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ON THE NUMBER OF POLYNOMIALS AND INTEGRAL ELEMENTS OF GIVEN DISCRIMINANT

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§ 1. Introduction

Let K be a field of characteristic 0, let R be a subring of K which has K as its quotient field, let G be a finite, normal extension of K and let R' be an integral extension ring of R in G. We shall suppose that either R is finitely generated over $\mathbf{Z}$ (we shall refer to this as the *absolute case*) or R is finitely generated over a field $\mathbf{k}$ of characteristic 0 which is algebraically closed in K (this will be called the *relative case*). Let $n\geqq 2$ be an integer. By $\Phi(n, R, R')$ we shall denote the set of all polynomials $f(X)\in R[X]$ of degree n which are monic and all of whose zeros are simple and belong to R'. By $\Phi(R, R')$ we denote the set $\bigcup_{n\geqq 2} \Phi(n, R, R')$. Let β be a fixed, non-zero element of R. We shall study the sets of polynomials $f(X)\in\Phi(R, R')$ satisfying

$$D(f) = \beta \tag{1}$$

or more generally

$$D(f)\in\beta R^*.^1 \tag{2}$$

Here $D(f)$ denotes the discriminant of f, i.e. if $f(X)=(X-\alpha_1)\dots(X-\alpha_n)$, then

$$D(f) = \prod_{1\leqq i<j\leqq n} (\alpha_i-\alpha_j)^2.$$

We call two polynomials $f(X)$, $g(X)\in R[X]$ *R-equivalent* if $g(X)=f(X+a)$ for some $a\in R$ and *weakly R-equivalent* if $g(X)=u^{\deg f} f(X/u+a)$ for some $u\in R^*$ and $a\in R$. The corresponding equivalence classes will be called R-equivalence classes and weak R-equivalence classes, respectively. If two polynomials f, g are R-equivalent then $D(f)=D(g)$ whereas if f, g are weakly R-equivalent then $D(f)=\varepsilon D(g)$ with some $\varepsilon\in R^*$.

In the absolute case Győry [6], [7] proved that if R is integrally closed in K then the polynomials $f(X)\in\Phi(R, R')$ which satisfy (1) belong to at most finitely many R-equivalence classes and the polynomials $f(X)\in\Phi(R, R')$ satisfying (2) belong to at most finitely many weak R-equivalence classes. Further, in [8] he showed that these equivalence classes can be determined effectively provided that R, K, G, R' and β are given explicitly in a certain well-defined sense (cf. [8], § 2.1). As consequences, in [8] (cf. also [9]) he obtained effective finiteness theorems for integral elements with

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[1,2] If R is a ring, then R^* denotes its group of units and R^+ its additive group.

given discriminant (or which is the same, for irreducible polynomials with given discriminant) and for power bases over R. In [8], he also established effective results in the relative case by giving an effective bound for the Degree (cf. [8], § 2.1) of an appropriate representative of an arbitrary equivalence class. However, these assertions do not lead to finiteness results. For other historical remarks on (1), (2) and for further references, we refer to [4] and [9].

If R is integrally closed in K then $R'\cap K=R$. In the present paper our results will be established in the more general case when R^{+} [2] is a subgroup of finite index in $(R'\cap K)^+$. We shall derive both in the absolute and in the relative case explicit upper bounds for the number of R-equivalence classes of polynomials $f\in\Phi(R, R')$ satisfying (1) and for the number of weak R-equivalence classes of polynomials $f\in\Phi(R, R')$ satisfying (2). However, in the relative case we have to restrict ourselves to non-special polynomials (cf. §§ 3, 5). In both cases, we have attempted to give bounds which depend minimally on K, R, G, R' and β. For example, if in particular K is an algebraic number field with degree d and R is its ring of integers then our bounds depend only on d, $[G\colon K]$ and the number of distinct prime ideal divisors of β.

Our results concerning polynomials will be formulated in § 3. In § 4 we shall deduce similar quantitative finiteness results on integral elements over R with given discriminant and shall point out that our finiteness assertions do not remain valid if the factor group $(R'\cap K)^+/R^+$ is infinite. As a consequence, we shall give there among other things a generalisation of a result obtained on power bases in [3], which states that for every algebraic number field K of degree d the maximal number of pairwise weakly $\mathbf{Z}$-inequivalent algebraic integers $\alpha\in K$ for which $\{1, \alpha, \ldots, \alpha^{d-1}\}$ is an integral basis of K is bounded above by a constant depending on d only. Here $\alpha, \beta\in K$ are called weakly $\mathbf{Z}$-equivalent if $\beta=\pm\alpha+a$ with some $a\in\mathbf{Z}$.

Our theorems will be proved in §§ 5 to 9. The proofs are based on some recent quantitative finiteness results on unit equations, due to Evertse [2] and Evertse and Győry [3].

§ 2. Preliminaries and notations

Let R_0 be either $\mathbf{Z}$ (the absolute case) or a field $\mathbf{k}$ of characteristic 0 (the relative case) and let K_0 denote the quotient field of R_0. (Thus $K_0=\mathbf{Q}$ if $R_0=\mathbf{Z}$ and $K_0=\mathbf{k}$ if $R_0=\mathbf{k}$). Let K be a finitely generated extension field of K_0. In case $R_0=\mathbf{k}$ we suppose that $\mathbf{k}$ is algebraically closed in K. The field K has a finite transcendence basis over K_0, $\{z_1, \ldots, z_q\}$ say, where $q\geqq 0$. Put $K_1=K_0(z_1, \ldots, z_q)$ and $R_1=R_0[z_1, \ldots, z_q]$. Then K is a finite extension of K_1. Put $d=[K\colon K_1]$. We have the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & K \\ & & \cup \\ R_1 = R_0[z_1, \ldots, z_q] & \subset & K_1 = K_0(z_1, \ldots, z_q) \\ \cup & & \cup \\ R_0 & \subset & K_0 \end{array}$$

We note that R_1 is a unique factorisation domain with unit group $R_0^*=\{1, -1\}$ if $R_0=\mathbf{Z}$ and $R_0^*=\mathbf{k}^*$ if $R_0=\mathbf{k}$. Let I denote a maximal set of pairwise non-associated irreducible elements of R_1. To every $\pi\in I$ there corresponds a valuation[3] v_π on K_1 which is defined by $v_\pi(\pi)=1$ and $v_\pi(a/b)=0$ for any $a, b\in R_1$ not divisible by π. Note that for every $\alpha\in K_1^*$ there are at most finitely many $\pi\in I$ with $v_\pi(\alpha)\neq 0$. Every valuation v_π with $\pi\in I$ can be extended in at most d pairwise inequivalent ways to K. By replacing these extensions by equivalent valuations if necessary we obtain a set of valuations m_K on K with the following properties:

(3) every $V\in m_K$ has value group $\mathbf{Z}$;

(4) if $\alpha\in K^*$ then $V(\alpha)=0$ for all but finitely many $V\in m_K$;

(5) if $\alpha\in R_1$ then $V(\alpha)\geqq 0$ for all $V\in m_K$;

(6) if $\alpha\in R_0^*$ then $V(\alpha)=0$ for all $V\in m_K$.

In the sequel we shall use the following notations. If T is a subset of m_K, then we denote by $\mathcal{O}_T$ the ring $\{\alpha\in K: V(\alpha)\geqq 0$ for all $V\in m_K\setminus T\}$. Note that $\mathcal{O}_T^*=$ $=\{\alpha\in K: V(\alpha)=0$ for all $V\in m_K\setminus T\}$.

If L/K is a finite extension, of degree p say, then one can construct in a similar way as above a set of valuations m_L on L with value group $\mathbf{Z}$. If we choose the same transcendence basis $\{z_1, \ldots, z_q\}$ for L, these valuations are, up to equivalence, just the extensions of the valuations in m_K to L. If $V\in m_K$, $W\in m_L$ and if W is equivalent to an extension of V to L then we say that W lies above V. For every $V\in m_K$ there are at most p valuations $W\in m_L$ lying above V.

The elements of the abelian group generated by m_K will be called *divisors*. Thus every divisor $\mathfrak{h}$ can be expressed as

$$\mathfrak{h} = \sum_{V\in m_K} V(\mathfrak{h})V,$$

where the $V(\mathfrak{h})$ are integers of which at most finitely many are non-zero. If $\alpha\in K^*$ then the divisor (α) is defined by $(\alpha)=\sum_{V\in m_K} V(\alpha)V$. If K is an algebraic number field then there exists an isomorphism $\mathfrak{C}_K$ of the additive group of divisors of K onto the multiplicative group of fractional ideals in K which is defined by $\mathfrak{C}_K(\mathfrak{h})=\{\alpha\in K: V(\alpha)\geqq V(\mathfrak{h})$ for all $V\in m_K\}$. $\mathfrak{C}_K$ maps m_K onto the set of prime ideals in K.

Let L/K be a finite extension of degree p in a fixed, finite, normal extension G of K. Let $\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_p$ denote the distinct K-isomorphisms of L in G and if $\alpha\in L$ put $\sigma_i(\alpha)=\alpha^{(i)}$. If $\mathbf{x}=(x_1, \ldots, x_p)\in L^p$ then

$$D(\mathbf{x}) = [\det(x_j^{(i)})_{\substack{i=1,\ldots,p\\ j=1,\ldots,p}}]^2$$

denotes the discriminant of $\mathbf{x}$ with respect to L/K. It is known that $D(\mathbf{x})\neq 0$ if and only if $x_1, \ldots, x_p$ are linearly independent over K. If $\mathbf{x}=(1, \alpha, \ldots, \alpha^{p-1})$ for some $\alpha\in L$ then we put $D_{L/K}(\alpha)=D(\mathbf{x})$. Then we have

(7) $$D_{L/K}(\alpha) = \prod_{1\leqq i<j\leqq p} (\alpha^{(i)}-\alpha^{(j)})^2.$$

[3] By a valuation we shall always mean an additive, non-trivial, discrete valuation. By an absolute value we shall mean a non-trivial multiplicative valuation.

Finally, if $\mathbf{x}=(x_1, \ldots, x_p)$, $\mathbf{y}=(y_1, \ldots, y_p)\in L^p$ are vectors such that $y_i=\sum_{j=1}^{p} \xi_{ij}x_j$ for certain $\xi_{ij}\in K$, then

(8) $$D(\mathbf{y}) = [\det(\xi_{ij})_{\substack{i=1,\ldots,p\\ j=1,\ldots,p}}]^2 D(\mathbf{x}).$$

Let R' be a subring of L having L as its quotient field. We define the *discriminant divisor* $\mathfrak{D}_K(R')$ of R' over K by

$$V(\mathfrak{D}_K(R')) = \max\{0, \min_{\mathbf{x}\in R'^p} V(D(\mathbf{x}))\} \quad \text{for all } V\in m_K.$$

By (4) this is indeed a divisor. If K is an algebraic number field and if R' is the ring of integers of L then the ideal $\mathfrak{C}_K(\mathfrak{D}_K(R'))$ is just the discriminant of L over K.

Let R be a subring of K and suppose that R' is an integral extension ring of R in L and that R' is a free R-module with basis $\mathbf{w}=(\omega_1, \ldots, \omega_p)$ say. Let T be a subset of m_K such that $R\subset \mathcal{O}_T$. If $\mathbf{w}'$ is an arbitrary vector in R'^p then, by (8),

(9) $$D(\mathbf{w}')\in D(\mathbf{w})R.$$

Hence

(10) $$V(\mathfrak{D}_K(R')) = V(D(\mathbf{w})) \quad \text{for all } V\in m_K\setminus T.$$

§ 3. On polynomials with given discriminant

Let K, R_0, K_0, $\{z_1, \ldots, z_q\}$, R_1, K_1, d, m_K have the same meaning as in § 2. Thus R_0 is either $\mathbf{Z}$ (the absolute case) or a field $\mathbf{k}$ of characteristic 0 which is algebraically closed in K (the relative case). Let G/K be a finite, normal extension of degree g. Let $\overline{K}_0=K_0(=\mathbf{Q})$ if $R_0=\mathbf{Z}$ and let $\overline{K}_0$ be the algebraic closure of $K_0(=\mathbf{k})$ in G in the relative case. Let R be a subring of K which is finitely generated over R_0 and which has K as its quotient field. Further, let R' be an integral extension ring of R in G such that

(11) $$\mathcal{I} := (R'\cap K^+) : R^+] < \infty.$$

We note that if R is integrally closed in K then $\mathcal{I}=1$. Further, in the relative case (11) implies that $\mathcal{I}=1$, i.e. $R'\cap K=R$. Indeed, if (in the relative case) $R'\cap K\neq R$ and $a\in(R'\cap K)\setminus R$ then the elements in $a\mathbf{k}$ are contained in distinct cosets of $(R'\cap K)^+/R^+$. Hence $\mathcal{I}=\infty$.

Let β be a fixed, non-zero element of R and let T, T' be the smallest subsets of m_K such that $R\subset\mathcal{O}_T$, $R[\beta^{-1}]\subset\mathcal{O}_{T'}$. Then, by (4), T, T' have finite cardinalities, t, t' respectively, say.

Before stating our results we have to introduce the notion of *special* polynomials. In the absolute case, every polynomial $f(X)\in R[X]$ is called non-special. In the relative case, a polynomial $f(X)$ is called *special* in $R[X]$ if $f(X)\in R[X]$ and if

(12) $$f(X) = \mu^r h((X+a)^{n_0}/\mu)(X+a)^\delta,$$

where r, n_0, δ are integers with $r>0$, $n_0>0$, $\delta\in\{0, 1\}$, $rn_0+\delta\geqq 3$ and $\delta=0$ if $n_0=1$, where $a\in R$, where $\mu\in K^*$ is integral over R and where $h(X)\in\mathbf{k}[X]$ is a monic poly nomial of degree r with non-zero discriminant[4] which has its zeros in $\bar{K}_0$ and $h(0)\neq 0$ if $n_0>1$. The polynomial $f\in R[X]$ is called non-special if it is not of the type (12). We notice that all polynomials which are weakly R-equivalent to a special polynomial in $R[X]$ must be special in $R[X]$ themselves.

As in § 1, $\Phi(n, R, R')(n\geqq 2)$ denotes the set of all monic polynomials of degree n with coefficients in R and with only simple zeros belonging to R'. Further, we put $\Phi(R, R')=\bigcup_{n\geqq 2} \Phi(n, R, R')$. By $N_1(R, R', \beta)$, $N_1(n, R, R', \beta)$ we shall denote the number of R-equivalence classes of *non-special* polynomials $f\in\Phi(R, R')$ and $f\in\Phi(n, R, R')$ respectively, which satisfy

$$D(f)=\beta, \tag{1}$$

whereas by $N_2(R, R', \beta)$, $N_2(n, R, R', \beta)$ we shall denote the number of weak R-equivalence classes of *non-special* polynomials $f\in\Phi(R, R')$ and $f\in\Phi(n, R, R')$ respectively, which satisfy

$$D(f)\in\beta R^*. \tag{2}$$

THEOREM 1. *Let n be an integer with $n\geqq 2$. Both in the absolute and in the relative case we have*

$$N_1(n, R, R', \beta)\leqq n(n-1)\frac{(4\cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')})^{n-2}}{(n-2)!}\mathscr{I},$$

$$N_2(n, R, R', \beta)\leqq \{n(n-1)\}^{[\bar{K}_0:\,K_0](d+t)}\frac{(4\cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')})^{n-2}}{(n-2)!}\mathscr{I}.$$

Let $\mathscr{W}_1$ be the set of special polynomials in $\Phi(n, R, R')$ satisfying (1) and let $\mathscr{W}_2$ be the set of special polynomials in $\Phi(n, R, R')$ satisfying (2) ($n\geqq 3$). We shall prove in § 5 that in the relative case $\mathscr{W}_2$ contains infinitely many weak R-equivalence classes, provided that $R'\supset\bar{K}_0$ and that $\mathscr{W}_2$ contains a special polynomial with $r\geqq 2$. We shall also show that $\mathscr{W}_1$ contains infinitely many R-equivalence classes in case $\mathbf{k}$ is algebraically closed and $\mathscr{W}_1$ contains a special polynomial with $r\geqq 2$.

We shall now present some consequences of Theorem 1.

COROLLARY 1. *Both in the absolute and in the relative case we have*

$$N_1(R, R', \beta)\leqq \mathscr{I}\exp\{8\cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')}\},$$

$$N_2(R, R', \beta)\leqq \mathscr{I}\exp\{8[\bar{K}_0:K_0](d+t)\cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')}\}.$$

PROOF. For $A=4\cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')}$ and for $p\in\mathbf{Z}$, $p\geqq 1$, we have, since $\{(k+2)(k+1)\}^p\leqq 2(p+1)^{2p+k-2}$ for $k\geqq 0$,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}\{(k+2)(k+1)\}^p\frac{A^k}{k!}\mathscr{I}\leqq 2(p+1)^{2p-2}\mathscr{I}\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}\frac{\{(p+1)A\}^k}{k!}=$$

$$=2(p+1)^{2p-2}\mathscr{I}e^{pA}\leqq\mathscr{I}e^{2pA}.$$

Hence our assertion follows from Theorem 1.

[4] For a linear polynomial $h(X)$, we put $D(h)=1$.

COROLLARY 2. *Let $\gamma\in R$. Then both in the absolute and in the relative case*
(i) *for every $n\geqq 2$ the number of non-special polynomials $f\in\Phi(n, R, R')$ which satisfy* (1) *and $f(0)=\gamma$ is at most*

$$n^2(n-1)\frac{(4\cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')})^{n-2}}{(n-2)!},$$

(ii) *the number of non-special polynomials $f\in\Phi(R, R')$ which satisfy* (1) *and $f(0)=\gamma$ is at most*

$$\exp\{8\cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')}\}.$$

PROOF. The ring $\tilde{R}=R'\cap K$ is finitely generated over R_0 (cf. [11], [12]). In the relative case (11) implies $\tilde{R}=R$. Further, both in the absolute and the relative case $\tilde{R}\subset\mathcal{O}_T$, $\tilde{R}[\beta^{-1}]\subset\mathcal{O}_{T'}$. Since $\Phi(n, R, R')\subset\Phi(n, \tilde{R}, R')$ and $\Phi(R, R')\subset\Phi(\tilde{R}, R')$, it suffices to prove our assertion with $\tilde{R}$ instead of R. The first part of Corollary 2 follows now immediately from Theorem 1, on noting that all polynomials in a fixed $\tilde{R}$-equivalence class are of the type $f(X)=f_0(X+a)$, where $a\in\tilde{R}$ and f_0 is a fixed representative of this class, and that there are at most n values of a for which $f_0(a)=\gamma$. The second part of Corollary 2 follows at once from the first part, on noting that for $A=4\cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')}$,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}(k+2)^2(k+1)\frac{A^k}{k!}=(A^3+8A^2+14A+4)e^A\leqq e^{2A}.$$

Corollary 1 already shows that a polynomial $f\in\Phi(R, R')$ which is non-special and which satisfies (2) must have bounded degree. More explicitly we have

THEOREM 2. *Both in the absolute and the relative case, every non-special polynomial $f\in\Phi(R, R')$ which satisfies* (2) *has degree at most*

$$2+4\cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')}.$$

In the absolute case, the finiteness assertions of Theorems 1, 2 and their corollaries above were earlier proved by Győry [6] (cf. also Győry [7]) under the restriction that R is integrally closed in K. Effective versions of these results were later obtained by Győry [8]. Further, he established in [8] certain effective analogues also in the relative case.

We shall now specialise our results above to the case of algebraic number fields. Let K be an algebraic number field of degree d with ring of integers $\mathcal{O}_K$ and let G/K be a normal extension of degree g. Let $\mathcal{O}_G$ be the ring of integers of G. Let $\beta\in\mathcal{O}_K\setminus\{0\}$ and let $S=\{\mathfrak{p}_1, \ldots, \mathfrak{p}_t\}$ be a (possibly empty) set of prime ideals in K. Let t' denote the number of prime ideals which belong to S or divide $\langle\beta\rangle$.[5] We call two polynomials $f(X)$, $g(X)\in\mathcal{O}_K[X]$ *weakly S-equivalent* if there are $a, b, c\in\mathcal{O}_K$ such that $\langle b\rangle$, $\langle c\rangle$ are solely composed of prime ideals from S(b, c are units if $t=0$) and such that

$$g(X)=\left(\frac{b}{c}\right)^{\deg f}f\left(\frac{cX+a}{b}\right).$$

[5] $\langle\alpha\rangle$ denotes the ideal in $\mathcal{O}_K$ generated by α.

COROLLARY 3. *Let n be an integer with $n \geqq 2$. Then the polynomials $f(X) \in \Phi(n, \mathcal{O}_K, \mathcal{O}_G)$ with the property*

$$(13) \qquad \langle D(f) \rangle = \langle \beta \rangle \mathfrak{p}_1^{k_1} \dots \mathfrak{p}_t^{k_t}$$

for certain rational integers $k_1, \dots, k_t$ belong to at most

$$\{n(n-1)\}^{d+t} \frac{(4 \cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')})^{n-2}}{(n-2)!}$$

weak S-equivalence classes.

For an effective finiteness result concerning the polynomials $f \in \Phi(n, \mathcal{O}_K, \mathcal{O}_G)$ which satisfy (13), see Győry [5].

PROOF OF COROLLARY 3. Let $\mathfrak{C}_K$ be the isomorphism of the group of divisors of K onto the group of fractional ideals in K (cf. § 2) and let $T = \mathfrak{C}_K^{-1}(S)$. Now Corollary 3 follows at once from Theorem 1 on noting that every polynomial $f(X) \in \Phi(n, \mathcal{O}_K, \mathcal{O}_G)$ which satisfies (13) also satisfies $D(f) \in \beta \mathcal{O}_T^*$ and that two polynomials $f(X), g(X) \in \Phi(n, \mathcal{O}_K, \mathcal{O}_G)$ are weakly S-equivalent if and only if they are weakly $\mathcal{O}_T$-equivalent.

§ 4. On integral elements with given discriminant

Let $K, R_0, K_0, \{z_1, \dots, z_q\}, R_1, K_1, d, m_K$ have the same meaning as in § 2. Let L/K be a finite extension of degree $m \geqq 2$ and let G denote the normal closure of L over K. Put $[G: K] = g$. In the relative case (when $R_0 = \mathbf{k}$) we assume something stronger than in § 2, namely that $\mathbf{k}$ is algebraically closed in G. Let $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_m$ denote the distinct K-isomorphisms of L in G. If $\alpha \in L$ then we put $\alpha^{(i)} = \sigma_i(\alpha)$, $i = 1, \dots, m$. Let R be a subring of K which is finitely generated over R_0 and let $R' \subset L$ be an integral extension ring of R with quotient field L such that

$$(11) \qquad \mathcal{I} = [(R' \cap K)^+ : R^+] < \infty.$$

If $\alpha \in R'$, then by (7) the discriminant $D_{L/K}(\alpha)$ of α is equal to $\prod_{1 \leqq i < j \leqq d} (\alpha^{(i)} - \alpha^{(j)})^2$. Hence if $L = K(\alpha)$ then $D_{L/K}(\alpha)$ is equal to the discriminant of the minimal polynomial of α over K. For that reason we call two elements $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in R'$ *R-equivalent* if $\alpha_2 = \alpha_1 + a$ for some $a \in R$ and *weakly R-equivalent* if $\alpha_2 = u\alpha_1 + a$ for some $a \in R$, $u \in R^*$. As usual, the corresponding equivalence classes will be called R-equivalence classes and weak R-equivalence classes, respectively. If $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in R'$ are R-equivalent then $D_{L/K}(\alpha_1) = D_{L/K}(\alpha_2)$ while if $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in R'$ are weakly R-equivalent then $D_{L/K}(\alpha_1) = \varepsilon D_{L/K}(\alpha_2)$ with some $\varepsilon \in R^*$.

Let T be the smallest subset of m_K such that $R \subset \mathcal{O}_T$. Let $\mathfrak{D}_K(R')$ be the discriminant divisor of R' over K and let β be a fixed element of K^*. Let T'' be the smallest subset of m_K such that $R \subset \mathcal{O}_{T''}$ and $V(\beta) = V(\mathfrak{D}_K(R'))$ for all $V \in m_K \setminus T''$. The sets T, T'' have finite cardinalities t, t'' respectively, say. Let $M_1(R, R', \beta)$ denote the number of R-equivalence classes of $\alpha \in R'$ satisfying

$$(14) \qquad D_{L/K}(\alpha) = \beta$$

and let $M_2(R, R', \beta)$ denote the number of weak R-equivalence classes of $\alpha \in R'$ satisfying

$$D_{L/K}(\alpha) \in \beta R^*. \tag{15}$$

THEOREM 3. *Both in the absolute and the relative case we have*

$$M_1(R, R', \beta) \leqq m(m-1)(4 \cdot 7^{g(3d+2t'')})^{m-2} \cdot \mathscr{I},$$

$$M_2(R, R', \beta) \leqq \{m(m(-1)\}^{d+t}(4 \cdot 7^{g(3d+2t'')})^{m-2} \cdot \mathscr{I}.$$

We note that $g \leqq m!$. Notice that we have also a finiteness result (without exclusion of "special" integral elements) in the relative case. It is not clear whether such a finiteness result holds if $\mathbf{k}$ is not algebraically closed in G. Finally, we remark that if $\mathscr{I} = \infty$ and if there is an $\alpha \in R'$ satisfying (14) (resp. (15)) then $M_1(R, R', \beta)$ (resp. $M_2(R, R', \beta)$) is infinite. Indeed, in this case the (weak) $(R' \cap K)$-equivalence class of α in question splits into infinitely many (weak) R-equivalence classes.

Let $N_{L/K}$ denote the norm with respect to L/K. Then every $(R' \cap K)$-equivalence class of elements of R' contains at most m elements α for which $N_{L/K}(\alpha)$ assumes some fixed value. Thus, applying Theorem 3 to $M_1(R' \cap K, R', \beta)$ we have

COROLLARY 4. *Let* $\gamma \in K$. *Then the number of* $\alpha \in R'$ *with* $D_{L/K}(\alpha) = \beta$ *and* $N_{L/K}(\alpha) = \gamma$ *is at most*

$$m^2(m-1)(4 \cdot 7^{g(3d+2t'')})^{m-2}.$$

The above argument shows that Corollary 4 is true without assuming $\mathscr{I} < \infty$.

Let $\alpha \in R'$. We call $\{1, \alpha, \ldots, \alpha^{m-1}\}$ a *power basis* if $\{1, \alpha, \ldots, \alpha^{m-1}\}$ is a basis of R' as a free R-module. If this is the case and if $\alpha' \in R'$ is weakly R-equivalent to α then $\{1, \alpha', \ldots, \alpha'^{m-1}\}$ is also an R-basis of R'. From Theorem 3 it follows

COROLLARY 5. *Those* $\alpha \in R'$ *for which* $\{1, \alpha, \ldots, \alpha^{m-1}\}$ *is an R-basis of* R' *belong to at most*

$$\{m(m-1)\}^{d+t}(4 \cdot 7^{g(3d+2t)})^{m-2} \cdot \mathscr{I}$$

weak R-equivalence classes.

In [3] (cf. Theorem 11) we derived the bound $(4 \cdot 7^{g(3d+2t)})^{m-2}$ in case $R_0 = \mathbf{Z}$ and R is integrally closed in K. If $R_0 = \mathbf{k}$ and R is integrally closed in K then it is also possible to get rid of the factor $\{m(m-1)\}^{d+t}$ but we shall not work this out here.

In the absolute case, Győry [6] (cf. also Győry [7]) proved earlier the finiteness assertions of Theorem 3 and its corollaries above under the assumption that R is integrally closed in K. Later he obtained [8], [9] effective versions of these results. In [8], certain effective analogues have been established also in the relative case.

PROOF OF COROLLARY 5. Suppose that R' has an R-basis of the form $\{1, \alpha_0, \ldots, \alpha_0^{m-1}\}$. This is clearly no restriction. In view of (9), $\{1, \alpha, \ldots, \alpha^{m-1}\}$ is an R-basis of R' only if

$$D_{L/K}(\alpha) \in D_{L/K}(\alpha_0) R^*. \tag{16}$$

By (10), $V(\mathfrak{D}_K(R')) = V(D_{L/K}(\alpha_0))$ for all $V \in m_K \setminus T$. Now Corollary 5 follows immediately from (16) and Theorem 3 with $\beta = D_{L/K}(\alpha_0)$.

Let K, L be algebraic number fields with rings of integers $\mathcal{O}_K$, $\mathcal{O}_L$ respectively, where $K\subset L$, $[K:\mathbf{Q}]=d$ and $[L:K]=m$. Let G denote the normal closure of L over K and put $g=[G:K]$. Let $\mathfrak{D}_{L/K}$ denote the discriminant of L over K. For every $\alpha\in\mathcal{O}_L$ with $D_{L/K}(\alpha)\neq 0$ the ideal $\langle D_{L/K}(\alpha)\rangle\mathfrak{D}_{L/K}^{-1}$ is the square of an integral ideal, $\mathfrak{J}(\alpha)$ say, which is called the *index* of α with respect to L/K. Let $\mathfrak{a}$ be a fixed ideal in $\mathcal{O}_K$ and let $S=\{\mathfrak{p}_1, \ldots, \mathfrak{p}_t\}$ be a finite (possibly empty) set of prime ideals in $\mathcal{O}_K$. We shall now deal with the set of $\alpha\in\mathcal{O}_L$ satisfying

$$\mathfrak{J}(\alpha) = \mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{p}_1^{k_1}\ldots\mathfrak{p}_t^{k_t} \quad \text{for certain} \quad k_1, \ldots, k_t\in\mathbf{Z}. \tag{17}$$

We call $\alpha_1, \alpha_2\in\mathcal{O}_L$ weakly S-equivalent if there are $a, b, c\in\mathcal{O}_K$ with $\langle b\rangle$, $\langle c\rangle$ solely composed of prime ideals from S, such that

$$\alpha_2 = \frac{b\alpha_1+a}{c}.$$

If α satisfies (17) then all elements of $\mathcal{O}_L$ which are S-equivalent to α also satisfy (17). Let t'' denote the number of prime ideals which divide $\mathfrak{a}$ or belong to S. Then we have

COROLLARY 6. *The numbers* $\alpha\in\mathcal{O}_L$ *which satisfy* (17) *belong to at most*

$$\{m(m-1)\}^{d+t}(4\cdot 7^{g(3d+2t'')})^{m-2}$$

weak S-equivalence classes.

An effective finiteness result concerning the elements $\alpha\in\mathcal{O}_L$ satisfying (17) can be found in Győry [5].

PROOF OF COROLLARY 6. Let $T=\mathfrak{C}_K^{-1}(S)$ (cf. § 2 and the proof of Corollary 3 in § 3). Suppose that (17) is solvable. Let α_0 be a solution of (17) and put $D_{L/K}(\alpha_0)=\beta$. Then every solution $\alpha\in\mathcal{O}_L$ of (17) satisfies $D_{L/K}(\alpha)\in\beta\mathcal{O}_T^*$ and two elements $\alpha_1, \alpha_2\in\mathcal{O}_L$ are S-equivalent if and only if they are $\mathcal{O}_T$-equivalent. Now Corollary 6 follows easily from Theorem 3.

§ 5. On special polynomials

Let $\mathbf{k}$ be a field of characteristic 0, let K be a field which is finitely generated over $\mathbf{k}$ and let G/K be a finite, normal extension. As in § 2, we suppose that $\mathbf{k}$ is algebraically closed in K. The algebraic closure of $\mathbf{k}$ in G is denoted by $\overline{K}_0$. Let R be a subring of K which has K as its quotient field (and which is now not necessarily finitely generated over $\mathbf{k}$). We extend the concept of special polynomials defined in § 3 by calling a polynomial $f(X)$ *special* in $R[X]$ if $f(X)\in R[X]$ and if

$$f(X) = \mu^r h((X+a)^{n_0}/\mu)(X+a)^\delta, \tag{12}$$

where r, n_0, δ are integers with $r>0$, $n_0>0$, $\delta\in\{0, 1\}$, $rn_0+\delta\geqq 3$ and $\delta=0$ if $n_0=1$, where $a\in R$, where $\mu\in K^*$ is integral over R and where $h(X)$ is a monic polynomial of degree r with coefficients in $\mathbf{k}$ and zeros in $\overline{K}_0$ such that $D(h)\neq 0$ and $h(0)\neq 0$ if $n_0>1$. If f satisfies (12) then $\deg f=rn_0+\delta\geqq 3$ and

$$D(f) = (-1)^{rn_0(n_0-1)/2} n_0^{rn_0} \mu^{r(rn_0-1+2\delta)} h(0)^{n_0-1+2\delta} D(h)^{n_0} \neq 0 \tag{18}$$

(with the convention that $h(0)^{n_0-1+2\delta}=1$ if $n_0=1$ and $h(0)=0$).

LEMMA 1. *Let $n\geqq 3$ be an integer and let $f(X)\in R[X]$ be a polynomial of degree n with zeros $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n \in G$. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

(i) *f is special in $R[X]$;*

(ii) *there are $a\in R$, $\lambda\in G^*$ and $c_1, \ldots, c_n \in \overline{K}_0$ such that $\alpha_i=c_i\lambda-a$ $(i=1, \ldots, n)$;*

(iii) *there are integers $i, j\in\{1, \ldots, n\}$ with $i\neq j$ such that for all $k\in\{1, \ldots, n\}$ we have $(\alpha_i-\alpha_k)/(\alpha_i-\alpha_j)\in\overline{K}_0$.*

PROOF. (i)⇒(ii). Suppose that f satisfies (12). Let $\Theta_1, \ldots, \Theta_r$ be the zeros of $h(X)$ in $\overline{K}_0$ and suppose that $\Theta_1\neq 0$. Then f can be written as

$$f(X) = \prod_{i=1}^{r} \{(X+a)^{n_0}-\Theta_i\mu\}(X+a)^{\delta}.$$

Choose $\lambda\in G^*$ such that $\lambda^{n_0}=\Theta_1\mu$. Then there are $c_1, \ldots, c_n\in\overline{K}_0$ such that

$$f(X) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} (X+a-c_i\lambda).$$

This clearly proves (ii).

(ii)⇒(iii). If $\alpha_i=c_i\lambda-a$ for $i=1, \ldots, n$, where $a\in R$, $\lambda\in G^*$ and $c_1, \ldots, c_n\in\overline{K}_0$, then we have for all triples (i, j, k) with $1\leqq i, j, k\leqq n$ and $i\neq j$ that

$$\frac{\alpha_i-\alpha_k}{\alpha_i-\alpha_j} = \frac{c_i-c_k}{c_i-c_j}\in\overline{K}_0.$$

(iii)⇒(ii). Put $\lambda=\alpha_i-\alpha_j$. Then we have for $k, l\in\{1, \ldots, n\}$

$$\frac{\alpha_k-\alpha_l}{\alpha_i-\alpha_j} = \frac{\alpha_i-\alpha_l}{\alpha_i-\alpha_j}-\frac{\alpha_i-\alpha_k}{\alpha_i-\alpha_j}\in\overline{K}_0,$$

hence

$$\alpha_k-\alpha_l = c_{kl}\lambda \tag{19}$$

for some $c_{kl}\in\overline{K}_0$. Put $a=-(\alpha_1+\ldots+\alpha_n)/n$ and $c_k=(c_{k1}+\ldots+c_{kn})/n$. Then $c_k\in\overline{K}_0$ and $a\in R$, in view of the facts that $f(X)\in R[X]$ and $n^{-1}\in\mathbf{k}\subset R$. Therefore, by (19), on taking the sum over all l, we have

$$\alpha_k = c_k\lambda-a \quad \text{for} \quad k = 1, \ldots, n.$$

This proves (ii).

(ii)⇒(i). Let $g(X)=f(X-a)=\prod_{i=1}^{n}(X-c_i\lambda)$. Then $g(X)\in R[X]$. Let A be the set of rational integers m such that $\lambda^m=c\zeta$ for some $c\in\overline{K}_0$ and $\zeta\in K$. It is easy to show that A is an ideal in $\mathbf{Z}$. Since at least one coefficient of g is non-zero, A contains non-zero integers. Let n_0 be a positive integer which generates A. Let r, δ be integers with $n=rn_0+\delta$ and $0\leqq\delta<n_0$. Then $g(X)$ can be written as

$$g(X) = X^n+d_1X^{n-n_0}\lambda^{n_0}+\ldots+d_rX^\delta\lambda^{rn_0}, \tag{20}$$

where $d_1, \ldots, d_r\in\overline{K}_0$. Note that $D(g)=D(f)\neq0$, whence $\delta\in\{0, 1\}$. Choose $c\in\overline{K}_0$ such that $\lambda^{n_0}=c\mu$ where $\mu\in K$. Then μ is integral over R. Put $h_i=d_ic^i$ $(i=1, \ldots, r)$, $h(X)=X^r+h_1X^{r-1}+\ldots+h_r$. Since $d_i\lambda^{in_0}=h_i\mu^i$ for $i=1, \ldots, r$ and $g(X)\in R[X]$ we have $h(X)\in\mathbf{k}[X]$. By (20) we obtain

$$g(X) = \mu^r h(X^{n_0}/\mu)X^\delta \quad (r>0,\ n_0>0,\ \delta\in\{0, 1\},\ rn_0+\delta = n). \tag{21}$$

The zeros of h obviously belong to $\overline{K}_0$. It is also clear, by our choice of r, δ, that $\delta=0$ if $n_0=1$ and $h(0)\neq0$ if $n_0>1$. Now (i) follows immediately from (21) and $f(X)=g(X+a)$.

Let R be a finitely generated subring of K over $\mathbf{k}$ which has K as its quotient field, and let R' be an integral extension ring of R in G such that $R'\cap K=R$. In the lemma below we shall state some results about the sets of polynomials

$$\mathscr{V}_1 = \{f(X)\in\Phi(n, R, R')\colon f \text{ is special in } R[X] \text{ with } r\geqq2 \text{ and } D(f)=\beta\},$$

$$\mathscr{V}_2 = \{f(X)\in\Phi(n, R, R')\colon f \text{ is special in } R[X] \text{ with } r\geqq2 \text{ and } D(f)\in\beta R^*\},$$

where β is an element of $R\setminus\{0\}$ and $n\geqq3$ is an integer.

LEMMA 2. (i) *Suppose that* $\overline{K}_0\subset R'$. *If* $\mathscr{V}_2$ *is non-empty then it contains infinitely many weak R-equivalence classes of polynomials.*

(ii) *Suppose that* $\mathbf{k}$ *is algebraically closed. If* $\mathscr{V}_1$ *is non-empty then it contains infinitely many R-equivalence classes of polynomials.*

PROOF. If $\overline{K}_0\subset R'$ (which is also the case if $\mathbf{k}$ is algebraically closed) then for every polynomial $f(X)\in\Phi(n, R, R')$ satisfying (12) we have $\mu\in R$. Indeed, there exists a $c\in\overline{K}_0^*$ such that $c\mu$ is the product of certain zeros of f. Therefore $c\mu\in R'$ and hence $\mu\in R'\cap K=R$. Let n_0, r, δ be integers with $n=rn_0+\delta$, $r>0$, $n_0>0$, $\delta\in\{0, 1\}$, $\delta=0$ if $n_0=1$. Let $\mu\in R\setminus\{0\}$. Put $h_m(X)=(X-1)(X-2)(X-6m)\times(X-8m)\ldots(X-2rm)$ if $r\geqq3$ and $h_m(X)=(X-1)(X-m)$ if $r=2$ $(m=1, 2, \ldots)$. Let

$$\mathscr{S} = \mathscr{S}(n_0, r, \delta, \mu) = \{\mu^r h_m(X^{n_0}/\mu)X^\delta\colon m = 1, 2, \ldots\}.$$

We shall show that the polynomials in $\mathscr{S}$ are pairwise R-inequivalent. Let $f_p(X)=\mu^r h_p(X^{n_0}/\mu)X^\delta$, $f_q(X)=\mu^r h_q(X^{n_0}/\mu)X^\delta$ be polynomials in $\mathscr{S}$ which are weakly R-equivalent. Then there are $a\in R$ and $u\in R^*$ such that

$$\mu^r h_q(X^{n_0}/\mu)X^\delta = \mu^r u^n h_p\left(\left(\frac{X+a}{u}\right)^{n_0}\Big/\mu\right)\left(\frac{X+a}{u}\right)^\delta = \tag{22}$$

$$= (\mu u^{n_0})^r h_p\left(\frac{(X+a)^{n_0}}{\mu u^{n_0}}\right)(X+a)^\delta.$$

First suppose that $n_0>1$. Then the left-hand side of (22) can be written as $X^n+\gamma_1X^{n-n_0}+\ldots$, whereas the right-hand side of (22) can be written in the form

$(X+a)^n+\varrho_1(X+a)^{n-n_0}+\ldots=X^n+naX^{n-1}+\ldots$ with some γ_1, $\delta_1\in K$. Hence $a=0$. Therefore, by (22) we have

$$\mu^r h_q(X^{n_0}/\mu)X^\delta = (\mu u^{n_0})^r h_p(X^{n_0}/\mu u^{n_0})X^\delta$$

which implies that $h_q(X)=u^{n_0 r}h_p(X/u^{n_0})$. Thus the zeros of $h_q(X)$ are just equal to the zeros of $h_p(X)$ multiplied by u^{n_0}. But then $u^{n_0}=1$, $p=q$. Hence $f_p(X)=f_q(X)$.

Now suppose that $n_0=1$. Then $\delta=0$ and $r=n\geqq 3$. Hence, by (22),

$$\mu^n h_q(X/\mu) = (\mu u)^n h_p\left(\frac{X+a}{\mu u}\right).$$

This in turn implies that

$$h_q(X) = u^r h_p\left(\frac{X}{u}+\frac{a}{\mu u}\right). \tag{23}$$

Let $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_r$ be the zeros of $h_p(X)$. By (23) there is an $\alpha\in K$ such that $u\alpha_i+\alpha$ $(i=1, \ldots, r)$ are just the zeros of $h_q(X)$. But since $r\geqq 3$, it follows that $u=1, \alpha=0$. Hence $p=q$.

Suppose that $\mathcal{V}_2$ is non-empty and let $f(X)=\mu^r h((X+a)^{n_0}/\mu)X^\delta$ $(rn_0+\delta=n$ and μ, a, h are as in (12)) be an element of $\mathcal{V}_2$. Note that $\mu\in R\setminus\{0\}$. By (18), $\mu^{r(rn_0-1+2\delta)}\in\in\beta R^*$. By (18) we have also $\mathcal{S}=\mathcal{S}(n_0, r, \delta, \mu)\subseteqq\mathcal{V}_2$. But $\mathcal{S}$ contains infinitely many polynomials which are pairwise weakly R-inequivalent. This proves (i).

Suppose that $\mathcal{V}_1$ is non-empty and let $f(X)=\mu^r h((X+a)^{n_0}/\mu)X^\delta\in\mathcal{V}_2$ $(r, n_0, \delta, \mu, h$ have the same meaning as in the proof of (i)). Then (18) implies that

$$c\mu^{r(rn_0-1+2\delta)}(-1)^{rn_0(n_0-1)/2}n_0^{rn_0} = \beta, \quad \text{where} \quad c = h(0)^{n_0-1+2\delta}D(h)^{n_0} \neq 0.$$

Put

$$\alpha = \alpha(H) = \left[\frac{c}{H(0)^{n_0-1+2\delta}D(H)^{n_0}}\right]^{1/(r(rn_0+2\delta-1))}, \quad H^*(X) = \alpha^r H(X/\alpha)$$

for every monic polynomial $H(X)\in\mathbf{k}[X]$ of degree r with $D(H)\neq 0$ and $H(0)\neq 0$. Since $\mathbf{k}$ is algebraically closed, $H^*(X)$ is also a monic polynomial of degree r with coefficients in $\mathbf{k}$. Further, $H^*(0)^{n_0-1+2\delta}D(H^*)^{n_0}=c$. Hence the set

$$\mathcal{S}^* = \{\mu^r h_m^*(X^{n_0}/\mu)X^\delta\colon m = 1, 2, \ldots\}$$

is contained in $\mathcal{V}_1$. But it is easy to check that all these polynomials are pairwise R-inequivalent. This proves (ii).

REMARK. The question whether the set $\mathcal{V}_1$ contains infinitely many R-equivalence classes of polynomials in case $\mathbf{k}$ is not algebraically closed seems to be far more difficult to answer. Moreover, if (1) (resp. (2)) can only be satisfied by special polynomials with $r=1$ then it is possible that there are only finitely many (weak) R-equivalence classes of special polynomials satisfying (1) (resp. (2)).

§ 6. On units and unit equations

Let K, R_0, K_0, $\{z_1, \ldots, z_q\}$, R_1, K_1, d, m_K have the same meaning as in § 2. Let T be a finite subset of m_K of cardinality $t \geqq 0$. In this section we shall state some properties of the group $\mathcal{O}_T^* = \{\alpha \in K : V(\alpha) = 0 \text{ for all } V \in m_K \setminus T\}$.

LEMMA 3. (i) *If* $R_0 = \mathbf{Z}$ *then* $\mathcal{O}_T^* \cong W \times \mathbf{Z}^p$, *where* W *is the finite group of roots of unity in* K *and* $0 \leqq p \leqq d + t - 1$.

(ii) *If* $R_0 = \mathbf{k}$ *and* $\mathbf{k}$ *is algebraically closed in* K *then* $\mathcal{O}_T^*/\mathbf{k}^* \cong \mathbf{Z}^p$ *where* $0 \leqq p \leqq d + t - 1$.

PROOF. First of all we shall prove (ii). There exists a set of pairwise inequivalent absolute values $\{|\,.\,|_v\}_{v \in M_K}$ on K with the following properties (cf. [2], § 3.):

(24) If $\alpha \in K^*$ then $|\alpha|_v = 1$ for all but finitely many $v \in M_K$ and $\prod_{v \in M_K} |\alpha|_v = 1$.

$$M_K = I_K \cup P_K, \quad \text{where} \quad I_K \cap P_K = \emptyset, \tag{25}$$

where the valuations in the set $\{-\log |\,.\,|_v : v \in P_K\}$ are, up to equivalence, equal to the valuations in m_K and where the valuations in the set $\{-\log |\,.\,|_v : v \in I_K\}$ are, up to equivalence, equal to the extensions of the valuation V_∞ on $K_1 = \mathbf{k}(z_1, \ldots, z_q)$. Here V_∞ is defined by $V_\infty(F/G) = b - a$ for all polynomials $F, G \in R_1 \setminus \{0\}$ of total degrees a, b respectively.

$$\{\alpha \in K : |\alpha|_v = 1 \quad \text{for all} \quad v \in M_K\} = \mathbf{k}^*. \tag{26}$$

Let $S \subset M_K$ be the set containing the $v \in I_K$ and the $v \in P_K$ for which $-\log |\,.\,|_v$ is equivalent to a valuation in T. Let $S = \{v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_s\}$. Since I_K has cardinality $\leqq d$, we have $s \leqq d + t$. Let $\mathfrak{h}$ be the homomorphism from $\mathcal{O}_T^*$ to $\mathbf{R}^s$ defined by

$$\mathfrak{h}(\alpha) = (\log |\alpha|_{v_1}, \ldots, \log |\alpha|_{v_s}).$$

The elements α of $\mathcal{O}_T^*$ satisfy $|\alpha|_v = 1$ for $v \in M_K \setminus S$ and $\sum_{i=1}^{s} \log |\alpha|_{v_i} = 0$ (cf. (24)). Hence $\ker \mathfrak{h} = \mathbf{k}^*$ and the image of $\mathfrak{h}$ is a discrete group of rank $\leqq s - 1$. Thus $\mathcal{O}_T^*/\mathbf{k}^* \cong \mathbf{Z}^p$ for some integer p with $0 \leqq p \leqq d + t - 1$.

We now prove (i). Let $\mathbf{k}_0$ denote the algebraic closure of $\mathbf{Q}$ in K. Put $d_1 = [\mathbf{k}_0 : \mathbf{Q}]$, $d_2 = [K : \mathbf{k}_0(z_1, \ldots, z_q)]$. Then $d_1 d_2 = d$. Let $m_K^{(1)}$ be the set of valuations in m_K whose restriction to $\mathbf{k}_0$ is non-trivial and let $m_K^{(2)} = m_K \setminus m_K^{(1)}$. Let $T_i = T \cap m_K^{(i)}$ $(i = 1, 2)$ and let t_i denote the cardinality of T_i $(i = 1, 2)$. There exists a one-to-one correspondence between the valuations in $m_K^{(1)}$ and the prime ideals in $\mathbf{k}_0$ (cf. § 2). Let $\mathfrak{p}_1, \ldots, \mathfrak{p}_{t_1}$ be the prime ideals corresponding to the valuations in T_1. Then $\mathcal{O}_T^* \cap \mathbf{k}_0^* = \{\alpha \in \mathbf{k}_0^* : \langle\alpha\rangle = \mathfrak{p}_1^{k_1} \ldots \mathfrak{p}_{t_1}^{k_{t_1}} \text{ for certain } k_1, \ldots, k_{t_1} \in \mathbf{Z}\}$. By Lang [10], Ch. 5, $\mathcal{O}_T^* \cap \mathbf{k}_0^* \cong W \times \mathbf{Z}^{r + t_1}$, where W is the group of roots of unity in $\mathbf{k}_0$ and r is the rank of the group of units in the ring of integers of $\mathbf{k}_0$. The valuations in $m_K^{(2)}$ lie above the valuations on $\mathbf{k}_0(z_1, \ldots, z_q)$ which correspond to irreducible polynomials of degree $\geqq 1$ in $\mathbf{k}_0[z_1, \ldots, z_q]$. Hence there exists a set of absolute values $\{|\,.\,|_v\}_{v \in M_K}$ satisfying the properties (24) to (26) with $\mathbf{k}_0$, $m_K^{(2)}$ instead of $\mathbf{k}$, m_K, respectively. Hence by (ii), $\mathcal{O}_T^*/\mathcal{O}_T^*\cap\mathbf{k}_0^*\cong\mathbf{Z}^{p_2}$ where p_2 is an integer with $0\leqq p_2\leqq d_2+t_2-1$. This is true since $\mathcal{O}_T^*/\mathcal{O}_T^*\cap\mathbf{k}_0^*\subset\mathcal{O}_{T_2}^*/\mathbf{k}_0^*$. But this shows that

$$\mathcal{O}_T^*\cong W\times\mathbf{Z}^{r+t_1+p_2}=W\times\mathbf{Z}^p$$

say, where $0\leqq p\leqq d_1+t_1-1+d_2+t_2-1\leqq d+t-1$.

Let λ, $\mu\in K^*$. We shall now deal with the equation

$$\lambda x+\mu y=1 \quad\text{in}\quad x, y\in\mathcal{O}_T^*. \tag{27}$$

LEMMA 4. (i) *In the absolute case* (27) *has at most* $4\cdot 7^{3d+2t}$ *solutions.*
(ii) *In the relative case* (27) *has at most* $2\cdot 7^{2d+2t}$ *solutions with* $\lambda x\notin\mathbf{k}$, $\mu y\notin\mathbf{k}$.

PROOF. (i) is exactly Theorem 1 of [3]. In the proof of (ii) we shall use the set of absolute values $\{|\,.\,|_v\}_{v\in M_K}$ with properties (24) to (26). Let $S\subset M_K$ be the set of $v\in M_K$ for which either $v\in I_K$ or $v\in P_K$ and $-\log|\,.\,|_v$ is equivalent to a valuation in T. Let s denote the cardinality of S. Note that $|\alpha|_v=1$ for all $\alpha\in\mathcal{O}_T^*$ and $v\in M_K\setminus S$. By Theorem 2 of [2], (27) has at most $2\cdot 7^{2s}$ solutions with $\lambda x/\mu y\notin\mathbf{k}$. Since $s\leqq d+t$, this proves (ii).

§ 7. Preliminaries to the proofs of Theorem 1, 2, 3

Let K, R_0, K_0, $\{z_1, \dots, z_q\}$, d, m_K have the same meaning as in § 2. Let G/K be a finite, normal extension of degree g. Let $\bar{K}_0=K_0=\mathbf{Q}$ if $R_0=\mathbf{Z}$ and let $\bar{K}_0$ be the algebraic closure of K_0 in G if $R_0=\mathbf{k}$. Let R be a subring of K which has K as its quotient field and which is finitely generated over R_0. Let $R_1, \dots, R_n$ $(n\geqq 2)$ be integral extensions of R in G and let $\tilde{R}=R_1\cap R_2\cap\dots\cap R_n\cap K$. In this section we shall deal with the set $\mathscr{C}$ of tuples $\boldsymbol{\alpha}=(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ with the following properties:

$$\alpha_i\in R_i \quad\text{for}\quad i=1, \dots, n;\ f(\boldsymbol{\alpha}; X):=\prod_{i=1}^{n}(X-\alpha_i)\in K[X];\ \alpha_i\neq\alpha_j \quad\text{for}\quad 1\leqq i<j\leqq n.$$

We shall call the tuples $\boldsymbol{\alpha}'=(\alpha_1', \dots, \alpha_n')$, $\boldsymbol{\alpha}''=(\alpha_1'', \dots, \alpha_n'')\in\mathscr{C}$ *R-equivalent* if $\alpha_i''=\alpha_i'+a$ for some $a\in R$ $(i=1, \dots, n)$ and *weakly R-equivalent* if $\alpha_i''=u\alpha_i'+a$ for some $a\in R$, $u\in R^*$. The corresponding equivalente classes will be called R-equivalence classes and weak R-equivalence classes, respectively. In the absolute case, every $\boldsymbol{\alpha}\in\mathscr{C}$ will be called *non-special.* In the relative case, $\boldsymbol{\alpha}\in\mathscr{C}$ will be called *special* if $f(\boldsymbol{\alpha}; X)$ is special in $K[X]$ (in the general sense defined in § 5) and *non-special* otherwise. If in the relative case $\boldsymbol{\alpha}=(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ is non-special with $n\geqq 3$, then by Lemma 1 we may suppose that

$$\frac{\alpha_1-\alpha_i}{\alpha_1-\alpha_2}\notin\bar{K}_0 \quad\text{for some}\quad i\in\{3, \dots, n\}. \tag{28}$$

Lemmas 5 and 6 below will be used in the proofs of Theorems 1 and 3.

LEMMA 5. *Let $U \geqq 1$ and let $n \geqq 2$ be an integer. Let $\mathscr{C}_1 \subset \mathscr{C}$ be a set of non-special tuples $\boldsymbol{\alpha}=(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)$ such that for all triples of integers (i, j, k) with $1 \leqq i, j, k \leqq n$, $i \neq k$, the set*

$$\left\{\frac{\alpha_i-\alpha_j}{\alpha_i-\alpha_k} : \boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathscr{C}_1, \quad \text{if} \quad R_0 = \mathbf{k} \quad \text{then} \quad \frac{\alpha_i-\alpha_j}{\alpha_i-\alpha_k} \notin \bar{K}_0\right\}$$

has cardinality at most U. Then the set of tuples

$$\left\{\left(\frac{\alpha_i-\alpha_j}{\alpha_1-\alpha_2}\right)_{1 \leqq i, j \leqq n} : \boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathscr{C}_1\right\}$$

has cardinality at most U^{n-2} if $R_0 = \mathbf{Z}$ and at most $\max(1, 2^{n-2}-1)U^{n-2}$ *if $R_0 = \mathbf{k}$.*

PROOF. Lemma 5 is obvious if $n=2$, so we shall assume that $n \geqq 3$. We notice that $\alpha_i - \alpha_j = (\alpha_1 - \alpha_j) - (\alpha_1 - \alpha_i)$, whence the tuple $[(\alpha_i - \alpha_j)/(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)]_{1 \leqq i, j \leqq n}$ is completely determined by the numbers $(\alpha_1 - \alpha_k)/(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)$ $(k = 3, \ldots, n)$. This proves Lemma 5 in the case $R_0 = \mathbf{Z}$.

Now suppose that $R_0 = \mathbf{k}$. Let $\mathscr{S}$ be a non-empty subset of $\{3, \ldots, n\}$ and let l denote the smallest element of $\mathscr{S}$. Let $\mathscr{C}_1(\mathscr{S})$ denote the set of tuples $(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n) \in \mathscr{C}_1$ such that $(\alpha_1 - \alpha_i)/(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2) \notin \bar{K}_0$ if and only if $i \in \mathscr{S}$. By (28), $\mathscr{C}_1$ is the union of all sets $\mathscr{C}_1(\mathscr{S})$, with $\mathscr{S}$ being a non-empty subset of $\{3, \ldots, n\}$. For all $\boldsymbol{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n) \in \mathscr{C}_1(\mathscr{S})$ we thus have that $(\alpha_1 - \alpha_i)/(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2) \notin \bar{K}_0$ for $i \in \mathscr{S}$ and $(\alpha_1 - \alpha_i)/(\alpha_1 - \alpha_l) \notin \bar{K}_0$ for $i \in \{3, \ldots, n\} \setminus \mathscr{S}$. Since $(\alpha_1 - \alpha_i)/(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2) = [(\alpha_1 - \alpha_i)/(\alpha_1 - \alpha_l)][(\alpha_1 - \alpha_l)/(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)]$, each tuple $((\alpha_i - \alpha_j)/(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2))_{1 \leqq i, j \leqq n}$ is completely determined by the numbers $(\alpha_1 - \alpha_i)/(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)$ $(i \in \mathscr{S})$, $(\alpha_1 - \alpha_i)/(\alpha_1 - \alpha_l)$ $(i \in \{3, \ldots, n\} \setminus \mathscr{S})$. This shows that the set of tuples

$$\left\{\left(\frac{\alpha_i-\alpha_j}{\alpha_1-\alpha_2}\right)_{1 \leqq i, j \leqq n} : (\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n) \in \mathscr{C}_1(\mathscr{S})\right\}$$

has cardinality at most U^{n-2}. But since $\{3, \ldots, n\}$ has only $2^{n-2}-1$ non-empty subsets, this proves Lemma 5 also in the relative case.

Let $\beta \in K^*$ and let γ_{ij} $(1 \leqq i, j \leqq n)$ be elements of G. We shall consider the sets

$$\mathscr{C}_2 = \left\{\boldsymbol{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n) \in \mathscr{C} : \frac{\alpha_i-\alpha_j}{\alpha_1-\alpha_2} = \gamma_{ij} \quad \text{for} \quad 1 \leqq i < j \leqq n, \prod_{1 \leqq i < j \leqq n} (\alpha_i - \alpha_j)^2 = \beta\right\},$$

and

$$\mathscr{C}_3 = \left\{\boldsymbol{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n) \in \mathscr{C} : \frac{\alpha_i-\alpha_j}{\alpha_1-\alpha_2} = \gamma_{ij} \quad \text{for} \quad 1 \leqq i < j \leqq n, \prod_{1 \leqq i < j \leqq n} (\alpha_i - \alpha_j)^2 \in \beta R^*\right\}.$$

Let T be the smallest subset of m_K such that $R \subset \mathcal{O}_T$, and let t denote the cardinality of T.

LEMMA 6. *If $\mathscr{I} := [\tilde{R}^+ : R^+] < \infty$ then both in the absolute and the relative case* (i) *$\mathscr{C}_2$ is contained in at most $n(n-1)\mathscr{I}$ R-equivalence classes and* (ii) *$\mathscr{C}_3$ is contained in at most $\{n(n-1)\}^{[K_0:K_0](d+t)} \cdot \mathscr{I}$ weak R-equivalence classes.*

PROOF. We shall call two tuples $\boldsymbol{\alpha}'=(\alpha_1', \ldots, \alpha_n')$, $\boldsymbol{\alpha}''=(\alpha_1'', \ldots, \alpha_n'')\in\mathscr{C}$ $\tilde{R}$-e alent if $\alpha_i''=\alpha_i'+a$ for some $a\in\tilde{R}$ $(i=1, \ldots, n)$ and weakly $(R, \tilde{R})$-equivale $\alpha_i''=u\alpha_i'+a$ for some $u\in R^*$ and $a\in\tilde{R}$ $(i=1, \ldots, n)$. The corresponding equival classes will becalled $\tilde{R}$-equivalence classes and weak $(R, \tilde{R})$-equivalence cla respectively. It is easy to check that every $\tilde{R}$-equivalence class is contained in at $\mathscr{I}$ R-equivalence classes, and every weak $(T, \tilde{R})$-equivalence class is contained most $\mathscr{I}$ weak R-equivalence classes. Therefore it suffices to show the following:

(29) $\mathscr{C}_2$ is contained in at most $n(n-1)$ $\tilde{R}$-equivalence classes,

(30) $\mathscr{C}_3$ is contained in at most $\{n(n-1)\}^{[\bar{K}_0:K_0](d+t)}$ weak $(R, \tilde{R})$-equivalence cla

For every $\boldsymbol{\alpha}=(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)\in\mathscr{C}_3$, put $\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha})=\alpha_1-\alpha_2$, $S(\boldsymbol{\alpha})=(\alpha_1+\ldots+\alpha_n)/n$. $\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha})\in G^*$, $S(\boldsymbol{\alpha})\in K$. Further, put $\beta_0:=\beta/\big(\prod_{1\leq i<j\leq n}\gamma_{ij}^2\big)$. Let $\boldsymbol{\alpha}'=(\alpha_1', \ldots, \alpha_n')$ $\boldsymbol{\alpha}''=(\alpha_1'', \ldots, \alpha_n'')\in\mathscr{C}_3$. Then

$$\frac{\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}')}{\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}'')}=\frac{\alpha_i'-\alpha_j'}{\alpha_i''-\alpha_j''}\quad\text{for}\quad 1\leq i<j\leq n. \tag{31}$$

Hence

$$\frac{\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}')}{\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}'')}=\frac{\alpha_i'-S(\boldsymbol{\alpha}')}{\alpha_i''-S(\boldsymbol{\alpha}'')}\quad\text{for}\quad i=1, \ldots, n. \tag{32}$$

By (32), $\alpha_i'-\{\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}')/(\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}'')\}\alpha_i''$ does not depend on i. Since $\tilde{R}=R_1\cap\ldots\cap R_n\cap K$ we infer that $\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}')/\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}'')\in R^*$ if and only if $\boldsymbol{\alpha}'$, $\boldsymbol{\alpha}''$ are weakly $(R, \tilde{R})$-equivalent $\alpha_i''=u\alpha_i'+a$ for some $u\in R^*$, $a\in\tilde{R}$ with $u=\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}')/\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}'')$. Thus we have the follow equivalences

(33) $\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}')=\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}'')\Leftrightarrow\boldsymbol{\alpha}'$ and $\boldsymbol{\alpha}''$ are $\tilde{R}$-equivalent;

(34) $\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}')/\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}'')\in R^*\Leftrightarrow\boldsymbol{\alpha}'$ and $\boldsymbol{\alpha}''$ are weakly $(R, \tilde{R})$-equivalent.

(29) is an immediate consequence of (33), on noting that for every $\boldsymbol{\alpha}\in\mathscr{C}_2$ have $\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha})^{n(n-1)}=\beta_0$, whence $\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha})$ can assume at most $n(n-1)$ values.

In the proof of (30) we shall need some further notations. In the absolute c we put $\bar{K}=K$, $\bar{K}_1=K_1$, $\bar{R}=R$. In the relative case, choose $\zeta\in G$ such that $\bar{K}$ $=\bar{K}_0(\zeta)=\mathbf{k}(\zeta)$ and put $\bar{K}=K(\zeta)$, $\bar{K}_1=K_1(\zeta)$, $\bar{R}=R[\zeta]$. Then $\bar{R}\cap K=R$. Let Δ $=\{1\}$ if $R_0=\mathbf{Z}$ and $\Delta_0=\bar{K}_0^*$ if $R_0=\mathbf{k}$. Both in the absolute and in the relat case, let $\Gamma=\{u\in G^*: u^{n(n-1)}\in\bar{R}^*\}$ and let $\bar{T}$ be the set of valuations in $m_{\bar{K}}$ lying ab the valuations in T. Then $\bar{R}^*\subset\Gamma\subset\mathcal{O}_{\bar{T}}^*=\{\Theta\in\bar{K}: V(\Theta)=0$ for all $V\in m_{\bar{K}}\setminus\bar{T}\}$. $p=[\bar{K}_0:K_0]$. Then $[\bar{K}:K]=p$. Hence $\bar{T}$ has cardinality at most pt. Together w $[\bar{K}:\bar{K}_1]\leq d$ and Lemma 3, this shows that Γ/Δ_0 is the direct product of at most $d+$ multiplicative cyclic groups, at most one of which is finite. Using also that Δ $\subset\bar{R}^*\subset\Gamma$ and $(\Gamma/\Delta_0)^{n(n-1)}\subset\bar{R}^*/\Delta_0\subset\Gamma/\Delta_0$, we obtain

$$[\Gamma:\bar{R}^*]=[\Gamma/\Delta_0:\bar{R}^*/\Delta_0]\leq[\Gamma/\Delta_0:(\Gamma/\Delta_0)^{n(n-1)}]\leq\{n(n-1)\}^{d+pt}. \tag{35}$$

We notice that $\bar{K}/K$ is a normal extension of degree p. Let $\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_p$ denote t distinct K-automorphisms of $\bar{K}$, where σ_1 is the identity. For every $\Theta\in G$, $\mathrm{Tr}(\Theta)$ $=\mathrm{Tr}_{G/\bar{K}}\setminus\bar{T}(\Theta)$ denotes the trace of Θ over $\bar{K}$ and for every $\Theta\in G^*$, $\bar{\Theta}$ denotes t coset of Θ in the factor group $G^*/\bar{R}^*$.

We define the mapping $\mathfrak{h}: \mathscr{C}_3 \to G^*/\bar{R}^* \times \{1, \dots, n\}^p$ by

$$\mathfrak{h}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}) = (\overline{\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha})}, i_1, \dots, i_p),$$

where $\boldsymbol{\alpha}=(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)\in\mathscr{C}_3$ and where i_j is the smallest integer $k_j\in\{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $\sigma_j(\mathrm{Tr}(\alpha_1))=\mathrm{Tr}(\alpha_{k_j})$ for $j=1, \dots, p$. (It is easily seen that such integers k_j exist). If $\boldsymbol{\tau}\in\mathscr{C}_3$ then $\overline{\psi(\boldsymbol{\tau})}^{n(n-1)}=\bar{\beta}_0$. Further, the number of cosets $\bar{\varrho}\in G^*/\bar{R}^*$ with $\bar{\varrho}^{n(n-1)}=\bar{\beta}_0$ is at most $[\Gamma: \bar{R}^*]$. Together with (35) and the fact that $i_1=1$ for every $\boldsymbol{\tau}\in\mathscr{C}_3$, this shows that the range of $\mathfrak{h}$ has cardinality at most

$$n^{p-1}\{n(n-1)\}^{d+pt} \leqq \{n(n-1)\}^{p(d+t)}. \tag{36}$$

We shall now show that for $\boldsymbol{\alpha}', \boldsymbol{\alpha}''\in\mathscr{C}_3$ with $\mathfrak{h}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}')=\mathfrak{h}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}'')$ we have $\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}')/\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}'')\in R^*$. Together with (34) and (36) this proves (30). Let $\boldsymbol{\alpha}'=(\alpha_1', \dots, \alpha_n')$, $\boldsymbol{\alpha}''=(\alpha_1'', \dots, \alpha_n'')\in\mathscr{C}_3$ with $\mathfrak{h}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}')=\mathfrak{h}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}'')$. Put $u=\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}')/\psi(\boldsymbol{\alpha}'')$. Then $u\in\bar{R}^*$. Moreover, by (32)

$$u = \frac{\mathrm{Tr}(\alpha_k') - gS(\boldsymbol{\alpha}')/p}{\mathrm{Tr}(\alpha_k'') - gS(\boldsymbol{\alpha}'')/p} \quad \text{for} \quad k = 1, \dots, n. \tag{37}$$

Let $\sigma\in\{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_p\}$ and let k denote the smallest integer in $\{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $\sigma(\mathrm{Tr}(\alpha_1'))=\mathrm{Tr}(\alpha_k')$, $\sigma(\mathrm{Tr}(\alpha_1''))=\mathrm{Tr}(\alpha_k'')$. Then (37) implies that $\sigma(u)=u$. From this it follows that $u\in\bar{R}^*\cap K=R^*$.

§ 8. Proofs of Theorems 1 and 2

Let K, R_0, K_0, $\{z_1, \dots, z_q\}$, d, m_K be the same as in § 2. Let G/K be a normal extension of finite degree g. Let R be a subring of K which is finitely generated over R_0 and which has K as its quotient field and let R' be an integral extension ring of R in G such that $\mathscr{I}=[(R'\cap K)^+ : R^+]<\infty$. Let $\beta\in R\setminus\{0\}$ and let T, T' be the smallest subsets of m_K such that $R\subset\mathscr{O}_T$, $R[\beta^{-1}]\subset\mathscr{O}_{T'}$, respectively. Let t, t' denote the cardinalities of T, T', respectively. Let $\bar{T}'$ be the set of valuations in m_G lying above the valuations in T'. Let $\bar{K}_0=K_0=\mathbf{Q}$ if $R_0=\mathbf{Z}$ and let $\bar{K}_0$ denote the algebraic closure of $\mathbf{k}$ in G if $R_0=\mathbf{k}$. We shall use frequently that [6]

$$[G: \bar{K}_0(z_1, \dots, z_q)] \leqq gd, \quad \#(\bar{T}') \leqq gt. \tag{38}$$

We shall now apply the results of § 7 with $R_1=\dots=R_n=R'$, where $n\geqq 2$. Define the sets

$$\mathscr{C}_4 = \{\boldsymbol{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)\in\mathscr{C}: f(\boldsymbol{\alpha}; X)\in\Phi(n, R, R'),\ f(\boldsymbol{\alpha}; X) \text{ is non-special in } K[X],$$
$$D(f(\boldsymbol{\alpha}; X)) = \beta\},$$

$$\mathscr{C}_5 = \{\boldsymbol{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)\in\mathscr{C}: f(\boldsymbol{\alpha}; X)\in\Phi(n, R, R'), f(\boldsymbol{\alpha}; X) \text{ is non-special in } K[X],$$
$$D(f(\boldsymbol{\alpha}; X))\in\beta R^*\},$$

[6] For any finite set H, $\#(H)$ will denote the number of elements of H.

where $\mathscr{C}$ has the same meaning as in § 7, but with $R_1=\ldots=R_n=R'$. We note that if $\boldsymbol{\alpha}'$, $\boldsymbol{\alpha}''$ are (weakly) R-equivalent tuples in $\mathscr{C}_5$ then $f(\boldsymbol{\alpha}'; X)$, $f(\boldsymbol{\alpha}''; X)$ are (weakly) R-equivalent polynomials in $\Phi(n, R, R')$. Let N_1 denote the number of R-equivalence classes of tuples in $\mathscr{C}_4$, while N_2 denotes the number of weak R-equivalence classes of tuples in $\mathscr{C}_5$. Let $N_1(n, R, R', \beta)$, $N_2(n, R, R', \beta)$ be the same as in Theorem 1. Then

$$(39)\qquad N_1(n, R, R', \beta) \leqq \frac{N_1}{(n-2)!}, \quad N_2(n, R, R', \beta) \leqq \frac{N_2}{(n-2)!}.$$

For $n=2$ this is obvious. If $n\geqq 3$, then (39) follows immediately from the fact that for every polynomial $f(X)\in\Phi(n, R, R')$ there are at least $(n-2)!$ pairwise weakly R-inequalent $\boldsymbol{\alpha}\in\mathscr{C}$ with $f(X)=f(\boldsymbol{\alpha}; X)$. Indeed, let $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n$ be the zeros of f in R'. Let σ, τ be two distinct permutations of $(3, \ldots, n)$ and let $\boldsymbol{\alpha}'=(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_{\sigma(3)}, \ldots, \alpha_{\sigma(n)})$, $\boldsymbol{\alpha}''=(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_{\tau(3)}, \ldots, \alpha_{\tau(n)})$. Then the tuples $\big((\alpha_1-\alpha_{\sigma(i)})/(\alpha_1-\alpha_2)\big)_{i=3,\ldots,n}$, $\big((\alpha_1-\alpha_{\tau(i)})/(\alpha_1-\alpha_2)\big)_{i=3,\ldots,n}$ are distinct which easily implies that $\boldsymbol{\alpha}'$, $\boldsymbol{\alpha}''$ are not weakly R-equivalent.

In view of (39), Theorem 1 is an immediate consequence of the following proposition.

PROPOSITION 1. *We have*

$$N_1\leqq n(n-1)(4\cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')})^{n-2}\cdot\mathscr{I} \quad \textit{and} \quad N_2\leqq \big(n(n-1)\big)^{[K_0:K_0](d+t)}(4\cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')})^{n-2}\cdot\mathscr{I}.$$

PROOF. Since R' is an integral extension of R, all tuples $\boldsymbol{\alpha}=(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)\in\mathscr{C}_5$ have the property that $\alpha_i-\alpha_j\in\mathcal{O}^*_{T'}=\{\alpha\in G: V(\alpha)=0 \text{ for all } V\in m_G\setminus\overline{T}'\}$ for all $i,j\in\{1, \ldots, n\}$ with $i\neq j$. Together with (38), Lemma 4 and the relations

$$\frac{\alpha_i-\alpha_j}{\alpha_i-\alpha_k}+\frac{\alpha_j-\alpha_k}{\alpha_i-\alpha_k}=1,$$

this shows that for each triple (i, j, k) with $1\leqq i, j,\ k\leqq n$ and $i\neq k$, the set

$$\left\{\frac{\alpha_i-\alpha_j}{\alpha_i-\alpha_k}:\ (\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)\in\mathscr{C}_5,\ \frac{\alpha_i-\alpha_j}{\alpha_i-\alpha_k}\notin\overline{K}_0 \ \text{ if } \ R_0=\mathbf{k}\right\}$$

has cardinality most A if $R_0=\mathbf{Z}$ and at most $A/2$ if $R_0=\mathbf{k}$, where $A=4\cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')}$. But this in turn implies, together with Lemma 5, that both in the absolute and the relative case the set

$$\left\{\left(\frac{\alpha_i-\alpha_j}{\alpha_1-\alpha_2}\right)_{1\leqq i,j\leqq n}:\ (\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)\in\mathscr{C}_5\right\}$$

has cardinality at most A^{n-2}. Now Proposition 1 follows immediately from Lemma 6.

PROOF OF THEOREM 2. Let $f(X)\in\Phi(R, R')$ be a non-special polynomial in $R[X]$ which satisfies (2). Suppose that f has degree $n\geqq 3$ and zeros $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n\in R'$. We shall use that

$$(40)\qquad \alpha_i-\alpha_j\in\mathcal{O}^*_{T'} \quad \text{for} \quad i, j\in\{1, \ldots, n\} \quad \text{with} \quad i\neq j.$$

First of all suppose that $R_0=\mathbf{Z}$. Note that

$$\frac{\alpha_1-\alpha_i}{\alpha_1-\alpha_2}+\frac{\alpha_i-\alpha_2}{\alpha_1-\alpha_2}=1 \quad \text{for} \quad i=3, \ldots, n,$$

and that the numbers $(\alpha_1-\alpha_i)/(\alpha_1-\alpha_2)$ $(i=3, \ldots, n)$ are pairwise distinct. Hence by Lemma 4, (38) and (40) we have

$$n-2 \leqq 4 \cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')}.$$

Now suppose that $R_0=\mathbf{k}$. Further, we assume that $(\alpha_1-\alpha_3)/(\alpha_1-\alpha_2)\notin\bar{K}_0$ (where $\bar{K}_0$ is the algebraic closure of $\mathbf{k}$ in G), which is by Lemma 1 no restriction. Let $\mathscr{S}$ be the subset of $\{3, \ldots, n\}$ consisting of those i for which $(\alpha_1-\alpha_i)/(\alpha_1-\alpha_2)\notin\bar{K}_0$. By (38), (40), (41) and Lemma 4 we have

$$\#(\mathscr{S}) \leqq 2 \cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')}.$$

If $i\in\{3, \ldots, n\}\setminus\mathscr{S}$, then $(\alpha_1-\alpha_i)/(\alpha_1-\alpha_3)\notin\bar{K}_0$. Hence by (40), the identities

$$\frac{\alpha_1-\alpha_i}{\alpha_1-\alpha_3}+\frac{\alpha_i-\alpha_3}{\alpha_1-\alpha_3}=1 \quad (i\in\{3, \ldots, n\}\setminus\mathscr{S}),$$

(38) and Lemma 4, we have also

$$\#(\{3, \ldots, n\}\setminus\mathscr{S}) \leqq 2 \cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')}.$$

Together with (42) this shows that also in the relative case

$$n-2 \leqq 4 \cdot 7^{g(3d+2t')}.$$

§ 9. Proof of of Theorem 3

Suppose that K, R_0, K_0, $\{z_1, \ldots, z_q\}$, R_1, K_1, d, m_K have the same meaning as in § 2. Let L be a finite extension of K of degree $m\geqq 2$ and let G denote the normal closure of L over K. Put $g=[G\colon K]$. In the relative case we assume that $\mathbf{k}$ is algebraically closed in G. Let R be a subring of K which is finitely generated over R_0 and which has K as its quotient field. Let $R'\subset L$ be an integral extension of R having L as its quotient field and suppose that $\mathscr{I}=[(R'\cap K)^+\colon R^+]<\infty$. Let $\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_m$ be the K-isomorphisms of L in G. For $\alpha\in L$, put $\alpha^{(i)}=\sigma_i(\alpha)$ $(i=1, \ldots, m)$. Let $\mathfrak{D}_K(R')$ be the discriminant divisor of R' over K. Let T be the smallest subset of m_K such that $R\subset\mathcal{O}_T$ and let t denote the cardinality of T. Let $\beta\in K^*$ and let T'' be the smallest subset of m_K such that $T\subset T''$ and $V(\beta)=V(\mathfrak{D}_K(R'))$ for all $V\in m_K\setminus T''$. Let t'' be the cardinality of T''. Further, let $\bar{T}''$ be the set of valuations in m_G lying above the valuations in T''. We shall use frequently that

$$[G\colon K_1] \leqq gd, \quad \#(\bar{T}'') \leqq gt''. \tag{43}$$

If $\alpha\in L$, $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ will denote the tuple $(\alpha^{(1)}, \ldots, \alpha^{(n)})$. We shall use the same notations as in § 7, however with $n=m$, $R_i=\sigma_i(R')$ for $i=1, \ldots, m$ and $\tilde{R}=R'\cap K$. We shall deal with the sets of tuples

$$\mathscr{C}_6=\{\boldsymbol{\alpha}\colon \alpha\in R', D_{L/K}(\alpha)=\beta\}, \quad \mathscr{C}_7=\{\boldsymbol{\alpha}\colon \alpha\in R', D_{L/K}(\alpha)\in\beta R^*\}.$$

We assert that if $\mathscr{C}_7$ is non-empty then $V(\beta) \geqq V(\mathfrak{D}_K(R'))$ for every $V \in m_K \setminus T$. Indeed, let $\alpha \in R'$ such that $\boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathscr{C}_7$. Since $D_{L/K}(\alpha)$ is integral over R, hence $V(\beta) = V(D_{L/K}(\alpha)) \geqq 0$ for all $V \in m_K \setminus T$. Together with (7) and the definition of $\mathfrak{D}_K(R')$ this proves our assertion.

LEMMA 7. *Let* $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in R'$ *such that* $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_1, \boldsymbol{\alpha}_2 \in \mathscr{C}_7$. *Then for* $i \neq j$ *with* $1 \leqq i, j \leqq m$

$$\frac{\alpha_1^{(i)} - \alpha_1^{(j)}}{\alpha_2^{(i)} - \alpha_2^{(j)}} \in \mathcal{O}^*_{T''} = \{\alpha \in G^* \colon V(\alpha) = 0 \quad for\ all \quad V \in m_G \setminus \overline{T}''\}.$$

PROOF. Let V be a fixed valuation in $m_G \setminus \overline{T}''$ and let $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in R'$ such that $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_1, \boldsymbol{\alpha}_2 \in \mathscr{C}_7$. Then $D_{L/K}(\alpha_1) \neq 0$, hence $\{1, \alpha, \ldots, \alpha^{m-1}\}$ is a K-basis of L. We infer that there are $\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_m \in K$ such that $\alpha_2 = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \xi_j \alpha_1^{j-1}$. For $i \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$, let $\mathbf{y}_i = (1, \alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_1^{i-1}, \alpha_2, \alpha_1^{i+1}, \ldots, \alpha_1^{m-1})$. Then we have by (8) that

$$D(\mathbf{y}_i) = \det{}^2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & & 0 \\ & \ddots & & & \\ \xi_1 & & \xi_i & & \xi_m \\ & & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix} D_{L/K}(\alpha_1) = \xi_i^2 D_{L/K}(\alpha_1) \quad \text{for} \quad i = 1, \ldots, m. \tag{44}$$

But by the definition of T'' we have $W(D_{L/K}(\alpha_1)) = W(\beta) = W(\mathfrak{D}_K(R'))$ for all $W \in m_K \setminus T''$ and by the definition of $\mathfrak{D}_K(R')$ we have $W(D(\mathbf{y}_i)) \geqq W(\mathfrak{D}_K(R'))$ for all $W \in m_K \setminus T''$. Together with (44) this shows that $V(\xi_i) \geqq 0$ for $i = 1, \ldots, m$. But then we have, since $V(\alpha_1^{(i)}) \geqq 0$ for $i = 1, \ldots, m$,

$$V\left(\frac{\alpha_2^{(i)} - \alpha_2^{(j)}}{\alpha_1^{(i)} - \alpha_1^{(j)}}\right) = V\left(\sum_{k=2}^{m} \xi_k \frac{(\alpha_1^{(i)})^{k-1} - (\alpha_1^{(j)})^{k-1}}{\alpha_1^{(i)} - \alpha_1^{(j)}}\right) = V\left(\sum_{k=2}^{m} \sum_{l=0}^{k-2} \xi_k (\alpha_1^{(i)})^{k-2-l} (\alpha_1^{(j)})^l\right) \geqq 0.$$

We can show in a similar way, by interchanging α_1, α_2, that $V((\alpha_1^{(i)} - \alpha_1^{(j)})/(\alpha_2^{(i)} - \alpha_2^{(j)})) \geqq 0$. Hence $V((\alpha_1^{(i)} - \alpha_1^{(j)})/(\alpha_2^{(i)} - \alpha_2^{(j)})) = 0$. This proves Lemma 7.

We shall now prove Theorem 3. We remark that two numbers $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in R'$ are (weakly) R-equivalent if and only if the tuples $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_1, \boldsymbol{\alpha}_2$ are (weakly) R-equivalent. Hence in view of Lemma 6 it suffices to prove the following proposition:

PROPOSITION 2. *The set of tuples* $\mathscr{V} = \left\{\left(\frac{\alpha^{(i)} - \alpha^{(j)}}{\alpha^{(1)} - \alpha^{(2)}}\right)_{1 \leqq i, j \leqq n} : \boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathscr{C}_7\right\}$ *has cardinality at most*

$$(4 \cdot 7^{g(3d+2t'')})^{m-2}.$$

PROOF. For convenience we put $B = 4 \cdot 7^{g(3d+2t'')}$. Let $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_0$ be a fixed element of $\mathscr{C}_7$. We put $\lambda_{ij} = \alpha_0^{(i)} - \alpha_0^{(j)}$ for $1 \leqq i, j \leqq m$ with $i \neq j$. Further, for every $\alpha \in R'$ we put $X_{ij}(\alpha) = (\alpha^{(i)} - \alpha^{(j)})/\lambda_{ij}$ for $1 \leqq i, j \leqq m$ with $i \neq j$. Then for every $\boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathscr{C}_7$ we have by Lemma 7 that $X_{ij}(\alpha) \in \mathcal{O}^*_{T''}$. By Lemma 4, (43) and the relations

$$\frac{\lambda_{ij}}{\lambda_{ik}} \cdot \frac{X_{ij}(\alpha)}{X_{ik}(\alpha)} + \frac{\lambda_{jk}}{\lambda_{ik}} \cdot \frac{X_{jk}(\alpha)}{X_{ik}(\alpha)} = 1 \quad (i, j, k \in \{1, \ldots, m\},\ i \neq k),$$

we have that for each triple (i, j, k) with $1 \leqq i, j, k \leqq m$, $i \neq k$, the set

$$\left\{\frac{\alpha^{(i)}-\alpha^{(j)}}{\alpha^{(i)}-\alpha^{(k)}}\colon\ \boldsymbol{\alpha}\in\mathscr{C}_7,\ \frac{\alpha^{(i)}-\alpha^{(j)}}{\alpha^{(i)}-\alpha^{(k)}}\notin\mathbf{k}\quad\text{if}\quad R_0=\mathbf{k}\right\}$$

has cardinality at most B if $R_0=\mathbf{Z}$ and at most $\frac{1}{2}B$ if $R_0=\mathbf{k}$. In the absolute case, Proposition 2 is an immediate consequence of Lemma 5. In the relative case we infer that $\mathscr{V}$ contains at most $\max(1, 2^{m-2}-1)(B/2)^{m-2}$ tuples for which $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ is non-special (i.e. $f(\boldsymbol{\alpha}; X)$ is non-special in $K[X]$). We shall now estimate the number of tuples in $\mathscr{V}$ for which $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ is special.

Let $\boldsymbol{\alpha}\in\mathscr{C}_7$ such that $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ is special or, which is the same, the minimal polynomial $f(X)$ of α is special in $K[X]$. Then $m\geqq 3$. Further, there are integers r, n_0, δ with $r>0$, $n_0>0$, $\delta\in\{0, 1\}$, $rn_0+\delta=m$ and $\delta=0$ if $n_0=1$, and there are $a\in K$, $\mu\in K^*$ and a monic polynomial $h(X)\in\mathbf{k}[X]$ of degree r with $D(h)\neq 0$ such that

$$f(X) = \mu^r h\big((X+a)^{n_0}/\mu\big)(X+a)^{\delta}.$$

But since f is irreducible we have that $\delta=0$ and h is irreducible. Furthermore, h has its zeros in G and $\mathbf{k}$ is algebraically closed in G. Hence $r=1$. Therefore there exists a $\mu'\in K^*$ such that

$$f(X) = (X+a)^m-\mu'.$$

Let ϱ be a fixed, primitive m-th root of unity and let Θ be a fixed m-th root of μ'. Then $\alpha^{(i)}=\varrho^{k_i}\theta-a$ for $i=1, \dots, m$, where $(k_1, \dots, k_m)$ is a permutation of $(1, \dots, m)$. Hence the tuple

$$\left(\frac{\alpha^{(i)}-\alpha^{(j)}}{\alpha^{(1)}-\alpha^{(2)}}\right)_{1\leqq i,j\leqq m} = \left(\frac{\varrho^{k_i}-\varrho^{k_j}}{\varrho^{k_1}-\varrho^{k_2}}\right)_{1\leqq i,j\leqq m}$$

belongs to a set of cardinality at most $m!$. But this shows that the number of tuples in $\mathscr{V}$ for which $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ is special is, in view of $m\leqq g$, at most

$$m! \leqq 2\cdot 7^{3m(m-2)} \leqq (B/2)^{m-2}.$$

Therefore, the total number of tuples in $\mathscr{V}$ is also in the relative case at most B^{m-2}.

Remark. We notice that a weaker version of Theorem 3 can be deduced also from Theorem 1.

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