

## Constructing a covering set for numbers $2^k + p$

While optimizing a program for calculating small members of Sloane's A094076, I noticed that the order of 2 mod  $2^1 + 1 = 3$ ,  $2^2 + 1 = 5$ ,  $2^4 + 1 = 17$ ,  $2^8 + 1 = 257$ ,  $2^{16} + 1 = 65537$ , and 641 were, respectively, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, and 64. By the Chinese remainder theorem, there are  $n$  such that  $2^k + n$  is divisible by one of these primes for all but one residue class mod 64. If a prime  $q$  could be found modulo which 2 had order 64, all  $2^k + q$  would be divisible by one of  $\{3, 5, 17, 257, 641, 65537, q\}$ . In fact there would be 64 classes mod  $3 \cdot 5 \cdot 17 \cdot 257 \cdot 641 \cdot 65537 \cdot q$  depending on the choice of which residue mod 641 (or  $q$ ). By Dirichlet's Theorem, each of these classes would have an infinite number of primes.

A simple Pari search reveals that modulo 6700417, the order of 2 was 64, as required: `forprime(p=3,1e8,if(znorder(Mod(2,p))==64,print(p)))`

Enumerating the powers of 2 mod 6700417, associating the appropriate powers of the other primes, taking the negatives of all powers (since the result in each congruence class should be 0 mod the prime), and applying the Chinese remainder theorem gave 64 classes mod 18446744073709551615. The smallest positive residue was 201446503145165177.

Searching each class, I determined that 3367034409844073483 was the smallest prime of the 64 classes. This 19-digit prime, then, is a counterexample to Dr. Zumkeller's conjecture that an integer  $k$  exists such that  $2^k + p$  is prime for each prime  $p$ , even though the conjecture holds with probability 1 in the Cramér model.

A067760(100723251572582588) = -1.

A094076(80869739673507329) = -1, where  $p_{80869739673507329} = 3367034409844073483$ .

(Concerned with sequences [A094076](#) and [A067760](#))

Charles Greathouse, January 2008