

# Quadratic reciprocity

Introducing quadratic reciprocity.

We are going to explore the relationship between  $\left(\frac{p}{q}\right)$  and  $\left(\frac{q}{p}\right)$ . Let's look at an example:

**Question 1** We want to know if 3 is a quadratic residue modulo 107. It would be a lot easier to check if 107 is a quadratic residue modulo 3. We know that  $107 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ , so  $\left(\frac{107}{3}\right) = -1$ . It would be nice if this also gave us  $\left(\frac{3}{107}\right)$ .

**Question 2** Another example: Find  $\left(\frac{p}{5}\right)$  and  $\left(\frac{5}{p}\right)$ .

$p$	3	5	7	11	13
$\left(\frac{p}{5}\right)$	-1	0	-1	1	-1
$\left(\frac{5}{p}\right)$	-1	0	-1	1	-1

**Question 3** Another example: Find  $\left(\frac{p}{7}\right)$  and  $\left(\frac{7}{p}\right)$ .

$p$	3	5	7	11	13
$\left(\frac{p}{7}\right)$	-1	-1	0	1	-1
$\left(\frac{7}{p}\right)$	1	-1	0	-1	-1

This gives some evidence for our theorem:

**Theorem 1.** Let  $p$  and  $q$  be odd primes with  $p \neq q$ .

- if  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  or  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , then  $\left(\frac{p}{q}\right) = \left(\frac{q}{p}\right)$

Learning outcomes:  
Author(s):

## Quadratic reciprocity

- if  $p \equiv q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ , then  $\left(\frac{p}{q}\right) = -\left(\frac{q}{p}\right)$

Our goal for Friday is to prove this.