

Find all values of r such that $8 \cdot 10^r + 1$ is a perfect square

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Assuming $8 \cdot 10^r + 1$ is a perfect square, let $n^2 = 8 \cdot 10^r + 1$. We can rearrange to get $8 \cdot 10^r = (n + 1)(n - 1)$. If we divide by 8, we find that $10^r = \frac{1}{8}(n - 1)(n + 1)$. From there, we can use base 10 logarithms to isolate for r . This can be written as a function of n .

$$f(n) = \log \left(\frac{1}{8}(n - 1)(n + 1) \right) \quad (1)$$

The question then becomes, what values of n will $f(n)$ return a positive integer. Either $n - 1$ or $n + 1$ must divide into 8. The remainder of that division multiplied by the complement must be a power of 10. If $8|n - 1$ then $\frac{(n-1)}{8}(n + 1)$ must be representable as 10^k for $\{k \in \mathbb{Z}^+\}$.

How can integers n and q in the form $q(n + 1) = 10^k$ for $\{k \in \mathbb{Z}^+\}$?

Let $q = \frac{n-1}{8}$.

Both $n + 1$ and q must be in the form 10^k . If $n + 1 = 10^a$ and $q = 10^b$ then $q(n + 1)$ will be in the form 10^{a+b} which is in the form 10^k . This would mean, that all digits composing n must be 9. If all digits of n must be 9. Then $n - 1$ will only be divisible by 8 if $n = 9$. For all integer values of $\alpha > 2$, $(10^\alpha - 2 \bmod 8)$ are equal to 6 and $(10^2 - 2 \bmod 8) = 2$. We know that the only existing value for n is 9. $f(9) = 1$.

The second case is if $(n + 1)$ divides by 8. If $(n + 1)$ divides into 8, then $(n - 1)$ must be in the form of 10^k which means that n is in the form of $10^k + 1$ and thus $n + 1$ is in the form of $10^k + 2$. $(10^0 + 2 \bmod 8) = 3$, $(10^1 + 2 \bmod 8) = 4$, $(10^2 + 2 \bmod 8) = 6$ and finally, $(10^k + 2 \bmod 8) = 2$ for $\{k \in \mathbb{Z}^+ | k > 2\}$. Since there would be no value for n in which $n + 1$ could divide into 8, we know that the second case provides no solutions. Thus, the only values available for r come from the first case, and are $r = 0$ and $r = 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{8 \cdot 10^0 + 1} &= \sqrt{9} = 3 \\ \sqrt{8 \cdot 10^1 + 1} &= \sqrt{81} = 9 \end{aligned}$$