

**NOTES ON QUARTIC RESIDUE SYMBOLS  
AND RATIONAL RECIPROCITY LAWS**

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**Notations.**

$\mathbb{Z}$ —the set of integers,  $\left(\frac{a}{m}\right)$ —the Jacobi symbol,  $\left(\frac{a+bi}{c+di}\right)_4$ —the quartic Jacobi symbol,  $(m, n)$ —the greatest common divisor of  $m$  and  $n$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ —the set  $\{a + bi \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ ,  $\bar{\pi}$ —the complex conjugate of  $\pi$ .

For  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  the Lucas sequence  $\{u_n(a, b)\}$  is defined by

$$u_0(a, b) = 0, \quad u_1(a, b) = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad u_{n+1}(a, b) = bu_n(a, b) - au_{n-1}(a, b) \quad (n \geq 1).$$

For odd prime  $p$  and quadratic residue  $t \pmod{p}$  let  $\sqrt{t}$  denote one of the solutions of the congruence  $x^2 \equiv t \pmod{p}$ .

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $m$  be a positive odd number,  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $(a^2 + b^2, m) = 1$ . Then*

$$\left(\frac{a + bi}{m}\right)_4^2 = \left(\frac{a^2 + b^2}{m}\right).$$

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $p$  be an odd prime and  $b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ .*

(1) *If  $\left(\frac{b^2 - c^2}{p}\right) = 1$  and  $p \nmid c(b + c)$ , then*

$$\left(\frac{b + c}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{2}{p}\right) \left(\frac{b + \sqrt{b^2 - c^2}}{p}\right).$$

(2) *If  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ ,  $p \nmid c$  and  $\left(\frac{b^2 + c^2}{p}\right) = 1$ , then*

$$\left(\frac{b + ci}{p}\right)_4 = \left(\frac{2\sqrt{b^2 + c^2}}{p}\right) \left(\frac{b + \sqrt{b^2 + c^2}}{p}\right).$$

(3) *If  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  and  $\left(\frac{b^2 + c^2}{p}\right) = -1$ , then*

$$\left(\frac{b + ci}{p}\right)_4 = -\left(\frac{2c\sqrt{-b^2 - c^2}}{p}\right) \left(\frac{b + \sqrt{-b^2 - c^2} i}{p}\right)_4 = i \left(\frac{2c}{p}\right) \left(\frac{u_{\frac{p+1}{2}}(-c^2/4.b)}{p}\right).$$

**Theorem 2.** Let  $p$  and  $q$  be primes such that  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ ,  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  and  $\left(\frac{p}{q}\right) = 1$ , and let  $q = b^2 + c^2$  with  $b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $2 \mid c$ .

(i) If  $p \mid c$ , then  $x^4 \equiv p \pmod{q}$  is solvable if and only if  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ .

(ii) If  $p \mid b$ , then  $x^4 \equiv p \pmod{q}$  is solvable if and only if  $q \equiv p + 2 \pmod{8}$ .

(iii) If  $p \nmid bc$ , then  $x^4 \equiv p \pmod{q}$  is solvable if and only if  $\left(\frac{b+\sqrt{q}}{p}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{q-1}{4}}$ , where  $\sqrt{q}$  satisfies the condition  $\left(\frac{\sqrt{q}}{p}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{p+1}{4}}$ .

If  $p$  is a prime of the form  $4k + 3$ ,  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\left(\frac{a^2+b^2}{p}\right) = 1$ , then

$$\left\{(a+bi)^{\frac{p^2-1}{8}}\right\}^4 = (a+bi)^{\frac{p^2-1}{2}} \equiv \left(\frac{a+bi}{p}\right)_4^2 = \left(\frac{a^2+b^2}{p}\right) = 1 \pmod{p}.$$

Thus there is a unique  $r \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  such that  $(a+bi)^{\frac{p^2-1}{8}} \equiv i^r \pmod{p}$ . From this we define the octic residue symbol  $\left(\frac{a+bi}{p}\right)_8 = i^r$ .

**Lemma 1.** Let  $p$  be a prime of the form  $4k + 3$ ,  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $2 \nmid a$ ,  $2 \mid b$ ,  $\left(\frac{a^2+b^2}{p}\right) = 1$  and  $\left(\frac{\sqrt{a^2+b^2}}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{a+bi}{p}\right)_4$ . Then

$$\left(\frac{a+bi}{p}\right)_8 = \left(\frac{\sqrt{(x+a)/2} + \sqrt{(x-a)/2}i}{p}\right)_4,$$

where

$$x = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}, \quad \left(\frac{\sqrt{(x+a)/2}}{p}\right) = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \left(\frac{\sqrt{(x-a)/2}}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{2b}{p}\right).$$

**Theorem 3.** Let  $p$  be a prime of the form  $4k + 3$ ,  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $p \nmid ab$ ,  $\left(\frac{a+bi}{p}\right)_4 = 1$ . Then

$$\left(\frac{a+bi}{p}\right)_8 = \left(\frac{2b}{p}\right) \left(\frac{b + \sqrt{(a - \sqrt{a^2 + b^2})^2 + b^2}}{p}\right),$$

where

$$\left(\frac{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}{p}\right) = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \left(\frac{\sqrt{(a - \sqrt{a^2 + b^2})^2 + b^2}}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{b}{p}\right).$$

**Proposition 2.** Let  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $2 \nmid c$ ,  $2 \mid d$ ,  $(c, d) = 1$  and  $(a^2 + b^2, c^2 + d^2) = 1$ . Then

$$\left(\frac{a+bi}{c+di}\right)_4^2 = (-1)^{\frac{c^2+d^2-1}{4}} \left(\frac{ad-bc}{c^2+d^2}\right).$$

**§3. The simple proofs of Burde's reciprocity law and Scholz's reciprocity law.**

Let  $p$  and  $q$  be distinct primes of the form  $4k + 1$ , and let  $\varepsilon_p = (t_p + u_p\sqrt{p})/2$  and  $\varepsilon_q = (t_q + u_q\sqrt{q})/2$  be the fundamental units of quadratic fields  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p})$  and  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{q})$  respectively. Then clearly  $t_p^2 - pu_p^2 = -4$  and  $t_q^2 - qu_q^2 = -4$ .

Scholz's reciprocity law asserts that if  $\left(\frac{p}{q}\right) = \left(\frac{q}{p}\right) = 1$ , then

$$\left(\frac{\varepsilon_p}{q}\right) = \left(\frac{\varepsilon_q}{p}\right).$$

Now we deduce Scholz's reciprocity law from quadratic reciprocity law. Suppose  $t_p + t_q = 2^\alpha m$  with  $2 \nmid m$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{m}{q}\right) &= \left(\frac{q}{|m|}\right) = \left(\frac{qu_q^2}{|m|}\right) = \left(\frac{pu_p^2 + t_q^2 - t_p^2}{|m|}\right) \\ &= \left(\frac{pu_p^2}{|m|}\right) = \left(\frac{p}{|m|}\right) = \left(\frac{m}{p}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, if  $p \equiv q \pmod{8}$ , then  $\left(\frac{2}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{2}{q}\right)$  and so

$$\left(\frac{t_p + t_q}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{2^\alpha}{p}\right) \left(\frac{m}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{2^\alpha}{q}\right) \left(\frac{m}{q}\right) = \left(\frac{t_p + t_q}{q}\right).$$

If  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$  and  $q \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ , then clearly  $8 \mid t_p$ ,  $t_q \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$  or  $t_q \equiv 4 \pmod{8}$ . Hence  $\alpha = 0$  or  $2$  and so

$$\left(\frac{t_p + t_q}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{m}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{m}{q}\right) = \left(\frac{2^\alpha}{q}\right) \left(\frac{m}{q}\right) = \left(\frac{t_p + t_q}{q}\right).$$

By symmetry, if  $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$  and  $q \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ , we also have  $\left(\frac{t_p + t_q}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{t_p + t_q}{q}\right)$ .

Now, by Theorem 1(1) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{\varepsilon_p}{q}\right) &= \left(\frac{(t_p + u_p\sqrt{p})/2}{q}\right) = \left(\frac{2}{q}\right) \left(\frac{t_p + \sqrt{pu_p^2}}{q}\right) = \left(\frac{2}{q}\right) \left(\frac{t_p + \sqrt{t_p^2 + 4}}{q}\right) \\ &= \left(\frac{t_p + \sqrt{-4}}{q}\right) = \left(\frac{t_p + t_q}{q}\right). \end{aligned}$$

By symmetry we also have

$$\left(\frac{\varepsilon_q}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{t_p + t_q}{p}\right).$$

Hence by the previous claim we get

$$\left(\frac{\varepsilon_p}{q}\right) = \left(\frac{t_p + t_q}{q}\right) = \left(\frac{t_p + t_q}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{\varepsilon_q}{p}\right).$$

This proves Scholz's reciprocity law.

Let  $p$  and  $q$  be distinct primes of the form  $4k+1$ ,  $p = \pi\bar{\pi}$  and  $q = \lambda\bar{\lambda}$ , where  $\pi$  and  $\lambda$  are primary primes in  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ . Burde's reciprocity law states that if  $p = a^2 + b^2$ ,  $q = c^2 + d^2$ ,  $2 \nmid ac$  and  $\left(\frac{p}{q}\right) = 1$ , then

$$\left(\frac{q}{\pi}\right)_4 \left(\frac{p}{\lambda}\right)_4 = (-1)^{\frac{q-1}{4}} \left(\frac{ad-bc}{q}\right).$$

Now we use quartic reciprocity law to prove Burde's reciprocity law. Write  $\pi = a + bi$  and  $\lambda = c + di$ . By Propositions 1, 2 and quartic reciprocity law we have

$$\left(\frac{\lambda}{\pi}\right)_4^2 \left(\frac{\lambda}{\bar{\pi}}\right)_4^2 = \left(\frac{\lambda}{p}\right)_4^2 = \left(\frac{q}{p}\right) = 1$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{\bar{\lambda}}{\pi}\right)_4 \left(\frac{\bar{\pi}}{\lambda}\right)_4 &= \overline{\left(\frac{\lambda}{\bar{\pi}}\right)_4 \left(\frac{\bar{\pi}}{\lambda}\right)_4} = \overline{\left(\frac{\lambda}{\bar{\pi}}\right)_4 \left(\frac{\lambda}{\pi}\right)_4} \cdot \left(\frac{\lambda}{\bar{\pi}}\right)_4 \left(\frac{\bar{\pi}}{\lambda}\right)_4 \cdot \left(\frac{\lambda}{\bar{\pi}}\right)_4^{-2} \\ &= \left(\frac{\lambda}{\bar{\pi}}\right)_4 \left(\frac{\bar{\pi}}{\lambda}\right)_4 \cdot \left(\frac{\lambda}{\pi}\right)_4^2 = (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{4} \cdot \frac{q-1}{4}} \cdot (-1)^{\frac{q-1}{4}} \left(\frac{ad-bc}{q}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{q}{\pi}\right)_4 \left(\frac{p}{\lambda}\right)_4 &= \left(\frac{\lambda}{\pi}\right)_4 \left(\frac{\pi}{\lambda}\right)_4 \left(\frac{\bar{\lambda}}{\pi}\right)_4 \left(\frac{\bar{\pi}}{\lambda}\right)_4 \\ &= (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{4} \cdot \frac{q-1}{4}} \cdot (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{4} \cdot \frac{q-1}{4}} \cdot (-1)^{\frac{q-1}{4}} \left(\frac{ad-bc}{q}\right) \\ &= (-1)^{\frac{q-1}{4}} \left(\frac{ad-bc}{q}\right). \end{aligned}$$

This proves Burde's reciprocity law.