

Search for Prime Constellations

Prime Constellations are more constant than the stars in the sky.

Even after the closest stars burn out and become dark, mathematical structure will exist. For example $1+1=2$ is a timeless mathematical truth. This fact will always be so.

Look at this link about [Goldbach's Comet](#).

Also interesting [Tao-Green Theorem](#)

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A table of the first few prime numbers contains data that has a certain mathematical property. Similarly, a table of twin primes also contains some mathematical truth. To me, it is interesting to develop these tables. The University of Tennessee at Martin currently has two web pages for primes and twin primes.

specifically

<http://primes.utm.edu/lists/small/1000.txt>

and

<http://primes.utm.edu/lists/small/100ktwins.txt>

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Background

Prime numbers are positive integers that are divisible only by one and themselves. The first few prime numbers are 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13 and 17. There are many unsolved problems regarding prime numbers. There may be a hidden pattern that describes the distribution of the primes. [Goldbach's conjecture](#) states that every even integer greater than 2 is the sum of two prime numbers. It has not been shown to be true for certain, although the numerical evidence supports it. The Hardy Littlewood second conjecture states that the densest set of n prime numbers is the first n prime numbers. This can be written in symbols

$\pi(x+n) - \pi(x)$ is less than or equal to $\pi(n)$

$\pi(n)$ is the prime counting function.

The wikipedia [page](#) on prime k-tuples is a good introduction. Additionally, Tony Forbes keeps a [record of primes in various constellation patterns](#), Jens Krus Anderson keeps a nice webpage about prime numbers at <http://primerecords.dk/> and Wolfram's Mathworld has a nice article about [prime constellations](#). Each constellation of a given length has a fixed number of patterns. The list of number of patterns for a given k-tuplet can be found in the Online Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences (OEIS), index [A083409](#).

The k-tuple conjecture is also called the first Hardy and Littlewood conjecture. Being a conjecture, it is an unproven guess. It states that every admissible pattern gives rise to an infinite number of primes and the asymptotic density of these primes can be calculated. An admissible pattern is usually written with the first number as zero. Then the pattern is admissible if it does not contain a trivial divisibility that prevents an infinite set of primes that fit into the pattern. For example, any admissible pattern that starts with 0 cannot contain an odd number. Because there is only one even prime and all the rest are odd. Similarly, three consecutive odd numbers is not an admissible set because of divisibility by 3 considerations. To check a set of length k, one must test all the entries in the potentially admissible set against the primes less than k to make sure all the residue classes are not filled up. There is a nice computer program that will test a set for admissibility, and it can be found [here](#).

Encyclopedia Tables

Authors -

N.J.A. Slone = NJAS

Warut Roonguthai = WR

Matt C. Anderson = MCA

Tim Johannes Ohrtmann = TJO

The Online Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences has prime lists for several patterns:

[A001359](#) Initial member of twin primes pattern (0,2) enumeration count 100,000 author NJAS

[A022004](#) Initial member of prime triple (0,2,6) enumeration count 10,000 author WR

[A022005](#) Initial member of prime triple (0,4,6) enumeration count 10,000 author WR

[A007530](#) Initial member of prime quadruple (0,2,6,8) enumeration count 10,000 author WR

[A022006](#) Initial member of prime 5-tuplet (0,2,6,8,12) enumeration count 10,000 author WR

[A022007](#) Initial member of prime 5-tuplet (0,4,6,10,12) enumeration count 10,000 author WR

[A022008](#) Initial member of prime 6-tuplet (0,4,6,10,12,16) enumeration count 1,000 author WR

[A022009](#) Initial member of prime 7-tuplet (0,2,6,8,12,18,20) enumeration count 10,000 author MCA

[A022010](#) Initial member of prime 7-tuplet (0,2,8,12,14,18,20) enumeration count 10,000 author MCA

[A022011](#) Initial member of prime 8-tuplet (0,2,6,8,12,18,20,26) enumeration count 10,000 author WR

[A022012](#) Initial member of prime 8-tuplet (0,2,6,12,14,20,24,26) enumeration count 10,000 author WR

[A022013](#) Initial member of prime 8-tuplet (0,6,8,14,18,20,24,26) enumeration count 10,000 author WR

[A022545](#) Initial member of prime 9-tuplet (0,2,6,8,12,18,20,26,30) enumeration count 10,000 author WR

[A022546](#) Initial member of prime 9-tuplet (0,2,6,12,14,20,24,26,30) enumeration count 10,000 author MCA

[A022547](#) Initial member of prime 9-tuplet (0,4,6,10,16,18,24,28,30) enumeration count 10,000 author WR

[A022548](#) Initial member of prime 9-tuplet (0,4,10,12,18,22,24,28,30) enumeration count 10,000 author WR

[A027569](#) Initial member of prime 10-tuplet (0,2,6,8,12,18,20,26,30,32) enumeration count 10,000 author WR

[A027570](#) Initial member of prime 10-tuplet (0,2,6,12,14,20,24,26,30,32) enumeration count 10,000 author WR

[A213646](#) Initial member of prime 11-tuplet (0,4,6,10,16,18,24,28,30,34,36) enumeration count 6923 author MCA

[A213647](#) Initial member of prime 11-tuplet (0,2,6,8,12,18,20,26,30,32,36) enumeration count 6800 author MCA
[A213645](#) Initial member of prime 12-tuplet (0,2,6,8,12,18,20,26,30,32,36,42) enumeration count 2807 author MCA
[A213601](#) Initial member of prime 12-tuplet (0,6,10,12,16,22,24,30,34,36,40,42) enumeration count 2952 author MCA
[A234947](#) Initial members of prime 13-tuplet (0, 6, 12, 16, 18, 22, 28, 30, 36, 40, 42, 46, 48) enumeration count 854 author MCA

D. Jacobson has written some software that will calculate even longer lists of prime constellations which are a subset of the k-tuples.

[A257137](#) Initial members of prime 13-tuplet (0, 4, 6, 10, 16, 18, 24, 28, 30, 34, 40, 46, 48) enumeration count 94 author TJO

[A257138](#) Initial members of prime 13-tuplet (0, 4, 6, 10, 16, 18, 24, 28, 30, 34, 36, 46, 48) enumeration count 81 author TJO

[A257139](#) Initial members of prime 13-tuplet (0, 2, 6, 8, 12, 18, 20, 26, 30, 32, 36, 42, 48) enumeration count 81 author TJO

[A257140](#) Initial members of prime 13-tuplet (0, 2, 8, 14, 18, 20, 24, 30, 32, 38, 42, 44, 48) enumeration count 1036 author TJO

[A257141](#) Initial members of prime 13-tuplet (0, 2, 12, 14, 18, 20, 24, 30, 32, 38, 42, 44, 48) enumeration count 803 author TJO

Tim Johannes Ohrtmann posted some primes for the OEIS for 14 to 17-tuplets.

[A257167](#) Initial members of prime 14-tuplet (0, 2, 6, 8, 12, 18, 20, 26, 30, 32, 36, 42, 48 and 50) enumeration count 185 author TJO

[A257168](#) Initial members of prime 14-tuplet (0, 2, 8, 14, 18, 20, 24, 30, 32, 38, 42, 44, 48 and 50) enumeration count 209 author TJO

[A257304](#) Initial members of prime 15-tuplet (0, 2, 6, 8, 12, 18, 20, 26, 30, 32, 36, 42, 48, 50 and 56) enumeration count 16 author TJO

A257304 only has 8 calculated primes as of 9/22/2015.

[A257369](#) Initial members of prime 16-tuplet (0,4,6,10,16,18,24,28,30,34,40,46,48,54,58, 60) enumeration count 30 author TJO

[A257370](#) Initial members of prime 16-tuplet (0,2,6,12,14,20,26,30,32,36,42,44,50,54,56,60) enumeration count 37 author TJO

[A257374](#) Initial members of prime 17-tuplet (0,4, 10,12, 16, 22, 24, 30, 36, 40, 42, 46, 52, 54, 60, 64, 66) enumeration count 2 author TJO

[A257375](#) Initial members of prime 17-tuplet (0,4,6,10,16,18,24,28,30,34,40,46,48,54,58,60,66) enumeration count 6 author TJO

[A257376](#) Initial members of prime 17-tuplet (0,6,8,12,18,20,26,32,36,38,42,48,50,56,60,62,66) enumeration count 4 author TJO

[A257377](#) Initial members of prime 17-tuplet (0,2,6,12,14,20,24,26,30,36,42,44,50,54,56,62,66) enumeration count 8 author TJO

Tony Forbes has a nice website with prime constellations and world record large k-tuplets.

<http://anthony.d.forbes.googlepages.com/ktmin.txt>

and

<http://anthony.d.forbes.googlepages.com/ktuplets.htm>

note - A213601 has a list of 73 primes and represents over 8 months of Maple computer calculation as of 8/23/2005

[A008407](#) gives the minimum width of a constellation of given length.

[A257127](#) is Initial members of prime 10-tuplets (or decaplets) and lots of cross-references.

Theory

Two concepts are important for the theory of prime constellations. The first is the concept of *primorial*.

k primorial (written $k\#$) is the product of the first k primes. Let p_k be the k th prime

k	p_k	$k\#$
1	2	2
2	3	6
3	5	30
4	7	210

The numbers in the third column are the product of the primes in the second column.

The second concept is part of group theory. The multiplicative group of integers modulo n must be understood. is the wikipedia article about this [multiplicative group](#). The notation reads $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$. It contains a subset of the integers from 1 to $n-1$. The elements of $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ are the integers from 1 to $n-1$ that are relatively prime to n . If n is a prime number, then $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ contains all the integers from 1 to $n-1$. If n has many divisors, then $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ will contain fewer elements.

One way to find these prime k -tuplets is to consider the multiplicative group of integers mod k primorial. This group contains the set of integers less than k primorial that are relatively prime to k primorial.

$$2\# = 6$$

The multiplicative group mod 6 has two elements.

$$(\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z})^* = \{1,5\}$$

This tells us that all primes greater than 3 have the form $6n \pm 1$.

So if one wants to search for the smaller of twin prime pairs, one should look at numbers of the form $6n+5$.

It would be a waste of time to test even numbers for primality, because all primes greater than 2 are odd.

Similarly, the group mod 30 has 8 elements.

$$(\mathbb{Z}/30\mathbb{Z})^* = \{1,7,11,13,17,19,23,29\}$$

By looking at the differences between adjacent elements in this set, we can see where the 3-tuplets can be found. prime triples of the form $(p, p+2, p+6)$ can be found only in the expressions $30n+11$ and $30n+17$.

Also, constellations of length 4, which are similarly called 4-tuplets, have the pattern $(p, p+2, p+6, p+8)$.

Close inspection of the set $\{1,7,11,13,17,19,23,29\}$ gives that the 4-tuplets must have the form $30n+11$. So the next step is to loop with the variable n and test for all the elements in the pattern being prime.

The ordered set $(\mathbb{Z}/30\mathbb{Z})^* = \{1,7,11,13,17,19,23,29\}$ can be manipulated by taking the differences between adjacent elements.

$d_{30} = [6,4,2,4,2,4,6]$

This shows that the pattern $(p, p+2, p+6, p+8)$, which has differences $[2,4,2]$, can be found inside the ordered set d

The file below `ktpatt.txt` was copied from Anthony Forbe's website, and shows the patterns for constellations up length 50.

Data for finding Constellations

tuple	pattern	offset and multiplier
2	(0,2)	$5+6*n$
3	(0,2,6)	$5+6*n$
3	(0,4,6)	$1+6*n$
4	(0,2,6,8)	$11+30*n$
5	(0,2,6,8,12)	$11+30*n$
5	(0,4,6,10,12)	$7+30*n$
6	(0,4,6,10,12,16)	$97+210*n$
7	(0,2,6,8,12,18,20)	$11+210*n$
7	(0,2,8,12,14,18,20)	$179+210*n$
8	(0,2,6,8,12,18,20,26)	$11+210*n$

8	(0,6,12,14,20,24,26)	$17+30*n$
8	(0,6,8,14,18,20,24,26)	$173+210*n$
9	(0,2,6,8,12,18,20,26,30)	$11+210*n$
9	(0,2,6,12,14,20,24,26,30)	$17+30*n$
9	(0,4,6,10,16,18,24,28,30)	$13+30*n$
9	(0,4,10,12,18,22,24,28,30)	$169+210*n$
10	(0,2,6,8,12,18,20,26,30,32)	$11+210*n$
10	(0,2,6,12,14,20,24,26,30,32)	$167+210*n$
11	(0,4,6,10,16,18,24,28,30,34,36)	$1003+2310*n$
11	(0,2,6,8,12,18,20,26,30,32,36)	$1271+2310*n$
12	(0,2,6,8,12,18,20,26,30,32,36,42)	$997+2310*n$
12	(0,6,10,12,16,22,24,30,34,36,40,42)	$1271+2310*n$

lengthpattern

relation

13 0 6 12 16 18 22 28 30 36 40 42

46 48

13 0 4 6 10 16 18 24 28 30 34 40 46

48

991 +

2310 * n

13 +

210 * n

13 0 4 6 10 16 18 24 28 30 34 36 46 48	1003 + 2310 * n
13 0 2 6 8 12 18 20 26 30 32 36 42 48	1271 + 2310 * n
13 0 2 8 14 18 20 24 30 32 38 42 44 48	149 + 210 * n
13 0 2 12 14 18 20 24 30 32 38 42 44 48	1259 + 2320 * n
14 0 2 6 8 12 18 20 26 30 32 36 42 48 50	15131 + 30030 * n
14 0 2 8 14 18 20 24 30 32 38 42 44 48 50	14849 + 30030 * n
15 0 2 6 8 12 18 20 26 30 32 36 42 48 50 56	15141 + 30030 * n
15 0 2 6 12 14 20 24 26 30 36 42 44 50 54 56	17 + 210 * n
15 0 2 6 12 14 20 26 30 32 36 42 44 50 54 56	137 + 210 * n
15 0 6 8 14 20 24 26 30 36 38 44 48 50 54 56	14843 + 30030 * n
16 0 4 6 10 16 18 24 28 30 34 40 46 48 54 58 60	6943 + 30030 * n
16 0 2 6 12 14 20 26 30 32 36 42 44 50 54 56 60	23027 + 30030 * n
17 0 4 10 12 16 22 24 30 36 40 42 46 52 54 60 64 66	2227 + 2310 * n
17 0 4 6 10 16 18 24 28 30 34 40 46 48 54 58 60 66	6943 + 30030 * n
17 0 6 8 12 18 20 26 32 36 38 42 48 50 56 60 62 66	23021 + 30030 * n
17 0 2 6 12 14 20 24 26 30 36 42 44 50 54 56 62 66	17 + 2310 * n
18 0 4 10 12 16 22 24 30 36 40 42 46 52 54 60 64 66 70	23017 + 30030 * n
18 0 4 6 10 16 18 24 28 30 34 40 46 48 54 58 60 66 70	6943 + 30030 * n
19 0 6 10 16 18 22 28 30 36 42 46	293281 +

48 52 58 60 66 70 72 76	510510 * n
19 0 4 6 10 16 22 24 30 34 36 42 46	37 + 30030
52 60 64 66 70 72 76	* n
19 0 4 6 10 12 16 24 30 34 40 42 46	29917 +
52 54 60 66 70 72 76	30030 * n
19 0 4 6 10 16 18 24 28 30 34 40 46	217153 +
48 54 58 60 66 70 76	510510 * n
20 0 2 6 8 12 20 26 30 36 38 42 48	29921 +
50 56 62 66 68 72 78 80	30030 * n
20 0 2 8 12 14 18 24 30 32 38 42 44	29 + 30030
50 54 60 68 72 74 78 80	* n
21 0 4 6 10 12 16 24 30 34 40 42 46	29917 +
52 54 60 66 70 72 76 82 84	30030 * n
21 0 2 8 12 14 18 24 30 32 38 42 44	29 + 30030
50 54 60 68 72 74 78 80 84	* n
22 0 4 6 10 12 16 24 30 34 40 42 46	510397 +
52 54 60 66 70 72 76 82 84 90	510510 * n
22 0 4 10 12 18 22 24 28 34 40 42	19 + 510510
48 52 54 60 64 70 78 82 84 88 90	* n
22 0 2 6 8 12 20 26 30 36 38 42 48	510401 +
50 56 62 66 68 72 78 80 86 90	510510 * n
22 0 6 8 14 18 20 24 30 36 38 44 48	23 + 510510
50 56 60 66 74 78 80 84 86 90	* n
23 0 4 6 10 12 16 24 30 34 40 42 46	510397 +
52 54 60 66 70 72 76 82 84 90 94	510510 * n
23 0 4 10 12 18 22 24 28 34 40 42	19 + 510510
48 52 54 60 64 70 78 82 84 88 90	* n
94	

length	pattern	offset and multiplier
24	0, 4, 6, 10, 12, 16, 24, 30, 34, 40, 42, 46, 52, 60, 66, 70, 72, 76, 82, 84, 90, 94, 96, 100	108457+510510*n
24	0, 4, 6, 12, 16, 24, 30, 34, 40, 42, 46, 52, 54, 60, 66, 70, 72, 76, 82, 84, 90, 94, 96, 100	293257+510510*n
24	0, 4, 6, 10, 16, 18, 24, 28, 30, 34, 40, 46, 48, 54, 58, 60, 66, 70, 76, 84, 88, 94, 96, 100	217513+510510*n
24	0, 4, 6, 10, 16, 18, 24, 28, 30, 34, 40, 48, 54, 58, 60, 66, 70, 76, 84, 88, 90, 94, 96, 100	401953+510510*n

This page was written by Matt Anderson. My email address is matt.c1.anderson@gmail.com

Also, see -

Our page on [2-tuples](#)

<http://www.fermatsearch.org/>

Although the search for factors of large numbers is not as good as the Folding__@__Home project by Stanford University, which could save a life, it is still fun.

(worth a look)

try the Google words

(search)

folding at home

and here is the link

<https://folding.stanford.edu/>

This project is more than 16 years old.

References

[Weisstein, Eric W.](#) "k-Tuple Conjecture." From [MathWorld](#)--A Wolfram Web Resource. <http://mathworld.wolfram.com/k-TupleConjecture.html>

Caldwel, Chris K "Prime k-tuple conjecture" From The Prime Glossary <http://primes.utm.edu/glossary/xpage/PrimeKtupleConjecture.html>