EXERCISE SHEET 4

This sheet is due in the lecture on Tuesday 28th October, and will be discussed in the exercise class on Friday 31st October.

Exercise 4.1. Computation of the Legendre symbol.

- (1) Evaluate the Legendre symbol $(\frac{474}{733})$ without using the Jacobi symbol.
- (2) Evaluate the Legendre symbol $\left(\frac{-113}{997}\right)$.
- (3) Evaluate the Legendre symbol $\left(\frac{514}{1093}\right)$.

Exercise 4.2. Primes for which a given number is a quadratic residue.

- (1) Find all odd primes for which 5 is a quadratic residue.
- (2) Find all odd primes for which -3 is a quadratic residue.

Exercise 4.3. Properties of Jacobi symbols.

- (1) Let b be a positive odd integer and hcf(a, b) = 1. If a is a quadratic residue modulo b, show that the Jacobi symbol $\left(\frac{a}{b}\right) = 1$.
- (2) Use Definition 4.9 and Proposition 4.4 (1) to give a proof of Proposition 4.12 (1);i.e. for any positive odd integer b, show that

$$\left(\frac{a_1a_2}{b}\right) = \left(\frac{a_1}{b}\right)\left(\frac{a_2}{b}\right).$$

Exercise 4.4. Quadratic residues and the Legendre symbol.

- (1) Find all quadratic residues and non-residues modulo 13.
- (2) Let p be an odd prime and a any integer. Show that the number of solutions to the congruence $x^2 \equiv a \pmod{p}$ is given by $1 + \left(\frac{a}{p}\right)$.
- (3) Use part (2) to show that $\sum_{a=0}^{p-1} \left(\frac{a}{p}\right) = 0$. (Hint: each congruence class modulo p is a solution to $x^2 \equiv a \pmod{p}$ for a unique $a \in \{0, 1, \dots, p-1\}$.)
- (4) Use part (3) to show that, in the set $\{1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$, there are as many quadratic residues as non-residues modulo p. Is your answer to part (1) consistent with this result?