

Conjecture on a subset of Mersenne numbers divisible by Poulet numbers

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Abstract. The Poulet numbers (or the Fermat pseudoprimes to base 2) are defined by the fact that they are the only composites n for which $2^{(n-1)} - 1$ is divisible by n (so, of course, all Mersenne numbers $2^{(n-1)} - 1$ are divisible by Poulet numbers if n is a Poulet number; but these are not the numbers I consider in this paper). In a previous paper I conjectured that any composite Mersenne number of the form $2^m - 1$ with odd exponent m is divisible by a 2-Poulet number but seems that the conjecture was infirmed for $m = 49$. In this paper I conjecture that any Mersenne number (with even exponent) $2^{(p-1)} - 1$ is divisible by at least a Poulet number for any p prime, $p \geq 11$, $p \neq 13$.

Conjecture:

Any Mersenne number $M = 2^{(p-1)} - 1$ is divisible by at least a Poulet number for any p prime, $p \geq 11$, $p \neq 13$.

Verifying the conjecture:

(for the first twenty such primes)

- : for $p = 11$ we have $M = 3 \cdot 11 \cdot 31$ which is divisible by 341 ($= 11 \cdot 31$), a Poulet number;
- : for $p = 17$ we have $M = 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 17 \cdot 257$ which is divisible by 4369 ($= 17 \cdot 257$), a Poulet number;
- : for $p = 19$ we have $M = 3^3 \cdot 7 \cdot 19 \cdot 73$ which is divisible by 1387 ($= 19 \cdot 73$), a Poulet number;
- : for $p = 23$ we have $M = 3 \cdot 23 \cdot 89 \cdot 683$ which is divisible by 2047 ($= 23 \cdot 89$), 15709 ($= 23 \cdot 683$) and 60787 ($= 89 \cdot 683$), all three Poulet numbers;
- : for $p = 29$ we have $M = 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 29 \cdot 43 \cdot 113 \cdot 127$ which is divisible by 3277 ($= 29 \cdot 113$), 18705 ($= 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 29 \cdot 43$), 617093 ($= 43 \cdot 113 \cdot 127$), 17895697 ($= 29 \cdot 43 \cdot 113 \cdot 127$), all four Poulet numbers;
- : for $p = 31$ we have $M = 3^2 \cdot 7 \cdot 11 \cdot 31 \cdot 151 \cdot 331$ which is divisible by 341 ($= 11 \cdot 31$), 4681 ($= 31 \cdot 151$), 49981 ($= 151 \cdot 331$), all three Poulet numbers;

- : for $p = 37$ we have $M = 3^3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 13 \cdot 19 \cdot 37 \cdot 73 \cdot 109$ which is divisible at least by 2701 ($= 37 \cdot 73$) and 1729 ($= 7 \cdot 13 \cdot 19$), both Poulet numbers;
- : for $p = 41$ we have $M = 3 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 11 \cdot 17 \cdot 31 \cdot 41 \cdot 61681$ which is divisible at least by 341 ($= 11 \cdot 31$) and 2528921 ($= 41 \cdot 61681$), both Poulet numbers;
- : for $p = 43$ we have $M = 3^2 \cdot 7^2 \cdot 43 \cdot 127 \cdot 337 \cdot 5419$ which is divisible at least by 5461 ($= 43 \cdot 127$) and 42799 ($= 127 \cdot 337$), both Poulet numbers;
- : for $p = 47$ we have $M = 3 \cdot 47 \cdot 178481 \cdot 2796203$ which is divisible at least by 499069107643 ($= 178481 \cdot 2796203$) and 8388607 ($= 47 \cdot 178481$), both Poulet numbers;
- : for $p = 53$ we have $M = 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 53 \cdot 157 \cdot 1613 \cdot 2731$ which is divisible at least by 8321 ($= 53 \cdot 157$) and 253241 ($= 157 \cdot 1613$), both Poulet numbers;
- : for $p = 59$ we have $M = 3 \cdot 59 \cdot 233 \cdot 1103 \cdot 2089 \cdot 3033169$ which is divisible at least by 13747 ($= 59 \cdot 233$) and 256999 ($= 233 \cdot 1103$), both Poulet numbers;
- : for $p = 61$ we have $M = 3^2 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7 \cdot 11 \cdot 13 \cdot 31 \cdot 41 \cdot 61 \cdot 151 \cdot 331 \cdot 1321$ which is divisible at least by 3241 ($= 11 \cdot 31$) and 80581 ($= 61 \cdot 1321$), both Poulet numbers;
- : for $p = 67$ we have $M = 3^2 \cdot 7 \cdot 23 \cdot 67 \cdot 89 \cdot 683 \cdot 20857 \cdot 599479$ which is divisible at least by 2047 ($= 23 \cdot 89$) and 137149 ($= 23 \cdot 67 \cdot 89$), both Poulet numbers;
- : for $p = 71$ we have $M = 3 \cdot 11 \cdot 31 \cdot 43 \cdot 71 \cdot 127 \cdot 281 \cdot 86171 \cdot 122921$ which is divisible at least by 341 ($= 11 \cdot 31$) and 19951 ($= 71 \cdot 281$), both Poulet numbers;
- : for $p = 73$ we have $M = 3^3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 13 \cdot 17 \cdot 19 \cdot 37 \cdot 73 \cdot 109 \cdot 241 \cdot 433 \cdot 38737$ which is divisible at least by 2701 ($= 37 \cdot 73$) and 1729 ($= 7 \cdot 13 \cdot 19$), both Poulet numbers;
- : for $p = 79$ we have $M = 3^2 \cdot 7 \cdot 79 \cdot 2371 \cdot 8191 \cdot 121369 \cdot 22366891$ which is divisible at least by 647089 ($= 79 \cdot 8191$) and 183207204181 ($= 8191 \cdot 22366891$), both Poulet numbers;

- : for $p = 83$ we have $M = 3 \cdot 83 \cdot 13367 \cdot 164511353 \cdot 8831418697$ which is divisible at least by 1109461 ($= 83 \cdot 13367$), Poulet number;
- : for $p = 89$ we have $M = 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 17 \cdot 23 \cdot 89 \cdot 353 \cdot 397 \cdot 683 \cdot 2113 \cdot 2931542417$ which is divisible at least by 2047 ($= 23 \cdot 89$) and 745889 ($= 353 \cdot 2113$), both Poulet numbers;
- : for $p = 97$ we have $M = 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 13 \cdot 17 \cdot 97 \cdot 193 \cdot 241 \cdot 257 \cdot 673 \cdot 65537 \cdot 22253377$ which is divisible at least by 18721 ($= 97 \cdot 193$) and 129889 ($= 193 \cdot 673$), both Poulet numbers.

Note:

A stronger enunciation for the conjecture above could be: Any Mersenne number $M = 2^{(p - 1)} - 1$ is divisible by at least two Poulet numbers q_1 and q_2 for any p prime, $p \geq 23$, from which q_1 is divisible by p and q_2 is not divisible by p (which is verified true in all the cases considered up to $p = 97$ but one; in the case $p = 83$ the products of prime factors are greater than 10^{12} , where my table with Poulet numbers ends).