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A Family of Real Cubic Fields

Fares Fares

A Thesis

in

The Department

of

Mathematics

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of Master of Science at  
Concordia University  
Montréal, Québec, Canada

August 1992

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## ABSTRACT

### A Family of Real Cubic Fields

Fares Fares

This thesis deals with a family of real cubic extensions  $K_t/\mathbb{Q}$  where  $t$  is a rational integer. This family is parametrized by the cubic polynomials

$$f_t = x^3 - 3(t^2 + t + 1)x - (t^2 + t + 1)(2t + 1).$$

The ring of integers  $O_{K_t}$  of  $K_t$  is computed for all  $t$  and the unit group  $U_t$  is obtained under certain conditions (when  $O_{K_t} = \mathbb{Z}[\alpha_t]$ ). In the general case, a bound on the index of a subgroup of  $U_t$  is given. Also we investigate the arithmetic invariants of the family  $K_t$ , and get bounds for the regulator and the class number.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction .....	1
2. Ring of Integers of $K_t$ .....	3
3. Group of Units of $K_t$ .....	10
4. Class Number of $K_t$ .....	17
5. References .....	23

## 1. Introduction

Consider the polynomial

$$f = x^3 - 3\phi x - \phi\phi' \in \mathbb{Z}[\tau][x]$$

where  $\phi = \tau^2 + \tau + 1$ ,  $\phi' = 2\tau + 1 \in \mathbb{Z}[\tau]$  and  $\tau, x$  are indeterminates. Denote by  $\alpha$  one root of  $f$  in  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}(\tau)}$  the algebraic closure of  $\mathbb{Q}(\tau)$  and let  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\tau)(\alpha)$ . For  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\phi_t, \phi'_t, f_t$  and  $\alpha_t$  will refer to specializations of  $\phi, \phi', f$  and  $\alpha$  at  $\tau = t$  (hence  $f_t(\alpha_t) = 0$ ) and let  $K_t = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha_t)$ .

We list certain properties of  $f$ :

**Proposition 1.1.**  *$f$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}(\tau)$ , and  $[K : \mathbb{Q}(\tau)] = 3$ .*

*Proof:* For all rational integers  $t$ ,  $\phi_t \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ , and  $\phi'_t \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ , therefore  $f_t \equiv x^3 - x - 1 \pmod{2}$ . The latter polynomial has no linear factors in  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ , hence  $f_t$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Z}$  and hence also over  $\mathbb{Q}$  for all  $t$ . ■

**Proposition 1.2.**  *$K_t/\mathbb{Q}$  is an abelian (cyclic) extension for all  $t$ . In particular,  $K_t$  is a real field.*

*Proof:* The discriminant of  $f_t$  is  $(9\phi_t)^2$ , which is a perfect square. It follows that the cubic extension  $(K_t/\mathbb{Q})$  is a Galois extension for all rational integers  $t$ . It is also abelian since its Galois group has order 3. ■

**Proposition 1.3.** (i)  $\phi_t$  is not divisible by 9 for all  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and  $\phi_t$  is divisible by 3 if and only if  $t \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ .

(ii)  $\phi'_t$  is divisible by 9 if and only if  $t \equiv 4 \pmod{9}$

(iii)  $\gcd(\phi_t, \phi'_t)$  equals 3 if  $t \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , and 1 otherwise.

*Proof:* The congruence  $\phi_t \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$  is satisfied iff  $t \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , but  $\phi_t \not\equiv 0 \pmod{9}$  for  $t \equiv 1, 4, 7 \pmod{9}$ . Thus 9 does not divide  $\phi_t$  for all  $t$  and (i) follows. To prove (ii) consider the reduction of  $\phi'_t$  modulo 9. Finally, (iii) follows from (i) and the observation that  $4\phi_t - \phi_t'^2 = 3$ . ■



## 2. Ring of integers of $K_t$

Denote by  $O_{K_t}$  the ring of integers of the number field  $K_t = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha_t)$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** *If  $\phi_t = 3^{n_0} p_1^{n_1} \dots p_s^{n_s}$ , where  $3, p_1, \dots, p_s$  are distinct primes,  $n_0, n_1, \dots, n_s \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and  $\delta_t$  is  $\text{disc}(K_t)$ , the discriminant of  $K_t$ , then for  $1 \leq i \leq s$*

$$n_i \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3} \text{ implies that } p_i | \delta_t$$

and

$$t \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \text{ and } t \not\equiv 4 \pmod{9} \text{ imply that } 3 | \delta_t.$$

*Proof:* Since  $f_t(\alpha_t) = 0$  we see that  $\alpha_t \in O_{K_t}$  and that  $\alpha_t^3 = 3\phi_t\alpha_t + \phi_t\phi'_t$ .

Taking ideals in  $O_{K_t}$ ,

$$(\alpha_t)^3 = (\phi_t)(3\alpha_t + \phi'_t). \quad (1)$$

Let  $n_i \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ . Take  $q = p_i$ , where  $1 \leq i \leq s$ , and let  $Q$  be a prime ideal in  $O_{K_t}$  above  $q$  ( $Q \cap \mathbb{Z} = q\mathbb{Z}$ ), with ramification index  $e$ .  $Q$  divides  $(\phi_t)$  implies that  $Q$  divides  $(\alpha_t)$ . But  $q$  does not divide  $\phi'_t$  (Proposition 1.3), thus  $Q$  does not divide  $(\phi'_t)$  (otherwise,  $Q \cap \mathbb{Z} = q\mathbb{Z}$  would include  $(\phi'_t) \cap \mathbb{Z} = \phi'_t\mathbb{Z}$ ) and hence  $Q$  does not divide  $(3\alpha_t + \phi'_t)$  ( $3\alpha_t \in Q$  and  $\phi'_t \notin Q$ ). In terms of  $Q$ -valuation,

$$3\nu_Q(\alpha_t) = \nu_Q(\phi_t) \quad (2)$$

where  $\nu_Q(\alpha_t)$ ,  $\nu_Q(\phi_t)$  are the exponents of  $Q$  in the decomposition of  $(\alpha_t)$  and  $(\phi_t)$  into primes in  $O_{K_t}$ . But  $\nu_Q(\phi_t) = en_i$ . Then by equation (2), 3 does not divide  $n_i$  implies that 3 divides  $e$ , and therefore that  $q$  ramifies in  $O_{K_t}$ . This proves that in this case,  $q$  divides  $\delta_t$  the discriminant of  $K_t$ .

Next, let  $t \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ ,  $t \not\equiv 4 \pmod{9}$ , then both  $\phi_t$  and  $\phi'_t$  are divisible by 3 but not by 9, and so  $n_0 = 1$ . Let  $U$  be a prime ideal in  $O_{K_t}$  above 3, with ramification index  $e_3$ . Equation (1) becomes

$$(\alpha_t)^3 = (\phi_t)(3)(\alpha_t + \frac{\phi'_t}{3}).$$

Since  $U$  divides  $\alpha_t$  and does not divide  $\frac{\phi'_t}{3}$ ,  $U$  does not divide  $(\alpha_t + \frac{\phi'_t}{3})$ . Hence  $3\nu_U(\alpha_t) = e_3 + e_3 = 2e_3$ , thus 3 divides  $e_3$  and therefore 3 ramifies in  $O_{K_t}$ . This proves that 3 divides  $\delta_t$ . ■

The next proposition produces a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -submodule of  $O_{K_t}$ , whose index is determined by Proposition 2.3. Let  $\phi_t = 3^{n_0} p_1^{n_1} \dots p_s^{n_s}$ , where  $3, p_1, \dots, p_s$  are distinct primes, and  $n_0, \dots, n_s$  nonnegative integers. Write  $n_i = 3k_i + r_i$ , where  $r_i, k_i$  are natural numbers,  $0 \leq r_i < 3$  and  $1 \leq i \leq s$ . Note that  $n_0$  is either 1 (if  $t \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ ) or 0 (otherwise). For  $1 \leq i \leq s$ , let

$$j_i = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } r_i = 0 \\ r_i - 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad j_0 = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } t \equiv 4 \pmod{9} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Thus

$$j_i = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n_i \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{3} \\ 1 & \text{if } n_i \equiv 2 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

**Proposition 2.2.** (i)  $\xi_t = (\alpha_t/3^{j_0} p_1^{k_1} \dots p_s^{k_s})$  and  $\xi'_t = (\alpha_t^2/3^{n_0+j_0} p_1^{2k_1+j_1} \dots p_s^{2k_s+j_s})$  are algebraic integers.

(ii)  $\frac{1}{n}\xi_t \in O_{K_t}$  ( $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ) implies that  $n = \pm 1$

$\frac{1}{n}\xi'_t \in O_{K_t}$  ( $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ) implies that  $n = \pm 1$

*Proof:* If  $\omega \in O_{K_t}$  has a minimal polynomial  $h(x) = x^3 + m_2x^2 + m_1x + m_0$ , where  $m_0, m_1$  and  $m_2$  are rational integers, and if  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ , then  $(\omega/a) \in O_{K_t}$  if

and only if  $a$  divides  $m_2$ ,  $a^2$  divides  $m_1$  and  $a^3$  divides  $m_0$ . Now since  $\alpha_t$  has the minimal polynomial  $x^3 - 3\phi_t x - \phi_t \phi'_t$ , it follows that  $\frac{\alpha_t}{3} \in O_{K_t}$  if and only if  $27|\phi_t \phi'_t$  and  $9|3\phi_t$ . This is equivalent to  $3|\phi_t$  and  $9|\phi'_t$ , which is equivalent to  $t \equiv 4 \pmod{9}$

Also,  $\frac{\alpha_t}{9}$  does not belong to  $O_{K_t}$  for any  $t$  since 9 does not divide  $\phi_t$ . Hence,

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\alpha_t}{3} \in O_{K_t} & \text{if and only if } t \equiv 4 \pmod{9} \\ \frac{\alpha_t}{9} \notin O_{K_t} & \text{for all } t \in \mathbb{Z}. \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Taking  $q$  to be a prime different from 3, then for  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\frac{\alpha_t}{q^m} \in O_{K_t}$  if and only if  $q^{3m}|\phi_t \phi'_t$  and  $q^{2m}|3\phi_t$ . Thus

$$\frac{\alpha_t}{q^m} \in O_{K_t} \text{ if and only if } q^{3m}|\phi_t. \quad (4)$$

Similarly,  $\alpha_t^2$  satisfies the minimal polynomial:  $x^3 - 6\phi_t x^2 + 9\phi_t^2 x - \phi_t'^2 \phi_t^2$ . Consequently,  $\frac{\alpha_t^2}{3} \in O_{K_t}$  if and only if  $3|\phi_t$  (since  $3|\phi_t$  if and only if  $3|\phi'_t$ ). Also  $\frac{\alpha_t^2}{3^m} \in O_{K_t}$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $m > 1$  if and only if  $m = 2$ ,  $3|\phi_t$ ,  $9|\phi'_t$ . Hence

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\alpha_t^2}{3} \in O_{K_t} & \text{if and only if } t \equiv 1 \pmod{3} \\ \frac{\alpha_t^2}{3^m} \in O_{K_t}, m \in \mathbb{Z}, m > 1 & \text{if and only if } m = 2 \text{ and } t \equiv 4 \pmod{9}. \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

For  $q$  a rational prime different from 3,  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$\frac{\alpha_t^2}{q^m} \in O_{K_t} \text{ if and only if } q^{3m}|\phi_t^2. \quad (6)$$

In the above computations, we've used repeatedly the fact that  $\gcd(\phi_t, \phi'_t) = 1$  or 3.

By equation(3)  $\alpha_t/3^{j_0} \in O_{K_t}$  and  $\alpha_t/9 \notin O_{K_t}$  for any  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Also equation (5) implies that  $\frac{\alpha_t^2}{3^{n_0+j_0}}$  is an integer (since  $t \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$  if and only if  $n_0 = 1$ , and  $t \equiv 4 \pmod{9}$  is equivalent to  $n_0 + j_0 = 2$ ). By equation(4) we have that for  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $p_i$  one of the primes of  $\phi_t$  with exponent  $n_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq s$   $\alpha_t/p_i^m \in O_{K_t}$  if

$p_i^{3m}$  divides  $\phi_t$  that is  $3m \leq n_i = 3k_i + r_i$  or  $m \leq k_i + \frac{r_i}{3}$ . Therefore,  $\alpha_t/p_i^{k_i}$  is an integer. Also by equation (6), we have that  $\frac{\alpha_t^2}{p_i^{2m}} \in O_{K_t}$  is equivalent to  $3m \leq 2n_i$ . This is true if and only if  $m \leq 2k_i + \frac{2r_i}{3}$ . Hence,

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\alpha_t^2}{p_i^{2k_i}} \in O_{K_t} & \text{if } r_i = 0, 1 \\ \frac{\alpha_t^2}{p_i^{2k_i+1}} \in O_{K_t} & \text{if } r_i = 2 \end{cases}$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{\alpha_t^2}{p_i^{2k_i+j_i}} \in O_{K_t} \quad \text{where } j_i = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } n_i \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{3} \\ 1 & \text{if } n_i \equiv 2 \pmod{3} \end{cases}$$

To complete the proof of (i), let  $\theta \in O_{K_t}$ ,  $c_1, c_2$ , relatively prime rational integers be such that  $\frac{\theta}{c_1}$  and  $\frac{\theta}{c_2}$  belong to  $O_{K_t}$ . Then there exist  $l_1, l_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $l_1 c_1 + l_2 c_2 = 1$ . Therefore  $\frac{\theta}{c_1 c_2} = l_2 \frac{\theta}{c_1} + l_1 \frac{\theta}{c_2} \in O_{K_t}$ .

To prove (ii) note that the conditions we obtained on the primes of the denominators of an integer of the form  $\frac{\alpha_t}{n}$  or  $\frac{\alpha_t^2}{n}$  (equations (3), (4), (5) and (6)) are necessary conditions. ■

We describe the ring of integers of  $K_t$ .

**Proposition 2.3.** *With the same notation as in proposition 2.2, an integral basis for  $O_{K_t}$  is given by  $\left\{ 1, (\alpha_t/3^{j_0} p_1^{k_1} \dots p_s^{k_s}), (\alpha_t^2/3^{n_0+j_0} p_1^{2k_1+j_1} \dots p_s^{2k_s+j_s}) \right\}$*

*Proof:* Put  $\xi_t = (\alpha_t/3^{j_0} p_1^{k_1} \dots p_s^{k_s})$ ,  $\xi'_t = (\alpha_t^2/3^{n_0+j_0} p_1^{2k_1+j_1} \dots p_s^{2k_s+j_s})$ ,  $A = \mathbb{Z}[\alpha_t]$  and  $B = \mathbb{Z}[1, \xi_t, \xi'_t]$ . From Proposition 2.2(i), it follows that the index of the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module  $A$  in  $B$  is  $[B : A] = 3^{n'_0} p_1^{n'_1} \dots p_s^{n'_s}$  where

$$n'_0 = \begin{cases} 3 & \text{if } n_0 = 1 \text{ and } t \equiv 4 \pmod{9} \\ 1 & \text{if } n_0 = 1 \text{ and } t \not\equiv 4 \pmod{9} \\ 0 & \text{if } n_0 = 0. \end{cases}$$

and for  $1 \leq i \leq s$ ,

$$\begin{cases} n'_i = n_i & \text{if } 3|n_i \\ n'_i = n_i - 1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

By proposition 2.1, the number  $(3^{n''_0} p_1^{n''_1} \dots p_s^{n''_s})^2$  divides  $\text{disc}(K_t)$  (the power 2 appears because the discriminant of  $K_t$  is a perfect square) where

$$n''_0 = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n_0 = 1 \text{ and } t \not\equiv 4 \pmod{9} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and for  $1 \leq i \leq s$

$$\begin{cases} n''_i = 0 & \text{if } 3|n_i \\ n''_i = 1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Now  $\text{disc}(f_t) = [O_{K_t} : B]^2 [B : A]^2 \text{disc}(K)$  where  $\text{disc}(f_t) = (9\phi_t)^2$ . Hence

$$[O_{K_t} : B] = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } t \equiv 4 \pmod{9} \\ 1, 3, \text{ or } 9 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

This means that  $O_{K_t} = B$  if  $t \equiv 4 \pmod{9}$ . We prove that this is also true when  $t \not\equiv 4 \pmod{9}$ .

We remark that  $[O_{K_t} : B] = 3$  or  $9$  implies that there exists  $\epsilon \in B$  such that  $(\epsilon/3) \in O_{K_t} - B$ . Let  $\epsilon = \lambda_0 + \lambda_1 \xi_t + \lambda_2 \xi'_t$  where  $\lambda_0, \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$  be such that  $\epsilon/3 \in O_{K_t} - B$ , suppose that  $t \not\equiv 4 \pmod{9}$ . We will show that this leads to a contradiction, which in turn shows that the index of  $B$  in  $O_{K_t}$  cannot be 3 or 9. This shows that the index is 1 according to our proposition.

Observe that 3 cannot divide  $\lambda_0, \lambda_1, \lambda_2$  simultaneously (since  $\epsilon/3 \notin B$ ) nor can it divide exactly 2 of those integers because  $1/3, \xi_t/3$  and  $\xi'_t/3$  are not integers (Proposition 2.2(ii)).

In the remaining cases 3 divides none of the integers  $\lambda_0, \lambda_1, \lambda_2$ , or only one of them. Write  $D_1 = p_1^{k_1} \dots p_s^{k_s}$  and  $D_2 = p_1^{2k_1+j_1} \dots p_s^{2k_s+j_s}$ . Since  $j_0 = 0$  ( $t \not\equiv 4$

(mod 9)) it follows that  $\xi_t = (\alpha_t/D_1)$  and  $\xi'_t = (\alpha^2/3^{n_0}D_2)$ . Note that  $D_1$  divides  $D_2$  and 3 does not divide  $D_2$ . Now

$$\frac{\epsilon}{3}D_2 = \frac{\lambda_0 D_2}{3} + \frac{\lambda_1 D_2}{3D_1}\alpha_t + \frac{\lambda_2}{3^{n_0+1}}\alpha_t^2. \quad (7)$$

First consider the case where  $n_0 = 0$  ( $t \not\equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ ). Reading  $\frac{\epsilon}{3}D_2$  modulo  $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha_t]$  we conclude that one of the following elements:  $\pm\frac{1}{3} \pm \frac{\alpha_t}{3}$ ,  $\pm\frac{1}{3} \pm \frac{\alpha_t^2}{3}$ ,  $\pm\frac{\alpha_t}{3} \pm \frac{\alpha_t^2}{3}$ ,  $\pm\frac{1}{3} \pm \frac{\alpha_t}{3} \pm \frac{\alpha_t^2}{3}$  belongs to  $O_{K_t}$ . This list of elements could be restricted further to  $(\frac{1}{3} \pm \frac{\alpha_t}{3})$ ,  $(\frac{1}{3} \pm \frac{\alpha_t^2}{3})$ ,  $(\frac{\alpha_t}{3} \pm \frac{\alpha_t^2}{3})$ ,  $(\frac{1}{3} \pm \frac{\alpha_t}{3} \pm \frac{\alpha_t^2}{3})$ . We use the norms of these elements to prove that none of the above is an integer.

The following table was produced using Maple:

(integer $\times 3$ )	norm	norm $\equiv 0 \pmod{27}$
$(1 + \alpha_t)$	$2t^3 - 1$	no solution
$(1 - \alpha_t)$	$-2t^3 - 6t^2 - 6t - 3$	no solution
$(1 - \alpha_t^2)$	$(1 - 2t^3)(2t^3 + 6t^2 + 6t + 3)$	no solution
$(1 + \alpha_t^2)$	$17 + 30t + 48t^2 + 40t^3 + 30t^4 + 12t^5 + 4t^6$	no solution
$(\alpha_t + \alpha_t^2)$	$(2t^3 + 3t^2 + 3t + 1)(2t^3 - 1)$	$t \equiv 4, 13, 22 \pmod{27}$
$(\alpha_t - \alpha_t^2)$	$-(2t^3 + 3t^2 + 3t + 1)(2t^3 + 6t^2 + 6t + 3)$	$t \equiv 4, 13, 22 \pmod{27}$
$(1 + \alpha_t + \alpha_t^2)$	$15t^4 + 12t^3 + 18t^2 + 9t + 9 + 4t^6 + 6t^5$	no solution
$(1 + \alpha_t - \alpha_t^2)$	$-27t^4 - 20t^3 - 6t^2 + 3t + 1 - 18t^5 - 4t^6$	no solution
$(1 - \alpha_t - \alpha_t^2)$	$3t^4 + 12t^3 + 12t^2 + 3t - 1 - 4t^5 - 6t^6$	no solution
$(1 - \alpha_t + \alpha_t^2)$	$45t^4 + 68t^3 + 72t^2 + 45t + 19 + 18t^5 + 4t^6$	no solution

The only possible solution namely  $t \equiv 4, 13, 22 \pmod{27}$  leads to  $t \equiv 4 \pmod{9}$ , a case that we excluded at the start. Note that the above proves that this list of

numbers are not integers when  $n_0 = 1$  also.

Next consider the case when  $n_0 = 1$ . If equation (7) is reduced modulo  $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha_i]$  it follows that one of the elements:  $\pm \frac{\alpha}{3} + k \frac{\alpha^2}{9}$ ,  $\pm \frac{1}{3} + k \frac{\alpha^2}{9}$ ,  $\pm \frac{1}{3} \pm \frac{\alpha}{3}$ ,  $\pm \frac{1}{3} \pm \frac{\alpha}{3} + k \frac{\alpha^2}{9}$ , where  $1 \leq k \leq 8$ , should be an integer. Since  $\alpha_i^2/3$  is now an integer,  $k$  can be restricted to 1,2 (read the above list mod  $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha_i, \alpha_i^2/3]$ ). Finally use the norms of these numbers to prove that they are not integers. ■

### 3. Group Of Units Of $O_{K_t}$

We compute the roots of the polynomial  $f_t$ .

**Proposition 3.1.** *If  $\alpha_t$  is one root of  $f_t$  and*

$$\begin{cases} \beta_t = -\alpha_t^2 + t\alpha_t + 2\phi_t \\ \gamma_t = \alpha_t^2 - \frac{(\phi'_t+1)}{2}\alpha_t - 2\phi_t \end{cases}$$

*then  $\beta_t$  and  $\gamma_t$  are the other two roots of  $f_t$ .*

*Proof:* From  $\beta_t + \gamma_t = -\alpha_t$  and  $\beta_t\gamma_t = (\phi_t\phi'_t/\alpha_t) = \alpha_t^2 - 3\phi_t$ , we see that

$$(\beta_t - \gamma_t)^2 = -3\alpha_t^2 + 12\phi_t. \quad (1)$$

On the other hand,  $\text{disc}(f_t) = (9\phi_t)^2$ , thus

$$(\alpha_t - \beta_t)(\alpha_t - \gamma_t)(\beta_t - \gamma_t) = \pm 9\phi_t. \quad (2)$$

But  $(\alpha_t - \beta_t)(\alpha_t - \gamma_t) = \alpha_t^2 - (\beta_t + \gamma_t)\alpha_t + \gamma_t\beta_t$ , and so

$$(\alpha_t - \beta_t)(\alpha_t - \gamma_t) = 3\alpha_t^2 - 3\phi_t. \quad (3)$$

Equations (1), (2) and (3) imply that  $(3\alpha_t^2 - 3\phi_t)(-3\alpha_t^2 + 12\phi_t) = \pm 9\phi_t(\beta_t - \gamma_t)$ .

Using the fact that  $\alpha_t^3 = 3\phi_t\alpha_t + \phi_t\phi'_t$ , the last equation gives  $9\phi_t(\beta_t - \gamma_t) = \pm(18\phi_t\alpha^2 - 9\phi'_t\phi_t\alpha - 36\phi_t^2)$ . The following system of equations

$$\begin{cases} \beta_t - \gamma_t = \pm(2\alpha_t^2 - \phi'_t\alpha_t - 4\phi_t) \\ \beta_t + \gamma_t = -\alpha_t \end{cases}$$

results in the expressions for  $\beta_t$  and  $\gamma_t$ . (Choosing either the plus or minus sign on the right side of the first equation interchanges the solutions for  $\beta_t$  and  $\gamma_t$ .) In what follows  $\alpha_t$  refers to the root of largest absolute value (no two roots have the



same absolute value as  $K_t$  is real) and  $\beta_t$  and  $\gamma_t$  are fixed by the statement of the proposition. ■

Now we turn to the problem of finding the group  $U_t = O_{K_t}^*$  of units. We know that  $K_t$  is a real field. Therefore all of its conjugates are real, and the group of roots of unity of  $K$  is  $W(K) = \{-1, 1\}$ . Hence the structure of  $U_t$  is as such:

$$U_t = \{-1, 1\} \times \mathbb{Z}^2.$$

**Proposition 3.2.**  $u_t = \alpha + t$  and  $v_t = \alpha + t + 1$  are two independent units of  $K_t$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

*Proof:* Since  $f_t(-t) = -1$ , it follows that  $\text{norm}(\alpha_t + t) = (\alpha_t + t)(\beta_t + t)(\gamma_t + t) = -(-t - \alpha_t)(-t - \beta_t)(-t - \gamma_t) = -f(-t) = 1$ . This proves that  $u_t = \alpha_t + t$  is a unit. Also, note that

$$v_t^{-1} = \alpha_t^2 - (1/2)(2t + 2)\alpha_t - 2t - t - 2 = \gamma_t + t = u_t^{(1)}$$

where  $u_t^{(1)}$  is a conjugate of  $u_t$ . Hence,  $v_t$  is a unit.

It is sufficient to prove that  $u_t$  and  $u_t^{(1)}$  are independent. Consider  $V_t = \langle u_t, u_t^{(1)} \rangle$  the subgroup of  $U_t$  generated by  $u_t$  and  $u_t^{(1)}$ . Let  $\{1, \sigma, \sigma^2\}$  be the Galois group of  $K_t/\mathbb{Q}$  where  $\sigma(\alpha_t) = \gamma_t$ . Let  $\sigma(u_t) = u_t^{(1)}$  and  $\sigma^2(u_t) = w_t$ . From  $w_t = 1/u_t u_t^{(1)}$ , it follows that the Galois group acts on  $V_t$ . Suppose that  $u_t$  and  $u_t^{(1)}$  are dependent. Then  $V_t$  has rank 1 (as a free abelian group). This makes it isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}$ , which admits only 2 isomorphisms (as an additive group), one is the identity and the other of order 2. But  $\sigma$  and  $\sigma^2$  act nontrivially on  $u_t$  ( $u_t \notin \mathbb{Q}$ ). This contradiction proves that  $u_t$  and  $v_t$  are independent. ■

To explicitly determine the units of  $K_t$  we will consider the following quantity

$$S(\epsilon) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{i,j=1,\dots,3 \\ i \neq j}} (\epsilon^{(i)} - \epsilon^{(j)})^2$$

where  $\epsilon^{(i)}$ ,  $i = 1 \dots 3$ , are the conjugates of  $\epsilon$ ,  $\epsilon \in O_{K_t}$  ( $\epsilon^{(1)} = \epsilon$ ,  $\epsilon^{(2)} = \sigma(\epsilon)$  and  $\epsilon^{(3)} = \sigma^2(\epsilon)$ ). If an integer  $\theta$  is given by  $\theta = m\alpha_t^2 + r\alpha_t + s$  ( $m, r, s$  being rational numbers) then one calculates using proposition 3.1 that

$$S(\theta) = 9\phi_t(r^2 + \phi'_t mr + \phi_t m^2).$$

(Compute, on Maple, recursively the powers of  $\alpha_t$  using the equality  $\alpha_t^3 = 3\phi\alpha_t + \phi_t\phi'_t$ .)

**Proposition 3.3.** *Let  $t$  be such that  $\phi_t$  is square free and not divisible by 3, and let  $|t| > 4$  then*

$$U_t = \langle -1, u_t, v_t \rangle.$$

*Proof:* In this case  $O_{K_t} = \mathbb{Z}[\alpha_t]$ . Hence  $m, r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$  and so  $m = 0$  and  $r = 1$  would give the non-zero integers of lowest possible values for  $S$  ( $(S(\theta)/9\phi_t)$  is here a positive rational integer since its discriminant (as a polynomial in  $r$ ) is  $-3m^2 \leq 0$ ). Explicitly

$$S(u_t = \alpha_t + t) = 9\phi_t \quad \text{and} \quad S(v_t = \alpha_t + t + 1) = 9\phi_t.$$

Also,  $v_t$  is not a power of  $u_t$  by the previous proposition.

[Godwin's theorem [1] is stated here for reference (with his own notations).

Any integer  $\lambda$  of a (totally real) cubic field ( $K$ ) is of the form  $p + q\theta + rQ(\theta)$ , where

$\theta$  is a defining integer (i.e.  $1, \theta, Q(\theta)$  is an integral basis)  $Q(\theta)$  is a quadratic in  $\theta$  with rational coefficients and  $p, q, r$  are rational integers.  $S(\lambda) = S(q\theta + rQ(\theta))$  is a positive definite form in  $q, r$  and we can find the values of  $q, r$ , which make  $S(\lambda)$  least and then see if for any values of  $p, p + q\theta + rQ(\theta)$  is a unit. If not, we repeat this with the next lowest possible value of  $S(\lambda)$ , and so on until a unit  $\epsilon_1$  is reached. We then continue until another unit  $\epsilon_2$ , not a power of  $\epsilon_1$  is reached.

**Theorem.** *If every unit of the field has  $S(\epsilon) > 34$  and if  $S(\epsilon_2) \geq 122$  then either  $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2$  are a pair of fundamental units or there exists*

$$(i) \text{ a unit } \eta = \epsilon_1^{\frac{1}{2}} \epsilon_2^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{ such that } S(\eta) < (81S(\epsilon_1)S(\epsilon_2)/2)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

or

$$(ii) \text{ a unit } \eta = \epsilon_1^{\frac{2}{3}} \epsilon_2^{\frac{1}{3}} \text{ such that } S(\eta) < (243S(\epsilon_1^2)S(\epsilon_2)/2)^{\frac{1}{3}}.$$

*End of quote].*

According to the above theorem, (and restricting  $|t|$  to values greater than 4 so that  $S(\theta) > 122$  for all units), the above information leads to one of the following possibilities

1.  $u_t$  and  $v_t$  form a fundamental system of units,
2.  $\eta_1 = u_t^{\frac{1}{2}} v_t^{\frac{1}{2}}$  is a unit and  $S(\eta_1) \leq (6)(9\phi_t)$ ,
3.  $\eta_2 = u_t^{\frac{2}{3}} v_t^{\frac{1}{3}}$  is a unit such that  $S(\eta_2) \leq (2)(9\phi_t)$ .

The following table gives a list of all possible candidates for  $\eta_1$  or  $\eta_2$  (under the restriction that  $S(\eta_1) \leq (6)(9\phi_t)$ , and  $S(\eta_2) \leq (2)(9\phi_t)$ ).

$\eta_1$	$S(\theta)/9\phi_t$
$\theta_1$	$\pm[\alpha_t + c_1] \quad 1$
$\theta_2$	$\pm[\alpha_t^2 - t\alpha_t + c_2] \quad 1$
$\theta_3$	$\pm[\alpha_t^2 + (-1 - t)\alpha_t + c_3] \quad 1$
$\theta_4$	$\pm[\alpha_t^2 + (-t - 2)\alpha_t + c_4] \quad 3$
$\theta_5$	$\pm[\alpha_t^2 + (-t + 1)\alpha_t + c_5] \quad 3$
$\theta_6$	$\pm[2\alpha_t^2 + (-2t - 1)\alpha_t + c_6] \quad 3$
$\theta_7$	$\pm[2\alpha_t + c_7] \quad 4$
$\theta_8$	$\pm[2\alpha_t^2 - 2t\alpha_t + c_8] \quad 4$
$\theta_9$	$\pm[2\alpha_t^2 + (-2t - 2)\alpha_t + c_9] \quad 4$

where  $c_1 \dots c_9 \in \mathbb{Z}$

The squares of the above integers are

$\eta_1$	$\eta_1^2$
$\theta_1$	$\alpha^2 + 2c_1\alpha + c_1^2$
$\theta_2$	$(4t^2 + 2c_3 + 3t + 3)\alpha^2 - (2c_3t + 3t + 4t^3 + 3t^2 - 1)\alpha + c_3^2 - 6t^2 - 2t - 4t^4 - 6t^3$
$\theta_3$	$(4 + 5t + 4t^2 + 2c_4)\alpha^2 - (5 + 4t^3 + 9t^2 + 9t + 2c_4 + 2c_4t)\alpha + c_4^2 - 8t - 2 - 4t^4 - 10t^3 - 12t^2$
$\theta_4$	$(2c_5 + 4t^2 + t + 4)\alpha^2 - (2c_5t - 2c_5 + 4t^3 - 7 - 3t^2 - 3t)\alpha + c_5^2 - 4t^4 - 2t^3 + 4t + 2$
$\theta_5$	$(4t^2 + 7t + 7 + 2c_6)\alpha^2 - (11 + 4t^3 + 15t^2 + 15t + 2c_6t + 4c_6)\alpha + c_6^2 - 14t - 4 - 4t^4 - 14t^3 - 18t^2$
$\theta_6$	$(16t^2 + 16t + 13 + 4c_7)\alpha^2 - 2(2t + 1)(4t^2 + 4t + 4 + c_7)\alpha + c_7^2 - 20t - 4 - 16t^4 - 32t^3 - 36t^2$
$\theta_7$	$4\alpha^2 + 4c_8\alpha + c_8^2$
$\theta_8$	$4(4t^2 + c_{10} + 3t + 3)\alpha^2 - 4(c_{10}t + 3t + 4t^3 + 3t^2 - 1)\alpha + c_{10}^2 - 24t^2 - 8t - 16t^4 - 24t^3$
$\theta_9$	$4(4t^2 + 5t + 4 + c_{11})\alpha^2 - 4(5 + 4t^3 + 9t^2 + 9t + c_{11}t + c_{11})\alpha + c_{11}^2 - 32t - 8 - 16t^4 - 40t^3 - 48t^2$

The cubes of the candidates for the unit  $\eta_2$  are

$$\begin{array}{ll}
\eta_2 & \eta_2^3 \\
\theta_1 & \pm[3c_1\alpha^2 + 3(c_1^2 + t^2 + t + 1)\alpha + c_1^3 + 1 + 2t^3 + 3t^2 + 3t] \\
\theta_2 & \pm[3(9t^2 + 5t + 6t^3 + 3c_3 + 3 + 3c_3t + 4c_3t^2 + c_3^2 + 4t^4)\alpha^2 - \\
& 3(6t^4 + 3t^2 + t - 2 + 4t^5 + 9t^3 + 3c_3t + c_3^2t + 4c_3t^3 - c_3 + 3c_3t^2)\alpha + \\
& 1 - 36t^5 - 6c_3t - 18c_3t^3 - 18c_3t^2 - 12c_3t^4 - 54t^4 - \\
& 42t^3 - 3t - 21t^2 - 16t^6 + c_3^3] \\
\theta_3 & \pm[3(5 + 4c_4t^2 + 10t^3 + 11t + c_4^2 + 4t^4 + 15t^2 + 4c_4 + 5c_4t)\alpha^2 - \\
& 3(4c_4t^3 + 25t^3 + 7 + 28t^2 + 9c_4t + c_4^2t + 4t^5 + c_4^2 + 5c_4 + 18t + 9c_4t^2 + \\
& 14t^4)\alpha - 9 - 30c_4t^3 - 36c_4t^2 - 60t^5 + c_4^3 - 16t^6 - 114t^4 - 99t^2 - \\
& 6c_4 - 134t^3 - 45t - 24c_4t - 12c_4t^4]
\end{array}$$

Thus the candidates for  $\eta_1$  are  $\theta_1 \dots \theta_9$ , and those for  $\eta_2$  are  $\theta_1 \dots \theta_3$ . Using  $\eta_1^2 = u_t v_t$  eliminates possibility 1. ( $S(\theta_i^2)$  is quadratic in  $c_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq 9$ . We put  $S(\theta_i^2) = S(u_t v_t)$ , and solve for  $c_i$  in terms of  $t$ . Then we check whether any of those 2 values for  $c_i$  results in  $\theta_i^2 = u_t v_t$  for some  $t$ ). Now use  $\eta_2^3 = u_t^2 v_t$  to eliminate possibility 2. (Reduce the terms not involving  $\alpha_t$  on both sides of the equation modulo 3. The resulting equation has no solution for any  $t$ . As  $c_i$  is a rational integer for  $1 \leq i \leq 3$ , it follows that  $\theta_i^3 \neq u_t v_t$  for  $1 \leq i \leq 3$  and for all  $t$ ).

Thus  $u_t$  and  $v_t$  form a system of fundamental units whenever  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$  is such that  $|t| > 4$  and  $O_{K_t} = \mathbb{Z}[\alpha_t]$ . ■

The next proposition gives a bound on the index of  $\langle u_t, v_t \rangle$  in the group of units  $U_t$  of  $K_t$ . It is convenient to write  $\phi_t = A_t B_t C_t$  where  $C_t$  is a perfect cube,  $B_t$  is a square and cube free and  $A_t$  square free. Also  $\gcd(A, B) = 1$ . Let  $\mu_0$  be 0 if  $t \not\equiv 1 \pmod{3}$ , 2 if  $t \equiv 4 \pmod{3}$  and 1 otherwise.

**Proposition 3.4.**

$$[U_t : \langle u_t, v_t \rangle] \leq 3^{6\mu_0} C_t^4 B_t^3$$

*Proof:* Let  $\rho_t = 3^{v_0} C_t^{2/3} B_t^{1/2}$ . Then by proposition 2.2  $\rho_t O_{K_t} \subset \mathbb{Z}[\alpha_t]$ . The canonical homomorphism from  $O_{K_t}$  to  $O_{K_t}/\rho_t O_{K_t}$  sends  $U_t$  into the group of units of  $O_{K_t}/\rho_t O_{K_t}$ . Also, the ring  $O_{K_t}/\rho_t O_{K_t}$  has  $\rho_t^3$  elements. Hence for a unit  $\epsilon \in O_{K_t}$  there exists a positive rational integer  $n < \rho_t^3$  such that  $\epsilon^n = 1 + \rho_t z$  where  $z \in O_{K_t}$ . Thus  $\epsilon^n$  belongs to  $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$ . This proves that the index  $[U_t : \langle u_t, v_t \rangle] \leq \rho_t^6$ . ■

#### 4. Class Number Of $K_t$

Let  $\phi_t = p_0^{n_0} p_1^{n_1} \dots p_s^{n_s}$ , where  $n_0, \dots, n_s \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $s \geq 0$ . We know from proposition 2.3 that the discriminant of  $K_t$  is  $(3^\lambda q_1 \dots q_k)^2$  where  $k \leq s$  is a non-negative integer, and  $q_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k$  is such that  $q_i = p_j$  for some  $j$  and  $n_j$  is not a multiple of 3. Also  $\lambda = 0$  if  $t \equiv 4 \pmod{9}$  and  $\lambda = 2$  otherwise. Now let  $m_t = q_1 \dots q_k$  if  $t \equiv 4 \pmod{9}$  and  $m_t = 9q_1 \dots q_k$  otherwise. Thus  $m_t$  is the conductor of  $K_t$ , and is equal to the square root of the discriminant of  $K_t$ . By the Kronecker-Weber Theorem,  $K_t$  is contained in the cyclotomic field  $\mathbb{Q}[\zeta]$  where  $\zeta = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{m_t}}$ . Moreover the primes of  $\mathbb{Z}$  which are ramified in  $K_t$  are exactly those which divide  $m_t$ .

By the class number formula we have the following (cf [3]) :

$$h_t = \frac{1}{4} \frac{\sqrt{\text{disc}(K_t)}}{R_t} \prod_{p|m} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^{f_p}}\right)^{-r_p} \prod_{\substack{\chi \in \widehat{G} \\ \chi \neq 1}} L(1, \chi).$$

where  $p$  is a rational prime,  $f_p$  the inertial degree of any prime ideal  $P$  of  $K_t$  over  $p$ , and  $r_p$  is the number of primes of  $K_t$  over  $p$ ,  $\chi$  is a character mod  $m$ , and  $\widehat{G}$  is the group of characters of the galois group  $G$  of  $K_t/\mathbb{Q}$ , considered as a subgroup of  $\widehat{\mathbb{Z}_m^*}$  the group of characters of  $\mathbb{Z}_m^*$  (identified with the galois group of  $\mathbb{Q}[\zeta]/\mathbb{Q}$ ).

We consider bounds on the class number  $h_t$  of  $K_t$ . We first obtain some bounds on the regulator  $R_t$ . To do this we need to find bounds on the roots of  $f_t$ .

**Proposition 4.1.** (i)  $K_t = K_{-t-1}$  for all  $t$ .

(ii) If  $t$  is nonnegative then the roots of  $f_t$  are such that

$$-t-2 < \beta_t < -t-1 < \gamma_t < -t < 2t+1 < \alpha_t < 2t+2$$

and

$$|\beta_t + t + 1| < \frac{1}{10} \text{ for } t \geq 3$$

*Proof:* We first note that  $f_{-t-1}(x) = x^3 - 3\phi x + \phi\phi'$ . Hence  $f_{-t-1}(-x) = f_t(x)$ . It follows that the roots of the polynomial  $f_t$  are the opposite of the roots of  $f_{-t-1}$ , and that  $K_t = K_{-t-1}$ . We can therefore restrict  $t$  to positive integers.

Also,

$$f_t(-t-2) = -6t - 3 < 0$$

$$f_t(-t-1.1) = -.33t + .969 < 0 \text{ if } t \geq 3$$

$$f_t(-t-1) = 1 > 0$$

$$f_t(-t) = -1 < 0$$

$$f_t(2t+1) = -6t - 3 < 0$$

$$f_t(2t+2) = 9t^2 + 9t + 1 > 0$$

Finally, since  $\alpha_t$  is the root of  $f_t$  of largest absolute value the inequalities  $2t+1 < \alpha_t < 2t+2$  follow. It remains to show that  $\gamma_t > \beta_t$ . By Proposition 3.1

$$\gamma_t - \beta_t = 2\alpha_t^2 - \phi'_t \alpha_t - 4\phi_t.$$

Thus it is sufficient to prove that  $\alpha_t$  is greater than the positive root of the second degree polynomial  $2x^2 - \phi'_t x - 4\phi_t$ , i.e. that  $\alpha_t > z = \frac{\phi'_t + \sqrt{36t^2 + 36t + 33}}{4}$ . This is true because  $z > \phi'_t$  and  $f(z) = \frac{-3\phi'_t - 3\sqrt{36t^2 + 36t + 33}}{16} < 0$ . ■

**Proposition 4.2.** If  $\phi_t$  is not divisible by 3 and is square free, and if  $t > 3$  then

$$\log(3t+3) < R_t < [\log(6t+6)]^2$$



*Proof:* In this case  $\phi_t = p_1 \dots p_s$  and discriminant of the field is just  $(9\phi_t)^2$ .

The regulator  $R_t$  of  $K_t$  is the determinant of

$$\begin{pmatrix} \log |\alpha_t + t| & \log |\beta_t + t| \\ \log |\alpha_t + t + 1| & \log |\beta_t + t + 1| \end{pmatrix}.$$

Note that with  $\alpha_t, \beta_t$  and  $\gamma_t$  referring to the specific roots described above, we have

$$\log |\alpha_t + t + 1| > \log |\alpha_t + t|$$

$$\log |\beta_t + t| > \log |\beta_t + t + 1|$$

since  $\beta_t + t$  and  $\beta_t + t + 1$  are both negative.

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} R_t &= |\log |\alpha_t + t + 1| \log |\beta_t + t| - \log |\beta_t + t + 1| \log |\alpha_t + t|| \\ &= (\log |\alpha_t + t + 1|)(\log |\beta_t + t|) - (\log |\beta_t + t + 1|)(\log |\alpha_t + t|) \\ &> (\log |\alpha_t + t|)(\log |\beta_t + t|) - (\log |\alpha_t + t|)(\log |\beta_t + t + 1|) \\ &= \log |\alpha_t + t| (\log |\beta_t + t| - \log |\beta_t + t + 1|) \\ &= \log |\alpha_t + t| \log \frac{|\beta_t + t|}{|\beta_t + t + 1|} \\ &= \log |\alpha_t + t| \log \left| 1 - \frac{1}{\beta_t + t + 1} \right| \\ &= \log |\alpha_t + t| \log \left( 1 + \frac{1}{|\beta_t + t + 1|} \right) \\ &> \log |\alpha_t + t| \quad \text{if } t \geq 3 \text{ (since } |\beta_t + t + 1| < \frac{1}{10}) \\ &> \log(3t + 1) \\ &> \log t \quad (t \geq 3) \end{aligned}$$

Also,

$$\begin{aligned} R_t &= |(\log |\alpha_t + t + 1|)(\log |\beta_t + t|) - (\log |\beta_t + t + 1|)(\log |\alpha_t + t|)| \\ &\leq \log(\alpha_t + t + 1) (\log |\beta_t + t| + |\log |\beta_t + t + 1||) \\ &\leq \log(3t + 3) [\log 2 + |\log |\beta_t + t + 1||] \end{aligned} \tag{4.1}$$

But  $\beta_t + t + 1$  is a unit, so

$$\begin{aligned} 1 > |\beta_t + t + 1| &= \frac{1}{|\alpha_t + t + 1||\gamma_t + t + 1|} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{(3t + 3)} \quad (|\gamma_t + t + 1| < 1) \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

Equations (4.1) and (4.2) give that  $R_t < \log(3t + 3)\log(6t + 6)$  Therefore

$$\log(3t + 3) < R_t < [\log(6t + 6)]^2$$

Now we obtain some bounds on the class number of  $K_t$ . We know that ([4])

$$|L(1, \chi)| \leq 3 \log m_t.$$

Also, [2]

$$\prod_{\substack{\chi \in \widehat{G} \\ \chi \neq 1}} L(1, \chi) \geq \frac{E}{\log(\text{disc}(K_t))}$$

where  $E$  is a positive constant independent of  $t$  ( $K_t$  has no quadratic subfield and hence  $\kappa_t$  the residue of its  $\zeta$ -function  $\zeta_{K_t}(s)$  at  $s = 1$  is such that  $\kappa^{-1} = O(3! \log(\text{disc}(K_t)))$ ).

**Proposition 4.3.** *If  $t > 3$ , and  $\phi_t$  is square free and not divisible by 3 then*

$$\frac{9\phi_t}{4} \frac{E}{\log(9\phi_t)^2} \frac{1}{[\log(6t + 6)]^2} < h_t < \frac{81\phi_t}{4} \frac{(\log 9\phi_t)^2}{\log(3t + 3)}$$

*In particular under those circumstances,  $h_t$  tends to infinity when  $t$  gets larger.*

**Proof:** In this case, the discriminant of  $K_t$  is  $(9\phi_t)^2$ . Looking at the class-number formula, we note that for all  $p|m$ , we have  $f_p = 1$  and  $r_p = 1$  since  $p$  ramifies in the extension  $K_t/Q$ . Also,  $G$  the Galois group of  $K_t/Q$  admits two non-trivial

characters  $\chi$  and  $\bar{\chi}$ , those characters being complex conjugates of each other. It follows that the corresponding  $L$  functions are complex conjugates, and that

$$L(1, \chi)L(1, \bar{\chi}) = |L(1, \chi)|^2$$

where  $\chi$  is any nontrivial character of  $G$ .

Hence

$$h_t = \frac{9\phi_t}{4} \frac{|L(1, \chi)|^2}{R_t}$$

and

$$\frac{9\phi_t}{4} \frac{E}{\log(\text{disc}(K_t))} \frac{1}{[\log(6t+6)]^2} < h_t < \frac{81\phi_t}{4} \frac{(\log m_t)^2}{\log(3t+3)}$$

Putting  $m_t = 9\phi_t$  gives the desired result. ■

Using Propositions 3.4 and 4.2 one gets the following Proposition.

**Proposition 4.4.** *Let  $t > 3$ . Then*

$$\frac{3^{\mu_1} A_t B_t^{\frac{1}{2}}}{4} \frac{E}{\log(3^{\mu_1} A_t B_t^{\frac{1}{2}})^2} \frac{1}{[\log(6t+6)]^2} < h_t < 3^{6\mu_0} C_t^4 B_t^3 \frac{3^{\mu_1} A_t B_t^{\frac{1}{2}}}{4} \frac{(\log 3^{\mu_1} A_t B_t^{\frac{1}{2}})^2}{\log(3t+3)}$$

where  $\mu_1 = 0$  if 3 does not divide  $A_t$  and 1 otherwise.

*Proof:* The regulator  $m_t = 3^{\mu_1} A_t B_t^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sqrt{\text{disc}(K_t)}$ . Also if  $R'_t$  is the regulator computed from  $u_t$  and  $v_t$  then  $R_t = (R'_t/[U_t : \langle u_t, v_t \rangle])$  and so by Propositions 4.2 and 3.4 the inequalities

$$\frac{\log(3t+3)}{3^{6\mu_0} C_t^4 B_t^3} < R_t < [\log(6t+6)]^2$$

follow. The class-number formula completes the proof. ■

If  $t \equiv 4 \pmod{9}$  and  $\phi_t/3$  is a prime then the conductor of  $K_t$  is that prime, and the computation of the  $L$  function is easy (the principal character is primitive

and the cubes modulo  $m_t$  are exactly its kernel). Also using proposition 3.4 and 4.2 we could get 'close' bounds on  $R_t$ . In fact in this case,  $[U_t : \langle u_t, v_t \rangle] \leq 27^2$ .

Call  $R'_t$  the regulator computed from  $u_t$  and  $v_t$ . Then

$$\frac{R_t}{27^2} \leq R'_t \leq R_t.$$

We compute using maple the following special cases. The class number  $h_t$  is such that  $h'_t \leq h_t \leq 27^2 h'_t$ .

$t$	$\phi_t$	$h'_t$
4	(3) (7)	(.0769230788)
13	(3) (61)	<sup>1</sup> (1.000000036)
31	(3) (331)	<sup>1</sup> (.9999999541)
40	(3) (547)	<sup>4</sup> (4.000000137)
76	(3) (1951)	<sup>4</sup> (4.000000259)
85	(3) (2437)	<sup>7</sup> (6.999999461)
103	(3) (3571)	<sup>7</sup> (6.999985858)
112	(3) (4219)	<sup>28</sup> (27.99999542)

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