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Cyclic-Sixteen Class Fields for $\mathbf{Q}(-p)^{1/2}$ by Modular Arithmetic

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Abstract. Numerical experiments result in the construction of cyclic-sixteen class fields for $\mathbf{Q}(-p)^{1/2}$, p prime < 2000, by radicals involving quadratic and biquadratic parameters. These fields are characterized by rational factorization properties modulo a variable prime; but it suffices to use only three primes selected and checked by computer to verify the class field, if earlier work (jointly with Cooke) on the cyclic-eight class field is utilized.

1. Introduction. To give a specific example of a new result in rational arithmetic, the current computation shows that a (large) prime q satisfies $q = x^2 + 257y^2$ (in $\mathbf{Z}$) exactly when a certain equation over $\mathbf{Q}$ of degree 32 splits into 32 (different) linear factors modulo q. The general root of this equation is expressible (with "too many conjugates") as $\Lambda_0^{1/2}$, where

$$\Lambda_0 = (-5 + 2(-257)^{1/2})(1 + (1 + 16i)^{1/2}) \cdot \left(\frac{-9 + (-257)^{1/2}}{1 - i}(16 + 257^{1/2})^{1/2}\right)^{1/2}, \tag{1.1}$$

so that the radicals in Λ_0 must be chosen with correct signs. It will prove advantageous to replace a rather appalling equation of degree 32 by the following system of five quadratic congruences in which the signs are implicitly specified:

$$\begin{cases} x_1^2 \equiv -257, \quad x_2^2 \equiv -1, \quad x_3^2 \equiv 16 - x_1x_2, \\ x_4^2 \equiv (-9 + x_1)x_3/(1 - x_2), \\ x_5^2 \equiv (-5 + 2x_1)\left(1 + \dfrac{x_3 - x_2/x_3}{1 - x_2}\right)x_4, \end{cases} \pmod q. \tag{1.2}$$

Now the system (1.2) is solvable for just those primes q (> 13) which satisfy $q = x^2 + 257y^2$.

In terms of definitions given below, it will be clear that we are constructing cyclic-sixteen class fields of $k_2 = \mathbf{Q}(-p)^{1/2}$ for those primes p for which h, the class number of k_2, is divisible by 16. In principle, this construction is finitary but not routine (see [1a]); and the generator Λ_0 is far from unique (in fact, another value is more convenient later in Section 3 below). Yet this construction is especially amenable to com-

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puters because, as we shall see, once a correct guess is made, it is sufficient to test *three* mechanically chosen primes q to establish the congruence properties like those just described for $x^2 + 257y^2$.

2. The Class Fields. We start with Cl, the ideal class group of order h for the field

$$k_2 = \mathbf{Q}(-p)^{1/2} \quad \text{(prime) } p \equiv 1 \pmod 8. \tag{2.1}$$

The 2-Sylow subgroup Cl_2 is known to be cyclic $C(2^T)$, for some $T \geqslant 2$. We call the 2^m*-class group* $(0 < m \leqslant T)$ the subgroup Cl^{2^m} of Cl consisting of those classes of Cl which are 2^m-powers; then the even part of the 2^m-class group is $C(2^{T-m})$.

The 2^m*-class field* $k_{2^{m+1}}$ is defined uniquely as that normal extension of k_2 for which a prime ideal $\mathfrak{q}$ in k_2 (of prime norm q) splits completely in $k_{2^{m+1}}$ precisely when $\mathfrak{q}$ belongs to a class in Cl^{2^m}. Then $\mathrm{Gal}\, k_{2^{m+1}}/k_2 = \mathrm{Cl}/\mathrm{Cl}^{2^m}$ and $[k_{2^{m+1}} : k_2] = 2^m$. Another characterization of $k_{2^{m+1}}$ is that it is the unique unramified normal extension of k_2 of degree 2^m.

For notation we use Latin letters for rational integers and Greek for algebraic, while subscripts or German letters denote ideals (always) in k_2, e.g., $(2) = 2_1^2$, $(e) = \mathfrak{e}_1\mathfrak{e}_2$, etc. We summarize an earlier paper which goes as far as k_{16}, (see [2]). For Cl^2 we have genus theory, and

$$k_4 = k_2(i). \tag{2.2}$$

For Cl^4 we have

$$k_8 = k_4(\epsilon^{1/2}), \tag{2.3}$$

where ϵ is a fundamental unit of $Q(p^{1/2})$, (see table in [5]),

$$\epsilon = s + tp^{1/2}, \qquad \epsilon' = s - tp^{1/2}, \tag{2.4a}$$

$$s^2 - t^2p = -1, \qquad s > 0,\ t > 0. \tag{2.4b}$$

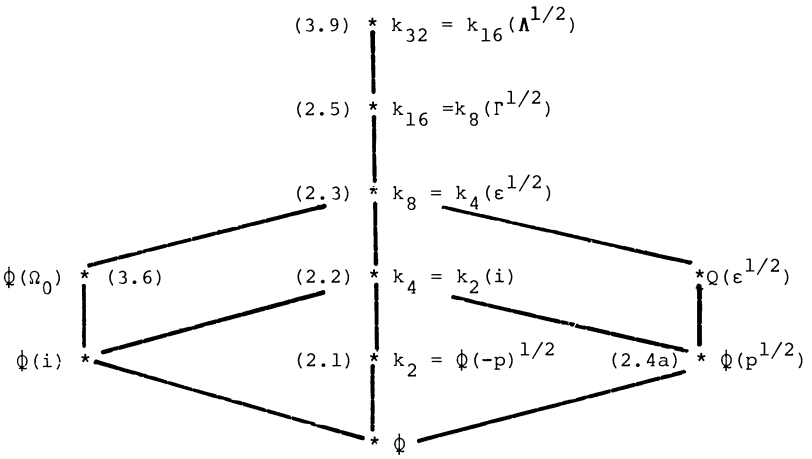

FIGURE 1

Tower of class fields over k_2

For Cl^8 (when $8 \mid h$) we have

$$k_{16} = k_8(\Gamma^{1/2}), \tag{2.5}$$

where Γ is defined by the relations

$$-p = f^2 - 2e^2, \quad f \equiv -1 \pmod 4,\ e > 0, \tag{2.6}$$

$$\Gamma = (f + (-p)^{1/2})\epsilon^{1/2}/(1 - i). \tag{2.7}$$

3. Input Data for Cyclic-Sixteen Class Fields. We continue to define new parameters for when $8 \mid h$. First of all we solve

$$ew^2 = u^2 + pv^2, \quad v > 0,\ w > 0,\ u \equiv fv \pmod e. \tag{3.1}$$

The solvability of this equation follows from the fact that in k_2 $(2) = 2_1^2$ so 2_1 is an ideal whose class is of order 2, while by (2.6) $e = N\mathfrak{e}_1$, where $\mathfrak{e}_1$ is in a class of order 4. Similarly, $w = N\mathfrak{w}_1$ so $\mathfrak{w}_1$ is in a class of order 8. The congruence conditions of u and v guarantee that $\mathfrak{e}_1^2 \mid f + (-p)^{1/2}$, while $\mathfrak{e}_1 \mid u + v(-p)^{1/2}$ (this is important when e is composite). The actual computation is done by machine after preliminary calculations show that v cannot always be assumed to be one. For the current run we can take $v \leqslant 5$.

We also need to assign signs to radicals. We begin by *arbitrarily* assigning signs to

$$(-p)^{1/2},\ i,\ \epsilon^{1/2},\ \Gamma^{1/2}, \tag{3.2}$$

subject to $p^{1/2} = -(-p)^{1/2}i$ in the computation of ϵ (see (2.4)) and

$$\epsilon'^{1/2} = i/\epsilon^{1/2}. \tag{3.3}$$

Other radicals are now determined. For example, by squaring both sides,

$$(1 + si)^{1/2} = (\epsilon^{1/2} - \epsilon'^{1/2})/(1 - i). \tag{3.4}$$

Furthermore, if we decompose

$$p = a^2 + b^2, \quad \text{(odd) } a > 0,\ \text{(even) } b, \tag{3.5a}$$

we can choose the sign of b so that for suitable integers, z_1 and z_2

$$(1 + si) = (a + bi)(z_1 + z_2 i)^2, \quad z_1 > 0,\ z_2 > 0 \tag{3.5b}$$

(note $z_1^2 + z_2^2 = t$). This is done by using a double-precision complex square-root of the two fractions $(1 + si)/(a \pm |b|i)$ to find which one is closer to a Gaussian integer. Therefore,

$$(a + bi)^{1/2} = (\epsilon^{1/2} - \epsilon'^{1/2})/(1 - i)(z_1 + z_2 i). \tag{3.5c}$$

We finally read in from a table of units [6] the fundamental unit for the Gauss-Pell equation

$$\Omega_0 = \frac{t_1 + it_2 + (u_1 + iu_2)(a + bi)^{1/2}}{2}, \tag{3.6}$$

TABLE I. *Input*

	$\Phi(-p)^{1/2}$						$Q(i)$		$\Phi(p^{1/2})$		$\Phi(a+bi)^{1/2}$					
p	h	e	f	u	v	w	a	b	s	t	z_1	z_2	t_1	t_2	u_1	u_2
257	16	13	-9	-5	2	9	1	16	16	1	1	0	-43	75	5	21
353	16	17	15	32	1	9	17	-8	71264	3793	33	52	-5	-3	-1	-1
409	16	17	-13	4	1	5	3	20	11, 19217,96968	55341,76685	74186	5533	-73	133	7	33
521	32	21	19	-2	1	5	11	-20	1283,77240	56,24309	590	2297	-2489	-1309	-309	-501
569	32	17	3	-39	4	25	13	-20	28948,63832	1213,59005	3131	1562	-219	-209	-19	-59
809	32	25	-21	404	1	81	5	28	43, 38520,26040	1, 52534,24933	1, 23023	1898	29477	-6753	3425	-4519
857	32	21	-5	11	2	13	29	4	81,18568	2,77325	397	346	-7123	-4551	-1371	-749
953	32	29	27	-33	2	13	13	28	27468,64744	889,79677	9211	2034	23	-5	3	-3
1129	16	25	11	-564	1	113	27	20	168	5	2	1	-3901	-2551	-777	-207
1153	16	29	23	17	2	13	33	-8	102,47504, 00230,72656	3,01789, 02568,75073	339, 62297	431, 79308	-12533	49579	-3145	8193
1201	16	25	7	596	3	121	25	-24	2490, 13832,32746 50571,44832	71, 85416,85609 44230,77385	3, 32361, 77461	7, 79793, 13692	-6089	527	-993	-303
1217	32	33	31	91	4	29	31	16	276,28256	7,91969	760	463	7663	39551	2841	6201
1249	32	25	-1	624	1	125	15	32	3292, 35587,03432, 90296,88240	2, 61326,40028, 30963,92593	1, 57788, 89768	35146, 88887	-3, 53389	12, 10171	59037	2, 03685
1657	16	29	-5	82	1	17	19	36	10725,88716, 86860,36632	263,49475, 20206,35645	4982, 59718	1234, 18011	6, 65485	3, 26329	1, 15735	-10057

where $(a + bi)^{1/2}$ has a sign already specified by (3.5c). According to general methods of Dirichlet [3] (in analogy with the "ordinary" case (2.4)),

$$N_{Q(i)}\Omega_0 = ((t_1 + it_2)^2 - (u_1 + iu_2)^2(a + bi))/4 = \pm i. \tag{3.7}$$

(Often there is a more convenient Ω_1 in $\mathbf{Q}(a + bi)^{1/2}$ of norm $i\xi^2$, $\xi \in \mathbf{Q}(i)$, which differs from Ω_0 by a square factor. Thus when $p = 257$, we can use $\Omega_1 = (1 + (1 + 16i)^{1/2})$ instead; see (1.1).)

The entries of Table I are now completely accounted for.

CONJECTURE 3.8. *When* $16 \mid h$, *the radicand of the* 16*-class field*

$$k_{32} = k_{16}(\Lambda^{1/2}) \tag{3.9}$$

may be taken as

$$\Lambda = (u + v(-p)^{1/2})\Omega\Gamma^{1/2}, \tag{3.10}$$

where Ω *is either* Ω_0 *or* $i\Omega_0$ (*as remains to be determined*).

We verify this conjecture for the fourteen $p < 2000$ where $16 \mid h$. There either $h = 16$ and Cl^{16} consists only of principal classes, or $h = 32$ and Cl^{16} also contains those equivalent to 2_1. Thus, in any case, for $q = N\mathfrak{q}$ and $\mathfrak{q} \in \mathrm{Cl}^{16}$, we can write

$$f_0 q = x^2 + py^2, \qquad 16 f_0 \mid h. \tag{3.11}$$

We must show that for exactly such (large) q the defining equation for $\Lambda^{1/2}$ splits modulo q into 32 factors once we have chosen the right Ω ($= \Omega_0$ or $i\Omega_0$).

4. Galois Group Considerations. We must have k_{32}/k_2 cyclic and $k_{32}/\mathbf{Q}$ dihedral. Thus, we want (compare [2])

$$\mathrm{Gal}\, k_{32}/\mathbf{Q} = \langle \sigma, \tau \mid \sigma^{16} = \tau^2 = (\sigma\tau)^2 = 1 \rangle, \tag{4.1}$$

where σ and τ may be chosen as follows:

$$\sigma: \begin{cases} (-p)^{1/2} \longrightarrow (-p)^{1/2}, \quad p^{1/2} \longrightarrow -p^{1/2}, \quad i \longrightarrow -i, \\ \epsilon^{1/2} \longrightarrow \epsilon'^{1/2}, \quad \epsilon'^{1/2} \longrightarrow -\epsilon^{1/2}, \quad \Gamma \longrightarrow \Gamma/\epsilon, \\ \Omega \longrightarrow \sigma\Omega, \qquad \Lambda \longrightarrow \Lambda\sigma\Omega/\Omega\epsilon^{1/2}, \end{cases} \tag{4.2a}$$

$$\tau: \begin{cases} p^{1/2} \longrightarrow p^{1/2}, \quad (-p)^{1/2} \longrightarrow -(-p)^{1/2}, \quad i \longrightarrow -i, \\ \epsilon^{1/2} \longrightarrow \epsilon^{1/2}, \quad \epsilon'^{1/2} \longrightarrow -\epsilon'^{1/2}, \quad \Gamma \longrightarrow \epsilon e^2/\Gamma, \\ \Omega \longrightarrow \tau\Omega, \quad \Lambda \longrightarrow e^2 w^2 \epsilon^{1/2} \tau\Omega\Omega/\Lambda. \end{cases} \tag{4.2b}$$

For the operations on Ω, write α and β as elements of $\mathbf{Q}(i)$, using α' and β' to denote conjugates over $\mathbf{Q}$,

$$\Omega = \alpha + \beta(\epsilon^{1/2} - \epsilon'^{1/2}),$$

$$\tau\Omega = \sigma\Omega = \alpha' + \beta'(\epsilon^{1/2} + \epsilon'^{1/2}), \tag{4.2c}$$

$$\sigma^2\Omega = \alpha - \beta(\epsilon^{1/2} - \epsilon'^{1/2}) = \pm i/\Omega,$$

$$\sigma^{-1}\Omega = \sigma^3\Omega = \alpha' - \beta'(\epsilon^{1/2} + \epsilon'^{1/2}) = \pm i/\sigma^3\Omega.$$

To verify the Galois group (4.1) requires, first of all, normality:

CONJECTURE 4.3. $(k_{16} =) k_8(\Gamma^{1/2}) \supseteq k_8(\Sigma^{1/2}) \supseteq k_8$, *where*

$$\Sigma = \Omega\sigma\Omega\epsilon^{1/2}. \tag{4.4}$$

From this result $k_{16}(\Lambda^{1/2})$ is normal over $\mathbf{Q}$. We see this by listing the conjugates of Σ generated by σ and τ (all differing by square factors). Since all conjugates of k_{32} over k_2 must be generated by σ and since $\Lambda^{1/2} \notin k_{16}$ (as implied by Conjecture 3.8), then Gal $k_{32}/k_2 = C(16)$. Similarly, $k_8(\Sigma^{1/2})/k_2$ is cyclic independently of Conjecture 4.3. The more tempting conjecture, $k_{16} = k_8(\Sigma^{1/2})(\supset k_8)$, seems valid but is not needed for now, (compare Section 7 below).

We shall produce a computer output to simultaneously verify Conjectures 3.8 and 4.3.

5. The Conductor-Discriminant Theorem. The radicand Λ was set up as a perfect (ideal) square as the first step in finding an unramified k_{32} over k_{16} (hence over k_2). The worst possible case now is that k_{32} is ramified over even primes (i.e., 2_1) in k_2. This would mean, in effect, that for an ideal $\mathfrak{f}$ (the *conductor*) in k_2, all odd primes in k_2 congruent to one another mod$^\times \mathfrak{f}$ (see (5.1a) below) split completely if one such prime does from k_2 to k_{32}. This reduces the testing to a finite set; see [4].

LEMMA 5.1. *Let* $K \supset K_1 \supset k$, *where* Gal $K/k = C(2^m)$, Gal $K_1/k = C(2^{m-1})$; *and let* K_1/k *be unramified, while* $K = K_1(\Lambda^{1/2})$, *where* Λ *is an ideal square in* K_1. *Then the conductor of* K/k *is a divisor of* 4. *Thus, if* $\mathfrak{p}_1$ *and* $\mathfrak{p}_2$ *are two odd prime ideals in* k, *they will factor alike in* K/k *when they belong to the same class* (mod$^\times$ 4) *in* k.

The proof follows from the fact that the different of K_1/k is 1 (unramified), while that of K/K_1 divides 2 (since Λ is an ideal square). Thus, the discriminant of K/k divides 2^{2^m}. But by the conductor-discriminant theorem (see Hasse [4]), this discriminant $= \Pi_\chi \mathfrak{f}_\chi$, where χ are the characters of $H_0 =$ Gal K/k and $\mathfrak{f}_\chi$ is the conductor over k of the field fixed by that subgroup of H_0 for which $\chi = 1$. In effect, $\mathfrak{f}_\chi = 1$ for all proper subfields and $\mathfrak{f}_\chi$ is the conductor for K occurring as often in the product as χ is primitive, i.e., $\phi(2^m) = 2^{m-1}$ times. But $2^{2^m} = 4^{\phi(2^m)}$. □

We, therefore, need a refinement of Cl^{2^m} to Cl^{2^m} (mod$^\times$ 4). Here we consider only odd ideals $\mathfrak{a}$ and $\mathfrak{b}$; they are equivalent exactly when for odd integers in k_2, namely α and β

$$\alpha\mathfrak{a} = \beta\mathfrak{b}, \qquad \alpha \equiv \beta \pmod 4. \tag{5.1a}$$

The even part of $Cl^{2^m} (\mathrm{mod}^\times 4)$ is $C(2^{T-m}) \times C(2) \times C(2)$. The cycles $C(2) \times C(2)$ come from the four-group of odd principal ideals (α) modulo 4, i.e., $\pm\alpha$, where

$$\alpha \equiv 1, \quad 1 + 2(-p)^{1/2}, \quad (-p)^{1/2}, \quad (-p)^{1/2} + 2 \pmod 4. \tag{5.1b}$$

Once we verify the splitting properties in $Cl^{16} (\mathrm{mod}^\times 4)$ in k_{32}/k_2 it will follow (from the equivalent definitions of class field in Section 2) that k_{32}/k_2 is unramified and the conductor $\mathfrak{f}$ was actually the unit ideal.

PRELIMINARY COMPUTATIONAL PROCEDURE 5.2. *For any p (with $16 \mid h$) we can verify Conjecture* 4.3 *by testing to see that primes generating* $Cl^8 (\mathrm{mod}^\times 4)$ *split completely in $k_8(\Sigma^{1/2})$. To verify Conjecture* 3.8 *we need only have to assume Conjecture* 4.3 *and make tests to show that primes generating* $Cl^8 (\mathrm{mod}^\times 4)$ *split completely in $k_{16}(\Lambda^{1/2})$ while one prime which splits in k_{16} (i.e., an eighth-power class) does not, (so $\Lambda^{1/2} \notin k_{16}$).*

We begin with Cl^8. For given p, let x and y vary so as to generate primes q such that

$$f_0 q = x^2 + py^2, \quad x > 0, y > 0, \tag{5.3}$$

where $f_0 = 1$ and 2 when $h = 16$ and $f_0 = 1, 2$, and e when $h = 32$. When $f_0 = e$, we further require

$$f_0 y \equiv \pm x \pmod e, \tag{5.4}$$

so for some choice of sign $\mathfrak{q} \sim \mathfrak{e}_1^{-1}$ (compare (3.1)). In all cases the class of $\mathfrak{q}$ is an eighth power, and together they generate Cl^8.

FINAL COMPUTATIONAL PROCEDURE 5.5. *Select three primes q for each p as follows: Two of them are principal ($f_0 = 1$) and correspond to two of the three nontrivial classes in* (5.1b). *The third corresponds to a nonprincipal class, namely a generator of* $Cl^8 (\mathrm{mod}^\times 4)$, *(so $f_0 = 2$ when $h = 16$ and $f_0 = e$ when $h = 32$). Procedure* 5.2 *can be restricted to just these q.*

The slight improvement from Procedures 5.2 to 5.5 is due to the fact that we really use a multiplicative symbol "$((K/k)/C)$" to test the splitting character of the ideal $\mathfrak{q}$ in class C from k to K. Thus, it is trivial that the square of a class will split.

6. Verification of Conjectures by Output. The test primes q are chosen by a machine search according to (5.3) (with the a priori guess that $q < 9999$ would suffice) Actually, the machine accepted for output one representative q per class in $Cl^8 (\mathrm{mod}^\times 4)$ when available, so Table II was selected from a much longer list.

The arithmetic modulo q was performed with the help of a table of indices generated internally for each q. Thus, the machine tried to solve for x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5 representing $(-p)^{1/2}$, i, $\epsilon^{1/2}$, $\Gamma^{1/2}$, $\Lambda^{1/2}$ (as residues modulo a prime divisor of q in k_{32})

$$\begin{cases} x_1^2 \equiv -p, \quad x_2^2 \equiv -1, \quad x_3^2 \equiv s - tx_1x_2, \\ x_4^2 \equiv (f + x_1)x_3/(1 - x_2), \\ x_5^2 \equiv (u + vx_1)x_2^U y_4 x_4 \quad (\equiv w_5), \end{cases} \pmod q. \tag{6.1}$$

TABLE II. *Output*

$qf_0 = x^2 + py^2$								index (base r) of					
p	h	Ω	q	f_0	x	y	r	x_1	x_2	x_3	x_4	w_5	w_6
257	16	$i\Omega_0$	293	1	6	1	2	12	73	120	97	0	112
			1109	1	9	2	2	437	277	493	257	1052	68
			241	2	15	1	7	80	60	161	54	145	216
353	16	Ω_0	389	1	6	1	2	78	97	128	165	252	50
			1493	1	9	2	2	245	373	675	64	558	12
			181	2	3	1	2	56	45	103	29	109	134
409	16	Ω_0	509	1	10	1	2	91	127	150	238	238	156
			1637	1	1	2	2	817	409	948	328	1534	174
			229	2	7	1	6	107	57	150	24	227	10
521	32	$i\Omega_0$	557	1	6	1	2	158	139	332	148	474	362
			2309	1	15	2	2	1052	577	1510	1119	1992	1602
			101	21	40	1	2	27	25	67	4	33	68
569	32	$i\Omega_0$	2333	1	42	1	2	278	583	658	589	2232	494
			2357	1	9	2	2	661	589	1227	17	382	590
			641	17	76	3	3	66	160	445	256	355	176
809	32	Ω_0	1709	1	30	1	3	724	427	849	18	52	294
			3461	1	15	2	2	840	865	2510	702	26	3152
			149	25	54	1	2	40	37	83	13	89	44
857	32	Ω_0	1181	1	18	1	7	9	295	479	18	742	884
			4157	1	27	2	2	1182	1039	1907	282	2616	1766
			53	21	16	1	2	4	13	22	4	5	36
953	32	$i\Omega_0$	1277	1	18	1	2	63	319	422	333	850	998
			3821	1	3	2	3	586	955	1957	1805	1236	1076
			157	29	60	1	5	53	39	64	73	41	98
1129	16	Ω_0	1229	1	10	1	2	183	307	782	525	670	1194
			4517	1	1	2	2	2257	1129	2156	1667	2934	2592
			569	2	3	1	3	1	142	258	261	465	380
1153	16	$i\Omega_0$	1637	1	22	1	2	255	409	848	526	696	842
			4621	1	3	2	2	1617	1155	1464	171	3556	2566
			577	2	1	1	5	288	144	170	209	109	280
1201	16	Ω_0	1237	1	6	1	2	395	309	580	58	474	190
			4813	1	3	2	2	327	1203	2571	1642	1180	1580
			601	2	1	1	7	300	150	325	10	279	86
1217	32	$i\Omega_0$	4133	1	54	1	2	872	1033	2042	77	920	370
			4877	1	3	2	2	1306	1219	3407	545	1270	734
			37	33	2	1	2	1	9	20	4	7	0
1249	32	Ω_0	1733	1	22	1	2	856	433	1171	755	1094	942
			5021	1	5	2	3	1791	1255	1397	1425	4018	4212
			269	25	74	1	2	57	67	125	32	203	126
1657	16	$i\Omega_0$	1693	1	6	1	2	225	423	1260	380	1672	1402
			6637	1	3	2	2	1397	1659	3690	624	1040	4214
			829	2	1	1	2	414	207	254	160	797	130

Here Ω is represented by y_4, where

$$y_4 \equiv f(x_2, x_3) \equiv \frac{1}{2}\left(t_1 + t_2x_2 + \frac{(u_1 + u_2x_2)(x_3 - x_2/x_3)}{(1 - x_2)(z_1 + x_2z_2)}\right) \pmod q; \tag{6.2}$$

and, of course, we let $U = 0$ if $\Omega = \Omega_0$ and $U = 1$ if $\Omega = i\Omega_0$.

To check Conjecture 4.3, test Σ (see (4.4)) by

$$x_6^2 \equiv y_4y_4'x_3 \quad (\equiv w_6) \pmod q, \tag{6.3}$$

where y_4' represents $\sigma\Omega$. Thus by (4.2a),

$$y_4' \equiv f(-x_2, x_2/x_3) \pmod{q}. \tag{6.4}$$

The output is given by the indices of $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, w_5, w_6$ with primitive root $r \pmod{q-1}$ as shown in Table II. We now have the sign choices of (3.2) in the $x_1, \ldots, x_4$ and the residuacity of w_5, w_6. Thus, Procedure 5.5 requires that w_6 has an even index, while w_5 has an odd index just when $f_0 > 1$.

We use "large" q to avoid $q \mid 2ewtp$, so 0 is never a factor in (6.1). If $h = 16 \cdot \text{odd}$ or $32 \cdot \text{odd}$, no modification is required (since our search at worst misses eligible primes q where $f_0 q^{\text{odd}} = x^2 + py^2$). If, however, $64 \mid h$, we should have to use a different value of f_0 in (5.3) to catch the nonprincipal generator of Cl^8, e.g., if $128 \nmid h$, we could take $f_0 = w$.

7. **Concluding Remarks.** Further computations seem to indicate that when $p \equiv 1 \pmod 4$, $k_8(\Gamma^{1/2}) = k_8(\Sigma^{1/2}) = k_{16}$, (even when $8 \nmid h$). In fact, it would seem that k_8 has as a 2-fundamental system of units

$$i,\ \Omega,\ \sigma\Omega,\ \epsilon^{1/2} \tag{7.1}$$

of torsion-free rank 3, although this system becomes no part of a 2-fundamental set in k_{16} (because $\Sigma^{1/2}$ occurs).

The rank of the unit system is an indication of how the current results lead to a much more chaotic state of affairs. It is an easy guess that the 32-class field k_{64} is generated by $\Lambda^{*1/2}$, where

$$\Lambda^* = (u^* + v^*(-p)^{1/2})\Omega^*\Lambda^{1/2}\Gamma^{-1/2}. \tag{7.2}$$

Here $u^{*2} + v^{*2}p = ww^{*2}$, as in (3.1), with a similar sign condition to ensure the ideal-square property of Λ^*. Likewise, Ω^* is a unit of k_{16} (not k_8); and the torsion-free rank of such units is now 7 (not 3). Thus, the chances of guessing Ω^* become increasingly remote. Nevertheless, the pattern of inductively finding the 2^m-class field seems, at least conjecturally, clear from (3.10) and (7.2).

As a parallel problem, the criterion for $16 \mid h$ is as yet unknown and seems to be of a much greater degree of difficulty than that of $8 \mid h$, which is given by the representability of $p = a_0^2 + 32b_0^2$; see [1]. The author is greatly indebted to Jeff Lagarias for helpful discussions and speculations as well as comments on the present paper.

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