

# Around Montgomery's trick: A taste of a bit hack

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CS 4435 - CS 9624

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- If  $a, b, p$  have small sizes, say are **machine integers**, then enter [Peter Montgomery](#) and his famous reduction (Math. Computation, vol. 44, pp. 519–521, 1985) improved by [Xin Li](#) in his PhD thesis (University of Western Ontario 2009).

## The Original Montgomery Trick (1/2)

- Let  $x, p$  be integers such that  $p \geq 2$ . In practice  $p$  is a prime. We shall compute  $x \bmod p$  in an *indirect* way.

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- Therefore  $x + fp$  writes  $qR$  and thus  $\frac{x}{R} \equiv q \pmod{p}$ .

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- To compute in  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ , we map each  $a \in \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$  to  $aR \in \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ . Then the above procedure gives us  $\frac{aRbR}{R} \bmod p$ , that is, the image of  $ab$  in this new representation.

## The Improved Montgomery Trick (1/5)

- Suppose  $p > 2$  is a **Fourier prime**, that is,  $p - 1 = c2^n$  and  $\ell \leq 2n$  where  $\ell = \lceil \log_2(p) \rceil \leq b$  on  $b$ -bit machine words.



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- Let  $R := 2^\ell$  and  $0 \leq x \leq (p - 1)^2$ . We get  $\frac{x}{R} \bmod p$  by:

$$\begin{array}{l} x \\ r_1 \end{array} \left| \frac{R}{q_1} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{l} c2^n r_1 \\ r_2 \end{array} \left| \frac{R}{q_2} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{l} c2^n r_2 \\ 0 \end{array} \left| \frac{R}{q_3} \right.$$

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- Using  $c2^n \equiv -1 \pmod p$  we have:

$$\frac{x}{R} \equiv q_1 + \frac{r_1}{R} \equiv q_1 - q_2 - \frac{r_2}{R} \equiv q_1 - q_2 + q_3 \pmod p.$$

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- The last equality requires a proof. We have:

$$r_2 = c2^n r_1 - q_2 R = c2^n r_1 - q_2 2^\ell.$$

Hence  $\boxed{2^n \mid r_2}$  thus  $\boxed{2^{2n} \mid c2^n r_2}$  and  $\boxed{R \mid c2^n r_2}$ .

## The Improved Montgomery Trick (2/5)

- Recall  $p > 2$  is a Fermat prime, that is,  $p - 1 = c2^n$  and  $\ell \leq 2n$  where  $\ell = \lceil \log_2(p) \rceil \leq b$  on  $b$ -bit machine words.
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- Moreover we have:

$$-(p - 1) < q_1 - q_2 + q_3 < 2(p - 1).$$

Hence the desired output is either  $(q_1 - q_2 + q_3) + p$ , or  $q_1 - q_2 + q_3$  or  $(q_1 - q_2 + q_3) - p$

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- Indeed  $0 \leq x \leq (p - 1)^2$  and  $p \leq R$  imply

$$q_1 = x \text{ quo } R \leq (p - 1)^2 / R < p - 1.$$

Next, we have:  $q_2 = c2^n r_1 \text{ quo } R < c2^n = p - 1$ , since  $r_1 < R$ . Similarly, we have  $q_3 < p - 1$ .

## The Improved Montgomery Trick (3/5)

We describe now the C implementation for 32-bit machine integer assuming that we have at hand the following function:

```
/**
 * Input : The addresses of two unsigned machine integers a, b
 * Output : Store (a * b) quo 2^32 into a, and
           store (a * b) mod 2^32 into b
 *
 **/

inline void MulHiLoUnsigned (uint32_t *a, uint32_t *b) {

    uint64_t prod;
    prod = (uint64_t)(*a) * (uint64_t)(*b);

    *a = (uint32_t) (prod >> 32);
    *b = (uint32_t) prod;
}
```

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- $q_3 := c \frac{r_2}{2^{\ell-n}}$ . The division  $\frac{r_2}{2^{\ell-n}}$  is exact and the multiplication  $c \frac{r_2}{2^{\ell-n}}$  is correct on 32 bits.

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- Let  $A := q_1 - q_2 + q_3$ . Then we execute the following code:  

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A += (A >> 31) & p;  
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- Finally we have performed 6 shifts, 5 additions, 2 64-bit multiplications and 1 32-bit multiplication.

## The Improved Montgomery Trick (5/5)

- Consider  $p = 257 = 1 + 2^8$ . Hence  $c = 1$ ,  $n = 8$ ,  $\ell = 9$  and  $R = 2^9$ .
- Take  $a = 131$  and  $b = 187$ .
- Compute  $2^{32-\ell}b = 1568669696$ .
- Compute  $q_1 = 47$  and  $2^{32-\ell}r_1 = 3632267264$ .
- Compute  $q_2 = 216$  and  $2^{32-\ell}r_2 = 2147483648$ .
- Compute  $q_3 = c \frac{r_2}{2^{\ell-n}} = 128$ .
- Compute  $A = q_1 - q_2 + q_3 = -41$ .
- Adjust to get  $\frac{ab}{R} \equiv 216 \pmod{p}$ .