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Abstract

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1 Introduction to the working set

Consider the n -th cyclotomic field $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)$ with ζ_n a n -th primitive root of unity, with $n \not\equiv 2 \pmod{4}$, and define K as the maximal real subfield of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)$, also another notation that we will use for the maximal real subfield is $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)^+$. From now we will refer to ζ_n without the index if not necessary.

Proposition 1.1. *The maximal real subfield is $K = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta + \zeta^{-1})$*

Proof. First of all we can easily see that K is real, infact since for the root of unity $\bar{\zeta} = \zeta^{-1}$ (complex conjugation) and so:

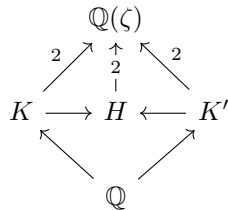
$$\overline{\zeta + \zeta^{-1}} = \bar{\zeta} + \bar{\zeta}^{-1} = \zeta^{-1} + \zeta$$

So $\zeta + \zeta^{-1}$ is real and K too.

Since $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)$ is complex (so strictly greater) the index $e := [\mathbb{Q}(\zeta) : K] \geq 2$.

Consider now the polynomial of degree 2 in $K[x] : f = (x - \zeta)(x - \zeta^{-1}) = x^2 - (\zeta + \zeta^{-1})x + 1$, since ζ is a root obviously $e \leq 2$, so the subfield K has maximal degree since this is the minimal degree for a proper subfield.

If there was another $K' = \mathbb{Q}(\chi)$ with such property we can consider $H = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta, \chi)$ that is also real with $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta) \supsetneq H \supset K$, so $H = K$ and akin $H = K'$ so $K = K'$ and K is unique. \square



Now we will consider the group of units E_K that is the group formed by the invertible elements of its ring of integers O_K^* . Is it possible to characterize the ring of integers for K [3, Proposition 2.16] similiarly to what happens for $O_{\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)}$ (infact the proof follows without difficulty from this)

Proposition 1.2. $O_K = \mathbb{Z}[\zeta + \zeta^{-1}]$

Since $x^n - 1$ is separable $\mathbb{Q}(\xi)/\mathbb{Q}$ is a Galois extension and it's easy to see that its Galois group G_0 is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{Z}_n)^*$. Also we can see that:

Proposition 1.3. *K/\mathbb{Q} is a Galois extension and its Galois group G is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_n^*/\{\pm 1\}$*

Proof. Consider the map $\sigma : G_0 \rightarrow G$ that maps α_i to $\alpha_{i|_G}$ where α_i is the automorphism that maps ζ to ζ^i . Obviously σ is a morphism of groups. Also it is easy to describe its kernel:

$$\begin{aligned} \ker(\sigma) &= \{\alpha_i \in G_0 \mid \forall x \in K \text{ follows } x = \alpha_i(x)\} \\ &\stackrel{(1)}{=} \{\alpha_i \in G_0 \mid \zeta + \zeta^{-1} = \alpha_i(\zeta + \zeta^{-1}) = \zeta^i + \zeta^{-i}\} \\ &\stackrel{(2)}{=} \{\alpha_1, \alpha_{-1}\} \end{aligned}$$

Where (1) follows from the fact that $K = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta + \zeta^{-1})$ and (2) from linear algebra. So from the first theorem of isomorphism $\sigma(G_0) \simeq \mathbb{Z}_n^*/\{\pm 1\}$ and then

$$\phi(n)/2 = |\mathbb{Z}_n^*/\{\pm 1\}| \leq |G| \leq [K : \mathbb{Q}] = [\mathbb{Q}(\zeta) : \mathbb{Q}]/2 = \phi(n)/2$$

So $\sigma(G_0) = G$ and $|G| = [K : \mathbb{Q}]$ and the thesis follows. \square

Remark. We excluded the case of $n \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ because it is a repetition, in fact in this situation $G_0 \simeq \mathbb{Z}_{2+4k}^*$ and since $2 + 4k = 2(1 + 2k)$ with the second term odd for the Chinese remainder theorem $\mathbb{Z}_{2+4k}^* \simeq \mathbb{Z}_2^* \times \mathbb{Z}_{1+2k}^* \simeq \{1\} \times \mathbb{Z}_{1+2k}^* \simeq \mathbb{Z}_{1+2k}^*$ that is isomorphic to the Galois group for the $n/2$ -th root of unity.

1.1 The circular units and the class number

Definiton 1.4. If \mathbb{K} is a number field (as $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)$ and K) we can define the **ideal class group** as the quotient $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbb{K}}/\mathcal{P}_{\mathbb{K}}$ where:

$\mathcal{F}_{\mathbb{K}}$ is the group of the nonzero fractional ideals of the ring of integers $O_{\mathbb{K}}$, that are the $O_{\mathbb{K}}$ -submodules J of K such that exists $r \in O_{\mathbb{K}}$ such that $rI \subset O_{\mathbb{K}}$

$\mathcal{P}_{\mathbb{K}}$ is the set of nonzero principal fractionary ideals, so the ideals generated by only one element

We will indicate the number of classes in $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbb{K}}/\mathcal{P}_{\mathbb{K}}$ as h_K . This number will measure the "distance" of $O_{\mathbb{K}}$ to become a unique factorization domain. In [1, Page 141] it is proven that actually the ideal class group is finite so h_K is well defined.

Definiton 1.5. For a field $\mathbb{K} \subseteq \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)$ (with n minimal) we define the group of cyclotomic (or circular) units as the intersection $C_{\mathbb{K}}$ of the group generated by:

$$\{-1, \zeta, 1 - \zeta^a \text{ for } a = 1, \dots, n-1\}$$

and the unit of \mathbb{K} ($E_{\mathbb{K}}$). An element of $C_{\mathbb{K}}$ is said to be a **circular unit** of \mathbb{K} .

In general the circular units aren't easy to describe, infact in general $1 - \zeta^a$ is not a unit, but for the particular case in which \mathbb{K} is the maximal real subfield (K) it has some interesting properties and it's related to the class number.

If $n = p^m$ where p is a prime it is possible to describe ([3, Lemma 8.1, Theorem 8.2]) explicitly the group of circular units as the group generated by -1 and:

$$\xi_a = \zeta^{\frac{1-a}{2}} \frac{1 - \zeta^a}{1 - \zeta} \text{ for } 1 < a < \frac{p^m}{2}, (a, p) = 1$$

Also we have the equality for the index:

$$[E_K : C_K] = h_K$$

Moreover Sinnott in [2] has improved this showing that E_K/C_K is finite and the index is:

$$[E_K : C_K] = 2^a h_K$$

where if g is the number of distinct primes dividing n we have that $a = 0$ if $g = 1$ (as expected) and $a = 2^{g-2} + 1 - g$ otherwise. Even if the index is simple does not exist a simple construction of C_K , so we have the problem:

Explicitly construct a group C' with finite index $[E_K : C']$ that is *optimal*

Where we will understand later what we mean by *optimal*, but essentially we want the index to be small and with a simple factorization for $[E_K : C']/h_K$. In particular the construction of Greither will generalize the work of Ramachandra and Levesque, so we will omit them from now and see them later.

1.2 Dirichlet Characters

Definiton 1.6. Given a group X and a field \mathbb{F} a Dirichlet character is a group homomorphism $\chi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^*$

In our case the field is \mathbb{C} and X is the Galois group $G_0 \simeq \mathbb{Z}_n^*$, so we can see the dirichlet characters as homomorphisms: $\xi : \mathbb{Z}_n^* \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$. Since if $n|m$ there is a natural homomorphism $\mathbb{Z}_m^* \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_n^*$ we can induct a new character using the composition from \mathbb{Z}_m^* . This characters are completely equivalent, so we can choose n to be minimal and call it the **conductor** of χ , denoted by f_χ .

In some cases the character are also extended as ring homomorphisms from $\mathbb{Z}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, assuming χ to be zero on the non invertible elements. In this way the conductor can be seen as a sort of period, infact for all n we have $\chi(n) = \chi(n + f_\chi)$.

Also we need another object: the group ring $\mathbb{Z}[G]$, that is a free \mathbb{Z} -module with G as basis on which we define the addition (using the module addition) and the multiplication inducing it from the operation of G . This construction is also possible for a general ring and a multiplicative group:

Definiton 1.7. The group ring of X over R , denoted by $R[X]$ or RX , is the set of all mapping $f : X \rightarrow R$ with finite support (i.e. with finite $x \in X$ such that $f(x) \neq 0$). The addition and the scalar multiplication are defined as usual.

We can also have a group structure over $R[X]$ using the vector addition and the multiplication: were fg is defined as: $fg(x) = \sum_{y \in X} f(y)g(y^{-1}x) = \sum_{uv=x} f(u)g(v)$.

This is only a formal representation of the linear combinations, useful for the definition, but we will obviously use a simpler notation $f = \sum_{x \in X} f(x)x$.

Now we would like to generalize again the characters as ring homomorphism from $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ (or another Galois group) to \mathbb{C} . This is very simple since G is a basis for the free \mathbb{Z} -module its definition over the group is enough.

Notation. Given the elements $z \in \mathbb{Q}(\zeta)$ and $f \in \mathbb{Z}[G_0]$ it's well defined the power notation z^f , infact for $g \in G_0$ we have $z^g = g(z)$, $z^{g_1+g_2} = z^{g_1}z^{g_2}$ and $z^{-g} = (z^g)^{-1}$.

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Definiton 1.8. Let G be a group and R a commutative ring, let's consider the *augmentation map* $\epsilon : R[G] \rightarrow R$ that sends every $g \in G$ to 1_R and every $r \in R$ to itself and its an homomorphism of R -modules. We also say that the kernel of ϵ is the *augmentation ideal*

2 The Greither Construction

Let's consider an integer n (with $n \not\equiv 2 \pmod{4}$), with factorization $n = p_1^{e_1} \cdots p_s^{e_s}$ and let $S = \{1, \dots, n\}$. We will use the power set $\mathcal{P}_S = \{I \mid I \subseteq S\}$ and the notation $n_I = \prod_{i \in I} p_i^{e_i}$

The Greither's idea is to define a subgroup starting from a function $\beta : \mathcal{P}_S \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[G_0]$, then varing β we have different subgroups but with similiar properties.

Definiton 2.1. A function β is called multiplicative if $\beta(\emptyset) = 1$ and for all sets I, J with empty intersection we have $\beta(I \cup J) = \beta(I)\beta(J)$.

A multiplicative function is univocally determinated from its value over the singletons: $\{\{i\} \mid i \in S\}$ (we will use this later for a particular construction)

Consider a general function β and $I \in \mathcal{P}_S$, we define $z_I := 1 - \zeta^{n_I}$ and

$$z(\beta) := \prod_{i \in I} z_I^{\beta(I)}$$

Using that $1 - \zeta^{-m} = -\zeta^{-m}(1 - \zeta^m)$, $\bar{\zeta} = \zeta^{-1}$ and the properties of complex

conjugation we have that

$$\begin{aligned}\overline{z(\beta)} &= \prod_{I \in \mathcal{P}_S} (1 - \zeta^{-n_I})^{\beta(I)} = \prod_{I \in \mathcal{P}_S} -\zeta^{-n_I \beta(I)} (1 - \zeta^{n_I})^{\beta(I)} = \\ &= (-1)^{|\mathcal{P}_S|} \prod_{I \in \mathcal{P}_S} \zeta^{-n_I \beta(I)} z_I^{\beta(I)} \stackrel{*}{=} -\zeta^{-t} z(\beta) \text{ with } t = \sum n_I \beta(I)\end{aligned}\quad (1)$$

In $*$ we use that $|\mathcal{P}_S| = 2^s - 1$ is odd.

We define now for $a \in (1, n/2)$ coprime with n the real unit:

$$\xi_a(\beta) := \zeta^{d_a(\beta)} \frac{\sigma_a(z(\beta))}{z(\beta)} \text{ with } d_a(\beta) = (1-a) \frac{t}{2} \quad (2)$$

Where σ_a is the automorphism $\zeta \mapsto \zeta^a$. This is real because using the equation 1 and $\sigma_a(z) = \sigma_a(\bar{z})$ we have:

$$\overline{\xi_a(\beta)} = \zeta^{-d_a(\beta)} \frac{\zeta^{-at} \sigma_a(z(\beta))}{\zeta^{-t} z(\beta)} = \xi_a(\beta) \quad (3)$$

And its a unit because its the product of circular units. We now use this units to define the goal group of the article:

C_β is the group generated by -1 and $\xi_a(\beta)$ for $1 < a < n/2$ and $(a, n) = 1$

For its index we will use the notation: $[E_K : C_\beta] = h_K i_\beta$.

2.1 A little remark

Sometimes it is easier to work with functions β to $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ instead of $\mathbb{Z}[G_0]$ (as we will do later), but this is not a problem because we can show that with some hypothesis C_β remain the same.

Initally we can observe that we can factor the real unit $\xi_a(\beta)$ with simpler real units

$$x_a(\beta, I) = \zeta^{\frac{(1-a)}{2} n_I \beta(I)} \frac{\sigma_a(z_I^{\beta(I)})}{z_I^{\beta(I)}}$$

such that $\xi_a(\beta) = \prod_{I \in \mathcal{P}_S} x_a(\beta, I)$.

Lemma 2.2. *Consider two functions β_1 and β_2 from \mathcal{P}_S to $\mathbb{Z}[G_0]$ such that for all $I \in \mathcal{P}_S$ their images of $\beta_i(I)$ coincide in $\mathbb{Z}[\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{n/n_I})/\mathbb{Q})]$ for $i = 1, 2$. Then for all $I \in \mathcal{P}_S$ $x_a(\beta_i, I)$ coincides for $i = 1, 2$*

References

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- [3] Lawrence C. Washington. *Introduction to cyclotomic fields*. English. Vol. 83. Springer, New York, NY, 1982.