

93. On Certain Cubic Fields. VI

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1. The notations $E_F, E_F^+, \mathcal{O}_F$ for an algebraic number field F, D_h for a polynomial $h(x) \in \mathbf{Z}[x]$ and $D_F(\alpha)$ for an algebraic number α in F have the same meanings as in [3].

In this note, we shall consider totally real cubic fields K with the properties:

- (I) $\theta, \theta+1 \in E_K$
 (II) $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbf{Z} + \mathbf{Z}\theta + \mathbf{Z}\theta^2$.

These fields will be called for convenience *primitive with two consecutive units*, in short *P-C fields*. We shall prove

Theorem. In *P-C fields*, we have $E_K = \langle \pm 1 \rangle \times \langle \theta, \theta+1 \rangle$.

2. Now we can distinguish four cases:

- (1) $\theta, -1-\theta \in E_K^+$ (2) $\theta, 1+\theta \in E_K^+$
 (3) $-\theta, -1-\theta \in E_K^+$ (4) $-\theta, 1+\theta \in E_K^+$

In the case (1), we have $N_{K/\mathbf{Q}}\theta=1, N_{K/\mathbf{Q}}(1+\theta)=-1$ which implies $\text{Irr}(\theta; \mathbf{Q})=x^3-mx^2-(m+3)x-1, m \in \mathbf{Z}$, and in the case (2), we have $N_{K/\mathbf{Q}}\theta=1, N_{K/\mathbf{Q}}(1+\theta)=1$ which implies $\text{Irr}(\theta; \mathbf{Q})=x^3-nx^2-(n+1)x-1, n \in \mathbf{Z}$. The cases (3), (4) can be reduced to the case (2) by replacing θ respectively by $-1-\theta$ and $-(1+\theta)^{-1}$. Accordingly, we have to consider two kinds of fields (*P-C1*) and (*P-C2*), which are *P-C fields* with properties (1) respectively (2).

Now we have

Theorem 1. *Cubic field $K=\mathbf{Q}(\theta)$ with $\text{Irr}(\theta; \mathbf{Q})=f(x) \in \mathbf{Z}[x]$ is (*P-C1*) field, if and only if $f(x)=x^3-mx^2-(m+3)x-1, m \in \mathbf{Z}$ and $\sqrt{D_f}=m^2+3m+9$ is square free.*

In fact, (1) is equivalent with $\text{Irr}(\theta; \mathbf{Q})=f(x)=x^3-mx^2-(m+3)x-1$ and in this case K is Galois and so totally real, and (II) holds if and only if $\sqrt{D_f}$ is square free.

Theorem 2. *Cubic field $K=\mathbf{Q}(\theta)$ with $\text{Irr}(\theta; \mathbf{Q})=g(x) \in \mathbf{Z}[x]$ is (*P-C2*) field, if and only if $g(x)=x^3-nx^2-(n+1)x-1, n \in \mathbf{Z}, D_g=(n^2+n-3)^2-32 > 0$ is square free.*

In fact, (2) is equivalent with $\text{Irr}(\theta; \mathbf{Q})=x^3-nx^2-(n+1)x-1$ and $D_g > 0$ means that K is totally real, and (II) means that D_g is square free.

3. *Proof of Theorem.* We shall prove this theorem in two cases: (*P-C1*) fields and (*P-C2*) fields.

(i) Case (P-C1). In [3], we have proved $E_K = \langle \pm 1 \rangle \times \langle \theta, \theta + 1 \rangle$ for (P-C1) fields with $m \geq -1$. The case $m < -1$ is reduced to this case for the following reason. Put $J(m, x) = x^3 - mx^2 - (m+3)x - 1$ and $m+3 = -l$. Then we have $-(1/x^3)J(m, x) = J(l, 1/x)$ and if $m \geq -1$, then we have $l \leq -2$. Thus if $\text{Irr}(\theta; \mathbf{Q}) = J(m, x)$ with $m \geq -1$, then $\text{Irr}(1/\theta; \mathbf{Q}) = J(l, x)$ with $m < -1$.

(ii) Case (P-C2). In [4], we have proved $E_K = \langle \pm 1 \rangle \times \langle \theta, \theta + 1 \rangle$ for (P-C2) fields with $n \leq -7$. So we have to supplement the case $n = -5, -6$. The case $n \geq 4$ is reduced to this case (see Remark 1 in [4]). Let S be the set of conjugate mappings of K/\mathbf{Q} . Using the fact $|z^n - 1| \geq \max(|z|, 1)^{n-2} ||z|^2 - 1|$ for any $z \in \mathbf{C}$ and $n \in \mathbf{N}$ with $n \geq 2$ (cf. [1]), we have $|\delta(\delta+1) - 1| = |\lambda^3 - 1| \geq \max(|\lambda|, 1) ||\lambda|^2 - 1|$ in the notations of [4]. As K/\mathbf{Q} is totally real, we have $|\lambda^\sigma|^2 = (|\lambda|^\sigma)^2$ for any $\sigma \in S$, so that we have

$$(*) \quad n^2 + 5n + 5 = \prod_{\sigma \in S} |(\delta(\delta+1) - 1)^\sigma| = \prod_{\sigma \in S} \max(|\lambda|^\sigma, 1) \prod_{\sigma \in S} ||\lambda|^\sigma - 1| \\ > (n+2 ||n+3|^{1/3} |N_{K/\mathbf{Q}}(|\lambda|^2 - 1)|),$$

as the roots of $g(x)$ are situated as follows:

$$n+1 < \delta_1 < n+2, \quad -2 < \delta_2 < -1 \quad \text{and} \quad 0 < \delta_3 < 1.$$

A straightforward computation shows (see the proof of Theorem in [5] and consider the discriminants of $\text{Irr}(|\lambda|; \mathbf{Q})$, $\text{Irr}(|\lambda|-1; \mathbf{Q})$ and $\text{Irr}(|\lambda|+1; \mathbf{Q})$), that we have $|N_{K/\mathbf{Q}}(|\lambda|^2 - 1)| \geq 5$. Thus (*) is impossible for $n = -5, -6$. Hence the case $(k, l) = (1, 1)$ can not take place.

Remark. Our theorem follows also from the following result of E. Thomas [2] (instead of [3], [4]): $K = \mathbf{Q}(\theta)$ with $\text{Irr}(\theta; \mathbf{Q}) = x^3 - mx^2 - (m+3)x - 1$ with $m \geq -1$ or $\text{Irr}(\theta; \mathbf{Q}) = x^3 - (n-1)x^2 + nx - 1$ with $n \geq 7$ has the property that $\langle \pm 1 \rangle \times \langle \theta, \theta + 1 \rangle$ respectively $\langle \pm 1 \rangle \times \langle \theta, \theta - 1 \rangle$ coincide with the unit groups of orders $\mathbf{Z} + \mathbf{Z}\theta + \mathbf{Z}\theta^2$. The proof is quite different from ours.

References

- [1] F. H. Grossman: On the solution of diophantine equations in units. Acta Arith., **30**, 137-143 (1976).
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- [4] —: On certain cubic fields. III. ibid., **59A**, 260-262 (1983).
- [5] —: On certain cubic fields. V. ibid., **60A**, 302-305 (1984).