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Algebraic Number Theory

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THE CLASS NUMBER TWO PROBLEM FOR CERTAIN QUARTIC FIELDS

Kenneth S. Williams
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Carleton University
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

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1. Introduction. Let \( K \) denote an algebraic number field of finite degree over the rational field \( \mathbb{Q} \). The ring of integers of \( K \) is denoted by \( \mathcal{O}_K \). If \( A \) and \( B \) are nonzero ideals of \( \mathcal{O}_K \), we say that \( A \) is equivalent to \( B \), written \( A \sim B \), if there exist nonzero elements \( \alpha \) and \( \beta \) of \( \mathcal{O}_K \) such that \( (\alpha)A = (\beta)B \). It is easy to check that \( \sim \) is an equivalence relation and it is a classical result that the number of equivalence classes is finite. The number of equivalence classes is called the classnumber of \( K \) and is denoted by \( h(K) \).

It is a result going back to Dedekind that \( h(K) = 1 \) if and only if \( \mathcal{O}_K \) is a unique factorization domain. More recently Carlitz [5] has shown that \( h(K) = 2 \) if and only if \( \mathcal{O}_K \) is not a unique factorization domain but every factorization of a nonzero, nonunit integer of \( K \) contains the same number of primes. It is thus of interest to determine those algebraic number fields \( K \) having \( h(K) = 1 \) or \( h(K) = 2 \). However this is an extremely difficult problem. Even if \( K \) is restricted to a certain class of fields, such as quadratic fields, the problem is still difficult.

The first results of this type were obtained by Stark [11] in 1967 who showed that there are exactly nine imaginary quadratic fields \( K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d}) \) (\( d < 0, d \text{ squarefree} \)) with classnumber 1, namely those for which \( d = -1, -2, -3, -7, -11, -19, -43, -67 \) or \(-163\). The determination of all imaginary quadratic fields \( K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d}) \) (\( d < 0, d \text{ squarefree} \)) with \( h(K) = 2 \) was carried out by Baker [1] and Stark [12] in 1971. They proved that

\[
\]
More recently Mestre [9] has shown that if \(-d\) is prime then
\[
h(Q(\sqrt{d})) > \frac{1}{55} \log |d|,
\]
with a similar inequality when \(-d\) is composite. These inequalities allow in principle the determination of all imaginary quadratic fields \(K = Q(\sqrt{d})\) \((d < 0, d\) squarefree) having \(h(K) \leq 100\). There are 16 imaginary quadratic fields with \(h(K) = 3\) and 54 fields with \(h(K) = 4\). These results for imaginary quadratic fields contrast sharply with the case when \(k = Q(\sqrt{d})\) is a real quadratic field. It was conjectured by Gauss that there are infinitely many real quadratic fields \(K\) for which \(h(K) = 1\) but it is still not known whether this is true or false.

In the case of imaginary bicyclic quartic fields \(K = Q(\sqrt{d_1}, \sqrt{d_2})\), Brown and Parry [3] showed in 1974 that \(h(K) = 1\) if and only if \(K\) belongs to a list of 47 fields. In 1977 Buell, Williams and Williams [4] showed that \(h(K) = 2\) if and only if \(K\) belongs to a list of 160 fields, provided the known list of imaginary quadratic fields with classnumber 4 is complete. Since this list is now known to be complete from the work of Mestre mentioned above, the list of 160 imaginary bicyclic quartic fields of classnumber 2 is also complete.

In the case of imaginary cyclic quartic fields \(K\), Uchida [13] showed in 1972 that if the conductor \(f\) of the field satisfies \(f \geq 50,000\) then \(h(K) > 1\). Later, in 1980, Setzer [10] examined the imaginary cyclic quartic fields \(K\) with \(f < 50,000\) and determined all those with \(h(K) = 1\). He found that
\[
h(K) = 1 \iff f = 5, 13, 16, 29, 37, 53, 61.
\]

Turning next to cyclotomic fields, Masley and Montgomery [8] in 1976 determined all cyclotomic fields \(K = Q(e^{2\pi i/n})\) \((n \not\equiv 2 \pmod{4})\) for which \(h(K) = 1\). They proved that
\[
h(K) = 1 \iff n = 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 32, 33, 35, 36, 40, 44, 45, 48, 60, 84.
\]
Also in 1976 Masley [7] determined the cyclotomic fields \(K\) for which \(2 \leq h(K) \leq 10\).

There are also results for other types of fields. I just mention that Uchida [13] has determined all those imaginary octic fields \(Q(\sqrt{d_1}, \sqrt{d_2}, \sqrt{d_3})\) with classnumber 1. He showed that there are just 17 such fields.
The determination of all imaginary cyclic quartic fields of classnumber 2 does not appear to have been dealt with in the literature. In this talk I will describe briefly the solution to the classnumber 2 problem for these fields.

2. Cyclic quartic extensions of \( \mathbb{Q} \). It is shown in [6] that every cyclic quartic extension \( K \) of \( \mathbb{Q} \) can be written in the form

\[
K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{A(D + B\sqrt{D})}),
\]

where

\[
\begin{align*}
A & \text{ is squarefree and odd,} \\
D = B^2 + C^2 & \text{is squarefree, } B > 0, C > 0, \\
(A, D) & = 1.
\end{align*}
\]

Moreover any field of the form (2.1) satisfying (2.2) is a cyclic quartic extension of \( \mathbb{Q} \). Further, the representation (2.1), (2.2) is unique in the sense that if \( K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{A_1(D_1 + B_1\sqrt{D_1})}) \) is another representation of \( K \) satisfying (2.2) then \( A = A_1, B = B_1, C = C_1, D = D_1 \).

In [6] the discriminant \( d(K) \) of the field \( K \) is determined in terms of \( A, B, C, D \). It is shown that

\[
d(K) = 2^e A^2 D^2,
\]

where

\[
e = \begin{cases} 
8, & \text{if } D \equiv 2 \pmod{8}, \\
6, & \text{if } D \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, B \equiv 1 \pmod{2}, \\
4, & \text{if } D \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, B \equiv 0 \pmod{2}, A + B \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \\
0, & \text{if } D \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, B \equiv 0 \pmod{2}, A + B \equiv 1 \pmod{4}.
\end{cases}
\]

By the discriminant-conductor formula we have

\[
d(K) = mf^2,
\]

where \( m \) is the conductor of \( k = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{D}) \) the unique (real) quadratic subfield of \( K \). As

\[
m = \begin{cases} 
D, & \text{if } D \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\
4D, & \text{if } D \equiv 2 \pmod{8},
\end{cases}
\]

we have

\[
f = 2^e |A||D|.
\]
where

\[
\ell = \begin{cases} 
3, & \text{if } D \equiv 2 \pmod{8} \text{ or } D \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, B \equiv 1 \pmod{2}, \\
2, & \text{if } D \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, B \equiv 0 \pmod{2}, A + B \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \\
0, & \text{if } D \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, B \equiv 0 \pmod{2}, A + B \equiv 1 \pmod{4}.
\end{cases}
\]

(2.8)

3. Formulae for \( h(K) \). Let \( G \) denote the multiplicative group of residues coprime with \( f \) so that \( G \) is isomorphic in a natural way to \( \text{Gal}(Q(\sqrt{e^{2x_i/f}})/Q) \). We let \( H \) denote the subgroup of \( G \), which is isomorphic to \( \text{Gal}(Q(\sqrt{e^{2x_i/f}})/K) \). By Galois theory we know that \( G/H \) is a cyclic group of order 4, say

\[
G/H = \langle \alpha H \rangle
\]

(3.1)

In what we do the particular choice of \( \alpha \) will not be important. We define a character \( \chi \) on \( G \) by

\[
\chi(\alpha) = i, \quad \chi(h) = 1 \quad \forall h \in H.
\]

(3.2)

It is easy to show that all the characters on \( G \), which are trivial on \( H \), are given by

\[
\chi_0, \chi, \chi^2, \chi^3,
\]

(3.3)

where \( \chi^4 = \chi_0 \) is the trivial character on \( G \). The characters \( \chi \) and \( \chi^3 = \overline{\chi} \) are both odd primitive characters of conductor \( f \). The character \( \chi^2 \) however may not be primitive. The primitive character \( (\chi^2)' \) induced by \( \chi^2 \) is

\[
(\chi^2)'(n) = \left( \frac{m}{n} \right), n > 0, (n, m) = 1,
\]

(3.4)

where \( m \) is the conductor of \( k = Q(\sqrt{D}) \).

For \( s \) a complex variable, we set

\[
L_1(s) = L(s, \chi) L(s, \chi^2)
\]

(3.5)

and

\[
L_2(s) = L(s, \chi^2).
\]

(3.6)
It follows from [6] that
\[ \frac{h(K)}{h(k)} = \frac{f w(K) L_1(1)}{4\pi^2}, \]
where \( w(K) \) denotes the number of roots of unity in \( K \), that is,
\[ w(K) = \begin{cases} 2, & \text{if } f > 5, \\ 10, & \text{if } f = 5. \end{cases} \] (3.7)

Since \( h(K) = 1 \) when \( f = 5 \), we may assume that \( f > 5 \). As \( k \) is the maximal real subfield of \( K \), the classnumber \( h(k) \) divides the classnumber \( h(K) \), and the integer \( h(K)/h(k) \) is called the relative classnumber of \( K \) (over \( k \)) and is denoted by \( h^*(K) \). Thus we have
\[ h^*(K) = \frac{f L_1(1)}{2\pi^2}, \quad f > 5. \] (3.8)

From the work of Berndt [2], we know that
\[ L(1, \chi) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x(n)}{n} = \frac{\pi}{i G(\chi)} \sum_{0 < n < f/2} \bar{x}(n) \chi(2) - 2 \] (3.9)
where the Gauss sum \( G(\chi) \) is defined by
\[ G(\chi) = \sum_{j=1}^{f} \chi(j) e^{2\pi i j/f}. \] (3.10)

Since
\[ G(\chi) G(\overline{\chi}) = -f, \] (3.11)
we obtain
\[ L_1(1) = \frac{\pi^2}{f(\chi(2) - 2)^2} \left| \sum_{0 < n < f/2} \chi(n) \right|^2 \] (3.12)
and so
\[ h^*(K) = \rho \left| \sum_{0 < n < f/2} \chi(n) \right|^2, \quad f > 5, \] (3.13)
where
\[ \rho = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}, & \text{if even}, \\ \frac{f}{2}, & \text{if odd}, \chi(2) = 1, \\ \frac{1}{2}, & \text{if odd}, \chi(2) = -1, \\ \frac{1}{10}, & \text{if odd}, \chi(2) = \pm i. \end{cases} \] (3.14)
Defining, for \( j = 0, 1, 2, 3 \),

\[
C_j = \sum_{\substack{0 < \epsilon < f/2 \quad \chi(n) = 1 \quad \epsilon \epsilon' = f/2 \quad n \equiv j \pmod{f}}} \frac{1}{\epsilon} = \sum_{n \equiv j \pmod{f}} 1,
\]

we obtain

\[
h^*(K) = \rho((C_0 - C_3)^2 + (C_1 - C_2)^2).
\]

4. Lower bound for \( h^*(K) \). By extending the ideas used in [13], and the formula (3.8), it can be shown that

\[
h^*(K) > 2 \quad \text{for} \quad f \geq 416,000.
\]

Thus in order to determine all imaginary cyclic quartic fields with \( h^*(K) = 2 \) it suffices to consider only those having \( f < 416,000 \).

5. Necessary and sufficient condition for \( h^*(K) \equiv 2 \pmod{4} \). In searching the imaginary cyclic quartic fields \( K \) of conductor \( f < 416,000 \) for those fields with \( h^*(K) = 2 \), it suffices to calculate \( h^*(K) \) only for those fields \( K \) having \( h^*(K) \equiv 2 \pmod{4} \). It is shown in [6] that

\[
h^*(K) \equiv 2 \pmod{4}
\]

\[
\Leftrightarrow f = 16p, \quad \text{where} \quad p \equiv 3 \text{ or } 5 \pmod{8},
\]

or \( f = 8p, \quad \text{where} \quad p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}, \)

or \( f = pq, \quad \text{where} \quad (p/q) = -1. \)

Here \( p \) and \( q \) denote distinct odd primes. This considerably reduces the number of fields \( K \) for which \( h^*(K) \) must be calculated.

6. Calculation of \( h^*(K) \). Using the formula for \( h^*(K) \) given in (3.16) and the results of §2, \( h^*(K) \) was calculated by the method described in [6] for all fields \( K \) with \( f < 416,000 \) and \( f \) of
the form (5.1). It was found that

\[ h^*(K) = 2 \iff K = Q(\sqrt{-(5 + \sqrt{5})}) \quad (f = 40) \]
\[ Q(\sqrt{3(2 + \sqrt{2})}) \quad (f = 48) \]
\[ Q(\sqrt{5(13 + 2\sqrt{13})}) \quad (f = 65) \]
\[ Q(\sqrt{-13(5 + 2\sqrt{5})}) \quad (f = 65) \]
\[ Q(\sqrt{-5(2 + \sqrt{2})}) \quad (f = 80) \]
\[ Q(\sqrt{-10 + 3\sqrt{10}}) \quad (f = 80) \]
\[ Q(\sqrt{-17(5 + 2\sqrt{5})}) \quad (f = 85) \]
\[ Q(\sqrt{-85 + 6\sqrt{85}}) \quad (f = 85) \]
\[ Q(\sqrt{-13 + 3\sqrt{13}}) \quad (f = 104) \]
\[ Q(\sqrt{-7(17 + 4\sqrt{17})}) \quad (f = 119) \]

7. Solution of classnumber 2 problem. We have

\[ h(K) = 2 \iff h^*(K) = 2, h(k) = 1 \]

or

\[ h^*(K) = 1, h(k) = 2. \]

However from [10] we know that

\[ h^*(K) = 1, h(k) = 2 \]

cannot occur so that

\[ h(K) = 2 \iff h^*(K) = 2, h(k) = 1. \]

Thus \( h(K) = 2 \) occurs only for those fields \( K \) in the list of §6 for which \( h(k) = 1 \). Since

\[ h \left( Q(\sqrt{2}) \right) = h \left( Q(\sqrt{5}) \right) = h \left( Q(\sqrt{13}) \right) = h \left( Q(\sqrt{17}) \right) = 1 \]

and

\[ h \left( Q(\sqrt{10}) \right) = h \left( Q(\sqrt{85}) \right) = 2, \]
we have proved the following theorem.

**THEOREM.** Let $K$ be an imaginary cyclic quartic field. Then $h(K) = 2$ if and only if

\[
K = Q \left( \sqrt{-3(2 + \sqrt{2})} \right), Q \left( \sqrt{-5(2 + \sqrt{2})} \right), Q \left( \sqrt{-5 + \sqrt{5}} \right),
\]

\[
Q \left( \sqrt{-13(5 + 2\sqrt{5})} \right), Q \left( \sqrt{-17(5 + 2\sqrt{5})} \right), Q \left( \sqrt{-13 + 3\sqrt{13}} \right),
\]

\[
Q \left( \sqrt{-5(13 + 2\sqrt{13})} \right), \text{ or } Q \left( \sqrt{-7(17 + 4\sqrt{17})} \right).
\]

**REFERENCES**

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