

COMPUTATION OF RELATIVE CLASS NUMBERS OF CM-FIELDS BY USING HECKE L -FUNCTIONS

STÉPHANE LOUBOUTIN

ABSTRACT. We develop an efficient technique for computing values at $s = 1$ of Hecke L -functions. We apply this technique to the computation of relative class numbers of non-abelian CM-fields \mathbf{N} which are abelian extensions of some totally real subfield \mathbf{L} . We note that the smaller the degree of \mathbf{L} the more efficient our technique is. In particular, our technique is very efficient whenever instead of simply choosing $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{N}^+$ (the maximal totally real subfield of \mathbf{N}) we can choose \mathbf{L} real quadratic. We finally give examples of computations of relative class numbers of several dihedral CM-fields of large degrees and of several quaternion octic CM-fields with large discriminants.

1. INTRODUCTION

In [Lou6] we developed a general technique for computing relative class numbers $h_{\mathbf{N}}^-$ of CM-fields \mathbf{N} based on the use of (8) and Theorem 2 below with $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{N}^+$ and $\chi = \chi_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{N}^+}$, in which case one can easily prove that $W_\chi = 1$ (use the functional equations satisfied by $\zeta_{\mathbf{N}}$ and $\zeta_{\mathbf{N}^+}$). This technique has been used to compute relative class numbers of various non-abelian CM-fields of degree 4, 6, 8, 12 or 16 (see [Lou2], [Lou3], [Lou4], [LO] and [LOO]), and these computations were in turn used to settle the class number one problem for the non-abelian normal CM-fields of degree ≤ 16 . However, this technique becomes too slow when the degree and discriminant of \mathbf{N} become larger. Indeed, setting

(1)

$$B(\mathbf{N}) = A_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{N}^+} \left(\frac{\lambda}{n} \log A_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{N}^+} \right)^{n/2}, \quad \text{where } A_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{N}^+} = \sqrt{d_{\mathbf{N}}/\pi^n d_{\mathbf{N}^+}},$$

we proved that if $\lambda > 1$ and n are fixed, then, according to (8) and (11), we should compute $B(\mathbf{N})$ terms in the absolutely convergent series (10) (with $\chi = \chi_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{N}^+}$) to compute $h_{\mathbf{N}}^-$ when \mathbf{N} ranges over a family of CM-fields of degree $2n$. In particular, this technique is too slow to compute relative class numbers of dihedral CM-fields of degree $4p$ when the prime p is not that large, say equal to 5 or 7.

The main prospect of this paper is to explain how (8) and Theorem 2 below make it easy to compute the relative class numbers of such dihedral CM-fields \mathbf{N} by computing the values at $s = 1$ of $(p - 1)/2$ Hecke L -functions over the real quadratic subfield \mathbf{L} of \mathbf{N} . According to Theorems 4 and 7, to get a real

Received by the editor April 16, 1997.

1991 *Mathematics Subject Classification*. Primary 11M20, 11R42; Secondary 11R29.

Key words and phrases. CM-field, relative class number, Hecke L -function, ray class field, dihedral field.

approximation of the integer $h_{\mathbf{N}}^-$ close enough to it to enable us to deduce its exact value, we have to compute much fewer than $B(\mathbf{N})$ terms in each of the $(p-1)/2$ absolutely convergent series (given in Theorem 4) whose limits are the values at $s=1$ of these Hecke L -functions (see also our third example). Subsections 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 will provide the reader with actual computations of Hecke L -functions over real quadratic fields. Note that according to Theorem 2, there is nothing peculiar to \mathbf{L} being a real quadratic field. It is just that it is easier to compute in ray class fields of quadratic fields than to compute in ray class fields of number fields of higher degree. In fact, in using Theorem 2 below and [Lou6] to get a practical technique for computing values of $K_{m,1}$ and $K_{m,2}$ (i.e., to get a generalization of Theorems 6 and 17), it would be easy to generalize all our results to cases where \mathbf{L} is not quadratic (in the last section of this paper we work out an example of calculation of a Hecke L -function over a real cubic field). Hence, it is worth noticing that our technique is much more general than the one developed in [Mey], which assumes \mathbf{L} quadratic. Our technique is also more efficient than the one developed in [Oka1] and [Oka2] based on the results in [Shi]. Indeed, a close look at [Oka1] shows that if the fundamental unit

$$\epsilon = (x_\epsilon + y_\epsilon \sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}})/2$$

of a real quadratic field \mathbf{L} is large, which happens quite often (for example, if $d_{\mathbf{L}} = 18361$ then y_ϵ has 49 digits in base 10), then Shintani's method becomes too slow to be of any practical use for numerical computations, for it requires a number of operations growing to infinity at least linearly in the size of y_ϵ to compute values of Hecke L -functions over \mathbf{L} at $s=1$. Even in the case where y_ϵ is small, Shintani's method is less efficient than the one developed here (see subsection 4.3).

To conclude, the technique here developed is more efficient but less simple than the one used in [Lou4] and [Lou6]. Indeed, if \mathbf{N} is a normal CM-field, we only have to know how to compute the inertia and residual degrees in \mathbf{N} of any prime p to be able to use the method developed in [Lou6]. Here, we need a precise description of the Hecke characters associated to the abelian extension \mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L} , and we must determine the values of all the W_χ 's associated to these Hecke characters. However, the present method is much more efficient.

2. NUMERICAL COMPUTATION OF $L(1, \chi)$

Let $\mathcal{C} = \infty_1 \infty_2 \cdots \infty_t \mathcal{C}_0$ be a cycle of a number field \mathbf{L} , where \mathcal{C}_0 , the finite part of \mathcal{C} , is an integral ideal of \mathbf{L} and where ∞_i , $1 \leq i \leq t$, are t distinct real places of \mathbf{L} . For simplicity of notation, $N_{\mathbf{L}/\mathbf{Q}}(\mathcal{C})$ and $N_{\mathbf{L}/\mathbf{Q}}(\mathcal{C}_0)$ will both denote the absolute norm of the ideal \mathcal{C}_0 . Let $\text{CL}_{\mathbf{L}}(\mathcal{C})$ denote the group of \mathcal{C} -ideal classes, which is also called the unit ray class group of \mathbf{L} modulo \mathcal{C} . If \mathcal{C}' divides \mathcal{C} , then the canonical map $\text{CL}_{\mathbf{L}}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{CL}_{\mathbf{L}}(\mathcal{C}')$ is onto and any character χ' on $\text{CL}_{\mathbf{L}}(\mathcal{C}')$, i.e., any morphism of multiplicative groups $\chi' : \text{CL}_{\mathbf{L}}(\mathcal{C}') \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^*$, induces a character χ on $\text{CL}_{\mathbf{L}}(\mathcal{C})$. We say that a character χ on $\text{CL}_{\mathbf{L}}(\mathcal{C})$ is primitive if it is not induced by any character χ' on $\text{CL}_{\mathbf{L}}(\mathcal{C}')$ for any $\mathcal{C}' \neq \mathcal{C}$ dividing \mathcal{C} . In that situation, \mathcal{C} is called the conductor of χ and we write $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{F}_\chi$.

Let \mathbf{E}/\mathbf{L} be an abelian extension of number fields of conductor $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{E}/\mathbf{L}}$ (a cycle of \mathbf{L}). According to class field theory, \mathbf{E} is a subfield of the unit ray class field $\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{L}}(\mathcal{C})$ of \mathbf{L} where from the Artin map we get an isomorphism $\text{Gal}(\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{L}}(\mathcal{C})/\mathbf{L}) \simeq \text{CL}_{\mathbf{L}}(\mathcal{C})$. We let $X_{\mathbf{E}/\mathbf{L}}$ denote the group of primitive characters of conductors dividing $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{E}/\mathbf{L}}$ which induce the group of (not necessarily primitive) characters on $\text{CL}_{\mathbf{L}}(\mathcal{C})$

which are trivial on $\text{Gal}(\mathbf{R}_L(\mathcal{C})/\mathbf{N})$. We have the following factorization of the Dedekind zeta function of \mathbf{E} :

$$(2) \quad \zeta_{\mathbf{E}}(s) = \prod_{\chi \in X_{\mathbf{E}/L}} L(s, \chi).$$

Let \mathbf{N} be a number field. We say that \mathbf{N} is a CM-field if \mathbf{N} is totally imaginary and if \mathbf{N} is a quadratic extension of its maximal totally real subfield \mathbf{N}^+ . In that situation, the degree $2n$ of \mathbf{N} is even and the class number $h_{\mathbf{N}^+}$ of \mathbf{N}^+ divides the class number $h_{\mathbf{N}}$ of \mathbf{N} , and the ratio $h_{\mathbf{N}}^- = h_{\mathbf{N}}/h_{\mathbf{N}^+}$ is called the relative class number of \mathbf{N} . Let $Q_{\mathbf{N}} \in \{1, 2\}$, $w_{\mathbf{N}}$, $d_{\mathbf{N}}$ and $d_{\mathbf{N}^+}$ denote the Hasse unit index of \mathbf{N} , the number of roots of unity in \mathbf{N} and the absolute values of the discriminants of \mathbf{N} and \mathbf{N}^+ , respectively. We have (see [Wa])

$$(3) \quad h_{\mathbf{N}}^- = \frac{Q_{\mathbf{N}} w_{\mathbf{N}}}{(2\pi)^n} \sqrt{\frac{d_{\mathbf{N}}}{d_{\mathbf{N}^+}} \frac{\text{Res}_{s=1}(\zeta_{\mathbf{N}})}{\text{Res}_{s=1}(\zeta_{\mathbf{N}^+})}}.$$

From now on, we assume that \mathbf{N} is a CM-field of degree $2n$ and that \mathbf{N} is an abelian extension of some of its totally real subfields \mathbf{L} of degree m . Let $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}/L} = \infty_1 \cdots \infty_m \mathcal{C}_{\mathbf{N}/L}$ denote the conductor of this abelian extension \mathbf{N}/L , and let $\mathcal{C}^+ = \mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}^+/L}$ denote the conductor of the abelian subextension \mathbf{N}^+/L . Therefore, \mathcal{C}^+ divides \mathcal{C} , $\mathbf{R}_L(\mathcal{C}^+)$ is a subfield of $\mathbf{R}_L(\mathcal{C})$ and $X_{\mathbf{N}^+/L}$ is a subgroup of the group $X_{\mathbf{N}/L}$. We set $X_{\mathbf{N}/L}^- = X_{\mathbf{N}/L} \setminus X_{\mathbf{N}^+/L}$. Notice that the conductor \mathcal{F}_{χ} of any χ in $X_{\mathbf{N}/L}^-$ is of the form $\mathcal{F}_{\chi} = \infty_1 \cdots \infty_m \mathcal{C}_{\chi}$ for some \mathcal{C}_{χ} dividing $\mathcal{C}_{\mathbf{N}/L}$. Using (2) for both \mathbf{N} and \mathbf{N}^+ , we get

$$(\zeta_{\mathbf{N}}/\zeta_{\mathbf{N}^+})(s) = \prod_{\chi \in X_{\mathbf{N}/L}^-} L(s, \chi)$$

and

$$(4) \quad h_{\mathbf{N}}^- = \frac{Q_{\mathbf{N}} w_{\mathbf{N}}}{(2\pi)^n} \sqrt{\frac{d_{\mathbf{N}}}{d_{\mathbf{N}^+}}} \prod_{\chi \in X_{\mathbf{N}/L}^-} L(1, \chi).$$

Note that there are $[\mathbf{N} : \mathbf{L}]/2 = n/m$ characters in $X_{\mathbf{N}/L}^-$. It is known that if χ is a primitive character of conductor $\mathcal{C} = \infty_1 \cdots \infty_m \mathcal{C}_{\chi}$ which is ramified at all the m infinite places of \mathbf{L} , then the Hecke L -function $s \mapsto L(s, \chi)$ satisfies the functional equation

$$(5) \quad F(1 - s, \chi) = W_{\chi} F(s, \bar{\chi})$$

for some Artin root number W_{χ} with $|W_{\chi}| = 1$, where

$$(6) \quad F(s, \chi) = A_{\chi}^s \Gamma^m((s + 1)/2) L(s, \chi)$$

and

$$(7) \quad A_{\chi} = \sqrt{d_L N_{L/Q}(\mathcal{C}_{\chi})/\pi^m}.$$

Let $\chi_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{N}^+}$ denote the quadratic Hecke character of conductor $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{N}^+}$ associated to the quadratic extension \mathbf{N}/\mathbf{N}^+ . We have

$$A_{\chi_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{N}^+}} = \sqrt{d_{\mathbf{N}^+} N_{\mathbf{N}^+/Q}(\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{N}^+})/\pi^n} = \sqrt{d_{\mathbf{N}}/\pi^n d_{\mathbf{N}^+}} = \prod_{\chi \in X_{\mathbf{N}/L}^-} A_{\chi},$$

and we obtain

$$(8) \quad h_{\mathbf{N}}^- = 2^{-n} \pi^{-n/2} Q_{\mathbf{N}} w_{\mathbf{N}} \prod_{\chi \in X_{\mathbf{N}}^- / L} A_{\chi} L(1, \chi).$$

For $\Re(s) > 1$, write

$$L(s, \chi) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{a_n(\chi)}{n^s},$$

where

$$(9) \quad a_n(\chi) = \sum_{N_{\mathbf{L}/\mathbf{Q}}(\mathbf{I})=n} \chi(\mathbf{I})$$

(this sum ranges over all the nonzero integral ideals of \mathbf{L} of norm n , and we set $\chi(\mathbf{I}) = 0$ if \mathbf{I} is not coprime with \mathcal{F}_{χ}). According to (9), $n \mapsto a_n(\chi)$ is multiplicative, i.e., $\gcd(m, n) = 1$ implies $a_{mn}(\chi) = a_m(\chi)a_n(\chi)$. Therefore, when doing actual computation we will only explain how we compute $a_{p^k}(\chi)$ on powers of primes. Using (5) and the Euler product of $s \mapsto L(s, \chi)$, the reader can easily prove

Lemma 1. *If all the $a_{p^k}(\chi)$ are real, then all the $a_n(\chi)$ are real, W_{χ} is equal to $+1$ or -1 , $L(1, \chi)$ is real, and $L(1, \chi) > 0$.*

Theorem 2. *Let \mathbf{L} be a totally real number field of degree m and let χ be a primitive Hecke character of conductor $\mathcal{C} = \infty_1 \infty_2 \cdots \infty_m \mathcal{C}_{\chi}$ on the ray class group $\text{CL}_{\mathbf{L}}(\mathcal{C})$ for some integral ideal \mathcal{C}_{χ} of \mathbf{L} . In particular, we assume that χ is ramified at all the infinite places of \mathbf{L} . Let W_{χ} be the Artin root number which appears in the functional equation of the Hecke L -function $s \mapsto L(s, \chi)$. For $\alpha > 1$ set*

$$K_{m,1}(B) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\alpha-i\infty}^{\alpha+i\infty} \Gamma^m(s) \frac{B^{2-2s}}{s-1} ds$$

and

$$K_{m,2}(B) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\alpha-i\infty}^{\alpha+i\infty} \Gamma^m(s) \frac{B^{2-2s}}{s-(1/2)} ds.$$

Then

$$(10) \quad L(1, \chi) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{a_n(\chi)}{n} K_{m,1}(n/A_{\chi}) + W_{\chi} \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{\overline{a_n(\chi)}}{n} K_{m,2}(n/A_{\chi}),$$

where $A_{\chi} = \sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}} N_{\mathbf{L}/\mathbf{Q}}(\mathcal{C}_{\chi}) / \pi^m}$, and since for $B > 0$ we have

$$(11) \quad 0 \leq K_{m,2}(B) \leq K_{m,1}(B) \leq m e^{-B^{2/m}},$$

both the series which appear in (10) are absolutely convergent.

Proof. Set

$$H_m(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\alpha-i\infty}^{\alpha+i\infty} \Gamma^m((s+1)/2) x^{-s} ds \quad (x > 0 \text{ and } \alpha > 0)$$

and

$$G(x, \chi) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\alpha-i\infty}^{\alpha+i\infty} F(s, \chi) x^{-s} ds = \sum_{n \geq 1} a_n(\chi) H_m(nx/A_{\chi}) \quad (x > 0 \text{ and } \alpha > 1).$$

Using the same line of reasoning as in [Lou4] and [Lou6], we obtain

$$(12) \quad G(x, \chi) = \frac{W_\chi}{x} G(1/x, \bar{\chi}) \quad (x > 0),$$

$$F(s, \chi) = \int_0^\infty G(x, \chi) x^s \frac{dx}{x} = \int_1^\infty G(x, \chi) x^{s-1} dx + W_\chi \int_1^\infty G(x, \bar{\chi}) x^{-s} dx,$$

and

$$A_\chi L(1, \chi) = F(1, \chi)$$

$$= \sum_{n \geq 1} a_n(\chi) \int_1^\infty H_m(nx/A_\chi) dx + W_\chi \sum_{n \geq 1} \overline{a_n(\chi)} \int_1^\infty H_m(nx/A_\chi) \frac{dx}{x}.$$

Noticing that

$$K_{m,1}(B) = \int_B^\infty H_m(x) dx \quad \text{and} \quad K_{m,2}(B) = B \int_B^\infty H_m(x) \frac{dx}{x},$$

we get (10).

As for the proof of (11), we refer the reader to [Lou6, 3. Proof of Proposition 1]. Notice that $K_{m,1}(B) + K_{m,2}(B) = K_m(B)$, where $m \mapsto K_m(B)$ is the function used in [Lou6]. •

3. HECKE L -FUNCTIONS OVER REAL QUADRATIC FIELDS

Let \mathbf{L} be a real quadratic number field. Let $\mathbf{A}_\mathbf{L}$, $d_\mathbf{L}$, $h_\mathbf{L}$, $\chi_\mathbf{L}$ and ∞_1 and ∞_2 denote its ring of algebraic integers, the absolute value of its discriminant, its class number, its primitive modulo $d_\mathbf{L}$ quadratic character and the two infinite places of \mathbf{L} . Let \mathcal{F}_0 be an integral ideal of \mathbf{L} , set $\mathcal{F} = \infty_1 \infty_2 \mathcal{F}_0$, and let χ be a primitive Hecke character on $\text{Cl}_\mathbf{L}(\mathcal{F})$, the ray class group modulo \mathcal{F} . In particular, we assume that χ is ramified at both ∞_1 and ∞_2 . It is known that if we restrict χ to principal ideals (α) coprime with \mathcal{F}_0 , then there exists a unique character χ_0 on $(\mathbf{A}_\mathbf{L}/\mathcal{F}_0)^*$ such that

$$\chi((\alpha)) = \nu(\alpha)\chi_0(\alpha),$$

where for any $\alpha \in \mathbf{L} \setminus \{0\}$ we let $\nu(\alpha)$ denote the sign of $N_{\mathbf{L}/\mathbf{Q}}(\alpha)$. This character χ_0 is called the modular character associated with χ .

Notice that if $h_\mathbf{L} = 1$ then $\chi = \nu\chi_0$ and, to compute χ on ideals, it remains to explain how one can effectively determine a generator $\alpha_\mathcal{L}$ of a principal primitive ideal

$$\mathcal{L} = Q\mathbf{Z} + \frac{P + \sqrt{d_\mathbf{L}}}{2}\mathbf{Z}$$

of norm Q . Set $x_0 = (P + \sqrt{d_\mathbf{L}})/(2Q)$, let $x_0 = [a_0, a_1, \dots]$ be the continued fractional expansion of x_0 , and set $x_n = [a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots]$. It is well known that $x_n = (P_n + \sqrt{d_\mathbf{L}})/(2Q_n)$, where the P_n 's and Q_n 's are recursively defined by

$$\begin{cases} a_n = [x_n] = [(P_n + \sqrt{d_\mathbf{L}})/(2Q_n)], \\ P_{n+1} = 2a_n Q_n - P_n, \\ Q_{n+1} = (d_\mathbf{L} - P_{n+1}^2)/(4Q_n). \end{cases}$$

We define two sequences $(p_n)_{n \geq -1}$ and $(q_n)_{n \geq -1}$ by setting

$$\begin{cases} (p_{-1}, q_{-1}) = (0, 1), \\ (p_0, q_0) = (1, 0), \\ (p_{n+1}, q_{n+1}) = (a_n p_n + p_{n-1}, a_n q_n + q_{n-1}). \end{cases}$$

Since \mathcal{L} is principal, there exists $m \geq 0$ such that $Q_m = 1$ and

$$\alpha_{\mathcal{L}} = ((2p_m Q - q_m P) - q_m \sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}})/2$$

is an explicit generator of the principal ideal \mathcal{L} (see [LO]).

Proposition 3 (See [Sie]). *Choose $\gamma \in \mathbf{L}$ such that $(\gamma\sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}})\mathcal{F}_0 = \mathcal{I}$ is an integral ideal coprime with \mathcal{F}_0 , and set*

$$\tau_{\mathcal{F}_0}(\gamma, \chi_0) = \sum_{\lambda \bmod \mathcal{F}_0} \chi_0(\lambda) e^{2\pi i \text{Tr}_{\mathbf{L}/\mathbf{Q}}(\lambda\gamma)},$$

where $\text{Tr}_{\mathbf{L}/\mathbf{Q}}$ stands for the trace from \mathbf{L} to \mathbf{Q} . Then

$$W_{\chi} = \chi(\mathcal{I}) \nu(\gamma\sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}}) \frac{\tau_{\mathcal{F}_0}(\gamma, \chi_0)}{\sqrt{N_{\mathbf{L}/\mathbf{Q}}(\mathcal{F}_0)}}$$

has absolute value one and does not depend on the choice of γ . In particular, if $\mathcal{F}_0 = (1)$ then we may take $\gamma = 1/\sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}}$, and we get $W_{\chi} = 1$.

We now explain how to compute numerical approximations of $L(1, \chi)$ that are as good as desired for Hecke L -functions over real quadratic fields.

Theorem 4 (See Theorem 2 and (11)). 1. *We have*

$$(13) \quad L(1, \chi) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{a_n(\chi)}{n} K_{2,1}(n/A_{\chi}) + W_{\chi} \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{\overline{a_n(\chi)}}{n} K_{2,2}(n/A_{\chi}),$$

and since $0 \leq K_{2,2}(B) \leq K_{2,1}(B) \leq 2e^{-B}$, these series are absolutely convergent.

2. *For any positive integer $M \geq 2A_{\chi}$, in setting*

$$(14) \quad S_M(\chi) = \sum_{n=1}^M \frac{a_n(\chi)}{n} K_{2,1}(n/A_{\chi}) + W_{\chi} \sum_{n=1}^M \frac{\overline{a_n(\chi)}}{n} K_{2,2}(n/A_{\chi}),$$

we have

$$(15) \quad |L(1, \chi) - S_M(\chi)| \leq 4(\log(Me) + 1)^2 e^{-M/A_{\chi}},$$

and there exists $C_1 > 0$ absolute and effective such that for any \mathbf{L} , any χ and any $M \geq 0$ we have

$$(16) \quad |L(1, \chi)| \leq C_1 \log^2(2eA_{\chi})$$

and

$$(17) \quad |S_M(\chi)| \leq C_1 \log^2(2eA_{\chi}).$$

3. *Conversely, there exists $C_2 > 0$ absolute and effective such that for any \mathbf{L} and any non-quadratic χ we have*

$$(18) \quad |L(1, \chi)| \geq C_2 / \log^2(2eA_{\chi}).$$

Proof. We prove point 2. We have $|a_n(\chi)| \leq d_2(n)$, where $d_2(n)$ is the number of factorizations of n as a product of two positive integers. We now follow the same line of reasoning as in [Lou4], and set

$$S(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{n \leq x} \frac{d_2(n)}{n} \leq \left(\sum_{n \leq x} \frac{1}{n} \right)^2 \leq \log^2(ex)$$

and

$$R_M(\chi) = \sum_{n>M} \frac{d_2(n)}{n} e^{-n/A_\chi}.$$

Using (11), we get $|L(1, \chi) - S_M(\chi)| \leq 4R_M(\chi)$ and

$$\begin{aligned} 4R_M(\chi) &\leq 4 \sum_{n>M} S(n)(e^{-n/A_\chi} - e^{-(n+1)/A_\chi}) \\ &\leq \frac{4}{A_\chi} \sum_{n>M} \log^2(en)e^{-n/A_\chi} \\ &\leq \frac{4}{A_\chi} \int_M^\infty \log^2(ex)e^{-x/A_\chi} dx = 4 \int_{M/A_\chi}^\infty \log^2(eA_\chi x)e^{-x} dx, \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality holds for M such that $M \log(eM) \geq 2A_\chi$, hence for $M \geq 2A_\chi$ (note that we always have $A_\chi \geq 1/2$). Finally, in setting $a = M/A_\chi \geq 2$ and $b = eA_\chi > 0$, we get (15) from

$$\begin{aligned} \int_a^\infty \log^2(bx)e^{-x} dx &= e^{-a} \log^2(ab) + 2 \int_a^\infty \log(bx)e^{-x} \frac{dx}{x} \\ &\leq e^{-a} \log^2(ab) + \frac{2}{a} \int_a^\infty \log(bx)e^{-x} dx \\ &= e^{-a} \log^2(ab) + \frac{2}{a} e^{-a} \log(ab) + \frac{2}{a} \int_a^\infty e^{-x} \frac{dx}{x} \\ &\leq e^{-a} \log^2(ab) + \frac{2}{a} e^{-a} \log(ab) + \frac{2}{a^2} e^{-a}. \end{aligned}$$

As for (16) and (17), we use the previous bound on $R_M(\chi)$ and note that

$$4 \sum_{n \leq 2A_\chi} \frac{d_2(n)}{n} e^{-n/A_\chi} \leq \frac{4}{A_\chi} \sum_{n \leq 2A_\chi} \log^2(en)e^{-n/A_\chi} \leq 8 \log^2(2eA_\chi).$$

Finally, the proof of point 3 follows by the same method as in [Lou1]. •

Let \mathbf{N} be a CM-field of degree $2n$ which is an abelian extension of degree n of some real quadratic subfield \mathbf{L} . Recall that

$$h_{\mathbf{N}}^- = Q_{\mathbf{N}} w_{\mathbf{N}} \prod_{\chi \in X_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}^-} \frac{A_\chi}{4\pi} L(1, \chi)$$

and set

$$h_{\mathbf{N}}^-(M) = Q_{\mathbf{N}} w_{\mathbf{N}} \prod_{\chi \in X_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}^-} \frac{A_\chi}{4\pi} S_\chi(M),$$

where the $S_\chi(M)$ are defined in Theorem 4. When doing actual computations, to find an upper bound on $|h_{\mathbf{N}}^- - h_{\mathbf{N}}^-(M)|$ we use (15)-(18) and the following technical lemma:

Lemma 5. *Let $(x_k)_{1 \leq k \leq n}$ be n nonzero complex numbers, let $(\epsilon_k)_{1 \leq k \leq n}$ be n complex numbers, and set $\epsilon \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \max_{1 \leq k \leq n} (|\epsilon_k|)$. Then*

$$\left| \left(\prod_{k=1}^n x_k \right) - \left(\prod_{k=1}^n (x_k + \epsilon_k) \right) \right| \leq \left(\prod_{k=1}^n |x_k| \right) \left(\exp \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \epsilon / |x_k| \right) - 1 \right).$$

We refer the reader to Theorem 7 for a more general use of this technical lemma.

Now we explain how we can practically compute $K_{2,1}(B)$ and $K_{2,2}(B)$ for any $B > 0$:

Theorem 6. *Let $\gamma = 0.577\ 215\ 664\ 901\ 532\ 860\ 606\ 512\ 090 \dots$ denote Euler's constant and let B be positive. For $i \in \{1, 2\}$, set*

$$a_{n,i}(B) = \gamma + \log B - \frac{1}{2n + 3 - i} - \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k}.$$

We have the following power series expansions:

$$(19) \quad K_{2,1}(B) = 1 + 4 \sum_{n \geq 0} a_{n,1}(B) \frac{B^{2n+2}}{(2n + 2)(n!)^2},$$

$$(20) \quad K_{2,2}(B) = \pi B + 4 \sum_{n \geq 0} a_{n,2}(B) \frac{B^{2n+2}}{(2n + 1)(n!)^2}$$

and for any integer $M \geq 0$ we have

$$(21) \quad \left| \sum_{n > M} a_{n,i}(B) \frac{B^{2n+2}}{(2n + 3 - i)(n!)^2} \right| \leq \frac{2B^{2M+3}}{(M + 1)(M!)^2}.$$

Proof. For the sake of argument we only prove (20), and (21) for $i = 2$. Recall that

$$K_{2,2}(B) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\alpha - i\infty}^{\alpha + i\infty} \Gamma^2(s) \frac{B^{2-2s}}{s - (1/2)} ds.$$

We set

$$R_M = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-M - \frac{1}{2} - i\infty}^{-M - \frac{1}{2} + i\infty} \Gamma^2(s) \frac{B^{2-2s}}{s - (1/2)} ds,$$

and we notice that the poles of

$$s \mapsto f(s) = \Gamma^2(s) B^{2-2s} / (s - (1/2))$$

are $s = 1/2$ (which is a simple pole) and $s = -n$ for any $n \geq 0$ (which are double poles). Pushing the line of integration $\Re(s) = \alpha$ to the left to the line $\Re(s) = -M - \frac{1}{2}$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} K_{2,2}(B) &= \text{Res}_{s=1/2}(f) + \sum_{n=0}^M \text{Res}_{s=-n}(f) + R_M \\ &= \pi B - \sum_{n \geq 0} \left(\frac{1}{2n + 1} - \log B + \frac{\Gamma'}{\Gamma}(n + 1) \right) \frac{4B^{2n+2}}{(2n + 1)(n!)^2} + R_M. \end{aligned}$$

Now, since $(\Gamma'/\Gamma)(s+1) = \frac{1}{s} + (\Gamma'/\Gamma)(s)$ and $(\Gamma'/\Gamma)(1) = -\gamma$, we get $(\Gamma'/\Gamma)(n+1) = -\gamma + \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k}$. Finally, we noticed in [Lou6] that

$$|\Gamma(-M - \frac{1}{2} + it)|^2 = \frac{\pi}{\cosh(\pi t)} \prod_{k=0}^M \left| \frac{2k+1}{2} + it \right|^{-2} \leq \frac{4\pi}{(M!)^2 \cosh(\pi t)},$$

which yields the desired bound

$$R_M \leq \frac{2B^{2M+3}}{(M+1)(M!)^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{\cosh(\pi t)} = \frac{2B^{2M+3}}{(M+1)(M!)^2} \cdot \bullet$$

4. EXAMPLES OF RELATIVE CLASS NUMBER COMPUTATIONS

4.1. **First example: Some Hilbert 2-class fields.** We let \mathbf{L} be a real quadratic field with fundamental unit of norm +1 and such that the 2-Sylow subgroup of its narrow ideal class group is cyclic of order $n = 2^m$ for some $m \geq 2$ (and h_{odd} will denote the odd part of the narrow class number of \mathbf{L}). Therefore, $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{p_1 p_2})$ for some primes p_1 and p_2 not equal to 3 modulo 4 satisfying $2 \leq p_1 < p_2$ and $(p_1/p_2) = +1$ (Legendre’s symbol). We let \mathbf{N} and \mathbf{N}^+ denote the narrow Hilbert 2-class field and wide Hilbert 2-class field of \mathbf{L} , respectively. Then \mathbf{N} is a dihedral CM-field of degree $2n = 2^{m+1} \geq 8$ with maximal totally real subfield \mathbf{N}^+ . Moreover, the relative class number of a dihedral CM-field \mathbf{N} of degree $2^{m+1} \geq 8$ is odd if and only if \mathbf{N} is some such narrow Hilbert 2-class field (see [LO]). In that situation $Q_{\mathbf{N}} = w_{\mathbf{N}} = 2$, $A_{\chi} = \sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}}/\pi^2$ and $W_{\chi} = 1$ (use Proposition 3) do not depend on $\chi \in X_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}^-$, and

$$h_{\mathbf{N}}^- = \frac{4d_{\mathbf{L}}^{n/4}}{(2\pi)^n} \prod_{\chi \in X_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}^-} L(1, \chi)$$

is a perfect square. Now we explain how we computed $a_n(\chi)$ on prime powers $n = p^k$:

If $(p) = \mathcal{P}$ is inert in \mathbf{L} then \mathcal{P} is principal in the narrow sense, $\chi(\mathcal{P}) = 1$ and

$$a_{p^k}(\chi) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } k \text{ is odd,} \\ 1 & \text{if } k \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

Therefore, we have $a_n(\chi) = 0$ if $(d_{\mathbf{L}}/n) = -1$ (Kronecker’s symbol).

If $p \in \{p_1, p_2\}$ is ramified in \mathbf{L} , say $\mathcal{P}^2 = (p) = (p_i) = \mathcal{P}_i^2$, then the order of \mathcal{P} in the narrow ideal class group of \mathbf{L} is equal to 1 or 2, and $\chi(\mathcal{P}) = 1$ or -1 , respectively, and

$$a_{p^k}(\chi) = \chi(\mathcal{P})^k.$$

Note also that if \mathcal{P}_i has order 1 in the narrow ideal class group of \mathbf{L} , then the other \mathcal{P}_j has order 2 in the narrow ideal class group of \mathbf{L} (for their product, which is equal to the principal ideal $(\sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}})$, is principal in the wide sense but not principal in the narrow sense). In Table 1, we let p_+ denote the p_i for which the prime ideal of \mathbf{L} above p_i is principal in the narrow sense.

Finally, if $(p) = \mathcal{P}\mathcal{P}'$ splits in \mathbf{L} , then $\chi(\mathcal{P}') = \chi(\mathcal{P})^{-1}$ and

$$a_{p^k}(\chi) = \sum_{a=0}^k \chi(\mathcal{P}^a)\chi(\mathcal{P}'^{k-a}) = \begin{cases} k + 1 & \text{if } \chi(\mathcal{P}) = 1, \\ (-1)^k(k + 1) & \text{if } \chi(\mathcal{P}) = -1, \\ \frac{\sin(2(k+1)k_{\mathcal{P}}\pi/2^m)}{\sin(2k_{\mathcal{P}}\pi/2^m)} & \text{if } \chi(\mathcal{P}) = \exp(2k_{\mathcal{P}}\pi i/2^m) \neq \pm 1. \end{cases}$$

We fix a prime ideal \mathcal{Q} of \mathbf{L} whose narrow ideal class has order 2^m in the narrow ideal class group of \mathbf{L} (in practice, we choose \mathcal{Q} with smallest norm). Let $e_p \in \{0, 1, \dots, 2^m - 1\}$ be the only integer in this set such that $\mathcal{Q}^{e_p}\mathcal{P}^{h_{\text{odd}}}$ is principal in the narrow sense. Then, $\chi(\mathcal{P}) = \chi(\mathcal{Q})^{-e_p h'_{\text{odd}}}$ where $h_{\text{odd}} h'_{\text{odd}} \equiv 1 \pmod{2^m}$. We also let ψ be the character defined by $\psi(\mathcal{Q}) = \exp(2\pi i/2^m)$. We have $X_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}^- = \{\psi^i, 0 \leq i \leq 2n - 1 \text{ and } i = 2j + 1 \text{ odd}\}$. Using the technique developed in this paper to compute the values at $s = 1$ of these $n/4 = 2n/8$ Hecke L -functions, we computed Table 1 of relative class numbers (the tables are in §7). It agrees with the results of the computations we did in [Lou3] and [LO]. In [LO] we used a technique peculiar to these Hilbert class fields developed in [Zag] to efficiently compute such relative class numbers. Let us point out that the use of Zagier’s method requires the determination of the structure of the ideal class group of \mathbf{L} , whereas the method developed here does not require it, and, according to [LO, Table 2] and Table 1 of this paper, both techniques agree for the four Hilbert 2-class fields considered in [LO], for which the ideal class group of \mathbf{L} is not cyclic.

4.2. Second example: Dihedral CM-fields of degree $4p$. We now want to explain how we can use our previous results to efficiently compute relative class numbers of dihedral CM-fields \mathbf{N} . This was our main motivation for writing this paper. Indeed, in [LOO], to solve the class number one problem for the dihedral CM-fields \mathbf{N} of degree 12 we reduced the computation of $h_{\mathbf{N}}^-$ to that of $h_{\mathbf{N}_0}^-$, the relative class number of some non-normal sextic CM-subfield of \mathbf{N} , and we used the technique for computing relative class numbers of CM-fields developed in [Lou6]. But this technique is too slow to compute relative class numbers of dihedral CM-fields \mathbf{N} of higher degrees. Moreover, we used cubic polynomials $P_{\mathbf{K}}(X)$ defining the non-normal maximal real subfields $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{N}_0^+$ of such \mathbf{N}_0 ’s to compute the coefficients $a_n(\chi_{\mathbf{N}_0/\mathbf{N}_0^+})$. But it would be impossible to use such defining polynomials for fields of higher degrees, for their computation would be much too slow. To overcome both these problems we thought it more efficient to construct real dihedral CM-fields \mathbf{N}^+ of degree $2p$ by constructing characters of order p on ray class groups of real quadratic number fields \mathbf{L} , for this would then enable us to compute relative class numbers by using the technique developed in this paper.

Throughout this section, \mathbf{N} will denote a dihedral CM-field of degree $4p$, p any odd prime; that is, \mathbf{N} is a normal CM-field such the Galois group $\text{Gal}(\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{Q})$ is the (non-abelian) dihedral group of order $4p$. Since the complex conjugation must be in the center of this Galois group (see [LOO]), then the maximal totally real subfield \mathbf{N}^+ of \mathbf{N} is normal, $\text{Gal}(\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{Q})$ is the dihedral group of order $2p$ and we let \mathbf{L} denote the only quadratic subfield of \mathbf{N} over which \mathbf{N} is cyclic. Therefore, \mathbf{L} is real. We finally let \mathbf{M} denote the maximal abelian subfield of \mathbf{N} . Therefore, \mathbf{M} is an imaginary biquadratic bicyclic number field containing \mathbf{L} . Conversely, let \mathbf{N}^+

be a real dihedral number field of degree $2p$, where $p \geq 3$ is an odd prime. Let \mathbf{L} be the quadratic subfield of \mathbf{N}^+ and let \mathbf{M} be any imaginary biquadratic bicyclic field with maximal totally real subfield \mathbf{L} . Then $\mathbf{N} = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{N}^+$ is a dihedral CM-field of degree $4p$ which is cyclic over \mathbf{L} . It is known that there exist positive integers $f_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}}$, $f_{\mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L}}$ and $f_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}$ such that $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}} = (f_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}})$, $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L}} = \infty_1 \infty_2 (f_{\mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L}})$ and $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}} = \text{lcm}(\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}}, \mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L}}) = \infty_1 \infty_2 (f_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}})$ (see [Mar]). The following Theorem 7 and Proposition 9 explain how to compute relative class numbers of such dihedral CM-fields:

Theorem 7. *Let \mathbf{N} be a dihedral CM-field of degree $4p$. Set $A_{\mathbf{N}} = \sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}} f_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}^2 / \pi^2}$ and let χ be any one of the $p - 1$ characters in $X_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{M}}^- = X_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}^- \setminus X_{\mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L}}^-$.*

1. $\chi = \chi_+ \chi_-$, where $\chi_+ \in X_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}}$ has order p , and $\chi_- = \chi_{\mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L}} \in X_{\mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L}}$, which does not depend on χ , is the quadratic character associated with the quadratic extension \mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L} .
2. The character χ^* of $\text{Gal}(\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{Q})$ induced by χ is a real valued irreducible character of degree 2 of the dihedral group D_{4p} . Hence all the $a_n(\chi)$ are real and $L(1, \chi) > 0$, $W_\chi = +1$ (see [FQ, Th. 1]) and $A_\chi = A_{\mathbf{N}}$ do not depend on χ .
3. $Q_{\mathbf{N}} = Q_{\mathbf{M}}$, $w_{\mathbf{N}} = w_{\mathbf{M}}$ and $h_{\mathbf{M}}^-$ divides $h_{\mathbf{N}}^-$ (see [LOO]), and $h_{\mathbf{N}}^- / h_{\mathbf{M}}^- = (h_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{M}}^-)^2$ is a perfect square (see [LP] or the proof of Theorem 12) and

$$(22) \quad h_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{M}}^- = \prod_{j=0}^{(p-3)/2} \frac{A_{\mathbf{N}}}{4\pi} L(1, \chi^{2j+1}).$$

4. Let a real number $\lambda > 1$ and a prime $p \geq 3$ be given. Set

$$B'(\mathbf{N}) = \lambda^{\frac{p-1}{2}} A_{\mathbf{N}} \log A_{\mathbf{N}}$$

and

$$h_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{M}}^-(M) = \prod_{j=0}^{(p-3)/2} \frac{A_{\mathbf{N}}}{4\pi} S_M(\chi^{2j+1}),$$

where the $S_M(\chi^{2j+1})$'s are defined in Theorem 4. Assume that $M \geq B'(\mathbf{N}) \geq 2A_{\mathbf{M}}$. Then the limit $R(M) = |h_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{M}}^- - h_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{M}}^-(M)|$ as $A_{\mathbf{N}}$ approaches infinity is equal to 0.

Proof. To prove point 3 we use (8) for \mathbf{N} and \mathbf{M} and notice that the characters in $X_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{M}}^-$ come in conjugate pairs. Let us now prove point 4. We simplify the notation and set $A = A_{\mathbf{N}}$. Since the $(p-1)/2$ primitive characters which appear in (22) have the same order $2p$, none of them is quadratic and we may use point 3 of Theorem 4. Set

$$\epsilon_M = 4(\log(eM) + 1)^2 e^{-M/A}$$

(which decreases for $M \geq 2A$). Using Lemma 5, (15) and (18), we obtain

$$R(M) \leq C_1^{(p-1)/2} \left(\frac{A}{4\pi}\right)^{(p-1)/2} \log^{p-1}(2eA) \left(\exp\left(\frac{p-1}{2C_2} \epsilon_M \log^2(2eA)\right) - 1\right).$$

Therefore, $M \geq B'(\mathbf{N})$ yields $e^{-M/A} \leq A^{-\lambda(p-1)/2}$, $\epsilon_M \ll \log^2(2eA) A^{-\lambda(p-1)/2}$ and

$$R(M) \ll \frac{\log^{p+3}(2eA)}{A^{(\lambda-1)(p-1)/2}},$$

from which the desired result follows. •

Remark 8. When doing actual computation we use

$$\prod_{j=0}^{(p-3)/2} \frac{A_{\mathbf{N}}}{4\pi} (S_M(\chi^{2j+1}) - \epsilon_M) \leq h_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{M}}^- \leq \prod_{j=0}^{(p-3)/2} \frac{A_{\mathbf{N}}}{4\pi} (S_M(\chi^{2j+1}) + \epsilon_M)$$

(provided that all the $(p - 1)/2$ terms on the left hand side of these inequalities are positive), and we stop the computation when M is large enough and such that these inequalities squeeze only one rational integer.

Proposition 9.

1. Let \mathbf{L}_0 and \mathbf{L}_1 denote the two imaginary quadratic subfields of \mathbf{M} . We have $f_{\mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L}} = \sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}_0} d_{\mathbf{L}_1} / d_{\mathbf{L}}}$, and a rational prime l divides $f_{\mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L}}$ if and only if it divides both $d_{\mathbf{L}_0}$ and $d_{\mathbf{L}_1}$. Now, since for any prime ideal \mathcal{L} of \mathbf{L} lying above some rational prime $l \geq 2$ the value $\chi_{\mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L}}(\mathcal{L})$ depends on l only, we may define $\epsilon_l = \chi_{\mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L}}(\mathcal{L})$, and we have

$$\epsilon_l = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \chi_{\mathbf{L}_0}(l) = \chi_{\mathbf{L}_1}(l) = 0, \\ -1 & \text{if } \chi_{\mathbf{L}}(l) \neq -1 \text{ and either } \chi_{\mathbf{L}_0}(l) = -1 \text{ or } \chi_{\mathbf{L}_1}(l) = -1, \\ +1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

2. Let $\psi = \chi^{2j+1}$ be any one of the $(p - 1)/2$ characters of order $2p$ which appear in Theorem 7, and let $\psi = \psi_+ \psi_-$ with $\psi_+ \in X_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}}$ and $\psi_- = \chi_{\mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L}}$ denote its factorization. Then, for any rational prime $l \geq 2$ we have:
 - (a) If l divides $f_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}} = \text{lcm}(f_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}}, f_{\mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L}})$, then $a_{l^k}(\psi) = 0$.
 - (b) Assume that l does not divide $f_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}$.

(i) If $\chi_{\mathbf{L}}(l) = -1$, then $\epsilon_l = \psi_+(l) = +1$ and

$$a_{l^k}(\psi) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } k \text{ is odd,} \\ 1 & \text{if } k \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

In particular, $a_n(\psi) = 0$ if $\chi_{\mathbf{L}}(n) = -1$.

- (ii) If $\chi_{\mathbf{L}}(l) = 0$, then $a_{l^k}(\psi) = \epsilon_l^k$.
- (iii) If $\chi_{\mathbf{L}}(l) = +1$ and $(l) = \mathcal{L}\mathcal{L}'$ in L , then

$$a_{l^k}(\psi) = \begin{cases} (k + 1)\epsilon_l^k & \text{if } \psi_+(\mathcal{L}) = +1, \\ \frac{\sin(2(k+1)k_{\mathcal{L}}\pi/p)}{\sin(2k_{\mathcal{L}}\pi/p)} \epsilon_l^k & \text{if } \psi_+(\mathcal{L}) = \exp(2k_{\mathcal{L}}\pi i/p) \neq +1. \end{cases}$$

In particular, if $a_n(\psi) \neq 0$, then $\text{gcd}(n, f_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}) = 1$ and $\chi_{\mathbf{L}}(n) \neq -1$.

Proof. We only prove point 2. If l not dividing $f_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}$ is inert in \mathbf{L} , then $(l) = \mathcal{L}$ splits in \mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L} and in \mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L} (look at inertia fields), which yields $\psi_+(\mathcal{L}) = +1$, $\psi_-(\mathcal{L}) = +1$ and the desired result. If l not dividing $f_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}$ is ramified in \mathbf{L} and $(l) = \mathcal{L}^2$, then \mathcal{L} splits in \mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L} (see [Mar, Prop. III.3 page 124]), $\psi_+(\mathcal{L}) = +1$, and we get the desired result. Finally, assume that l not dividing $f_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}$ splits in \mathbf{L} , and write $(l) = \mathcal{L}\mathcal{L}'$. Using the same line of reasoning as in [Cox, section D page 190-192], one can prove that any real dihedral field \mathbf{N}^+ of degree $2p$ and conductor $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}} = (f_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}})$ is a subfield of the ring class field of conductor $f_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}}$ of the real quadratic field \mathbf{L} (see [Lef] or [LPL]). Hence, any ψ_+ in $X_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}}$ must be trivial on the group generated by the principal ideals of the form (α) , where

$\alpha \in \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}}$ satisfies $\alpha \equiv a \pmod{(f_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}})}$ for some rational integer a relatively prime to $f_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}}$. Therefore, we have $\psi_+(l) = +1$, which yields $\psi_+(\mathcal{L}') = \psi_+(\mathcal{L})^{-1}$,

$$a_{l^k}(\psi) = \epsilon_l^k \sum_{a=0}^k \psi_+(\mathcal{L})^a \psi_+(\mathcal{L}')^{k-a} = \epsilon_l^k \psi_+(\mathcal{L})^{-k} \sum_{a=0}^k \psi_+(\mathcal{L})^{2a},$$

and the desired result. •

It remains to explain how we can compute $\psi_+(\mathcal{L})$ and how we can construct real dihedral fields \mathbf{N}^+ of degree $2p$.

4.2.1. *Numerical computation of the relative class numbers of some dihedral CM-fields of degree $4p$.* To test the efficiency of our approach, we choose to apply it in the following simple situation: the computation of relative class numbers of dihedral CM-fields \mathbf{N} of degree $4p$ (p any odd prime) such that their real quadratic subfields \mathbf{L} have class number one (which yields $\chi = \nu\chi_0$), such that the extensions \mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L} are unramified at all the finite places (which yields $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}} = \infty_1 \infty_2 \mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}}$ and $\chi_0 = \chi_{+,0}$ for any $\chi \in X_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}^-$) and such that the conductors $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}}$ of the cyclic extensions \mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L} of degree p are as simple as possible, i.e. are of the form $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}} = (q)$, where $q \neq p$ is a positive prime integer (see Point 1 of Proposition 10 below). We refer the reader to [LPL] for a comprehensive exposition of the construction and the computation of the relative class numbers of the dihedral CM-fields of degrees $4p$ (p any odd prime). We also refer the reader to [Lef] for the use of the technique developed here in the determination of all the dihedral CM-fields with class number one. We collect in the following proposition all the information we need to construct such simple dihedral CM-fields and to compute their associated modular characters:

Proposition 10 (See [Mar], [Lef] and [LPL]). *Let p be a given odd prime. Let \mathbf{L} be a given real quadratic field.*

1. *Let \mathbf{N}^+ be a real dihedral field of degree $2p$ containing \mathbf{L} . There exist distinct primes q_i not equal to p and satisfying $q_i \equiv \chi_{\mathbf{L}}(q_i) \pmod{p}$ such that*

$$f_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}} = p^a \prod_{i=1}^r q_i, \quad \text{where } a = 0 \text{ or } a = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } p \text{ does not divide } d_{\mathbf{L}}, \\ 1 & \text{if } p > 3 \text{ divides } d_{\mathbf{L}}, \\ 1 \text{ or } 2 & \text{if } p = 3 \text{ divides } d_{\mathbf{L}}. \end{cases}$$

2. *Assume that p does not divide $h_{\mathbf{L}}$. There is a bijective correspondence between the real dihedral fields \mathbf{N}^+ of degree $2p$ containing \mathbf{L} and of conductor $f_+ > 1$ and the groups of order p generated by primitive characters of order p on $(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}}/(f_+))^*$ which are trivial on the image of \mathbf{Z} and on the image of $\epsilon_{\mathbf{L}}$ in this group. In particular, if a prime $q \neq p$ is unramified in \mathbf{L} and satisfies $q \equiv \chi_{\mathbf{L}}(q) \pmod{p}$, then there exists a real dihedral field \mathbf{N}^+ of degree $2p$ and conductor q if and only if p divides $(q - \chi_{\mathbf{L}}(q))/n_{\mathbf{L},q}$, where*

$$n_{\mathbf{L},q} = \min\{n \geq 1; \exists k \in \mathbf{Z} | \epsilon_{\mathbf{L}}^n \equiv k \pmod{(q)}\},$$

in which case such an \mathbf{N}^+ is unique. Note that since the quotient group $(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}}/(q))^/\text{Im}\mathbf{Z}$ has order $q - \chi_{\mathbf{L}}(q)$, then $n_{\mathbf{L},q}$ always divides $q - \chi_{\mathbf{L}}(q)$.*

3. *Let $q \neq p$ be prime.*

- (a) If $(q) = \mathcal{Q}\mathcal{Q}'$ splits in \mathbf{L} and ϕ is a nontrivial character on $(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}}/(q))^*$ which is trivial on the image of \mathbf{Z} , then there exists a nontrivial character ϕ_q on $(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}}/\mathcal{Q})^*$ such that for any $\alpha \in \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}}$ prime to (q) we have

$$\phi(\alpha) = \phi_q(\alpha/\alpha') = \phi_q(\alpha)\overline{\phi_q(\alpha')},$$

where α' denotes the conjugate of α in \mathbf{L} . Since $(\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z})^*$ is canonically isomorphic to $(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}}/\mathcal{Q})^*$, we may assume that ϕ_q is defined on $(\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z})^*$.

- (b) If $(q) = \mathcal{Q}$ is inert in \mathbf{L} , then any character on $(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}}/(q))^*$ of order p dividing $q + 1 = q - \chi_{\mathbf{L}}(q)$ is necessarily trivial on the image of \mathbf{Z} .

In particular, if ϕ_0 is a given character of order p on the group $(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}}/(q))^*$ which is trivial on the image of \mathbf{Z} in this group, then $\{\phi_0^k; 1 \leq k \leq p - 1\}$ is the set of all the characters of order p on the group $(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}}/(q))^*$ which are trivial on the image of \mathbf{Z} .

Throughout the remainder of this section we will choose ϕ_0 defined as follows:

1. Assume that $(q) = \mathcal{Q}\mathcal{Q}'$ splits in \mathbf{L} . We let g_q denote the least positive generator of $(\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z})^*$ and let ϕ_q be the character of order p on $(\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z})^*$ defined by $\phi_q(g_q) = \exp(2\pi i/p)$. If $P_q \in \mathbf{Z}$ is such that $4q$ divides $d_{\mathbf{L}} - P_q^2$, then we may assume that

$$\mathcal{Q} = q\mathbf{Z} + \frac{P_q + \sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}}}{2}\mathbf{Z}.$$

It is easily checked that for any algebraic integer $\alpha = (x + y\sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}})/2 \in \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}}$ we have

$$\alpha \equiv \begin{cases} (x - yP_q)/2 & (\text{mod } \mathcal{Q}), \\ (x + yP_q)/2 & (\text{mod } \mathcal{Q}'), \end{cases}$$

and for any $\alpha \in (\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}}/(q))^*$ we can compute $n_{\alpha} \in \mathbf{Z}$ such that $n_{\alpha} = (x - yP_q)/(x + yP_q)$ in $(\mathbf{Z}/q\mathbf{Z})^*$, and according to the previous lemma we set

$$\phi_0(\alpha) = \exp(2\pi j_{\alpha}i/p) \text{ where } j_{\alpha} = \min\{j \geq 0; n_{\alpha} \equiv g_q^j \pmod{q}\}.$$

2. Assume that $(q) = \mathcal{Q}$ is inert in \mathbf{L} . We let g_q denote a generator of $(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}}/(q))^*$ and according to the previous proposition we let ϕ_0 be defined by $\phi_0(g_q) = \exp(2\pi i/p)$, which yields

$$\phi_0(\alpha) = \exp(2\pi j_{\alpha}i/p), \text{ where } j_{\alpha} = \min\{j \geq 0; \alpha \equiv g_q^j \pmod{(q)}\}.$$

Now, in Point 2 of Proposition 9 we may assume that we have chosen χ such that $\chi_{+,0} = \phi_0$. Hence, if $\psi = \chi^{2j+1}$ is an in Point 2 of Proposition 9, then $\psi_+ = \phi_0^{2j+1}$, and we can now practically compute the coefficients $a_{l^k}(\chi^{2j+1})$ and the approximations $h_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{M}}^-(M)$ of $h_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{M}}^-$. In Table 2 the reader will find some examples of our computation of relative class numbers of such dihedral CM-fields of degree $4p \geq 12$.

Remark 11. Take $\chi = \chi_+\chi_- \in X_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}^-$ and notice that since \mathbf{M}/\mathbf{L} is assumed to be unramified at all the finite places, then $\chi_0 = \chi_{+,0}$ is a primitive character of order p on $(\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}}/(q))^*$ which is trivial on the image of \mathbf{Z} in this group. In Proposition 3 we choose $\gamma = (1/q\sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}})$, which yields $\mathcal{I} = \mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{L}} = (1)$ and

(23)

$$W_{\chi} = \frac{1}{q} \tau_{(q)}(1/q\sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}}, \chi_0) = \frac{1}{q} \sum_{\lambda \pmod{(q)}} \chi_0(\lambda) \exp\left(2\pi i \text{Tr}_{\mathbf{L}/\mathbf{Q}}(\lambda/q\sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}})\right).$$

We used this formula to check numerically that all the Artin root numbers W_χ are indeed equal to +1.

4.3. Third example: Quaternion octic CM-fields. Throughout this section we let \mathbf{N} denote a normal octic CM-field whose Galois group is the quaternion group of order eight. In that situation, the maximal totally real subfield \mathbf{N}^+ of \mathbf{N} is a normal biquadratic bicyclic field, and we let \mathbf{L} denote any one of the three real quadratic subfields of \mathbf{N}^+ . Notice that \mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L} is cyclic quartic, and we let χ denote either of the two conjugate quartic characters associated to this cyclic quartic extension \mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L} .

Theorem 12. *Let \mathbf{N} denote a quaternion octic CM-field. The character χ^* of $\text{Gal}(\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{Q})$ induced by χ is the real valued character of degree two of the quaternion group. Therefore, since $L(s, \chi) = L(s, \chi, \mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}) = L(s, \chi^*, \mathbf{N}/\mathbf{Q})$, then all the $a_n(\chi)$ are real, W_χ is equal either to +1 or to -1, and $L(1, \chi) > 0$. Finally, $q_{\mathbf{N}} = 1$, $w_{\mathbf{N}} = 2$, $h_{\mathbf{N}}^-$ is even (see [Lou5, Lemma 5]), $h_{\mathbf{N}}^-/2 = (\tilde{h}_{\mathbf{N}}^-)^2$ is a perfect square and*

$$\tilde{h}_{\mathbf{N}}^- = \frac{A_\chi}{4\pi} L(1, \chi)$$

(use (8)). Let $\lambda > 1$ be given, and set $B'(\mathbf{N}) = \lambda A_\chi \log A_\chi$ and

$$\tilde{h}_{\mathbf{N}}^-(M) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{A_\chi}{4\pi} S_M(\chi),$$

where the $S_\chi(M)$ are defined in Theorem 4. Assume that $M \geq B'(\mathbf{N}) \geq 2A_\chi$. Then the limit $R(M) = |\tilde{h}_{\mathbf{N}}^- - \tilde{h}_{\mathbf{N}}^-(M)|$ as A_χ approaches infinity is equal to 0.

Proof. We have $h_{\mathbf{N}}^- = |L(0, \chi)|^2/8$. Now, χ has order 4 and according to the Siegel-Klingen theorem we have $L(0, \chi) \in \mathbf{Q}(i)$ (see [Hid, Cor. 1, page 57]), and since χ^* is real valued then $L(0, \chi)$ is real. Therefore, $L(0, \chi)$ is rational and the positive integer $h_{\mathbf{N}}^-/2 = |L(0, \chi)|^2/16$, which is a square in \mathbf{Q} , is the square of some positive integer $\tilde{h}_{\mathbf{N}}^-$. •

Remark 13. Notice that the bound (1) is equal to $B(\mathbf{N}) = \frac{\lambda^2}{4} A_\chi^2 \log^2 A_\chi$.

4.3.1. Some pure quaternion octic CM-fields. We set $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{2})$ and let $\epsilon = 1 + \sqrt{2}$ denote the fundamental unit of the ring of algebraic integers $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Z}[\sqrt{2}]$ of \mathbf{L} . Let $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ be a positive prime and let \mathbf{N}_q denote the only pure quaternion octic CM-field with maximal totally real field $\mathbf{N}_q^+ = \mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{q})$, and notice that $\tilde{h}_{\mathbf{N}}^-$ is odd if and only if \mathbf{N} is some \mathbf{N}_q (see [Fro] and [Lou5]). We have $d_{\mathbf{N}_q} = 2^{24}q^6$ and $d_{\mathbf{N}_q^+} = 2^8q^2$, so that we easily get $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}} = \infty_1 \infty_2(4q\sqrt{2})$ and $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}^+/\mathbf{L}} = (2q)$. Let $\chi \in X_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}^-$ denote any of the two conjugate characters of order 4 on the ray class group of conductor $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}$ of \mathbf{L} associated to the cyclic quartic extension \mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L} . Then $A_\chi = 16q/\pi$.

Proposition 14 (See [Fro]). *Let $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ be a positive prime. Let $\mathcal{P}_2 = (\sqrt{2})$ denote the prime ramified ideal of $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{2})$ lying above 2. We may write $\chi = \nu\chi_0$, where $\chi_0 = \chi_2\chi_q$ is a primitive character of order 4 on the group $(\mathbf{A}/\mathcal{F}_q)^*$ and where χ_2 and χ_q are primitive quartic characters on the groups $(\mathbf{A}/\mathcal{P}_2^5)^*$ and $(\mathbf{A}/(q))^*$, respectively.*

1. *We may assume that $\chi_0 = \chi_2\chi_q$ is defined by means of $\chi_2(-1) = +1$, $\chi_2(5) = -1$, $\chi_2(\epsilon) = \chi_q(\epsilon) = i = \exp(2\pi i/4)$.*

2. For any $\alpha \in \mathbf{A}_L$ we have $\chi_2(\alpha') = \overline{\chi_2(\alpha)}$, $\chi_q(\alpha') = \overline{\chi_q(\alpha)}$ and $\chi_0(\alpha') = \overline{\chi_0(\alpha)}$. In particular, if $(p) = \mathcal{P}\mathcal{P}'$ splits in \mathbf{L} then $\chi(\mathcal{P}') = \overline{\chi(\mathcal{P})}$
3. We have $a_{2^m}(\chi) = a_{q^m}(\chi) = 0$, and if $p \neq 2$ and $p \neq q$ then we have

$$a_{p^m}(\chi) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } p \text{ is inert in } \mathbf{L} \text{ and } m \text{ is odd,} \\ (\chi((p)))^{m/2} & \text{if } p \text{ is inert in } \mathbf{L} \text{ and } m \text{ is even,} \\ (m+1)\epsilon_p^m & \text{if } (p) = \mathcal{P}\mathcal{P}' \text{ splits in } \mathbf{L} \text{ and } \epsilon_p = \chi(\mathcal{P}) = \pm 1, \\ \frac{1+(-1)^m}{2}\epsilon_p^m & \text{if } (p) = \mathcal{P}\mathcal{P}' \text{ splits in } \mathbf{L} \text{ and } \epsilon_p = \chi(\mathcal{P}) = \pm i. \end{cases}$$

Hence, all the $a_{p^m}(\chi)$ are real.

4. We have $W_\chi = -1$.

Proof. We note that the multiplicative group

$$(\mathbf{A}_L/\mathcal{P}_2^5)^* = \{\pm 5^a \epsilon^b; a \in \{0, 1\}, b \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}\}$$

of order 16 is isomorphic to $(\mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z}) \times (\mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z}) \times (\mathbf{Z}/4\mathbf{Z})$, and that the multiplicative group $(\mathbf{A}_L/(q))^*$ of order $q^2 - 1 \equiv 8 \pmod{16}$ is cyclic. Now, as $\{1, 5\}$ is the kernel of the canonical map $(\mathbf{A}_L/\mathcal{P}_2^5)^* \rightarrow (\mathbf{A}_L/\mathcal{P}_2^4)^*$ and as χ_2 is primitive, we must have $\chi_2(5) = -1$. As $(-1)^{(q^2-1)/4} = 1$, then -1 is a fourth power in $(\mathbf{A}_L/(q))^*$ and $\chi_q(-1) = +1$. Moreover, as $N_{L/Q}(\epsilon) = -1$ and $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$, then ϵ is not a square in $(\mathbf{A}_L/(q))^*$ and $\chi_q(\epsilon) = \pm i$. Finally, since

$$1 = \chi((1)) = \begin{cases} \chi((-1)) = \nu(-1)\chi_0(-1) = \chi_0(-1) = \chi_2(-1)\chi_q(-1) = \chi_2(-1), \\ \chi((\epsilon)) = \nu(\epsilon)\chi_0(\epsilon) = -\chi_0(\epsilon) = -\chi_2(\epsilon)\chi_q(\epsilon), \end{cases}$$

we get $\chi_2(-1) = +1$ and $\chi_q(\epsilon) = \chi_2(\epsilon) = \pm i$. Now, $\chi_2(\epsilon') = \chi_2(-1/\epsilon) = 1/\chi_2(\epsilon) = \overline{\chi_2(\epsilon)}$ yields $\chi_2(\alpha') = \overline{\chi_2(\alpha)}$ for any $\alpha \in \mathbf{A}_L$. •

The following table is used to compute $\chi_2(\alpha)$ for $\alpha = x + y\sqrt{2} \in \mathbf{A}_L$ prime to $\sqrt{2}$:

$\alpha \equiv$	1	ϵ	ϵ^2	ϵ^3	-1	$-\epsilon$	$-\epsilon^2$	$-\epsilon^3$	(mod \mathcal{P}_2^5)
$\alpha \equiv$	1	$1 + \sqrt{2}$	$3 + 2\sqrt{2}$	$7 + \sqrt{2}$	7	$7 + 3\sqrt{2}$	$5 + 2\sqrt{2}$	$1 + 3\sqrt{2}$	(mod \mathcal{P}_2^5)
$\chi_2(\alpha)$	1	i	-1	$-i$	1	i	-1	$-i$	
$\alpha \equiv$	5	5ϵ	$5\epsilon^2$	$5\epsilon^3$	-5	-5ϵ	$-5\epsilon^2$	$-5\epsilon^3$	(mod \mathcal{P}_2^5)
$\alpha \equiv$	5	$5 + \sqrt{2}$	$7 + 2\sqrt{2}$	$3 + \sqrt{2}$	3	$3 + 3\sqrt{2}$	$1 + 2\sqrt{2}$	$5 + 3\sqrt{2}$	(mod \mathcal{P}_2^5)
$\chi_2(\alpha)$	-1	$-i$	1	i	-1	$-i$	1	i	

Note that in setting $\eta_q = \epsilon^{(q^2-1)/4}$ (modulo \mathcal{P}_2^5), we have

$$\chi_q(\alpha) = \exp(2j_\alpha \pi i/4),$$

where

$$j_\alpha = \min\{j \geq 0; \alpha^{(q^2-1)/4} \equiv \eta_q^j \pmod{(q)}\} \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}.$$

Of course, we use the binary representation of $(q^2 - 1)/4$ to efficiently compute $\alpha^{(q^2-1)/4}$ modulo the ideal (q) of \mathbf{L} . To compute $\chi(\mathcal{P})$ we determine a generator α of \mathcal{P} which is known to be principal in \mathbf{L} , and we compute $\chi(\mathcal{P}) = \chi((\alpha)) = \nu(\alpha)\chi_2(\alpha)\chi_q(\alpha)$. Numerical computations yield Table 3. We also computed several relative class numbers for q large:

If $q = 2 \cdot 10^6 + 3$, then $h_{N_q}^- = 851\,290\,664\,450 = 2 \cdot (652\,415)^2$.

If $q = 10^7 + 19$, then $h_{N_q}^- = 66\,361\,628\,315\,682 = 2 \cdot (5\,760\,279)^2$.

Remark 15. In Proposition 3 we choose $\gamma = 1/(16q)$, which yields $\mathcal{I} = \mathbf{A}_L = (1)$ and

$$W_\chi = -\frac{1}{4q\sqrt{2}} \sum_{x_\lambda + y_\lambda\sqrt{2} \pmod{4q\sqrt{2}}} \chi_0(x_\lambda + y_\lambda\sqrt{2}) \exp(4\pi x_\lambda i/16q).$$

We used this formula to check numerically that all these Artin root numbers W_χ are indeed equal to -1 . Even checking this result yields a faster and more satisfactory method than the one used in [Lou2]. Note also that Shintani’s method (see [Oka1]) is less efficient than the method developed here, for it would require us to compute $\gg q^2$ terms in some finite sum to compute the exact value of $h_{\mathbf{N}_q^-}$. Indeed, set

$$B(x, y) = \frac{3}{2}(x^2 + y^2 - x - y + \frac{1}{3}) + (x - \frac{1}{2})(y - \frac{1}{2}),$$

let $\langle z \rangle$ denote the fractional part of the real number z , set

$$\alpha_{a,b} = 16q \left\langle \frac{b}{16q} \right\rangle + 4q \left(\left\langle \frac{4a - 3b}{16q} \right\rangle + 3 \left\langle \frac{b}{16q} \right\rangle \right) \sqrt{2}$$

and notice that $\mathbf{Z}[\sqrt{2}] \ni \alpha_{a,b} \equiv b + a\sqrt{2} \pmod{4q\sqrt{2}}$. Now, $h_{\mathbf{N}_q^-} = |L(0, \chi)|^2/8$, and Shintani’s method yields

$$(24) \quad L(0, \chi) = \sum_{a=1}^{4q} \sum_{\substack{b=1 \\ b \text{ odd}}}^{16q} \chi(b + a\sqrt{2}) B \left(\left\langle \frac{4a - 3b}{16q} \right\rangle, \left\langle \frac{b}{16q} \right\rangle \right).$$

5. HECKE L -FUNCTIONS OVER TOTALLY REAL CUBIC FIELDS

All the cases hitherto given refer to real quadratic fields \mathbf{L} . Therefore, we would like to finally use Theorem 2 on a simple example of a totally real cubic field \mathbf{L} . We choose $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{Q}^+(\zeta_7) = \mathbf{Q}(\cos(2\pi/7))$ and set $\mathbf{N} = \mathbf{KL}$, where \mathbf{K} denotes the imaginary cyclic quartic field $\mathbf{Q}(\zeta_5)$. Therefore, \mathbf{N} is an imaginary cyclic field of degree 12, $Q_{\mathbf{N}} = 1$, $w_{\mathbf{N}} = 10$, $\mathbf{N}^+ = \mathbf{L}(\sqrt{5})$, $d_{\mathbf{L}} = 7^2$, $d_{\mathbf{K}} = 5^3$, $d_{\mathbf{N}^+} = 5^3 \cdot 7^4$, $d_{\mathbf{N}} = d_{\mathbf{K}}^3 d_{\mathbf{L}}^4 = 5^9 \cdot 7^8$ and $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}} = \infty_1 \infty_2 \infty_3(5)$ (for 5 is inert in \mathbf{L}), and we must have $d_{\mathbf{N}} = d_{\mathbf{L}}^4 N_{\mathbf{L}/\mathbf{Q}}(\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}})$. Using [Wa], we can easily get $h_{\mathbf{N}} = 1$. We now want to compute $h_{\mathbf{N}}^-$ by using our technique for computing Hecke L -functions over totally real cubic fields at $s = 1$. We let χ be either of the two conjugate quartic Hecke characters of conductor $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L}}$ associated with the cyclic quartic extension \mathbf{N}/\mathbf{L} . We have $A_\chi = \sqrt{7^2 \cdot 5^3/\pi^3}$ and

$$h_{\mathbf{N}}^- = \frac{7^2 \cdot 5^4}{2^5 \pi^6} |L(1, \chi)|^2.$$

Moreover, as 5 is inert in \mathbf{L}/\mathbf{Q} , then $(\mathbf{A}_L/(5))^*$ is a cyclic group of order 124 and there are two characters of order 4 on this group, say χ_0 and χ_0^3 . Let σ be any of the generators of the cyclic Galois group $\text{Gal}(\mathbf{L}/\mathbf{Q})$ of order three. Then $\chi_0 \circ \sigma$ is necessarily equal to χ_0 or χ_0^3 . But $\chi_0 \circ \sigma = \chi_0^3$ would yield $\chi_0 = \chi_0 \circ \sigma^3 = \chi_0^{27} = \chi_0^3$, which is impossible. Therefore, $\chi_0 \circ \sigma = \chi_0$; and since for any integral ideal \mathcal{I} of \mathbf{A}_L we have $(N_{\mathbf{L}/\mathbf{Q}}(\mathcal{I})) = \overline{II^\sigma I^{\sigma^2}}$ and since the narrow class number of \mathbf{L} is equal to one, we get

$$\chi(\mathcal{I}) = \overline{\chi_0(N_{\mathbf{L}/\mathbf{Q}}(\mathcal{I}))}$$

and

Lemma 16. *We have $a_{5^m}(\chi) = 0$, and if $p \neq 5$ then*

$$a_{p^m}(\chi) = \begin{cases} \bar{\chi}_0^m(p) & \text{if } p = 7, \\ \frac{(m+1)(m+2)}{2} \bar{\chi}_0^m(p) & \text{if } p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{7} \text{ (and } p \neq 7), \\ 0 & \text{if } p \not\equiv \pm 1 \pmod{7} \text{ and } 3 \nmid m \text{ (and } p \neq 7), \\ \bar{\chi}_0^m(p) & \text{if } p \not\equiv \pm 1 \pmod{7} \text{ and } 3 \mid m \text{ (and } p \neq 7). \end{cases}$$

Note that the restriction of χ_0 to the image of \mathbf{Z} in $(\mathbf{A}_L/(5))^*$ must be a quartic character. Therefore, we may assume that this restriction is defined by the following table, which enables us to compute $\chi_0(p)$ for any prime $p \neq 5$:

n	1	2	3	4
$\chi_0(n)$	1	i	$-i$	-1

Now, as L is a totally real cubic field, the proof of Theorem 6 yields:

Theorem 17. *Let $\gamma = 0.577\ 215\ 664\ 901\ 532\ 860\ 606\ 512\ 090 \dots$ denote Euler’s constant and let B be positive. Set $s_1(0) = -\gamma$, $s_2(0) = \pi^2/6$, and for $n \geq 1$ set*

$$s_1(n) = -\gamma + \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k}, \quad s_2(n) = \frac{\pi^2}{6} + \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k^2}.$$

and for $i \in \{1, 2\}$, set $a_{n,i}(B) = A_{n,i} - B_{n,i} \log B + 4 \log^2 B$, where

$$A_{n,i} = \frac{8}{(2n + 3 - i)^2} + \frac{12s_1(n)}{2n + 3 - i} + 9(s_1(n))^2 + 3s_2(n)$$

and

$$B_{n,i} = \frac{8}{2n + 3 - i} + 12s_1(n).$$

We have the following power series expansions:

$$K_{3,1}(B) = 1 + \sum_{n \geq 0} a_{n,1}(B) \frac{(-B^2)^{n+1}}{(2n + 2)(n!)^3}$$

and

$$K_{3,2}(B) = \pi^{3/2} B + \sum_{n \geq 0} a_{n,2}(B) \frac{(-B^2)^{n+1}}{(2n + 1)(n!)^3}.$$

Finally, we explain on this particular example a general strategy based on (12) which enables us to compute W_χ efficiently. We use the results of Section 2: we set

$$S = \sum_{n \geq 1} a_n(\chi) H_3(n/A)$$

and note that

$$H_3(B) = -K'_{3,1}(B) = B \sum_{n \geq 0} h_n \frac{(-B^2)^n}{(n!)^3}$$

with

$$h_n = 9(s_1(n))^2 + 3s_2(n) - 12s_1(n) \log B + 4 \log^2 B,$$

which enables us to compute numerical approximations of S as precisely as desired. If we can deduce from them that $S \neq 0$, then on plugging $x = 1$ in (12) we get $W_\chi = S/\bar{S}$, which enables us to use (10) for numerical computations. Note that if $W_\chi = -1$ then necessarily $S = 0$, so that this trick is useless for pure quaternion octic

CM-fields. However, in our present situation, according to numerical computation, we do have $S \neq 0$, and we computed

$$S = 1.093107 \dots + 0.998977 \dots i,$$

$$W_\chi = 0.089805 \dots + 0.995959 \dots i,$$

$$L(1, \chi) = 0.975462 \dots + 0.230275 \dots i$$

and $h_{\mathbf{N}}^- = 1$. Moreover, numerical computations suggest, and one can prove, that

$$W_\chi^4 = (117 - 44i)/125 = (11 - 2i)^2/125.$$

6. FINAL REMARKS

We refer the reader to [Lou7] for an efficient technique for computing relative class numbers of abelian CM-fields by using a technique similar to the one developed here for evaluating L -series associated with Dirichlet characters at $s = 1$.

The reader will find in [Lou7] an extensive use of the technique introduced in section 5 for computing Artin root numbers W_χ . We also point out that the example dealt with in Section 5 is not satisfactory, and that it would be worth computing relative class numbers of CM-fields of degree greater than six which would be neither abelian nor abelian extension of real quadratic fields, but which would be abelian extensions of totally real cubic fields.

Added in February 1999: We can now refer the reader to [S. Louboutin, *Computation of $L(0, \chi)$ and of related class numbers of CM-fields*, Preprint Univ. Caen (1999), submitted] for more satisfactory examples. The reader will find there examples of computation of relative class numbers of non-abelian normal CM-fields \mathbf{N} of degree 24 and Galois group the special linear group over the finite field with three elements by using evaluations of $L(1, \chi)$ for Hecke L -functions associated with quartic characters χ on narrow ray class groups of non-normal totally real sextic fields \mathbf{L} .

We refer the reader to [LP] for an application of the technique developed here to the computation of relative class numbers of dicyclic CM-fields of degree $4p$. Let us point out that, in contrast with dihedral CM-fields of degree $4p$, where Artin root numbers W_χ are always equal to $+1$, Artin root numbers W_χ of dicyclic CM-fields of degree $4p$ may depend on χ .

All our computations were programmed in Kida's language Ubasic, which allows fast arbitrary precision calculation on PC's.

7. TABLES

TABLE 1. Some Hilbert 2-class fields

$d_{\mathbf{L}}$	p_+	$h_{\mathbf{L}}$	\mathcal{Q}	$2n$		$h_{\mathbf{N}}^-$
776	2	2	$5\mathbf{Z} + \frac{6+\sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}}}{2}\mathbf{Z}$	8	$L(1, \psi) = 2.215788$	$9 = 3^2$
2005	5	4	$3\mathbf{Z} + \frac{1+\sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}}}{2}\mathbf{Z}$	16	$L(1, \psi) = 2.386755$ $L(1, \psi^3) = 1.139895$	$49 = 7^2$
1488392	2	36	$83\mathbf{Z} + \frac{160+\sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}}}{2}\mathbf{Z}$	16	$L(1, \psi) = 2.527962$ $L(1, \psi^3) = 2.390673$	11543^2
2234773	5573	36	$53\mathbf{Z} + \frac{97+\sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}}}{2}\mathbf{Z}$	16	$L(1, \psi) = 1.637874$ $L(1, \psi^3) = 1.002971$	$221\ 93521$ $= 4711^2$
2331641	13	36	$109\mathbf{Z} + \frac{135+\sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}}}{2}\mathbf{Z}$	16	$L(1, \psi) = 2.619148$ $L(1, \psi^3) = 0.535047$	$175\ 81249$ $= 4193^2$
5249	29	8	$2\mathbf{Z} + \frac{1+\sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}}}{2}\mathbf{Z}$	32	$L(1, \psi) = 4.124139$ $L(1, \psi^3) = 0.986256$ $L(1, \psi^5) = 0.741952$ $L(1, \psi^7) = 0.686522$	$2209 = 47^2$
2908841	223757	72	$307\mathbf{Z} + \frac{311+\sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}}}{2}\mathbf{Z}$	32	$L(1, \psi) = 0.510605$ $L(1, \psi^3) = 0.802548$ $L(1, \psi^5) = 0.807890$ $L(1, \psi^7) = 3.063943$	$70\ 66769^2$
28981	7	16	$5\mathbf{Z} + \frac{1+\sqrt{d_{\mathbf{L}}}}{2}\mathbf{Z}$	64	$L(1, \psi) = 2.852337$ $L(1, \psi^3) = 1.492483$ $L(1, \psi^5) = 1.433773$ $L(1, \psi^7) = 2.964050$ $L(1, \psi^9) = 1.594397$ $L(1, \psi^{11}) = 0.501012$ $L(1, \psi^{13}) = 0.442302$ $L(1, \psi^{15}) = 1.706111$	$26\ 07679^2$

TABLE 2. Some dihedral CM-fields of degree $4p$

p	$4p$	d_L	q	$\chi_L(q)$	M	all $W_{\psi^{2j+1}} = 1$ and	$h_M^- = 1$ and $h_N^- =$
3	12	21	109	+1	$\mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{-3}, \sqrt{-7})$	$L(1, \psi) = 1.422643$	$324 = 18^2$
3	12	21	23	-1	$\mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{-3}, \sqrt{-7})$	$L(1, \psi) = 1.498242$	$16 = 4^2$
5	20	21	101	+1	$\mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{-3}, \sqrt{-7})$	$L(1, \psi) = 1.068576$ $L(1, \psi^3) = 1.831487$	$72361 = 269^2$
5	20	21	139	-1	$\mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{-3}, \sqrt{-7})$	$L(1, \psi) = 1.740963$ $L(1, \psi^3) = 1.048031$	$225625 = 475^2$
7	28	57	43	+1	$\mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{-3}, \sqrt{-19})$	$L(1, \psi) = 0.818558$ $L(1, \psi^3) = 0.531292$ $L(1, \psi^5) = 2.055108$	$247009 = 497^2$
7	28	69	97	-1	$\mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{-3}, \sqrt{-23})$	$L(1, \psi) = 3.122215$ $L(1, \psi^3) = 2.822641$ $L(1, \psi^5) = 1.943550$	$2\ 12054\ 75641$ $= 145621^2$
11	44	209	23	+1	$\mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{-11}, \sqrt{-19})$	$L(1, \psi) = 0.450594$ $L(1, \psi^3) = 1.863407$ $L(1, \psi^5) = 4.914253$ $L(1, \psi^7) = 1.324753$ $L(1, \psi^9) = 0.589165$	$1\ 86319\ 77001$ $= 136499^2$
11	44	209	263	-1	$\mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{-11}, \sqrt{-19})$	$L(1, \psi) = 0.580602$ $L(1, \psi^3) = 4.658983$ $L(1, \psi^5) = 0.502571$ $L(1, \psi^7) = 1.229407$ $L(1, \psi^9) = 1.594568$	$2\ 20826\ 95283^2$
13	52	209	157	+1	$\mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{-11}, \sqrt{-19})$	$L(1, \psi) = 1.541778$ $L(1, \psi^3) = 1.115754$ $L(1, \psi^5) = 0.652133$ $L(1, \psi^7) = 3.103389$ $L(1, \psi^9) = 0.391887$ $L(1, \psi^{11}) = 3.370253$	$16\ 60602\ 24707^2$
17	68	57	101	-1	$\mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{-3}, \sqrt{-19})$	$L(1, \psi) = 0.885015$ $L(1, \psi^3) = 0.381026$ $L(1, \psi^5) = 3.457565$ $L(1, \psi^7) = 0.342002$ $L(1, \psi^9) = 1.705920$ $L(1, \psi^{11}) = 0.553422$ $L(1, \psi^{13}) = 0.571116$ $L(1, \psi^{15}) = 1.785428$	$74367\ 08089^2$

TABLE 3. The 50 pure quaternion octic CM-fields with $q \leq 1171$.

All $W_\chi = -1$ and

case	q	$L(1, \chi)$	$h_{\mathbb{N}_q}^- = 2(h_{\mathbb{N}_q}^-)^2$	case	q	$L(1, \chi)$	$h_{\mathbb{N}_q}^- = 2(h_{\mathbb{N}_q}^-)^2$
1	3	0.822467	2	26	523	0.693514	43218 = 2 · 147 ²
2	11	0.672927	18 = 2 · 3 ²	27	547	0.825474	66978 = 2 · 183 ²
3	19	0.909042	98 = 2 · 7 ²	28	563	0.714363	53138 = 2 · 163 ²
4	43	0.516432	162 = 2 · 9 ²	29	571	0.635215	43218 = 2 · 147 ²
5	59	0.878227	882 = 2 · 21 ²	30	587	1.021428	118098 = 2 · 243 ²
6	67	0.994325	1458 = 2 · 27 ²	31	619	0.777291	76050 = 2 · 195 ²
7	83	0.743193	1250 = 2 · 25 ²	32	643	0.732929	72962 = 2 · 191 ²
8	107	1.176050	5202 = 2 · 51 ²	33	659	0.677692	65522 = 2 · 181 ²
9	131	0.960591	5202 = 2 · 51 ²	34	683	1.304146	260642 = 2 · 361 ²
10	139	0.940807	5618 = 2 · 53 ²	35	691	0.789139	97682 = 2 · 221 ²
11	163	0.560084	2738 = 2 · 37 ²	36	739	0.724527	94178 = 2 · 217 ²
12	179	1.171670	14450 = 2 · 85 ²	37	787	0.868449	153458 = 2 · 277 ²
13	211	1.321404	25538 = 2 · 113 ²	38	811	1.104397	263538 = 2 · 363 ²
14	227	0.923916	14450 = 2 · 85 ²	39	827	1.202373	324818 = 2 · 403 ²
15	251	0.756931	11858 = 2 · 77 ²	40	859	0.692251	116162 = 2 · 241 ²
16	283	0.898029	21218 = 2 · 103 ²	41	883	1.193182	364658 = 2 · 427 ²
17	307	0.892122	24642 = 2 · 111 ²	42	907	1.341156	486098 = 2 · 493 ²
18	331	0.618713	13778 = 2 · 83 ²	43	947	0.612290	110450 = 2 · 235 ²
19	347	0.604406	14450 = 2 · 85 ²	44	971	0.663225	136242 = 2 · 261 ²
20	379	0.761704	27378 = 2 · 117 ²	45	1019	1.324502	598418 = 2 · 547 ²
21	419	0.818541	38642 = 2 · 139 ²	46	1051	0.903852	296450 = 2 · 385 ²
22	443	1.019265	66978 = 2 · 183 ²	47	1091	0.915946	328050 = 2 · 405 ²
23	467	0.966883	66978 = 2 · 183 ²	48	1123	0.845903	296450 = 2 · 385 ²
24	491	1.211086	116162 = 2 · 241 ²	49	1163	1.232639	675122 = 2 · 581 ²
25	499	1.152113	108578 = 2 · 233 ²	50	1171	1.262146	717602 = 2 · 599 ²

8. ADDED AFTER POSTING

In the statement after Theorem 17, the sentence that reads

“Note that if $W_\chi = -1$ then necessarily ...”

should read

“Note that if S is real and $W_\chi = -1$ then necessarily ...”.

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UNIVERSITÉ DE CAEN, CAMPUS 2, DÉPARTEMENT DE MATHÉMATIQUES, 14032 CAEN
CEDEX, FRANCE

E-mail address: louboutimath.unicaen.fr