

## NEW PRIMITIVE $t$ -NOMIALS ( $t = 3, 5$ ) OVER $GF(2)$ WHOSE DEGREE IS A MERSENNE EXPONENT

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ABSTRACT. All primitive trinomials over  $GF(2)$  with degree 859433 (which is the 33rd Mersenne exponent) are presented. They are  $X^{859433} + X^{288477} + 1$  and its reciprocal. Also two examples of primitive pentanomials over  $GF(2)$  with degree 86243 (which is the 28th Mersenne exponent) are presented. The sieve used is briefly described.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Primitive  $t$ -nomials ( $t$ -term polynomials) over  $GF(2)$  are useful in applications like random number generation, coding theory, and cryptography. Heringa et al. [H] exhaustively listed all primitive trinomials of Mersenne exponent degree up to the 31st Mersenne exponent 216091. This note is an extension of that work.

Let  $M_n$  denote the  $n$ th Mersenne exponent (for example,  $M_{28} = 86243$  and  $2^{M_{28}} - 1$  is known to be a prime). As of November 27, 1998, 37 Mersenne exponents had been found. 3021377 is the greatest of them. An exhaustive primality test of all exponents less than 2000000 has been carried out (it proves that  $M_{35} = 1398269$ ). The known Mersenne exponents greater than 2000000 are 2976221 and 3021377. In this paper, we define  $M_{36\#} = 2976221$  and  $M_{37\#} = 3021377$ . The sharp mark behind 36 and 37 shows that the search for Mersenne exponents  $p$  in the interval  $2000000 < p < 3021377$  has not been exhaustive. See [HT1, HT2] for information about the current search status of Mersenne exponents.

Table 1 lists all primitive trinomials  $X^p + X^q + 1$  over  $GF(2)$  with degree  $p = M_n$  ( $33 \leq n \leq 36\#$ ),  $q \leq \lfloor p/2 \rfloor$ . Table 2 lists examples of primitive pentanomials  $X^p + X^{q_1} + X^{q_2} + X^{q_3} + 1$  over  $GF(2)$  with degree  $p = M_{28}$ . In Tables 1 and 2, only the exponents of the terms are listed.

### 2. TEST FOR PRIMITIVITY

**2.1. Primitivity of trinomials.** Let  $f(X) = X^p + X^q + 1$  be a trinomial of degree  $p = M_n$ . Our aim is to find  $q$  such that  $X^p + X^q + 1$  is primitive. By considering the reciprocal polynomial, we may assume that  $1 \leq q \leq \lfloor p/2 \rfloor$ . If  $2^p - 1$  is prime, then primitivity is equivalent to irreducibility. The test for primitivity comprises

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the following three sieves. The first two of these are only necessary condition tests, but they reject about 90% of the candidates. The third sieve is a necessary and sufficient test. The third sieve can determine whether  $f(X)$  is irreducible or not with an  $O(p^2)$  computation.

Let  $k_n$  denote  $2^n - 1$ . Sieves I and II are based on a well-known theorem [L, pp. 48]: if  $\phi(X)$  is an irreducible polynomial over  $GF(2)$  of degree  $m$ , then  $\phi(X)|(X^{1+k_n} - X)$  if and only if  $m|n$ . Thus by computing  $\gcd(f(X), X^{k_n} - 1)$ , we know whether  $f(X)$  has a factor of degree  $m|n$ .

Sieve I: mod  $k$  test. One can determine easily whether  $\gcd(f(X), X^k - 1) = 1$  for small  $k$  as follows. If it equals 1, then  $f(X)$  goes forward to the next sieve. Let  $k$  be an odd positive integer. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \gcd(f(X), X^k - 1) &= \gcd(X^p + X^q + 1, X^k - 1) \\ &= \gcd(X^{(p \bmod k)} + X^{(q \bmod k)} + 1, X^k - 1). \end{aligned}$$

So fix  $p$ , and put

$$R_k = \{\bar{q} \in \mathbf{Z}/k\mathbf{Z} \mid \gcd(X^{(p \bmod k)} + X^{\bar{q}} + 1, X^k - 1) \neq 1\}.$$

This set can be obtained by exhaustive search for  $\bar{q} \in \mathbf{Z}/k\mathbf{Z}$ . If for a given  $q$  there exists a  $k$  with  $(q \bmod k) \in R_k$ , then  $X^p + X^q + 1$  is reducible. We compute  $R_k$  for  $k = 3, 5, 7, \dots, k_{12} + 2$ , and  $k = k_{13}, k_{14}, k_{15}$ . We reject  $q$  if for one of above  $k$  we have  $(q \bmod k) \in R_k$ . This test rejects about 89% of the candidates.

Sieve II: direct gcd test. Let  $f(X)$  be a trinomial which passed Sieve I. By computing  $\gcd(f(X), X^{k_n} - 1)$  ( $n = 16, 17, 18$ ) we can eliminate some candidates. Sieves I and II reject about 91% of the candidates.

Sieve III is a necessary and sufficient irreducibility test based on Theorem 1 (see below). The following description is quoted from [M].

Let  $S^\infty$  denote the  $GF(2)$ -vector space of all infinite sequences of zeros and ones. That is,

$$S^\infty := \{\chi = (\dots, x_5, x_4, x_3, x_2, x_1, x_0) \mid x_i \in GF(2)\}.$$

Let  $D$  (*delay operator*) and  $H$  (*decimation operator*) be linear operators from  $S^\infty$  to  $S^\infty$  defined by

$$D(\dots, x_4, x_3, x_2, x_1, x_0) = (\dots, x_5, x_4, x_3, x_2, x_1),$$

$$H(\dots, x_4, x_3, x_2, x_1, x_0) = (\dots, x_{10}, x_8, x_6, x_4, x_2, x_0).$$

Let  $\varphi(X)$  be the characteristic polynomial of a linear recurrence, and let  $\chi$  be an element of  $S^\infty$ . Then,  $\chi$  satisfies the recurrence if and only if  $\varphi(D)\chi = 0$ . Note that  $\varphi(D)$  is a linear operator and  $0$  denotes the zero sequence. It is easy to check that

$$DH = HD^2.$$

Since the coefficients are in  $GF(2)$ , we have  $\varphi(X^2) = \varphi(X)^2$ , and thus if  $\varphi(D)\chi = 0$  then

$$\varphi(D)H\chi = H\varphi(D^2)\chi = H\varphi(D)^2\chi = 0,$$

i.e.,  $H\chi$  also satisfies the same recurrence. The following theorem holds [M].

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $\varphi(X)$  be a polynomial over  $GF(2)$  whose degree  $p$  is a Mersenne exponent. Take  $\chi \in S^\infty$  such that  $\varphi(D)\chi = 0$  and  $H\chi \neq \chi$ . Then  $\varphi(t)$  is primitive if and only if  $H^p\chi = \chi$ .*

In the above theorem, put  $\varphi(X) := X^p + X^q + 1$ . Let  $T = (\dots, t_4, t_3, t_2, t_1, t_0)$  be an element of  $S^\infty$  such that  $\varphi(D)T = 0$ , i.e., for all non-negative integers  $i$ ,

$$(*) \quad t_{p+i} = t_{q+i} + t_i.$$

Let  $Extend : GF(2)^p \rightarrow GF(2)^{2p}$  send the initial vector  $T_0 = (t_{p-1}, \dots, t_0)$  to the vector  $(t_{2p-1}, t_{2p-2}, \dots, t_0)$  of twice the length generated by the recurrence (\*). Let  $H' : GF(2)^{2p} \rightarrow GF(2)^p$  be

$$(t_{2p-1}, t_{2p-2}, \dots, t_0) \mapsto (t_{2(p-1)}, t_{2(p-2)}, \dots, t_2, t_0).$$

Since the linear recurrence sequence is determined by its initial vector of length  $p$ , computing  $H$  is equivalent to computing  $H' \circ Extend$ .

Sieve III: final test.

- (1) Choose an initial vector  $T_0 = (t_{p-1}, \dots, t_i, \dots, t_0)$  so that  $H(T_0) \neq T_0$ .
- (2) Compute successively the sequences  $S_i, T_i$  as follows.  $S_i := Extend(T_i)$ ,  $T_{i+1} := H'(S_i)$ .
- (3) If  $T_p$  equals  $T_0$ , then  $f(x)$  is primitive, and otherwise not primitive.

**2.2. Primitivity of pentanomials.** The necessary and sufficient irreducibility test used for pentanomials is a more naive method than that used for trinomials. Let  $f(X) = X^p + X^{q_1} + X^{q_2} + X^{q_3} + 1$  be a pentanomial of Mersenne exponent degree  $p$ . We compute  $X^N \pmod{f(X)}$ , where  $N = 2^p - 1$ . The pentanomial is irreducible if and only if the result equals 1.  $X^N = 1 \pmod{f(X)}$  is equivalent to  $X^{N+1} = X \pmod{f(X)}$ , because  $X$  is an invertible element in the residue ring  $GF(2)[X]/(f(X))$ . In the actual procedure, we compute successively the sequence  $X_i$  from  $X_0$  to  $X_p$ , where  $X_i = X_{i-1}^2 \pmod{f(X)}$  over  $GF(2)$  and  $X_0 = X$ . See [K] for more information.

### 3. RESULTS

Concerning the trinomials, we tried searching for primitive trinomials of degree  $M_{33}, M_{34}, M_{35}$  and  $M_{36\#}$ . We did not search for primitive trinomials of degree  $M_{32}$  and  $M_{37\#}$ .

For  $p = M_{34}, M_{35}$  and  $M_{36\#}$ , nonexistence of primitive trinomials is proved as follows: Swan's Corollary [B, p. 170] guarantees that  $X^p + X^q + 1$  is reducible over  $GF(2)$  if  $p = \pm 3 \pmod{8}$  and  $q \neq 2$ . So we may assume  $q$  to be 2 for  $p = M_{34}, M_{35}$  and  $M_{36\#}$ . Then by Sieve III, we show that  $X^p + X^2 + 1$  is reducible.

In case of  $p = M_{33}$ , 40656 candidates passed Sieves I and II. For the computer search, we used an SGI POWER Challenge 10000 GR parallel computer with 20 processors and 2.5 GB RAM. After minor architecture-specific optimizations, we were able to test approximately one candidate parameter per hour. Hence, checking

TABLE 1. Primitive trinomials

$n$	$M_n \pmod{8}$	$p = M_n$	$q$
32	-1	756839	the search is not done
33	1	859433	288477
34	3	1257787	none
35	-3	1398269	none
36#	-3	2976221	none
37#	1	3021377	the search is not done

TABLE 2. Primitive pentanomials

$n$	$p = M_n$	$q_1$	$q_2$	$q_3$
28	86243	62833	50942	11754
		64043	41667	19434

all 40656 candidates consumed a total accumulated time of 4.6 years; using 19 of the available processors, the search was completed in about 3 months.

The non-exhaustive search for primitive pentanomials was done in the AIST computer center (RIPS), Tsukuba. We succeeded in finding two primitive pentanomials whose degree is  $M_{28}$ .

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