

# The least quadratic non-residue and related problems

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# Squares

Consider the sequence

$$2, 5, 8, 11, \dots$$

Can it contain any squares?

- Every positive integer  $n$  is either 0, 1, or 2 modulo 3.
- If  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ , then  $n^2 \equiv 0^2 = 0 \pmod{3}$ .
- If  $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , then  $n^2 \equiv 1^2 = 1 \pmod{3}$ .
- If  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ , then  $n^2 \equiv 2^2 = 4 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ .

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# Quadratic residues and non-residues

Let  $n$  be a positive integer. For  $q \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$ , we call  $q$  a quadratic residue mod  $n$  if there exists an integer  $x$  such that  $x^2 \equiv q \pmod{n}$ . Otherwise we call  $q$  a quadratic non-residue.

- For  $n = 3$ , the quadratic residue is  $\{1\}$  and the quadratic non-residue is  $2$ .
- For  $n = 5$ , the quadratic residues are  $\{1, 4\}$  and the quadratic non-residues are  $\{2, 3\}$ .
- For  $n = 7$ , the quadratic residues are  $\{1, 2, 4\}$  and the quadratic non-residues are  $\{3, 5, 6\}$ .
- For  $n = p$ , an odd prime, there are  $\frac{p-1}{2}$  quadratic residues and  $\frac{p-1}{2}$  quadratic non-residues.

# Least non-square

How big can the least non-square be?

- For the least non-square to be  $> 2$  we need 2 to be a square, therefore  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{8}$ , hence  $p = 7$  is the first example.
- For the least non-square to be  $> 3$  we need 2 and 3 to be squares, therefore  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{8}$  and  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{12}$ , therefore  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{24}$ , giving us  $p = 23$  as the first example.
- For the least non-square to be  $> 5$  we need 2, 3 and 5 to be squares, therefore  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{8}$ ,  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{12}$  and  $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{5}$ , therefore  $p \equiv \pm 1, \pm 49 \pmod{120}$ , giving us  $p = 71$  as the first example.



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$p$	Least quadratic non-residue
7	3
23	5
71	7
311	11
479	13
1559	17
5711	19
10559	23
18191	29
31391	31
422231	37
701399	41
366791	43
3818929	47

# Heuristics

Let  $g(p)$  be the least quadratic non-residue mod  $p$ . Let  $p_i$  be the  $i$ -th prime, i.e,  $p_1 = 2, p_2 = 3, \dots$ .

- $\#\{p \leq x \mid g(p) = 2\} \approx \frac{\pi(x)}{2}$ .
- $\#\{p \leq x \mid g(p) = 3\} \approx \frac{\pi(x)}{4}$ .
- $\#\{p \leq x \mid g(p) = p_k\} \approx \frac{\pi(x)}{2^k}$ .
- If  $k = \log \pi(x) / \log 2$  you would expect only one prime satisfying  $g(p) = p_k$ .
- Choosing  $k \approx C \log x$ , since  $p_k \sim k \log k$  we have  $g(x) \leq C \log x \log \log x$ .

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# Theorems on the least quadratic non-residue mod $p$

Let  $g(p)$  be the least quadratic non-residue mod  $p$ . Our conjecture is

$$g(p) = O(\log p \log \log p).$$

- Under GRH, Bach showed  $g(p) \leq 2 \log^2 p$ . Soundararajan, Lamzouri and Li improved this to  $g(p) \leq \log^2 p$ .
- Unconditionally, Burgess showed  $g(p) \ll_{\epsilon} p^{\frac{1}{4\sqrt{e}} + \epsilon}$ .
- $\frac{1}{4\sqrt{e}} \approx 0.151633$ .
- In the lower bound direction, Graham and Ringrose proved that there are infinitely many  $p$  satisfying  $g(p) \gg \log p \log \log \log p$ , that is

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# Explicit estimates on the least quadratic non-residue mod $p$

Norton showed

$$g(p) \leq \begin{cases} 3.9p^{1/4} \log p & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ 4.7p^{1/4} \log p & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Theorem (ET 2015)

*Let  $p > 3$  be a prime. Let  $g(p)$  be the least quadratic non-residue mod  $p$ . Then*

$$g(p) \leq \begin{cases} 0.9p^{1/4} \log p & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ 1.1p^{1/4} \log p & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

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### Theorem (Burgess 1962)

*Let  $g(p)$  be the least quadratic non-residue mod  $p$ . Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . There exists  $p_0$  such that for all primes  $p \geq p_0$  we have*  
$$g(p) < p^{\frac{1}{4\sqrt{e}} + \varepsilon}.$$

### Theorem (ET 2015)

*Let  $g(p)$  be the least quadratic non-residue mod  $p$ . Let  $p$  be a prime greater than  $10^{4732}$ , then  $g(p) < p^{1/6}$ .*

### Theorem (Francis 2021)

*Let  $g(p)$  be the least quadratic non-residue mod  $p$ . Let  $p$  be a prime greater than  $10^{3872}$ , then  $g(p) < p^{1/6}$ , and if  $p > 10^{82}$ ,  $g(p) < p^{1/4}$ .*

# Consecutive quadratic residues or non-quadratic residues

Let  $H(p)$  be the largest string of consecutive nonzero quadratic residues or quadratic non-residues modulo  $p$ .

For example, with  $p = 7$  we have that the nonzero quadratic residues are  $\{1, 2, 4\}$  and the quadratic non-residues are  $\{3, 5, 6\}$ . Therefore  $H(7) = 2$ .

$p$	$H(p)$
11	3
13	4
17	3
19	4
23	4
29	4
31	4
37	4
41	5

Burgess proved in 1963 that  $H(p) \leq Cp^{1/4} \log p$ .

Mathematician	Year	C	Restriction
Norton*	1973	2.5	$p > e^{15}$
Norton*	1973	4.1	None
Preobrazhenskaya	2009	$1.85 \dots + o(1)$	Not explicit
McGown	2012	7.06	$p > 5 \cdot 10^{18}$
McGown	2012	7	$p > 5 \cdot 10^{55}$
ET	2012	$1.495 \dots + o(1)$	Not explicit
ET	2012	1.55	$p > 10^{13}$
ET	2017	3.38	None

\*Norton didn't provide a proof for his claim.

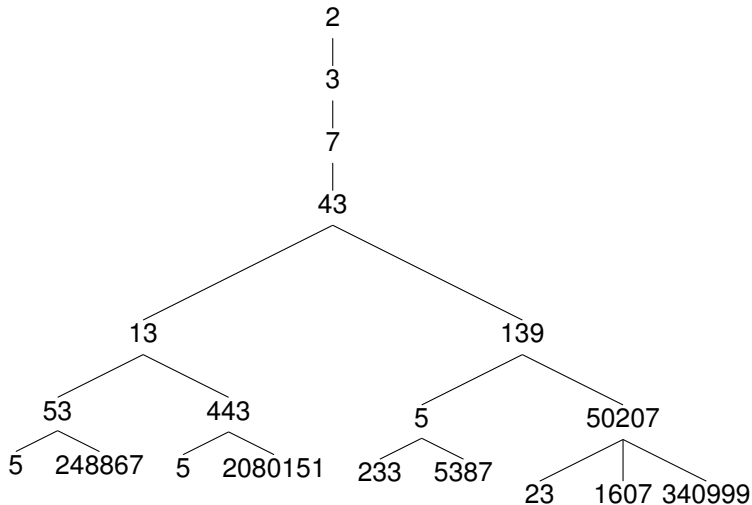
# There are infinitely many primes

Start with  $q_1 = 2$ . Supposing that  $q_j$  has been defined for  $1 \leq j \leq k$ , continue the sequence by choosing a prime  $q_{k+1}$  for which

$$q_{k+1} \mid 1 + \prod_{j=1}^k q_j.$$

Then ‘at the end of the day’, the list  $q_1, q_2, q_3, \dots$  is an infinite sequence of distinct prime numbers.

# Tree of possibilities



# Euclid-Mullin sequences

Since the sequence in the previous slide is not unique, Mullin suggested two possible unique sequences.

- The first is to take  $q_1 = 2$ , then define recursively  $q_k$  to be the **smallest** prime dividing  $1 + q_1 q_2 \dots q_{k-1}$ .
- i.e. 2, 3, 7, 43, 13, 53, 5, 6221671, 38709183810571, 139, 2801, 11, 17, 5471, 52662739, ...
- It is conjectured that the first Mullin sequence touches all the primes eventually.
- Not much is known of this sequence.

## Second Euclid-Mullin Sequence

- The second Mullin sequence is to take  $q_1 = 2$ , then define recursively  $q_k$  to be the **largest** prime dividing  $1 + q_1 q_2 \dots q_{k-1}$ .
- i.e. 2, 3, 7, 43, 139, 50207, 340999, 2365347734339, 4680225641471129, ....
- Cox and van der Poorten (1968) proved 5, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29, 31, 37, 41, 47, and 53 are missing from the first Euclid-Mullin sequence.
- Booker in 2012 showed that infinitely many primes are missing from the sequence.
- One of the results used in Booker's proof is the upper bound on  $g(p)$ .

# An elementary bound for $g(p)$

Let  $g(p)$  be the least quadratic non-residue mod  $p$ .

## Theorem

$$g(p) \leq \sqrt{p} + 1.$$

## Proof.

Suppose  $g(p) = q$  with  $q > \sqrt{p} + 1$ . Let  $k$  be the ceiling of  $p/q$ . Then  $p < kq < p + q$ , so  $kq \equiv a \pmod{p}$  for some  $0 < a < q$ , and therefore  $kq$  is a quadratic residue modulo  $p$ . Since  $q > \sqrt{p} + 1$ , then  $p/q < \sqrt{p}$ , so  $k$  is at most the ceiling of  $\sqrt{p} < \sqrt{p} + 1 < q$ . Therefore  $k$  is a quadratic residue modulo  $p$ . But if  $k$  and  $kq$  are quadratic residues modulo  $p$ , then  $q$  is a square modulo  $p$ . Contradiction! □



# An elementary bound for $H(p)$

## Sketch of a proof that $H(p) < 2\sqrt{p}$ .

- Suppose  $\{a + 1, a + 2, \dots, a + H\}$  are all quadratic residues mod  $p$ .
- For  $n$  a non-residue,  $na + n, \dots, na + Hn$  are non-residues.
- If  $Hn > p$ , then  $H(p) \leq n - 1$ . Therefore  $H(p) \leq \max\{p/n, n - 1, 2\sqrt{p}\}$ .
- If  $n \in (\sqrt{p}/2, 2\sqrt{p}]$  we have  $H(p) < 2\sqrt{p}$ .
- Let  $k$  be the largest integer such that  $k^2 g(p) \leq \sqrt{p}/2$ .
- $(k + 1)^2 g(p) > 2\sqrt{p} \geq 4k^2 g(p)$  implies  $(2k + 1) > 3k^2$  which is false for each  $k \geq 1$ . Therefore there is a non-residue in the interval  $(\sqrt{p}/2, 2\sqrt{p}]$ , yielding  $H(p) < 2\sqrt{p}$ .



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# The primes that Euclid forgot

## Theorem

*Let  $Q_1, Q_2, \dots, Q_r$  be the smallest  $r$  primes omitted from the second Euclid-Mullin sequence, where  $r \geq 0$ . Then there is another omitted prime smaller than*

$$24^2 \left( \prod_{i=1}^r Q_i \right)^2.$$

Using the deep results of Burgess, Booker showed that the exponent can be replaced with any real number larger than  $\frac{1}{4\sqrt{e}-1} = 0.178734\dots$ , provided that  $24^2$  is also replaced by a possibly larger constant.

# Proof Sketch

Let  $X = 24^2(\prod_{i=1}^r Q_i)^2$ . Assume there is no prime missing from  $[2, X]$  besides  $Q_1, \dots, Q_r$ . Let  $p$  be the prime in  $[2, X]$  that is last to appear in the sequence  $\{q_i\}$ . Let  $n$  be such that  $q_n = p$ .

Then  $1 + q_1 \dots q_{n-1} = Q_1^{e_1} \dots Q_r^{e_r} p^e$ .

Let  $d$  be the smallest number satisfying the following conditions:

- (i)  $d \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ ,
- (ii)  $d \equiv -1 \pmod{Q_1 \dots Q_r}$
- (iii)  $\left(\frac{d}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{-1}{p}\right)$ .

- Using the Chinese Remainder Theorem and the bound on  $H(p)$  yields that  $d \leq X$ .
- Given the conditions on  $d$  and using that  $d \leq X$  shows that  $d$  is both a quadratic residue and a non-residue mod  $1 + q_1 q_2 \dots q_{n-1}$ . Contradiction!

# Legendre Symbol

$$\text{Let } \left(\frac{a}{p}\right) = \begin{cases} 0 & , \text{ if } a \equiv 0 \pmod{p}, \\ 1 & , \text{ if } a \text{ is a square mod } p \\ -1 & , \text{ if } a \text{ is a quadratic non-residue mod } p. \end{cases}$$

$\left(\frac{a}{p}\right)$  has the following important properties:

- $\left(\frac{a}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{a+p}{p}\right)$  for all  $a$ .
- $\left(\frac{a}{p}\right) \left(\frac{b}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{ab}{p}\right)$  for all  $a, b$ .
- $\left(\frac{a}{p}\right) \neq 0$  if and only if  $\gcd(a, p) = 1$ .

# Dirichlet Character

Let  $n$  be a positive integer.

$\chi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a Dirichlet character mod  $n$  if the following three conditions are satisfied:

- $\chi(a + n) = \chi(a)$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- $\chi(ab) = \chi(a)\chi(b)$  for all  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
- $\chi(a) \neq 0$  if and only if  $\gcd(a, n) = 1$ .

The Legendre symbol is an example of a Dirichlet character.



# A simple but powerful idea

Let  $g(p) = m$  be the least quadratic non-residue modulo  $p$ .

Suppose  $\chi(a) = \left(\frac{a}{p}\right)$ . Then  $\chi(n) = 1$  for  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, m-1$  and  $\chi(m) = -1$ . Therefore

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \chi(i) = m - 2 < m,$$

and

$$\sum_{i=1}^k \chi(i) = k \text{ for all } k < m.$$

Therefore bounding  $\sum_{i=1}^n \chi(i)$  can give an upper bound for  $g(p)$ .

# Pólya–Vinogradov

Let  $\chi$  be a Dirichlet character to the modulus  $q > 1$ . Let

$$S(\chi) = \max_{M,N} \left| \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N} \chi(n) \right|$$

The Pólya–Vinogradov inequality (1918) states that there exists an absolute universal constant  $c$  such that for any Dirichlet character  $S(\chi) \leq c\sqrt{q} \log q$ .

Under GRH, Montgomery and Vaughan showed that  $S(\chi) \ll \sqrt{q} \log \log q$ .

Paley showed in 1932 that there are infinitely many quadratic characters such that  $S(\chi) \gg \sqrt{q} \log \log q$ .

# Vinogradov's Trick: Showing $g(p) \ll p^{\frac{1}{2\sqrt{e}} + \varepsilon}$

- Suppose  $\sum_{n \leq x} \chi(n) = o(x)$ .
- Let  $y = x^{1/\sqrt{e} + \delta}$  for some  $\delta > 0$ . So  
 $\log \log x - \log \log y = \log(1/\sqrt{e} + \delta) < 1/2$
- Suppose  $g(p) > y$ .

$$\sum_{n \leq x} \chi(n) = \sum_{n \leq x} 1 - 2 \sum_{\substack{y < q \leq x \\ \chi(q) = -1}} \sum_{n \leq \frac{x}{q}} 1,$$

where the sum ranges over  $q$  prime. Therefore we have

$$\sum_{n \leq x} \chi(n) \geq [x] - 2 \sum_{y < q \leq x} \left\lfloor \frac{x}{q} \right\rfloor \geq x - 1 - 2x \sum_{y < q \leq x} \frac{1}{q} - 2 \sum_{y < q \leq x} 1.$$

It took almost 50 years before the next breakthrough. It came from the following theorem of Burgess:

### Theorem (Burgess, 1962)

*Let  $\chi$  be a primitive character mod  $q$ , where  $q > 1$ ,  $r$  is a positive integer and  $\epsilon > 0$  is a real number. Then*

$$|S_{\chi}(M, N)| = \left| \sum_{M < n \leq M+N} \chi(n) \right| \ll N^{1-\frac{1}{r}} q^{\frac{r+1}{4r^2} + \epsilon}$$

*for  $r = 1, 2, 3$  and for any  $r \geq 1$  if  $q$  is cubefree, the implied constant depending only on  $\epsilon$  and  $r$ .*

Consider

$$\left| \sum_{n \leq N} \chi(n) \right|.$$

By Burgess

$$\left| \sum_{n \leq N} \chi(n) \right| \ll N^{1-\frac{1}{r}} q^{\frac{r+1}{4r^2} + \epsilon}.$$

However, if  $\chi(n) = 1$  for all  $n \leq N$ , then

$$N \leq \left| \sum_{n \leq N} \chi(n) \right| \ll N^{1-\frac{1}{r}} q^{\frac{r+1}{4r^2} + \epsilon},$$

so

$$N^{\frac{1}{r}} \ll q^{\frac{r+1}{4r^2} + \epsilon}.$$

Hence

$$N \ll q^{\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{4r} + \epsilon r}$$

Now we know why

$$g(p) \ll p^{\frac{1}{4\sqrt{e}} + \varepsilon},$$

but how do we go from there to be able to figure out the theorems:

### Theorem (ET 2015)

*Let  $g(p)$  be the least quadratic non-residue mod  $p$ . Let  $p$  be a prime greater than  $10^{4732}$ , then  $g(p) < p^{1/6}$ .*

### Theorem (Francis 2021)

*Let  $g(p)$  be the least quadratic non-residue mod  $p$ . Let  $p$  be a prime greater than  $10^{3872}$ , then  $g(p) < p^{1/6}$ , and if  $p > 10^{82}$ ,  $g(p) < p^{1/4}$ .*

# Explicit Burgess

## Theorem (Iwaniec-Kowalski-Friedlander)

Let  $\chi$  be a non-principal Dirichlet character mod  $p$  (a prime). Let  $M$  and  $N$  be non-negative integers with  $N \geq 1$  and let  $r \geq 2$ , then

$$|S_\chi(M, N)| \leq 30 \cdot N^{1-\frac{1}{r}} p^{\frac{r+1}{4r^2}} (\log p)^{\frac{1}{r}}.$$

## Theorem (ET, 2015)

Let  $p$  be a prime. Let  $\chi$  be a non-principal Dirichlet character mod  $p$ . Let  $M$  and  $N$  be non-negative integers with  $N \geq 1$  and let  $r$  be a positive integer. Then for  $p \geq 10^7$ , we have

$$|S_\chi(M, N)| \leq 2.74 N^{1-\frac{1}{r}} p^{\frac{r+1}{4r^2}} (\log p)^{\frac{1}{r}}.$$

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# Some Applications of the Explicit Estimates

- Booker (2006) computed the class number of a 32-digit discriminant using an explicit estimate of a character sum.
- McGown proved (2012) that there is no norm-Euclidean cubic field with discriminant  $> 10^{140}$ . Recently (2017) improved to no Norm-Euclidean fields with discriminant  $> 10^{100}$
- Levin, Pomerance and Soundararajan proved a conjecture of Brizolis that for every prime  $p > 3$  there is a primitive root  $g$  and an integer  $x \in [1, p-1]$  with  $\log_g x = x$ , that is,  $g^x \equiv x \pmod{p}$ .
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# Key Inequality to prove Burgess Inequality

## Theorem (Burgess, Booker, ET)

*Let  $h$  and  $w$  be positive integers. Let  $\chi$  be a primitive Dirichlet character mod  $p$ , then*

$$\sum_{m=1}^p \left| \sum_{l=0}^{h-1} \chi(m+l) \right|^{2w} < (2w-1)!! p h^w + (2w-1) \sqrt{p} h^{2w}.$$

# Sketch of a Proof



$$\sum_{m=1}^p \left| \sum_{l=0}^{h-1} \chi(m+l) \right|^{2w} = \sum_{l_1, l_2, \dots, l_w} \sum_{x \bmod p} \chi(q(x)),$$

where

$$q(x) = \frac{(x+l_1)(x+l_2)\dots(x+l_w)}{(x+l_{w+1})(x+l_{w+2})\dots(x+l_{2w})}.$$

- If  $q(x)$  is not a  $k$ -th power (where  $k$  is the order of  $\chi$ ), then

$$\left| \sum_{x \bmod p} \chi(q(x)) \right| \leq (r-1)\sqrt{p},$$

where  $r$  is the number of distinct roots of  $q(x)$ .

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# Applications

## Theorem (ET 2015)

Let  $p > 3$  be a prime and  $k$  be a positive integer that divides  $p - 1$ . Let  $g(p, k)$  be the least  $k$ -th power non-residue mod  $p$ . Then

$$g(p, k) \leq \begin{cases} 1.1p^{1/4} \log p & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \text{ and } k = 2, \\ 0.9p^{1/4} \log p & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

## Theorem (ET 2012, 2017)

If  $\chi$  is any non-principal Dirichlet character to the prime modulus  $p$  which is constant on  $(N, N + H]$ , then

$$H \leq \begin{cases} 3.38p^{1/4} \log p, & \text{for all odd } p, \\ 1.55p^{1/4} \log p, & \text{for } p \geq 10^{13}. \end{cases}$$



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# Quadratic fields and inert primes

- Let  $d$  be a squarefree integer.
- Then  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$  is a quadratic field.
- A prime  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$  is inert if it remains prime when it is lifted to the quadratic field.
- For example  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-1}) = \mathbb{Q}(i) = \{a + bi \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}$ . In this field, the inert primes are the primes  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ .
- Note that 5 is not prime in  $\mathbb{Q}(i)$  because  $(1 + 2i)(1 - 2i) = 5$ . Similarly any prime  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  is not prime in  $\mathbb{Q}(i)$  since  $p$  can be written as  $a^2 + b^2$  for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  and hence  $p = (a + bi)(a - bi)$ .

# Characterization of inert primes in quadratic fields

- The discriminant  $D$  of a quadratic field  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$  is  $d$  if  $d \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  and  $4d$  otherwise.
- A prime  $p$  is inert in  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$  if and only if the Kronecker symbol  $(D/p) = -1$ .
- The Kronecker symbol is a generalization of the Legendre symbol

$$\left(\frac{a}{p}\right) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } a \text{ is a square mod } p, \\ -1 & \text{if } a \text{ is a non-square mod } p, \\ 0 & \text{if } p \mid a. \end{cases}$$

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# The least inert prime in a real quadratic field

## Theorem (Granville, Mollin and Williams, 2000)

*For any positive fundamental discriminant  $D > 3705$ , there is always at least one prime  $p \leq \sqrt{D}/2$  such that the Kronecker symbol  $(D/p) = -1$ .*

## Theorem (ET, 2010)

*For any positive fundamental discriminant  $D > 1596$ , there is always at least one prime  $p \leq D^{0.45}$  such that the Kronecker symbol  $(D/p) = -1$ .*

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# Elements of the Proof

- Use a computer to check the “small” cases. Granville, Mollin and Williams used the Manitoba Scalable Sieving Unit.
- Use analytic techniques to prove it for the “infinite case”, i.e. the very large  $D$ . The tool used by Granville et al. was the Pólya–Vinogradov inequality. I used a “smoothed” version of it.
- Use Pólya–Vinogradov plus a bit of clever computing to fill in the gap.



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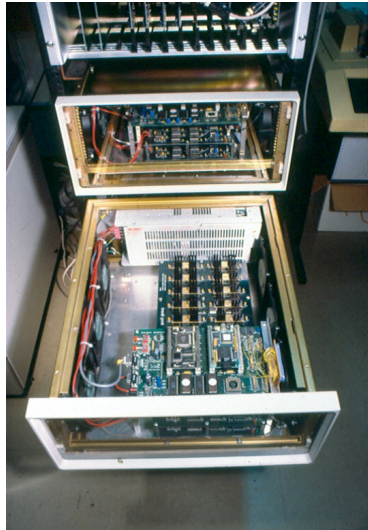
The least quadratic non-residue mod  $p$

The primes that Euclid forgot

Dirichlet Characters

The least inert prime in a real quadratic field

# Manitoba Scalable Sieving Unit



# Smoothed Pólya–Vinogradov

Let  $M, N$  be real numbers with  $0 < N \leq q$ , then define  $S^*(\chi)$  as follows:

$$S^*(\chi) = \max_{M, N} \left| \sum_{M \leq n \leq M+2N} \chi(n) \left( 1 - \left\lfloor \frac{n-M}{N} \right\rfloor \right) \right|.$$

**Theorem (Levin, Pomerance, Soundararajan, 2009)**

*Let  $\chi$  be a primitive character to the modulus  $q > 1$ , and let  $M, N$  be real numbers with  $0 < N \leq q$ , then*

$$S^*(\chi) \leq \sqrt{q} - \frac{N}{\sqrt{q}}.$$

# Lower bound for the smoothed Pólya–Vinogradov

## Theorem (ET, 2010)

*Let  $\chi$  be a primitive character to the modulus  $q > 1$ , and let  $M, N$  be real numbers with  $0 < N \leq q$ , then*

$$S^*(\chi) \geq \frac{2}{\pi^2} \sqrt{q}.$$

Therefore, the order of magnitude of  $S^*(\chi)$  is  $\sqrt{q}$ .

# Tighter smoothed PV

## Theorem (ET, 2010)

Let  $\chi$  be a primitive character to the modulus  $q > 1$ , let  $M, N$  be real numbers with  $0 < N \leq q$ . Then

$$\left| \sum_{M \leq n \leq M+2N} \chi(n) \left( 1 - \left| \frac{n-M}{N} - 1 \right| \right) \right| \leq \frac{\phi(q)}{q} \sqrt{q} + 2^{\omega(q)-1} \frac{N}{\sqrt{q}}.$$

# Applying smoothed PV to the least inert prime problem

Let  $\chi(p) = \left(\frac{D}{p}\right)$ . Since  $D$  is a fundamental discriminant,  $\chi$  is a primitive character of modulus  $D$ . Consider

$$S_\chi(N) = \sum_{n \leq 2N} \chi(n) \left(1 - \left\lfloor \frac{n}{N} - 1 \right\rfloor\right).$$

By smoothed PV, we have

$$|S_\chi(N)| \leq \frac{\phi(D)}{D} \sqrt{D} + 2^{\omega(D)-1} \frac{N}{\sqrt{D}}.$$

Now,

$$S_\chi(N) = \sum_{\substack{n \leq 2N \\ (n,D)=1}} \left(1 - \left| \frac{n}{N} - 1 \right| \right) - 2 \sum_{\substack{B < p \leq 2N \\ \chi(p)=-1}} \sum_{\substack{n \leq \frac{2N}{p} \\ (n,D)=1}} \left(1 - \left| \frac{np}{N} - 1 \right| \right).$$

• Therefore,

$$\frac{\phi(D)}{D} \sqrt{D} + 2^{\omega(D)-1} \frac{N}{\sqrt{D}} \geq \frac{\phi(D)}{D} N - 2^{\omega(D)-2} - 2 \sum_{\substack{n \leq \frac{2N}{B} \\ (n,D)=1}} \sum_{B < p \leq \frac{2N}{n}} \left(1 - \left| \frac{np}{N} - 1 \right| \right).$$

• Now, letting  $N = c\sqrt{D}$  for some constant  $c$  we get

$$0 \geq c - 1 - 2^{\omega(D)} \left( \frac{c}{2} + \frac{1}{4} \right) \frac{D}{\phi(D)\sqrt{D}} - \frac{2}{\sqrt{D}} \frac{D}{\phi(D)} \sum_{\substack{n \leq \frac{2N}{B} \\ (n,D)=1}} \sum_{B < p \leq \frac{2N}{n}} \left(1 - \left| \frac{np}{N} - 1 \right| \right)$$



Now,

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$$\frac{\phi(D)}{D} \sqrt{D} + 2^{\omega(D)-1} \frac{N}{\sqrt{D}} \geq \frac{\phi(D)}{D} N - 2^{\omega(D)-2} - 2 \sum_{\substack{n \leq \frac{2N}{B} \\ (n,D)=1}} \sum_{B < p \leq \frac{2N}{n}} \left(1 - \left| \frac{np}{N} - 1 \right| \right).$$

• Now, letting  $N = c\sqrt{D}$  for some constant  $c$  we get

$$0 \geq c - 1 - 2^{\omega(D)} \left( \frac{c}{2} + \frac{1}{4} \right) \frac{D}{\phi(D)\sqrt{D}} - \frac{2}{\sqrt{D}} \frac{D}{\phi(D)} \sum_{\substack{n \leq \frac{2N}{B} \\ (n,D)=1}} \sum_{B < p \leq \frac{2N}{n}} \left(1 - \left| \frac{np}{N} - 1 \right| \right)$$

Eventually we have,

$$0 \geq c-1-2^{\omega(D)} \left( \frac{c}{2} + \frac{1}{4} \right) \frac{D}{\phi(D)\sqrt{D}} - \frac{2c}{\log B} e^{\gamma} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\log^2 \left( \frac{2N}{B} \right)} \right) \log \left( \frac{2N}{B} \right) \prod_{\substack{p > \frac{2N}{B} \\ p|D}} \frac{p}{p-1}.$$

For  $D \geq 10^{24}$  this is a contradiction.

# Hybrid Case

We have as in the previous case

$$0 \geq c - 1 - 2^{\omega(D)} \left( \frac{c}{2} + \frac{1}{4} \right) \frac{D}{\phi(D)\sqrt{D}} - \frac{2}{\sqrt{D}} \frac{D}{\phi(D)} \sum_{\substack{n \leq \frac{2N}{B} \\ (n,D)=1}} \sum_{B < p \leq \frac{2N}{n}} \left( 1 - \left| \frac{np}{N} - 1 \right| \right)$$

In this case, since we don't have to worry about the infinite case, we can have a messier version of

$$\sum_{B < p \leq \frac{2N}{n}} \left( 1 - \left| \frac{np}{N} - 1 \right| \right).$$

The idea is to consider  $2^{13}$  cases, one for each possible value of  $\gcd(D, M)$  where  $M = \prod_{p \leq 41} p$ .

- We consider the odd values and the even values separately. For odd values, the strategy of checking all the cases proves the theorem for  $21853026051351495 = 2.2 \dots \times 10^{16}$ .
- For even values we get the theorem for  $1707159924755154870 = 1.71 \dots \times 10^{18}$ .
- Here we need a little extra work, we find that there are 12 outstanding cases and we deal with them one at a time.
- QED.

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# Thank you!