

# On an iterative operation on positive composite integers which probably always conducts to a prime

Marius Coman  
Bucuresti, Romania  
email: mariuscoman13@gmail.com

**Abstract.** By playing with one of my favorite class of numbers, Poulet numbers, and one of my favorite operation, concatenation, I raised to myself few questions that seem interesting, worthy to share. I also conjectured that, reiterating a certain operation which will be defined, eventually for every Poulet number it will be find a corresponding prime. Then I extrapolated the conjecture for all composite positive integers.

## Conjecture 1:

For any Poulet number  $P$  is defined the following operation which always, eventually, leads to a prime number:

Let  $P$  be a Poulet number,  $P = p_1 * p_2 * \dots * p_n$ , where  $p_1 \leq p_2 \leq p_3 \leq \dots \leq p_n$  are the prime factors of  $P$  (not distinct, it can be seen from definition: for instance for the only two Poulet numbers non-squarefree known, the squares of Wieferich primes, we have  $P = p_1 * p_2$ , where  $p_1 = p_2$ ; the reason for writing the number  $P$  in this way instead writing  $P = p_1^2$  it will be seen further).

Then we consider the number  $Q_1 = p_1 p_2 \dots p_n$ , obtained by concatenation of the numbers that form the ordered set  $\{p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots, p_n\}$ .

(Example:  $P = 561 = 3 * 11 * 17$ ; then  $Q_1 = 31117$ )

Then we have the following possibilities:  $Q$  is a prime or a composite number; if it is composite (it doesn't matter if is squarefree or not) we reiterate the operation until is obtained a prime number.

(Example:  $Q_1 = 31117 = 29 * 29 * 37$ ; then  $Q_2 = 292937 = 457 * 641$ ;  $Q_3 = 457641 = 3 * 3 * 50849$ ;  $Q_4 = 3350849 = 131 * 25579$ ;  $Q_5 = 13125579 = 3 * 4375193$ ; finally, the number  $Q_6 = 34375193$  is prime)

## Note:

Our conjecture is that, reiterating the operation above, from every Poulet number is obtained, eventually, a prime.

**Verifying the conjecture** for the first few Poulet numbers (beside 561 which was given above as an example):

P = 341 = 11\*31;  
: 1131 = 3\*13\*29;  
: 31329 = 3\*3\*59\*59;  
: 335959 = 13\*43\*601;  
: 1343601 = 3\*3\*3\*7\*7109;  
: 33377109 = 3\*607\*18329;  
: 360718329 = 3\*120239443;  
: 3120239443 = 523\*5966041;  
: 5235966041 = 419\*12496339;  
: 41912496339 = 3\*7\*1995833159;  
: 371995833159 = 3\*3\*19\*1459\*1491031;  
: 331914591491031 = 3\*3\*709\*145949\*356399;  
: 33709145949356399 = 2011\*16762379885309;  
: 201116762379885309 = 3\*17\*1357927\*2904033817;  
: 31713579272904033817 = 13\*337\*7238890498266157;  
: 133377238890498266157 = 3\*13\*53\*64526966081518271;  
: 3135364526966081518271 = 3037\*1032388714839012683;  
: 30371032388714839012683 = 3\*3\*2879\*16260571\*72084117943;  
: 3328791626057172084117943 = 15765766319\*211140490015097;  
: 15765766319211140490015097 = 575063\*27415720224064390319;  
: 57506327415720224064390319 = 32869\*1749561210128699506051  
: 328691749561210128699506051 =  
23\*61\*1283\*1597\*30391\*3762309931337;  
: 236112831597303913762309931337 =  
3\*509\*13381\*11555586205509014201651;  
: 35091338111555586205509014201651 is a prime number.

P = 645 = 3\*5\*43;  
: 3543 = 3\*1181;  
: 31181 is a prime number.

P = 1105 = 5\*13\*17;  
: 51317 = 7\*7331;  
: 77331 = 3\*149\*173;  
: 3149173 is a prime number.

P = 1387 = 19\*73;  
: 1973 is a prime number.

P = 1729 = 7\*13\*19;  
: 71319 = 3\*23773;  
: 323773 = 199\*1627;  
: 1991627 = 11\*331\*547;  
: 11331547 = 29\*390743;  
: 29390743 is a prime number.

P = 1905 = 3\*5\*127;  
: 35127 = 3\*3\*3\*1301;  
: 3331301 is a prime number.

P = 2047 = 23\*89;  
: 2389 is a prime number.

**Verifying the conjecture** for the two squares of Wieferich primes (because they represent a special case):

P = 1194649 = 1093\*1093;  
: 10931093 = 73\*137\*1093;  
: 731371093 = 17\*223\*192923;  
: 17223192923 = 2089\*8244707;  
: 20898244707 = 3\*11483606643;  
: 311483606643 = 3\*3\*11\*11\*286027187;  
: 3311286027187 = 3\*110370428675729;  
: 3110370428675729 = 21977\*141528435577;  
: 21977141528435577 = 3\*11\*17351\*38382455519;  
: 3111735138382455519 = 3\*11\*11\*113899\*164113\*458599;  
: 31111113899164113458599 = 359\*86660484398785831361;  
: 35986660484398785831361 = 162523\*221425032053301907;  
: 162523221425032053301907 is a prime number.

P = 1194649 = 3511\*3511;  
: 35113511 = 73\*137\*3511;  
: 731373511 = 11\*66488501;  
: 1166488501 = 53\*2687\*8191;  
: 5326878191 = 653\*8157547;  
: 6538157547 = 3\*67\*32528147;  
: 36732528147 = 3\*7\*37\*47274811;  
: 373747274811 = 3\*3\*41527474979;  
: 3341527474979 is a prime number.

**Note:**

The numbers  $P = 1387 = 19*73$  and  $P = 2047 = 23*89$  conducted to a prime from the first step: 1973 and 2389 are both primes. These two 2-Poulet numbers have in common the fact that, in both cases,  $p_2 = 4*p_1 - 3$ ; indeed,  $73 = 19*4 - 3$  and  $89 = 4*23 - 3$ . Another such 2-Poulet number is  $P = 13747 = 59*233$ ; 59233 is also a prime number.

**Conjecture 2:**

For any composite positive integer, the operation defined above, always, eventually, leads to a prime number; so, we have the function  $f$  defined on the set of composite positive integers with values in the set of prime numbers; the first five values of  $f$  are:

:  $f(4) = 211$ ;  
:  $f(6) = 23$ ;  
:  $f(8) = 3331113965338635107$ ;  
:  $f(9) = 311$ ;  
:  $f(10) = 773$ .