \ln 10 \cdot 10^{2t} + \frac{11}{10} - (2t+1) \ln 10 \right) + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

If we summate the above two equations and multiply the both sides by $\frac{9}{11}$, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{9}{11} \sum_{t=0}^{M-1} (10^{2t+1} + 1) \ln(10^{2t+2} + 11) + \frac{9}{11} \sum_{t=1}^{M-1} (10^{2t} - 1) \ln(10^{2t+1} + 11) \\ &= \frac{9}{11} \left\{ \ln 10 \cdot \sum_{t=2}^{2M} t \cdot 10^{t-1} + \frac{11}{5} M + \ln 10 \cdot [(2M) - (2M-1) + \dots + 4 - 3 + 2] \right\} + O(1) \\ &= \frac{9}{11} \left\{ \frac{\ln 10}{9} \cdot \left(2M - \frac{1}{9} \right) \cdot 10^{2M} + \left(\frac{11}{5} + \ln 10 \right) M \right\} + O(1) \\ &= \frac{2 \ln 10}{11} \cdot M \cdot 10^{2M} - \frac{\ln 10}{99} \cdot 10^{2M} + \left(\frac{9}{5} + \frac{9 \ln 10}{11} \right) M + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{where } \sum_{t=2}^{2M} t \cdot 10^{t-1} = \frac{1}{9} \left(2M - \frac{1}{9} \right) \cdot 10^{2M} + \frac{10}{81}.$$

In addition,

$$\begin{aligned} &\left(N - \frac{10^{2M} - 1}{11} \right) \ln(10^{2M+1} + 11) \\ &= \left(N - \frac{1}{11} \cdot 10^{2M} + \frac{1}{11} \right) \left[(2M+1) \ln 10 + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2M}}\right) \right] \quad , \text{ and} \\ &= (2M+1) \cdot N \cdot \ln 10 - \frac{\ln 10}{11} \cdot (2M+1) \cdot 10^{2M} + \frac{2 \ln 10}{11} \cdot M + O(1) \end{aligned}$$

$\ln N! = N \ln N - N + \frac{1}{2} \ln N + O(1)$, which means that:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= N \ln N - N + \frac{1}{2} \ln N + 2 \ln 10 \cdot MN + \ln 10 \cdot N - \frac{2 \ln 10}{11} \cdot M \cdot 10^{2M} - \frac{\ln 10}{11} \cdot 10^{2M} \\
&\quad + \frac{2 \ln 10}{11} \cdot M + \frac{2 \ln 10}{11} \cdot M \cdot 10^{2M} - \frac{\ln 10}{99} \cdot 10^{2M} + \left(\frac{9}{5} + \frac{9 \ln 10}{11} \right) M + O(1) \\
&= (N \ln N + 2 \ln 10 \cdot MN) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1) N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{99} \cdot 10^{2M} \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln N + \left(\frac{9}{5} + \ln 10 \right) M \right] + O(1) \\
&= (N \ln N + \ln 10 \cdot (2M) \cdot N) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1) N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{99} \cdot 10^{2M} \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln N + \left(\frac{9}{10} + \frac{\ln 10}{2} \right) \cdot (2M) \right] + O(1) \dots \dots \dots (14)
\end{aligned}$$

This is the asymptotic formula with an $O(1)$ error term when $k=11$ in case 1.

Because the quotients of $2M$ over $\ln N$ and 10^{2M} over N are bounded,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{N \ln N + 2 \ln 10 \cdot MN}{N \ln N} = 2.$$

The orders of the other terms are no larger than N , which means that $\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N)$.

5.8.2 Case 2 for $M \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that $10^{2M+1} \leq 11N < 10^{2M+2}$

(just as case 1) If there exists an M such that $10^{2M+1} \leq 11N < 10^{2M+2}$ and $M \in \mathbb{Z}^+$,

then $a_N = N \cdot (10^{2M+2} + 11)$.

$$\begin{aligned}
\prod_{1 \leq n \leq N} a_n &= N! \cdot (10^2 + 11)^9 \cdot (10^3 + 11)^{81} \cdot (10^4 + 11)^{819} \cdots \\
&\quad (10^{2M} + 11)^{\frac{9}{11}(10^{2M-1} + 1)} \cdot (10^{2M+1} + 11)^{\frac{9}{11}(10^{2M} - 1)} \cdot (10^{2M+2} + 11)^{N - \frac{10^{2M+1} - 10}{11}} \\
&= N! \cdot \prod_{t=1}^M (10^{2t} + 11)^{\frac{9}{11}(10^{2t-1} + 1)} \cdot \prod_{t=1}^M (10^{2t+1} + 11)^{\frac{9}{11}(10^{2t} - 1)} \cdot (10^{2M+2} + 11)^{N - \frac{10^{2M+1} - 10}{11}}
\end{aligned}$$

Take the natural logarithm of the both sides.

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= \ln N! + \frac{9}{11} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M (10^{2t-1} + 1) \ln (10^{2t} + 11) + \frac{9}{11} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M (10^{2t} - 1) \ln (10^{2t+1} + 11) \\
&\quad + \left(N - \frac{10^{2M+1} - 10}{11} \right) \ln (10^{2M+2} + 11)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{where } \sum_{t=1}^M (10^{2t-1} + 1) \ln(10^{2t} + 11) = \sum_{t=1}^M (10^{2t-1} + 1) \left[2t \ln 10 + \frac{11}{10^{2t}} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{4t}}\right) \right] \\
& = \sum_{t=1}^M \left(2t \ln 10 \cdot 10^{2t-1} + \frac{11}{10} + 2t \cdot \ln 10 \right) + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{t=1}^M (10^{2t} - 1) \ln(10^{2t+1} + 11) = \sum_{t=1}^M (10^{2t} - 1) \left[(2t+1) \ln 10 + \frac{11}{10^{2t+1}} + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{4t}}\right) \right] \\
& = \sum_{t=1}^M \left((2t+1) \ln 10 \cdot 10^{2t} + \frac{11}{10} - (2t+1) \ln 10 \right) + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

If we summate the above two equations and multiply the both sides by $\frac{9}{11}$, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{9}{11} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M (10^{2t-1} + 1) \ln(10^{2t} + 11) + \frac{9}{11} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^M (10^{2t} - 1) \ln(10^{2t+1} + 11) \\
& = \frac{9}{11} \left\{ \ln 10 \cdot \sum_{t=2}^{2M+1} t \cdot 10^{t-1} + \frac{11}{5} M - \ln 10 \cdot M \right\} + O(1) \\
& = \frac{9}{11} \left\{ \frac{\ln 10}{9} \cdot \left(2M + \frac{8}{9} \right) \cdot 10^{2M+1} + \left(\frac{11}{5} - \ln 10 \right) M \right\} + O(1) \\
& = \frac{2 \ln 10}{11} \cdot M \cdot 10^{2M+1} + \frac{8 \ln 10}{99} \cdot 10^{2M+1} + \left(\frac{9}{5} - \frac{9 \ln 10}{11} \right) M + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left(N - \frac{10^{2M+1} - 10}{11} \right) \ln(10^{2M+2} + 11) \\
& = \left(N - \frac{1}{11} \cdot 10^{2M+1} + \frac{10}{11} \right) \left[(2M+2) \ln 10 + O\left(\frac{1}{10^{2M}}\right) \right] \\
& = (2M+2) \cdot N \cdot \ln 10 - \frac{\ln 10}{11} \cdot (2M+2) \cdot 10^{2M+1} + \frac{20 \ln 10}{11} \cdot M + O(1)
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\ln N! = N \ln N - N + \frac{1}{2} \ln N + O(1),$$

which means that:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= N \ln N - N + \frac{1}{2} \ln N + 2 \ln 10 \cdot MN + 2 \ln 10 \cdot N - \frac{2 \ln 10}{11} \cdot M \cdot 10^{2M+1} - \frac{2 \ln 10}{11} \cdot 10^{2M+1} \\
&\quad + \frac{20 \ln 10}{11} M + \frac{2 \ln 10}{11} \cdot M \cdot 10^{2M+1} + \frac{8 \ln 10}{99} \cdot 10^{2M+1} + \left(\frac{9}{5} - \frac{9}{11} \ln 10 \right) M + O(1) \\
&= (N \ln N + 2 \ln 10 \cdot MN) + \left[(2 \ln 10 - 1) N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{99} \cdot 10^{2M+1} \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln N + \left(\frac{9}{5} + \ln 10 \right) M \right] + O(1) \\
&= (N \ln N + \ln 10 \cdot (2M+1) \cdot N) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1) N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{99} \cdot 10^{2M+1} \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln N + \left(\frac{9}{10} + \frac{\ln 10}{2} \right) \cdot (2M+1) \right] + O(1) \dots \dots \dots (15)
\end{aligned}$$

This is the asymptotic formula with an $O(1)$ error term when $k=11$ in case 2.

Because the quotients of $2M$ over $\ln N$ and 10^{2M+1} over N are bounded,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{N \ln N + 2 \ln 10 \cdot MN}{N \ln N} = 2.$$

The orders of the other terms are no larger than N , which means that

$$\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n = 2N \ln N + O(N).$$

5.8.3 summary of the two cases when $k=11$

Now we compare the two equations (14)(15) with each other.

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + \ln 10 \cdot (2M) \cdot N) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1) N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{99} \cdot 10^{2M} \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln N + \left(\frac{9}{10} + \frac{\ln 10}{2} \right) \cdot (2M) \right] + O(1) \dots \dots \dots (14)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + \ln 10 \cdot (2M+1) \cdot N) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1) N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{99} \cdot 10^{2M+1} \right] \\
&\quad + \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln N + \left(\frac{9}{10} + \frac{\ln 10}{2} \right) \cdot (2M+1) \right] + O(1) \dots \dots \dots (15)
\end{aligned}$$

We find out that if $10^M \leq 11N < 10^{M+1}$, then the asymptotic formula has nothing to do with the parity of M . To sum up, the following asymptotic formula is true.

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + \ln 10 \cdot MN) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{99} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln N + \left(\frac{9}{10} + \frac{\ln 10}{2} \right) M \right] + O(1) \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

When $k = 7$, by this means we will have to discuss 6 cases (the order of 10 modulo 7 is 6), which can be very tedious. But based on the computational results of the case when $k = 11$, we guess that in the 6 cases, the 6 asymptotic formulas are similar in form. We now give the conjecture when $k = 7$ directly without proof.

If $10^M \leq 7N < 10^{M+1}$, then

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} \ln a_n &= (N \ln N + \ln 10 \cdot MN) + \left[(\ln 10 - 1)N - \frac{10 \ln 10}{63} \cdot 10^M \right] \\ &\quad + \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln N + \left(\frac{9}{10} + \frac{\ln 10}{2} \right) M \right] + O(1) \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

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