Factorization and Primality Testing Chapter 5 Quadratic Residues

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- From the various theories we have developed we know that the first, or base, case we need to understand is that when the modulus is a prime p,
- and since the case $p = 2$ is rather easy we can suppose that $p > 2$.

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- and since $2ax + b$ ranges over a complete set of residues as x does this is equivalent to solving

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- Thus it suffices to know about the solubility of the congruence (1.1).

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$x^2 \equiv 6 \mod 7$ has no solution (check $x \equiv 0, 1, 2, 3 \pmod{7}$), but

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- If $c \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$, then the only solution to (1.1) is $x \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ (note that $p|x^2$ implies that $p|x$).
- If $c \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ and the congruence has one solution, say $x \equiv x_0 \pmod{p}$, then $x \equiv p - x_0 \pmod{p}$ gives another.

- The fundamental question here is can we characterise or classify those c for which the congruence (1.1)

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- Better still can we quickly determine, given c, whether it is soluble?
- There is then the even more difficult question of finding a solution.

- Important

Definition 2

If $c \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$, and (1.1) has a solution, then we call c a *quadratic residue* which we abbreviate to QR. If it does not have a solution, then we call c a *quadratic non-residue* or QNR.

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- Some authors also call 0 a quadratic residue. Others leave it undefined.
- We will follow the latter course. Zero does behave differently.

- Now we prove the following simple but useful theorem.

Theorem 3

Let p be an odd prime. The numbers $1, 2^2, 3^2, \ldots, \left(\frac{p-1}{2}\right)^2$ are distinct modulo p and give a complete set of quadratic residues modulo p. There are exactly $\frac{1}{2}(p-1)$ QR modulo p and exactly $\frac{1}{2}(p-1)$ QNR.

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- If $x \le \frac{1}{2}(p-1)$, then x^2 is in our list and represents c.
- If $\frac{1}{2}(p-1) < x \le p - 1$, then $(p-x)^2 \equiv x^2 \equiv c \pmod{p}$, $(p-x)^2$ represents c, and is in our list.

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- The remaining $\frac{1}{2}(p-1)$ non-zero residues have to be QNR.

- We can use this in various ways.

Example 4

Find a complete set of quadratic residues r modulo 19 with $1 \leq r \leq 18$.

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- We can solve this by first observing that

$$1^2 = 1, 2^2 = 4, 3^2 = 9, 4^2 = 16, 5^2 = 25,$$
$$6^2 = 36, 7^2 = 49, 8^2 = 64, 9^2 = 81$$

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- and then reduce them modulo 19 to give

$$1, 4, 9, 16, 6, 17, 11, 7, 5$$

- which we can rearrange as

$$1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 16, 17.$$

- We require the following definition.

Definition 5

Given a prime $p > 2$ and $c \in \mathbb{Z}$ we define the *Legendre symbol*

$$\left(\frac{c}{p}\right)_L = \begin{cases} 0 & c \equiv 0 \pmod{p}, \\ 1 & c \text{ a QR } \pmod{p}, \\ -1 & c \text{ a QNR } \pmod{p}, \end{cases} \tag{1.2}$$

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- The Legendre symbol has lots of interesting properties.

Example 6

The Legendre symbol has the same value on replacing c by $c + kp$. Thus given p it is periodic in c with period p.

- Cancellation

Example 7

Suppose that p is an odd prime and $a \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$. Then

$$\sum_{x=1}^{p} \left(\frac{ax+b}{p}\right)_L = 0. \tag{1.3}$$

The proof of this is rather easy. The expression $ax + b$ runs through a complete set of residues as x does and so one of the terms is 0, half the rest are $+1$, and the remainder are -1.

- Counting solutions

Example 8

The number of solutions of the congruence

$$x^2 \equiv c \pmod{p}$$

is

$$1 + \left(\frac{c}{p}\right)_L.$$

We already know that the number of solutions is 1 when $p|c$, 2 when c is a QR, and 0 when c is a QNR and this matches the above exactly.

- We can use this on more complicated congruences.

Example 9

Let $N(p;c)$ be the number of x, y with $x^2 + y^2 \equiv c \pmod p$. Rewrite this as $z + w \equiv c \pmod p$ and count the number of x, y with $x^2 \equiv z \pmod p$ and $y^2 \equiv w \pmod p$. This is

$$\left(1 + \left(\frac{z}{p}\right)_L\right)\left(1 + \left(\frac{w}{p}\right)_L\right).$$

Also $w \equiv c - z \pmod p$, thus the total number of solutions is

$$\begin{aligned} N(p;c) &= \sum_{z=1}^{p}\left(1 + \left(\frac{z}{p}\right)_L\right)\left(1 + \left(\frac{c-z}{p}\right)_L\right) \\ &= p + \sum_{z=1}^{p}\left(\frac{z}{p}\right)_L + \sum_{z=1}^{p}\left(\frac{c-z}{p}\right)_L + \sum_{z=1}^{p}\left(\frac{z}{p}\right)_L\left(\frac{c-z}{p}\right)_L. \end{aligned}$$

The two sums are 0, so $N(p;c) = p + \sum_{z=1}^{p}\left(\frac{z}{p}\right)_L\left(\frac{c-z}{p}\right)_L$. The last sum can be evaluated, but we need to know more.

- We can combine the definition of the Legendre symbol with a criterion first enunciated by Euler.

Theorem 10 (Euler's Criterion)

Suppose that p is an odd prime number. Then

$$\left(\frac{c}{p}\right)_L \equiv c^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \pmod{p}$$

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- Reminder

Remark 1

Recall that by multiplicative we mean a function f which satisfies

$$f(n_1 n_2) = f(n_1) f(n_2)$$

whenever $(n_1, n_2) = 1$. Totally multiplicative means that the condition $(n_1, n_2) = 1$ can be dropped.

- Important

Remark 2

The totally multiplicative property means that if x and y are both QR, or both QNR, then their product is a QR, and their product can only be a QNR if one is a QR and the other is a QNR.

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- Hence $c^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv x^{p-1} \equiv 1 = \left(\frac{c}{p}\right)_L \pmod p$.

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- Hence $c^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv x^{p-1} \equiv 1 = \left(\frac{c}{p}\right)_L \pmod{p}$.
- We know that the congruence $c^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ has at most $\frac{p-1}{2}$ solutions and so we have just shown that it has exactly that many solutions.
- We also have
$$\left(c^{\frac{p-1}{2}} - 1\right)\left(c^{\frac{p-1}{2}} + 1\right) = c^{p-1} - 1$$
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- Hence if c is a QNR, then $c^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv -1 = \left(\frac{c}{p}\right)_L \pmod{p}$.
- This proves the first part of the theorem.

- To prove the second part, we have to show that for any integers c_1, c_2 we have

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- Now
$$\begin{aligned}\left(\frac{c_1c_2}{p}\right)_L &\equiv (c_1c_2)^{\frac{p-1}{2}}\\ &\equiv c_1^{\frac{p-1}{2}} c_2^{\frac{p-1}{2}}\\ &\equiv \left(\frac{c_1}{p}\right)_L \left(\frac{c_2}{p}\right)_L \pmod p.\end{aligned}$$

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- Thus p divides

$$\left(\frac{c_1c_2}{p}\right)_L - \left(\frac{c_1}{p}\right)_L \left(\frac{c_2}{p}\right)_L.$$

- To prove the second part, we have to show that for any integers c_1, c_2 we have

$$\left(\frac{c_1c_2}{p}\right)_L = \left(\frac{c_1}{p}\right)_L \left(\frac{c_2}{p}\right)_L.$$

- If $c_1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ or $c_2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$, then both sides are 0, so we can suppose that $c_1c_2 \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$.
- Now

$$\begin{aligned}\left(\frac{c_1c_2}{p}\right)_L &\equiv (c_1c_2)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \\ &\equiv c_1^{\frac{p-1}{2}} c_2^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \\ &\equiv \left(\frac{c_1}{p}\right)_L \left(\frac{c_2}{p}\right)_L \pmod{p}.\end{aligned}$$

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- But this is $-2, 0$ or 2 and so has to be 0 since $p > 2$

- We can use the Criterion to evaluate the Legendre symbol.

Example 11

Suppose that p is an odd prime. Then

$$\left(\frac{-1}{p}\right)_L = \begin{cases} 1 & p \equiv 1 \pmod 4 \\ -1 & p \equiv 3 \pmod 4. \end{cases}$$

Observe that by Euler's Criterion $\left(\frac{-1}{p}\right)_L \equiv (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \pmod p$. Now the difference between the left and right hand sides is $-2, 0$ or 2 and the same argument as above gives equality.

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- To see 1. observe that for any such prime factor -1 has to be a quadratic residue, so its Legendre symbol is 1.
- To deduce 2., follow Euclid's argument by assuming there are only finitely many and take x to be twice their product.

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- This was one of the things that got me interested in number theory when I was a student.

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Suppose that p is an odd prime. Then

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- This can be rearranged as $n_2(p)^2 - n_2(p) \le p - 1$, so $(n_2(p) - \frac{1}{2})^2 \le p - \frac{3}{4}$.
- The theorem follows by taking the square root.

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- The relationship enables one to imitate the Euclid algorithm and so rapidly evaluate the Legendre symbol.

Quadratic Reciprocity

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- Of course, this was before the Legendre symbol was invented and he described the phenomenon in terms of quadratic residues and non-residues.

- Here is a table of values of $(q|p)_L$ for primes out to 29

Example 13

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$p\backslash q$	3	5	7	11	13	17	19	23	29
3	0	−1	1	−1	1	−1	1	−1	−1
5	−1	0	−1	1	−1	−1	1	−1	1
7	−1	−1	0	1	−1	−1	−1	1	1
11	1	1	−1	0	−1	−1	−1	1	−1
13	1	−1	−1	−1	0	1	−1	1	1
17	−1	−1	−1	−1	1	0	−1	−1	−1
19	−1	1	1	1	−1	1	0	1	−1
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29	-1	1	1	-1	1	-1	-1	1	0

- If $p \equiv 1 \pmod 4$ or $q \equiv 1 \pmod 4$, then $\left(\frac{q}{p}\right)_L = \left(\frac{p}{q}\right)_L$, but if $p \equiv q \equiv 3 \pmod 4$, then $\left(\frac{q}{p}\right)_L \neq \left(\frac{p}{q}\right)_L$.

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Theorem 14 (Gauss' Lemma)

Suppose that p is an odd prime and $(a,p)=1$. Apply the division algorithm to write each of the $\frac{1}{2}(p-1)$ numbers ax with $1 \le x < \frac{1}{2}p$ as $ax = q_x p + r_x$ with $0 \le r_x < p$. Let m be the number of r_x with $\frac{1}{2}p < r_x < p$. Then we have

$$\left(\frac{a}{p}\right)_L = (-1)^m$$

where

$$m \equiv \sum_{1\le x<p/2} \left\lfloor \frac{2ax}{p} \right\rfloor \pmod 2.$$

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- This theorem enables us to evaluate quite a number of cases.

- **Theorem 14.** Suppose $p > 2$ and $p \nmid a$. Write each of the numbers ax with $1 \le x < \frac{1}{2}p$ as $ax = q_x p + r_x$ with $0 \le r_x < p$. Let m be the number of r_x with $\frac{1}{2}p < r_x < p$. Then $\left(\dfrac{a}{p}\right)_L = (-1)^m$, $m \equiv \displaystyle\sum_{1 \le x < p/2} \left\lfloor \frac{2ax}{p} \right\rfloor \pmod{2}$.

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- $\left(\frac{2}{p}\right)_L = \pm 1$ according as $p \equiv \pm 1$ or $\pm 3 \pmod{8}$.
- Alternatively $\left(\frac{2}{p}\right)_L = (-1)^{\frac{p^2-1}{8}}$.

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- This is $\equiv \prod_{1 \le x < p/2} r_x \pmod p$.

- **Theorem 14.** Suppose $p > 2$ and $p \nmid a$. Write each of the numbers ax with $1 \le x < \frac{1}{2}p$ as $ax = q_x p + r_x$ with $0 \le r_x < p$. Let m be the number of r_x with $\frac{1}{2}p < r_x < p$. Then $\left(\frac{a}{p}\right)_L = (-1)^m$, $m \equiv \sum_{1 \le x < p/2} \left\lfloor \frac{2ax}{p} \right\rfloor \pmod 2$.
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- Let $\mathcal{A}$ be the set of x with $p/2 < r_x < p$ and $\mathcal{B}$ the rest.
- Then card $\mathcal{A} = m$ and rearranging gives $a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \prod_{1 \le x < p/2} x \equiv$

$$\left(\prod_{x \in \mathcal{A}} r_x\right) \prod_{x \in \mathcal{B}} r_x \equiv (-1)^m \left(\prod_{x \in \mathcal{A}} (p - r_x)\right) \prod_{x \in \mathcal{B}} r_x \pmod p \tag{2.4}$$

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- Hence the $\frac{1}{2}(p-1)$ numbers $p - r_x$ and r_x are just a permutation of the numbers z with $1 \le z \le \frac{1}{2}(p-1)$.

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$$a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \prod_{1\le x<p/2} x \equiv (-1)^m \prod_{1\le x<p/2} x \pmod{p}$$

and, by Euler's Criterion, $\left(\frac{a}{p}\right)_L \equiv a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv (-1)^m$.

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- Now the difference is -2, 0 or 2.

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- Moreover, by (2.5)

$$\lfloor 2r_x/p \rfloor = \left\lfloor \frac{2ax}{p} - 2\left\lfloor \frac{ax}{p} \right\rfloor \right\rfloor = \left\lfloor \frac{2ax}{p} \right\rfloor - 2\left\lfloor \frac{ax}{p} \right\rfloor$$
$$\equiv \left\lfloor \frac{2ax}{p} \right\rfloor \pmod 2$$

and the final formula follows.

- Restricting to odd a gives a useful variant.

Theorem 16

Suppose $p > 2$ and $(a, 2p) = 1$. Then $\left(\frac{a}{p}\right)_L = (-1)^n$ where $n = \sum_{1 \le x < p/2} \left\lfloor \frac{ax}{p} \right\rfloor$. We also have $\left(\frac{2}{p}\right)_L = (-1)^{\frac{p^2-1}{8}}$.

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- Then factoring this out gives the result for $\left(\frac{a}{p}\right)_L$.

- Now we come to the big one. This is the Law of Quadratic Reciprocity. Gauss called it "Theorema Aureum", the Golden Theorem.

Theorem 17 (The Law of Quadratic Reciprocity)

Suppose that p and q are different odd prime numbers. Then

$$\left(\frac{q}{p}\right)_L \left(\frac{p}{q}\right)_L = (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2}\cdot\frac{q-1}{2}},$$

or equivalently

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- Thus the congruence is insoluble.

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Let $p > 3$ be an odd prime. Then

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- We can also combine this with the formula in the case of $-1 \pmod{p}$ which follows from the Euler Criterion. Thus

$$\left(\frac{-3}{p}\right)_L = \begin{cases} 1 & (p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}) \\ -1 & (p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}). \end{cases}$$

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- that is, with $1 \le x < p/2$ and $xq/p < y < q/2$.

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- Observe that $\left\lfloor\frac{qx}{p}\right\rfloor$ is the number of positive integers y with $1\le y\le qx/p$.
- Thus the first sum is the number of ordered pairs x, y with $1\le x<p/2$ and $1\le y<qx/p$.
- Likewise $\sum_{1\le y<q/2}\left\lfloor\frac{py}{q}\right\rfloor$ is the number of ordered pairs x, y with $1\le y<q/2$ and $1\le x<py/q$
- that is, with $1\le x<p/2$ and $xq/p<y<q/2$.
- Hence $u+v$ is the number of ordered pairs x, y with $1\le x<p/2$ and $1\le y<q/2$.

- **Proof of the Law of Quadratic Reciprocity.** We start from two applications of the previous theorem.
- Then $\left(\frac{q}{p}\right)_L \left(\frac{p}{q}\right)_L = (-1)^{u+v}$ where $u = \sum_{1 \le x < p/2} \left\lfloor \frac{qx}{p} \right\rfloor$ and $v = \sum_{1 \le y < q/2} \left\lfloor \frac{py}{q} \right\rfloor$.
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- Hence $u + v$ is the number of ordered pairs x, y with $1 \le x < p/2$ and $1 \le y < q/2$.
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- This argument is due to Eisenstein.

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- Jacobi introduced an extension of the Legendre symbol which avoids this.

Definition 20

Suppose that m is an odd positive integer and a is an integer. Let $m = p_1^{r_1} \dots p_s^{r_s}$ be the canonical decomposition of m. Then we define the Jacobi symbol by

$$\left(\frac{a}{m}\right)_J = \prod_{j=1}^{s} \left(\frac{a}{p_j}\right)_L^{r_j}.$$

Note that interpreting 1 as being an "empty product of primes" means that

$$\left(\frac{a}{1}\right)_J = 1.$$

- Remarkably the Jacobi symbol has exactly the same properties as the Legendre symbol, except for one.

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- That is, for a general odd modulus m it does not tell us about the solubility of $x^2 \equiv a \pmod{m}$.

Example 21

We have

$$\left(\frac{2}{15}\right)_J = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)_L \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)_L = (-1)^2 = 1,$$

but $x^2 \equiv 2 \pmod{15}$ is insoluble because any solution would also be a solution of $x^2 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ which we know is insoluble.

Properties of the Jacobi symbol

- 1. Suppose that m is odd. Then $\left(\frac{a_1 a_2}{m}\right)_J = \left(\frac{a_1}{m}\right)_J \left(\frac{a_2}{m}\right)_J$.

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- 6. Suppose that m and n are odd and $(m,n)=1$. Then

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- The first three follow from the definition. The rest depend on algebraic identities and induction on the number of prime factors. For 4. $\frac{m_1-1}{2}+\frac{m_2-1}{2} \equiv \frac{m_1m_2-1}{2} \pmod{2}$,

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- 6. uses $\frac{l-1}{2}\cdot\frac{m-1}{2}+\frac{n-1}{2}\cdot\frac{m-1}{2} \equiv \frac{ln-1}{2}\cdot\frac{m-1}{2} \pmod{2}$.

- Return to Example 18, where we evaluated $\left(\frac{951}{2017}\right)_L$.

Example 22

Now we don't have to factor 951. By the Jacobi version of the law

$$\begin{aligned}\left(\frac{951}{2017}\right)_L &= \left(\frac{2017}{951}\right)_J = \left(\frac{115}{951}\right)_J = -\left(\frac{951}{115}\right)_J \\ &= -\left(\frac{31}{115}\right)_J = \left(\frac{115}{31}\right)_J = \left(\frac{22}{31}\right)_J \\ &= -\left(\frac{31}{11}\right)_J = -\left(\frac{9}{11}\right)_J = -1.\end{aligned}$$

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- Note that we can process this like the Euclidean algorithm.

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- When $m, n, r_1, r_2, \ldots$ are odd, for suitable $t_1, t_2, \ldots$,

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- If any of the r_j are even we first take out the powers of 2.

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- It is just an immediate application of the law of quadratic reciprocity through the use of the division algorithm as organised in Euclid's algorithm, together with the removal of any powers of 2 at each stage and an evaluation of the corresponding

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- 1. Reduction loops.
  1.1. Compute $m \equiv m \pmod{n}$, so that the new m satisfies $0 \le m < n$. Put $t = 1$.
  1.2. While $m \ne 0$ {
  1.2.1. While m is even { put $m = m/2$ and, if $n \equiv 3$ or $5 \pmod{8}$, then put $t = -t$}
  1.2.2. Interchange m and n to give new m and n.
  1.2.3. If $m \equiv n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$, then put $t = -t$.
  1.2.4. Compute $m \equiv m \pmod{n}$, so that the new m satisfies $0 \le m <$ new n.
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- 2. Output.
  2.1. If $n = 1$, then return t.
  2.2. Else return 0.

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  2.1. If $x^2 \equiv a \pmod p$, then return x.
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  $x^2 \equiv a^{(p+1)/2} = a^{1+\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv a\left(\frac{a}{p}\right)_L = a \pmod p$.
- When $p \equiv 5 \pmod 8$, the issue is when $a^{(p-1)/4} \not\equiv 1 \pmod p$. By Euler $a^{(p-1)/2} \equiv 1 \pmod p$, so $a^{(p-1)/4} \equiv \pm 1 \pmod p$, & $a^{(p-1)/4} \equiv -1 \pmod p$. Thus the x in 2.2 gives $x^2 \equiv a^{(p+3)/4} 2^{(p-1)/2} \equiv (-a)\left(\frac{2}{p}\right)$
  $= (-a)(-1) = a \pmod p$.

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- 2. Factor out each 2 in $p - 1$, so that $p - 1 = 2^s u$ with u odd. Compute $d \equiv a^u \pmod p$ and $f \equiv b^u \pmod p$.

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- 4. Compute $x \equiv a^{(u+1)/2} f^{m_s/2} \pmod p$. Return x.

- **Proof.** Initially we find b with $\left(\frac{b}{p}\right)_L = -1$, and s and u with $p-1 = 2^s u$ and u odd, $d \equiv a^u \pmod{p}$ and $f \equiv b^u \pmod{p}$.

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- We will show below that there is an m so that $df^m \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ and m is even. Then $x \equiv a^{(u+1)/2} f^{m/2} \pmod{p}$ satisfies

$$x^2 \equiv \left(a^{\frac{u+1}{2}} f^{\frac{m}{2}}\right)^2 = a^{u+1} f^m = adf^m \equiv a \pmod{p}.$$

Thus it all depends on the computation of m.

- Recall b with $\left(\frac{b}{p}\right)_L = -1$, s, u with $p-1 = 2^s u$ and u odd, $d \equiv a^u \pmod{p}$, $f \equiv b^u \pmod{p}$. To compute m so $df^m \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ and $2|m$ as follows. Let $m_0 = 0$. For $i = 0, 1, \ldots, s-1$ compute $g \equiv (df^{m_i})^{2^{s-1-i}} \pmod{p}$. If $g \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$, then put $m_{i+1} = m_i + 2^i$. Else take $m_{i+1} = m_i$. Claim $df^{m_s} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$, $2|m_s$.

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- By Euler's criterion $d^{2^{s-1}} \equiv a^{2^{s-1}u} = a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$. So $\mathrm{ord}_p(d)|2^{s-1}$ and $f^{2^{s-1}} \equiv b^{2^{s-1}u} = b^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$. Also $f^{2s} \equiv b^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$, so $\mathrm{ord}_p(f) = 2^s$.

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- Prove by induction for $0 \le i \le s$ that $(df^{m_i})^{2^{s-i}} \equiv 1$.

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- Prove by induction for $0 \le i \le s$ that $(df^{m_i})^{2^{s-i}} \equiv 1$.
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- Prove by induction for $0 \le i \le s$ that $(df^{m_i})^{2^{s-i}} \equiv 1$.
- For $i = 0$, $m_0 = 0$ so $(df^{m_0})^{2^s} = d^{2^s} \equiv 1 \pmod p$.
- Inductive step assume for an i with $0 \le i \le s-1$ that $(df^{m_i})^{2^{s-i}} \equiv 1 \pmod p$. Then $(df^{m_i})^{2^{s-1-i}} \equiv \pm 1 \pmod p$. If $(df^{m_i})^{2^{s-1-i}} \equiv 1 \pmod p$, then $m_{i+1} = m_i$ and so $(df^{m_{i+1}})^{2^{s-1-i}} \equiv 1 \pmod p$ as required. If $(df^{m_i})^{2^{s-1-i}} \equiv -1 \pmod p$, then $m_{i+1} = m_i + 2^i$ and so $(df^{m_{i+1}})^{2^{s-1-i}} \equiv (df^{2^i+m_i})^{2^{s-1-i}} = (df^{m_i})^{2^{s-1-i}} f^{2^{s-1}} \equiv -b^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \equiv 1 \pmod p$ once more, by Euler's criterion.