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ON EULER'S CRITERION FOR QUINTIC NONRESIDUES

KENNETH S. WILLIAMS

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Let p be a prime $\equiv 1 \pmod{5}$. If 2 is a quintic nonresidue \pmod{p} then $2^{p-1/5} \equiv \alpha \pmod{p}$ for some fifth root of unity $\alpha_5 \ (\not\equiv 1) \pmod{p}$. Emma Lehmer has given an explicit expression for α_5 in terms of a particular solution of a certain quadratic partition of p. In this paper we show how in principle the corresponding result can be obtained for any quintic nonresidue $D \pmod{p}$. Full details are given for D=2,3,5.

- 1. Introduction. Let k be an integer ≥ 2 and let p be a prime $\equiv 1 \pmod{k}$. Euler's criterion states that $D^{(p-1)/k} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ if and only if D is a kth power residue \pmod{p} . Thus if D is not a kth power residue \pmod{p} , for some kth root of unity $\alpha_k (\not\equiv 1) \mod p$ we have $D^{(p-1)/k} \equiv \alpha_k \pmod{p}$. Clearly $\alpha_2 = -1$. For k > 2 Emma Lehmer [3] has proposed the problem of specifying which α_k corresponds to a given D. For D=2, k=3, 4, 5, 8, she has given explicit expressions for α_k in terms of certain quadratic partitions of p. Elsewhere the author [6] has given a complete treatment of the case k=3. In this paper we treat the case k=5. Full details are given for D=2, 3, 5. The method used is described in §4 and can be applied to any value of D if the reader has the patience to supply the many details.
- 2. Two lemmas involving the domain $Z[\zeta]$. We set $\zeta = \exp{(2\pi i/5)}$. If Q denotes the field of rational numbers, the cyclotomic field formed by adjoining ζ to Q is denoted by $Q(\zeta)$. The domain of integers of $Q(\zeta)$ is denoted by $Z[\zeta]$. Every element of $Z[\zeta]$ can be written in the form $a_1\zeta + a_2\zeta^2 + a_3\zeta^3 + a_4\zeta^4$, where a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4 are rational integers. The domain $Z[\zeta]$ is a unique factorization domain. The element $1-\zeta$ is a prime in $Z[\zeta]$ which divides 5. The units of $Z[\zeta]$ are given by $\pm \zeta^i(\zeta + \zeta^4)^j$, where i and j are integers with $0 \le i \le 4$. If α and β are associated nonzero elements, that is α/β is a unit, we write $\alpha \sim \beta$. The complex conjugate of an element $\alpha \in Z[\zeta]$ will be denoted by $\overline{\alpha} (\in Z[\zeta])$. We will need the following two results.
- LEMMA 1. If $\alpha \in Z[\zeta]$ is such that $\alpha \not\equiv 0 \pmod{1-\zeta}$ then α possesses an associate α' such that $\alpha' \equiv -1 \pmod{(1-\zeta)^2}$.

Proof. Set
$$\alpha = a_1 \zeta + a_2 \zeta^2 + a_3 \zeta^3 + a_4 \zeta^4$$
, $b = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4$, $c =$

 $a_1+2a_2+3a_3+4a_4$. As $\alpha \not\equiv 0 \pmod{1-\zeta}$ we have $b\not\equiv 0 \pmod{5}$. We define d uniquely by $2^db \equiv -1 \pmod{5}$, $0 \leq d \leq 3$. Then we have only to choose $\alpha' = \zeta^{cz^d}(\zeta + \zeta^4)^d\alpha$, as $\zeta + \zeta^4 \equiv 2 \pmod{(1-3)^2}$ and $\zeta^{cz^d} \equiv b \pmod{(1-\zeta)^2}$.

LEMMA 2. If $\alpha, \beta \in Z[\zeta]$ are such that

- (a) $\alpha \bar{\alpha} = \beta \bar{\beta}$
- (b) $\alpha, \beta \not\equiv 0 \pmod{1-\zeta}$,
- (c) $\alpha \equiv \beta \pmod{(1-\zeta)^2}$,
- (d) $\alpha \sim \beta$,

then

$$\alpha = \beta$$
.

Proof. By (d) we have $\alpha = \pm \zeta^i (\zeta + \zeta^4)^j \beta$, for integers i and j with $0 \le i \le 4$. Thus using (a) we obtain $\alpha \overline{\alpha} = (\zeta + \zeta^4)^{2j} \beta \overline{\beta} = (\zeta + \zeta^4)^{2j} \alpha \overline{\alpha}$. Now (b) guarantees that $\alpha \ne 0$, so that $\alpha \overline{\alpha} \ne 0$, and we must have $(\zeta + \zeta^4)^{2j} = 1$. As $\zeta + \zeta^4 = \frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{5} - 1) > 0$ we have j = 0 and so $\alpha = \pm \zeta^i \beta$, $0 \le i \le 4$. From (b) and (c) we have $(\pm \zeta^i - 1)\beta \equiv 0 \pmod{(1 - \zeta)^2}$, $\beta \ne 0 \pmod{1 - \zeta}$, so that

$$\pm \zeta^i - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{(1-\zeta)^2}$$
.

As i = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 this can only hold with the positive sign and i = 0, so that $\alpha = \beta$.

3. Dickson's diophantine system. Throughout the rest of this paper p denotes a prime $\equiv 1 \pmod{5}$. Our results involve the diophantine system

(3.1)
$$\begin{array}{c} 16p = x^2 + 50u^2 + 50v^2 + 125w^2 \;, \quad x \equiv 1 \, (\text{mod 5}) \;, \\ xw = v^2 - 4uv - u^2 \;. \end{array}$$

A theorem of Dickson [1] asserts that (3.1) has exactly four solutions. If (x, u, v, w) is one of these, the other three are given by (x, -u, -v, w), (x, v, -u, -w), (x, -v, u, -w). Taking the first equation in (3.1) modulo 8 and the second one modulo 4 we can show (after a little calculation) that $x + 2u - w \equiv x + 2v + w \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ for any solution of (3.1). This enables us to make the following definition.

DEFINITION 1. For any solution (x, u, v, w) of [(3.1)] we define $\psi \equiv \psi(x, u, v, w) \in Z[\zeta]$ by

$$\psi = c_1 \zeta + c_2 \zeta^2 + c_3 \zeta^3 + c_4 \zeta^4,$$

where $c_i \equiv c_i(x, u, v, w) \in Z(1 \le i \le 4)$ are given by

$$4c_1 = -x + 2u + 4v + 5w \; , \ 4c_2 = -x + 4u - 2v - 5w \; , \ 4c_3 = -x - 4u + 2v - 5w \; , \ 4c_4 = -x - 2u - 4v + 5w \; .$$

The properties of ψ that we shall need are given in the next lemma.

LEMMA 3. (a) $\psi \overline{\psi} = p$. (b) $\psi \equiv -1 \pmod{(1-\zeta)^2}$.

(c) If $\sigma_i(1 \leq i \leq 4)$ is the automorphism of $Q(\zeta)$ defined by $\sigma_i(\zeta) = \zeta^i$ then G.C.D. (ψ_1, ψ_2) is a prime of $Z[\zeta]$, where $\psi_i = \sigma_i(\psi)(1 \leq i \leq 4)$.

Proof. (a) As $\zeta + \zeta^4 = 1/2(-1 + \sqrt{5})$, $\zeta^2 + \zeta^3 = 1/2(-1 - \sqrt{5})$, we have from (3.2)

$$egin{aligned} \psi ar{\psi} &= \left\{ (c_1^2 + c_2^2 + c_3^2 + c_4^2) - rac{1}{2} (c_1 c_2 + c_2 c_3 + c_3 c_4 + c_1 c_3
ight. \ &+ c_1 c_4 + c_2 c_4) + rac{\sqrt{5}}{2} (c_1 c_2 + c_2 c_3 + c_3 c_4 - c_1 c_3
ight. \ &- c_1 c_4 - c_2 c_4)
ight\} \ &= rac{1}{16} (x^2 + 50 u^2 + 50 v^2 + 125 w^2) - rac{5 \sqrt{5}}{8} \ & imes (v^2 - 4 u v - u^2 - x w) = v \; . \end{aligned}$$

(b) From (3.1) and (3.3) we have

$$c_{\scriptscriptstyle 1}+c_{\scriptscriptstyle 2}+c_{\scriptscriptstyle 3}+c_{\scriptscriptstyle 4}=-x\equiv -1$$
, $c_{\scriptscriptstyle 1}+2c_{\scriptscriptstyle 2}+3c_{\scriptscriptstyle 3}+4c_{\scriptscriptstyle 4}\equiv 0\ ({
m mod}\ 5)$,

so that $\psi \equiv -1 \pmod{(1-\zeta)^2}$.

(c) Let π be a prime dividing p. As $p \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ we have $p = \pi_1 \pi_2 \pi_3 \pi_4$, where $\pi_i = \sigma_i(\pi)$, $1 \leq i \leq 4$. By (a) ψ is (up to multiplication by a unit) one of $\pi_1 \pi_2$, $\pi_1 \pi_3$, $\pi_2 \pi_4$, $\pi_3 \pi_4$. In each case G.C.D. (ψ_1, ψ_2) is a prime.

Lemma 1 and Lemma 3(c) enable us to define a prime \mathcal{K} of $Z[\zeta]$ as follows.

DEFINITION 2. For any solution (x, u, v, w) of (3.1) we let $\mathcal{K} \equiv \mathcal{K}(x, u, v, w) \in Z[\zeta]$ be such that

$$\mathcal{K} \sim \text{G.C.D.}(\psi_1, \psi_2)$$
, $\mathcal{K} \equiv -1 \pmod{(1-\zeta)^2}$.

We remark that $\mathcal K$ is not unique, indeed all such $\mathcal K$ are given by

 $(-1)^r(\zeta+\zeta^4)^{2r}\mathcal{K}(r\in Z)$. However this does not matter for our purposes. Next we give the prime decomposition of ψ using Lemma 2.

LEMMA 4.
$$\psi = -\mathcal{K}_1 \mathcal{K}_3$$
.

Proof. As $\mathcal{K} \sim \text{G.C.D.}(\psi_1, \psi_2)$ we have $\mathcal{K}_1 | \psi_1$, say, $\psi_1 = \mathcal{K}_1 \lambda_1$. Hence $\psi_2 = \mathcal{K}_2 \lambda_2$ and as $\mathcal{K}_1 | \psi_2$ we must have $\mathcal{K}_1 | \lambda_2$, that is $\mathcal{K}_3 | \lambda_1$, say $\lambda_1 = \mathcal{K}_3 \mu$. Then $\psi_1 = \mathcal{K}_1 \mathcal{K}_3 \mu$ and so we have

$$\mathcal{K}_1\mathcal{K}_2\mathcal{K}_3\mathcal{K}_4=p=\psi_1ar{\psi}_1=(\mathcal{K}_1\mathcal{K}_3\mu)(\mathcal{K}_4\mathcal{K}_2ar{\mu}) \ =\mathcal{K}_1\mathcal{K}_2\mathcal{K}_3\mathcal{K}_4\muar{\mu} \ .$$

Hence we have $\mu\bar{\mu}=1$, so that μ is a unit of $Z[\zeta]$, proving that $\psi \sim \mathcal{K}_1\mathcal{K}_3$. Clearly ψ and $-\mathcal{K}_1\mathcal{K}_3$ satisfy the conditions of Lemma 2 so that $\psi = -\mathcal{K}_1\mathcal{K}_3$.

Finally in this section we set for any solution (x, u, v, w) of (3.1):

$$(3.4) \qquad \frac{\alpha(x,\,u,\,v,\,w)}{=\frac{w(125w^2-x^2)+2(xw+5uv)(25w-x+20u-10v)}{w(125w^2-x^2)+2(xw+5uv)(25w-x-20u+10v)}}$$

and prove

LEMMA 5.
$$\alpha(x, u, v, w) \equiv \zeta \pmod{\mathscr{K}}$$
.

Proof. From (3.2) and $\psi_1 \equiv \psi_2 \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathscr{K}}$ we obtain modulo \mathscr{K} :

$$egin{align} 5c_1 &\equiv (\zeta^2-1)\psi_3 + (\zeta-1)\psi_4 \ , \ 5c_2 &\equiv (\zeta^4-1)\psi_3 + (\zeta^2-1)\psi_4 \ , \ 5c_3 &\equiv (\zeta-1)\psi_3 + (\zeta^3-1)\psi_4 \ , \ 5c_4 &\equiv (\zeta^3-1)\psi_3 + (\zeta^4-1)\psi_4 \ . \ \end{cases}$$

Appealing to (3.3) we get

$$x\equiv\psi_3+\psi_4$$
 , $25u\equivlpha\psi_3+eta\psi_4$, $25v\equiveta\psi_3-lpha\psi_4$, $25w\equiv-\gamma\psi_3+\gamma\psi_4$,

where

$$lpha=-2\zeta+\zeta^2-\zeta^3+2\zeta^4$$
 , $eta=\zeta+2\zeta^2-2\zeta^3-\zeta^4$, $\gamma=\zeta-\zeta^2-\zeta^3+\zeta^4$.

It is easy to check that

$$lphaeta=lpha^{\scriptscriptstyle 2}-eta^{\scriptscriptstyle 2}=5\gamma$$
 , $\gamma^{\scriptscriptstyle 2}=5$.

After some calculation we find that

$$25\{w(125w^2-x^2)+2(xw+5uv)(25w-x+20u-10v)\}$$

$$\equiv 4\gamma\psi_3\psi_4((2+2\zeta)\psi_3+2\zeta^3\psi_4)$$

and

$$25\{w(125w^2-x^2)+2(xw+5uv)(25w-x-20u+10v)\}\ \equiv 4\gamma\psi_3\psi_4((2+2\zeta^4)\psi_3+2\zeta^2\psi_4)$$

from which the result follows immediately.

4. Outline of method. We start with the necessary and sufficient condition for D (without loss of generality we may take D to be a (positive) prime) to be a quintic residue (mod p) in terms of congruences (mod D) involving a solution of (3.1). These have been given for D=2, 3, 5, 7 in [4] and for D=11, 13, 17, 19 in [9]. Results for other values of D could be obtained using the period equation as in [9]. If D is a quintic nonresidue (mod p) this condition is used to specify a unique solution of (3.1) by means of congruences (mod D). This unique solution is specified in such a way that after using Lemma 4 we find that the corresponding $\mathcal K$ satisfies ($\mathcal K/D$)₅ = ζ . If $D \neq 5$ we can then appeal to Eisenstein's reciprocity law

"If $\alpha \equiv -1 \pmod{(1-\zeta)^2}$ and α is a rational integer prime to 5 then $(\alpha/a)_5 = (a/\alpha)_5$ "

to obtain $(D/\mathcal{K})_5 = \zeta$, so that $D^{(p-1)/5} \equiv \alpha(x, u, v, w) \pmod{\mathcal{K}}$ by Lemma 5. As both $D^{(p-1)/5}$ and $\alpha(x, u, v, w)$ are rational we have $D^{(p-1)/5} \equiv \alpha(x, u, v, w) \pmod{p}$ as required. If D=5 we must replace the use of Eisenstein's reciprocity law by Kummer's supplement to the law of quintic reciprocity involving the prime $1-\zeta$ [7]. Unfortunately, this requires working modulo 25 rather than modulo 5 and so involves a large number of cases. We thus give an alternative approach based on a result of Muskat [5].

5. D=2. Lehmer [2] has shown that 2 is a quintic residue (mod p) if and only if $x\equiv 0\ (\text{mod }2)$, where $(x,\,u,\,v,\,w)$ is any solution of (3.1). Thus if 2 is a quintic nonresidue (mod p) we can find by Dickson's theorem a unique solution $(x,\,u,\,v,\,w)$ of (3.1) such that

(5.1)
$$x \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$$
, $u \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$, $x + u - v \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$.

In terms of this solution a simple calculation using (3.3) shows that $\psi \equiv \zeta^3 \pmod{2}$. Then by an examination of cases in conjunction with $\psi = -\mathcal{K}_1\mathcal{K}_3$ (Lemma 4) we find that

$$\mathcal{K} \equiv \zeta^2$$
, $\zeta + \zeta^3$ or $\zeta + \zeta^2 + \zeta^3 \pmod{2}$,

so that $(\mathcal{K}/2)_5 = \zeta$. Appealing to Eisenstein's reciprocity theorem as indicated in § 4 we have reproved

THEOREM 1 (Lehmer [3]). Let p be a prime $\equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ for which 2 is a quintic nonresidue \pmod{p} . Let (x, u, v, w) be the unique solution of (3.1) satisfying (5.1). Then we have

$$2^{(p-1)/5} \equiv \alpha(x, u, v, w) \pmod{p}$$
.

6. D=3. (Lehmer [2] has shown that 3 is a quintic residue (mod p) if and only if $u \equiv v \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$, where (x, u, v, w) is any solution of (3.1).) Thus if 3 is a quintic nonresidue (mod p) we can find by Dickson's theorem a unique solution (x, u, v, w) of (3.1) satisfying one of

In terms of this solution a simple calculation using (3.3) shows that

$$\begin{array}{lll} \psi \equiv -\zeta - \zeta^2 + \zeta^4 \, (\text{mod } 3) \;, & \text{if} & \text{(a) holds ,} \\ \psi \equiv \zeta + \zeta^2 - \zeta^4 & (\text{mod } 3) \;, & \text{if} & \text{(b) holds ,} \\ \psi \equiv -\zeta^4 & (\text{mod } 3) \;, & \text{if} & \text{(c) holds ,} \\ \psi \equiv \zeta^4 & (\text{mod } 3) \;, & \text{if} & \text{(d) holds .} \end{array}$$

Then by an examination of cases (mod 3) in conjunction with Lemma 4 we find that

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{K} &\equiv \pm (\zeta - \zeta^2 - \zeta^4) \;, \quad \pm (\zeta - \zeta^2 + \zeta^3 + \zeta^4) \; (\text{mod } 3) \;, \quad \text{if} \quad (a) \; \text{holds} \;, \\ \mathcal{K} &\equiv \pm (\zeta^3 - \zeta^4) \;, \quad \pm (\zeta - \zeta^2 - \zeta^3) \; (\text{mod } 3) \;, \quad \text{if} \quad (b) \; \text{holds} \;, \\ \mathcal{K} &\equiv \pm \zeta \;, \quad \pm (\zeta - \zeta^3 - \zeta^4) \; (\text{mod } 3) \;, \quad \text{if} \quad (c) \; \text{holds} \;, \\ \mathcal{K} &\equiv \pm (\zeta^3 + \zeta^4) \;, \quad \pm (\zeta + \zeta^3 + \zeta^4) \; (\text{mod } 3) \;, \quad \text{if} \quad (d) \; \text{holds} \;, \end{split}$$

so that in every case $(\mathcal{K}/3)_5 = \zeta$. Appealing to Eisenstein's reciprocity theorem as before we have the following result.

THEOREM 2. Let p be a prime = 1 (mod 5) for which 3 is a quintic nonresidue (mod p). Let (x, u, v, w) be the unique solution of (3.1) satisfying (6.1). Then we have

$$3^{(p-1)/5} \equiv \alpha(x, u, v, w) \pmod{p}$$
.

7. D=5. For p a prime $\equiv 1 \pmod{5}$, g a primitive root \pmod{p} ,

h, k integers selected from 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, the cyclotomic number $(h, k)_5$ is defined to be the number of solutions (s, t) with $0 \le s, t < (p-1)/5$ of $g^{5s+h} + 1 \equiv g^{5t+k} \pmod{p}$. Let (x, u, v, w) be any solution of (3.1). Choose g such that $(g/\mathcal{X})_5 = \zeta$. Then it can be shown that

$$25(0, 0)_5 = p - 14 + 3x,$$

$$100(0, 1)_5 = 100(1, 0)_5 = 100(4, 4)_5 = 4p - 16 - 3x + 50v + 25w,$$

$$100(0, 2)_5 = 100(2, 0)_5 = 100(3, 3)_5 = 4p - 16 - 3x + 50u - 25w,$$

$$100(0, 3)_5 = 100(3, 0)_5 = 100(2, 2)_5 = 4p - 16 - 3x - 50u - 25w,$$

$$100(0, 4)_5 = 100(4, 0)_5 = 100(1, 1)_5 = 4p - 16 - 3x - 50v + 25w,$$

$$100(1, 2)_5 = 100(1, 4)_5 = 100(2, 1)_5 = 100(3, 4)_5 = 100(4, 1)_5$$

$$= 100(4, 3)_5 = 4p + 4 + 2x - 50w,$$

$$100(1, 3)_5 = 100(2, 3)_5 = 100(2, 4)_5 = 100(3, 1)_5 = 100(3, 2)_5$$

$$= 100(4, 2)_5 = 4p + 4 + 2x + 50w,$$

and Muskat [5] has shown that

$$\operatorname{ind}_{g}(5) \equiv (0, 4)_{5} - (0, 1)_{5} + 2((0, 3)_{5} - (0, 2)_{5})) \pmod{5}$$

so that

$$\operatorname{ind}_{g}(5) \equiv -2u - v \pmod{5}$$
.

Thus if 5 is a quintic nonresidue (mod p) $2u+v\not\equiv 0\ (\text{mod }5)$ and by Dickson's theorem there is a unique solution of (3.1) satisfying $2u+v\equiv 4\ (\text{mod }5)$. With this solution we have $\text{ind}_g\ (5)\equiv 1\ (\text{mod }5)$ and so

$$5^{(p-1)/5}\equiv g^{\mathrm{ind}_g(5)\cdot(p-1)/5}\equiv g^{(p-1)/5}\equiv \left(rac{g}{\mathscr{H}}
ight)_5\equiv \zeta\ (\mathrm{mod}\ \mathscr{K})$$
 .

Thus we have proved

THEOREM 3. Let p be a prime $\equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ for which 5 is a quintic nonresidue (mod p). Let (x, u, v, w) be the unique solution of (3.1) satisfying $2u + v \equiv 4 \pmod{5}$. Then we have

$$5^{(p-1)/5} \equiv \alpha(x, u, v, w) \pmod{p}$$
.

8. EXAMPLE. We take p=311. A solution of (3.1) in this case is (-49, 7, 0, 1) (see for example [8]) so none of 2, 3, 5 is a quintic residue (mod 311). The unique solution given by Theorem 1 is (-49, 0, 7, -1) so that

$$2^{(p-1)/5} = 2^{62} \equiv \frac{2276 - 98.46}{2276 + 98.94} \equiv \frac{-2232}{11488} \equiv \frac{-55}{-19} \equiv 52 \pmod{311}$$
.

The unique solution given by Theorem 2 is (-49, -7, 0, 1) so that

$$3^{(p-1)/5} = 3^{62} \equiv \frac{-2276 + 98.66}{-2276 - 98.214} \equiv \frac{4192}{-23248} \equiv \frac{149}{77} \equiv 216 \pmod{311}$$
.

The unique solution given by Theorem 3 is (-49, 7, 0, 1) so that

$$5^{(p-1)/5} = 5^{62} \equiv \frac{-2276 - 98.214}{-2276 + 98.66} \equiv \frac{-23248}{4192} \equiv \frac{77}{149} \equiv 36 \pmod{311}$$
.

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