

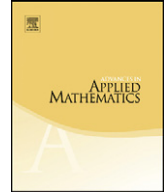


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# Lam's power residue addition sets

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## ABSTRACT

Classical  $n$ -th power residue difference sets modulo  $p$  are known to exist for  $n = 2, 4, 8$ . During the period 1953–1999, their nonexistence has been proved for all odd  $n$  and for  $n = 6, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20$ . In 1976, Lam showed that *qualified*  $n$ -th power residue difference sets modulo  $p$  exist for  $n = 2, 4, 6$ , and he proved their nonexistence for all odd  $n$  and for  $n = 8, 10, 12$ . We further prove their nonexistence for  $n = 14, 16, 18, 20$ .

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## 1. Introduction

For an integer  $n > 1$ , let  $p$  be a prime of the form  $p = nf + 1$ . Let  $H_n$  denote the set of (nonzero)  $n$ -th power residues in  $\mathbb{F}_p^*$ , where  $\mathbb{F}_p$  is the field of  $p$  elements. For  $\epsilon \in \{0, 1\}$ , define  $H_{n,\epsilon} = H_n \cup \{1 - \epsilon\}$ . Note that  $|H_{n,\epsilon}| = f + \epsilon$ .

Fix  $m \in \mathbb{F}_p^*$ . In 1975, Lam [18] introduced *addition sets*, which generalize cyclic difference sets. He called  $H_{n,\epsilon}$  an  $n$ -th power residue addition set modulo  $p$  if there exists an integer  $\lambda > 0$  such that the list of differences  $s - mt \in \mathbb{F}_p^*$  with  $s, t \in H_{n,\epsilon}$  hits each element of  $\mathbb{F}_p^*$  exactly  $\lambda$  times. If  $m \in H_n$ , such an addition set is a *classical* power residue difference set modulo  $p$ ; see [3, p. 174]. If  $m \notin H_n$ ,

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we call such an addition set a *qualified* power residue difference set modulo  $p$  with qualifier  $m$ ; cf. [14,15].

The classical  $n$ -th power residue difference sets  $H_{n,\epsilon}$  for  $n \leq 8$  are the following [3, pp. 177–179]:

$$H_{2,\epsilon}, \quad \text{if } p > 3, \quad p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \quad (1.1)$$

$$H_{4,\epsilon}, \quad \text{if } p > 5, \quad p = (1 + 8\epsilon) + 4y^2 \text{ for some odd } y, \quad (1.2)$$

$$H_{8,\epsilon}, \quad \text{if } p = (1 + 48\epsilon) + 8u^2 = (9 + 432\epsilon) + 64v^2, \text{ with integers } u, v. \quad (1.3)$$

It is known that  $H_{n,\epsilon}$  is never a classical power residue difference set when  $n$  is odd [3, p. 177],  $n = 6$  [3, p. 178],  $n = 10$  [26],  $n = 12$  [3, p. 179],  $n = 14$  [21],  $n = 16$  [9,25],  $n = 18$  [1,2], and  $n = 20$  [10,22]. These nonexistence results were obtained sporadically during the period 1953–1999. The cases with even  $n > 20$  are open (see [3, p. 497]), but we conjecture that the list (1.1)–(1.3) is complete.

As was noted above, complete information on the existence of classical  $n$ -th power residue difference sets is known for all  $n \leq 20$ . The primary goal of this paper is to similarly obtain complete information on the existence of qualified  $n$ -th power residue difference sets for all  $n \leq 20$ .

The qualified  $n$ -th power residue difference sets for  $n \leq 6$  with qualifier  $m$  are the following, due to Lam [18,19]:

$$H_{2,\epsilon}, \quad \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \quad m \in \mathbb{F}_p^*, \quad m \notin H_2, \quad (1.4)$$

$$H_{4,\epsilon}, \quad \text{if } p = (1 + 8\epsilon) + 16x^2 \text{ for some integer } x, \quad m \in H_2, \quad m \notin H_4, \quad (1.5)$$

$$H_{6,\epsilon}, \quad \text{if } p = (1 + 24\epsilon) + 108w^2 \text{ for some integer } w, \quad m \in H_3, \quad m \notin H_6. \quad (1.6)$$

It is shown in [19] that  $H_{n,\epsilon}$  is never a qualified residue difference set when  $n$  is odd and when  $n = 8$ ,  $n = 10$ , and  $n = 12$ . Lam's results for  $n = 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12$  have also been obtained in the papers [14,15,4–6], whose authors were at the time unaware of Lam's work. For related addition sets formed by taking unions of index classes for  $p$ , see [20, Theorems 3.2–3.5].

In this paper, we accomplish our goal by showing that  $H_{n,\epsilon}$  is never a qualified residue difference set when  $n = 14, 16, 18, 20$ . We also give a new proof of Lam's nonexistence result for odd  $n$ , in Section 2. Those looking to find new qualified residue difference sets may thus limit their search to the cases with even  $n > 20$ . However, we conjecture that the list (1.4)–(1.6) is complete.

It is well known that cyclic difference sets have applications in astronomy [7,12,13,17]. The first author was led to rediscover qualified residue difference sets while working on coded aperture imaging for the European Space Agency's International Gamma-Ray Astrophysical Laboratory (INTEGRAL) [8,27]. Difference sets have also been used in medical imaging [16,24].

Consider a qualified residue difference set  $H = H_{n,0}$  modulo  $p = nf + 1$  with qualifier  $m$ . For integer  $t \pmod{p}$ , define a binary array  $A(t)$  by setting  $A(t) = 1$  if  $t \in H$ , and  $A(t) = 0$  otherwise. Define a post processing array  $G(t)$  by setting  $G(t) = 1 - n$  if  $t \in mH$ , and  $G(t) = 1$  otherwise. The corresponding cross-correlation function  $F$  on the integers is given by

$$F(u) = \sum_{t=0}^{p-1} A(t)G(t+u).$$

Because  $H$  is a qualified residue difference set,  $F(u) = f$  if  $u \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ , and  $F(u) = 0$  otherwise. Periodic two-valued cross-correlation functions such as  $F(u)$  are potentially useful in signal processing, aperture synthesis, and image formation techniques.

## 2. Preliminary theorems

Write  $\zeta = \exp 2\pi i/p$ , and for any  $t$  prime to  $p$ , define  $\sigma_t \in \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)/\mathbb{Q})$  by  $\sigma_t(\zeta) = \zeta^t$ . Let  $\chi$  be a character (mod  $p$ ) of order  $n$ . Define the Gauss period

$$S(n) = \sum_{r \in H_n} \zeta^r$$

and the Gauss sums

$$g(n) = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_p} \zeta^{x^n}, \quad G(\chi) = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_p} \chi(x) \zeta^x.$$

These sums are related by [3, pp. 153, 175]

$$g(n) = nS(n) + 1 = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} G(\chi^j). \quad (2.1)$$

Whenever  $H_{n,\epsilon}$  is a qualified residue difference set with qualifier  $m$ , we have

$$\lambda(p-1) = f^2 + 2\epsilon f \quad (2.2)$$

and

$$(S(n) + \epsilon)(\sigma_{-m}S(n) + \epsilon) = \epsilon - \lambda, \quad (2.3)$$

and so by combining (2.1)–(2.3), we have

$$(g(n) + \nu)(\sigma_{-m}g(n) + \nu) = \nu^2 - p, \quad (2.4)$$

where

$$\nu = n\epsilon - 1.$$

Conversely, it is easily seen that (2.4) implies that  $H_{n,\epsilon}$  is a qualified residue difference set with qualifier  $m$ . Applying (2.4) with  $n = 2$  and using the fact [3, p. 26] that

$$\sigma_{-m}g(2) = \chi(-m)i^{(p-1)^2/4}\sqrt{p},$$

we see that  $H_{2,\epsilon}$  is a qualified residue difference set with qualifier  $m$  if and only if  $p$  and  $m$  satisfy the conditions in (1.4).

We now give a new proof of the following result of Lam [19], which shows in particular that qualified  $n$ -th power residue difference sets do not exist when  $n$  is odd.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Suppose that  $H_{n,\epsilon}$  is a qualified residue difference set modulo  $p$ . Then  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{2n}$ ,  $n$  is even, and the qualifiers  $m$  of  $H_{n,\epsilon}$  are precisely those  $m$  for which  $m \in H_{n/2}$ ,  $m \notin H_n$ .*

**Proof.** The proof for  $n = 2$  was given below (2.4), so we may suppose that  $n > 2$ . Applying  $\sigma_{-m}$  to both sides of (2.4), we see that  $\sigma_{m^2}$  fixes  $g(n)$ . Hence  $\sigma_{m^2}$  fixes  $S(n)$  by (2.1). It follows that  $m^2 \in H_n$ , so that  $m \in H_{n/2}$  and  $n$  is even. Finally,  $f$  is even by (2.2).  $\square$

In the sequel, we prove the nonexistence of qualified  $n$ -th power residue difference sets modulo  $p$  for  $n = 14, 16, 18, 20$ . In view of Theorem 2.1, we need only consider those primes  $p = nf + 1$  for which  $f$  is even. We will need the following theorem of Lam [19, Theorem 3.5] involving the cyclotomic numbers  $(i, j) = (i, j)_n$  of order  $n$ . Recall that for even  $f$ , these numbers satisfy  $(j, i) = (i, j) = (-i, j - i)$  [3, p. 69].

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $p = nf + 1$  with  $n$  and  $f$  both even. Then  $H_{n,\epsilon}$  is a qualified residue difference set with qualifier  $m$  if and only if  $m \in H_{n/2}$ ,  $m \notin H_n$ .*

$$n^2(0, n/2)_n = p - \nu^2,$$

and

$$n^2(i, n/2)_n = p + 1 + 2\nu, \quad 0 < i < n/2.$$

### 3. Nonexistence for $n = 14$

In this section,  $\nu = 14\epsilon - 1$  and  $p = 14f + 1$  with  $f$  even.

**Theorem 3.1.**  *$H_{14,\epsilon}$  is never a qualified residue difference set.*

**Proof.** Assume the contrary. We will obtain a contradiction by using the formulas for the cyclotomic numbers  $(i, j) = (i, j)_{14}$  expressed by J.B. Muskat [21] in terms of the integer parameters  $T, U$ , and  $C_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq 6$ ). These parameters satisfy

$$p = T^2 + 7U^2, \quad T \equiv 1 \pmod{7} \tag{3.1}$$

and [21, p. 265]

$$S := \sum_{i=0}^6 C_i \zeta_7^i = J(\psi, \psi), \tag{3.2}$$

where  $\zeta_7$  is a complex seventh root of unity,  $J(\psi, \psi)$  is a Jacobi sum for a character  $\psi \pmod{p}$  of order 7, and

$$\sum_{i=0}^6 C_i = p - 2. \tag{3.3}$$

Define

$$h_j := \sum_{i=0}^6 C_i C_{i+j} \quad (0 \leq j \leq 6), \tag{3.4}$$

where the subscripts are viewed modulo 7. Then by (3.2),

$$p = |S|^2 = \sum_{i=0}^6 h_i \zeta_7^i, \quad (3.5)$$

so that

$$h_1 = h_2 = h_3 = h_4 = h_5 = h_6 = h_0 - p. \quad (3.6)$$

In view of Theorem 2.2, we have the system of six equations

$$196(i, 7) = p + 1 + 2v \quad (1 \leq i \leq 6). \quad (3.7)$$

First assume  $2 \notin H_7$ . Solve the system (3.7) to express each  $C_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq 6$ ) as a linear combination of  $p$ ,  $1$ ,  $v$ ,  $U$ , and  $T$ . Then  $h_2 - h_1 = 20U^2/7$ , so  $U = 0$ , which contradicts (3.1).

It remains to consider the more difficult case where  $2 \in H_7$ . Write

$$y = (2p - 4 + T - v)/7, \quad C_5 = r, \quad C_6 = s. \quad (3.8)$$

Solving the system (3.7), we obtain

$$C_1 = y - s, \quad C_2 = y - r, \quad C_3 = 3y/2 - U - r - s, \quad C_4 = -y/2 + U + r + s. \quad (3.9)$$

Then by (3.3),

$$C_0 = p - 2 - 3y. \quad (3.10)$$

Solving the equation

$$3h_1 - h_2 - 2h_3 = 0, \quad (3.11)$$

for  $s$ , we obtain

$$s = (28r^2 + 21y^2 + 8Ur - 56yr + 4yU - 12U^2)/(28y + 16U - 56r). \quad (3.12)$$

The denominator in (3.12) is nonzero, since substitution of  $y/2 + 2U/7$  for  $r$  in the left side of (3.11) yields the nonzero value  $-13U^2/7$ . Thus

$$r = y/2 - Uw \quad (3.13)$$

for some rational number  $w \neq -2/7$ . Substituting the values of  $r$  and  $s$  from (3.12)–(3.13) into the equation  $h_1 - h_3 = 0$ , we deduce that

$$(3w - 1)(7w^3 - 7w^2 - 7w - 1) = 0. \quad (3.14)$$

The cubic polynomial in (3.14) clearly has no rational zeros, so we must have  $w = 1/3$ . By (3.13),

$$r = y/2 - U/3. \quad (3.15)$$

By (3.12) and (3.15), we also have

$$s = y/2 - U/3. \quad (3.16)$$

Use (3.15)–(3.16) to substitute for  $r$  and  $s$  in the equation

$$h_0 - h_1 - p = 0 \quad (3.17)$$

and then use (3.8) to substitute for  $y$  in (3.17). We see that (3.17) reduces to

$$27T^2 + 224U^2 + 18Tv - 9v^2 = 0. \quad (3.18)$$

Solving (3.18) for  $T$ , we have

$$9T = -3v \pm 2(9v^2 - 168U^2)^{1/2}. \quad (3.19)$$

Since  $T$  is an integer, this forces  $v = 13$  and  $U^2 = 9$ . Then by (3.19),  $T = -5$ , which contradicts (3.1).  $\square$

#### 4. Nonexistence for $n = 16$

In this section,  $v = 16\epsilon - 1$  and  $p = 16f + 1 = a_4^2 + b_4^2$  with  $f$  even and  $a_4 \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$ .

**Theorem 4.1.**  $H_{16,\epsilon}$  is never a qualified residue difference set.

**Proof.** Assume the contrary. First assume that  $2 \notin H_4$ . We will obtain a contradiction by using the formulas for the cyclotomic numbers  $(i, j) = (i, j)_{16}$  found in [11]. By Theorem 2.2,

$$16(1 + a_4) = 256\{(4, 8) - (0, 8)\} - 128\{(1, 8) + (5, 8) - (3, 8) - (7, 8)\} = (v + 1)^2.$$

Thus  $v = a_4$ , so  $a_4^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{32}$ . Since  $f$  is even, we also have  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{32}$ , so that 32 divides  $b_4^2$ . Thus 8 divides  $b_4$ , contradicting [3, Theorem 7.5.1].

Finally assume that  $2 \in H_4$ . Let  $m$  denote the qualifier for the qualified residue difference set  $H_{16,\epsilon}$ . By Theorem 2.1,  $m$  and  $-m$  are octic but not sixteenth power residues  $\pmod{p}$ . Thus, by definition of the Gauss sum  $g(n)$ ,  $\sigma_{-m}g(16) = 2g(8) - g(16)$ . Using this formula in (2.4) with  $n = 16$ , we obtain

$$g(8)^2 + 2vg(8) + p = M^2, \quad (4.1)$$

where as in [9, Eq. (4)],  $M^2 = (g(16) - g(8))^2$ . Note that if the term  $p$  in (4.1) were replaced by  $-15p$ , then (4.1) would become the equation [9, Eq. (15)]. We can now obtain a contradiction to (4.1) in the same way we obtained a contradiction to [9, Eq. (15)] in [9, pp. 43–44]. We omit the details, instead pointing out the few minor modifications that must be made in the proof in [9]. In [9, Eq. (16)], change the sign of the term  $-8p$ . In the formula for  $A$  below [9, Eq. (17)], change the sign of the term  $4a_{16}$ . In [9, Eq. (18)], change the sign of the term  $-2\alpha\sqrt{p}Y$ . Change the sign of the right side of [9, Eq. (19)]. On the left-hand side of the equation above [9, Eq. (21)], change the sign of the term  $4a_{16}$ . Lastly, in [9, Eq. (23)], 337 should be replaced by 257, which is the first prime for which  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{32}$  and  $2 \in H_4$ .  $\square$

#### 5. Nonexistence for $n = 18$

In this section,  $v = 18\epsilon - 1$  and  $p = 18f + 1$  with  $f$  even.

**Theorem 5.1.**  $H_{18,\epsilon}$  is never a qualified residue difference set.

**Proof.** Assume the contrary. We will use the formulas for the cyclotomic numbers  $(i, j) = (i, j)_{18}$  expressed by Baumert and Fredricksen [1,2] in terms of the integer parameters  $L$ ,  $M$ , and  $C_i$  ( $0 \leq i \leq 5$ ). These cyclotomic numbers are defined relative to a fixed primitive root  $g \pmod{p}$ . Let  $\text{ind } 2$ ,  $\text{ind } 3$  denote the indices of 2, 3, respectively, with base  $g$ . The parameters  $L$ ,  $M$  satisfy

$$4p = L^2 + 27M^2, \quad L \equiv 7 \pmod{9}.$$

Moreover, setting

$$S = \sum_{i=0}^5 C_i \zeta_9^i, \quad \zeta_9 = \exp 2\pi i/9,$$

we have  $|S|^2 = p$ , so that

$$p = C_0^2 + C_1^2 + C_2^2 + C_3^2 + C_4^2 + C_5^2 - C_0C_3 - C_1C_4 - C_2C_5, \quad (5.1)$$

$$0 = C_0C_1 + C_1C_2 + C_2C_3 + C_3C_4 + C_4C_5 - C_0C_2 - C_1C_3 - C_2C_4 - C_3C_5, \quad (5.2)$$

$$0 = C_0C_4 + C_1C_5 - C_0C_2 - C_1C_3 - C_2C_4 - C_3C_5 + C_0C_5. \quad (5.3)$$

We will apply Theorem 2.2 in each of the eight cases below.

**Case 1.**  $\text{ind } 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ ,  $\text{ind } 3 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ .

We have  $648(i, 9) = 2p + 2 + 4\nu$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 8$ . Adding the three formulas for  $i = 1, 2, 4$ , we see that  $L = 2\nu$ . Then from the formulas for  $i = 1, 4$ , we have  $C_1 = C_2 = C_4 + C_5$ , and from  $i = 3$ , we have  $C_3 = M$ . Thus (5.2) yields

$$C_5^2 + 2C_4C_5 + MC_4 - MC_5 = 0,$$

and (5.3) yields

$$C_5^2 - C_4^2 - MC_4 - 2MC_5 = 0.$$

Eliminating  $C_4$ , we obtain

$$C_5^3 - 3C_5M^2 - M^3 = 0.$$

Since  $x^3 - 3x - 1$  has no rational solution, we must have  $M = C_5 = 0$ . This gives the contradiction  $4p = L^2$ .

**Case 2.**  $\text{ind } 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ ,  $\text{ind } 3 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ .

Since  $(2, 9) = (2, B)$ , we have  $C_5 = -2C_4$ . Since  $(1, 9) = (4, D)$ , we have  $C_1 + C_2 = 4C_4$ . Since  $(1, 9) = (1, A)$ , we have  $C_2 = C_5 + 2C_1$ . Combining these three formulas, we see that

$$C_1 = 2C_4, \quad C_2 = 2C_4, \quad C_5 = -2C_4.$$

Therefore, since  $(2, 9) = (1, A)$ , we have

$$C_1 = C_2 = C_4 = C_5 = 0.$$

It then follows from the formula for (3, 9) that  $M = -C_3$ . The formula for (1, 9) yields  $p + 1 + L = p + 1 + 2\nu$ , so that  $L = 2\nu$ . The formula for (3, C) then yields

$$p + 1 + L = p + 1 - 8L + 18C_0 + 9M,$$

so that  $M = 2(\nu - C_0)$ . Thus by (5.1),  $p = C_0^2 + M^2 + MC_0$ . Substituting for  $M$ , we obtain  $p = 3C_0^2 - 6C_0\nu + 4\nu^2$ . Since  $4p = 4\nu^2 + 27M^2$ , we also have  $p = 27C_0^2 - 54C_0\nu + 28\nu^2$ . The last two equations imply that  $\nu = C_0$ , so we obtain the contradiction  $M = 0$ .

**Case 3.**  $\text{ind } 2 \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$ ,  $\text{ind } 3 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ .

Since  $(3, 9) = (3, C)$ , we have

$$-36C_1 + 54C_2 + 54C_3 + 36C_4 - 72C_5 = 0.$$

Since  $(1, 9) = (2, B)$ , we have

$$90C_1 - 90C_4 + 72C_5 = 0.$$

Since  $(2, B) = (4, 9)$ , we have

$$36C_1 - 36C_4 - 36C_5 = 0.$$

Combining these three formulas, we see that

$$C_5 = 0, \quad C_1 = C_4, \quad C_2 = -C_3.$$

Thus by (5.2) and (5.3),  $C_0C_1 = C_3^2 = 0$ , so that  $C_2 = 0$ . Then from (5.1),  $p = C_0^2 + C_1^2$ . This yields the contradiction  $p = (C_0 + C_1)^2$ .

**Case 4.**  $\text{ind } 2 \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$ ,  $\text{ind } 3 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ .

Since  $(3, 9) = (3, C)$ , we have

$$-36C_1 + 18C_2 + 54C_3 + 36C_4 = 0.$$

Since  $(4, 9) = (2, B)$ , we have

$$-72C_1 + 36C_2 + 72C_4 = 0.$$

Thus  $C_3 = 0$ . Since  $(1, 9) = (2, B)$ , we have  $C_2 = 90(C_4 - C_1)/36$ . Since  $(4, 9) = (2, B)$ , we have  $C_2 = -2(C_4 - C_1)$ . Thus

$$C_1 = C_4, \quad C_2 = C_3 = 0.$$

From the formula for (4, 9), we have

$$L + 9M + 18C_0 = 2\nu.$$

Since  $(1, A) = (4, D)$ , we have

$$L + 3M - 2C_0 = 0.$$



These two formulas yield

$$10L + 36M = 2\nu.$$

Summing the formulas for (2, 9), (1, A), and (4, D), we obtain

$$21L + 27M = -12\nu.$$

Eliminating  $L$  in the last two formulas, we obtain the contradiction  $M = \nu/3$ .

**Case 5.**  $\text{ind } 2 \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$ ,  $\text{ind } 3 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ .

We successively consider the seven formulas for (1, 9), (1, A), (2, 9), (2, B), (3, 9), (3, C), and (4, D). Solve the first for  $C_0$  (in terms of  $p$ ,  $\nu$ ,  $L$ , and  $M$ ), and then substitute this value into the remaining six formulas. Solve the second for  $C_1$  and then substitute this value into the remaining five formulas. Continue in this way, solving successively for  $C_2$ ,  $C_3$ ,  $C_4$ ,  $C_5$ , and  $M$ . We thereby obtain the evaluations

$$C_2 = C_3 = C_5 = -C_0 = -(\nu + L)/9, \quad C_1 = C_4 = (L - 8\nu)/9, \quad M = (4\nu + L)/9.$$

By (5.2),  $0 = (L + \nu)^2$ . Thus  $L = -\nu$ , so that we have the contradiction  $M = \nu/3$ .

**Case 6.**  $\text{ind } 2 \equiv 3 \pmod{9}$ ,  $\text{ind } 3 \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ .

Since (1, 9) = (4, D), we have  $C_1 = C_2$ . Thus, since (1, 9) = (2, B), we have  $C_1 = C_4 - 2C_5$ . Since (1, A) = (2, 9), it follows that

$$C_5 = 3C_4/7, \quad C_1 = C_4/7.$$

Thus, since (1, 9) = (1, A), we have

$$C_1 = C_2 = C_4 = C_5 = 0.$$

Finally, since (3, 9) = (4, 9), we obtain the contradiction  $M = 0$ .

**Case 7.**  $\text{ind } 2 \equiv 3 \pmod{9}$ ,  $\text{ind } 3 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ .

Since (2, 9) = (4, D), we have  $C_5 + C_1 = 0$ . Since (1, A) = (4, D), we have  $C_2 + C_4 = 0$ . Since (1, 9) = (4, 9), we have  $C_2 = C_4 = 0$ . Since (1, 9) = (2, 9), we have  $C_1 = C_5 = 0$ . From the formula for (1, 9), we have  $L = 2\nu$ . From the formula for (3, 9), we have  $C_3 = \nu - C_0$ . From the formula for (3, C), we have  $C_0 = -M$ . Thus  $C_3 = \nu + M$ . Then by (5.1),  $p = C_3^2 + M^2 + MC_3$ . Replacing  $C_3$  by  $\nu + M$ , we obtain  $p = 3M^2 + 3M\nu + \nu^2$ . Therefore  $4p = 12M^2 + 12M\nu + 4\nu^2$ . On the other hand,  $4p = 27M^2 + 4\nu^2$ , so we obtain the contradiction  $15M = 12\nu$ .

**Case 8.**  $\text{ind } 2 \equiv 3 \pmod{9}$ ,  $\text{ind } 3 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ .

Summing the formulas for (1, 9), (1, A), and (2, 9), we obtain

$$6(p + 1 + 2\nu) = 6(p + 1 + L),$$

so that  $L = 2\nu$ . Thus, from the formula for (3, 9), we obtain the contradiction  $M = 0$ .  $\square$

## 6. Nonexistence for $n = 20$

In this section,  $v = 20\epsilon - 1$  and  $p = 20f + 1$  with  $f$  even.

**Theorem 6.1.**  $H_{20,\epsilon}$  is never a qualified residue difference set.

**Proof.** Assume the contrary. We will use the formulas for the cyclotomic numbers  $(i, j) = (i, j)_{20}$  expressed by Muskat and Whiteman [22,23] in terms of the integer parameters  $c, d, x, u, v, w, d_i$  ( $0 \leq i \leq 19$ ). These cyclotomic numbers are defined relative to a fixed primitive root  $g \pmod{p}$ . Let  $\text{ind } 2, \text{ind } 5$  denote the indices of 2, 5, respectively, with base  $g$ . The parameters  $c, d$  satisfy [22, p. 197]

$$p = c^2 + 5d^2 \quad (6.1)$$

and the parameters  $x, u, v, w$  satisfy [22, Eq. (4.1)]

$$16p = x^2 + 50u^2 + 50v^2 + 125w^2, \quad (6.2)$$

$$x \equiv 1 \pmod{5}, \quad (6.3)$$

$$xw = v^2 - 4uv - u^2. \quad (6.4)$$

The parameters  $d_i$  satisfy [22, Eq. (2.17)]

$$d_{i+10} = -d_i \quad (0 \leq i \leq 9) \quad (6.5)$$

and [22, Eq. (2.18)]

$$J(\chi, \chi^5) = \sum_{j=0}^9 d_j \zeta_{20}^j, \quad (6.6)$$

where  $J$  is a Jacobi sum and  $\chi$  is a character  $\pmod{p}$  of order 20 such that  $\chi(g) = \zeta_{20} := \exp(2\pi i/20)$ . Taking absolute values in (6.6), we have

$$p = \left| \sum_{j=0}^9 d_j \zeta_{20}^j \right|^2. \quad (6.7)$$

By [22, p. 203],

$$h_0 := \sum_{i=0}^9 d_i^2 = p. \quad (6.8)$$

Expanding (6.7) and using (6.8), we see that for each  $j$  with  $1 \leq j \leq 4$ ,

$$h_j := \sum_{i=0}^9 d_i d_{i+j} = 0. \quad (6.9)$$

According to the tables [23], there are twenty separate cases to consider. Arguing as in [22, p. 214], we may choose the primitive root  $g$  in such a way as to reduce to the eight cases where  $\text{ind } 2 \equiv 0$  or  $2 \pmod{10}$ . Arguing as in the penultimate paragraph in [22, p. 215], we may reduce further to six cases, by dispensing with the two cases where  $\text{ind } 5 \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ ,  $c \equiv 4 \pmod{10}$ . The first four cases below are the simplest; the last two cases are considerably more involved. We used a Maple program to perform the lengthy calculations.

**Case 1.**  $\text{ind } 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{10}$ ,  $\text{ind } 5 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ ,  $c \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$ .

In view of Theorem 2.2 and the table in [23], we have the matrix equation  $AX = B$ , where  $B$  is the  $9 \times 1$  column vector  $(8\nu, 8\nu, 8\nu, 8\nu, 8\nu, 8\nu, 8\nu, 8\nu, 8\nu)$ ,  $X$  is the  $10 \times 1$  vector  $(c, x, u, v, w, d_0, d_4, d_8, d_{12}, d_{16})$ , and  $A$  is the  $9 \times 10$  matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 8 & -2 & 120 & 240 & -250 & -24 & 56 & 56 & -24 & -24 \\ 8 & -2 & -120 & -240 & -250 & -24 & -24 & -24 & 56 & 56 \\ -40 & -10 & -120 & 160 & -150 & -8 & -8 & -88 & -8 & 72 \\ -40 & -10 & 120 & -160 & -150 & -8 & 72 & -8 & -88 & -8 \\ 8 & -2 & -240 & 120 & 250 & -24 & 56 & -24 & 56 & -24 \\ 8 & -2 & 240 & -120 & 250 & -24 & -24 & 56 & -24 & 56 \\ -40 & -10 & 160 & 120 & 150 & -8 & -8 & -8 & 72 & -88 \\ -40 & -10 & -160 & -120 & 150 & -8 & -88 & 72 & -8 & -8 \\ 128 & -32 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 136 & -24 & -24 & -24 & -24 \end{pmatrix}$$

whose nine rows correspond to the nine cyclotomic numbers  $(1, 10), (1, 11), (2, 10), (2, 12), (3, 10), (3, 13), (4, 10), (4, 14), (5, 10)$  in the table. Solving  $AX = B$ , we see that every solution  $X$  has vanishing third, fourth, and fifth entries, i.e.,  $u = v = w = 0$ . This contradicts (6.2).

**Case 2.**  $\text{ind } 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{10}$ ,  $\text{ind } 5 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ ,  $c \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$ .

We proceed as in Case 1, but this time with the  $9 \times 10$  matrix  $A$  defined by

$$\begin{pmatrix} 40 & -10 & 40 & 80 & -50 & 8 & 88 & -72 & 8 & 8 \\ 40 & -10 & -40 & -80 & -50 & 8 & 8 & 8 & -72 & 88 \\ -8 & -2 & 40 & 80 & 50 & 24 & 24 & -56 & 24 & -56 \\ -8 & -2 & -40 & -80 & 50 & 24 & -56 & 24 & -56 & 24 \\ 40 & -10 & -80 & 40 & 50 & 8 & -72 & 8 & 88 & 8 \\ 40 & -10 & 80 & -40 & 50 & 8 & 8 & 88 & 8 & -72 \\ -8 & -2 & 80 & -40 & -50 & 24 & 24 & 24 & -56 & -56 \\ -8 & -2 & -80 & 40 & -50 & 24 & -56 & -56 & 24 & 24 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 8 & 8 & 8 & 8 & 8 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Solving  $AX = B$ , we see that every solution  $X$  has fifth entry  $w = 0$ . Thus the integers  $u$  and  $v$  must be 0 by (6.4), and this contradicts (6.2).

**Case 3.**  $\text{ind } 2 \equiv 2 \pmod{10}$ ,  $\text{ind } 5 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ ,  $c \equiv 1 \pmod{10}$ .

We proceed as in Case 1, but this time with the  $9 \times 10$  matrix  $A$  defined by

$$\begin{pmatrix} 88 & -12 & -90 & -130 & -150 & -24 & 56 & 56 & -24 & -24 \\ 8 & 23 & 120 & -110 & 175 & -24 & -24 & -24 & 56 & 56 \\ -80 & 10 & -20 & -40 & 150 & -8 & -8 & -88 & -8 & 72 \\ -40 & -10 & -130 & -110 & 100 & -8 & 72 & -8 & -88 & -8 \\ 8 & -2 & -50 & 50 & -100 & -24 & 56 & -24 & 56 & -24 \\ 48 & -22 & -20 & -40 & -250 & -24 & -24 & 56 & -24 & 56 \\ -40 & 15 & -40 & -30 & -25 & -8 & -8 & -8 & 72 & -88 \\ 40 & -20 & 190 & 230 & 250 & -8 & -88 & 72 & -8 & -8 \\ 8 & 23 & -60 & 30 & 75 & 136 & -24 & -24 & -24 & -24 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Solving  $AX = B$ , we see that every solution  $X$  has fifth entry  $w = v/7$ , which is impossible since  $v/7$  is not an integer.

**Case 4.**  $\text{ind } 2 \equiv 2 \pmod{10}$ ,  $\text{ind } 5 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ ,  $c \equiv 9 \pmod{10}$ .

We proceed as in Case 1, but this time with the  $9 \times 10$  matrix  $A$  defined by

$$\begin{pmatrix} -40 & -20 & -10 & 30 & 50 & 8 & 88 & -72 & 8 & 8 \\ 40 & 15 & -40 & -30 & -25 & 8 & 8 & 8 & -72 & 88 \\ -48 & -22 & -20 & -40 & 150 & 24 & 24 & -56 & 24 & -56 \\ -8 & -2 & -50 & 50 & -100 & 24 & -56 & 24 & -56 & 24 \\ 40 & -10 & -130 & -110 & 100 & 8 & -72 & 8 & 88 & 8 \\ 80 & 10 & -20 & -40 & -250 & 8 & 8 & 88 & 8 & -72 \\ -8 & 23 & 120 & -110 & 175 & 24 & 24 & 24 & -56 & -56 \\ -88 & -12 & 110 & 70 & 50 & 24 & -56 & -56 & 24 & 24 \\ 40 & 15 & 100 & -50 & -125 & 8 & 8 & 8 & 8 & 8 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Solving  $AX = B$ , we see that every solution  $X$  has fifth entry  $w = -2d_4 + v/5$ , which is impossible since  $v/5$  is not an integer.

**Case 5.**  $\text{ind } 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{10}$ ,  $\text{ind } 5 \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ ,  $c \equiv 6 \pmod{10}$ .

Consider the nine linear equations corresponding to the same nine cyclotomic numbers as in Case 1, and solve for  $d_0, d_4, d_8, d_{12}, d_{16}, d_1, d_5, d_9, d_{13}$ , to obtain (in view of (6.5))  $d_0 = 3(v + x)/5$ ,  $d_1 = (4d_{17} - 2u - 4v - 5w)/4$ ,  $d_2 = (10d - 2v - 25u + 25v + 25w - 2x)/20$ ,  $d_3 = (3v - u - 2d_{17})/2$ ,  $d_4 = (10d + 2v - 25u - 25v + 25w + 2x)/20$ ,  $d_5 = (-8c + 8d_{17} - 4v + 2u - 6v - 5w - 3x)/8$ ,  $d_6 = -(10d + 2v + 25u + 25v + 25w + 2x)/20$ ,  $d_7 = -d_{17}$ ,  $d_8 = (-10d + 2v - 25u + 25v - 25w + 2x)/20$ ,  $d_9 = (4d_{17} + 4u - 2v - 5w)/4$ . We now plug these ten formulas into (6.9) to obtain long expressions for  $h_1, h_2, h_3, h_4$  in terms of the parameters  $p, v, c, d, x, u, v, w, d_{17}$ . In particular,

$$16h_1 = 20d(v - u) + 16v^2 + 8vu + (40c + 25w)(u + v) + 3xu + 11xv. \tag{6.10}$$

Since  $u$  and  $v$  cannot both vanish, we can define the relatively prime pair of integers  $u_0, v_0$  by  $u_0 = u/(u, v)$ ,  $v_0 = v/(u, v)$ . Since  $h_1 = 0$ , division by  $(u, v)$  in (6.10) yields

$$0 = 20d(v_0 - u_0) + 16v_0^2 + 8v_0u_0 + (40c + 25w)(u_0 + v_0) + 3xu_0 + 11xv_0. \tag{6.11}$$

By Theorem 2.2,  $p \equiv -1 - 2v \pmod{25}$ , and by (6.2),  $16p \equiv x^2 \pmod{25}$ . Thus  $x^2 \equiv 9 + 18v \pmod{25}$ , and since  $v$  is either 19 or  $-1$ , it follows from (6.3) that  $x \equiv 5 + 9v \pmod{25}$ . If we now substitute  $5 + 9v$  for  $x$  in (6.11), then divide both sides by 5, and finally substitute  $-1$  for  $v \pmod{5}$  and 1 for  $c \pmod{5}$ , we obtain the congruence

$$v_0 + du_0 \equiv u_0 + dv_0 \pmod{5}. \tag{6.12}$$

Now repeat the argument starting at (6.10) with  $h_1 - h_3$  in place of  $h_1$ . In place of (6.12), we arrive at the congruence

$$u_0 \equiv -dv_0 \pmod{5}. \quad (6.13)$$

From (6.12) and (6.13), it follows that 5 does not divide  $u_0v_0$ , and  $d^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$ . Repeat the argument again with  $h_2 + h_4$ , omitting the division by  $(u, v)$ . We then obtain the congruence  $2w - d + v^2 - 4uv - u^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ . In view of (6.4), this simplifies to  $2w - d + xw \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ . Then by (6.3),  $2d \equiv w \pmod{5}$ . Reducing (6.4) modulo 5 and using (6.13), we have

$$2d \equiv w \equiv xw = v^2 - u^2 - 4uv \equiv v^2 - d^2v^2 + 4dv^2 \equiv 4dv^2 \pmod{5},$$

and so we arrive at the contradiction  $v^2 \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$ .

**Case 6.**  $\text{ind } 2 \equiv 2 \pmod{10}$ ,  $\text{ind } 5 \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ ,  $c \equiv 6 \pmod{10}$ .

Proceeding as in Case 5, we have  $d_0 = (-10d + 12v + 5u + 35v - 3x)/20$ ,  $d_1 = (16d_{17} + 12u - 6v + 25w + 5x)/16$ ,  $d_2 = (-20d - 4v - 10u - 20v - 25w + x)/40$ ,  $d_3 = (16c - 16d_{17} + 2u + 24v - 5w - 7x)/16$ ,  $d_4 = (20d + 4v + 60u + 70v + 75w - x)/40$ ,  $d_5 = (8d_{17} - 4v + 2u - 16v + 15w + x)/8$ ,  $d_6 = (20d - 4v - 10u - 20v - 25w + x)/40$ ,  $d_7 = -d_{17}$ ,  $d_8 = (4v + 10u + 20v + 125w - x)/40$ ,  $d_9 = (16d_{17} + 26u - 8v + 15w + 5x)/16$ . Plug these ten formulas into (6.8) and (6.9) to obtain long expressions for  $h_0, h_1, h_2, h_3, h_4$ . Write

$$G_0 = -2h_1, \quad G_1 = p - h_0 - h_2, \quad G_2 = h_1 - h_3, \quad G_3 = h_0 - p - h_4,$$

and

$$E = -xw + v^2 - u^2 - 4uv, \quad F = 16p - x^2 - 50u^2 - 50v^2 - 125w^2.$$

Note that  $E, F$ , and the  $G_i$  all vanish, by (6.2), (6.4), (6.8), and (6.9).

In the sequel, we will be expressing several parameters in terms of new subscripted parameters, all of which are integers. Since  $\text{ind } 2 \equiv 2 \pmod{5}$  in Case 6, it follows from [3, Theorem 3.7.9] that  $v = x + u + 2 + 4v_1$ ,  $x = 2x_1 + 1$ , and  $u = 2u_1 + 1$  (i.e.,  $x, u$ , and  $(v - x - u)/2$  are all odd). Since  $v$  is even, it follows easily from (6.4) that  $w = 2v - x + 8w_1$ . By Theorem 2.2,  $p = -1 - 2v + 16p_1$ . We have  $v = -1 + 20v_1$ , where  $v_1$  is either 0 or 1. Since  $c$  is even in Case 6, and  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ , it follows from (6.1) that  $c = 2 + 4c_1$ . Thus  $d^2 \equiv 6v - 1 \pmod{16}$ . It follows that  $d = \pm(2 - v) + 8d_1$ . We will consider the two sign possibilities in two separate subcases.

**Subcase 1.**  $d = 2 - v + 8d_1$ .

The following sequence of integer congruences and their successive implications will ultimately yield the desired contradiction:

$$E/8 - F/16 \equiv 2 + 2w_1 \pmod{4} \text{ implies } w_1 = 1 + 2w_2,$$

$$4G_3 \equiv x_1 + v_1 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } v_1 = x_1 + 2v_2,$$

$$E/16 - F/32 \equiv 2x_1 + 2w_2 \pmod{4} \text{ implies } w_2 = x_1 + 2w_3,$$

$$G_1 - G_2 \equiv u_1 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } u_1 = 2u_2,$$

$$G_0/2 \equiv 1 + v_2 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } v_2 = 1 + 2v_3,$$

$$E/16 \equiv x_1 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } x_1 = 2x_2,$$

$$E/32 \equiv v_3 + w_3 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } w_3 = v_3 + 2w_4,$$

$$G_0/4 \equiv v_1 + x_2 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } x_2 = v_1 + 2x_3,$$

$$E/64 \equiv 1 + u_2 + w_4 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } w_4 = 1 + u_2 + 2w_5,$$

$$G_1/2 \equiv v_1 + u_2 + v_3 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } v_3 = v_1 + u_2 + 2v_4,$$

$$E/64 - F/128 \equiv 2 + 2p_1 + 2v_4 \pmod{4} \text{ implies } v_4 = 1 + p_1 + 2v_5,$$

$$G_1/4 \equiv d_1 + p_1 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } d_1 = p_1 + 2d_2,$$

$$G_2/8 - G_1/8 - G_0/8 \equiv c_1 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } c_1 = 2c_2,$$

$$G_0/8 \equiv 1 + p_1 + x_3 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } x_3 = 1 + p_1 + 2x_4,$$

$$G_3/4 \equiv 1 + v_1 + u_2 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } u_2 = 1 + v_1 + 2u_3,$$

$$G_2/8 \equiv 1 + p_1 + v_5 + d_2 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } v_5 = 1 + p_1 + d_2 + 2v_6,$$

$$G_2/16 \equiv 1 + v_6 + d_2 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } v_6 = 1 + d_2 + 2v_7,$$

$$G_0/16 - G_1/16 \equiv v_1 + c_2 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } c_2 = v_1 + 2c_3,$$

$$E/128 - G_3/8 \equiv 1 \pmod{2} \text{ yields the desired contradiction.}$$

**Subcase 2.**  $d = v - 2 + 8d_1$ .

The following sequence of integer congruences and their successive implications will ultimately yield the final contradiction:

$$E/8 - F/16 \equiv 2 + 2w_1 \pmod{4} \text{ implies } w_1 = 1 + 2w_2,$$

$$4G_3 \equiv x_1 + v_1 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } v_1 = x_1 + 2v_2,$$

$$G_1 - G_2 \equiv w_2 + v_2 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } w_2 = v_2 + 2w_3,$$

$$E/16 \equiv 1 + u_1 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } u_1 = 1 + 2u_2,$$

$$G_0/2 \equiv 1 + v_2x_1 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } v_2 = 1 + 2v_3, x_1 = 1 + 2x_2,$$

$$G_3/2 \equiv 1 + v_1 + w_3 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } w_3 = 1 + v_1 + 2w_4,$$

$$E/32 \equiv v_1 + x_2 \pmod{2} \text{ implies } x_2 = v_1 + 2x_3,$$

$$E/64 - F/128 - G_0/4 \equiv 1 \pmod{2} \text{ yields the desired contradiction. } \square$$

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