

# Generating random primes faster

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[cr.yp.to/papers.html#pqrsa](http://cr.yp.to/papers.html#pqrsa)

The standard algorithm  
to generate random primes:

```
proof.arithmetic(False)
while True:
    p = randrange(2^(n-1), 2^n)
    p = ZZ(p)
    if p.is_prime(): print p
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$n^{1+o(1)}$  iterations per prime.

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Standard speedup using wheels:

e.g., force  $p \bmod 6 \in \{1, 5\}$ .

Wheel using all primes  $q \leq n^{O(1)}$ :

$n^{1+o(1)}$  iterations per prime.

Recall  $\prod_{q \leq y} \left(1 - \frac{1}{q}\right) \in \Theta\left(\frac{1}{\log y}\right)$ .

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correctly recognize primality using  $n^{o(1)}$  tests, total  $n^{2+o(1)}$  bit ops.

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then cubic test (1995 Atkin), etc.;

or some elliptic-curve tests.

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Most iterations are much simpler:  
Fermat test rejects  $p$ .

Fast reject by trial division/ECM?  
Still  $n^{3+o(1)}$  bit ops per prime.

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Recall:

many  $n$ -bit integers,  
total  $\geq y$  bits

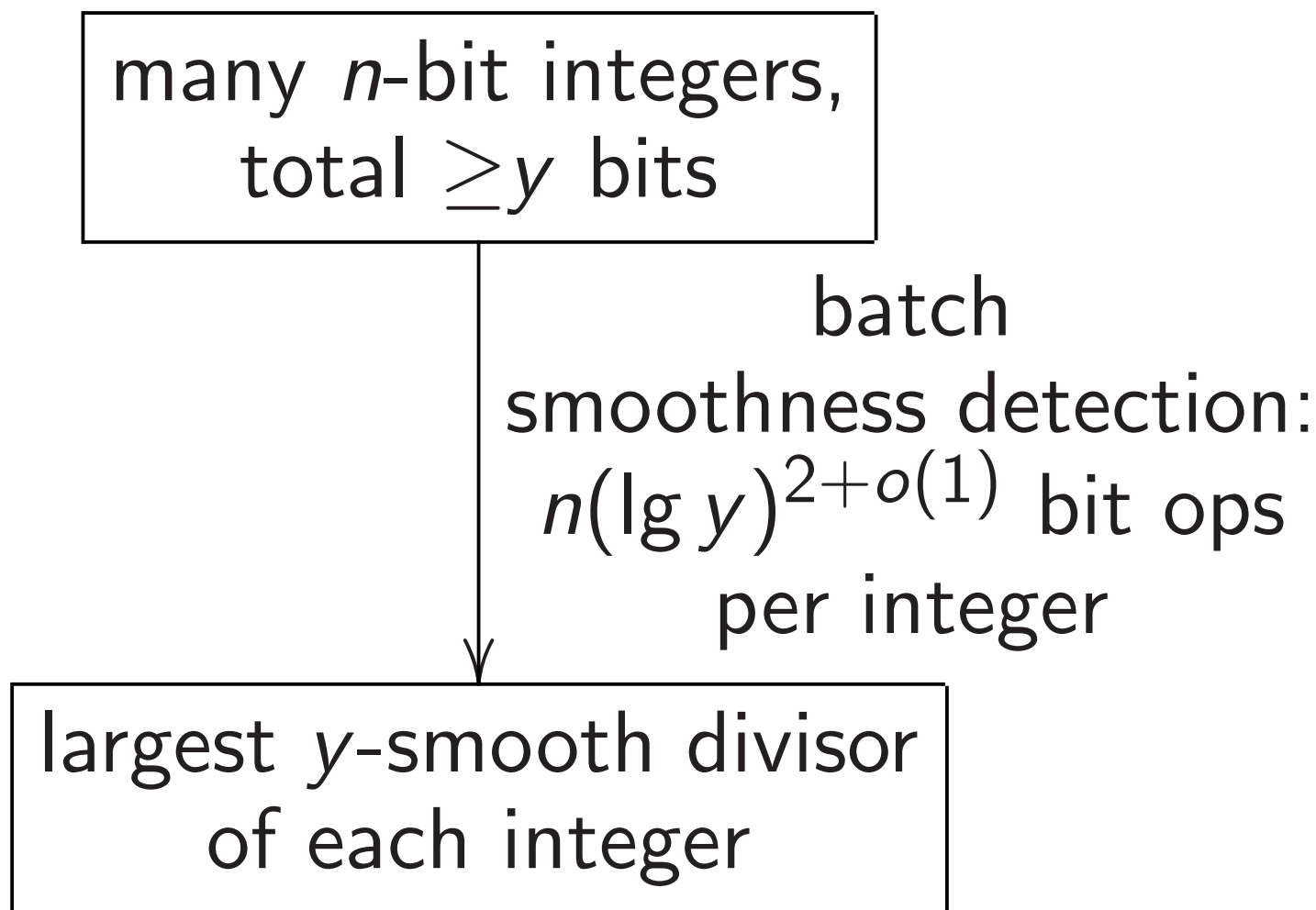
batch  
smoothness detection:  
 $n(\lg y)^{2+o(1)}$  bit ops  
per integer

largest  $y$ -smooth divisor  
of each integer



New:  $n^{2.5+o(1)}$  bit ops per prime  
to generate  $2^{n^{0.5+o(1)}}$  primes.

Recall:



Apply batch smoothness detection  
for  $y = 2^{2^0}$ , then  $y = 2^{2^1}$ , then  
 $y = 2^{2^2}$ ,  $\dots$ , then  $y \approx 2^{n^{0.5+o(1)}}$ .