

113. Construction of Certain Real Quadratic Fields

By Tsuyoshi UEHARA

Department of Mathematics, Saga University

(Communicated by Shokichi IYANAGA, M. J. A., Oct. 12, 1983)

Let n be a given natural number. In this note we shall construct real quadratic fields whose fundamental units are congruent to ± 1 modulo n . We also give a new proof of the existence of infinitely many real quadratic fields each with class number divisible by n (cf. Weinberger [3], Yamamoto [4]).

Let Z, Q be the ring of rational integers, the field of rational numbers respectively. For a rational integer $m \neq 0$ and a prime p we denote by $\text{ord}_p m$ the greatest nonnegative rational integer f such that $m \equiv 0 \pmod{p^f}$.

Lemma. *Let α, β be integers of a quadratic field K such that $\alpha = \pm \beta^n$ for some $n > 1$ in Z . We write $\alpha = (a + b\sqrt{d})/2$, $\beta = (s + t\sqrt{d})/2$ with a, b, s, t in Z , where d is the discriminant of K . If p is a prime dividing d such that $\text{ord}_p a = \text{ord}_p 2$, then we have*

$$\text{ord}_p t = \text{ord}_p b - \text{ord}_p n$$

except in the following two cases: (i) $p=2$, $\text{ord}_2 d=2$ and $n \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$, (ii) $p=3$, $d \equiv 6 \pmod{9}$ and $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$.

Proof. First assume that $\text{ord}_p d = \text{ord}_p(4p)$. Then $\text{ord}_p a = \text{ord}_p 2$ implies $\text{ord}_p s = \text{ord}_p 2$. If $5 \leq k \leq n$, we have $\text{ord}_p \binom{n}{k} \geq \text{ord}_p n - \text{ord}_p k \geq \text{ord}_p n + 1 - k/2$. Hence

$$b \equiv \pm nt(s/2)^{n-3} \{ (s/2)^2 + (n-1)(n-2)t^2 d/24 \} \pmod{p^{n+1}}$$

with $g = \text{ord}_p(nt)$. Thus $\text{ord}_p b = g$ holds except in the case (ii). Next let $p=2$, $\text{ord}_2 d=2$ and $(n, 2)=1$. Then $\beta^2 \equiv 0$ or $1 \pmod{2}$ according as $s/2 \equiv t$ or $t+1 \pmod{2}$. Since $\text{ord}_2 a=1$, $\alpha \equiv \beta \pmod{2}$ and $s/2 \equiv t+1 \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$. Hence $b \equiv \pm nt(s/2)^{n-1} \pmod{2t}$. Thus the lemma follows.

Theorem. *Let n be a given natural number and let $k > 1$ be a square free rational integer such that $k \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ for any prime p dividing n . We put*

$$\varepsilon = (kn^2 \pm 2 + n\sqrt{m})/2 \quad \text{with } m = k(kn^2 \pm 4),$$

and assume that $kn^2 \pm 4 \neq c^2$, $2c^2$ for any c in Z and that $m \equiv 3 \pmod{9}$ if 3 divides n . Then $\varepsilon > 1$ is the fundamental unit of $K = Q(\sqrt{m})$.

Proof. It is easy to see that $\varepsilon > 1$ is a unit of K with norm 1. We write $kn^2 \pm 4 = c^2 u$ with c in Z and a square free rational integer $u > 0$. From the assumption we have $u \geq 3$. Since $(u, k) = 1$ or 2 , the discriminant d of K is ku if n is odd, and is $4ku$ if n is even. Note that