

## Law of Quadratic Reciprocity

Let  $p, q$  be distinct odd primes

Define the **Legendre Symbol** as

$$\left(\frac{p}{q}\right) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x^2 \equiv p \pmod{q} \text{ for some } x \in \mathbb{Z} \\ -1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then

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

## Law of Quadratic Reciprocity

Let  $p, q$  be distinct odd primes.

$pRq \rightarrow x^2 \equiv p \pmod{q}$ , for some  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$

$pNq \rightarrow x^2 \not\equiv p \pmod{q}$ , for any  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$

### Case I

If  $p = 1 + 4m$ , for some  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

then either  $pRq$  and  $qRp$ , or  $pNq$  and  $qNp$ .

### Case II

If  $p = 3 + 4m$ ,  $q = 3 + 4n$  for some  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

then either  $pRq$  and  $qNp$ , or  $pNq$  and  $qRp$ .

- *Carl Friedrich Gauss (1801)*