

Probable Prime Tests for Generalized Fermat Numbers

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Abstract: Polynomial time compositeness tests for generalized Fermat numbers are introduced .

Keywords: Primality test , Polynomial time , Prime numbers .

AMS Classification: 11A51 .

1 The Main Result

Definition 1.1. Let $P_m(x) = 2^{-m} \cdot \left((x - \sqrt{x^2 - 4})^m + (x + \sqrt{x^2 - 4})^m \right)$, where m and x are nonnegative integers.

Theorem 1.1. Let $F_n(b) = b^{2^n} + 1$ such that $n \geq 2$ and b is even number .

Let $S_i = P_b(S_{i-1})$ with $S_0 = P_b(6)$, thus if $F_n(b)$ is prime, then $S_{2^n-1} \equiv 2 \pmod{F_n(b)}$.

The following proof appeared for the first time on MSE forum in August 2016 , see [1]

Proof . First of all, we prove by induction that

$$S_i = \alpha^{b^{i+1}} + \beta^{b^{i+1}} \quad (1)$$

where $\alpha = 3 - 2\sqrt{2}$, $\beta = 3 + 2\sqrt{2}$ with $\alpha\beta = 1$.

Proof for (1) :

$$\begin{aligned} S_0 &= P_b(6) \\ &= 2^{-b} \cdot \left((6 - 4\sqrt{2})^b + (6 + 4\sqrt{2})^b \right) \\ &= 2^{-b} \cdot \left(2^b(3 - 2\sqrt{2})^b + 2^b(3 + 2\sqrt{2})^b \right) \\ &= \alpha^b + \beta^b \end{aligned}$$

Suppose that (1) holds for i . Using the fact that

$$(\alpha^m + \beta^m)^2 - 4 = (\beta^m - \alpha^m)^2$$

we get

$$\begin{aligned}
S_{i+1} &= P_b(S_i) \\
&= 2^{-b} \cdot \left(\left(\alpha^{b^{i+1}} + \beta^{b^{i+1}} - \sqrt{(\alpha^{b^{i+1}} + \beta^{b^{i+1}})^2 - 4} \right)^b + \left(\alpha^{b^{i+1}} + \beta^{b^{i+1}} + \sqrt{(\alpha^{b^{i+1}} + \beta^{b^{i+1}})^2 - 4} \right)^b \right) \\
&= 2^{-b} \cdot \left(\left(\alpha^{b^{i+1}} + \beta^{b^{i+1}} - \sqrt{(\beta^{b^{i+1}} - \alpha^{b^{i+1}})^2} \right)^b + \left(\alpha^{b^{i+1}} + \beta^{b^{i+1}} + \sqrt{(\beta^{b^{i+1}} - \alpha^{b^{i+1}})^2} \right)^b \right) \\
&= 2^{-b} \cdot \left((2\alpha^{b^{i+1}})^b + (2\beta^{b^{i+1}})^b \right) \\
&= \alpha^{b^{i+2}} + \beta^{b^{i+2}} \quad \blacksquare
\end{aligned}$$

Let $N := F_n(b) = b^{2^n} + 1$. Then, from (1),

$$S_{2^n-1} = \alpha^{b^{2^n}} + \beta^{b^{2^n}} = \alpha^{N-1} + \beta^{N-1}$$

Since $\alpha\beta = 1$,

$$\begin{aligned}
S_{2^n-1} &= \alpha^{N-1} + \beta^{N-1} \\
&= \alpha\beta(\alpha^{N-1} + \beta^{N-1}) \\
&= \beta \cdot \alpha^N + \alpha \cdot \beta^N \\
&= 3(\alpha^N + \beta^N) - 2\sqrt{2}(\beta^N - \alpha^N)
\end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

So, in the following, we find $\alpha^N + \beta^N \pmod{N}$ and $\sqrt{2}(\beta^N - \alpha^N) \pmod{N}$. Using the binomial theorem,

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha^N + \beta^N &= (3 - 2\sqrt{2})^N + (3 + 2\sqrt{2})^N \\
&= \sum_{i=0}^N \binom{N}{i} 3^i \cdot ((-2\sqrt{2})^{N-i} + (2\sqrt{2})^{N-i}) \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^{(N+1)/2} \binom{N}{2j-1} 3^{2j-1} \cdot 2(2\sqrt{2})^{N-(2j-1)}
\end{aligned}$$

Since $\binom{N}{2j-1} \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$ for $1 \leq j \leq (N-1)/2$, we get

$$\alpha^N + \beta^N \equiv \binom{N}{N} 3^N \cdot 2(2\sqrt{2})^0 \equiv 2 \cdot 3^N \pmod{N}$$

Now, by Fermat's little theorem,

$$\alpha^N + \beta^N \equiv 2 \cdot 3^N \equiv 2 \cdot 3 \equiv 6 \pmod{N} \tag{3}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}
\sqrt{2} (\beta^N - \alpha^N) &= \sqrt{2} ((3 + 2\sqrt{2})^N - (3 - 2\sqrt{2})^N) \\
&= \sqrt{2} \sum_{i=0}^N \binom{N}{i} 3^i \cdot ((2\sqrt{2})^{N-i} - (-2\sqrt{2})^{N-i}) \\
&= \sqrt{2} \sum_{j=0}^{(N-1)/2} \binom{N}{2j} 3^{2j} \cdot 2(2\sqrt{2})^{N-2j} \\
&\equiv \sqrt{2} \binom{N}{0} 3^0 \cdot 2(2\sqrt{2})^N \pmod{N} \\
&\equiv 2^{N+1} \cdot 2^{(N+1)/2} \pmod{N} \\
&\equiv 4 \cdot 2^{(N+1)/2} \pmod{N}
\end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

By the way, since b is even with $n \geq 2$,

$$N = b^{2^n} + 1 \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$$

from which

$$2^{(N-1)/2} \equiv \left(\frac{2}{N}\right) \equiv (-1)^{(N^2-1)/8} \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$$

follows where $\left(\frac{q}{p}\right)$ denotes the Legendre symbol.

So, from (4),

$$\sqrt{2} (\beta^N - \alpha^N) \equiv 4 \cdot 2^{(N+1)/2} \equiv 4 \cdot 2 \equiv 8 \pmod{N} \tag{5}$$

Therefore, finally, from (2)(3) and (5),

$$S_{2^n-1} \equiv 3(\alpha^N + \beta^N) - 2\sqrt{2} (\beta^N - \alpha^N) \equiv 3 \cdot 6 - 2 \cdot 8 \equiv 2 \pmod{F_n(b)}$$

as desired.

Theorem 1.2. Let $E_n(b) = \frac{b^{2^n}+1}{2}$ such that $n > 1$, b is odd number greater than one.

Let $S_i = P_b(S_{i-1})$ with $S_0 = P_b(6)$, thus if $E_n(b)$ is prime, then $S_{2^n-1} \equiv 6 \pmod{E_n(b)}$.

The following proof appeared for the first time on MSE forum in August 2016, see [2]

Proof. First of all, we prove by induction that

$$S_i = p^{2^{b^{i+1}}} + q^{2^{b^{i+1}}} \tag{6}$$

where $p = \sqrt{2} - 1$, $q = \sqrt{2} + 1$ with $pq = 1$.

Proof for (6):

$$S_0 = P_b(6) = 2^{-b} \cdot \left((6 - 4\sqrt{2})^b + (6 + 4\sqrt{2})^b \right) = (3 - 2\sqrt{2})^b + (3 + 2\sqrt{2})^b = p^{2b} + q^{2b}$$

Supposing that (6) holds for i gives

$$\begin{aligned}
S_{i+1} &= P_b(S_i) \\
&= 2^{-b} \cdot \left(\left(S_i - \sqrt{S_i^2 - 4} \right)^b + \left(S_i + \sqrt{S_i^2 - 4} \right)^b \right) \\
&= 2^{-b} \cdot \left(\left(p^{2b^{i+1}} + q^{2b^{i+1}} - \sqrt{(q^{2b^{i+1}} - p^{2b^{i+1}})^2} \right)^b + \left(p^{2b^{i+1}} + q^{2b^{i+1}} + \sqrt{(q^{2b^{i+1}} - p^{2b^{i+1}})^2} \right)^b \right) \\
&= 2^{-b} \cdot \left(\left(p^{2b^{i+1}} + q^{2b^{i+1}} - (q^{2b^{i+1}} - p^{2b^{i+1}}) \right)^b + \left(p^{2b^{i+1}} + q^{2b^{i+1}} + (q^{2b^{i+1}} - p^{2b^{i+1}}) \right)^b \right) \\
&= 2^{-b} \cdot \left(\left(2p^{2b^{i+1}} \right)^b + \left(2q^{2b^{i+1}} \right)^b \right) \\
&= p^{2b^{i+2}} + q^{2b^{i+2}} \quad \blacksquare
\end{aligned}$$

Let $N := 2^n - 1$, $M := E_n(b) = (b^{N+1} + 1)/2$. From (6), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
S_{2^n-1} &= S_N \\
&= p^{2b^{N+1}} + q^{2b^{N+1}} \\
&= p^{2(2M-1)} + q^{2(2M-1)} \\
&= p^{4M-2} + q^{4M-2} \\
&= (pq)^2(p^{4M-2} + q^{4M-2}) \\
&= 3(p^{4M} + q^{4M}) - 2\sqrt{2}(q^{4M} - p^{4M})
\end{aligned}$$

Now using the binomial theorem and Fermat's little theorem,

$$\begin{aligned}
p^{4M} + q^{4M} &= (17 - 12\sqrt{2})^M + (17 + 12\sqrt{2})^M \\
&= \sum_{i=0}^M \binom{M}{i} 17^i ((-12\sqrt{2})^{M-i} + (12\sqrt{2})^{M-i}) \\
&= \sum_{j=1}^{(M+1)/2} \binom{M}{2j-1} 17^{2j-1} \cdot 2(12\sqrt{2})^{M-(2j-1)} \\
&\equiv \binom{M}{M} 17^M \cdot 2(12\sqrt{2})^0 \pmod{M} \\
&\equiv 17 \cdot 2 \pmod{M} \\
&\equiv 34 \pmod{M}
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}
2\sqrt{2}(q^{4M} - p^{4M}) &= 2\sqrt{2}((17 + 12\sqrt{2})^M - (17 - 12\sqrt{2})^M) \\
&= 2\sqrt{2} \sum_{i=0}^M \binom{M}{i} 17^i ((12\sqrt{2})^{M-i} - (-12\sqrt{2})^{M-i}) \\
&= 2\sqrt{2} \sum_{j=0}^{(M-1)/2} \binom{M}{2j} 17^{2j} \cdot 2(12\sqrt{2})^{M-2j} \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^{(M-1)/2} \binom{M}{2j} 17^{2j} \cdot 4 \cdot 12^{M-2j} \cdot 2^{(M-2j+1)/2} \\
&\equiv \binom{M}{0} 17^0 \cdot 4 \cdot 12^M \cdot 2^{(M+1)/2} \pmod{M} \\
&\equiv 4 \cdot 12 \cdot 2 \pmod{M} \\
&\equiv 96 \pmod{M}
\end{aligned}$$

since $2^{(M-1)/2} \equiv (-1)^{(M^2-1)/8} \equiv 1 \pmod{M}$ (this is because $M \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ from $b^2 \equiv 1, 9 \pmod{16}$)

It follows from these that

$$\begin{aligned}
S_{2^n-1} &= 3(p^{4M} + q^{4M}) - 2\sqrt{2}(q^{4M} - p^{4M}) \\
&\equiv 3 \cdot 34 - 96 \pmod{M} \\
&\equiv 6 \pmod{E_n(b)}
\end{aligned}$$

as desired.

References

- [1] mathlove (<http://math.stackexchange.com/users/78967/mathlove>), Conjectured Compositeness Test for Generalized Fermat Numbers, URL (version: 2016-08-17): <http://math.stackexchange.com/q/1894774>
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