

This holds for  $p = 7$  and  $g = 3$ . The remaining two cases  $-g^2 \pm g + 1 = 0$  are equivalent because  $-g^2 + g + 1 = 0$  if and only if  $-g^{-2} - g^{-1} + 1 = 0$ . In other words, we only need to consider the equality  $g^2 = g + 1$  over  $\mathbb{F}_p$ . Such a primitive root  $g$  is called a *Fibonacci primitive root* modulo  $p$ , as the *golden ratio*  $\phi_{gr}$  satisfying  $\phi_{gr}^2 = \phi_{gr} + 1$ . The primes  $p$  such that  $\mathbb{F}_p$  has a Fibonacci primitive root is the sequence [A003147](#): 5, 11, 19, 31, 41, 59, 61, 71, 79, 109, ... on [OEIS](#) [\[Slo\]](#). Consequently, we have  $N(p, (p-1)/2) > 0$  if and only if  $\mathbb{F}_p$  has a Fibonacci primitive root. On the other hand, the order  $|H|$  of the subgroup  $H = \langle -1, 2 \rangle$  is an even integer. It follows that  $\ell_0 = \frac{p-1}{|H|}$  must divide  $\frac{p-1}{2}$ . By Proposition [5.3](#), we see that Equation [\(2\)](#) is solvable over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  if  $\mathbb{F}_p$  has a Fibonacci primitive root. In this case, there exists a solution  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{F}_p^2$  such that  $xy \neq 0$  and thus Conjecture [C](#) holds.

**Proposition 5.4.** *If  $\mathbb{F}_p$  has a Fibonacci primitive root, then Conjecture [C](#) holds for this  $p$ .*

On a related issue, for the valid cases in Conjecture [C](#) established above we would like to know how many prime numbers  $p$  are there such that the subgroup  $H$  generated by  $-1$  and  $2$  has the given index  $\ell_0$  in  $\mathbb{F}_p^\times$ . This question can be viewed as a generalization of the Artin's primitive root conjecture. It is shown in [\[Mur91, Theorem 1\]](#) that there are infinitely many primes  $p$  such that the index  $[\mathbb{F}_p^\times : H] = \ell_0$  under the *Generalized Riemann Hypothesis* (GRH). Assuming GRH, we conclude from Corollary [B](#) that there are infinitely many prime numbers  $p$  with  $\ell_0$  satisfying conditions in Theorem [5.2](#) and therefore, the size of optimal CACs of prime lengths is equal to  $M(p, \ell_0)$  for *infinitely many* primes  $p$ .

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