

**Three conjectures about primality testing  
for Mersenne, Wagstaff and Fermat numbers  
based on cycles of the Digraph under  $x^2 - 2$  modulo a prime**

Tony Reix

tony.reix@laposte.net

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Conjecture 1 (Mersenne numbers) is mine, based on my work on the use of the Cycles of the *Digraph under  $x^2 - 2$  modulo a Mersenne prime* for primality testing.

Conjectures 2 (Wagstaff numbers) and 3 (Fermat numbers) are Anton Vrba's (plus some improvements by myself) and they are based on my work on Conjecture 1.

Note that I have provided a proof for the sufficiency of Conjecture 1 and that Robert Gerbicz has provided a proof for the sufficiency of Conjectures 2 and 3. "Dodo" has noticed the need of the complementary condition. Anton Vrba has provided a proof for the sufficiency of Conjecture 2, but failed to prove the converse. So, only are missing the necessity part (the most difficult) of the three conjectures !

Here after,  $q$  is a prime  $> 3$  and  $n$  is an integer  $> 1$  .

**Conjecture 1**  $S_0 = 3^2 + 1/3^2$  ,  $S_{i+1} = S_i^2 - 2 \pmod{M_q}$   
 $M_q = 2^q - 1$  is a prime iff  $S_{q-1} \equiv S_0 \pmod{M_q}$   
and iff there is no integer  $0 < i < q - 1$  for which  $S_i \equiv S_0 \pmod{M_q}$   
And we have:  $\prod_1^{q-1} S_i \equiv 1 \pmod{M_q}$  when  $M_q$  is a prime.

**Conjecture 2**  $N_q = 2^q + 1$  .  $S_0 = 1/4$  ,  $S_{i+1} = S_i^2 - 2 \pmod{N_q}$   
 $W_q = \frac{N_q}{3}$  is a prime iff  $S_{q-1} \equiv S_0 \pmod{W_q}$   
and iff there is no integer  $0 < i < q - 1$  for which  $S_i \equiv S_0 \pmod{N_q}$   
And we have:  $\prod_1^{q-1} S_i \equiv 1 \pmod{W_q}$  when  $W_q$  is a prime.

**Conjecture 3**  $S_0 = 1/4$  ,  $S_{i+1} = S_i^2 - 2 \pmod{F_n}$   
 $F_n = 2^{2^n} + 1$  is a prime iff  $S_{2^n-1} \equiv S_0 \pmod{F_n}$   
and iff there is no integer  $0 < i < 2^n - 1$  for which  $S_i \equiv S_0 \pmod{F_n}$   
And we have:  $\prod_1^{2^n-1} S_i \equiv -1 \pmod{F_n}$  when  $F_n$  is a prime.

Note that  $3/2 \pmod{W_q}$  can be used as seed instead of  $1/4 \pmod{W_q}$  for Wagstaff numbers, and that  $-3/2 \pmod{F_n}$  can be used as seed instead of  $1/4 \pmod{F_n}$  for Fermat numbers.

## 1 PARI/gp code

Note that the verification that  $S \neq S_0$  is not necessary at each step.

For Mersenne and Wagstaff numbers, it is necessary only when  $i \mid q - 1$ . Since  $2 \mid q - 1$ , at least it must be done every even steps, but also for all odd steps that divide  $q - 1$ . Probably an easy way is to check at all steps ! For Fermat numbers, since  $2^n - 1$  is odd, there are much less steps where it is necessary. But such a verification has a very low computational cost !

```
Conj1(q) = {
  M=2^q-1;
  S0=Mod(3^2+1/3^2,M);
  print(S0);
  S=S0;
  for(i=1, q-1,
    S=Mod(S^2-2,M);
    print(S);
    if(S==S0 && i<q-1,print("Not prime")););
  );
  if(S==S0,print("Prime !"),print("Not prime")););
}
```

```
Conj2(q) = {
  N=2^q+1;
  W=N/3;
  S0=Mod(1/4,N);
  print(Mod(S0,W));
  SOW=Mod(S0,W);
  S=S0;
  for(i=1, q-1,
    S=Mod(S^2-2,N);
    print(Mod(S,W));
    if(Mod(S,W)==SOW && i<q-1,print("Not prime")););
  );
  if(Mod(S,W)==SOW,print("Prime !"),print("Not prime")););
}
```

```
Conj3(n) = {
  F=2^2^n+1;
  S0=Mod(1/4,F);
  print(S0);
  S=S0;
  for(i=1, 2^n-1,
```

```

    S=Mod(S^2-2,F);
    if(S==S0 && i<2^n-1,print("Not prime"));
    print(S);
  );
  if(S==S0,print("Prime !"),print("Not prime"));
}

```

## 2 Examples for Mersennes

$q = 5, M_5 = 31$

$$(\text{mod } M_5) S_0 = 16 \xrightarrow{1} 6 \xrightarrow{2} 3 \xrightarrow{3} 7 \xrightarrow{4=q-1} 16 = S_0$$

$q = 7, M_7 = 127$

$$(\text{mod } M_7) S_0 = 122 \xrightarrow{1} 23 \xrightarrow{2} 19 \xrightarrow{3} 105 \xrightarrow{4} 101 \xrightarrow{5} 39 \xrightarrow{6=q-1} 122 = S_0$$

$q = 11, M_{11} = 2047 = 23 \times 89$

$$(\text{mod } M_{11}) S_0 = 464 \xrightarrow{1} 359 \xrightarrow{2} 1965 \xrightarrow{3} 581 \xrightarrow{4} 1851 \xrightarrow{5} 1568 \xrightarrow{6} 175 \xrightarrow{7} 1965 = S_2 \xrightarrow{8} 581 \xrightarrow{9} 1851 \xrightarrow{10=q-1} 1568 \neq S_0$$

Note that  $S_{10} - S_0 = 1568 - 464 = 2^4 \times 3 \times 23$  where 23 is a factor of  $M_{11}$ .

Note that there is a loop of length 5 (dividing  $q - 1 = 10$ ) starting at  $S_2$  and ending at  $S_6$ .

Note that  $\prod_{i=1}^{10} \equiv 622 \neq 1 \pmod{M_{11}}$  and that  $\prod_{i=2}^6 \equiv -1 \pmod{M_{11}}$ .

Note that  $622^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{M_{11}}$  and thus  $1/622 \equiv 622 \pmod{M_{11}}$ .

$q = 13, M_{13} = 8191$

$$(\text{mod } M_{13}) S_0 = 7290 \xrightarrow{1} 890 \xrightarrow{2} 5762 \xrightarrow{3} 2519 \xrightarrow{4} 5525 \xrightarrow{5} 5957 \xrightarrow{6} 2435 \xrightarrow{7} 7130 \xrightarrow{8} 3552 \xrightarrow{9} 2562 \xrightarrow{10} 2851 \xrightarrow{11} 2727 \xrightarrow{12=q-1} 7290 = S_0$$

$q = 23, M_{23} = 8388607$

$$(\text{mod } M_{23}) S_0 = 1864144 \xrightarrow{1} \dots \xrightarrow{22=q-1} 5115651 \neq S_0$$

Note that  $S_{22} - S_0 = 7 \times 47 \times 9883$  where  $47 \mid M_{23}$ .

But no more *interesting properties* for greater composite Mersenne numbers.  $M_{11}$  and  $M_{23}$  seem *special*.

### 3 Examples for Wagstaffs , seed = 3/2

Hereafter:  $S_0 = 3/2$  and  $S_1 = 1/4$  .

$$q = 5, W_5 = 11$$

$$(\text{mod } W_5) S_0 = 7 \xrightarrow{1} 3 \xrightarrow{2} 7 \xrightarrow{3} 3 \xrightarrow{4=q-1} 7 = S_0$$

$$q = 7, W_7 = 43$$

$$(\text{mod } W_7) S_0 = 23 \xrightarrow{1} 11 \xrightarrow{2} 33 \xrightarrow{3} 12 \xrightarrow{4} 13 \xrightarrow{5} 38 \xrightarrow{6=q-1} 23 = S_0$$

$$q = 11, W_{11} = 683$$

$$(\text{mod } W_{11}) S_0 = 343 \xrightarrow{1} 171 \xrightarrow{2} 553 \xrightarrow{3} 506 \xrightarrow{4} 592 \xrightarrow{5} 83 \xrightarrow{6} 57 \xrightarrow{7} 515 \xrightarrow{8} 219 \xrightarrow{9} 149 \xrightarrow{10=q-1} 343 = S_0$$

### 4 Examples for Fermats, seed = -3/2

Hereafter:  $S_0 = -3/2$  and  $S_1 = 1/4$  .

$$n = 2, F_2 = 17$$

$$(\text{mod } F_2) S_0 = 7 \xrightarrow{1} 13 \xrightarrow{2} 14 \xrightarrow{3=2^n-1} 7 = S_0$$

$$n = 3, F_3 = 257$$

$$(\text{mod } F_3) S_0 = 127 \xrightarrow{1} 193 \xrightarrow{2} 239 \xrightarrow{3} 65 \xrightarrow{4} 111 \xrightarrow{5} 240 \xrightarrow{6} 30 \xrightarrow{7=2^n-1} 127 = S_0$$