

## ALGORITHM 99

## EVALUATION OF JACOBI SYMBOL

STEPHEN J. GARLAND AND ANTHONY W. KNAPP

Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H.

```

procedure Jacobi (n,m,r); value n,m;
integer n, m, r;
comment Jacobi computes the value of the Jacobi symbol  $(n/m)$ ,
  where m is odd, by the law of quadratic reciprocity. The param-
  eter r is assigned one of the values -1, 0, or 1 if m is odd. If m
  is even, the symbol is undefined and r is assigned the value 2.
  For odd m the routine provides a test of whether m and n are
  relatively prime. The value of r is 0 if and only if m and n have
  a nontrivial common factor. In the special case where m is prime,
   $r = -1$  if and only if n is a quadratic nonresidue of m;
begin
  integer s;
  Boolean p, q;
  Boolean procedure parity (x); value x; integer x;
    comment The value of the function parity is true if x is
    odd, false if x is even;
    begin
      parity := x  $\div$  2  $\times$  2  $\neq$  x
    end parity;
  if  $\neg$  parity (m) then begin r := 2; go to exit end;
  p := true;
  loop: n := n - n  $\div$  m  $\times$  m;
    q := false;
    if n  $\leq$  1 then go to done;
  even: if  $\neg$  parity (n) then
    begin
      q :=  $\neg$  q;
      n := n  $\div$  2;
      go to even
    end n now odd;
    if q then if parity ((m $\uparrow$ 2 - 1)  $\div$  8) then p :=  $\neg$  p;
    if n = 1 then go to done;
    if parity ((m-1)  $\times$  (n-1)  $\div$  4) then p :=  $\neg$  p;
    s := m; m := n; n := s; go to loop;
  done: r := if n = 0 then 0 else if p then 1 else -1;
exit: end Jacobi

```

The two statements beginning with *CHECK* could be inserted before the **label** done and after the statement **go to loop**;

## REMARK ON ALGORITHM 99

EVALUATION OF JACOBI SYMBOL [S. J. Garland and A. W. Knapp, *Comm. ACM* 6, June 1962]

RONALD W. MAY

University of Alberta, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

One syntactical error was found in this procedure. It occurs in the second **if** statement following the **label** even. The statement

```

if q then if parity ((m $\uparrow$ 2-1)  $\div$  8) then
  p :=  $\neg$  p;

```

might be changed as follows.

```

if q then go to CHECK;
next 1: if n = 1 then go to done;
CHECK: if parity ((m  $\uparrow$  2 - 1)  $\div$  8) then
  p :=  $\neg$  p;
go to next 1;

```