

# Quadratic Reciprocity

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Lemma 1. Let  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$  be a prime. If  $a \in U_p$ , for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ ,  $\exists \epsilon_k, r_k \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  such that  $a \cdot k \equiv \epsilon_k \cdot r_k \pmod{p}$ , where  $\epsilon_k \in \{-1, 1\}$  and  $0 \leq r_k < \frac{p}{2}$ . Then for each  $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, \frac{p-1}{2}\}$ ,  $r_k$  is unique.

Lemma 2. If  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  :

$$\left(\frac{p}{q}\right) = (-1)^{\prod_{k=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \epsilon_k}$$

Gauss's Lemma. For distinct odd primes  $p, q$  :

$$\left(\frac{p}{q}\right) = (-1)^{\sum_{k=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \lfloor \frac{2qk}{p} \rfloor}$$

# Table of Contents (Continued)

Lemma 3. For distinct primes  $p, q$ , we have in  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  :

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \left\lfloor \frac{2qk}{p} \right\rfloor \equiv \sum_{k=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \left\lfloor \frac{qk}{p} \right\rfloor$$

Lemma 4. If  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ , then:

$$\sum_{x=1}^{\frac{b-1}{2}} \left\lfloor \frac{ax}{b} \right\rfloor + \sum_{y=1}^{\frac{a-1}{2}} \left\lfloor \frac{by}{a} \right\rfloor = \frac{a-1}{2} \cdot \frac{b-1}{2}$$

Quadratic Reciprocity. Let  $p, q$  be distinct odd primes. Then:

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

# Lemma 1

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

For each  $k \in \{b \in \mathbb{Z} \mid 1 \leq b \leq \frac{p-1}{2}\}$ , define  $\epsilon_k$  and  $r_k$  by  $ak \equiv \epsilon_k r_k \pmod{p}$  where  $0 < r_k < \frac{p-1}{2}$  and  $\epsilon_k = \pm 1$

Claim:  $\{r_k \in \mathbb{Z} \mid 1 \leq k \leq \frac{p-1}{2}\} = \{b \in \mathbb{Z} \mid 1 \leq b \leq \frac{p-1}{2}\}$

*Proof:* For the sake of contradiction, assume that  $r_i = r_j$  for some  $1 \leq i, j \leq \frac{p-1}{2}, i \neq j$ . Then  $ai \equiv aj$  or  $ai \equiv -aj$ .  $ai \not\equiv -aj$  because  $ai \equiv -aj$  directly implies that  $i \equiv -j$  as  $\gcd(a, p) = 1$ . However,  $i \not\equiv -j$  because  $1 \leq i, j \leq \frac{p-1}{2}$ .

Therefore,  $ai \equiv aj \implies a(i-j) \equiv 0 \implies a \equiv 0$  or  $i-j \equiv 0 \implies i \equiv j$ .

Since  $1 \leq i, j \leq \frac{p-1}{2}$ ,  $-p < \frac{3-p}{2} \leq i-j \leq p-2 < p$ . Therefore,  $i-j \equiv 0 \implies i=j$ .

We arrive at a contradiction, because we assumed that  $i \neq j$ . Hence, our claim holds true.

# Lemma 2

Claim:  $a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} = (-1)^{\prod_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \epsilon_j}$

*Proof* :  $\prod_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} aj = a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \prod_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} j$

$\prod_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \epsilon_j r_j = \prod_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \epsilon_j \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} r_j = \prod_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \epsilon_j \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} j$  because using Lemma 1,  
 $\prod_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} r_j = \prod_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} j$ .

Since  $\prod_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} aj = \prod_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \epsilon_j r_j$ ,

$a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \prod_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} j = \prod_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \epsilon_j \prod_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} j \implies a^{\frac{p-1}{2}} = \prod_{j=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \epsilon_j$

# Gauss's Lemma

Claim: For distinct odd primes  $p, q$  :  $\left(\frac{p}{q}\right) = (-1)^{\sum_{k=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \lfloor \frac{2qk}{p} \rfloor}$  *Proof* : Using  $ak \equiv \epsilon_k r_k$  where  $0 < r_k < \frac{p}{2}$ ,  $2ak \equiv 2\epsilon_k r_k \pmod{p}$ . Then,  
 $2ak = np + 2\epsilon_k r_k \implies \frac{2ak}{p} = n + \frac{2\epsilon_k r_k}{p} \implies \lfloor \frac{2ak}{p} \rfloor = n + \lfloor \frac{2\epsilon_k r_k}{p} \rfloor$ . Since  $pn = 2ak - 2\epsilon_k r_k = 2(ak - \epsilon_k r_k)$ ,  $n$  must be even ( $p$  is an odd prime).  
Therefore, if  $\epsilon_k = 1$ ,  $\lfloor \frac{2\epsilon_k r_k}{p} \rfloor = 0$  as  $0 < r_k < \frac{p}{2}$ , so  $\lfloor \frac{2ak}{p} \rfloor = n$ , which is an even number and if  $\epsilon_k = -1$ ,  $\lfloor \frac{2\epsilon_k r_k}{p} \rfloor = -1$ , so  $\lfloor \frac{2ak}{p} \rfloor = n - 1$ , which is an odd number. Therefore, the parity of  $\sum_{k=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \lfloor \frac{2qk}{p} \rfloor$  will be odd if there is an odd number of  $\epsilon_k = -1$  where  $1 \leq k \leq \frac{p-1}{2}$ . Then by Lemma 2, we conclude:

$$(-1)^{\sum_{k=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \lfloor \frac{2qk}{p} \rfloor} = \left(\frac{p}{q}\right).$$

## Lemma 3

By Division Theorem,  $qk = \lfloor \frac{qk}{p} \rfloor \cdot p + r_1$  for  $r_1 \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  
 $q(p - k) = \lfloor \frac{qk}{p} \rfloor \cdot p + (p - r_1)$ , so:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{qk}{p} + \frac{q(p - k)}{p} &= \lfloor \frac{qk}{p} \rfloor + \lfloor \frac{q(p - k)}{p} \rfloor + \frac{r_1}{p} + (1 - \frac{r_1}{p}) = a \\ \rightarrow \lfloor \frac{qk}{p} \rfloor + \lfloor \frac{q(p - k)}{p} \rfloor &= a - 1 \rightarrow \lfloor \frac{qk}{p} \rfloor \equiv \lfloor \frac{q(p - k)}{p} \rfloor \pmod{2}\end{aligned}$$

Then note:

$$\begin{aligned}\lfloor \frac{2q(\frac{p-1}{2} - k)}{p} \rfloor &= \lfloor \frac{q(p - 1 - 2k)}{p} \rfloor \equiv \lfloor \frac{q(2k + 1)}{p} \rfloor \\ \lfloor \frac{2qk}{p} \rfloor &= \lfloor \frac{q(2k)}{p} \rfloor\end{aligned}$$

## Lemma 3 (Continued)

Then note that:

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{k=0}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \left\lfloor \frac{2qk}{p} \right\rfloor &= \sum_{0 \leq k \leq \frac{p-1}{4}} \left\lfloor \frac{2qk}{p} \right\rfloor + \sum_{\frac{p-1}{4} < k \leq \frac{p-1}{2}} \left\lfloor \frac{2qk}{p} \right\rfloor \\ &\equiv \sum_{0 \leq k \leq \frac{p-1}{4}} \left\lfloor \frac{q(2k)}{p} \right\rfloor + \sum_{0 \leq k < \frac{p-1}{4}} \left\lfloor \frac{q(2k+1)}{p} \right\rfloor = \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \left\lfloor \frac{qk}{p} \right\rfloor\end{aligned}$$

Since  $\left\lfloor \frac{q \cdot 0}{p} \right\rfloor = 0 = \left\lfloor \frac{2q \cdot 0}{p} \right\rfloor$ , the above simplifies to:

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \left\lfloor \frac{2qk}{p} \right\rfloor \equiv \sum_{k=1}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \left\lfloor \frac{qk}{p} \right\rfloor$$

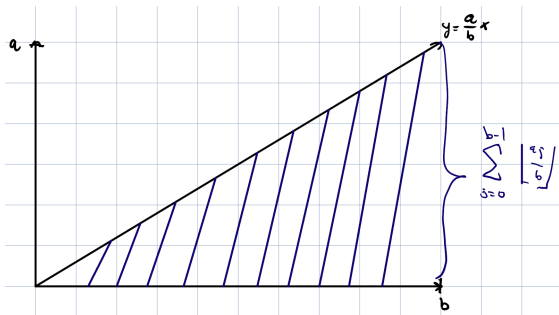
As desired.





## Lemma 4

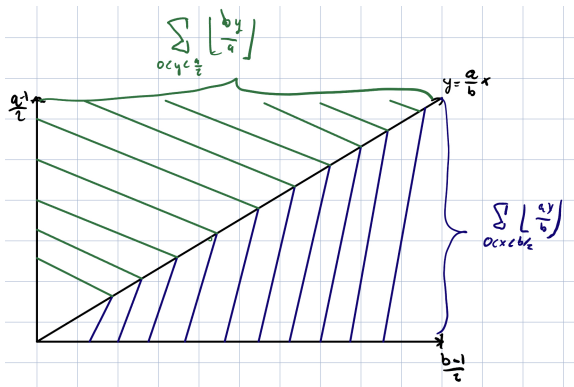
Consider the sum  $\sum_{j=0}^{b-1} \lfloor \frac{aj}{b} \rfloor = \frac{(a-1)(b-1)}{2}$ . The sum is equal to the number of lattice points inside and on the boundary of the triangle formed by  $(0,0)$ ,  $(b,0)$ ,  $(0,a)$ .



So, the number of lattice points can be found by finding the area of the triangle, which is  $\frac{(a-1)(b-1)}{2}$ .

## Lemma 4 (Continued)

Now, we consider the summation  $\sum_{0 < x < \frac{b}{2}} \lfloor \frac{ax}{b} \rfloor + \sum_{0 < y < \frac{b}{2}} \lfloor \frac{ay}{b} \rfloor$ . From the last slide, we see that this represents:



So, the addition is counting the number of lattice points inside the rectangle, which we find by taking the product  $\frac{a-1}{2} \cdot \frac{b-1}{2}$ .

# Quadratic Reciprocity

By Gauss's Lemma, Lemma 3, and Lemma 4:

$$\begin{aligned}\left(\frac{p}{q}\right)\left(\frac{q}{p}\right) &= (-1)^{\sum_{k=0}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \lfloor \frac{2qk}{p} \rfloor + \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{q-1}{2}} \lfloor \frac{2pk}{q} \rfloor} \\ &= (-1)^{\sum_{k=0}^{\frac{p-1}{2}} \lfloor \frac{qk}{p} \rfloor + \sum_{k=0}^{\frac{q-1}{2}} \lfloor \frac{pk}{q} \rfloor} = (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{2} \cdot \frac{q-1}{2}}\end{aligned}$$

As desired. This concludes our proof of Quadratic Reciprocity and this presentation as a whole.