

Computational  
algebraic number theory  
tackles lattice-based cryptography

Daniel J. Bernstein

University of Illinois at Chicago &  
Technische Universiteit Eindhoven

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*Moving to the left*

*Moving to the right*

*Big generator*

*Moving through the night*

—Yes, “Big Generator”, 1987

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“I think NTRU should switch to random prime-degree extensions with big Galois groups.”

2014.02 blog post:

“Here’s a concrete suggestion, which I’ll call NTRU Prime, for eliminating the structures that I find worrisome in existing ideal-lattice-based encryption systems.”

NTRU Prime uses primes  $p, q$  with field  $(\mathbf{Z}/q)[x]/(x^p - x - 1)$ .

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Smart–Vercauteren, continued  
“There are currently two approaches to the problem. In conclusion determining the private key given only the public key is an instance of a classical and well studied problem in algorithmic number theory. In particular there are no efficient solutions for this problem, and the only sub-exponential method does not find a solution which is equivalent to our private key.”

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Smart–Vercauteren “Fully homomorphic encryption with very small key and ciphertext size”  
“Recovering the private key from the public key is equivalent to an instance of the small subset sum problem: . . . Given a set of integers  $S$  and a target  $t$ , compute a subset of  $S$  whose sum is  $t$ . . . .”  
“One of the core problems in computational number theory is factoring integers. It formed the basis of many cryptographic proposals, including RSA. For example [3].”

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## Art-generator problem

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The sho

Find "sh

given th

e.g.  $\zeta =$

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The  $\mathbf{Z}$ -s

201 - 23

935 - 10

979 - 11

718 - 82

is an ide

Can you

such tha

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number field  $K$ .

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The short-generators

Find "short" nonzero

given the principal

e.g.  $\zeta = \exp(\pi i/4)$

$\mathcal{O} = \mathbf{Z}[\zeta] \hookrightarrow \mathbf{Z}[x]$ ,

The  $\mathbf{Z}$ -submodule

$201 - 233\zeta - 430\zeta^2$

$935 - 1063\zeta - 198\zeta^2$

$979 - 1119\zeta - 209\zeta^2$

$718 - 829\zeta - 153\zeta^2$

is an ideal  $I$  of  $\mathcal{O}$ .

Can you find a short

such that  $I = g\mathcal{O}$

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The short-generator problem

Find "short" nonzero  $g \in \mathcal{O}$

given the principal ideal  $g\mathcal{O}$

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The  $\mathbf{Z}$ -submodule of  $\mathcal{O}$  gen

$201 - 233\zeta - 430\zeta^2 - 712\zeta^3$

$935 - 1063\zeta - 1986\zeta^2 - 329\zeta^3$

$979 - 1119\zeta - 2092\zeta^2 - 347\zeta^3$

$718 - 829\zeta - 1537\zeta^2 - 254\zeta^3$

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$$\exp(\pi i/256), K = \mathbf{Q}(\zeta)$$

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The latt

Use LLL

short ele

$\mathbf{Z}A + \mathbf{Z}B$

$$A = (20$$

$$B = (93$$

$$C = (97$$

$$D = (71$$

$\mathcal{O}$ ; subring of  $K$ .

modules.

$\mathcal{O}$

products of

ideals of  $\mathcal{O}$ .

$$\mathbf{Q}[x]/(x^2 + 1)$$

$$\mathbf{Z}[x]/(x^2 + 1).$$

$$(56), K = \mathbf{Q}(\zeta)$$

$$\mathbf{Z}[x]/(x^{256} + 1).$$

$$(661), K = \mathbf{Q}(\zeta)$$

...

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{O} =$$

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The lattice perspective

Use LLL to quickly

find short elements of

$$\mathbf{Z}A + \mathbf{Z}B + \mathbf{Z}C +$$

$$A = (201, -233, -$$

$$B = (935, -1063,$$

$$C = (979, -1119,$$

$$D = (718, -829, -$$

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The lattice perspective

Use LLL to quickly find  
short elements of lattice

$\mathbf{Z}A + \mathbf{Z}B + \mathbf{Z}C + \mathbf{Z}D$  where

$A = (201, -233, -430, -712)$

$B = (935, -1063, -1986, -3299)$

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$D = (718, -829, -1537, -2546)$ .

Find  $(3, 1, 4, 1)$  as

$-37A + 3B - 7C + 16D$ .

This was my original  $g$ .

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Can you find a short  $g \in \mathcal{O}$

such that  $I = g\mathcal{O}$ ?

The lattice perspective

Use LLL to quickly find  
short elements of lattice

$\mathbf{Z}A + \mathbf{Z}B + \mathbf{Z}C + \mathbf{Z}D$  where

$$A = (201, -233, -430, -712),$$

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Find  $(3, 1, 4, 1)$  as

$$-37A + 3B - 7C + 16D.$$

This was my original  $g$ .

Also find, e.g.,  $(-4, -1, 3, 1)$ .

Multiplying by root of unity

(here  $\zeta^2$ ) preserves shortness.

Short-generator problem:

Find a "short" nonzero  $g \in \mathcal{O}$

such that the principal ideal  $g\mathcal{O}$ .

$\zeta = \exp(\pi i/4)$ ;  $K = \mathbf{Q}(\zeta)$ ;

$\mathcal{O} \simeq \mathbf{Z}[x]/(x^4 + 1)$ .

$I$  is a submodule of  $\mathcal{O}$  gen by

$33\zeta - 430\zeta^2 - 712\zeta^3$ ,

$1063\zeta - 1986\zeta^2 - 3299\zeta^3$ ,

$1119\zeta - 2092\zeta^2 - 3470\zeta^3$ ,

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— Becomes increasingly reasonable to expect as the number of equations approaches and passes the number of primes.

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— Becomes increasingly  
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“But {primes} is infinite!”

— Restrict to a “factor base”  
e.g., all primes of norm  $\leq y$ .

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Model the norm of  $(\alpha/g)\mathcal{O}$

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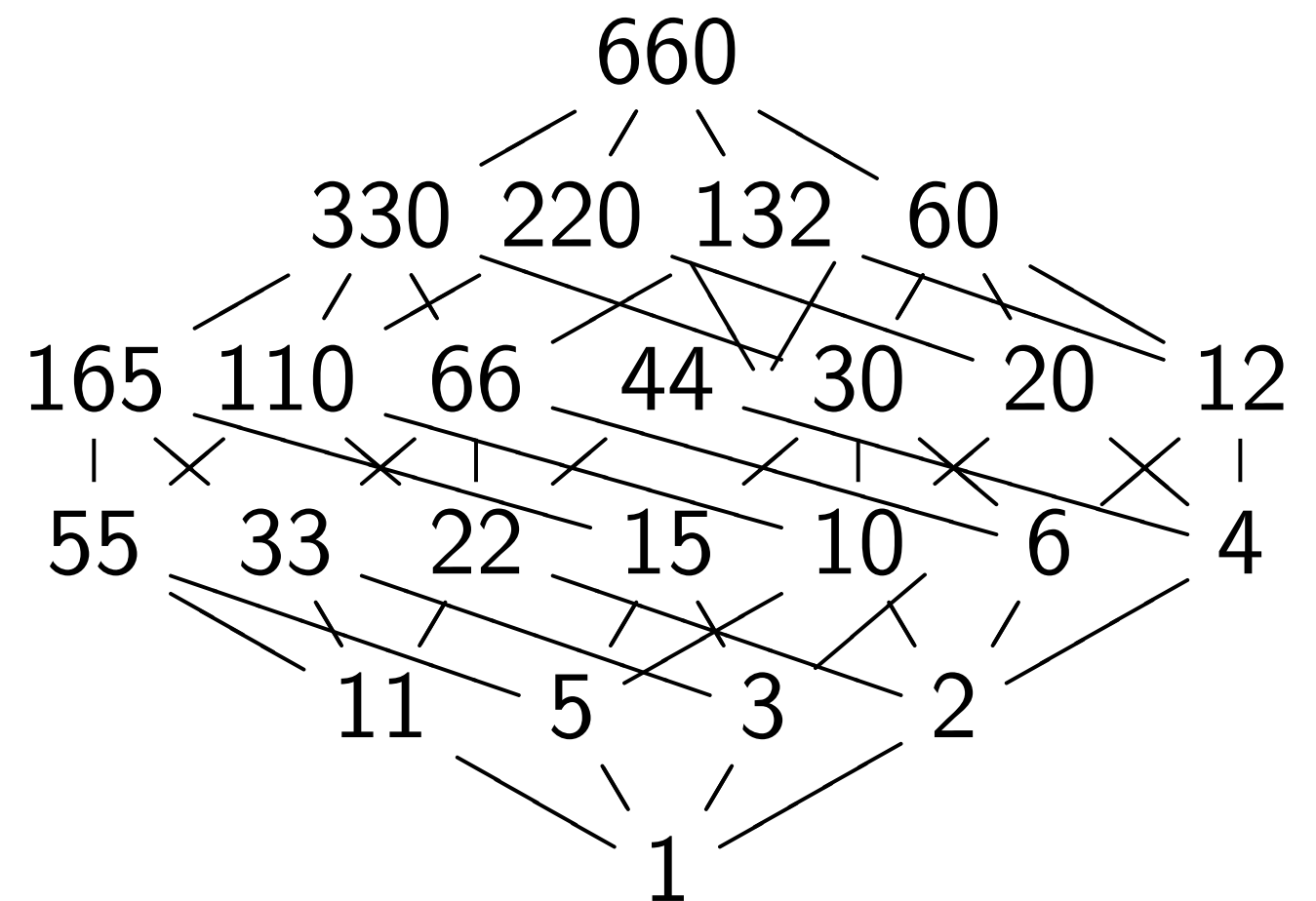
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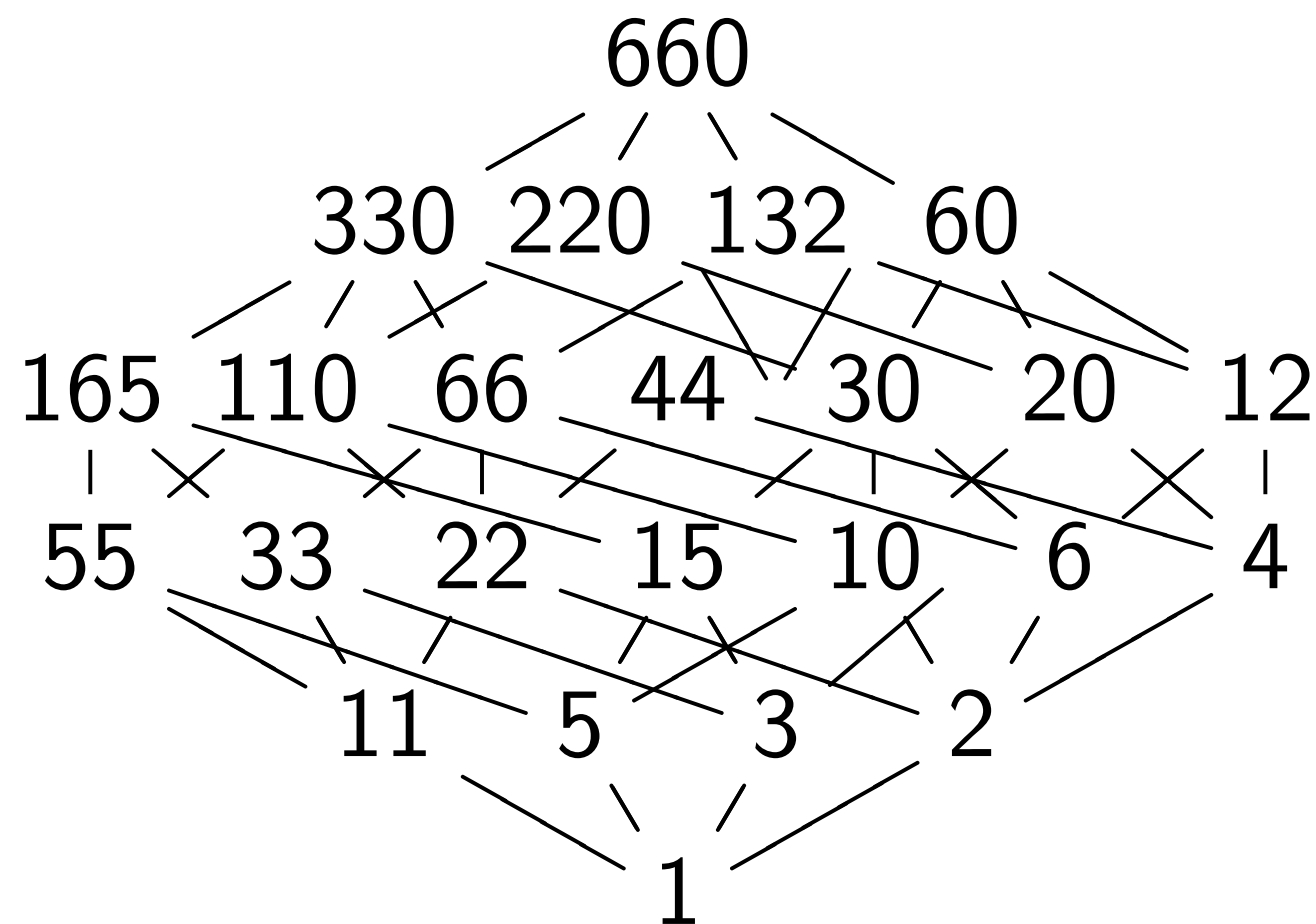
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independent

rank for  $F$ .

use to  $\text{Log } g u$ .

lattice problem,

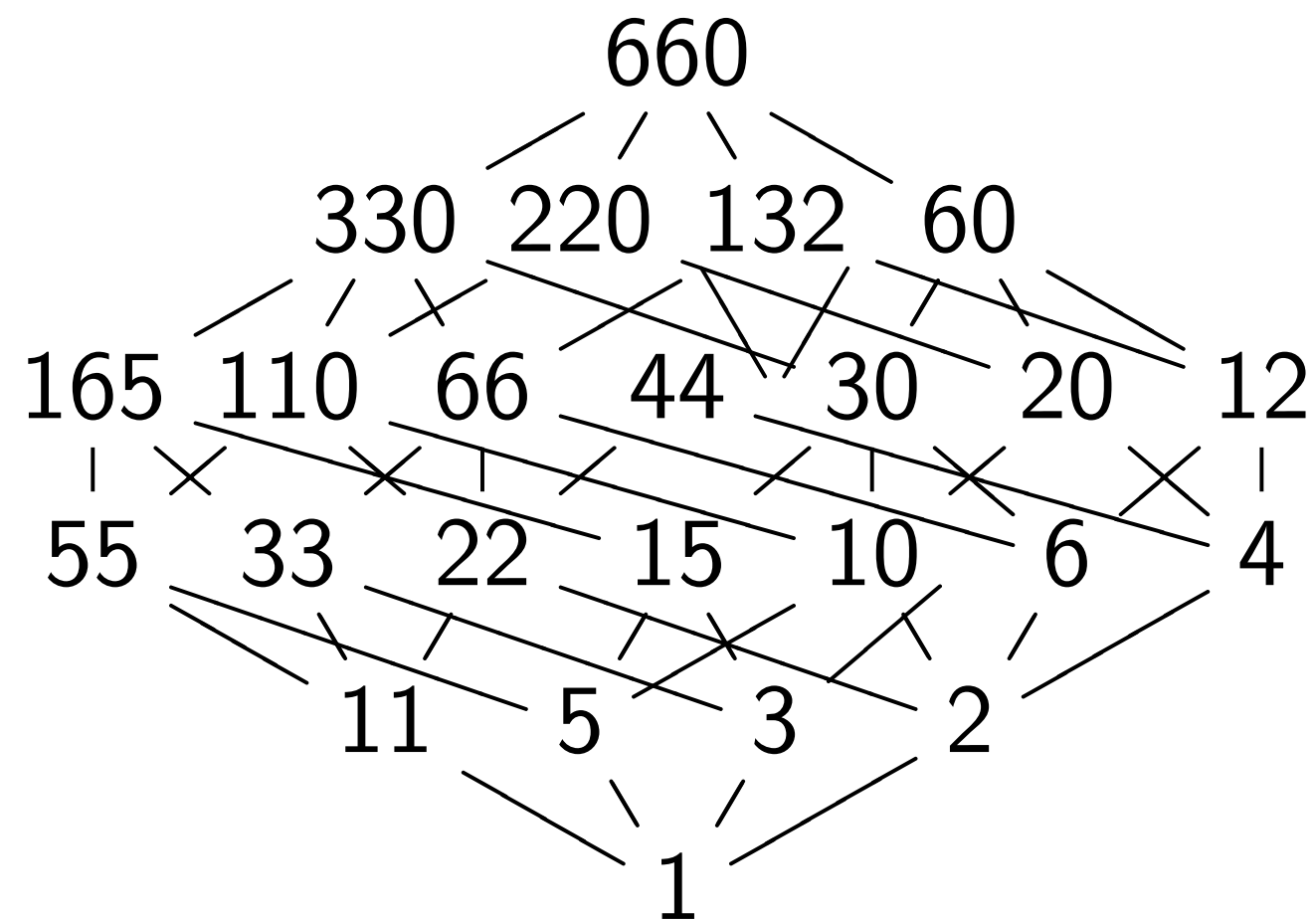
is positive.

Start by recursively computing  
 $\text{Log norm}_{K:F} g$  via norm of  $g \mathcal{O}$   
for each  $F \subset K$ .

Various constraints on  $\text{Log } u$ ,  
depending on subfield structure.

e.g.  $\zeta = \exp(2\pi i/661)$ ,  $K = \mathbf{Q}(\zeta)$ .

Degrees of subfields of  $K$ :



Most extreme case

Composite of quad

$K = \mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}, \sqrt{5})$

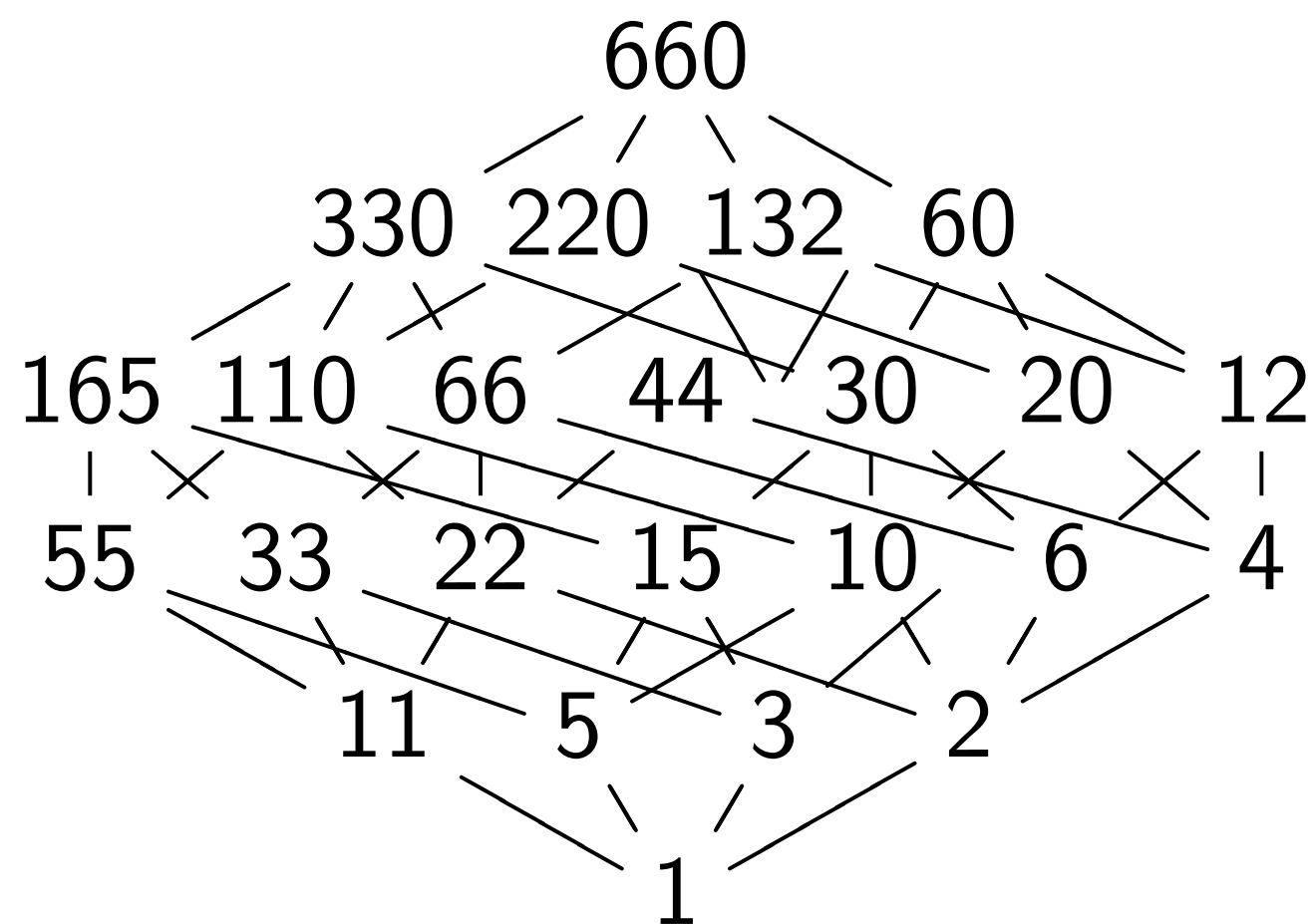
CVP becomes triv

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Most extreme case:

Composite of quadratics, such as

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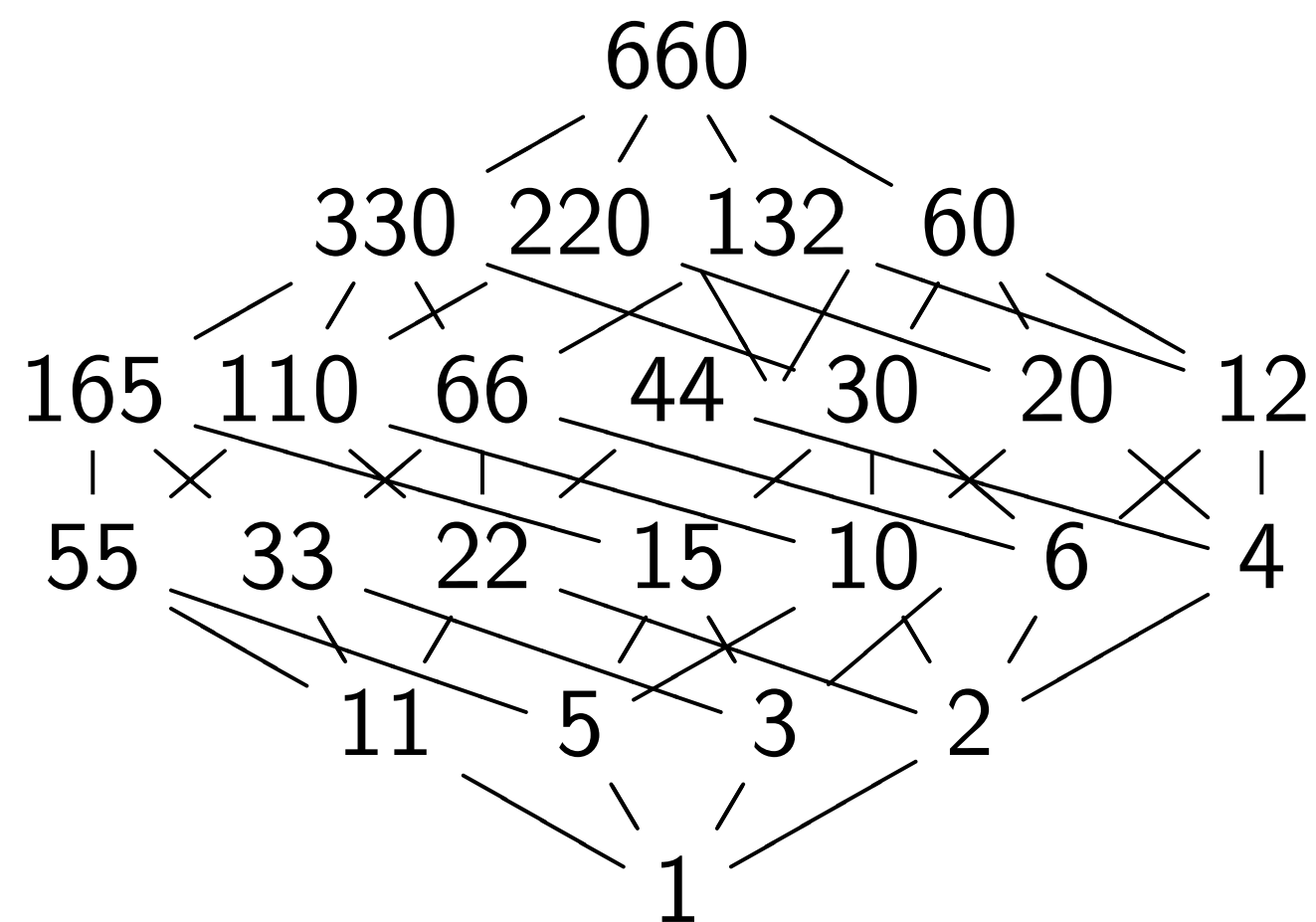
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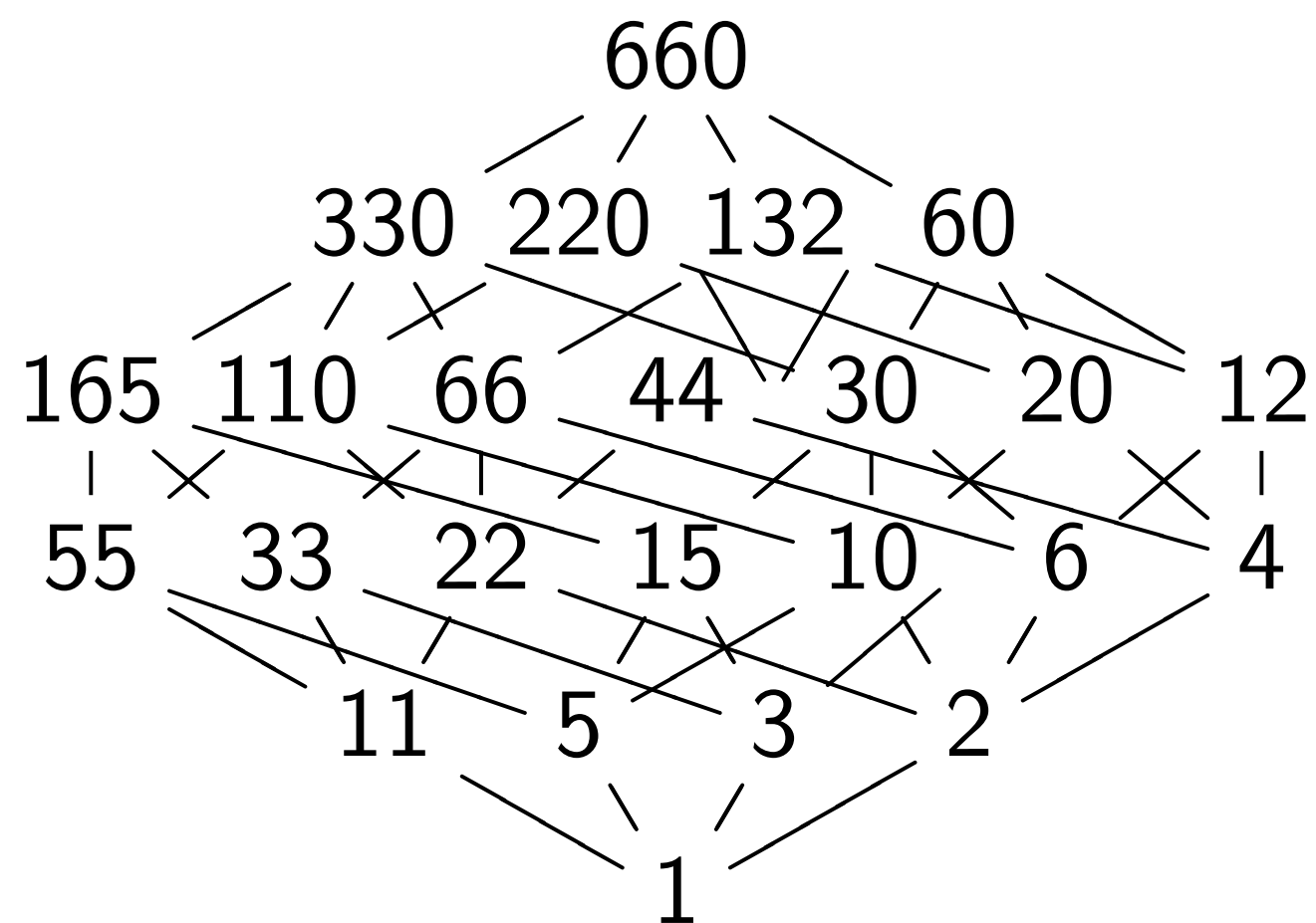
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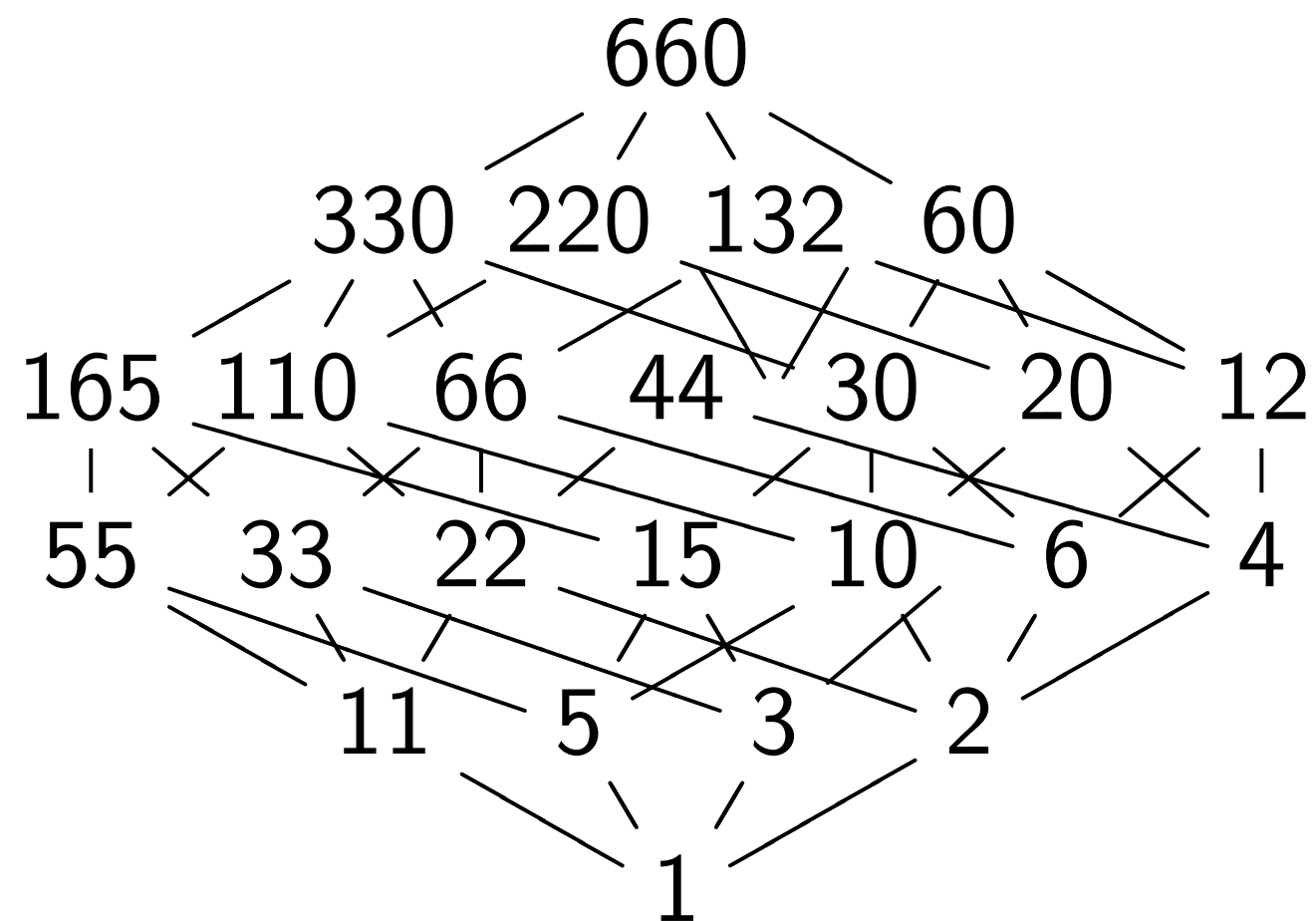
Many intermediate cases.

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 It’s much more general than that.

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*For cyclotomics* this approach  
 is superseded by subsequent  
 Campbell–Groves–Shepherd  
 algorithm, using known (good)  
 basis for cyclotomic units.