# ON THE COMPUTATION OF UNIT GROUPS AND CLASS GROUPS OF TOTALLY COMPLEX QUARTIC FIELDS

#### M. POHST AND J. GRAF V. SCHMETTOW

ABSTRACT. We describe the computation of the unit group and the class group of the 81322 totally complex quartic fields with discriminant less than one million. 45.6% of those fields have trivial class groups; the maximal class number occurring is 70.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In [3] we presented computations of the unit group and the class group of all 13073 totally real quartic fields with discriminant below  $10^6$ . In this paper we do the analogous calculations in the totally complex case. Generating equations, integral bases as well as Galois groups  $\mathscr{G}$  were again obtained from D. Ford [6]. Since the unit rank is one, the computation of the unit group was much easier this time; on the other hand, the class groups were in general more complicated.

2. Unit groups

The structure of the unit group of a totally complex quartic number field is

 $\langle \zeta \rangle \times \langle \varepsilon_0 \rangle$ ,

where  $\zeta$  denotes a generator of the torsion subgroup TU(F) and  $\varepsilon_0$  a fundamental unit. The regulator  $2|\log|\varepsilon_0||$  is denoted by  $R_F$ . The (cyclic) torsion subgroup was computed by the methods described in [8]. Its order w is at most 12. In detail we found

	w = 2	w = 4	$\overline{w} = 6$	w = 8	w = 10	w = 12
# of fields	59964	8212	13143	1	1	1

It can be easily seen that there is no quartic number field with more than twelve roots of unity and that there is exactly one field for w = 8, 10, 12 [8]. These fields are defined by roots of the following polynomials:

w = 8:	$t^4 + 1$	$(\mathscr{G}=V4, \ d_F=256, \ R_F\approx 1.7$	63)
w = 10:	$t^4 - t^3 + t^2 - t + 1$	$(\mathcal{G}=C4, \ d_F=125, \ R_F\approx 0.9$	624)
w = 12:	$t^4 - t^2 + 1$	$(\mathscr{G} = V4, \ d_F = 144, \ R_F \approx 1.3$	17).

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A fundamental unit  $\varepsilon_0$  was determined with an algorithm of J. Buchmann [1]. We give below a short description of the essential ideas. Let  $F = \mathbb{Q}(\rho)$  be a complex quartic field with ring of integers  $o_F = \mathbb{Z}\omega_1 + \cdots + \mathbb{Z}\omega_4$  and discriminant  $d_F$ . For each element  $\alpha \in F$  there are four conjugates, say  $\alpha^{(1)} = \alpha$ ,  $\alpha^{(2)}$  and the corresponding complex conjugates  $\alpha^{(3)} = \overline{\alpha^{(1)}}$ ,  $\alpha^{(4)} = \overline{\alpha^{(2)}}$ . For any fractional ideal **a** the image  $\varphi(\mathbf{a})$  under the mapping

$$\varphi : \mathbf{a} \to \mathbf{R}^2 : \alpha \mapsto (|\alpha^{(1)}|^2, |\alpha^{(2)}|^2)$$

is a discrete subset of Euclidean 2-space. An element  $0 \neq \mu \in \mathbf{a}$  is called *minimal* if the corresponding norm body

$$Q(\mu) := \{ (x_1, x_2) \in \mathbf{R}^2 | 0 \le x_i \le |\mu^{(i)}|^2 \ (i = 1, 2) \}$$

does not contain  $\varphi(\alpha)$  for any  $\alpha \in \mathbf{a}$  different from 0 and  $\mu$  modulo the torsion subgroup TU(F). It is easily seen that minimal elements  $\mu$  of  $\mathbf{a}$  have bounded norm [1]:

$$|N(\mu)| \le (4/\pi^2) d_F^{1/2} N(\mathbf{a}).$$

Let  $\{i, j\} = \{1, 2\}$  be a pair of conjugate directions. An element  $\nu$  is called *i-neighbor* of a minimal element  $\mu \in \mathbf{a}$  if it is minimal subject to  $|\nu^{(j)}| < |\mu^{(j)}|$  and  $|\nu^{(i)}|$  as small as possible. Note that  $\nu$  is uniquely determined modulo TU(F) by these properties.

Obviously, 1 is minimal in  $o_F$ . Hence, starting with  $\mu_0 = 1$ , we obtain a sequence of all minimal elements  $(\mu_k)_{k\in\mathbb{Z}}$  of  $o_F$  in which  $\mu_{k+1}$  is the 2neighbor of  $\mu_k$  and, conversely,  $\mu_k$  is the 1-neighbor of  $\mu_{k+1}$ . That sequence is purely periodic, and if p > 0 is chosen minimal such that  $\mu_p$  is a unit, then  $\mu_p$  is a fundamental unit of F. From this an algorithm for computing a fundamental unit is almost immediate. We only add a few remarks about the calculation of *i*-neighbors. In general, one proceeds by doubling the range for the *i* th conjugate and determining all elements in the corresponding norm body. If no element is obtained, that range will be increased again. On the other hand, each time we find a candidate  $\mu$  for the next *i* th neighbor, the conjugates of  $\mu$  decrease the bounds for potential further candidates. Since counting lattice points in boxes is in general not very efficient, it is recommended to cover any norm body by a suitable ellipsoid whose lattice points can be determined faster (see [1, 5]).

Since we cannot present all fundamental units, we conclude this section with a few remarks on the size of the regulators that occur. They vary between 0.337 (discriminant  $d_F = 229$ ) and 570.2 ( $d_F = 965361$ ). With respect to the Galois group of the field we get the following distribution:

	C4	D4	S4	A4	V4	#
#	54	36238	44122	90	818	81322
$0 < R_F < 1$	23	1818	4	0	52	1897
$1 \le R_F < 5$	29	3456	2348	17	274	6124
$5 \le R_F < 10$	2	5302	4534	28	262	10128
$10 \leq R_F < 20$	0	6728	7774	21	171	14694
$20 \leq R_F < 50$	0	10500	14149	21	59	24729
$50 \leq R_F$	0	8434	15313	3	0	23750

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	C4	D4	S4	A4	V4	
frequency	0.07%	44.56%	54.26%	0.11%	1.01%	frequency
$0 < R_F < 1$	42.59%	5.02%	0.01%	0.00%	6.36%	2.33%
$1 \le R_F < 5$	53.70%	9.54%	5.32%	18.89%	33.50%	7.53%
$5 \leq R_F < 10$	3.70%	14.63%	10.28%	31.11%	32.03%	12.45%
$10 \leq R_F < 20$	0.00%	18.57%	17.62%	23.33%	20.90%	18.07%
$20 \leq R_F < 50$	0.00%	28.98%	32.07%	23.33%	7.21%	30.41%
$50 \leq R_F$	0.00%	23.27%	34.71%	3.33%	0.00%	29.20%

### 3. CLASS GROUPS

The computation of the class groups had definitely more interesting results than in the totally real case. While in the real case over 90% of the class groups turned out to be trivial and the maximal class number was only six, we now found class numbers up to 70. Moreover, more than half of the class groups (54.4%) were nontrivial.

The algorithm for computing the class groups was already presented in [3]; see [7, 8] for greater details. Hence, we give only a short summary of the method. For each field we begin by computing a superset of generators of the class group. According to a theorem of Zimmert [11] there exists an integral ideal in every ideal class whose norm is bounded by  $\sqrt{d_F}/6.792 \le 10^3/6.792 < 148$ .

For a particular field it is hence sufficient to compute all prime ideals  $\mathbf{p}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{p}_v$  lying over primes p subject to  $p \leq 139$ . With the help of methods from the geometry of numbers, we then determine sufficiently many relations between those prime ideals [3, 10]. The relations are listed in a so-called *class group matrix*:

(1) 
$$\mathbf{CGM} := (c_{i,j}) \in \mathbb{Z}^{v \times w} \qquad (w \in \mathbb{Z}^{>0}),$$

where

(2) 
$$\forall j \in \{1, \ldots, w\}$$
:  $\prod_{i=1}^{v} \mathbf{p}_{i}^{c_{i,j}}$  is a principal ideal.

Condition (2) is invariant under elementary column operations of CGM. Hence, we compute the lower Hermite normal form of (1) (see [8]). If the resulting matrix is singular, we need more relations, which can be obtained by fast deterministic methods [10]. If the matrix is nonsingular, its determinant is a multiple of the class number; i.e., if the determinant is one we have already proved that  $h_F = 1$ . Otherwise, we can delete all rows and columns with diagonal entry 1 without any information being lost. We call the resulting matrix *reduced class group matrix*. In none of the cases did the rank of the resulting matrix exceed five.

The task of the last step is to derive the class group structure explicitly. The method used is explained for the general case in [7, 8, 2]. We illustrate the procedure by an example.

Let  $F := \mathbb{Q}(\rho)$ , where  $\rho^4 + 65\rho^2 + 995 = 0$ . The field discriminant is 398000, an integral basis is given by 1,  $\rho$ ,  $(1 + \rho^2)/7$ ,  $(\rho + \rho^3)/7$  and the regulator is  $R_F \approx 0.9624$ . Although Zimmert's bound is 92, we choose 150 as norm bound for the ideals to be taken under consideration. This is to make the calculation of relations more efficient [10]. We obtain 48 prime ideals over primes below 150. After detecting about 80 relations (by the methods of [3]) we get the following reduced class group matrix:

$$(3) \qquad \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hence, only five prime ideals  $\mathbf{p}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{p}_5$  (with norms 71, 11, 49, 5, and 4) are left and five relations between these ideals: (i)  $\mathbf{p}_1^2 \mathbf{p}_3 \mathbf{p}_4 \in \mathscr{H}_F$ , (ii)  $\mathbf{p}_2^2 \mathbf{p}_3 \mathbf{p}_5 \in \mathscr{H}_F$ , (iii)  $\mathbf{p}_3^2 \mathbf{p}_4 \mathbf{p}_5 \in \mathscr{H}_F$ , (iv)  $\mathbf{p}_4^2 \in \mathscr{H}_F$ , (v)  $\mathbf{p}_5^2 \in \mathscr{H}_F$ , where  $\mathscr{H}_F$  denotes the set of principal ideals of the maximal order  $o_F$  of F. The class number divides 32.

For deriving the exact class group structure we need an efficient principal ideal test. As in the totally real case we used the method of Fincke and Pohst [5]; however, for large regulators (i.e.,  $R_F > 50$ ) the principal ideal test of Buchmann and Williams [4] turned out to be faster.

In detail, we search for ideals  $\mathbf{a}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{a}_{\nu}$  which generate  $\nu \ (\leq 5)$  cyclic factors of the class group  $\operatorname{Cl}_F$  such that

$$\mathrm{Cl}_F = \langle \mathbf{a}_1 \mathscr{H}_F \rangle \times \cdots \times \langle \mathbf{a}_\nu \mathscr{H}_F \rangle$$

and

$$\operatorname{ord}(\mathbf{a}_i \mathscr{H}_F) | \operatorname{ord}(\mathbf{a}_{i+1} \mathscr{H}_F) \qquad (1 \le i < \nu).$$

Clearly, the  $\mathbf{a}_i$  can be determined as power products of  $\mathbf{p}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{p}_5$ . Note that we obtain the ideals  $\mathbf{a}_i$  in reverse order at first.

Starting with  $\mathbf{p}_5$  and condition (v), we check whether  $\mathbf{p}_5 \in \mathscr{H}_f$ . The result is negative. Hence, we set  $\mathbf{a}_1 \leftarrow \mathbf{p}_5$ ,  $C \leftarrow \langle \mathbf{a}_1 \mathscr{H}_F \rangle$  and go on with condition (iv) and  $\mathbf{p}_4$ . We have to compute the least exponent m > 0 such that  $\mathbf{p}_4^m \mathscr{H}_F \in C$ . Since we know that  $\mathbf{p}_4^2 \in \mathscr{H}_F$ , we must only check whether  $\mathbf{p}_4 \in \mathscr{H}_F$ or  $\mathbf{p}_4 \mathbf{a}_1 \in \mathscr{H}_F$ . Both tests yield negative results. Therefore, we enlarge Cby setting  $\mathbf{a}_2 \leftarrow \mathbf{p}_4$  and  $C \leftarrow \langle \mathbf{a}_1 \mathscr{H}_F \rangle \times \langle \mathbf{a}_2 \mathscr{H}_F \rangle$ . Condition (iii) is already optimal in the sense that  $\mathbf{p}_3^1 \mathscr{H}_F \in C$  is impossible. Immediately, we can apply the elementary divisor theorem to the lower right  $(3 \times 3)$ -submatrix of CGM, which yields diag(1, 2, 4). Because of necessary row operations we have to modify the generators  $\mathbf{a}_1$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_2 \leftarrow \mathbf{p}_4$ , and  $C \leftarrow \langle \mathbf{a}_1 \mathscr{H}_F \rangle \times \langle \mathbf{a}_2 \mathscr{H}_F \rangle$ . The class group matrix itself becomes

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 3 & 1 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix},$$

yielding the conditions (i')  $\mathbf{p}_1^2 \mathbf{a}_1^3 \in \mathscr{H}_F$ , (ii')  $\mathbf{p}_2^2 \mathbf{a}_1 \in \mathscr{H}_F$ .

Again, condition (ii') is optimal, i.e.,  $\mathbf{p}_2^1 \notin C$ . An application of the elementary divisor theorem to the lower right  $(3 \times 3)$ -submatrix of the class group matrix yields as (reduced) class group matrix

$$\left(\begin{array}{rrrrr}
2 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 2 & 0 \\
6 & 0 & 8
\end{array}\right)$$

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with corresponding ideals  $\mathbf{a}_1 \leftarrow (\mathbf{p}_2)^{-1}$  and  $\mathbf{a}_2 \leftarrow \mathbf{p}_4$ . In the last step the principal ideal test  $\mathbf{p}_1 \mathbf{a}_1^3 \in \mathscr{H}_F$  yields a positive result; i.e., we find a principal ideal generator of the ideal  $\mathbf{p}_1 \mathbf{p}_2 \mathbf{p}_4 \mathbf{p}_5$  which is equivalent to  $\mathbf{p}_1 \mathbf{a}_1^3$ . Finally, reordering the ideals  $\mathbf{a}_i$ , we obtain the result

$$\operatorname{Cl}_F = \langle \mathbf{a}_1 \mathscr{H}_F \rangle \times \langle \mathbf{a}_2 \mathscr{H}_F \rangle$$

with ideals

$$\mathbf{a}_1 = \mathbf{p}_4 = 11o_F + (5+\rho)o_F,$$
  
 $\mathbf{a}_2 = \mathbf{p}_2 = 5o_F + \rho o_F$ 

of order 2 and 8, respectively.

We note that we had to carry out only four principal ideal tests.

The following table describes the occurrence of noncyclic class groups in dependence on the Galois group structure:

C4	D4	<b>S4</b>	A4	V4	Σ
26	3891	994	3	254	5168
48.15%	10.74%	2.25%	3.33%	31.05%	6.35%

Before going into detail, we give a survey of the class number distribution:

	C4	D4	S4	A4	V4	#
#	54	36238	44122	90	818	81322
$h_{F} = 1$	7	11841	25154	13	40	37055
$h_F = 2$	8	9353	8784	33	93	18271
$h_F = 3$	0	1775	2726	1	53	4555
$h_F = 4$	12	4769	2894	32	154	7861
$5 \le h_F < 10$	8	4293	3249	7	245	7802
$10 \leq h_F < 20$	11	2902	1101	4	146	4164
$20 \le h_F$	8	1305	214	0	87	1614

	C4	D4	S4	A4	V4	frequency
frequency	0.07%	44.56%	54.26%	0.11%	1.01%	100%
$h_F = 1$	12.96%	32.68%	57.01%	14.44%	4.89%	45.57%
$h_F = 2$	14.81%	25.81%	19.91%	36.67%	11.37%	22.47%
$h_F = 3$	0.00%	4.90%	6.18%	1.11%	6.48%	5.60%
$h_F = 4$	22.22%	13.16%	6.56%	35.56%	18.83%	9.67%
$5 \le h_F < 10$	14.81%	11.85%	7.36%	7.78%	29.95%	9.59%
$10 \leq h_F < 20$	20.37%	8.01%	2.50%	4.44%	17.85%	5.12%
$20 \le h_F$	14.81%	3.60%	0.49%	0.00%	10.64%	1.98%

We conclude with a more detailed survey of the class group structures that occur. The following table shows the frequency of each class group and the corresponding minimal field discriminant (if less than  $10^6$ ).

					DI	r		T				n	
$n_F$	$Cl_F$			1	D4		54	<u> </u>	A4		V4		<u> </u>
1	1	7 (	125)	1184	1 (117)	251	54 (229)	1:	3 ( 313	36)	40 ( 144	1)	37055
2	2	8 ( 8	8000)	9353	(1872)	878	4 (2889)	3:	3 ( 422	25)	93 (152	1)	18271
3	3	-	_	1775	( 3897)	2720	6 (7249)	1	(87609	96)	53 ( 476	1)	4555
4	4	2 (25	6000)	2698	(8000)	2224	(11348)	29	( 153	76)	92 ( 902	5)	5045
4	2×2	10 ( 1	8000)	2071	(20800)	670	(40437)	3	(2460)	16)	62 ( 243)	36)	2816
5	5			689	(12176)	991	(13396)	1			40 ( 1410	31)	1720
6	6			1459	(20025)	805	(23207)	1	(8190	25)	54 ( 240	25)	2319
7	7			340	(20020)	512	(20201)	<u> </u>	(0100	20)	18 ( 1536	30)	871
	0			770	(20200)	440	(20020)	6	(2052)	10)	10 ( 100	25)	1974
0	0	0 5 (10	- (105)	00 (	( 34104)	449	(37106)	0	(2032)	19)	49 ( 300	(3)	12/4
0	2×2×	$\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{13}$ $\frac{13}{13}$	$\frac{0125}{0105}$	03 (	(107200)	3 (	(100000)				12 (1128	30)	103
8	2×4	3 (21	0125)	123	(13500)	228	(109008)				01 (1/4)	24)	1015
9	9			195	(36513)	253	(46453)				5 (11222	(5)	453
9	3×3		_	34 (	127813)	7 (	205609)	L			6 (10304	1)	47
10	10	7 (4	4217)	616	(48528)	263	(77648)	2	(4942)	<u>)))</u>	16 (1274-	49)	904
11	11	-	_	165	(54025)	164	(67581)				7 (25100	1)	336
12	12	-	_	403	(67648)	137	(106956)				17 ( 6150	04)	557
12	2×6	-	-	376	(108225)	37	(226064)		_		33 ( 761 )	76)	446
13	13	-	_	142	(64576)	100	(115708)				5 (30360	1)	247
14	14		_	311	(78912)	102	(118548)				9 (12602	5)	422
15	15	-	_	126	(83008)	68	(114460)				10 ( 9985	56)	204
16	16		_	182 (	(104512)	53 (	(134036)	2	(52998	34)	7 (30802	5)	244
16	$2 \times 2 \times$	4 4 (72	2000)	27 (	342000)						5 (17640	0)	36
		····											
	$h_F$	$Cl_F$	<u> </u>	24	D4		<u>S4</u>		A4		V4	$\sum$	
	16	2×8	-	_	203 (124	992)	27 (2245	68)		25	(278784)	255	
	16	4×4	-	_	32 (334	080)	5 (53478	34)	-	4 (	(176400)	41	7
	17	17	-		83 (120	025)	54 (1731	64)	—			137	
	18	18	-	_	158 (135	025)	42 (1835	64)	—	1 (	(919681)	201	7
	18	3×6	-	_	16 (223	025)			—	6 (	(121104)	22	1
	19	19	_	_	62 (125)	137)	49 (1737	13)		1 (	870489)	112	1
	20	20	2 (25	6000)	151 (180	0025)	31 (2948	13)	_	14	(141376)	198	
	20	2×10	4 (39	2000)	141 (155	(664)	6 (45574	<u>(9)</u>		10	(184041)	161	-
	21	21	<u> </u>		45 (189	025)	23 (1554	(44)	_	5 (	152881)	73	
	22	22	-		102 (196	672)	24 (2925	17)		`		126	-
	23	23	_		32 (231)	025)	18 (1898	16)				50	-1
	24	24	l	_	88 (218	176)	14 (3311)	$\frac{25}{25}$		8 (	189225)	110	-
	24	$2 \times 2 \times 6$	-		11 (383)	625)			-	1 (	853776)	12	-
	24	2×12		_	70 (235	152)	3 (79351	7)		6 (	336400)	79	-1
	25	25	<u> </u>		38 (264	256)	8 (38962	$\frac{1}{20}$				46	-
	25	5.75			1 (0465	2007	0 (00002	.0)		21	272221)	10	-1
	20	36			77 (999)	526)	15 (2400)	08)		1	012025)	03	
	20	20		_	11 (200	000) 000)	11 (2407	41)			912020)	27	-1
	21	21			20 (2400	590)	11 (3407	41)		1	077700)	1	
	21	3×9	<u> </u>		16 (000	4491	0 (74000	(4)		1 (	211129)	1 24	-
	28	28			40 (2904	140)	0 (14008	$\frac{(1)}{2}$		9.4	725004)	34	-
	28	2×14	ļ		17 (202	5271	5 (12/01	$\frac{(4)}{2}$		3 (	120904)	40	-
	29	29			11 (298	101) 816)	0 (40421	$\frac{(4)}{(2)}$		6 /	101106)	22	
	30	30		_	10 (175	010)	5 (54501	<u>)</u>		0(	404490)		4
	31	31		_	10 (475)	U20)	b (54936	1)				23	-
	32	32			30 (4114	±Uð)	5 (49726	00)				41	-
	32	2×2×8		_	1 (9226	25)						1	_
	32	2×16		_	22 (480)	o28)	2 (76612	(5)	-	<u> </u>	439569)	30	
	32	4×8			6 (7236	00)			-	3 (	008400)	9	4
	33	33		-	17 (3346	008)	8 (40230	<u>(U)</u>		2 (	588289)	27	4
	34	34	2 (59	4473)	30 (384)	J64)	2 (76101	3)				34	-1
	35	35	ļ		24 (329)	141)	6 (54775	()		1 (	851929)	31	4
	36	36			25 (3984	100)	1 (64500	(4)		1 (	990025)	27	4
	36	2×18			16 (540)	736)	2 (88088	4)				18	
	36	3×12								3 (	483025)	3	-
	37	37			11 (405)	<b>568</b> )	1 (76280	(8)				12	
	38	38	-	_	28 (4943	352)	2 (64389	7)	-			30	4
	39	39			13 (491)	584)						13	4
	40	40	-	-	21 (5046	300)	1 (94734	8)		5 (	511225)	27	

$h_F$	$Cl_F$	C4	D4	S4	A4	V4	Σ
40	$2 \times 2 \times 10$					1 (906304)	1
40	$2 \times 20$	_	11 (549000)			1 (906304)	12
41	41	—	9 (520489)	2 (727656)	-		11
42	42	—	11 (639561)	1 (818901)		1 (570025)	13
43	43		9 (684025)	1 (650264)			10
44	44		12 (424000)				12
44	2×22		2 (861025)				2
45	45		2 (901184)	_		—	2
46	46		10 (589849)		-		10
47	47		3 (783025)				3
48	48		7 (673081)		—	2 (577600)	9
48	$2 \times 24$		1 (902025)			1 (853776)	2
49	49	-	3 (774208)				3
50	50		5 (812304)	—			5
50	5×10	—		—		1 (678976)	1
51	51		4 (654373)				4
52	52		1 (964368)			—	1
52	$2 \times 26$		4 (871488)				4
53	53			1 (833044)			1
55	55		1 (920337)	—			1
56	56		1 (958528)			1 (874225)	2
57	57		1 (929713)		-		1
60	60		1 (849660)				1
60	$2 \times 30$					1 (846400)	1
64	64		1 (654400)		-	—	1
64	8×8		1 (790920)				1
68	68		1 (769600)				1
70	70			1 (958616)			1
Σ		54	36238	44122	90	818	81322

All computations were done on Apollo workstations DN3000 and DN4500 (CPU Motorola 68020/68030). We used the number-theoretic program library KANT, which is developed in Düsseldorf [9]. All data can be obtained from the authors.

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Mathematisches Institut, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Universitätsstr. 1, 4000 Düsseldorf 1, Germany

E-mail address: pohst@ze8.rz.uni-duesseldorf.de