

20. On the Class-number of the Maximal Real Subfield of a Cyclotomic Field

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Let p be a prime. $h^+(p)$ will denote as usual the class-number of the maximal real subfield $\mathbf{Q}(\zeta_p + \zeta_p^{-1})$ of the cyclotomic field $\mathbf{Q}(\zeta_p)$, $\zeta_p = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p}}$. Under the generalized Riemann Hypothesis $h^+(163)$ can be proved to be 4, but all values of $h^+(p)$ hitherto determined are 1 (see [4]). In a series of papers [3], we have obtained some results on $h^+(p)$ under the assumption:

(H) $h^+(p) < p$.

In particular, we have shown under (H) that

$$h^+(1229) = h^+(4493) = 3$$

and

$$h^+(607) = h^+(1894) = 4,$$

so that, in any case, $h^+(p) > 1$ for $p = 1229, 4493, 607$ or 1879 . We recall furthermore that the results of [3] were derived from the following proposition:

Proposition. *Let p and q be distinct primes. Let F be a finite algebraic number field. Suppose E/F is a Galois q -extension and f is the order of $p \bmod q$. Then for any α with $0 \leq \alpha < f$,*

$$p^\alpha \parallel h(E) \Rightarrow p^\alpha \parallel h(F).$$

(See [3]).

Here and in what follows, $h(L)$ means the class-number of the algebraic number field L .

We shall prove in this note, which will be the last paper of this series, that the following theorem follows also from the above proposition:

Theorem. *Let q be an odd prime such that $p = 8q + 1$ is also a prime. We assume the following condition:*

(C) $q + 1$ is not a power of 2, $2q + 1$ is not a power of 3, $4q + 1$ is not a power of 5 and $7q + 1$ is not a power of 2. Then

$$h^+(p) < p \text{ and } h(k(p)) \geq 5 \Rightarrow h^+(p) = h(k(p))$$

where $k(p)$ is the unique quartic subfield of $\mathbf{Q}(\zeta_p)$ over \mathbf{Q} .

Proof. Since $8 \cdot 3 + 1 = 25$, we may assume $q \geq 5$. Put $K = \mathbf{Q}(\zeta_p + \zeta_p^{-1})$ and $k = k(p)$. Then K/k is a q -extension and the above proposition can be applied.

If $q \nmid h(k)$, then $q \nmid h(K)$ (see [2]). Since $h(K) < p$, $h(k) < p$. It is easy to show that if $q \mid h(k)$, then $q \parallel h(k)$ and $q \parallel h(K)$. Now let r be an odd prime. If $r \equiv 1 \pmod{q}$, $r \mid h(k)$ and $r \mid h(K)$, then $r = 1 + 2nq$, where $n = 1$ or 2 or 3 . Since $r^2 > p$, we have that $r \parallel h(k)$, $r \parallel h(K)$. If $r \equiv 1 \pmod{q}$ and $r \nmid h(k)$, $r \nmid h(K)$, then $h(K) \geq r \cdot h(k) \geq 5r > p$. Hence we have that