

Doubly focused enumeration of locally square polynomial values

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If x is a positive integer and
 $x^2 - 314159265358979323$ is square
then $x \geq 560499122$;

$$x \bmod 4 \in \{2\};$$

$$x \bmod 9 \in \{2, 7\};$$

$$x \bmod 5 \in \{2, 3\};$$

$$x \bmod 7 \in \{0, 2, 5\};$$

$$x \bmod 11 \in \{0, 1, 3, 8, 10\};$$

$$x \bmod 13 \in \{0, 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12\};$$

etc.

How to find such x 's?

Unfocused enumeration

For each successive x ,
check $x \bmod 4$, $x \bmod 9$, etc.

560499122: 4 9 5 ~~7~~

560499123: ~~4~~

560499124: ~~4~~

560499125: ~~4~~

560499126: 4 ~~9~~

⋮

Each test weeds out $\approx 50\%$
of the remaining x 's.

For each modulus m ,
precompute m -bit table for
 $x \bmod m \mapsto [x \text{ works modulo } m]$.

Merge primes into larger moduli,
at the expense of memory.

Handle 32 or 64 successive x 's
using a few word operations.

(Hardware optimization: different.)

Focused enumeration

Focus on $x \in 2 + 4\mathbf{Z}$:

560499122: 9 5 ~~7~~

560499126: ~~9~~

560499130: ~~9~~

560499134: ~~9~~

560499138: ~~9~~

560499142: ~~9~~

560499146: ~~9~~

560499150: ~~9~~

560499154: 9 ~~5~~

⋮

$4\times$ speedup.

Even better, focus on

$$x \in 2 + 36\mathbf{Z}, x \in 34 + 36\mathbf{Z}.$$

$18\times$ speedup.

Even better, focus on

$$x \in 2 + 180\mathbf{Z}, x \in 38 + 180\mathbf{Z},$$
$$x \in 142 + 180\mathbf{Z}, x \in 178 + 180\mathbf{Z}.$$

$45\times$ speedup.

Keep going. How far?

Using all primes $p \leq y$:

Identify arithmetic progressions modulo $\prod p \approx e^y$.

$$\text{Time} \approx \frac{H + e^y}{2^{y/\log y}}$$

to handle H successive x 's.

Optimum: $y \approx \log H$.

Speedup factor $\approx H^{1/\lg \log H}$.

Doubly focused enumeration

Write x as $x_1 - x_2$ where

x_1 is a multiple of $4 \cdot 9 \cdot 11$;

$0 \leq x_2 < 4 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 9 \cdot 11 \cdot 13$;

x_2 is a multiple of $5 \cdot 7 \cdot 13$.

x works modulo 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13

if and only if

x_1 works modulo 5, 7, 13 and

$-x_2$ works modulo 4, 9, 11.

Possibilities for x_1 — 560499122:

466, 14326, 19870, 20266, 25810,
28186, 53530, 55906, 61450, 61846,
67390, 81250, 89566, 95110,

Possibilities for x_2 :

6370, 10010, 26390, 39130, 59150,
121030, 141050, 153790,

If $0 \leq x - 560499122 \leq 3000$

then

$$x_2 \leq x_1 - 560499122 \leq x_2 + 3000.$$

Merge sorted lists

to discover these coincidences:

(28186, 26390),

(61450, 59150),

(61846, 59150), etc.

Using all primes $p \leq y$,
split between x_1 and x_2 :

$$\text{Time} \approx \frac{H}{2^{y/\log y}} + e^{y/2}$$

to handle H successive x 's.

Optimum: $y \approx 2 \log H$.

Speedup factor $\approx H^{2/\lg \log H}$.

More applications

Search for square values of
 $x^3 + 1^7$, $x^3 + 2^7$, etc.

$45622146410700257^3 + 892^7$
is locally square
at all primes below 300.

No positive non-square $x \leq 24 \cdot 2^{64}$
is locally square at all primes ≤ 283 .
(Bernstein 2001)

Useful for, inter alia,
proving primality of small numbers.

(Reasonable conjecture:

No $x \leq 2^{y/\log y}$ for primes $\leq y$.

Gives deterministic primality test
taking essentially cubic time.)

No positive non-square $x \leq 120 \cdot 2^{64}$
is locally square at all primes ≤ 331 .

2142202860370269916129
is locally square (and unit)
at all primes ≤ 317 .

(Williams, Wooding 2003)