

## Congruences for $(A + \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2})^{(p-1)/2}$ and $(b + \sqrt{a^2 + b^2})^{(p-1)/4} \pmod{p}$

by

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**1. Introduction.** Let  $\mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathbb{N}$  be the sets of integers and positive integers respectively,  $i = \sqrt{-1}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}[i] = \{a + bi \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ . For  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $a + bi$  is called *primary* if  $b \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$  and  $a \equiv 1 - b \pmod{4}$ . When  $\pi$  or  $-\pi$  is primary in  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$ , one can define the quartic Jacobi symbol  $(\frac{\alpha}{\pi})_4$  as in [S2, S4]. For the properties of the quartic Jacobi symbol one may consult [IR], [S4, (2.1)–(2.8)] and [S4, Propositions 2.1–2.6].

For any positive integer  $m$  and  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$  let  $(\frac{a}{m})$  be the Legendre–Jacobi–Kronecker symbol. (We assume  $(\frac{a}{1}) = 1$ .) For convenience we also define  $(\frac{-a}{-m}) = (\frac{a}{m})$ . Then for any two odd numbers  $m$  and  $n$  we have the following general quadratic reciprocity law:

$$(1.1) \quad \left(\frac{m}{n}\right) = \begin{cases} (-1)^{\frac{m-1}{2} \cdot \frac{n-1}{2}} \left(\frac{n}{m}\right) & \text{if } m > 0 \text{ or } n > 0, \\ -(-1)^{\frac{m-1}{2} \cdot \frac{n-1}{2}} \left(\frac{n}{m}\right) & \text{if } m < 0 \text{ and } n < 0. \end{cases}$$

Let  $a, m, A, B, C, D \in \mathbb{Z}$  and let  $p$  be an odd prime such that  $ap = C^2 + mD^2$ . In Section 2 we obtain congruences for  $(\frac{A + \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{2})^{(p-1)/2} \pmod{p}$  using only the quadratic reciprocity law. This generalizes the result for  $m = 1$  in [S5]. For example, if  $p = C^2 + 2D^2$  is a prime of the form  $8k + 1$ , then

$$(3 \pm \sqrt{17})^{(p-1)/2} \equiv \begin{cases} \left(\frac{2C+3D}{17}\right) \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{p}{17}\right) = 1, \\ \left(\frac{2C+3D}{17}\right) \frac{(3 \mp \sqrt{17})D}{2C} \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{p}{17}\right) = -1. \end{cases}$$

Suppose  $p$  is a prime of the form  $8k + 1$ . In Section 3, using Western’s formula for octic residues, we determine  $(b + \sqrt{a^2 + b^2})^{(p-1)/4} \pmod{p}$  provided that  $p = x^2 + (a^2 + b^2)y^2 \neq a^2 + b^2$ ,  $a, b, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $2 \nmid a, 4 \mid b$  and  $a^2 + b^2$  is a prime. See Theorems 3.1 and 3.2. For instance, if  $p \neq 17$  is a prime of the form  $8k + 1$  and so  $p = C^2 + 2D^2$  for some  $C, D \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then

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$$(4 \pm \sqrt{17})^{(p-1)/4} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow p = x^2 + 17y^2 \ (x, y \in \mathbb{Z}) \text{ and } (-1)^y = \left(\frac{2C - 3D}{17}\right).$$

For  $b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$  the *Lucas sequences*  $\{U_n(b, c)\}$  and  $\{V_n(b, c)\}$  are defined by  $U_0(b, c) = 0, U_1(b, c) = 1, U_{n+1}(b, c) = bU_n(b, c) - cU_{n-1}(b, c) \ (n \geq 1), V_0(b, c) = 2, V_1(b, c) = b, V_{n+1}(b, c) = bV_n(b, c) - cV_{n-1}(b, c) \ (n \geq 1).$  Let  $d = b^2 - 4c$ . It is well known that for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$(1.2) \quad U_n(b, c) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} \left\{ \left(\frac{b+\sqrt{d}}{2}\right)^n - \left(\frac{b-\sqrt{d}}{2}\right)^n \right\} & \text{if } d \neq 0, \\ n\left(\frac{b}{2}\right)^{n-1} & \text{if } d = 0, \end{cases}$$

$$(1.3) \quad V_n(b, c) = \left(\frac{b + \sqrt{d}}{2}\right)^n + \left(\frac{b - \sqrt{d}}{2}\right)^n.$$

Let  $p$  be an odd prime. In Section 2 we obtain a criterion for  $U_{(p-1)/4}(2A, -mB^2) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$  (if  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ ) in terms of binary quadratic forms, in Section 3 we derive a criterion for  $p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(2b, -a^2)$  (if  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}, 2 \nmid a, 4 \mid b$  and  $a^2 + b^2$  is a prime), and in Section 4 we pose five conjectures concerning  $V_{(p+1)/4}(k, -1) \pmod{p}$  (if  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ ) and  $q^{\lfloor p/8 \rfloor} \pmod{p}$  (if  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  and  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ ), where  $\lfloor x \rfloor$  is the greatest integer not exceeding  $x$ .

Throughout the paper we use  $(m, n)$  to denote the greatest common divisor of integers  $m$  and  $n$ .

**2. Congruences for  $\left(\frac{A+\sqrt{A^2+mB^2}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \pmod{p}$ .** For complex numbers  $A, B, C, D$  and  $m$  it is clear that

$$(2.1) \quad (A^2 + mB^2)(C^2 + mD^2) = (AC - mBD)^2 + m(AD + BC)^2.$$

LEMMA 2.1. *Suppose  $A, B, C, D, m \in \mathbb{Z}, A^2 + mB^2 \neq 0, C^2 + mD^2 > 1, (A, B) = (C, D) = 1, 2 \nmid C^2 + mD^2$  and  $(A^2 + mB^2, C^2 + mD^2) = 1$ . Let*

$$\delta_0 = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } A^2 + mB^2 > 0 \text{ or } AD + BC > 0, \\ -1 & \text{if } A^2 + mB^2 < 0 \text{ and } AD + BC < 0. \end{cases}$$

Then

$$\delta_0 \left(\frac{AD + BC}{C^2 + mD^2}\right) = \begin{cases} (-1)^{\frac{AD+BC}{2}} m \left(\frac{AD+BC}{A^2+mB^2}\right) & \text{if } AD + BC \equiv 0 \pmod{2}, \\ \left(\frac{AD+BC}{A^2+mB^2}\right) & \text{if } AD + BC \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ (-1)^{\lfloor m/2 \rfloor} D \left(\frac{-AD-BC}{A^2+mB^2}\right) & \text{if } AD + BC \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* If  $q$  is a prime with  $q \mid (AD + BC, C^2 + mD^2)$ , then  $D^2(A^2 + mB^2) \equiv B^2C^2 + mB^2D^2 = B^2(C^2 + mD^2) \equiv 0 \pmod{q}$ . As  $(A^2 + mB^2, C^2 + mD^2) = 1$ , we have  $q \nmid A^2 + mB^2$  and hence  $q \mid D$ . Thus,  $C^2 \equiv -mD^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{q}$

and so  $q \mid C$ . Since  $(C, D) = 1$ , this is impossible. Therefore,  $(AD + BC, C^2 + mD^2) = 1$ . By symmetry, we also have  $(AD + BC, A^2 + mB^2) = 1$ .

Suppose  $AD + BC = 2^{\alpha_1}n_1$  ( $2 \nmid n_1$ ) and  $A^2 + mB^2 = 2^\alpha n$  ( $2 \nmid n$ ). By (1.1) and (2.1) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\frac{AD + BC}{C^2 + mD^2}\right) \left(\frac{2^{\alpha_1}}{C^2 + mD^2}\right) \\ &= \left(\frac{n_1}{C^2 + mD^2}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{n_1-1}{2} \cdot \frac{C^2+mD^2-1}{2}} \left(\frac{C^2 + mD^2}{n_1}\right) \\ &= (-1)^{\frac{n_1-1}{2} \cdot \frac{C^2+mD^2-1}{2}} \left(\frac{A^2 + mB^2}{n_1}\right) \left(\frac{(A^2 + mB^2)(C^2 + mD^2)}{n_1}\right) \\ &= (-1)^{\frac{n_1-1}{2} \cdot \frac{C^2+mD^2-1}{2}} \left(\frac{2^\alpha n}{n_1}\right) \left(\frac{(AC - mBD)^2 + m(AD + BC)^2}{n_1}\right) \\ &= (-1)^{\frac{n_1-1}{2} \cdot \frac{C^2+mD^2-1}{2}} \left(\frac{2}{n_1}\right)^\alpha \left(\frac{n}{n_1}\right) \left(\frac{(AC - mBD)^2}{n_1}\right) \\ &= (-1)^{\frac{n_1-1}{2} \cdot \frac{C^2+mD^2-1}{2}} \left(\frac{2}{n_1}\right)^\alpha \delta_0(-1)^{\frac{n_1-1}{2} \cdot \frac{n-1}{2}} \left(\frac{n_1}{n}\right) \\ &= \delta_0(-1)^{\frac{n_1-1}{2} \cdot \frac{C^2+mD^2-n}{2}} \left(\frac{2}{n_1}\right)^\alpha \left(\frac{2}{n}\right)^{\alpha_1} \left(\frac{AD + BC}{n}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} (2.2) \quad & \delta_0 \left(\frac{AD + BC}{C^2 + mD^2}\right) \\ &= (-1)^{\frac{n_1-1}{2} \cdot \frac{(C^2+mD^2)n-1}{2}} \left(\frac{2}{(C^2 + mD^2)n}\right)^{\alpha_1} \left(\frac{2}{n_1}\right)^\alpha \left(\frac{AD + BC}{n}\right). \end{aligned}$$

If  $2 \mid AD + BC$ , as  $(AD + BC, A^2 + mB^2) = 1$  we have  $2 \nmid A^2 + mB^2$ . Thus,  $\alpha = 0$ ,  $n = A^2 + mB^2$  and  $2 \nmid (C^2 + mD^2)n$ . By (2.1) we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (C^2 + mD^2)n \\ &= (A^2 + mB^2)(C^2 + mD^2) = (AC - mBD)^2 + m(AD + BC)^2 \\ &\equiv \begin{cases} 1 \pmod{8} & \text{if } AD + BC \equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\ 1 + 4m \pmod{8} & \text{if } AD + BC \equiv 2 \pmod{4}. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} & (-1)^{\frac{n_1-1}{2} \cdot \frac{(C^2+mD^2)n-1}{2}} \left(\frac{2}{(C^2 + mD^2)n}\right)^{\alpha_1} \\ &= \left(\frac{2}{(C^2 + mD^2)n}\right)^{\alpha_1} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } AD + BC \equiv 0 \pmod{4}, \\ \left(\frac{2}{1+4m}\right) = (-1)^m & \text{if } AD + BC \equiv 2 \pmod{4}. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by (2.2) we deduce the result.

Now assume  $AD+BC \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Then  $\alpha_1 = 0$  and  $n_1 = AD+BC \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{2}{n_1}\right)^\alpha \left(\frac{AD+BC}{n}\right) &= \left(\frac{2}{AD+BC}\right)^\alpha \left(\frac{AD+BC}{n}\right) \\ &= \left(\frac{AD+BC}{2}\right)^\alpha \left(\frac{AD+BC}{n}\right) \\ &= \left(\frac{AD+BC}{A^2+mB^2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Again by (2.2) we deduce the result.

Finally we assume  $AD+BC \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . Then  $A(-D)+B(-C) \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . From the above we deduce

$$\delta_0 \left(\frac{AD+BC}{C^2+mD^2}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{C^2+mD^2-1}{2}} \left(\frac{A(-D)+B(-C)}{A^2+mB^2}\right).$$

As  $(C, D) = 1$  and  $2 \nmid C^2+mD^2$ , we see that  $\frac{C^2+mD^2-1}{2} \equiv \left[\frac{m}{2}\right]D \pmod{2}$ . So the result follows. The proof is now complete.

LEMMA 2.2. *Let  $C, D, m \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $(C, D) = 1$  and  $C^2+mD^2 \in \{3, 5, 7, \dots\}$ . Then*

$$\left(\frac{D}{C^2+mD^2}\right) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } 4 \mid D, \\ (-1)^m & \text{if } 4 \mid D-2, \\ (-1)^{\frac{D-1}{2} \cdot \left[\frac{m}{2}\right]} & \text{if } 2 \nmid D. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Set  $D = 2^\alpha D_0$  ( $2 \nmid D_0$ ). If  $4 \mid D$ , then  $C^2+mD^2 \equiv C^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$  and so

$$\left(\frac{D}{C^2+mD^2}\right) = \left(\frac{D_0}{C^2+mD^2}\right) = \left(\frac{C^2+mD^2}{D_0}\right) = \left(\frac{C^2}{D_0}\right) = 1.$$

If  $4 \mid D-2$ , then  $C^2+mD^2 \equiv 1+4m \pmod{8}$  and so

$$\left(\frac{D}{C^2+mD^2}\right) = \left(\frac{2D_0}{C^2+mD^2}\right) = \left(\frac{2}{1+4m}\right) \left(\frac{C^2+mD^2}{D_0}\right) = (-1)^m.$$

If  $2 \nmid D$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} &\left(\frac{D}{C^2+mD^2}\right) \\ &= (-1)^{\frac{D-1}{2} \cdot \frac{C^2+mD^2-1}{2}} \left(\frac{C^2+mD^2}{D}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{D-1}{2} \cdot \frac{C^2+mD^2-1}{2}} \left(\frac{C^2}{D}\right) \\ &= (-1)^{\frac{D-1}{2} \cdot \frac{C^2+m-1}{2}} = (-1)^{\frac{D-1}{2} \cdot \left[\frac{m}{2}\right]}. \end{aligned}$$

So the lemma is proved.

LEMMA 2.3. Let  $b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $p$  be an odd prime such that  $p \nmid c(b^2 - 4c)$ . Then

$$p \mid U_n(b, c) \Leftrightarrow \left( \frac{b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4c}}{2} \right)^{2n} \equiv c^n \pmod{p}.$$

*Proof.* From (1.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} p \mid U_n(b, c) &\Leftrightarrow \left( \frac{b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4c}}{2} \right)^n \equiv \left( \frac{b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4c}}{2} \right)^n \pmod{p} \\ &\Leftrightarrow \left( \frac{b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4c}}{2} \right)^{2n} \equiv \left( \frac{b^2 - (b^2 - 4c)}{4} \right)^n = c^n \pmod{p}. \end{aligned}$$

This proves the lemma.

For complex numbers  $A, B$  and  $m$  it is clear that

$$(2.3) \quad (A + B\sqrt{-m}) \frac{A + \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{2} = \left( \frac{A + B\sqrt{-m} + \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{2} \right)^2.$$

Now using Lemmas 2.1–2.3 and (2.3) we deduce the following main result.

THEOREM 2.1. Let  $p$  be an odd prime,  $a, m, C, D \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $a > 0$ ,  $2 \nmid a$ ,  $(C, D) = 1$  and  $ap = C^2 + mD^2$ . Let  $A, B \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $(A, B) = 1$ ,  $p \nmid mB$  and  $(A^2 + mB^2, ap) = 1$ . Suppose that  $\delta_0$  is given in Lemma 2.1. Let

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_1 &= \begin{cases} (-1)^{\frac{D}{2}m} & \text{if } 2 \mid D, \\ (-1)^{\frac{D-1}{2} \cdot \lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor} & \text{if } 2 \nmid D, \end{cases} \\ \delta_2 &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } AD + BC \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}, \\ (-1)^m & \text{if } AD + BC \equiv 2 \pmod{4}, \\ (-1)^{\lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor D} & \text{if } AD + BC \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \end{cases} \\ \varepsilon &= \begin{cases} \delta_0 \delta_1 \delta_2 \left( \frac{AD+BC}{A^2+mB^2} \right) & \text{if } AD + BC \not\equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \\ \delta_0 \delta_1 \delta_2 \left( \frac{-AD-BC}{A^2+mB^2} \right) & \text{if } AD + BC \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} &\left( \frac{A \pm \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{2} \right)^{(p-1)/2} \\ &\equiv \begin{cases} \varepsilon \left( \frac{D(AD+BC)}{a} \right) \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left( \frac{A^2+mB^2}{p} \right) = 1, \\ \varepsilon \left( \frac{D(AD+BC)}{a} \right) \frac{D(A \mp \sqrt{A^2+mB^2})}{BC} \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left( \frac{A^2+mB^2}{p} \right) = -1. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, if  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , then

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/4}(2A, -mB^2) \\ \Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{A^2 + mB^2}{p}\right) = 1 \text{ and } \varepsilon\left(\frac{D(AD + BC)}{a}\right) = \left(\frac{2BCD}{p}\right).$$

*Proof.* As  $\left(\frac{-m}{p}\right) = 1$  and  $(\sqrt{x})^p = \sqrt{x} \cdot x^{(p-1)/2} \equiv \left(\frac{x}{p}\right)\sqrt{x} \pmod{p}$  for  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , using the binomial theorem and Fermat's little theorem we see that

$$(A + B\sqrt{-m} + \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2})^p \\ \equiv A^p + (B\sqrt{-m})^p + (\sqrt{A^2 + mB^2})^p \\ \equiv A + B\sqrt{-m} + \left(\frac{A^2 + mB^2}{p}\right)\sqrt{A^2 + mB^2} \pmod{p}.$$

Thus,

$$\left(\frac{A + B\sqrt{-m} + \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{2}\right)^{p-1} \equiv \frac{(A + B\sqrt{-m} + \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2})^p}{A + B\sqrt{-m} + \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}} \\ \equiv \frac{A + B\sqrt{-m} + \left(\frac{A^2 + mB^2}{p}\right)\sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{A + B\sqrt{-m} + \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}} \\ = \begin{cases} \frac{A - \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{B\sqrt{-m}} \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{A^2 + mB^2}{p}\right) = -1, \\ 1 \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{A^2 + mB^2}{p}\right) = 1. \end{cases}$$

Hence applying (2.3) we obtain

$$(A + B\sqrt{-m})^{(p-1)/2} \left(\frac{A + \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \\ \equiv \begin{cases} \frac{A - \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{B\sqrt{-m}} \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{A^2 + mB^2}{p}\right) = -1, \\ 1 \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{A^2 + mB^2}{p}\right) = 1. \end{cases}$$

As  $(C/D)^2 \equiv -m \pmod{p}$ , replacing  $\sqrt{-m}$  with  $C/D$  in the congruence we have

$$\left(\frac{A + \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \left(A + \frac{BC}{D}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \\ \equiv \begin{cases} \frac{A - \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{BC/D} \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{A^2 + mB^2}{p}\right) = -1, \\ 1 \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{A^2 + mB^2}{p}\right) = 1. \end{cases}$$

Using Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2 we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (A + BC/D)^{(p-1)/2} &\equiv \left(\frac{A + BC/D}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{D}{p}\right) \left(\frac{AD + BC}{p}\right) \\
 &= \left(\frac{D}{a}\right) \left(\frac{AD + BC}{a}\right) \left(\frac{D}{ap}\right) \left(\frac{AD + BC}{ap}\right) \\
 &= \left(\frac{D}{a}\right) \left(\frac{AD + BC}{a}\right) \left(\frac{D}{C^2 + mD^2}\right) \left(\frac{AD + BC}{C^2 + mD^2}\right) \\
 &= \varepsilon \left(\frac{D(AD + BC)}{a}\right) \pmod{p}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Now combining the above we deduce

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\left(\frac{A + \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \\
 &\equiv \begin{cases} \varepsilon \left(\frac{D(AD+BC)}{a}\right) \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{A^2+mB^2}{p}\right) = 1, \\ \varepsilon \left(\frac{D(AD+BC)}{a}\right) \frac{D(A-\sqrt{A^2+mB^2})}{BC} \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{A^2+mB^2}{p}\right) = -1. \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $ap = C^2 + mD^2$  we see that  $\left(\frac{-m}{p}\right) = 1$  and so

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\left(\frac{A + \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \left(\frac{A - \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \\
 &= \left(-\frac{mB^2}{4}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}.
 \end{aligned}$$

We also have

$$\frac{D(A + \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2})}{BC} \cdot \frac{D(A - \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2})}{BC} = \frac{-mB^2D^2}{B^2C^2} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\left(\frac{A - \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \\
 &\equiv \begin{cases} \varepsilon \left(\frac{D(AD+BC)}{a}\right) \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{A^2+mB^2}{p}\right) = 1, \\ \varepsilon \left(\frac{D(AD+BC)}{a}\right) \frac{D(A+\sqrt{A^2+mB^2})}{BC} \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{A^2+mB^2}{p}\right) = -1. \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

Now we assume  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . From the above and Lemma 2.3 we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & p \mid U_{(p-1)/4}(2A, -mB^2) \\
 & \Leftrightarrow (A + \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2})^{(p-1)/2} \equiv (-mB^2)^{(p-1)/4} \equiv \left(\frac{BC}{D}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \pmod{p} \\
 & \Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{A + \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \equiv \left(\frac{2BCD}{p}\right) \pmod{p} \\
 & \Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{2BCD}{p}\right) \varepsilon\left(\frac{D(AD + BC)}{a}\right) \\
 & \equiv \begin{cases} 1 \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{A^2+mB^2}{p}\right) = 1, \\ \frac{D(A-\sqrt{A^2+mB^2})}{BC} \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{A^2+mB^2}{p}\right) = -1. \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $p \nmid mB(A^2 + mB^2)$  we have  $A \not\equiv \pm\sqrt{A^2 + mB^2} \pmod{p}$  and so  $A^2 + mB^2 - A\sqrt{A^2 + mB^2} \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ . Thus

$$\left(\frac{D(A - \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2})}{BC}\right)^2 \equiv \frac{2A^2 + mB^2 - 2A\sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{-mB^2} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

and so  $\frac{D(A-\sqrt{A^2+mB^2})}{BC} \not\equiv \pm 1 \pmod{p}$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & p \mid U_{(p-1)/4}(2A, -mB^2) \\
 & \Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{A^2 + mB^2}{p}\right) = 1 \text{ and } \varepsilon\left(\frac{D(AD + BC)}{a}\right) = \left(\frac{2BCD}{p}\right).
 \end{aligned}$$

The proof is now complete.

REMARK 2.1. From (2.1) we see that  $(AD + BC, AC - mBD) = 1$  implies  $(AD + BC, (A^2 + mB^2)(C^2 + mD^2)) = 1$ . Thus, according to the proof of Lemma 2.1, we may replace the condition  $(A^2+mB^2, C^2+mD^2) = 1$  with  $(AD + BC, AC - mBD) = 1$  in Lemma 2.1. Hence, by the proof of Theorem 2.1, we may replace the condition  $(A^2 + mB^2, ap) = 1$  with  $(AD + BC, AC - mBD) = 1$  in Theorem 2.1.

COROLLARY 2.1. Let  $p$  be an odd prime,  $m \in \{2, 4, 6, \dots\}$  and  $p = C^2 + mD^2$  for some  $C, D \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Suppose  $A, B \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $(A, B) = 1$ ,  $p \nmid B(A^2 + mB^2)$  and  $AD + BC \not\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left(\frac{A \pm \sqrt{A^2 + mB^2}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \\
 & \equiv \begin{cases} (-1)^{\frac{1-(-1)^D}{2} \cdot \frac{D-1}{2} \cdot \frac{m}{2}} \left(\frac{AD+BC}{A^2+mB^2}\right) \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{A^2+mB^2}{p}\right) = 1, \\ (-1)^{\frac{1-(-1)^D}{2} \cdot \frac{D-1}{2} \cdot \frac{m}{2}} \left(\frac{AD+BC}{A^2+mB^2}\right) \frac{D(A \mp \sqrt{A^2+mB^2})}{BC} \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{A^2+mB^2}{p}\right) = -1. \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$



Moreover, if  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , then

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/4}(2A, -mB^2) \\ \Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{A^2 + mB^2}{p}\right) = 1 \text{ and } (-1)^{\frac{1-(-1)^D}{2} \cdot \frac{D-1}{2} \cdot \frac{m}{2}} \left(\frac{AD + BC}{A^2 + mB^2}\right) = \left(\frac{2B}{p}\right) \left(\frac{m}{C}\right).$$

*Proof.* For  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  we have  $\left(\frac{C}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{p}{C}\right) = \left(\frac{C^2+mD^2}{C}\right) = \left(\frac{m}{C}\right)$  and  $\left(\frac{D}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{p}{D}\right) = \left(\frac{C^2+mD^2}{D}\right) = \left(\frac{C^2}{D}\right) = 1$ . Thus, taking  $a = 1$  in Theorem 2.1 we deduce the result.

**COROLLARY 2.2.** *Let  $p$  be a prime of the form  $8k+1$  and so  $p = C^2 + 2D^2$  for some  $C, D \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Suppose  $A, B \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $(A, B) = 1$ ,  $p \nmid B(A^2 + 2B^2)$  and  $AD + BC \not\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . Then*

$$(A \pm \sqrt{A^2 + 2B^2})^{(p-1)/2} \\ \equiv \begin{cases} \left(\frac{AD+BC}{A^2+2B^2}\right) \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{p}{A^2+2B^2}\right) = 1, \\ \left(\frac{AD+BC}{A^2+2B^2}\right) \frac{D(A \mp \sqrt{A^2+2B^2})}{BC} \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{p}{A^2+2B^2}\right) = -1. \end{cases}$$

Moreover, if  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , then

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/4}(2A, -2B^2) \\ \Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{p}{A^2 + 2B^2}\right) = 1 \text{ and } \left(\frac{AD + BC}{A^2 + 2B^2}\right) = \left(\frac{B}{p}\right) \left(\frac{2}{C}\right).$$

*Proof.* If  $2 \nmid D$ , then  $p = C^2 + 2D^2 \equiv 1 + 2 = 3 \pmod{8}$ . Thus  $2 \mid D$ . Now putting  $m = 2$  in Corollary 2.1 and noting that  $\left(\frac{A^2+2B^2}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{p}{A^2+2B^2}\right)$  we deduce the result.

For instance, if  $p = C^2 + 2D^2$  is a prime of the form  $8k + 1$ , then

$$(2.4) \quad (3 \pm \sqrt{17})^{(p-1)/2} \equiv \begin{cases} \left(\frac{2C+3D}{17}\right) \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{p}{17}\right) = 1, \\ \left(\frac{2C+3D}{17}\right) \frac{(3 \mp \sqrt{17})D}{2C} \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{p}{17}\right) = -1 \end{cases}$$

and

$$(2.5) \quad p \mid U_{(p-1)/4}(3, -2) \Leftrightarrow p \mid U_{(p-1)/4}(6, -8) \\ \Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{p}{17}\right) = 1 \text{ and } \left(\frac{2C + 3D}{17}\right) = \left(\frac{2}{C}\right).$$

**COROLLARY 2.3.** *Let  $p \equiv 1, 3, 7, 9 \pmod{20}$  be a prime different from 7.*

- (i) *If  $p \equiv 1, 9 \pmod{20}$  and hence  $p = C^2 + 5D^2$  with  $C, D \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $C + D \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , then*

$$\left(\frac{1 \pm \sqrt{6}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \equiv \begin{cases} \delta_1 \left(\frac{C+D}{6}\right) \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{6}{p}\right) = 1, \\ \delta_1 \left(\frac{C+D}{6}\right) \frac{D}{C} (1 \mp \sqrt{6}) \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{6}{p}\right) = -1 \end{cases}$$

and

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/4}(2, -5) \Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{6}{p}\right) = 1 \text{ and } \delta_1 \left(\frac{C+D}{6}\right) = (-1)^{\frac{p-1}{4}D} \left(\frac{C}{5}\right),$$

where  $\delta_1 = 1$  or  $-1$  according as  $4 \nmid D - 2$  or  $4 \mid D - 2$ .

- (ii) If  $p \equiv 3, 7 \pmod{20}$  and hence  $7p = C^2 + 5D^2$  with  $C, D \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $C + D \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , then

$$\left(\frac{1 \pm \sqrt{6}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \equiv \begin{cases} \delta_1 \left(\frac{C+D}{6}\right) \left(\frac{D(C+D)}{7}\right) \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{6}{p}\right) = 1, \\ \delta_1 \left(\frac{C+D}{6}\right) \left(\frac{D(C+D)}{7}\right) \frac{D}{C} (1 \mp \sqrt{6}) \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{6}{p}\right) = -1, \end{cases}$$

where  $\delta_1 = 1$  or  $-1$  according as  $4 \nmid D - 2$  or  $4 \mid D - 2$ .

*Proof.* If  $p = C^2 + 5D^2$  with  $C, D \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $D = 2^\alpha D_0$  ( $2 \nmid D_0$ ), then clearly  $\left(\frac{C}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{p}{C}\right) = \left(\frac{5}{C}\right) = \left(\frac{C}{5}\right)$  and  $\left(\frac{2D}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{2^{\alpha+1}}{p}\right) \left(\frac{D_0}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{2}{p}\right)^{\alpha+1} \left(\frac{p}{D_0}\right) = (-1)^{(p-1)(\alpha+1)/4} = (-1)^{(p-1)D/4}$ . Thus, putting  $a = A = B = 1$  and  $m = 5$  in Theorem 2.1 we deduce (i). Taking  $a = 7, A = B = 1$  and  $m = 5$  in Theorem 2.1 we deduce (ii).

**COROLLARY 2.4.** Let  $p \equiv 1, 2, 4 \pmod{7}$  be an odd prime and hence  $p = C^2 + 7D^2$  for some  $C, D \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Suppose  $C + D \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Then

$$(1 \pm 2\sqrt{2})^{(p-1)/2} \equiv \begin{cases} (-1)^{\frac{D(D-1)}{2} + \frac{C+D-1}{4}} \pmod{p} & \text{if } p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{8}, \\ (-1)^{\frac{D(D-1)}{2} + \frac{C+D-1}{4}} \frac{D}{C} (-1 \pm 2\sqrt{2}) \pmod{p} & \text{if } p \equiv \pm 3 \pmod{8}. \end{cases}$$

Moreover, if  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , then

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/4}(2, -7) \Leftrightarrow 8 \mid p - 1 \text{ and } (-1)^{\frac{D(D-1)}{2} + \frac{C+D-1}{4}} = (-1)^{(C-1)/2} \left(\frac{C}{7}\right).$$

*Proof.* Taking  $a = A = B = 1$  and  $m = 7$  in Theorem 2.1 we obtain the congruence for  $(1 \pm 2\sqrt{2})^{(p-1)/2} \pmod{p}$ . For  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$  and  $D = 2^\alpha D_0$  ( $2 \nmid D_0$ ), it is clear that

$$2 \nmid C, \quad \left(\frac{C}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{p}{C}\right) = \left(\frac{C^2 + 7D^2}{C}\right) = \left(\frac{7}{C}\right) = (-1)^{(C-1)/2} \left(\frac{C}{7}\right)$$

and

$$\left(\frac{D}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{D_0}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{p}{D_0}\right) = \left(\frac{C^2 + 7D^2}{D_0}\right) = \left(\frac{C^2}{D_0}\right) = 1.$$

Thus, by Theorem 2.1 we have

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/4}(2, -7) \Leftrightarrow 8 \mid p - 1 \text{ and } (-1)^{\frac{D(D-1)}{2} + \frac{C+D-1}{4}} = \left(\frac{2CD}{p}\right) = (-1)^{(C-1)/2} \left(\frac{C}{7}\right).$$

This completes the proof.

COROLLARY 2.5. Let  $p \equiv 1, 3 \pmod{8}$  be a prime and hence  $p = C^2 + 2D^2$  for some  $C, D \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

(i) If  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$  and  $C + D \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , then

$$(2 \pm \sqrt{3})^{(p-1)/4} \equiv \begin{cases} (-1)^{(C^2-1)/8} \left(\frac{C}{3}\right) \pmod{p} & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{24}, \\ (-1)^{(C^2-1)/8} \left(\frac{D}{3}\right) \frac{D}{C} (1 \mp \sqrt{3}) \pmod{p} & \text{if } p \equiv 17 \pmod{24} \end{cases}$$

and so

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(4, 1) \Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{C}{3}\right) = (-1)^{(C^2-1)/8}.$$

(ii) If  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ ,  $p > 3$  and  $C \equiv D \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , then

$$(2 \pm \sqrt{3})^{(p+1)/4} \equiv \begin{cases} (-1)^{(C-1)/4} \left(\frac{C}{3}\right) \pmod{p} & \text{if } p \equiv 19 \pmod{24}, \\ (-1)^{(C-1)/4} \left(\frac{D}{3}\right) \frac{D}{C} (1 \pm \sqrt{3}) \pmod{p} & \text{if } p \equiv 11 \pmod{24}. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* If  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ , then  $2 \mid D$ . If  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ , then  $2 \nmid D$ . Thus, putting  $A = B = 1$  and  $m = 2$  in Corollary 2.1 we see that

$$\left(\frac{1 \pm \sqrt{3}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \equiv \begin{cases} \left(\frac{C+D}{3}\right) \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{3}{p}\right) = 1, \\ \left(\frac{C+D}{3}\right) \frac{D}{C} (1 \mp \sqrt{3}) \pmod{p} & \text{if } \left(\frac{3}{p}\right) = -1. \end{cases}$$

If  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , then  $3 \mid D$  and  $\left(\frac{3}{p}\right) = (-1)^{(p-1)/2} \left(\frac{p}{3}\right) = (-1)^{(p-1)/2}$ . If  $p \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ , then  $3 \mid C$  and  $\left(\frac{3}{p}\right) = (-1)^{(p-1)/2} \left(\frac{p}{3}\right) = -(-1)^{(p-1)/2}$ . Thus,

$$\left(\frac{1 \pm \sqrt{3}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \equiv \begin{cases} \left(\frac{C}{3}\right) \pmod{p} & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{24}, \\ \left(\frac{D}{3}\right) \frac{D}{C} (1 \mp \sqrt{3}) \pmod{p} & \text{if } p \equiv 17 \pmod{24}, \\ \left(\frac{D}{3}\right) \pmod{p} & \text{if } p \equiv 11 \pmod{24}, \\ \left(\frac{C}{3}\right) \frac{D}{C} (1 \mp \sqrt{3}) \pmod{p} & \text{if } p \equiv 19 \pmod{24}. \end{cases}$$

If  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ , by [S5, p. 1317] we have  $2^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (-1)^{(C^2-1)/8} \pmod{p}$  and so

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{1 \pm \sqrt{3}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/2} &= \left(\frac{2 \pm \sqrt{3}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/4} \\ &\equiv (-1)^{(C^2-1)/8} (2 \pm \sqrt{3})^{(p-1)/4} \pmod{p}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, from the above we obtain the congruence for  $(2 \pm \sqrt{3})^{(p-1)/4} \pmod{p}$ .

Applying Lemma 2.3 we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
 p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(4, 1) &\Leftrightarrow (2 + \sqrt{3})^{(p-1)/4} \equiv 1 \pmod{p} \\
 &\Leftrightarrow p \equiv 1 \pmod{24} \text{ and } (-1)^{(C^2-1)/8} \left(\frac{C}{3}\right) \equiv 1 \pmod{p} \\
 &\Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{C}{3}\right) = (-1)^{(C^2-1)/8}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Now assume  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$  and  $C \equiv D \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . By [S5, p. 1317] again, we have  $2^{(p-3)/4} \equiv (-1)^{(C-1)/2+(C^2-1)/8} \frac{D}{C} = (-1)^{(C-1)/4} \frac{D}{C} \pmod{p}$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
 &(2 \pm \sqrt{3})^{(p+1)/4} \\
 &= 2^{(p+1)/4} \left(\frac{1 \pm \sqrt{3}}{2}\right)^{(p+1)/2} = 2^{(p-3)/4} \left(\frac{1 \pm \sqrt{3}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/2} (1 \pm \sqrt{3}) \\
 &\equiv (-1)^{(C-1)/4} \frac{D}{C} \left(\frac{1 \pm \sqrt{3}}{2}\right)^{(p-1)/2} (1 \pm \sqrt{3}) \\
 &\equiv \begin{cases} (-1)^{(C-1)/4} \frac{D}{C} \left(\frac{D}{3}\right) (1 \pm \sqrt{3}) \pmod{p} & \text{if } 24 \mid p - 11, \\ (-1)^{(C-1)/4} \frac{D}{C} \left(\frac{C}{3}\right) \frac{D}{C} (1 - \sqrt{3})(1 + \sqrt{3}) \equiv (-1)^{(C-1)/4} \left(\frac{C}{3}\right) \pmod{p} & \text{if } 24 \mid p - 19. \end{cases}
 \end{aligned}$$

So (ii) is true and the proof is complete.

We note that we have proved Corollary 2.5 using only the quadratic reciprocity.

**COROLLARY 2.6.** *Let  $p \equiv 1, 19 \pmod{24}$  be a prime and hence  $p = C^2 + 2D^2 = x^2 + 3y^2$  for some  $C, D, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ .*

- (i) *If  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{24}$  and  $C + D \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , then  $(-1)^{(C^2-1)/8} \left(\frac{C}{3}\right) = (-1)^{y/4}$ .*
- (ii) *If  $p \equiv 19 \pmod{24}$  and  $C \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , then  $(-1)^{(C-1)/4} \left(\frac{C}{3}\right) = (-1)^{x/4+1}$ .*

*Proof.* If  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{24}$ , then clearly  $4 \mid y$ . In [L] E. Lehmer showed that  $(2 + \sqrt{3})^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (-1)^{y/4} \pmod{p}$ . If  $p \equiv 19 \pmod{24}$ , then clearly  $4 \mid x$  and  $p \equiv 7 \pmod{12}$ . By [Lem, Ex. 6.30, p. 206] or [S4, Theorem 8.1(2) (with  $m = 4, n = 2, d = 3$ )] we have  $(2 + \sqrt{3})^{(p+1)/4} \equiv (-1)^{x/4+1} \pmod{p}$ . Now comparing the above results with Corollary 2.5 we deduce the corollary.

### 3. Congruences for $(b + \sqrt{a^2 + b^2})^{(p-1)/4} \pmod{p}$

**LEMMA 3.1** (Western’s formula ([HW, (2.9)], [Lem, pp. 296–298])). *Let  $p$  and  $q$  be distinct primes of the form  $8k + 1$ . Suppose  $q = a^2 + b^2 = c^2 + 2d^2$*

with  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then for  $j \in \{0, 1, \dots, 7\}$  we have

$$p^{(q-1)/8} \equiv \left( \frac{(a-b)d}{ac} \right)^j \pmod{q}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow q^{(p-1)/8}(a-bi)^{(p-1)/4}(c-d\sqrt{-2})^{(p-1)/2} \equiv \left( \frac{-1+i}{\sqrt{-2}} \right)^j \pmod{p}.$$

**THEOREM 3.1.** *Let  $p$  and  $q$  be distinct primes of the form  $8k+1$ . Suppose  $p = C^2 + 2D^2 = x^2 + qy^2$  and  $q = a^2 + b^2 = c^2 + 2d^2$  with  $a, b, c, d, C, D, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $a \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ . Then*

$$\left( \frac{b-ix/y}{a} \right)^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (-1)^{by/4} \left( \frac{dC-cD}{q} \right) \left( \frac{x+byi}{a} \right)_4 \pmod{p}$$

and so

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(2b, -a^2) \Leftrightarrow \left( \frac{x+byi}{a} \right)_4 = (-1)^{(p-1)/8+by/4} \left( \frac{dC-cD}{q} \right).$$

*Proof.* It is easily seen that

$$-2i(a-bi)(b-i\sqrt{-a^2-b^2}) = (\sqrt{-a^2-b^2} - a + bi)^2.$$

Thus

$$(-2i)^{(p-1)/4}(a-bi)^{(p-1)/4}(b-i\sqrt{-a^2-b^2})^{(p-1)/4} = (\sqrt{-a^2-b^2} - a + bi)^{(p-1)/2}.$$

By [S6, Theorem 5.1(ii)] we have

$$\left( \frac{x/y - a + bi}{p} \right)_4 = \left( \frac{x - ay + byi}{p} \right)_4 = (-1)^{by/4} \left( \frac{x + byi}{a} \right)_4 \left( \frac{x}{-a + bi} \right)_4.$$

Since  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ , applying [S6, Lemma 6.1] we deduce

$$\left( \frac{x}{y} - a + bi \right)^{(p-1)/2} \equiv (2a)^{(p-1)/4}(-a^2 - b^2)^{(p-1)/8} \cdot (-1)^{by/4} \left( \frac{x + byi}{a} \right)_4 \left( \frac{x}{-a + bi} \right)_4 \pmod{p}.$$

Note that  $(x/y)^2 \equiv -a^2 - b^2 \pmod{p}$ . From the above we derive

$$(-1)^{(p-1)/8} 2^{(p-1)/4} (a-bi)^{(p-1)/4} (b-ix/y)^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (x/y - a + bi)^{(p-1)/2} \equiv (2a)^{(p-1)/4}(-a^2 - b^2)^{(p-1)/8} (-1)^{by/4} \left( \frac{x + byi}{a} \right)_4 \left( \frac{x}{-a + bi} \right)_4 \pmod{p}.$$

Therefore,

$$(3.1) \quad (a^2 + b^2)^{(p-1)/8}(a - bi)^{(p-1)/4} \left(b - i\frac{x}{y}\right)^{(p-1)/4} \\ \equiv a^{(p-1)/4}(a^2 + b^2)^{(p-1)/4}(-1)^{by/4} \left(\frac{x + byi}{a}\right)_4 \left(\frac{x}{-a + bi}\right)_4 \pmod{p}.$$

Clearly  $q \nmid x$ . Suppose  $x^{(q-1)/4} \equiv \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^k \pmod{q}$  for  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then

$$p^{(q-1)/8} = (x^2 + qy^2)^{(q-1)/8} \equiv x^{(q-1)/4} \equiv \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^k \equiv \left(\frac{(a-b)d}{ac}\right)^{2k} \pmod{q}.$$

Hence, appealing to Lemma 3.1 we have

$$(a^2 + b^2)^{(p-1)/8}(a - bi)^{(p-1)/4}(c - d\sqrt{-2})^{(p-1)/2} \equiv \left(\frac{-1 + i}{\sqrt{-2}}\right)^{2k} = i^k \pmod{p}.$$

As  $c^2D^2 - d^2C^2 \equiv c^2D^2 - d^2(-2D^2) = qD^2 \pmod{p}$  and  $c^2D^2 - d^2C^2 \equiv -2d^2D^2 - d^2C^2 = -pd^2 \pmod{q}$ , we see that  $(c^2D^2 - d^2C^2, pq) = 1$ . Set  $D = 2^sD_0$  and  $cD - dC = 2^rA$  with  $2 \nmid AD_0$ . Then  $(A, pq) = 1$ . Thus,

$$\left(\frac{c - dC/D}{p}\right) \\ = \left(\frac{D}{p}\right) \left(\frac{cD - dC}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{D_0}{p}\right) \left(\frac{A}{p}\right) = \left(\frac{p}{D_0}\right) \left(\frac{p}{A}\right) \\ = \left(\frac{C^2 + 2D^2}{D_0}\right) \left(\frac{C^2 + 2D^2}{A}\right) = \left(\frac{C^2}{D_0}\right) \left(\frac{q}{A}\right) \left(\frac{(c^2 + 2d^2)(C^2 + 2D^2)}{A}\right) \\ = \left(\frac{q}{A}\right) \left(\frac{(cC + 2dD)^2 + 2(cD - dC)^2}{A}\right) = \left(\frac{q}{A}\right) = \left(\frac{A}{q}\right) = \left(\frac{cD - dC}{q}\right).$$

Note that  $\left(\frac{C}{D}\right)^2 \equiv -2 \pmod{p}$ . From the above we deduce

$$(a^2 + b^2)^{(p-1)/8}(a - bi)^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (c - d\sqrt{-2})^{-(p-1)/2} i^k \\ \equiv \left(\frac{c - dC/D}{p}\right) i^k = \left(\frac{cD - dC}{q}\right) i^k \pmod{p}.$$

Substituting this into (3.1) we see that

$$\left(\frac{b - ix/y}{a}\right)^{(p-1)/4} \\ \equiv \left(\frac{cD - dC}{q}\right) i^{-k} q^{(p-1)/4} (-1)^{by/4} \left(\frac{x + byi}{a}\right)_4 \left(\frac{x}{-a + bi}\right)_4 \pmod{p}.$$

From [S5, Corollary 4.6(i)] we know that  $q^{(p-1)/4} \equiv \left(\frac{x}{q}\right) \pmod{p}$ . As  $x^{(q-1)/4} \equiv \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^k \pmod{q}$  we have  $x^{(q-1)/2} \equiv (-1)^k \pmod{q}$  and so  $\left(\frac{x}{q}\right) = (-1)^k$ .

Thus  $q^{(p-1)/4} \equiv \left(\frac{x}{q}\right) = (-1)^k \pmod{p}$ . Since  $q = a^2 + b^2$  and  $a - bi$  is primary in  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ , we have  $x^{(q-1)/4} \equiv \left(\frac{b}{a}\right)^k \equiv (-i)^k = i^{-k} \pmod{a - bi}$  and so  $\left(\frac{x}{-a+bi}\right)_4 = \left(\frac{x}{a-bi}\right)_4 = i^{-k}$ . Thus,

$$q^{(p-1)/4} \left(\frac{x}{-a + bi}\right)_4 i^{-k} \equiv (-1)^k \cdot i^{-k} \cdot i^{-k} = 1 \pmod{p}$$

and therefore

$$\left(\frac{b - ix/y}{a}\right)^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (-1)^{by/4} \left(\frac{cD - dC}{q}\right) \left(\frac{x + byi}{a}\right)_4 \pmod{p}.$$

Note that  $\left(\frac{ix}{y}\right)^2 \equiv a^2 + b^2 \pmod{p}$ . From Lemma 2.3 and the above we deduce

$$\begin{aligned} p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(2b, -a^2) &\Leftrightarrow (b + \sqrt{b^2 + a^2})^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (-a^2)^{(p-1)/8} \pmod{p} \\ &\Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{b + \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}{a}\right)^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (-1)^{(p-1)/8} \pmod{p} \\ &\Leftrightarrow (-1)^{by/4} \left(\frac{cD - dC}{q}\right) \left(\frac{x + byi}{a}\right)_4 \equiv (-1)^{(p-1)/8} \pmod{p} \\ &\Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{x + byi}{a}\right)_4 = (-1)^{(p-1)/8 + by/4} \left(\frac{cD - dC}{q}\right). \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.

**COROLLARY 3.1.** *Let  $p \neq 17$  be a prime of the form  $8k + 1$  and so  $p = C^2 + 2D^2$  for some  $C, D \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then*

$$\begin{aligned} (4 \pm \sqrt{17})^{(p-1)/4} &\equiv 1 \pmod{p} \\ &\Leftrightarrow p = x^2 + 17y^2 \ (x, y \in \mathbb{Z}) \text{ and } (-1)^y = \left(\frac{2C - 3D}{17}\right) \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned} p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(8, -1) \\ &\Leftrightarrow p = x^2 + 17y^2 \ (x, y \in \mathbb{Z}) \text{ and } (-1)^{(p-1)/8+y} = \left(\frac{2C - 3D}{17}\right). \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* If  $\left(\frac{17}{p}\right) = -1$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} (4 \pm \sqrt{17})^{p-1} &= \frac{(4 \pm \sqrt{17})^p}{4 \pm \sqrt{17}} \equiv \frac{4 \pm (\sqrt{17})^p}{4 \pm \sqrt{17}} \equiv \frac{4 \mp \sqrt{17}}{4 \pm \sqrt{17}} \\ &= -(4 \mp \sqrt{17})^2 \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p} \end{aligned}$$

and so  $(4 \pm \sqrt{17})^{(p-1)/2} \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ . If  $\left(\frac{17}{p}\right) = 1$ , by [Br] or [S5, p. 1324] we have

$$(4 \pm \sqrt{17})^{(p-1)/2} \equiv 1 \pmod{p} \Leftrightarrow p = x^2 + 17y^2 \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{Z}).$$

Assume  $p = x^2 + 17y^2$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Taking  $q = 17, a = 1, b = 4, c = 3$  and  $d = 2$  in Theorem 3.1 we deduce

$$(4 \pm \sqrt{17})^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (-1)^y \left(\frac{2C - 3D}{17}\right) \pmod{p}.$$

By Lemma 2.3 we have

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(8, -1) \Leftrightarrow (4 + \sqrt{17})^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (-1)^{(p-1)/8} \pmod{p}.$$

Thus the result follows.

**COROLLARY 3.2.** *Let  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$  be a prime such that  $p = C^2 + 2D^2 = x^2 + 257y^2 \neq 257$  for  $C, D, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then*

$$(16 \pm \sqrt{257})^{(p-1)/4} \equiv \left(\frac{4C - 15D}{257}\right) \pmod{p}$$

and so

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(32, -1) \Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{4C - 15D}{257}\right) = (-1)^{(p-1)/8}.$$

*Proof.* Taking  $q = 257, a = 1, b = 16, c = 15$  and  $d = 4$  in Theorem 3.1 we obtain the result.

**COROLLARY 3.3.** *Let  $p \neq 73$  be a prime of the form  $8k + 1$  such that  $p = C^2 + 2D^2 = x^2 + 73y^2$  for  $C, D, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then*

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(16, -9) \Leftrightarrow 3 \mid xy \text{ and } (-1)^{(p-1)/8} \left(\frac{6C - D}{73}\right) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } 3 \mid y, \\ -1 & \text{if } 3 \mid x. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Taking  $q = 73, a = -3, b = 8, c = 1$  and  $d = 6$  in Theorem 3.1 we see that

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(16, -9) \Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{x + 8yi}{3}\right)_4 = \left(\frac{x + 8yi}{-3}\right)_4 = (-1)^{(p-1)/8} \left(\frac{6C - D}{73}\right).$$

Since

$$\left(\frac{x + 8yi}{3}\right)_4 = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{x}{3}\right)_4 = 1 & \text{if } 3 \mid y, \\ \left(\frac{8yi}{3}\right)_4 = \left(\frac{i}{3}\right)_4 = -1 & \text{if } 3 \mid x, \\ \left(\frac{1+8i}{3}\right)_4 = \left(\frac{i(1+i)}{3}\right)_4 = i & \text{if } 3 \mid x - y, \\ \left(\frac{1-8i}{3}\right)_4 = \left(\frac{1+i}{3}\right)_4 = -i & \text{if } 3 \mid x + y, \end{cases}$$

from the above we deduce the result.



COROLLARY 3.4. Let  $p \neq 41$  be a prime of the form  $8k + 1$  such that  $p = C^2 + 2D^2 = x^2 + 41y^2$  for  $C, D, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(8, -25) \Leftrightarrow 5 \mid xy \text{ and } (-1)^{(p-1)/8+y} \left( \frac{4C - 3D}{41} \right) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } 5 \mid y, \\ -1 & \text{if } 5 \mid x. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Taking  $q = 41, a = 5, b = 4, c = 3$  and  $d = 4$  in Theorem 3.1 we see that

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(8, -25) \Leftrightarrow \left( \frac{x + 4yi}{5} \right)_4 = (-1)^{(p-1)/8+y} \left( \frac{4C - 3D}{41} \right).$$

Since  $x \not\equiv \pm 2y \pmod{5}$  and

$$\left( \frac{x + 4yi}{5} \right)_4 = \begin{cases} \left( \frac{x}{5} \right)_4 = 1 & \text{if } 5 \mid y, \\ \left( \frac{4yi}{5} \right)_4 = \left( \frac{i}{5} \right)_4 = -1 & \text{if } 5 \mid x, \\ \left( \frac{1+4i}{5} \right)_4 = \left( \frac{i(1+i)}{5} \right)_4 = -i & \text{if } 5 \mid x - y, \\ \left( \frac{1-4i}{5} \right)_4 = \left( \frac{1+i}{5} \right)_4 = i & \text{if } 5 \mid x + y, \end{cases}$$

from the above we deduce the result.

COROLLARY 3.5. Let  $p \neq 89$  be a prime of the form  $8k + 1$  such that  $p = C^2 + 2D^2 = x^2 + 89y^2$  for  $C, D, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(16, -25) \Leftrightarrow 5 \mid xy \text{ and } (-1)^{(p-1)/8} \left( \frac{2C - 9D}{89} \right) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } 5 \mid y, \\ -1 & \text{if } 5 \mid x. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Taking  $q = 89, a = 5, b = 8, c = 9$  and  $d = 2$  in Theorem 3.1 we see that

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(16, -25) \Leftrightarrow \left( \frac{x + 8yi}{5} \right)_4 = (-1)^{(p-1)/8} \left( \frac{2C - 9D}{89} \right).$$

Since  $x \not\equiv \pm y \pmod{5}$  and

$$\left( \frac{x + 8yi}{5} \right)_4 = \begin{cases} \left( \frac{x}{5} \right)_4 = 1 & \text{if } 5 \mid y, \\ \left( \frac{8yi}{5} \right)_4 = \left( \frac{i}{5} \right)_4 = -1 & \text{if } 5 \mid x, \\ \left( \frac{1+4i}{5} \right)_4 = \left( \frac{i(1+i)}{5} \right)_4 = -i & \text{if } 5 \mid x - 2y, \\ \left( \frac{1-4i}{5} \right)_4 = \left( \frac{1+i}{5} \right)_4 = i & \text{if } 5 \mid x + 2y, \end{cases}$$

the result follows.

LEMMA 3.2 ([E], [S1, Proposition 1], [S2, Lemma 2.1]). Let  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $2 \nmid m$  and  $(m, a^2 + b^2) = 1$ . Then

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

THEOREM 3.2. Let  $A, B \in \mathbb{Z}$  be such that  $2 \nmid A$  and  $A^4 + 16B^2$  is a prime, and let  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$  be a prime such that  $p = x^2 + (A^4 + 16B^2)y^2 \neq$

$A^4 + 16B^2$  for  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Assume  $A^4 + 16B^2 = c^2 + 2d^2$  and  $p = C^2 + 2D^2$  with  $c, d, C, D \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then

$$(4B \pm \sqrt{A^4 + 16B^2})^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (-1)^{By} \left( \frac{dC - cD}{A^4 + 16B^2} \right) \pmod{p}$$

and

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(8B, -A^4) \Leftrightarrow (-1)^{By} \left( \frac{dC - cD}{A^4 + 16B^2} \right) = (-1)^{(p-1)/8} \left( \frac{A}{p} \right).$$

*Proof.* Putting  $q = A^4 + 16B^2$ ,  $a = A^2$  and  $b = 4B$  in Theorem 3.1 we see that

$$\left( \frac{4B - ix/y}{A^2} \right)^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (-1)^{By} \left( \frac{dC - cD}{A^4 + 16B^2} \right) \left( \frac{x + 4Byi}{A^2} \right)_4 \pmod{p}.$$

From Lemma 3.2 we have

$$\left( \frac{x + 4Byi}{A^2} \right)_4 = \left( \frac{x^2 + 16B^2y^2}{A} \right) = \left( \frac{p - A^4y^2}{A} \right) = \left( \frac{p}{A} \right) = \left( \frac{A}{p} \right).$$

Thus,

$$\left( 4B - i\frac{x}{y} \right)^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (-1)^{By} \left( \frac{dC - cD}{A^4 + 16B^2} \right) \pmod{p}$$

and so

$$\left( 4B + i\frac{x}{y} \right)^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (-1)^{By} \left( \frac{dC - cD}{A^4 + 16B^2} \right) \pmod{p}.$$

Since  $(ix/y)^2 \equiv A^4 + 16B^2 \pmod{p}$ , we deduce

$$(4B \pm \sqrt{A^4 + 16B^2})^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (-1)^{By} \left( \frac{dC - cD}{A^4 + 16B^2} \right) \pmod{p}.$$

Applying Lemma 2.3 we see that

$$\begin{aligned} p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(8B, -A^4) &\Leftrightarrow (-1)^{By} \left( \frac{dC - cD}{A^4 + 16B^2} \right) \equiv (-A^4)^{(p-1)/8} \equiv (-1)^{(p-1)/8} \left( \frac{A}{p} \right) \pmod{p} \\ &\Leftrightarrow (-1)^{By} \left( \frac{dC - cD}{A^4 + 16B^2} \right) = (-1)^{(p-1)/8} \left( \frac{A}{p} \right). \end{aligned}$$

This proves the theorem.

**COROLLARY 3.6.** Let  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$  be a prime such that  $p = C^2 + 2D^2 = x^2 + 97y^2 \neq 97$  for  $C, D, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then

$$(4 \pm \sqrt{97})^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (-1)^y \left( \frac{6C - 5D}{97} \right) \pmod{p}$$

and so

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(8, -81) \Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{6C - 5D}{97}\right) = (-1)^{(p-1)/8+y} \left(\frac{p}{3}\right).$$

*Proof.* Taking  $A = 3$  and  $B = 1$  in Theorem 3.2 we obtain the result.

**COROLLARY 3.7.** *Let  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$  be a prime such that  $p = C^2 + 2D^2 = x^2 + 337y^2 \neq 337$  for  $C, D, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then*

$$(16 \pm \sqrt{337})^{(p-1)/4} \equiv \left(\frac{12C - 7D}{337}\right) \pmod{p}$$

and so

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(32, -81) \Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{12C - 7D}{337}\right) = (-1)^{(p-1)/8} \left(\frac{p}{3}\right).$$

*Proof.* Taking  $A = 3$  and  $B = 4$  in Theorem 3.2 we obtain the result.

**COROLLARY 3.8.** *Let  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$  be a prime such that  $p = C^2 + 2D^2 = x^2 + 641y^2 \neq 641$  for  $C, D, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then*

$$(4 \pm \sqrt{641})^{(p-1)/4} \equiv (-1)^y \left(\frac{10C - 21D}{641}\right) \pmod{p}$$

and so

$$p \mid U_{(p-1)/8}(8, -625) \Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{10C - 21D}{641}\right) = (-1)^{(p-1)/8+y} \left(\frac{p}{5}\right).$$

*Proof.* Taking  $A = 5$  and  $B = 1$  in Theorem 3.2 we obtain the result.

### 4. Five conjectures

**CONJECTURE 4.1.** *Let  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$  be a prime and  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $2 \nmid k$ . Suppose  $p = x^2 + (k^2 + 1)y^2$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then*

$$V_{(p+1)/4}(2k, -1) \equiv \begin{cases} -(-1)^{\frac{(p-1)y^2-1}{8}} 2^{(p+1)/4} \pmod{p} & \text{if } k \equiv 5, 7 \pmod{8}, \\ (-1)^{\frac{(p-1)y^2-1}{8}} 2^{(p+1)/4} \pmod{p} & \text{if } k \equiv 1, 3 \pmod{8}. \end{cases}$$

In the case  $k = 1$ , Conjecture 4.1 was proved by the author in [S6] and by C. N. Beli in [B].

**CONJECTURE 4.2.** *Let  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  be a prime and  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $2 \nmid k$ . Suppose  $2p = x^2 + (k^2 + 4)y^2$  for some  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ .*

(i) *If  $k \equiv 1, 3 \pmod{8}$ , then*

$$V_{(p+1)/4}(k, -1) \equiv \begin{cases} (-1)^{\frac{(p-1)y^2-1}{8}} (-2)^{(p+1)/4} \pmod{p} & \text{if } k \equiv 1, 11 \pmod{16}, \\ -(-1)^{\frac{(p-1)y^2-1}{8}} (-2)^{(p+1)/4} \pmod{p} & \text{if } k \equiv 3, 9 \pmod{16}. \end{cases}$$

(ii) If  $k \equiv 5, 7 \pmod{8}$ , then

$$V_{(p+1)/4}(k, -1) \equiv \begin{cases} (-1)^{\frac{(p-1)y^2-1}{8}} 2^{(p+1)/4} \pmod{p} & \text{if } k \equiv 5, 15 \pmod{16}, \\ -(-1)^{\frac{(p-1)y^2-1}{8}} 2^{(p+1)/4} \pmod{p} & \text{if } k \equiv 7, 13 \pmod{16}. \end{cases}$$

In the case  $k = 1$ , Conjecture 4.2 was stated by the author in [S3, S6] and proved by C. N. Beli in [B].

Conjectures 4.1 and 4.2 have been checked for all  $1 \leq k < 100$  and  $p < 20\,000$ .

Inspired by [S6, Conjectures 9.1–9.9], we pose the following conjectures.

CONJECTURE 4.3. Let  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  and  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$  be primes such that  $p = c^2 + d^2 = x^2 + qy^2$  with  $c, d, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $q \mid cd$ . Suppose  $c \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ ,  $x = 2^\alpha x_0$ ,  $y = 2^\beta y_0$  and  $x_0 \equiv y_0 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

(i) If  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ , then

$$q^{(p-1)/8} \equiv \begin{cases} \pm(-1)^{y/4} \pmod{p} & \text{if } x \equiv \pm c \pmod{q}, \\ \mp(-1)^{(q-3)/8+y/4} \frac{d}{c} \pmod{p} & \text{if } x \equiv \pm d \pmod{q}. \end{cases}$$

(ii) If  $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ , then

$$q^{(p-5)/8} \equiv \begin{cases} \pm \frac{y}{x} \pmod{p} & \text{if } x \equiv \pm c \pmod{q}, \\ \mp(-1)^{(q-3)/8} \frac{dy}{cx} \pmod{p} & \text{if } x \equiv \pm d \pmod{q}. \end{cases}$$

CONJECTURE 4.4. Let  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  and  $q \equiv 7 \pmod{16}$  be primes such that  $p = c^2 + d^2 = x^2 + qy^2$  with  $c, d, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $q \mid cd$ . Suppose  $c \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ ,  $x = 2^\alpha x_0$ ,  $y = 2^\beta y_0$  and  $x_0 \equiv y_0 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

(i) If  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ , then

$$q^{(p-1)/8} \equiv \begin{cases} (-1)^{y/4} \pmod{p} & \text{if } q \mid d, \\ -(-1)^{y/4} \pmod{p} & \text{if } q \mid c. \end{cases}$$

(ii) If  $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ , then

$$q^{(p-5)/8} \equiv \begin{cases} \frac{y}{x} \pmod{p} & \text{if } q \mid d, \\ -\frac{y}{x} \pmod{p} & \text{if } q \mid c. \end{cases}$$

CONJECTURE 4.5. Let  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  and  $q \equiv 15 \pmod{16}$  be primes such that  $p = c^2 + d^2 = x^2 + qy^2$  with  $c, d, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $q \mid cd$ . Suppose  $x = 2^\alpha x_0$ ,  $y = 2^\beta y_0$  and  $x_0 \equiv y_0 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ .

(i) If  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ , then  $q^{(p-1)/8} \equiv (-1)^{y/4} \pmod{p}$ .

(ii) If  $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ , then  $q^{(p-5)/8} \equiv \frac{y}{x} \pmod{p}$ .

Conjectures 4.3–4.5 have been checked for all primes  $p < 200\,000$  and  $q < 200$ .

**Added in proof.** We have the following generalization of Conjectures 4.4 and 4.5.

CONJECTURE 4.6. *Let  $q$  be a prime of the form  $8k + 7$ . Then there exist disjoint subsets  $S_0, S_1, S_2$  of  $\{\infty\} \cup \{k \in \mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z} : (\frac{k^2+1}{q}) = 1\}$  such that for any primes  $p = c^2 + d^2 = x^2 + qy^2$  with  $c, d, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $x = 2^\alpha x_0$ ,  $2^\beta y_0$  and  $c \equiv x_0 \equiv y_0 \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ ,*

$$q^{(p-1)/8} \equiv \begin{cases} (-1)^{y/4} \pmod{p} & \text{if } c/d \in S_0, \\ -(-1)^{y/4} \pmod{p} & \text{if } c/d \in S_1, \\ \pm(-1)^{y/4} \frac{d}{c} \pmod{p} & \text{if } \pm c/d \in S_2, \end{cases} \quad \text{for } p \equiv 1 \pmod{8},$$

and

$$q^{(p-5)/8} \equiv \begin{cases} \frac{y}{x} \pmod{p} & \text{if } c/d \in S_0, \\ -\frac{y}{x} \pmod{p} & \text{if } c/d \in S_1, \\ \pm \frac{dy}{cx} \pmod{p} & \text{if } \pm c/d \in S_2, \end{cases} \quad \text{for } p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}.$$

Here we identify  $c/d$  with  $\infty$  when  $q \mid d$ , and identify  $a$  with  $a+q\mathbb{Z}$ . Moreover,  $|S_0| = |S_1| = |S_2| = (q+1)/8$ ,  $a/b \in S_0 \cup S_1$  implies  $(\frac{a+bi}{q})_4 = 1$ , and  $a/b \in S_2$  implies  $(\frac{a+bi}{q})_4 = -1$ .

For  $q = 23$  we have  $S_0 = \{\infty, \pm 10\}$ ,  $S_1 = \{0, \pm 7\}$  and  $S_2 = \{1, 5, -9\}$ . For  $q = 31$  we have  $S_0 = \{0, \infty, \pm 1\}$ ,  $S_1 = \{\pm 7, \pm 9\}$  and  $S_2 = \{-2, 3, 10, -15\}$ . For  $q = 47$  we have  $S_0 = \{0, \infty, \pm 4, \pm 12\}$ ,  $S_1 = \{\pm 1, \pm 10, \pm 14\}$  and  $S_2 = \{-6, -7, 8, -11, -17, -20\}$ .

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