

19. On the Group of Units of a Non-Galois Quartic or Sextic Number Field

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All number fields we consider are in the complex number field. The symbol $\langle S \rangle$ denotes a multiplicative group generated by S .

For a finite extension k/\mathbf{Q} , let E_k be the group of units of k , and E'_k be the group generated by all units of proper subfields of k together with roots of unity in k . We define the group H_k of relative units of k by

$$H_k = \{ \varepsilon \in E_k \mid N_{k/k'}(\varepsilon) \text{ is a root of unity for a proper subfield } k' \text{ of } k \}.$$

Let us consider the problem to construct E_k with the help of E'_k . It is interesting to utilize H_k together with E'_k when $(E_k : E'_k) = +\infty$. Hasse [2] has treated such a case when k is a real cyclic quartic number field. We are going to treat the case when k is a non-galois quartic (resp. sextic) number field having a quadratic subfield (resp. a quadratic and a cubic subfields). Then the galois closure of k/\mathbf{Q} is a dihedral extension of degree 8 or 12 over \mathbf{Q} . We restrict our investigation on such extensions.

From now on, we assume $n=2$ or 3 . Let L/\mathbf{Q} be a galois extension of degree $4n$ with the galois group

$$G = \langle \sigma, \tau \rangle; \quad \sigma^{2n} = \tau^2 = (\sigma\tau)^2 = 1.$$

The invariant subfield of the subgroup $\langle \tau \rangle$ (resp. $\langle \sigma^3\tau \rangle, \langle \sigma^n \rangle$) is denoted by K (resp. F, Ω), and the maximal abelian subfield by A . Then K and F are non-galois number fields of degree $2n$ which we are going to study. The quadratic subfield of K (resp. F) is denoted by K_2 (resp. F_2). When $n=3$, the cubic subfield of both K and F is denoted by K_3 . The quartic field A is the composite field of K_2 and F_2 which contains another quadratic subfield A_2 . Note that $A = \Omega$ when $n=2$.

It is easy to show the following, which is in Nagell [6] when $n=2$.

Proposition 1. *When $L \cap \mathbf{R} = \Omega$, we have $E_K = E'_K$ and $E_F = E'_F$.*

Therefore we treat the two cases:

Case I: $L \cap \mathbf{R} = K$. Case II: $L \subset \mathbf{R}$.

Taking into account that all roots of unity of L is contained in the quartic subfield A , we take and fix a generator ω (resp. ζ, ρ) of the group of roots of unity of A (resp. A_2, F_2).

1. Type of E_K and E_F . A typical example of K and F are a pure number field of degree $2n$. The method, which is used in Stender [8],