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Let K be an imaginary quadratic field embedded in the complex number field C, and let  $f \neq (1)$  be an integral ideal of K. For each element C of the ray class group  $Cl(\mathfrak{f})$  modulo  $\mathfrak{f}$  the ray class invariant  $\phi_{\rm f}(C)$  is introduced by Siegel and Ramachandra (cf. Robert [5] and Stark [7]). The definition will be explained in the text. Let H(f) be the ray class field modulo f and f the smallest positive integer contained in f. Then it is known that  $(\phi_i(C)/\phi_i(C'))^{e(H(\mathfrak{f}))/e(K)}$   $(C, C' \in \mathcal{Cl}(\mathfrak{f}))$ is the (12f)-th power of a unit of  $H(\mathfrak{f})$  (Gillard and Robert [1]). Here  $e(H(\mathfrak{f}))$  and e(K) are the numbers of roots of unity contained in  $H(\mathfrak{f})$ and K respectively. In this paper we describe a (12f)-th root of  $(\phi_{\mathfrak{f}}(C)/\phi_{\mathfrak{f}}(C'))^{e(H(\mathfrak{f}))/e(K)}$  contained in  $H(\mathfrak{f})$  explicitly by special values of the Siegel functions and determine the behavior under Artin auto-The result is then useful to calculate class numbers of morphisms. abelian extensions of K by the method of Gras and Gras [2].

§ 1. Preliminaries. Let  $f \neq (1)$  be an integral ideal of K. The ideal f is uniquely decomposed into two factors  $f_a$ ,  $f_b$  as follows:

$$f = f_a f_b, \quad f_a = \overline{f}_a, \quad (\overline{f}_b, \overline{f}_b) = 1.$$

Here the bar indicates the complex conjugation. Take an integral basis  $\{\omega, 1\}$  (Im  $(\omega) > 0$ ) of the ring  $\circ$  of integers of K. We fix such an  $\omega$  throughout this paper. The next lemma is fundamental in the formulation and the proof of our results.

**Lemma.** Let  $f_b$  be the smallest positive integer contained in  $f_b$ . Then there exists a rational integer a satisfying the following condition: For an arbitrary element x of  $f_b$  the congruence

$$a \operatorname{tr} (x) \equiv \operatorname{Im} (x) / \operatorname{Im} (\omega) \mod f_b$$

holds, where  $tr(\cdot)$  is the trace map from K to the rational number field Q.

We fix such an integer a. For an algebraic number field H of finite degree denote by e(H) the number of roots of unity contained in H. Put  $\delta = e(H(1))/e(K)$ , where H(1) is the Hilbert class field of K. The integer  $\delta$  is a divisor of 6. We consider the following condition (#) concerning an ideal (not necessarily integral)  $\alpha$  of K:

(#) a is prime to 6f and  $N(a) \equiv 1 \mod (12/\delta)$ .

Here N(a) is the absolute norm of a and the congruence is considered