90. A Remark on the λ-invariant of Real Quadratic Fields

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In previous papers [1] and [2] by two of us, we considered Greenberg's conjecture (cf. [3]) on real quadratic case. In [2], it was essential to assume $n_1<n_2$ for two natural numbers n_1 and n_2 whose definitions will be recalled in the following. The purpose of this paper is to give some examples concerning the case $n_1=n_2=2$.

Let k be a real quadratic field with class number h_k and p an odd prime number which splits in $k/\boldsymbol{Q}$. Let $\mathfrak{p}$ be a prime factor of p in k, and ε be a fundamental unit of k. Choose $\alpha\in k$ such that $\mathfrak{p}^{h_k}=(\alpha)$. We define n_1 (resp. n_2) to be the maximal integer such that $\alpha^{p-1}\equiv 1 \pmod{p^{n_1}\boldsymbol{Z}_p}$ (resp. $\varepsilon^{p-1}\equiv 1 \pmod{p^{n_2}\boldsymbol{Z}_p}$). Note that n_1 is uniquely determined under the condition $n_1\leqq n_2$. For the cyclotomic $\boldsymbol{Z}_p$-extension

$$k=k_0\subset k_1\subset k_2\subset\cdots\subset k_n\subset\cdots\subset k_\infty,$$

let A_n be the p-primary part of the ideal class group of k_n, B_n the subgroup of A_n consisting of ideal classes which are invariant under the action of $\mathrm{Gal}(k_n/k)$, and D_n the subgroup of A_n consisting of ideal classes which contain a product of ideal lying over p. Let E_n be the unit group of k_n. For $m\geqq n\geqq 0$, $N_{m,n}$ denotes the norm maps from k_m to k_n, we shall give a proof for the sake of completeness.

Lemma. *Let k be a real quadratic field and p an odd prime number which splits in $k/\boldsymbol{Q}$. Assume that*

(1) $n_1=n_2=2$,

(2) $|A_0|=1$, *and*

(3) $N_{1,0}(E_1)=E_0$.

Then we have $|A_n|=|A_1|$ for all $n\geqq 1$ and in particular $\mu_p(k)=\lambda_p(k)=0$, where μ, λ denote the Iwasawa invariants.

Proof. From Proposition 1 of [1], $|B_n|=p$ for all $n\geqq 1$. By the assumptions (2) and (3), we have

$$|D_1|=\frac{p}{(E_0\,;\,N_{1,0}(E_1))}=p.$$

It follows that $B_n=D_n$ and $N_{n+1,n}:B_{n+1}\to B_n$ are isomorphisms for all $n\geqq 1$. Now, $N_{n+1,n}:A_{n+1}\to A_n$ is surjective and its restriction to B_{n+1} is injective. Hence, $N_{n+1,n}:A_{n+1}\to A_n$ are isomorphisms for all $n\geqq 1$.

When $p=3$, k_1 is a real cyclic extension of degree 6 over $\boldsymbol{Q}$. In this case, we can determine a system of fundamental units of k_1 for a given k

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