

**Conjecture that states that a Mersenne number with odd exponent is either prime either divisible by a 2-Poulet number**

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**Abstract.** In this paper I make a conjecture which states that any Mersenne number (number of the form  $2^n - 1$ , where  $n$  is natural) with odd exponent  $n$ , where  $n$  is greater than or equal to 3, also  $n$  is not a power of 3, is either prime either divisible by a 2-Poulet number. I also generalize this conjecture stating that any number of the form  $P = ((2^m)^n - 1)/3^k$ , where  $m$  is non-null positive integer,  $n$  is odd, greater than or equal to 5, also  $n$  is not a power of 3, and  $k$  is equal to 0 or is equal to the greatest positive integer such that  $P$  is integer, is either a prime either divisible by at least a 2-Poulet number (I will name this latter numbers Mersenne-Coman numbers) and I finally enunciate yet another related conjecture.

**Note:**

For a list of 2-Poulet numbers see the sequence A214305 which I posted on OEIS. For a list of Mersenne numbers see the sequence A000225 in OEIS.

**Conjecture 1:**

Any Mersenne number  $2^n - 1$  with odd exponent  $n$ , where  $n$  is greater than or equal to 3, also  $n$  is not a power of 3, is either prime either divisible by a 2-Poulet number.

**Verifying the conjecture:**

(For the first thirteen such  $n$ )

:  $2^3 - 1 = 7$ , prime;  
:  $2^5 - 1 = 31$ , prime;  
:  $2^7 - 1 = 127$ , prime;  
:  $2^{11} - 1 = 2047 = 23 \cdot 89$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
:  $2^{13} - 1 = 8191$ , prime;  
:  $2^{15} - 1 = 32767 = 7 \cdot 31 \cdot 151$ , which is divisibe by  $4681 = 31 \cdot 151$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
:  $2^{17} - 1 = 131071$ , prime;  
:  $2^{19} - 1 = 524287$ , prime;  
:  $2^{21} - 1 = 2097151 = 7^2 \cdot 127 \cdot 337$ , which is divisibe by  $42799 = 127 \cdot 337$ , a 2-Poulet number;

:  $2^{23} - 1 = 8388607 = 47 \cdot 178481$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $2^{25} - 1 = 33554431 = 31 \cdot 601 \cdot 1801$ , which is  
 divisible by  $1082401 = 601 \cdot 1801$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $2^{29} - 1 = 536870911 = 233 \cdot 1103 \cdot 2089$ , which is  
 divisible by  $256999 = 233 \cdot 1103$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $2^{31} - 1 = 2147483647$ , prime.

### Conjecture 2:

Any Mersenne-Coman number of the form  $P = ((2^m)^n - 1)/3^k$ , where  $m$  is non-null positive integer,  $n$  is odd, greater than or equal to 5, also  $n$  is not a power of 3, and  $k$  is equal to 0 or is equal to the greatest positive integer such that  $P$  is integer, is either a prime either divisible by at least a 2-Poulet number.

### Verifying the conjecture:

(For  $m = 2$  and the first twelve such  $n$ )

:  $(4^5 - 1)/3 = 341 = 11 \cdot 31$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $(4^7 - 1)/3 = 5461 = 43 \cdot 127$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $(4^{11} - 1)/3 = 1398101 = 23 \cdot 89 \cdot 683$ , which is divisible  
 by:  
 :  $2047 = 23 \cdot 89$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $15709 = 23 \cdot 683$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $60787 = 89 \cdot 683$ , a 2-Poulet number.  
 :  $(4^{13} - 1)/3 = 22369621 = 2731 \cdot 8191$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $(4^{15} - 1)/3^2$  is divisible by:  
 :  $341 = 11 \cdot 31$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $4681 = 31 \cdot 151$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $10261 = 31 \cdot 331$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $49981 = 151 \cdot 331$ , a 2-Poulet number.  
 :  $(4^{17} - 1)/3 = 5726623061 = 43691 \cdot 131071$ , a 2-Poulet  
 number;  
 :  $(4^{19} - 1)/3 = 91625968981 = 174763 \cdot 52487$ , a 2-Poulet  
 number;  
 :  $(4^{21} - 1)/3^2$  divides  $5461$ ,  $14491$ ,  $233017$ ,  $42799$ ,  
 $688213$  and  $1826203$ , all of them 2-Poulet numbers;  
 :  $(4^{23} - 1)/3 = 23456248059221 = 47 \cdot 178481 \cdot 2796203$ , which  
 is divisible by:  
 :  $8388607 = 47 \cdot 178481$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $131421541 = 47 \cdot 2796203$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $499069107643 = 178481 \cdot 2796203$ , a 2-Poulet number.  
 :  $(4^{29} - 1)/3 = 96076792050570581 =$   
 $59 \cdot 233 \cdot 1103 \cdot 2089 \cdot 3033169$ , which is divisible by:  
 :  $13747 = 59 \cdot 233$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $65077 = 59 \cdot 1103$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $123251 = 59 \cdot 2089$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $178956971 = 59 \cdot 3033169$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $256999 = 233 \cdot 1103$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $486737 = 233 \cdot 2089$ , a 2-Poulet number;

: 706728377 = 233\*3033169, a 2-Poulet number;  
 : 2304167 = 1103\*2089, a 2-Poulet number;  
 : 3345585407 = 1103\*3033169, a 2-Poulet number;  
 : 6336290041 = 2089\*3033169, a 2-Poulet number.  
 :  $(4^{31} - 1)/3 = 1537228672809129301 =$   
 715827883\*2147483647, a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $(4^{37} - 1)/3 = 6296488643826193618261 =$   
 223\*1777\*25781083\*616318177, which is divisible by 396271  
 = 223\*1777 and other 2-Poulet numbers.

**Verifying the conjecture:**

(For  $m = 3$  and the first four such  $n$ )

:  $8^5 - 1 = 32767 = 7*31*151$ , which is divisible by  $4681 =$   
 $31*151$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $8^7 - 1 = 2097151 = 7^2*127*337$ , which is divisible by  
 $42799 = 127*337$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $8^{11} - 1 = 8589934591 = 7*23*89*599479$ , which is  
 divisible by  $2047 = 23*89$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $8^{13} - 1 = 549755813887 = 7*79*8191*121369$ , which is  
 divisible by  $647089 = 79*8191$ , a 2-Poulet number.

**Verifying the conjecture:**

(For  $m = 4$  and the first four such  $n$ )

:  $(16^5 - 1)/3$  divides  $341 = 11*31$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $(16^7 - 1)/3$  divides  $5461 = 43*127$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $(16^{11} - 1)/3$  divides  $2047 = 23*89$ , a 2-Poulet number;  
 :  $(16^{13} - 1)/3$  divides  $8321 = 53*157$ , a 2-Poulet number.

**Note:**

The Mersenne-Coman primes (Mersenne-Coman numbers which are primes) seems to be very rare. For  $m = 2$  (i.e.  $4^n - 1$ , where  $n$  is odd,  $n \geq 5$ ) there is no such a prime up to  $n = 107$ .

**Conjecture 3:**

For any prime  $p$  greater than or equal to 5 the number  $(4^p - 1)/3$  is either prime either a product of primes  $p_1*p_2*...p_n$  such that all the numbers  $p_i*p_j$  are 2-Poulet numbers for  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ .

**Note:**

This Conjecture is verified for  $p$  up to 31 (see the Conjecture 2 above).