

# Open Questions about Concatenated Primes and Metasequences

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**Abstract.**

We define a metasequence as a sequence constructed with the terms of other given sequence(s). In this short note we present some open questions on concatenated primes involved in metasequences.

**First Class of Concatenated Sequences.**

- 1) Let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k-1}, a_k$  be given  $k \geq 1$  digits in the numeration base  $b$ .
- a) There exists a prime number  $P$  of the concatenated form:

$$P = \overline{*\dots*a_1*\dots*a_2*\dots*\dots*\dots*a_{k-1}*\dots*a_k*\dots*}$$

where the stars “\*...\*” represent various (from none to any finite positive integer) numbers of digits in base  $b$ .

Of course, if  $a_k$  is the last digit then  $a_k$  should belong to the set  $\{1, 3, 7, 9\}$  in base 10. Similar restriction for the last number’s digit  $a_k$  in other base  $b$ .

- b) Are there infinitely many such primes?
- c) What about considering fixed positions for the given digits: i.e. each given  $a_i$  on a given position  $n_i$  ?
- d) As a consequence, for any group of given digits  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k-1}, a_k$  do we have finitely or infinitely many primes starting with this group of digits (i.e. in the following concatenated form):

$$\overline{a_1 a_2 \dots a_{k-1} a_k * \dots *}$$

?

- e) As a consequence, for any group of given digits  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k-1}, a_k$  do we have finitely or infinitely many primes ending with this group of digits (i.e. in the following concatenated form):

$$\overline{*\dots*a_1 a_2 \dots a_{k-1} a_k}$$

(of course considering the primality restriction on the last digit  $a_k$ ) ?

- f) As a consequence, for any group of given digits  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k-1}, a_k$  and any given digits  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{j-1}, b_j$  do we have finitely or infinitely many primes beginning with the group of digits  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k-1}, a_k$  and ending with the group of digits  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{j-1}, b_j$  (i.e. in the following concatenated form):

$$\overline{a_1 a_2 \dots a_{k-1} a_k * \dots * b_1 b_2 \dots b_{j-1} b_j}$$

(of course considering the primality restriction on the last digit  $b_j$ ) ?

- g) As a consequence, for any group of given digits  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k-1}, a_k$  do we have finitely or infinitely many primes having inside of their concatenated form this group of digits (i.e. in the following concatenated form):

$$\overline{* \dots * a_1 a_2 \dots a_{k-1} a_k * \dots *}$$

?

- h) As a consequence, for any groups of given digits  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k-1}, a_k$  and  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{j-1}, b_j$  and  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_{i-1}, c_i$  do we have finitely or infinitely many primes beginning with the group of digits  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{k-1}, a_k$ , ending with the group of digits  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{j-1}, b_j$ , and having inside the group of digits  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_{i-1}, c_i$  (i.e. in the following concatenated form):

$$\overline{a_1 a_2 \dots a_{k-1} a_k * \dots * c_1 c_2 \dots c_{i-1} c_i * \dots * b_1 b_2 \dots b_{j-1} b_j}$$

(of course considering the primality restriction on the last digit  $b_j$ ) ?

- i) What general condition has a sequence  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n, \dots$  to satisfy in order for the concatenated metasequence

$$\overline{s_1 s_2 \dots s_n}$$

for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  to contain infinitely many primes?

## Second Class of Metasequences.

- 2) Let's note the sequence of prime numbers by  $p_1 = 2, p_2 = 3, p_3 = 5, \dots, p_n$  the  $n^{\text{st}}$  prime number, for any natural number  $n$ .
- a) Does the metasequence

$$p_1 p_2 \dots p_n + 1$$

for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  contains finitely or infinitely many primes?

b) What about the metasequence:

$$p_1 p_2 \dots p_n - 1$$

?

c) What general condition has a sequence  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_n, \dots$  to satisfy in order for the metasequence

$$s_1 \cdot s_2 \cdot \dots \cdot s_n \pm 1$$

for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  to contain infinitely many primes?

**Reference:**

F. Smarandache, Sequences of Numbers Involved in Unsolved Problems, 139 p., HeXis, 2006.