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*Divisibility properties of special values of  $L$ -functions for quadratic characters*

For a quadratic character  $\chi$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$  and an integer  $n > 0$  the values of the  $L$ -function of  $\chi$  at  $1 - n$  are non-zero rational numbers if  $\chi$  has parity  $(-1)^n$ . Most of the time the values are 2-integral, and in these cases one can prove general divisibility properties by powers of 2. This has been done by Fox, Urbanowicz and K. S. Williams using sophisticated identities for generalized Bernoulli numbers. We will discuss a purely algebraic approach à la Gauss, which also allows to generalize the results to quadratic characters over arbitrary abelian fields.