

RELATIONS OF IDEALS OF CERTAIN REAL ABELIAN FIELDS

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ABSTRACT. Let k be a real abelian field and k_∞ be its \mathbb{Z}_p -extension for an odd prime p . Let A_n be the Sylow p -subgroup of the ideal class group of k_n , the n th layer of the \mathbb{Z}_p -extension. By using the main conjecture of Iwasawa theory, we have the following: If p does not divide $\prod_{\chi \in \widehat{\Delta}_k, \chi \neq 1} B_{1, \chi \omega^{-1}}$, then $A_n = \{0\}$ for all $n \geq 0$, where $\Delta_k = \text{Gal}(k/\mathbb{Q})$ and ω is the Teichmüller character for p .

The converse of this statement does not hold in general. However, we have the following when k is of prime conductor q : Let q be an odd prime different from p and let k be a real subfield of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_q)$. If $p \mid \prod_{\chi \in \widehat{\Delta}_{k,p}, \chi \neq 1} B_{1, \chi \omega^{-1}}$, then $A_n \neq \{0\}$ for all $n \geq 1$, where $\Delta_{k,p}$ is the Galois group $\text{Gal}(k_{(p)}/\mathbb{Q})$ and $k_{(p)}$ is the decomposition field of k for p .

0. Introduction.

Let k be a number field and $k_\infty = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} k_n$ be a \mathbb{Z}_p -extension of k for a prime p . Let A_n be the Sylow p -subgroup of the ideal class group of k_n and $A_\infty = \varprojlim A_n$ be the inverse limit of A_n under the norm maps. During the past few decades, the growth of $\#A_n$ and the structure of A_∞ have been studied exhaustively after K.Iwasawa. Let e_n be the exact power of p of $\#A_n$. K.Iwasawa([3]) found that there are integers μ , $\lambda \geq 0$ and ν such that $e_n = \mu p^n + \lambda n + \nu$ for $n \gg 0$. These constants μ , λ and ν are called the Iwasawa invariants for k_∞/k . Later in 1979, B.Ferrero and L.Washington proved that $\mu = 0$ when k is an abelian field and k_∞ is the cyclotomic \mathbb{Z}_p -extension of k ([1]). Around

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at the same time, R.Greenberg conjectured $\lambda = 0$ when k is a totally real field and gave a number of examples supporting his conjecture in ([2]).

Note that when k is a real abelian field, k admits only one \mathbb{Z}_p -extension for each p , namely the cyclotomic \mathbb{Z}_p -extension since the Leopoldt's conjecture holds in this case([10]). Thus when k is a real abelian field, according to Iwasawa-Ferrero-Washington, $e_n = \lambda n + \nu$ for $n \gg 0$. And if the Greenberg conjecture holds, then $e_n = \nu$ is independent of n for $n \gg 0$ and A_n capitulates in k_∞ . The aim of this paper is to discuss conditions for $A_n = \{0\}$, i.e., $\lambda = \nu = 0$ when k is real abelian. In the following theorem a sufficient condition for $\lambda = \nu = 0$ is given in terms of Bernoulli numbers.

THEOREM 1. *Let k be a real abelian field and let $\Delta_k = Gal(k/\mathbb{Q})$. If p does not divide $\prod_{\chi \in \widehat{\Delta}_k, \chi \neq 1} B_{1, \chi \omega^{-1}}$, then $A_n = \{0\}$ for all $n \geq 0$, where ω is the Teichmüller character for p .*

We will briefly sketch the proof of Theorem 1 in Section 1 by using the main conjecture of Iwasawa theory which was first proved by B.Mazur and A.Wiles([8]). The rest of this paper is devoted to a discussion of the converse of Theorem 1. Namely, we will examine what happens if p divides $\prod B_{1, \chi \omega^{-1}}$. When $k = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{85})$ and $p = 3$, $B_{1, \chi \omega^{-1}} = -12$ but the class number of k is 2, so $A_0 = \{0\}$. Thus the converse of Theorem 1 is not true in general. However, in [5], the following is proved when $[k : \mathbb{Q}] = 2$ and p splits in k : Let k be a real quadratic field and p be an odd prime which splits in k . If p divides $B_{1, \chi \omega^{-1}}$, then $A_n \neq \{0\}$ for $n \geq 1$.

In this paper, we will generalize this to an arbitrary real abelian field of prime conductor q . The main tools for the generalization are certain relations of prime ideals of k_n above p coming from circular units of k_n . In Section 2, we will briefly review circular units of abelian fields defined by W.Sinnott([9]) and find relations of prime ideals of k_n above p . Finally, in Section 3, we will prove the following theorem :

THEOREM 3. *Let q be an odd prime and let k be a real sub-field of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_q)$. Let p be an odd prime such that $p \nmid [k : \mathbb{Q}]$. If $p \mid \prod_{\chi \in \widehat{\Delta}_{k,p}, \chi \neq 1} B_{1, \chi \omega^{-1}}$, then $A_n \neq \{0\}$ for all $n \geq 1$.*

1. Proof of theorem 1

THEOREM 1. *If p does not divide $\prod_{\chi \in \widehat{\Delta}_k, \chi \neq 1} B_{1, \chi \omega^{-1}}$, then $A_n = \{0\}$ for all $n \geq 0$.*

Proof. Let L_∞ and M_∞ be the maximal unramified and p -ramified abelian p -extensions of k_∞ respectively. Let $Y = Gal(M_\infty/k_\infty)$, and let $Y_1 = \bigoplus_{\chi \neq 1} Y(\chi)$ be the direct sum of the χ -components $Y(\chi)$ of Y for each nontrivial $\chi \in \widehat{\Delta}_k$. Then by the main conjecture, $Y(\chi)$ is pseudo-isomorphic to $\Lambda/(f_\chi)$, where $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}_p[[T]]$ and f_χ is the power series in Λ giving rise to the p -adic L -function. Note that

$$f_\chi(0) = L_p(0, \chi) = -B_{1, \chi \omega^{-1}}.$$

Let $f = \prod_{\chi \in \widehat{\Delta}_k, \chi \neq 1} f_\chi$. Then $Y_1 = \bigoplus_{\chi \neq 1} Y(\chi)$ is pseudo-isomorphic to $\Lambda/(f)$ and

$$f(0) = \prod_{\chi} f_\chi(0) = \pm \prod_{\chi} B_{1, \chi \omega^{-1}}.$$

Since $p \nmid \prod_{\chi} B_{1, \chi \omega^{-1}}$ by assumption, $p \nmid f(0)$. Therefore f is a unit in Λ . Hence Y_1 is pseudo-isomorphic to $\Lambda/(f) = \{0\}$, i.e., there is a Λ -module homomorphism $Y_1 \rightarrow 0$ with a finite kernel. But since each $Y(\chi)$ does not have a finite Λ -submodule (see the appendix of [7]), $Y_1 = \{0\}$. Therefore $Gal(L_\infty/k_\infty)$, a quotient of Y_1 , is also trivial. Since $Gal(L_\infty/k_\infty) \simeq \varprojlim A_n$ and since $A_m \rightarrow A_n$ is surjective for $m > n$ by class field theory, A_n is trivial for all $n \geq 0$. \square

2. Relations of prime ideals above p

Let P_n be the multiplicative subgroup of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)^\times$ generated by $\{\pm 1\}$ and $\{1 - \zeta_n^a \mid 0 < a < n\}$. Then the group $C_{\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)}$ of cyclotomic units of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)$ is defined to be

$$C_{\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)} = E_{\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)} \cap P_n,$$

where $E_{\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)}$ is the unit group of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)$. In general, for an abelian field F , W.Sinnott defines the group of circular units of F as follows([9]). For each $n > 2$, let

$$F_n = F \cap \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n) \text{ and } C_{F_n} = N_{\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)/F_n}(C_{\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)}).$$

Then the group C_F of circular units of F is defined to be the multiplicative subgroup of F^\times generated by C_{F_n} together with -1 . Note that if n is prime to the conductor of F , then $F_n = \mathbb{Q}$ and so $C_{F_n} = \{1\}$. Thus there are only finitely many n 's to be considered in the definition of C_F .

Let k be a real subfield of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_q)$ for an odd prime q and let $k_\infty = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} k_n$ be the \mathbb{Z}_p -extension of $k = k_0$ for an odd prime p with $(p, q) = 1$. Here, k_n means the n th layer of the \mathbb{Z}_p -extension, not $k \cap \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)$. For each $n \geq 0$, we denote the group of circular units of k_n by C_n . Then the index theorem of W.Sinnott says the following ([9]):

INDEX THEOREM. *Let E_n be the unit group of k_n and h_n be the class number of k_n . Then $[E_n : C_n] = 2^{c_n} h_n$ for some integer c_n .*

For each integer $s \geq 1$, we choose a primitive s th root ζ_s of 1 so that $\zeta_t^{\frac{t}{s}} = \zeta_s$ if $s|t$. Let $K = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_q)$, $F = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_p)$ and $K' = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{pq})$. We denote their cyclotomic \mathbb{Z}_p -extensions by K_∞ , F_∞ , and K'_∞ . Let σ be the topological generator of the Galois group $\Gamma = Gal(K'_\infty/K')$ which maps ζ_{p^n} to $\zeta_{p^n}^{1+p}$ for all $n \geq 1$. Restrictions of σ to various subfields are also denoted by σ . Let $k_{(p)}$ be the decomposition subfield of k for p and let $\Delta = Gal(K/k)$, $\bar{\Delta} = Gal(K/\mathbb{Q})$, $\Delta_p = Gal(K/k_{(p)})$, $\Delta_k = Gal(k/\mathbb{Q})$ and $\Delta_{k,p} = Gal(k_{(p)}/\mathbb{Q})$. Let $[k : \mathbb{Q}] = d$ and $[k_{(p)} : \mathbb{Q}] = l$, so there are l prime ideals in k above p . Elements of Δ , $\bar{\Delta}$ or Δ_p will be denoted by τ 's and those of Δ_k and $\Delta_{k,p}$ by ρ 's. The Frobenius automorphism of K for p or its restriction to k is denoted by τ_p . Let R be the set of all roots of 1 in \mathbb{Z}_p , i.e., $R = \{\omega \in \mathbb{Z}_p | \omega^{p-1} = 1\}$. Then R can be regarded as the Galois group $Gal(F/\mathbb{Q})$ or any Galois group isomorphic to it such as $Gal(F_n/\mathbb{Q}_n)$, where \mathbb{Q}_n is the subfield of F_n of degree p^n over \mathbb{Q} . For $m > n$, let $G_{m,n}$ be the Galois group $Gal(K'_m/K'_n)$ and $N_{m,n}$ be the norm map $N_{K'_m/K'_n}$ from K'_m to K'_n . We will abbreviate $G_{m,0}$ and $N_{m,0}$ by G_m and N_m respectively. $G_{m,n}$ will also mean the Galois groups $Gal(k_m/k_n)$, $Gal(F_m/F_n)$ and $Gal(\mathbb{Q}_m/\mathbb{Q}_n)$. Similarly $N_{m,n}$ will have various meanings. Finally we fix a generator ψ_n of the character group of $Gal(\mathbb{Q}_n/\mathbb{Q})$ such that $\psi_n(\sigma) = \zeta_{p^n}$. Then we have the following cohomology groups of circular units([6]).

THEOREM. *Suppose $p \nmid d = [k : \mathbb{Q}]$. Then, for $m > n \geq 0$, we have*

the followings.

- (1) $C_m^{G_{m,n}} = C_n,$
- (2) $\widehat{H}^0(G_{m,n}, C_m) \simeq (\mathbb{Z}/p^{m-n}\mathbb{Z})^{l-1},$
- (3) $\widehat{H}^{-1}(G_{m,n}, C_m) \simeq (\mathbb{Z}/p^{m-n}\mathbb{Z})^l.$

Fix a prime ideal \wp_0 of $k_{(p)}$ above p . We will also think of \wp_0 as a prime ideal of $k = k_0$. Let $\Delta_{k,p} = \{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_{l-1}, \rho_l = id\}$. We denote the unique prime ideal of k_n (or of $k_{(p)}\mathbb{Q}_n$) above \wp_0 by \wp_n . Then $\{\wp_n^{\rho_i} \mid 1 \leq i \leq l\}$ is the set of prime ideals of k_n above p .

Let $C_\infty = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} C_n$ and $E'_\infty = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} E'_n$, where E'_n is the group of p -units of k_n . We know that $H^1(\Gamma, C_\infty) \simeq (\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p)^l$ by above theorem, where $\Gamma = Gal(k_\infty/k)$. On the other hand, $H^1(\Gamma, E'_\infty)$ is a finite group([4]). Since $\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p$ cannot have a nontrivial finite quotient, the induced homomorphism $H^1(\Gamma, C_\infty) \rightarrow H^1(\Gamma, E'_\infty)$ is a zero map. Therefore $H^1(G_n, C_n) \rightarrow H^1(G_n, E'_n)$ is also a zero map for every $n \geq 1$ by the injectivity of the inflation maps on H^1 .

Let

$$\delta = \prod_{\substack{\omega \in R \\ \tau \in \Delta_p}} (\zeta_{p^2}^\omega - \zeta_q^\tau) \text{ and } \delta_i = \delta^{\rho_i} = \prod_{\substack{\omega \in R \\ \tau \in \Delta_p}} (\zeta_{p^2}^\omega - \zeta_q^{\tau \rho_i}).$$

As was shown in [6], $N_1(\delta) = N_1(\delta_i) = 1$ and $\{\delta_1, \dots, \delta_{l-1}, \pi_1^{\sigma-1}\}$ generates $H^1(G_1, C_1)$, where $\pi_1 = \prod_{\omega \in R} (\zeta_{p^2}^\omega - 1)$. Therefore, by the injectivity of $H^1(G_1, C_1) \rightarrow H^1(G_1, E'_1)$, we have

$$\delta = \alpha^{\sigma-1} \text{ and } \delta_i = \delta^{\rho_i} = \alpha_i^{\sigma-1}$$

for some p -units α in k_1 and $\alpha_i = \alpha^{\rho_i}$. That is, as an ideal,

$$(\alpha) = \wp_1^{\sum_{1 \leq i \leq l} g(\rho_i) \rho_i^{-1}}$$

for some integers $g(\rho_i)$. Note that these integers are determined uniquely modulo p by δ since \wp_0 ramifies totally in k_1 . Then for each k , $1 \leq k \leq l-1$, (α_k) is factorized as

$$(\alpha_k) = (\alpha)^{\rho_k} = \wp_0^{\sum_{1 \leq i \leq l} g(\rho_i) \rho_i^{-1} \rho_k} = \wp_1^{\sum_{1 \leq j \leq l} g(\rho_j^{-1} \rho_k) \rho_j}.$$

THEOREM 2. Let $\delta = \alpha^{\sigma-1}$ and $(\alpha) = \wp_1^{\sum_{1 \leq i \leq l} g(\rho_i) \rho_i^{-1}}$ as above. Let χ be a nontrivial character of $\Delta_{k,p}$ and $\tau(\chi) = \sum_{1 \leq a < q} \chi(a) \zeta_q^a$ be the Gauss sum for χ . Then

$$\sum_{1 \leq i \leq l} \chi(\rho_i) g(\rho_i) \equiv -\frac{q}{\tau(\chi)} B_{1, \chi \omega^{-1}} \pmod{(\zeta_{p^2} - 1)}.$$

Proof. For each i , we read the equation $\delta_i = \alpha_i^{\sigma-1}$ in k_{1, \wp_1} , the completion of k_1 at \wp_1 . Since

$$(\alpha_i) = \wp_1^{\sum_{1 \leq j \leq l} g(\rho_j^{-1} \rho_i) \rho_j},$$

$\alpha_i = \pi_1^{g(\rho_i)} u$ for some unit u in k_{1, \wp_1} . Thus, in $\mathbb{Q}_p(\zeta_{p^2})$,

$$\alpha_i = \pi^{(p-1)g(\rho_i)} \eta$$

for some unit η in $\mathbb{Q}_p(\zeta_{p^2})$, where $\pi = \zeta_{p^2} - 1$. Hence

$$\delta_i = \alpha_i^{\sigma-1} = \pi^{(p-1)g(\rho_i)(\sigma-1)} \eta^{\sigma-1}.$$

Since

$$\pi^{\sigma-1} \equiv 1 + \pi^{p-1} \text{ and } \eta^{\sigma-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{\pi^p},$$

we have

$$\delta_i \equiv 1 + (p-1)g(\rho_i)\pi^{p-1} \equiv 1 - g(\rho_i)\pi^{p-1} \pmod{\pi^p}.$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \log_p \delta_i &\equiv \log_p(1 - g(\rho_i)\pi^{p-1}) \\ &\equiv -g(\rho_i)\pi^{p-1} - \frac{1}{2}(g(\rho_i)\pi^{p-1})^2 - \dots - \frac{1}{p}(g(\rho_i)\pi^{p-1})^p - \dots \\ &\equiv g(\rho_i) \pmod{\pi}, \end{aligned}$$

since $\pi^{p(p-1)}/p \equiv -1 \pmod{\pi}$ and every other term is congruent to 0 mod π . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq l} \chi(\rho_i)g(\rho_i) &\equiv \sum_{1 \leq i \leq l} \chi(\rho_i)\log_p \delta_i \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq l} \chi(\rho_i)\log_p \left(\prod_{\substack{\omega \in R \\ \tau \in \Delta_p}} (\zeta_{p^2}^\omega - \zeta_q^{\tau \rho_i}) \right) \\ &= \sum_{\substack{\omega \in R \\ \tau \in \Delta_p, 1 \leq i \leq l}} \chi(\rho_i)\log_p (\zeta_{p^2}^\omega - \zeta_q^{\tau \rho_i}) \\ &= \sum_{\substack{\omega \in R \\ \tau \in \Delta}} \chi(\tau)\log_p (\zeta_{p^2}^\omega - \zeta_q^\tau) \\ &\equiv -\frac{q}{\tau(\chi)} B_{1, \chi \omega^{-1}} \pmod{\pi}. \end{aligned}$$

The last congruence comes from a slight modification of Proposition 1 of [5]. □

3. Application to the proof of theorem 3

Let A be the $l \times l$ matrix with i th column

$$A^i = (g(\rho_1^{-1} \rho_i), \dots, g(\rho_l^{-1} \rho_i))^t$$

for $1 \leq i \leq l - 1$ and the last column $A^l = (1, \dots, 1)^t$. It is not hard to see that (for instance, apply lemma 5.26 of [10])

$$\det A = \prod_{\substack{\chi \in \widehat{\Delta}_{k,p} \\ \chi \neq 1}} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq l} \chi(\rho_i)g(\rho_i).$$

Then we have

$$\det A \equiv \pm q^{\frac{l-1}{2}} \prod_{\substack{\chi \in \widehat{\Delta}_{k,p} \\ \chi \neq 1}} B_{1, \chi \omega^{-1}} \pmod{p\mathbb{Z}_p}$$

by Theorem 2, since $\prod_{\tau} \tau(\chi) = q^{(l-1)/2}$. Now we prove Theorem 3.

THEOREM 3. *Let q be an odd prime and let k be a real subfield of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_q)$. Let p be an odd prime such that $p \nmid [k : \mathbb{Q}]$. If $p \mid \prod_{\chi \in \widehat{\Delta}_{k,p}, \chi \neq 1} B_{1,\chi\omega^{-1}}$, then $A_n \neq \{0\}$ for all $n \geq 1$.*

Proof. Suppose that $p \mid \prod_{\chi(p)=1, \chi \neq 1} B_{1,\chi\omega^{-1}}$. Then $\det A \equiv 0 \pmod p$. So there is a nontrivial vector $B = (b_1, \dots, b_l)^t$ such that $AB \equiv \mathbb{O} \pmod p$. Consider $\xi = \delta_1^{b_1} \cdots \delta_{l-1}^{b_{l-1}} \pi_1^{(\sigma^{-1})b_l}$. Then

$$\xi = (\alpha_1^{b_1} \cdots \alpha_{l-1}^{b_{l-1}} \pi_1^{b_l})^{\sigma^{-1}}.$$

Since

$$(\alpha_i) = \wp_1^{\sum_{1 \leq j \leq l} g(\rho_j^{-1} \rho_i) \rho_j} \text{ and } (\pi_1) = \wp_1^{\sum_{1 \leq j \leq l} \rho_j},$$

we have

$$(\alpha_1^{b_1} \cdots \alpha_{l-1}^{b_{l-1}} \pi_1^{b_l}) = \wp_1^{\sum_{1 \leq j \leq l} (\sum_{1 \leq i \leq l-1} g(\rho_j^{-1} \rho_i) b_i + b_l) \rho_j}.$$

Note that $\sum_{1 \leq i \leq l-1} g(\rho_j^{-1} \rho_i) b_i + b_l$ is the j th entry of AB , which is congruent to $0 \pmod p$. Hence

$$(\alpha_1^{b_1} \cdots \alpha_{l-1}^{b_{l-1}} \pi_1^{b_l}) = \wp_1^{p \sum_{1 \leq j \leq l} c_j \rho_j} = I_0$$

for some ideal I_0 of k_0 . To finish the proof, we will show that p divides the class number h_1 of k_1 , which clearly implies that $A_n \neq 0$ for $n \geq 1$ by class field theory. □

If p divides the class number of k_0 , there is nothing to prove. Otherwise, there is no nontrivial capitulation from k_0 to k_1 . Thus I_0 must be a principal ideal $I_0 = (\alpha_0)$ for some α_0 in k_0 . Therefore

$$\alpha_1^{b_1} \cdots \alpha_{l-1}^{b_{l-1}} \pi_1^{b_l} = \alpha_0 u$$

for some unit u in k_1 . Hence

$$\xi = (\alpha_1^{b_1} \cdots \alpha_{l-1}^{b_{l-1}} \pi_1^{b_l})^{\sigma^{-1}} = u^{\sigma^{-1}}.$$

Since $B \not\equiv (0, \dots, 0)^t \pmod{p}$, ξ is not in $C_1^{\sigma-1}$. Thus we have a non-trivial kernel of the homomorphism $H^1(G_1, C_1) \rightarrow H^1(G_1, E_1)$, where E_1 is the unit group of k_1 . From the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow C_1 \rightarrow E_1 \rightarrow E_1/C_1 \rightarrow 0,$$

we get a long exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow C_0 \rightarrow E_0 \rightarrow (E_1/C_1)^{G_1} \rightarrow H^1(G_1, C_1) \rightarrow H^1(G_1, E_1) \rightarrow \dots$$

Since $H^1(G_1, C_1) \rightarrow H^1(G_1, E_1)$ is not injective,

$$(E_1/C_1)^{G_1} \otimes \mathbb{Z}_p \neq \{0\}.$$

Therefore $E_1/C_1 \otimes \mathbb{Z}_p \neq \{0\}$. Then by the index theorem of W.Sinnott in Section 2, we have $p|h_1$ as desired.

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