

## RECENT PROGRESS IN DETERMINING $p$ -CLASS FIELD TOWERS

DANIEL C. MAYER\*

**ABSTRACT.** For a fixed prime  $p$ , the  $p$ -class tower  $F_p^\infty K$  of a number field  $K$  is considered to be known if a pro- $p$  presentation of the Galois group  $G = \text{Gal}(F_p^\infty K|K)$  is given. In the last few years, it turned out that the Artin pattern  $\text{AP}(K) = (\tau(K), \varkappa(K))$  consisting of targets  $\tau(K) = (\text{Cl}_p L)$  and kernels  $\varkappa(K) = (\ker J_{L|K})$  of class extensions  $J_{L|K} : \text{Cl}_p K \rightarrow \text{Cl}_p L$  to unramified abelian subfields  $L|K$  of the Hilbert  $p$ -class field  $F_p^1 K$  only suffices for determining the two-stage approximation  $\mathfrak{M} = G/G''$  of  $G$ . Additional techniques had to be developed for identifying the group  $G$  itself: searching strategies in descendant trees of finite  $p$ -groups, iterated and multilayered IPADs of second order, and the cohomological concept of Shafarevich covers involving relation ranks. This enabled the discovery of three-stage towers of  $p$ -class fields over quadratic base fields  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$  for  $p \in \{2, 3, 5\}$ . These non-metabelian towers reveal the new phenomenon of various tree topologies expressing the mutual location of the groups  $G$  and  $\mathfrak{M}$ .

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The reasons why our recent progress in determining  $p$ -class field towers [20, 43, 46] became possible during the past four years is due, firstly, to a few crucial theoretical results by Artin [1, 2] and Shafarevich [54], secondly, to actual implementations of group theoretic, resp. class field theoretic, algorithms by Newman [50] and O'Brien [52], resp. Fieker [22], and finally, to several striking phenomena discovered by ourselves [35, 38, 40, 41, 44, 45], partially inspired by Bartholdi, Boston, Bush, Hajir, Leedham-Green and Nover [17, 19, 9, 18, 51, 15]. In chronological order, these indispensable foundations can be summarized as follows.

**1.1. Class extension and transfer.** Let  $p$  be a prime number and suppose that  $K$  is a number field with non-trivial  $p$ -class group  $\text{Cl}_p K := \text{Syl}_p \text{Cl}_K > 1$ . Then

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\* Corresponding author.

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$K$  possesses unramified abelian extensions  $L|K$  of relative degree a power of  $p$ , the biggest of them being the Hilbert  $p$ -class field  $F_p^1 K$  of  $K$ . For each of the extensions  $L|K$ , let  $J_{L|K} : \text{Cl}_p K \rightarrow \text{Cl}_p L$  be the *class extension* homomorphism.

Artin used his reciprocity law of class field theory [1] for translating the arithmetical properties of  $J_{L|K}$ , the  $p$ -capitulation kernel  $\ker J_{L|K}$  and the target  $p$ -class group  $\text{Cl}_p L$ , into group theoretic properties of the *transfer* homomorphism  $T_{\mathfrak{M},H} : \mathfrak{M} \rightarrow H/H'$  from the Galois group  $\mathfrak{M} := \text{Gal}(F_p^2 K|K)$  of the second Hilbert  $p$ -class field  $F_p^2 K = F_p^1 F_p^1 K$  to the abelianization of the subgroup  $H := \text{Gal}(F_p^2 K|L)$ . The reciprocity map establishes an isomorphism between the targets,  $H/H' \simeq \text{Cl}_p L$ , and an isomorphism between the domains,  $\mathfrak{M}/\mathfrak{M}' \simeq \text{Cl}_p K$ , in particular, between the kernels  $\ker \tilde{T}_{\mathfrak{M},H} \simeq \ker J_{L|K}$ , of the *induced* transfer  $\tilde{T}_{\mathfrak{M},H} : \mathfrak{M}/\mathfrak{M}' \rightarrow H/H'$  and  $J_{L|K}$  [2]. In § 1.6, we introduce the Artin pattern AP of  $K$ , resp.  $\mathfrak{M}$ , as the collection of all targets and kernels of the homomorphisms  $J_{L|K}$ , resp.  $\tilde{T}_{\mathfrak{M},H}$ , where  $L$  varies over intermediate fields  $K \leq L \leq F_p^1 K$ , resp.  $H$  varies over intermediate groups  $\mathfrak{M}' \leq H \leq \mathfrak{M}$ . The Artin pattern has turned out to be sufficient for identifying a finite batch of candidates for the *second  $p$ -class group*  $\mathfrak{M}$  of  $K$ , frequently even a unique candidate.

**1.2. Relation rank of the  $p$ -tower group.** An invaluable precious aid in identifying the  *$p$ -tower group*, that is the Galois group  $G := \text{Gal}(F_p^\infty K|K)$  of the maximal unramified pro- $p$  extension  $F_p^\infty K$  of a number field  $K$ , has been elaborated by Shafarevich [54], who determined bounds  $\varrho \leq d_2 G \leq \varrho + r + \theta$  for the *relation rank*  $d_2 G := \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$  of  $G$  in terms of the  $p$ -class rank  $\varrho$  of  $K$ , the torsionfree Dirichlet unit rank  $r = r_1 + r_2 - 1$  of a number field  $K$  with signature  $(r_1, r_2)$ , and the invariant  $\theta$  which takes the value 1, if  $K$  contains a primitive  $p$ th root of unity, and the value 0, otherwise.

The derived length of the group  $G$  is called the *length*  $\ell_p K = \text{dl}(G)$  of the  $p$ -class tower of  $K$ . The metabelianization  $G/G''$  of the  $p$ -tower group  $G$  is isomorphic to the second  $p$ -class group  $\mathfrak{M}$  of  $K$  in § 1.1, which can be viewed as a two-stage approximation of  $G$ .

**1.3. Cover and Shafarevich cover.** Let  $p$  be a prime and  $\mathfrak{M}$  be a finite metabelian  $p$ -group.

**Definition 1.1.** By the *cover* of  $\mathfrak{M}$  we understand the set of all (isomorphism classes of) finite  $p$ -groups whose second derived quotient is isomorphic to  $\mathfrak{M}$ ,

$$\text{cov}(\mathfrak{M}) := \{G \mid \text{ord}(G) < \infty, G/G'' \simeq \mathfrak{M}\}.$$

By eliminating the finiteness condition, we obtain the *complete cover* of  $\mathfrak{M}$ ,

$$\text{cov}_c(\mathfrak{M}) := \{G \mid G/G'' \simeq \mathfrak{M}\}.$$

*Remark 1.2.* The unique metabelian element of  $\text{cov}(\mathfrak{M})$  is (the isomorphism class of)  $\mathfrak{M}$  itself.

**Theorem 1.3.** (Shafarevich 1964)

Let  $p$  be a prime number and denote by  $\zeta$  a primitive  $p$ th root of unity. Let  $K$  be a number field with signature  $(r_1, r_2)$  and torsionfree Dirichlet unit rank  $r = r_1 + r_2 - 1$ , and let  $S$  be a finite set of non-archimedean or real archimedean

places of  $K$ . Assume that no place in  $S$  divides  $p$ . Then the relation rank  $d_2G_S := \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^2(G_S, \mathbb{F}_p)$  of the Galois group  $G_S := \text{Gal}(K_S|K)$  of the maximal pro- $p$  extension  $K_S$  of  $K$  which is unramified outside of  $S$  is bounded from above by

$$d_2G_S \leq \begin{cases} d_1G_S + r & \text{if } S \neq \emptyset \text{ or } \zeta \notin K, \\ d_1G_S + r + 1 & \text{if } S = \emptyset \text{ and } \zeta \in K, \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

where  $d_1G_S := \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^1(G_S, \mathbb{F}_p)$  denotes the generator rank of  $G_S$ .

*Proof.* The original statement in [54, Thm. 6, (18')] contained a serious misprint which was corrected in [43, Thm. 5.5, p. 28].  $\square$

**Definition 1.4.** Let  $p$  be a prime and  $K$  be a number field with  $p$ -class rank  $\varrho := d_1\text{Cl}_pK$ , torsionfree Dirichlet unit rank  $r$ , and second  $p$ -class group  $\mathfrak{M} := G_p^2K$ . By the *Shafarevich cover*,  $\text{cov}(\mathfrak{M}, K)$ , of  $\mathfrak{M}$  with respect to  $K$  we understand the subset of  $\text{cov}(\mathfrak{M})$  whose elements  $G$  satisfy the following condition for their relation rank  $d_2G$ :

$$\varrho \leq d_2G \leq \varrho + r + \theta, \text{ where } \theta := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } K \text{ contains the } p\text{th roots of unity,} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (1.2)$$

**Definition 1.5.** A finite  $p$ -group or an infinite topological pro- $p$  group  $G$ , with a prime number  $p \geq 2$ , is called a  $\sigma$ -group, if it possesses a *generator inverting* (GI-)automorphism  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(G)$  which acts as the inversion mapping on the derived quotient  $G/G'$ , that is,

$$\sigma(g)G' = g^{-1}G' \quad \text{for all } g \in G. \quad (1.3)$$

$G$  is called a *Schur  $\sigma$ -group* if it is a  $\sigma$ -group with balanced presentation  $d_2G = d_1G$ .

**1.4.  $p$ -Group generation algorithm.** The descendant tree  $\mathcal{TR}$  of a finite  $p$ -group  $R$  [40] can be constructed recursively by starting at the root  $R$  and successively determining immediate descendants by iterated executions of the  *$p$ -group generation algorithm* [29], which was designed by Newman [50], implemented for  $p \in \{2, 3\}$  and  $R = C_p \times C_p$  by Ascione and collaborators [3, 4], and implemented in full generality for GAP [25] and MAGMA [13, 14, 34] by O'Brien [52].

**1.5. Construction of unramified abelian  $p$ -extensions.** Routines for constructing all intermediate fields  $K \leq L \leq F_{(c)}K$  between a number field  $K$  and the ray class field  $F_{(c)}K$  modulo a given conductor  $c$  of  $K$  have been implemented in MAGMA [34] by Fieker [22]. Here, we shall use this class field package for finding unramified abelian  $p$ -extensions  $L|K$  with conductor  $c = 1$  only. These fields are located between  $K$  and its Hilbert  $p$ -class field  $F_p^1K$ .

**1.6. The Artin pattern.** Let  $p$  be a fixed prime and  $K$  be a number field with  $p$ -class group  $\text{Cl}_p K$  of order  $p^v$ , where  $v \geq 0$  denotes a non-negative integer.

**Definition 1.6.** For each integer  $0 \leq n \leq v$ , the system  $\text{Lyr}_n K := \{K \leq L \leq \text{F}_p^1 K \mid [L : K] = p^n\}$  is called the  $n$ th layer of abelian unramified  $p$ -extensions of  $K$ .

**Definition 1.7.** For each intermediate field  $K \leq L \leq \text{F}_p^1 K$ , let  $J_{L|K} : \text{Cl}_p K \rightarrow \text{Cl}_p L$  be the *class extension*, which can also be called the number theoretic *transfer* from  $K$  to  $L$ .

- (1) Let  $\tau(K) := [\tau_0 K; \dots; \tau_v K]$  be the *multi-layered transfer target type* (TTT) of  $K$ , where  $\tau_n K := (\text{Cl}_p L)_{L \in \text{Lyr}_n K}$  for each  $0 \leq n \leq v$ .
- (2) Let  $\varkappa(K) := [\varkappa_0 G; \dots; \varkappa_v G]$  be the *multi-layered transfer kernel type* (TKT) or *multi-layered  $p$ -capitulation type* of  $K$ , where  $\varkappa_n K := (\ker J_{L|K})_{L \in \text{Lyr}_n K}$  for each  $0 \leq n \leq v$ .

**Definition 1.8.** The pair  $\text{AP}(K) := (\tau(K), \varkappa(K))$  is called the *abelian Artin pattern* of  $K$ .

Let  $p$  be a prime number and  $G$  be a pro- $p$  group with finite abelianization  $G/G'$ , more precisely, assume that the commutator subgroup  $G'$  is of index  $(G : G') = p^v$  with an integer exponent  $v \geq 0$ .

**Definition 1.9.** For each integer  $0 \leq n \leq v$ , let  $\text{Lyr}_n G := \{G' \leq H \leq G \mid (G : H) = p^n\}$  be the  $n$ th layer of normal subgroups of  $G$  containing  $G'$ .

**Definition 1.10.** For any intermediate group  $G' \leq H \leq G$ , we denote by  $T_{G,H} : G \rightarrow H/H'$  the *Artin transfer* homomorphism from  $G$  to  $H/H'$  [44, Dfn. 3.1], and by  $\tilde{T}_{G,H} : G/G' \rightarrow H/H'$  the *induced transfer*.

- (1) Let  $\tau(G) := [\tau_0 G; \dots; \tau_v G]$  be the *multi-layered transfer target type* (TTT) of  $G$ , where  $\tau_n G := (H/H')_{H \in \text{Lyr}_n G}$  for each  $0 \leq n \leq v$ .
- (2) Let  $\varkappa(G) := [\varkappa_0 G; \dots; \varkappa_v G]$  be the *multi-layered transfer kernel type* (TKT) of  $G$ , where  $\varkappa_n G := (\ker \tilde{T}_{G,H})_{H \in \text{Lyr}_n G}$  for each  $0 \leq n \leq v$ .

**Definition 1.11.** The pair  $\text{AP}(G) := (\tau(G), \varkappa(G))$  is called the *abelian Artin pattern* of  $G$ .

**Theorem 1.12.** Let  $p$  be a prime number. Assume that  $K$  is a number field, and let  $\mathfrak{M} := \text{G}_p^2 K$  be the second  $p$ -class group of  $K$ . Then  $\mathfrak{M}$  and  $K$  share a common abelian Artin pattern,

$$\text{AP}(\mathfrak{M}) = \text{AP}(K), \quad \text{that is} \quad \tau(\mathfrak{M}) = \tau(K) \text{ and } \varkappa(\mathfrak{M}) = \varkappa(K), \quad (1.4)$$

in the sense of componentwise isomorphisms.

*Proof.* A sketch of the proof is indicated in [49], [36, § 2.3, pp. 476–478] and [37, Thm. 1.1, p. 402], but the precise proof has been given by Hasse in [28, § 27, pp. 164–175].  $\square$

**Theorem 1.13.** *Let  $\mathfrak{M}$  be a finite metabelian  $p$ -group. Then all elements of the complete cover of  $\mathfrak{M}$  share a common abelian Artin pattern:*

$$\mathrm{AP}(G) = \mathrm{AP}(\mathfrak{M}), \quad \text{for all } G \in \mathrm{cov}_c(\mathfrak{M}). \quad (1.5)$$

*Proof.* This is the Main Theorem of [44, Thm. 5.4, p. 86].  $\square$

**Definition 1.14.** The first order approximation  $\tau^{(1)}K := [\tau_0K; \tau_1K]$  of the TTT, resp.  $\varkappa^{(1)}K := [\varkappa_0K; \varkappa_1K]$  of the TKT, is called the *index- $p$  abelianization data* (IPAD), resp. *index- $p$  obstruction data* (IPOD), of  $K$ .

**Definition 1.15.** The first order approximation  $\tau^{(1)}G := [\tau_0G; \tau_1G]$  of the TTT, resp.  $\varkappa^{(1)}G := [\varkappa_0G; \varkappa_1G]$  of the TKT, is called the *index- $p$  abelianization data* (IPAD), resp. *index- $p$  obstruction data* (IPOD), of  $G$ .

*Remark 1.16.* The IPOD and the TKT contain some standard information which can be omitted.

- (1) Since the zeroth layer (top layer),  $\mathrm{Lyr}_0G = \{G\}$ , consists of the group  $G$  alone, and  $T_{G,G} : G \rightarrow G/G'$  is the natural projection onto the commutator quotient with kernel  $\ker T_{G,G} = G'$ , resp.  $\ker \tilde{T}_{G,G} = G'/G' \simeq 1$ , we usually omit the trivial top layer  $\varkappa_0G = \{1\}$  and identify the IPOD  $\varkappa^{(1)}G$  with the first layer  $\varkappa_1G$  of the TKT.
- (2) In the case of an elementary abelianization of rank two,  $(G : G') = p^2$ , we also identify the TKT  $\varkappa(G)$  with its first layer  $\varkappa_1G$ , since the second layer (bottom layer),  $\mathrm{Lyr}_2G = \{G'\}$ , consists of the commutator subgroup  $G'$  alone, and the kernel of  $T_{G,G'} : G \rightarrow G'/G''$  is always *total*, that is  $\ker T_{G,G'} = G$ , resp.  $\ker \tilde{T}_{G,G'} = G/G'$ , according to the *principal ideal theorem* [23]. Thus we omit the well-known bottom layer  $\varkappa_2G = \{G/G'\}$ .

As mentioned in § 1.1, the TTT and TKT, frequently even the IPAD and IPOD, are sufficient for identifying the second  $p$ -class group  $\mathfrak{M} = G_p^2K$  of a number field  $K$ . This was discovered by ourselves in [35, 38, 37], and independently by Boston and collaborators [17, 15].

For finding the  $p$ -class tower group  $G = G_p^\infty K$ , however, we need the following non-abelian generalization, which requires computing extensions of relative degree  $p^2$  instead of  $p$  over  $K$ , and was introduced by ourselves in [41, 43, 45] and by Bartholdi, Bush, and Nover in [19, 9, 18, 51].

**Definition 1.17.**  $\tau^{(2)}K := [\tau_0K; (\tau^{(1)}L)_{L \in \mathrm{Lyr}_1K}]$  is called *iterated IPAD of second order* of  $K$ .

**Definition 1.18.**  $\tau^{(2)}G := [\tau_0G; (\tau^{(1)}H)_{H \in \mathrm{Lyr}_1G}]$  is called *iterated IPAD of second order* of  $G$ .

**Theorem 1.19.** *Let  $p$  be a prime number. Assume that  $K$  is a number field with  $p$ -class tower group  $G := G_p^\infty K$ . Then  $G$ ,  $G/G'''$  and  $K$  share a common iterated IPAD of second order,*

$$\tau^{(2)}G = \tau^{(2)}G/G''' = \tau^{(2)}K, \quad (1.6)$$

*in the sense of componentwise isomorphisms.*

*Proof.* In Theorem 1.12, we proved that  $\tau(\mathfrak{M}) = \tau(K)$ , and from Theorem 1.13 we know that  $\tau(G) = \tau(\mathfrak{M})$ . Thus we have, in particular,  $\tau^{(1)}G = [\tau_0G; \tau_1G] = [\tau_0K; \tau_1K] = \tau^{(1)}K$ , where  $\tau_0G = G/G' \simeq \text{Cl}_pK = \tau_0K$  and  $\tau_1G = (\tau_0H)_{H \in \text{Lyr}_1G} = (\tau_0L)_{L \in \text{Lyr}_1K} = \tau_1K$ , i.e.,  $\tau_0H = H/H' \simeq \text{Cl}_pL = \tau_0L$ , for all  $H \in \text{Lyr}_1G$  such that  $H = \text{Gal}(F_p^\infty K|L)$  with  $L \in \text{Lyr}_1K$ .

It remains to show that  $\tau_1H = (\tau_0U)_{U \in \text{Lyr}_1H} = (\tau_0M)_{M \in \text{Lyr}_1L} = \tau_1L$ . Let  $U \in \text{Lyr}_1H$ , then  $U = \text{Gal}(F_p^\infty K|M)$  for some  $M \in \text{Lyr}_1L$ , since  $G''' \trianglelefteq H'' \trianglelefteq U' \trianglelefteq H' \trianglelefteq U \trianglelefteq H$  and  $p = (H : U) = \#(H/U) = \#\text{Gal}(M|L) = [M : L]$ . Since  $U'$  is the smallest subgroup of  $U$  with abelian quotient  $U/U'$ , we must have  $U' = \text{Gal}(F_p^\infty K|F_p^1M)$  and thus  $\tau_0U = U/U' \simeq \text{Gal}(F_p^1M|M) \simeq \text{Cl}_pM = \tau_0M$ , as required. Observe that, in general, neither  $U \trianglelefteq G$  nor  $G''' \leq U'$ , and thus  $G = G_p^\infty K$  cannot be replaced by  $\mathfrak{M} = G_p^2K$ . We could, however, take  $G_p^3K \simeq G/G'''$  instead of  $G$ .  $\square$

### 1.7. Monotony on descendant trees.

**Definition 1.20.** Let  $p$  be a prime and  $G, H$  and  $R$  be finite  $p$ -groups.

The *lower central series* (LCS)  $(\gamma_n G)_{n \geq 1}$  of  $G$  is defined recursively by  $\gamma_1 G := G$ , and  $\gamma_n G := [\gamma_{n-1} G, G]$  for  $n \geq 2$ .

We call  $G$  an *immediate descendant* (or *child*) of  $H$ , and  $H$  the *parent* of  $G$ , if  $H \simeq G/\gamma_c G$  is isomorphic to the biggest non-trivial lower central quotient of  $G$ , that is, to the image of the natural projection  $\pi : G \rightarrow G/\gamma_c G$  of  $G$  onto the quotient by the last non-trivial term  $\gamma_c G > 1$  of the LCS of  $G$ , where  $c := \text{cl}(G)$  denotes the *nilpotency class* of  $G$ . In this case, we consider the projection  $\pi$  as a directed edge  $G \rightarrow H$  from  $G$  to  $H \simeq \pi G$ , and we speak about the *parent operator*,  $\pi : G \rightarrow \pi G = G/\gamma_c G \simeq H$ .

We call  $G$  a *descendant* of  $H$ , and  $H$  an *ancestor* of  $G$ , if there exists a finite *path* of directed edges  $(Q_j \rightarrow Q_{j+1})_{0 \leq j < \ell}$  such that  $G = Q_0$ ,  $Q_{j+1} = \pi Q_j$  for  $0 \leq j < \ell$ , and  $H = Q_\ell$ , that is,  $G = Q_0 \rightarrow Q_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow Q_{\ell-1} \rightarrow Q_\ell = H$ , where  $\ell \geq 0$  denotes the *path length*.

The *descendant tree* of  $R$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{T}R$ , is the rooted directed tree with root  $R$  having the isomorphism classes of all descendants of  $R$  as its *vertices* and all (child, parent)-pairs  $(G, H)$  among the descendants  $G, H$  of  $R$  as its *directed edges*  $G \rightarrow \pi G \simeq H$ . By means of formal iterations  $\pi^j$  of the parent operator  $\pi$ , each vertex of the descendant tree  $\mathcal{T}R$  can be connected with  $R$  by a finite path of edges:  $\mathcal{T}R = \{G \mid G = \pi^0 G \rightarrow \pi^1 G \rightarrow \pi^2 G \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \pi^\ell G = R \text{ for some } \ell \geq 0\}$ .

**Theorem 1.21.** Let  $\mathcal{T}R$  be the descendant tree with root  $R > 1$ , a finite non-trivial  $p$ -group, and let  $G \rightarrow \pi G$  be a directed edge of the tree. Then the abelian Artin pattern  $\text{AP} = (\tau, \varkappa)$  satisfies the following monotonicity relations (in componentwise sense)

$$\begin{aligned} \tau(G) &\geq \tau(\pi G), \\ \varkappa(G) &\leq \varkappa(\pi G), \end{aligned} \tag{1.7}$$

that is, the TTT  $\tau$  is an isotonic mapping and the TKT  $\varkappa$  is an antitonic mapping with respect to the partial order  $G > \pi G$  induced by the directed edges  $G \rightarrow \pi G$ .

*Proof.* This is Theorem 3.1 in [46]. □

This result yields the crucial break-off condition for recursive executions of the  $p$ -group generation algorithm, when we want to find a finite  $p$ -group with assigned Artin pattern.

**1.8. State of research.** The state of research on  $p$ -class field towers in the year 2008 was summarized in a succinct form by McLeman. He literally pointed out the following problem on p. 200 and p. 205 of his paper [33].

**Problem 1.22.** For odd primes  $p$ , there are no known examples of *imaginary quadratic* number fields with  $p$ -class rank 2 and either an infinite  $p$ -class tower or a  $p$ -class tower of length bigger than 2. For  $p = 3$ , the longest known finite towers are of length 2.

McLeman's survey on the state of the art changed when Bush and ourselves found the first *imaginary quadratic* fields having 3-class field towers of exact length 3 [20] on 24 August 2012.

The reason why McLeman formulated this open problem for *imaginary quadratic* fields with  $\varrho = 2$  is the well-known fact that  $\varrho = 1$  implies an abelian single-stage tower, and, on the other hand, the strong criterion by Koch and Venkov [31] that  $\varrho \geq 3$  enforces an infinite  $p$ -class tower for odd primes  $p \geq 3$ . The result in [31] sharpens the Golod-Shafarevich Theorem [26]. We shall come back to this criterion in § 8 on infinite 3-class towers.

However, until 2012, a much more extensive problem for finite  $p$ -class towers of any algebraic number field  $K$  was open.

**Problem 1.23.** No examples are known of number fields  $K$  having a 2-class tower of length  $\ell_2 K \geq 4$  or a 3-class tower of length  $\ell_3 K \geq 3$  or a  $p$ -class tower of length  $\ell_p K \geq 2$  for  $p \geq 5$ .

Since the joint discovery with Bush [20], we unsuccessfully tried to extend the result from  $p = 3$  to  $p = 5$  for nearly 4 years, as documented in the historical introduction of [46], until a lucky coincidence of several unexpected facts enabled a significant break-through on 07 April 2016:

- (1) Due to a bug in earlier MAGMA versions, the 5-capitulation type  $\varkappa(K)$  of the real quadratic field  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$  with discriminant  $d = 3812377$  could not be computed until MAGMA V2.21-11 for machines running Mac OS was released on 04 April 2016 and revealed  $\varkappa(K) = (100000)$ .
- (2) In the tree  $\mathcal{TR}$  of 5-groups with coclass 1, where  $R := \langle 5^2, 2 \rangle$  in the notation of the SmallGroups Library [10, 11], the crucial bifurcation [40] at the 4th mainline vertex  $\langle 5^5, 30 \rangle$  was unknown up to now. It gives rise to the candidates  $\langle 5^5, 30 \rangle - \#2; n, n \in \{10, 22, 23, 34, 35\}$ , for the 5-tower group  $G = G_5^\infty K$  of  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3812377})$ , in the notation of [24].
- (3) Whereas the smallest non-metabelian  $p$ -tower groups  $G = G_p^\infty K$ , for  $p \geq 3$  an odd prime, of *imaginary* quadratic fields  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$ ,  $d < 0$ , are of order  $|G| = p^8$  and coclass  $\text{cc}(G) = 3$ , those of *real* quadratic fields,  $d > 0$ , have order only  $|G| = p^7$ , coclass  $\text{cc}(G) = 2$ , and do not require

arithmetical computations of high complexity with extensions  $M|K$  of relative degree  $[M : K] = p^2$  for their justification. IPADs of first order are sufficient.

**1.9. Overview.** To avoid any misinterpretations of our notation, an essential remark must be made at the beginning: Throughout this article, we use the *logarithmic form* of type invariants of finite abelian  $p$ -groups  $A$ , that is, we abbreviate

the cumbersome power form of type invariants  $\left( \overbrace{p^{e_1}, \dots, p^{e_1}}^{r_1 \text{ times}}, \dots, \overbrace{p^{e_n}, \dots, p^{e_n}}^{r_n \text{ times}} \right)$ ,

with strictly decreasing  $e_1 > \dots > e_n$ , by writing  $(e_1^{r_1}, \dots, e_n^{r_n})$  with formal exponents  $r_i \geq 1$  denoting iteration. If  $e_1 < 10$ , which will always be the case in this paper, then we even omit the separating commas, thus saving a lot of space.

The layout of this survey article is the following. In § 2 we immediately celebrate our most recent sensational discovery of the long desired three-stage towers of 5-class fields. We continue with a recall of the meanwhile well-known three-stage towers of 3-class fields in § 3 and of 2-class fields in § 4. In § 5 we present the new phenomenon of *tree topologies* expressing the mutual location of second and third  $p$ -class groups on descendant trees of finite  $p$ -groups. An important remark has to be made in § 6 on the published form of the Shafarevich theorem on the relation rank of the  $p$ -tower group when the base field contains a primitive  $p$ th root of unity. Although the focus will mainly be on the novelty of three-stage towers, we use § 7 for communicating the first criteria for two-stage towers of  $p$ -class fields,  $\ell_p K = 2$ , with  $p \in \{5, 7\}$ , independently of the base field  $K$ . In § 8 we consider 3-class towers of three imaginary quadratic fields  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$  with 3-class group  $\text{Cl}_3 K$  of type  $(1^3)$ , which have infinite length  $\ell_3 K = \infty$ , according to [31]. We emphasize that we are far from having explicit pro-3 presentations of the 3-tower groups  $G = G_3^\infty K$  and we do not know the rate of growth for the orders of successive derived quotients  $G/G^{(n)} \simeq G_3^n K$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , of  $G$ . Even for the second 3-class groups  $\mathfrak{M} = G_3^2 K$ , we only have lower bounds for the orders.

## 2. THREE-STAGE TOWERS OF 5-CLASS FIELDS

*Experiment 2.1.* As documented in § 3.2.7, p. 427, of [37], we used the class field package by Fieker [22] in the computational algebra system MAGMA [34] for constructing the unramified cyclic quintic extensions  $L_i|K$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 6$ , of each of the 377 real quadratic fields  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$  with discriminants  $0 < d \leq 26\,695\,193$  and 5 class group of type  $(1^2)$ . However, at that early stage, we only computed the first component  $\tau(K)$  of the Artin pattern  $\text{AP}(K) = (\tau(K), \varkappa(K))$ , since  $\tau(K)$  uniquely determines  $\varkappa(K)$  for the ground state of the TKTs a.2 and a.3, according to Theorem 3.8 and Table 3.3 in [37, § 3.2.5, pp. 423–424]. In this manner, we were able to classify  $360 = 13 + 55 + 292$  cases with TKTs a.1, a.2, a.3, where the second 5-class group  $\mathfrak{M} = G_5^2 K$  is of coclass  $\text{cc}(\mathfrak{M}) = 1$ , listed in Table 3.4 of [37, § 3.2.7, p. 427], and to separate 14 cases with  $\text{cc}(\mathfrak{M}) = 2$ , discussed in [37, § 3.5.3, p. 449]. There remained 3 cases of first excited states of the TKTs a.2 and a.3, where the TTT  $\tau(K) = [21^3, (1^2)^5]$  is unable to distinguish between the TKTs. As mentioned at the end of § 1.8, the first MAGMA version

which admitted the computation of the TKTs for these difficult cases was V2.21-11, released on 04 April 2016. The result was TKT a.2,  $\varkappa(K) = (1, 0^5)$ , for  $d \in \{3\,812\,377, 19\,621\,905\}$  and TKT a.3,  $\varkappa(K) = (2, 0^5)$ , for  $d = 21\,281\,673$ .

After this initial number theoretic experiment with computational techniques of § 1.5, a translation from arithmetic to group theory with Artin's reciprocity law, described in § 1.1, maps the Artin pattern  $\text{AP}(K) = (\tau(K), \varkappa(K))$  of the real quadratic fields  $K$  to the Artin pattern  $\text{AP}(\mathfrak{M}) = (\tau(\mathfrak{M}), \varkappa(\mathfrak{M}))$  of their second 5-class groups  $\mathfrak{M} = G_5^2 K$ , which forms the input for the strategy of *pattern recognition via Artin transfers* by conducting a search for suitable finite 5-groups  $\mathfrak{M}$  having the prescribed Artin pattern  $\text{AP}(\mathfrak{M})$ . This is done by recursive iterations of the  $p$ -group generation algorithm in § 1.4 until a termination condition is satisfied, due to the monotony of Artin patterns on descendant trees in § 1.7.

The reason why we decided to take the Artin pattern  $\text{AP}(\mathfrak{M}) = (\tau(\mathfrak{M}), \varkappa(\mathfrak{M}))$ , with  $\tau_0 \mathfrak{M} = (1^2)$ ,  $\tau_1 \mathfrak{M} = [21^3, (1^2)^5]$ ,  $\varkappa_1 \mathfrak{M} = (1, 0^5)$ , of the first excited state of the TKT a.2 as the search pattern for seeking three-stage towers of 5-class fields was as follows. Firstly, since the derived subgroup  $\mathfrak{M}'$  for the ground state of TKT a.2 and a.3 is of type  $(1^2)$ , a result of Blackburn [12] ensures a two-stage tower with  $\ell_5 K = 2$  for these 347 cases. Secondly, the first excited state of the TKT a.3 does not admit a unique candidate for the second 5-class groups  $\mathfrak{M} = G_5^2 K$ , and finally, the 13 cases of 5-groups with TKT a.1 form a subgraph with considerable complexity of the coclass tree  $\mathcal{T}^1 R$  with root  $R := C_5 \times C_5$ . Therefore, we arrived at the following group theoretic results.

**Proposition 2.1.** *Up to isomorphism, there exists a unique finite metabelian 5-group  $\mathfrak{M}$  such that*

$$\tau_0 \mathfrak{M} = (1^2), \quad \tau_1 \mathfrak{M} = [21^3, (1^2)^5], \quad \text{and} \quad \varkappa_1 \mathfrak{M} = (1, 0^5). \quad (2.1)$$

**Theorem 2.2.** *The unique metabelian 5-group  $\mathfrak{M}$  in Proposition 2.1 is of order  $|\mathfrak{M}| = 5^6 = 15\,625$ , nilpotency class  $\text{cl}(\mathfrak{M}) = 5$ , coclass  $\text{cc}(\mathfrak{M}) = 1$ , and is isomorphic to  $\langle 5^6, 635 \rangle$  in the SmallGroups Library [10, 11]. It is a terminal vertex (leaf) on branch  $\mathcal{B}(5)$  of the coclass tree  $\mathcal{T}^1 R$  with abelian root  $R := \langle 5^2, 2 \rangle$  of type  $(1^2)$ . The group  $\mathfrak{M}$  has relation rank  $d_2 \mathfrak{M} = 4$  and its derived subgroup  $\mathfrak{M}'$  is abelian of type  $(1^4)$ .*

**Proposition 2.3.** *Up to isomorphism, there exist precisely five pairwise non-isomorphic finite non-metabelian 5-groups  $H_1, \dots, H_5$  whose second derived quotient  $H_j/H_j''$  is isomorphic to the group  $\mathfrak{M}$  of Theorem 2.2, for  $1 \leq j \leq 5$ .*

**Theorem 2.4.** *The five non-metabelian 5-groups  $H_j$  in Proposition 2.3 are of order  $|H_j| = 5^7 = 78\,125$ , nilpotency class  $\text{cl}(H_j) = 5$ , coclass  $\text{cc}(H_j) = 2$  and derived length  $\text{dl}(H_j) = 3$ , for  $1 \leq j \leq 5$ . They are isomorphic to  $\langle 5^7, n \rangle$  with  $n \in \{361, 373, 374, 385, 386\}$  in the SmallGroups Library [11], located as terminal vertices (leaves) on the descendant tree  $\mathcal{T} R$ , but not on the coclass tree  $\mathcal{T}^1 R$ , of the abelian root  $R = \langle 5^2, 2 \rangle$ ; in fact, they are sporadic and do not belong to any coclass tree. Their second derived subgroup  $H_j''$  is cyclic of order 5, and is contained in the centre  $\zeta_1 H_j$  of type  $(1^2)$ , i.e., each  $H_j$  is centre by metabelian.*

The groups  $H_j$  have relation rank  $d_2 H_j = 3$  and the abelianization  $H'_j/H''_j$  of their derived subgroup  $H'_j$  is of type  $(1^4)$ .

*Proof.* The detailed proof of Proposition 2.1, Theorem 2.2, Proposition 2.3, and Theorem 2.4 is conducted in [46, § 4]. A diagram of the pruned descendant tree  $\mathcal{T}_* R$  with root  $R = \langle 25, 2 \rangle$ , where the finite 5-groups  $\mathfrak{M}$  and  $H_j$  are located, is shown in [46, § 7, Fig. 1]. Polycyclic power commutator presentations of the groups  $H_j$  are given in [46, § 7] and a diagram of their normal lattice, including the lower and upper central series, is drawn in [46, § 7, Fig. 2].  $\square$

Now we come to the number theoretic harvest of the group theoretic results by translating back to arithmetic in the manner of § 1.1. Here, we exceptionally use the power form of abelian type invariants, and we dispense with formal exponents denoting iteration.

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $K$  be a real quadratic field with 5-class group  $\text{Cl}_5 K$  of type  $[5, 5]$  and denote by  $L_1, \dots, L_6$  its six unramified cyclic quintic extensions. If  $K$  possesses the 5-capitulation type*

$$\varkappa(K) \sim (1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0), \text{ with fixed point } 1, \quad (2.2)$$

*in the six extensions  $L_i$ , and if the 5-class groups  $\text{Cl}_5 L_i$  are given by*

$$\tau(K) \sim ([25, 5, 5, 5], [5, 5], [5, 5], [5, 5], [5, 5], [5, 5]), \quad (2.3)$$

*then the 5-class tower  $K < F_5^1 K < F_5^2 K < F_5^3 K = F_5^\infty K$  of  $K$  has exact length  $\ell_5 K = 3$ .*

**Corollary 2.6.** *A real quadratic field  $K$  which satisfies the assumptions in Theorem 2.5, in particular the Formulas (2.2) and (2.3), has the unique second 5-class group*

$$\mathfrak{M} = G_5^2 K \simeq \langle 15625, 635 \rangle \quad (2.4)$$

*with order  $5^6$ , class 5, coclass 1, derived length 2, and relation rank 4, and one of the following five candidates for the 5-class tower group*

$$G = G_5^\infty K = G_5^3 K \simeq \langle 78125, n \rangle, \quad \text{where } n \in \{361, 373, 374, 385, 386\}, \quad (2.5)$$

*with order  $5^7$ , class 5, coclass 2, derived length 3, and relation rank 3.*

*Proof.* For the proof of Theorem 2.5 and Corollary 2.6, the methods of §§ 1.2 and 1.3 come into the play. The cover of the metabelian 5-group  $\mathfrak{M} = G_5^2 K \simeq \langle 5^6, 635 \rangle$  consists of the six elements  $\text{cov}(\mathfrak{M}) = \{\mathfrak{M}, H_1, \dots, H_5\}$ , but since the relation rank of the metabelian group is too big, the Shafarevich cover of  $\mathfrak{M}$  with respect to any real quadratic number field  $K$  with  $\varrho = 2$  reduces to  $\text{cov}(\mathfrak{M}, K) = \{H_1, \dots, H_5\}$ , as explained in the proofs of [46, Thm. 6.1] and [46, Thm. 6.3].  $\square$

**Example 2.7.** The minimal fundamental discriminant  $d$  of a real quadratic field  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$  satisfying the conditions (2.2) and (2.3) is given by

$$d = 3\,812\,377 = 991 \cdot 3\,847. \quad (2.6)$$

The next occurrence is  $d = 19\,621\,905 = 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 307 \cdot 4\,261$ , which is currently the biggest known example, whereas  $d = 21\,281\,673 = 3 \cdot 7 \cdot 53 \cdot 19\,121$  satisfies (2.3) but has a different  $\kappa(K) \sim (200000)$ , without fixed point, and  $d = 27\,186\,289 = 13 \cdot 677 \cdot 3\,089$ , which is the last exceptional case in the range  $0 < d < 3 \cdot 10^7$ , has  $\tau(K) \sim [1^5, (1^2)^5]$  and  $\kappa(K) \sim (200000)$ .

### 3. THREE-STAGE TOWERS OF 3-CLASS FIELDS

Since we have devoted the preceding § 2 to a detailed explanation of the general way from a number theoretic experiment, which prescribes a certain Artin pattern, over the group theoretic interpretation of data and the identification of suitable groups, to the final arithmetical statement of a criterion for three-stage towers, we can restrict ourselves to number theoretic end results, in the sequel.

The situation in § 2 gives rise to a *finite* cover with  $\#\text{cov}(\mathfrak{M}) = 6$  and a Shafarevich cover  $\text{cov}(\mathfrak{M}, K)$ , with respect to a real quadratic field  $K$ , all of whose members  $H$  have the same derived length  $\text{dl}(H) = 3$ , which we shall call a *homogeneous* Shafarevich cover. These homogeneity considerations will be the guiding principle for a subdivision of the following results.

**3.1. Finite homogeneous Shafarevich cover.** The finiteness of the cover  $\text{cov}(\mathfrak{M})$  of descendants  $\mathfrak{M}$  either of  $\langle 3^5, 6 \rangle$  with types c.18, E.6, E.14 or of  $\langle 3^5, 8 \rangle$  with types c.21, E.8, E.9 has been proven up to a certain nilpotency class  $c = \text{cc}(\mathfrak{M})$  in [40] for section E, and in [43] for section c. In fact, the cardinality of the cover is expected to increase linearly with  $c$ , for sections E and c. We present an exemplary result with TKT  $\kappa$  of type E.9, where a *complex* quadratic base field  $K$  compels a homogeneous Shafarevich cover  $\text{cov}(\mathfrak{M}, K)$  of its second 3-class group  $\mathfrak{M} = G_3^2 K$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $K$  be a complex quadratic field with 3-class group  $\text{Cl}_3 K$  of type  $(1^2)$  and denote by  $L_1, \dots, L_4$  its four unramified cyclic cubic extensions. If  $K$  possesses the 3-capitulation type*

$$\kappa(K) \sim (2334), \text{ with two fixed points } 3, 4 \text{ and without a transposition,} \quad (3.1)$$

*in the four extensions  $L_i$ , and if the 3-class groups  $\text{Cl}_3 L_i$  are given by*

$$\tau(K) \sim (21, (j+1, j), 21, 21), \text{ for some } 2 \leq j \leq 6, \quad (3.2)$$

*then the 3-class tower  $K < F_3^1 K < F_3^2 K < F_3^3 K = F_3^\infty K$  of  $K$  has exact length  $\ell_3 K = 3$ .*

**Corollary 3.2.** *A complex quadratic field  $K$  which satisfies the assumptions in Theorem 3.1, in particular the Formulas (3.1) and (3.2) with  $2 \leq j \leq 6$ , has the second 3-class group*

$$\mathfrak{M} = G_3^2 K \simeq \langle 3^6, 54 \rangle (-\#1; 1 - \#1; 1)^{j-2} - \#1; n, \quad \text{where } n \in \{4, 6\}, \quad (3.3)$$

*with order  $3^{2j+3}$ , class  $2j+1$ , coclass 2, derived length 2, and relation rank 3, and the 3-class tower group*

$$G = G_3^\infty K = G_3^3 K \simeq \langle 3^6, 54 \rangle (-\#2; 1 - \#1; 1)^{j-2} - \#2; n, \text{ where } n \in \{4, 6\}, \quad (3.4)$$

with order  $3^{3j+2}$ , class  $2j+1$ , coclass  $j+1$ , derived length 3, and relation rank 2.

*Proof.* The statements of Theorem 3.1 and Corollary 3.2 arise by specialization from the more general [42, Thm. 6.1 and Cor. 6.1, pp. 751–753]. Here, we restrict to the single TKT E.9 and to the smaller range  $2 \leq j \leq 6$ , which has been realized by explicit numerical results already, as shown in Example 3.3.  $\square$

**Example 3.3.** The fundamental discriminant  $d$  of complex quadratic fields  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$ , with minimal absolute value  $|d|$ , satisfying the conditions (3.1) and (3.2), with increasing values of the parameter  $2 \leq j \leq 6$ , corresponding to excited states of increasing order of type E.9, are given by

$$d \in \{-9\,748, -297\,079, -1\,088\,808, -11\,091\,140, -99\,880\,548\}. \quad (3.5)$$

The associated second 3-class groups  $\mathfrak{M} = G_3^2 K$  form a periodic sequence of vertices on the coclass tree  $\mathcal{T}^2\langle 3^5, 8 \rangle$  drawn in the diagram [42, Fig. 4, p. 755]. The smallest example  $d = -9\,748$  with  $j = 2$ , corresponding to the ground state of type E.9, was the object of our joint investigations with Bush in [20, Cor. 4.1.1, p. 775].

**3.2. Finite heterogeneous Shafarevich cover.** In contrast to the previous § 3.1, a *real* quadratic base field  $K$  with TKT  $\varkappa$  of type E.9 is not able to enforce a homogeneous Shafarevich cover of its second 3-class group  $\mathfrak{M} = G_3^2 K$ . In this situation,  $\text{cov}(\mathfrak{M}, K)$  contains elements  $H$  of derived lengths  $2 \leq \text{dl}(H) \leq 3$ , and there arises the necessity to establish *criteria for distinguishing between two- and three-stage towers*. According to Theorem 1.13, the (simple) IPAD of first order,  $\tau^{(1)}K = [\tau_0 K; \tau_1 K]$ , which forms the first order approximation of the layered TTT  $\tau(K) = [\tau_0 K; \dots; \tau_v K]$ , is unable to admit a decision, and we have to proceed to abelian type invariants of second order. The computation of the *iterated IPAD of second order*,  $\tau^{(2)}K = [\tau_0 K; (\tau^{(1)}L)_{L \in \text{Lyr}_1 K}]$ , where  $\tau^{(1)}L = [\tau_0 L; \tau_1 L] = [\tau_0 L; (\tau_0 M)_{M \in \text{Lyr}_1 L}]$ , for each  $L \in \text{Lyr}_1 K$ , requires the construction of unramified abelian and non-abelian extensions  $M|K$  of relative degree  $[M : K] = 3^2$ , that is, of absolute degree  $[M : \mathbb{Q}] = 18$ , whereas in § 3.1, cyclic extensions  $L|K$  of absolute degree  $[L : \mathbb{Q}] = 6$  were sufficient. Due to the complexity of the scenario, we now prefer a restriction to the ground state.

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $K$  be a real quadratic field with 3-class group  $\text{Cl}_3 K$  of type  $(1^2)$  and denote by  $L_1, \dots, L_4$  its four unramified cyclic cubic extensions. If  $K$  possesses the 3-capitulation type*

$$\varkappa(K) \sim (2334), \text{ with two fixed points } 3, 4 \text{ and without a transposition,} \quad (3.6)$$

in the four extensions  $L_i$ , and if the 3-class groups  $\text{Cl}_3 L_i$  are given by

$$\tau(K) \sim (21, 32, 21, 21), \quad (3.7)$$

then each  $L_i$  has four unramified cyclic cubic extensions  $M_{i,1}, \dots, M_{i,4}$ , which are also unramified but not necessarily abelian over  $K$ , and the 3-class groups  $\text{Cl}_3 M_{i,j}$  admit the following decision about the length  $\ell_3 K$  of the 3-class tower of  $K$ :

$$\text{if } \tau(L_i) \sim (2^2 1, 21, 21, 21), \text{ for } i \in \{1, 3, 4\}, \quad (3.8)$$

then the 3-class tower  $K < F_3^1 K < F_3^2 K = F_3^\infty K$  of  $K$  has exact length  $\ell_3 K = 2$ ,

$$\text{but if } \tau(L_i) \sim (2^2 1, 31, 31, 31), \text{ for } i \in \{1, 3, 4\}, \quad (3.9)$$

then the 3-class tower  $K < F_3^1 K < F_3^2 K < F_3^3 K = F_3^\infty K$  of  $K$  has exact length  $\ell_3 K = 3$ .

**Corollary 3.5.** *A real quadratic field  $K$  which satisfies the assumptions in Theorem 3.1, in particular the Formulas (3.6) and (3.7), has the second 3-class group*

$$\mathfrak{M} = G_3^2 K \simeq \langle 3^7, n \rangle, \quad \text{where } n \in \{302, 306\}, \quad (3.10)$$

with order 2187, class 5, coclass 2, derived length 2, and relation rank 3, and, if Formula (3.9) is satisfied, the 3-class tower group

$$G = G_3^\infty K = G_3^3 K \simeq \langle 3^6, 54 \rangle - \#2; n, \quad \text{where } n \in \{2, 6\}, \quad (3.11)$$

with order 6561, class 5, coclass 3, derived length 3, and relation rank 2, otherwise the 3-class tower group coincides with the second 3-class group.

*Proof.* The statements of Theorem 3.4 and Corollary 3.5 have been proved in [41, Thm. 6.3, pp. 298–299] and [45, Thm. 4.2]. We point out that the remaining component  $\tau(L_2) \sim (2^2 1, 31^2, 31^2, 31^2)$  of the iterated IPAD of second order does not admit a decision, and that the common entry  $\text{Cl}_3 M_{i,1} \simeq (2^2 1)$  of all components  $\tau(L_i)$  corresponds to the Hilbert 3-class field  $M_{i,1} = F_3^1 K$  of  $K$ , whereas all other extensions  $M_{i,j}$  with  $j > 1$  are non-abelian over  $K$ .  $\square$

**Example 3.6.** The fundamental discriminants  $0 < d < 10^7$  of real quadratic fields  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$ , satisfying the conditions (3.6), (3.7), and (3.9), resp. (3.8), are given by

$$d \in \{342\,664, 1\,452\,185, 1\,787\,945, 4\,861\,720, 5\,976\,988, 8\,079\,101, 9\,674\,841\}, \quad (3.12)$$

resp.

$$d \in \{4\,760\,877, 6\,652\,929, 7\,358\,937, 9\,129\,480\}. \quad (3.13)$$

Evidence of a similar behaviour of real quadratic fields  $K$  with the first excited state of one of the TKTs  $\varkappa(K)$  in section E is provided in [47, Example 4.1].

**3.3. Infinite cover.** The infinitude of the cover,  $\#\text{cov}(\mathfrak{M}) = \infty$ , has been proven by Bartholdi and Bush [9] for the sporadic 3-group  $\mathfrak{M} = N := \langle 3^6, 45 \rangle$ , with  $\tau = [1^3, 1^3, 21, 1^3]$  and  $\varkappa = (4443)$  of type H.4\*, and it is conjectured for  $\mathfrak{M} = W := \langle 3^6, 57 \rangle$ , with  $\tau = [(21)^4]$  and  $\varkappa = (2143)$  of type G.19\*.

In the former case,  $\text{cov}(N)$  contains an infinite sequence of Schur  $\sigma$ -groups. Consequently, even the Shafarevich cover  $\text{cov}(N, K)$  with respect to complex quadratic fields  $K$  of 3-class rank  $\varrho = 2$  is infinite. Furthermore, it may be called *infinitely heterogeneous* in the sense of unbounded derived length [9]. This fact causes the considerable difficulty that *iterated IPADs of increasing order* are required for the distinction between the members of  $\text{cov}(N, K)$ . Already for separating the leading two members, we have to compute extensions  $M|K$  of absolute degree  $[M : \mathbb{Q}] = 54$  in the second layer over  $K$ , as the following theorem shows.

**Theorem 3.7.** *Let  $K$  be a complex quadratic field with 3-class group  $\text{Cl}_3 K$  of type  $(1^2)$  and denote by  $L_1, \dots, L_4$  its four unramified cyclic cubic extensions. If  $K$  possesses the 3-capitulation type*

$$\varkappa(K) \sim (4443), \text{ nearly constant, without fixed points, and containing a transposition,} \quad (3.14)$$

*in the four extensions  $L_i$ , and if the 3-class groups  $\text{Cl}_3 L_i$  are given by*

$$\tau(K) \sim (1^3, 1^3, 21, 1^3), \quad (3.15)$$

*then  $L_i$  has thirteen unramified bicyclic bicubic extensions  $M_{i,1}, \dots, M_{i,13}$ , for  $i \in \{1, 2, 4\}$ , but  $L_3$  has only four unramified abelian extensions  $M_{3,1}, \dots, M_{3,4}$  of relative degree  $3^2$ , which are also unramified but not necessarily abelian over  $K$ , and the 3-class groups  $\text{Cl}_3 M_{i,j}$  admit the following decision about the length  $\ell_3 K$  of the 3-class tower of  $K$ :*

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{if } \tau_2(L_i) \sim (2^2 1, (21^2)^{12}), \text{ for } i \in \{1, 2\}, \\ &\tau_2(L_3) \sim (2^2 1, (2^2)^3), \tau_2(L_4) \sim (2^2 1, (1^3)^3, (2^2)^3, (21)^6), \end{aligned} \quad (3.16)$$

*then the 3-class tower  $K < F_3^1 K < F_3^2 K < F_3^3 K = F_3^\infty K$  of  $K$  has exact length  $\ell_3 K = 3$ ,*

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{but if } \tau_2(L_i) \sim ((2^2 1)^4, (31^2)^9), \text{ for } i \in \{1, 2\}, \\ &\tau_2(L_3) \sim (2^2 1, (32)^3), \tau_2(L_4) \sim (2^2 1, (1^3)^3, (32)^3, (21)^6), \end{aligned} \quad (3.17)$$

*then the 3-class tower  $K < F_3^1 K < F_3^2 K < F_3^3 K \leq \dots \leq F_3^\infty K$  of  $K$  may have any length  $\ell_3 K \geq 3$ .*

**Corollary 3.8.** *A complex quadratic field  $K$  which satisfies the assumptions in Theorem 3.7, in particular the Formulas (3.14) and (3.15), has the second 3-class group*

$$\mathfrak{M} = G_3^2 K \simeq \langle 3^6, 45 \rangle, \quad (3.18)$$

with order 729, class 4, coclass 2, derived length 2, and relation rank 4, and, if Formula (3.16) is satisfied, the 3-class tower group

$$G = G_3^\infty K = G_3^3 K \simeq \langle 3^6, 45 \rangle - \#2; 2, \quad (3.19)$$

with order 6 561, class 5, coclass 3, derived length 3, and relation rank 2, otherwise the 3-class tower group is of order at least  $3^{11}$  and may be any of the Schur  $\sigma$ -groups  $\langle 3^6, 45 \rangle (-\#2; 1 - \#1; 2)^j - \#2; 2$  with  $j \geq 1$  and derived length at least 3.

*Proof.* The statements of Theorem 3.7 and Corollary 3.8 have been proved in [41, Thm. 6.5, pp. 304–306] and [45, § 4.4, Tbl. 4]. We point out that the first layer  $\tau_1(L_i) \sim ((21^2)^4, (2^2)^9)$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq 2$ ,  $\tau_1(L_3) \sim (21^2, (31)^3)$ ,  $\tau_1(L_4) \sim ((21^2)^4, (1^2)^9)$ , of the iterated IPAD of second order does not admit a decision.  $\square$

**Example 3.9.** The fundamental discriminants  $-30\,000 < d < 0$  of complex quadratic fields  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$ , satisfying the conditions (3.14), (3.15), and (3.16), resp. (3.17), are given by

$$d \in \{-3\,896, -25\,447, -27\,355\}, \quad (3.20)$$

resp.

$$d \in \{-6\,583, -23\,428, -27\,991\}. \quad (3.21)$$

#### 4. THREE-STAGE TOWERS OF 2-CLASS FIELDS

For historical reasons, the very first discovery of a  $p$ -class tower with three stages for  $p = 2$  merits attention. It is due to Bush [19] in 2003. He investigated complex quadratic fields  $K$  with 2-class rank  $\varrho = 2$ , since it is relatively easy to compute the unramified 2-extensions  $M|K$  in several layers with absolute degrees  $[M : \mathbb{Q}] \in \{4, 8, 16\}$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $K$  be a complex quadratic field with 2-class group  $\text{Cl}_2 K$  of type (21), denote by  $L_{1,1}, \dots, L_{1,3}$  its three unramified quadratic extensions, and by  $L_{2,1}, \dots, L_{2,3}$  its three unramified abelian quartic extensions, such that  $L_{2,3} = \prod_{i=1}^3 L_{1,i}$  is bicyclic biquadratic and  $L_{1,3} = \bigcap_{i=1}^3 L_{2,i}$ . If the 2-class groups  $\text{Cl}_2 L_{1,i}$ , resp.  $\text{Cl}_2 L_{2,i}$ , are given by*

$$\tau_1(K) = (2^2, 31, 1^3), \quad \tau_2(K) = (2^2, 21^2, 21^2), \quad (4.1)$$

*then  $L_{1,i}$  has three unramified quadratic extensions  $M_{i,1}, \dots, M_{i,3}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq 2$ , and  $L_{1,3}$  has seven unramified quadratic extensions  $M_{3,1}, \dots, M_{3,7}$ , which are also unramified but not necessarily abelian over  $K$ , and the 2-class groups  $\text{Cl}_2 M_{i,j}$  admit the following statement.*

$$\text{If } \tau_1(L_{1,1}) = ((21^2)^3), \tau_1(L_{1,2}) = (21^2, 41, 41), \tau_1(L_{1,3}) = ((21^2)^6, 2^2), \quad (4.2)$$

*then the 2-class tower  $K < F_2^1 K < F_2^2 K < F_2^3 K = F_2^\infty K$  of  $K$  has exact length  $\ell_2 K = 3$ .*

**Corollary 4.2.** *A complex quadratic field  $K$  which satisfies the assumptions in Theorem 4.1, in particular the Formulas (4.1) and (4.2), has the second 2-class group*

$$\mathfrak{M} = G_2^2 K \simeq \langle 2^7, 84 \rangle, \quad (4.3)$$

*with order 128, class 4, coclass 3, derived length 2, and relation rank 4, and one of the following two candidates for the 2-class tower group*

$$G = G_2^\infty K = G_2^3 K \simeq \langle 2^8, n \rangle, \quad \text{where } n \in \{426, 427\}, \quad (4.4)$$

*with order 256, class 5, coclass 3, derived length 3, and relation rank 3.*

*Proof.* The statements of Theorem 4.1 and Corollary 4.2 have essentially been proved by Bush in [19, Prop. 2, p. 321]. The derived subgroup of  $\langle 2^7, 84 \rangle$  is abelian of type  $(21^2)$   $\square$

## 5. SIMPLE AND ADVANCED TREE TOPOLOGIES

Let  $p$  be a prime,  $n > m \geq 1$  be integers, and  $K$  be a number field. Then both, the  $n$ th and  $m$ th  $p$ -class group of  $K$ , are vertices of the descendant tree  $\mathcal{T}G_p^1 K$  of the  $p$ -class group  $\text{Cl}_p K = G_p^1 K$  of  $K$ . The vertex  $R := G_p^1 K$  is the *abelian tree root*. Several invariants describe the mutual location of the vertices  $G_p^n K$  and  $G_p^m K$  in the tree topology.

**Definition 5.1.** By the *class increment*, resp. *coclass increment*, we understand the difference  $\Delta \text{cl}(n, m) := \text{cl}(G_p^n K) - \text{cl}(G_p^m K)$ , resp.  $\Delta \text{cc}(n, m) := \text{cc}(G_p^n K) - \text{cc}(G_p^m K)$ . The biggest common ancestor of  $G_p^m K$  and  $G_p^n K$  is called their *fork*, denoted by  $\text{Fork}(m, n)$ .

*Remark 5.2.* If we define the *logarithmic order* of a finite  $p$ -group  $G$  by  $\text{lo}(G) := \log_p \text{ord}(G)$ , and consider the situation in Definition 5.1, then  $\Delta \text{lo}(n, m) := \text{lo}(G_p^n K) - \text{lo}(G_p^m K)$ , which is called the *log ord increment*, satisfies the relation  $\Delta \text{lo}(n, m) = \Delta \text{cl}(n, m) + \Delta \text{cc}(n, m)$ .

The concepts actually make sense for  $p$ -class towers of length  $\ell_p K \geq 3$ . For two-stage towers, we have the following trivial fact.

**Proposition 5.3.** *For any  $n \geq 2$ , we have  $\Delta \text{cl}(n, 1) = \text{cl}(G_p^n K) - 1$ , and  $\text{Fork}(1, n)$  is given by the abelian tree root  $R = G_p^1 K$ .*

In Table 1 and 2, we summarize all tree topologies currently known for three-stage  $p$ -class towers of quadratic base fields  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$  with fundamental discriminant  $d$ . We put  $n = 3$  and  $m = 2$ , and use the abbreviations  $\Delta \text{lo} := \Delta \text{lo}(3, 2)$ ,  $\Delta \text{cl} := \Delta \text{cl}(3, 2)$ ,  $\Delta \text{cc} := \Delta \text{cc}(3, 2)$ . Forks are labelled with Ascione's identifiers [3, 4],  $N := \langle 3^6, 45 \rangle$ ,  $Q := \langle 3^6, 49 \rangle$ ,  $U := \langle 3^6, 54 \rangle$ ,  $W := \langle 3^6, 57 \rangle$ , avoiding the long symbols in angle brackets of the SmallGroups Library [10, 11]. Additionally, we define two ad hoc-identifiers  $Y := \langle 2^7, 84 \rangle$ , resp.  $Z := \langle 5^5, 30 \rangle$ , for  $p = 2$ , resp.  $p = 5$ . Four vertices on the mainline containing  $Q$ , resp.  $U$ , are denoted by  $Q_8 := \langle 3^7, 285 \rangle - \#1; 1$ ,  $Q_{10} := \langle 3^7, 285 \rangle(-\#1; 1)^3$ , resp.

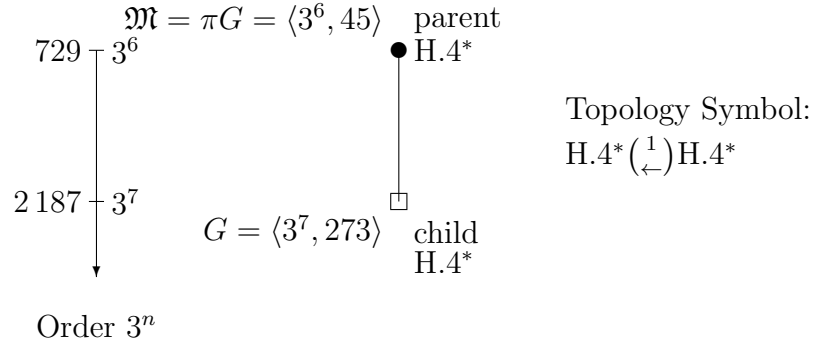
TABLE 1. Simple tree topologies of three-stage  $p$ -class towers

| $p$ | $d$         | TKT               | $\Delta_{\text{lo}}$ | $\Delta_{\text{cc}}$ | $\Delta_{\text{cl}}$ | Fork(2, 3)                      | Topology | $G''$        | Proof          | Ref. |
|-----|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------|--------------|----------------|------|
| 2   | -1 780      | B.8               | 1                    | 0                    | 1                    | $Y = \mathfrak{M} = \pi G$      | child    | (1)          | $\tau^{(2)}$   | [19] |
| 3   | 957 013     | H.4*              | 1                    | 0                    | 1                    | $N = \mathfrak{M} = \pi G$      | child    | (1)          | $\tau^{(2)}$   | [41] |
| 3   | 214 712     | G.19*             | 1                    | 0                    | 1                    | $W = \mathfrak{M} = \pi G$      | child    | (1)          | $\tau^{(2)}$   | [45] |
| 3   | 21 974 161  | G.19* $\uparrow$  | 4                    | 1                    | 3                    | $W = \mathfrak{M} = \pi^3 G$    | descent  | (1, 1, 1, 1) | $\tau^{(2)}$   | [45] |
| 3   | -3 896      | H.4*              | 2                    | 1                    | 1                    | $N = \mathfrak{M} = \pi G$      | bastard  | (1, 1)       | $\tau_*^{(2)}$ | [41] |
| 3   | ? -6 583    | H.4* $\uparrow$   | 5                    | 2                    | 3                    | $N = \mathfrak{M} = \pi^3 G$    | descent  | (2, 2, 1)    | $\tau^{(3)}$   | [45] |
| 3   | 534 824     | c.18              | 1                    | 0                    | 1                    | $Q = \mathfrak{M} = \pi G$      | child    | (1)          | $\tau^{(2)}$   | [43] |
| 3   | 1 030 117   | c.18              | 1                    | 0                    | 1                    | $Q = \mathfrak{M} = \pi G$      | child    | (1)          | $\tau^{(2)}$   | [43] |
| 3   | 13 714 789  | c.18 $\uparrow$   | 1                    | 0                    | 1                    | $Q_8 = \mathfrak{M} = \pi G$    | child    | (1)          | $\tau^{(2)}$   | [43] |
| 3   | 241 798 776 | c.18 $\uparrow^2$ | 1                    | 0                    | 1                    | $Q_{10} = \mathfrak{M} = \pi G$ | child    | (1)          | $\tau^{(2)}$   | [43] |
| 3   | 540 365     | c.21              | 1                    | 0                    | 1                    | $U = \mathfrak{M} = \pi G$      | child    | (1)          | $\tau^{(2)}$   | [43] |
| 3   | 1 001 957   | c.21 $\uparrow$   | 1                    | 0                    | 1                    | $U_8 = \mathfrak{M} = \pi G$    | child    | (1)          | $\tau^{(2)}$   | [43] |
| 3   | 407 086 012 | c.21 $\uparrow^2$ | 1                    | 0                    | 1                    | $U_{10} = \mathfrak{M} = \pi G$ | child    | (1)          | $\tau^{(2)}$   | [43] |

$U_8 := \langle 3^7, 303 \rangle - \#1; 1$ ,  $U_{10} := \langle 3^7, 303 \rangle (-\#1; 1)^3$ , using relative ANUPQ identifiers [24].

A question mark in front of a discriminant  $d$  indicates that the result is conjectural only. In Table 2, we denote the vertex  $\langle 3^7, 64 \rangle$  by  $P_7$ .

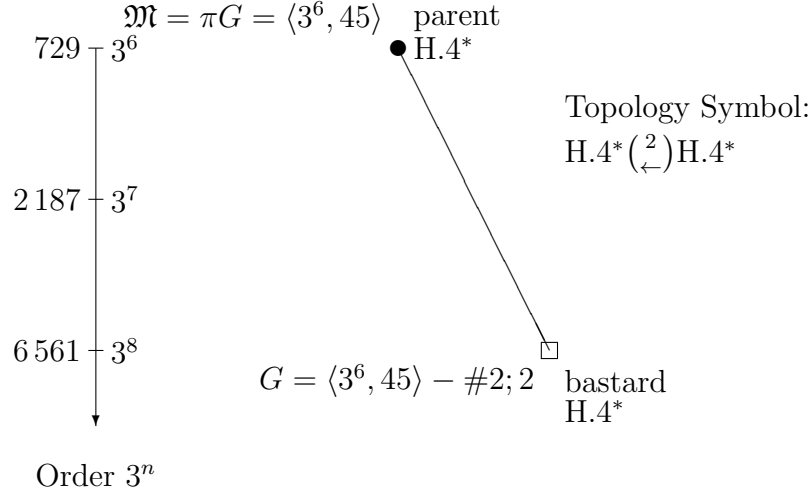
FIGURE 1. Simple tree topology of type parent – child



**Example 5.4.** The diagram in Figure 1 visualizes the *simple child topology* of the mutual location between the second and third 3-class group,  $\mathfrak{M} = \text{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_3^2 K | K)$  and  $G = \text{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_3^3 K | K)$ , where  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$  is the real quadratic field with discriminant  $d = 957\,013$ . The non-metabelian 3-group  $G = \langle 3^7, 273 \rangle$  is a child, that is an immediate descendant of step size  $s = 1$ , of the metabelian 3-group  $\mathfrak{M} = \langle 3^6, 45 \rangle$ . The coclass remains fixed,  $\text{cc}(G) = \text{cc}(\mathfrak{M}) = 2$ .

**Example 5.5.** The diagram in Figure 2 visualizes the *simple bastard topology* of the mutual location between the second and third 3-class group,  $\mathfrak{M} =$

FIGURE 2. Simple tree topology of type parent – bastard



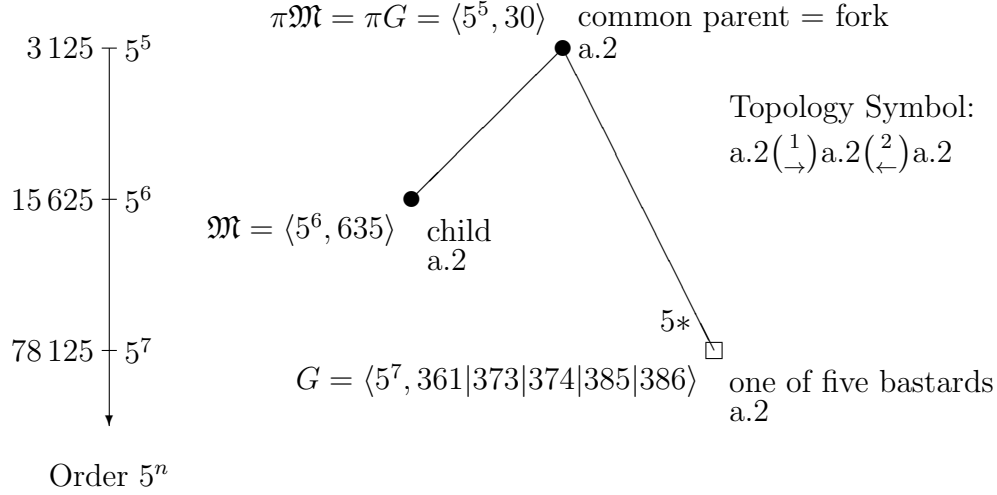
$\text{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_3^2 K|K)$  and  $G = \text{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_3^3 K|K)$ , where  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$  is the complex quadratic field with discriminant  $d = -3896$ . The non-metabelian 3-group  $G = \langle 3^6, 45 \rangle - \#2; 2$  is a bastard, that is an immediate descendant of step size  $s = 2$ , of the metabelian 3-group  $\mathfrak{M} = \langle 3^6, 45 \rangle$ . The coclass increases,  $3 = \text{cc}(G) > \text{cc}(\mathfrak{M}) = 2$ .

TABLE 2. Advanced tree topologies of three-stage  $p$ -class towers

| $p$ | $d$       | TKT               | $\Delta_{\text{lo}}$ | $\Delta_{\text{cc}}$ | $\Delta_{\text{cl}}$ | Fork(2,3)                           | Topology | $G''$           | Proof        | Ref. |
|-----|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|--------------|------|
| 5   | 3812377   | a.2               | 1                    | 1                    | 0                    | $Z = \pi\mathfrak{M} = \pi G$       | sibling  | (1)             | $\tau^{(1)}$ | [46] |
| 3   | -9748     | E.9               | 1                    | 1                    | 0                    | $U = \pi\mathfrak{M} = \pi G$       | sibling  | (1)             | $\tau^{(1)}$ | [20] |
| 3   | -297079   | E.9 $\uparrow$    | 2                    | 2                    | 0                    | $U = \pi^3\mathfrak{M} = \pi^3 G$   | fork     | (2)             | $\tau^{(1)}$ | [42] |
| 3   | -1088808  | E.9 $\uparrow^2$  | 3                    | 3                    | 0                    | $U = \pi^5\mathfrak{M} = \pi^5 G$   | fork     | (3)             | $\tau^{(1)}$ | [42] |
| 3   | -11091140 | E.9 $\uparrow^3$  | 4                    | 4                    | 0                    | $U = \pi^7\mathfrak{M} = \pi^7 G$   | fork     | (4)             | $\tau^{(1)}$ | [42] |
| 3   | -94880548 | E.9 $\uparrow^4$  | 5                    | 5                    | 0                    | $U = \pi^9\mathfrak{M} = \pi^9 G$   | fork     | (5)             | $\tau^{(1)}$ | [42] |
| 3   | 14252156  | c.18 $\uparrow$   | 2                    | 1                    | 1                    | $Q = \pi^2\mathfrak{M} = \pi^3 G$   | fork     | (2)             | $\tau^{(2)}$ | [43] |
| 3   | 174458681 | c.18 $\uparrow^2$ | 3                    | 2                    | 1                    | $Q = \pi^4\mathfrak{M} = \pi^5 G$   | fork     | (3)             | $\tau^{(2)}$ | [43] |
| 3   | 25283701  | c.21 $\uparrow$   | 2                    | 1                    | 1                    | $U = \pi^2\mathfrak{M} = \pi^3 G$   | fork     | (2)             | $\tau^{(2)}$ | [43] |
| 3   | 116043324 | c.21 $\uparrow^2$ | 3                    | 2                    | 1                    | $U = \pi^4\mathfrak{M} = \pi^5 G$   | fork     | (3)             | $\tau^{(2)}$ | [43] |
| 3   | ? 710652  | b.10              | 2                    | 2                    | 0                    | $P_7 = \pi\mathfrak{M} = \pi G$     | sibling  | (1,1)           | $\tau^{(2)}$ | [48] |
| 3   | ? 1535117 | d.23              | 2                    | 2                    | 0                    | $P_7 = \pi\mathfrak{M} = \pi G$     | sibling  | (1,1)           | $\tau^{(2)}$ | [48] |
| 3   | ? 8321505 | F.13*             | 1                    | 1                    | 0                    | $P_7 = \pi\mathfrak{M} = \pi G$     | sibling  | (1)             | $\tau^{(2)}$ | [48] |
| 3   | ? -225299 | F.7*              | 11                   | 7                    | 4                    | $P_7 = \pi\mathfrak{M} = \pi^5 G$   | fork     | $(3^2, 2, 1^3)$ | $\tau^{(2)}$ | [48] |
| 3   | ? -469787 | F.11              | 18                   | 12                   | 6                    | $P_7 = \pi^3\mathfrak{M} = \pi^9 G$ | fork     | $(5, 3^3, 2^2)$ | $\tau^{(2)}$ | [48] |

**Example 5.6.** The diagram in Figure 3 visualizes the *advanced siblings topology* of the mutual location between the second and third 5-class group,  $\mathfrak{M} = \text{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_5^2 K|K)$  and  $G = \text{Gal}(\mathbb{F}_5^3 K|K)$ , where  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$  is the real quadratic

FIGURE 3. Advanced tree topology of type siblings



field with discriminant  $d = 3812377$ . Exemplarily, the metabelian 5-group  $\mathfrak{M} = \langle 5^6, 635 \rangle$  is a child, that is an immediate descendant of step size  $s = 1$ , and the non-metabelian 5-group  $G = \langle 5^7, 361 \rangle$  is a bastard, that is an immediate descendant of step size  $s = 2$ , of the metabelian 5-group  $\langle 5^5, 30 \rangle$ , which is the common parent  $F := \pi\mathfrak{M} = \pi G$  of the siblings, called the *fork*. The coclass of  $G$  increases,  $2 = \text{cc}(G) > \text{cc}(\mathfrak{M}) = \text{cc}(F) = 1$ .

## 6. BIQUADRATIC BASE FIELDS CONTAINING THE $p$ TH ROOTS OF UNITY

**6.1. Dirichlet fields.** The first examples of fields, where a violation of the Shafarevich Theorem 1.3 in its misprinted version [54, Thm. 6, (18')] occurred, have been found by Azizi, Zekhnini and Taous [6], the violation itself has been recognized by ourselves.

A bicyclic biquadratic field  $k = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{d})$  with squarefree radicand  $d > 1$  is totally complex with signature  $(r_1, r_2) = (0, 2)$ . Thus, the torsionfree Dirichlet unit rank of  $k$  is  $r = r_1 + r_2 - 1 = 1$ . The particular fields with radicand  $d = p_1 p_2 q$ , where  $p_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ ,  $p_2 \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$  and  $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  are prime numbers such that  $\left(\frac{p_1}{p_2}\right) = -1$ ,  $\left(\frac{p_1}{q}\right) = -1$  and  $\left(\frac{p_2}{q}\right) = -1$ , have a 2-class group  $\text{Cl}_2 k$  of type  $(1^3)$  [6], and a 2-class tower of length  $\ell_2 k = 2$  [6]. Thus, the 2-class rank of  $k$  is  $\varrho = 3$ , and, since  $k$  trivially contains the second roots of unity, we have the invariant  $\theta = 1$ , with respect to the even prime  $p = 2$ . In [42], we have identified the possible 2-class tower groups  $G = G_2^\infty k$  of  $k$  as  $\langle 32, 35 \rangle$ ,  $\langle 64, 181 \rangle$ ,  $\langle 128, 984 \rangle$ , etc., visualized in the diagram [42, Fig. 2, p. 752]. A computation with the aid of MAGMA [34] shows that these metabelian 2-groups all have the maximal admissible relation rank  $d_2 G = 5$ , in accordance with our corrected Formula (1.1) in Theorem 1.3,  $d_2(G) \leq d_1 G + r + \theta = \varrho + r + \theta = 3 + 1 + 1 = 5$ , whereas the misprinted formula [54, Thm. 6, (18')] yields the contradiction  $5 = d_2 G \leq d_1 G + 1 = \varrho + 1 = 3 + 1 = 4$ .

In contrast, no violation could be found in our previous joint paper [5], where the possible 2-class tower groups

$$G = G_2^\infty k \in \{\langle 64, 180 \rangle, \langle 128, 985|986 \rangle, \langle 256, 6720|6721 \rangle, \dots\},$$

visualized in the diagram [5, Fig. 5, p. 1208], all have relation rank  $d_2 G = 4$  only.

**6.2. Eisenstein fields.** However, another series of violations showed up in our joint paper [7] on bicyclic biquadratic fields  $k = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3}, \sqrt{d})$  with squarefree radicand  $d > 1$  and 3-class group  $\text{Cl}_3 k$  of type  $(1^2)$ , which also have torsionfree Dirichlet unit rank  $r = 1$ , but 3-class rank  $\varrho = 2$  only. Due to the inclusion of  $\sqrt{-3} \in k$ , the fields contain the third roots of unity, and the invariant  $\theta$  takes the value 1, with respect to the odd prime  $p = 3$ .

In § 7, Example 7.2 of [7], we have seen that among the 930 suitable values of the radicand in the range  $0 < d < 50\,000$ , there occur 197 ( $\approx 21.2\%$ , e.g.  $d = 469$ ) with second 3-class group  $\mathfrak{M} = G_3^2 k \simeq \langle 81, 9 \rangle$  and 42 ( $\approx 4.5\%$ , e.g.  $d = 7453$ ) with  $\mathfrak{M} \simeq \langle 729, 95 \rangle$ . These 3-groups are of coclass  $\text{cc}(\mathfrak{M}) = 1$  and have relation rank  $d_2 \mathfrak{M} = 4$ , as a computation by means of MAGMA [34] shows. Since their cover  $\text{cov}(\mathfrak{M}) = \{\mathfrak{M}\}$  is trivial, which means that there does not exist a finite non-metabelian 3-group  $H$  of derived length  $\text{dl}(H) \geq 3$  such that  $\mathfrak{M}$  is isomorphic to the second derived quotient  $H/H''$ , the second 3-class group  $\mathfrak{M}$  must coincide with the 3-class tower group  $G = G_3^\infty k$  already.

The misprinted original version of the Theorem by Shafarevich [54] (Teorema 6, p. 83, in the Russian original, resp. Theorem 6, formula (18'), p. 140, in the English translation) enforces the relation rank  $d_2 \mathfrak{M} = d_2 G \leq d_1 G + 1 = \varrho + 1 = 2 + 1 = 3$ , which is obviously a contradiction to our result  $d_2 \mathfrak{M} = 4$  for more than a quarter (25.7%) of all fields  $k$  under investigation.

Fortunately, our corrected Formula (1.1) in Theorem 1.3,  $d_2(G) \leq d_1 G + r + \theta = \varrho + r + \theta = 2 + 1 + 1 = 4$ , is in accordance with the fact that these metabelian 3-groups have the maximal admissible relation rank  $d_2 \mathfrak{M} = 4$ .

Our Theorem 7.1 in [7] is the first indication of the misprint in [54] for an odd prime  $p = 3$ .

Since all second 3-class groups  $\mathfrak{M} = G_3^2 k$  in Theorem 8.3 and Theorem 8.7 of [7] have relation rank  $d_2 \mathfrak{M} = 5$ , they cannot coincide with the 3-tower group  $G = G_3^\infty k$ , and the corresponding 3-class field tower must have length  $\ell_3 k$  at least 3 whenever the coclass is  $\text{cc}(\mathfrak{M}) \geq 2$ .

## 7. TWO-STAGE TOWERS OF $p$ -CLASS FIELDS

The  $p$ -groups in the stem of Hall's isoclinism family  $\Phi_6$  [27] are two-generated metabelian groups  $G = \langle x, y \rangle$  of order  $|G| = p^5$ , nilpotency class  $\text{cl}(G) = 3$  and coclass  $\text{cc}(G) = 2$ . They do not exist for  $p = 2$ , but for odd prime numbers  $p \geq 3$  they uniformly arise as descendants of step size 2 of the extra special group  $G_0^3(0, 0)$  of order  $p^3$  and exponent  $p$  [36, Tbl. 1, p. 483] and thus form top vertices of the coclass graph  $\mathcal{G}(p, 2)$ . The reason for this behaviour is the nuclear rank  $\nu$  of  $G_0^3(0, 0)$ , which is only  $\nu = 1$  for  $p = 2$ , but  $\nu = 2$  for  $p \geq 3$  giving rise to a bifurcation from  $\mathcal{G}(p, 1)$  to  $\mathcal{G}(p, 2)$ .

The basic properties of the stem groups in  $\Phi_6$  have been discussed in [37, § 3.5, pp. 445–451], where we pointed out that the groups for  $p = 3$  are irregular in the sense of Hall, but all groups for  $p \geq 5$  are regular, since  $\text{cl}(G) = 3 < p$ . In [39, pp. 1–10], we used commutator calculus for determining the transfer kernel type  $\kappa(G)$  in the regular case  $p \geq 5$ , for the first time. The regularity admits the simplification that all transfers uniformly map to  $p$ th powers. A summary of the group theoretic results and arithmetical applications is as follows.

**Theorem 7.1.** (*Artin pattern of metabelian 5-groups with order  $5^5$ , coclass 2*)  
*The transfer kernel type (TKT)  $\kappa(G)$  of the 12 top vertices  $G$  with abelianization  $G/G' \simeq (1^2)$  of the coclass graph  $\mathcal{G}(5, 2)$ , which form the stem  $\Phi_6(0)$  of 5-groups in Hall’s isoclinism family  $\Phi_6$ , is given by Table 3. A partial characterization is given by the counter  $\eta$  of fixed point transfer kernels  $\kappa(i) = A$ , resp. abelianizations (transfer targets)  $\tau(i)$  of type  $(1^3)$ ,*

$$\eta = \#\{1 \leq i \leq 6 \mid \kappa(i) = A\} = \#\{1 \leq i \leq 6 \mid \tau(i) = (1^3)\}.$$

*An asterisk after the SmallGroup identifier [11] denotes a Schur  $\sigma$ -group.*

*Proof.* This is Theorem 2.2 in [39]. The characterization by the counter  $\eta$  is due to Theorem 3.8 and Table 3.3 of [37, § 3.2.5, pp. 423–424].  $\square$

In Table 3, each 5-group is identified primarily with the symbol given by James [30], who used Hall’s isoclinism families and regular type invariants [27], and Easterfield’s characterization of maximal subgroups [21]. The property is an invariant characterization of the TKT, whereas the multiplet  $\kappa$  depends on the selection of generators and on the numeration of maximal subgroups.

TABLE 3. TKT of twelve 5-groups of order  $5^5$  in  $\Phi_6$

| Identifier of the 5-group |                              | Transfer kernel type (TKT) |          |                    |                      |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------------------|
| James                     | SmallGroup                   | $\eta$                     | $\kappa$ | Cycle pattern      | Property             |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_a$         | $\langle 3125, 14 \rangle^*$ | 6                          | (123456) | (1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6) | identity             |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{b_1}$     | $\langle 3125, 11 \rangle^*$ | 2                          | (125364) | (1)(2)(3564)       | 4-cycle              |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{b_2}$     | $\langle 3125, 7 \rangle$    | 2                          | (126543) | (1)(2)(36)(45)     | two 2-cycles         |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{c_1}$     | $\langle 3125, 8 \rangle^*$  | 1                          | (612435) | (16532)(4)         | 5-cycle              |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{c_2}$     | $\langle 3125, 13 \rangle^*$ | 1                          | (612435) | (16532)(4)         | 5-cycle              |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{d_0}$     | $\langle 3125, 10 \rangle$   | 0                          | (214365) | (12)(34)(56)       | three 2-cycles       |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{d_1}$     | $\langle 3125, 12 \rangle^*$ | 0                          | (512643) | (154632)           | 6-cycle              |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{d_2}$     | $\langle 3125, 9 \rangle^*$  | 0                          | (312564) | (132)(456)         | two 3-cycles         |
| $\Phi_6(21^3)_a$          | $\langle 3125, 4 \rangle$    | 2                          | (022222) |                    | nrl. const. with fp. |
| $\Phi_6(21^3)_{b_1}$      | $\langle 3125, 5 \rangle$    | 1                          | (011111) |                    | nearly constant      |
| $\Phi_6(21^3)_{b_2}$      | $\langle 3125, 6 \rangle$    | 1                          | (011111) |                    | nearly constant      |
| $\Phi_6(1^5)$             | $\langle 3125, 3 \rangle$    | 6                          | (000000) |                    | constant             |

**Theorem 7.2.** (*Artin pattern of metabelian 7-groups with order  $7^5$ , coclass 2*)

The transfer kernel type (TKT)  $\kappa(G)$  of the 14 top vertices  $G$  with abelianization  $G/G' \simeq (1^2)$  of the coclass graph  $\mathcal{G}(7, 2)$ , which form the stem  $\Phi_6(0)$  of 7-groups in Hall's isoclinism family  $\Phi_6$ , is given by Table 4. A partial characterization is given by the counter  $\eta$  of fixed point transfer kernels  $\kappa(i) = A$ , resp. abelianizations (transfer targets)  $\tau(i)$  of type  $(1^3)$ ,

$$\eta = \#\{1 \leq i \leq 8 \mid \kappa(i) = A\} = \#\{1 \leq i \leq 8 \mid \tau(i) = (1^3)\}.$$

A star after the SmallGroup identifier [11] denotes a Schur  $\sigma$ -group.

*Proof.* This is Theorem 2.3 in [39]. The characterization by the counter  $\eta$  is due to Theorem 3.8 and Table 3.3 of [37, § 3.2.5, pp. 423–424]  $\square$

In Table 4, each 7-group is identified primarily with the symbol given by James [30], who used Hall's isoclinism families and regular type invariants [27], and Easterfield's characterization of maximal subgroups [21]. The property is an invariant characterization of the TKT, whereas the multiplet  $\kappa$  depends on the selection of generators and on the numeration of maximal subgroups.

TABLE 4. TKT of fourteen 7-groups of order  $7^5$  in  $\Phi_6$

| Identifier of the 7-group |                               | Transfer kernel type (TKT) |            |                          |                      |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| James                     | SmallGroup                    | $\eta$                     | $\kappa$   | Cycle pattern            | Property             |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_a$         | $\langle 16807, 7 \rangle^*$  | 8                          | (12345678) | (1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6)(7)(8) | identity             |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{b_1}$     | $\langle 16807, 11 \rangle^*$ | 2                          | (12753864) | (1)(2)(376845)           | 6-cycle              |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{b_2}$     | $\langle 16807, 12 \rangle^*$ | 2                          | (12637485) | (1)(2)(364)(578)         | two 3-cycles         |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{b_3}$     | $\langle 16807, 13 \rangle$   | 2                          | (12876543) | (1)(2)(38)(47)(56)       | three transpos.      |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{c_1}$     | $\langle 16807, 9 \rangle^*$  | 1                          | (61247583) | (1657832)(4)             | 7-cycle              |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{c_3}$     | $\langle 16807, 8 \rangle^*$  | 1                          | (61247583) | (1657832)(4)             | 7-cycle              |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{d_0}$     | $\langle 16807, 10 \rangle$   | 0                          | (21573846) | (12)(35)(47)(68)         | four transpos.       |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{d_1}$     | $\langle 16807, 15 \rangle^*$ | 0                          | (41238756) | (1432)(5867)             | two 4-cycles         |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{d_2}$     | $\langle 16807, 16 \rangle^*$ | 0                          | (81256347) | (18745632)               | 8-cycle              |
| $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{d_3}$     | $\langle 16807, 14 \rangle^*$ | 0                          | (71283465) | (17648532)               | 8-cycle              |
| $\Phi_6(21^3)_a$          | $\langle 16807, 4 \rangle$    | 2                          | (02222222) |                          | nrl. const. with fp. |
| $\Phi_6(21^3)_{b_1}$      | $\langle 16807, 6 \rangle$    | 1                          | (01111111) |                          | nearly constant      |
| $\Phi_6(21^3)_{b_3}$      | $\langle 16807, 5 \rangle$    | 1                          | (01111111) |                          | nearly constant      |
| $\Phi_6(1^5)$             | $\langle 16807, 3 \rangle$    | 8                          | (00000000) |                          | constant             |

For all isomorphism classes of  $p$ -groups in the stem  $\Phi_6(0)$  of the isoclinism family  $\Phi_6$ , some information on descendants and on the TKT can be provided independently of the prime  $p \geq 5$ .

**Theorem 7.3.** (Descendants and Artin pattern of  $p$ -groups  $G$  with  $|G| = p^5$ ,  $\text{dl}(G) = \text{cc}(G) = 2$ )

The descendant tree  $\mathcal{T}G$  and the transfer kernel type  $\kappa(G)$  of the  $p$ -groups  $G$  in the stem of  $\Phi_6$ , that is,  $p+7$  isomorphism classes of groups, can be described in the following uniform way, for any odd prime  $p \geq 5$ , where  $\nu$  denotes the smallest positive quadratic non-residue modulo  $p$ .

- (1) The first 4 groups are infinitely capable vertices  $G$  of the coclass graph  $\mathcal{G}(p, 2)$  giving rise to infinite coclass trees  $\mathcal{T}^2 G$  of descendants. Their TKT  $\varkappa(G)$  is nearly constant and contains at least one total transfer, indicated by a zero,  $\varkappa_i = 0$ .
- (a)  $\Phi_6(1^5)$  has constant TKT  $\overbrace{(0, \dots, 0)}^{p+1 \text{ times}}$ , entirely consisting of total transfers.
  - (b)  $\Phi_6(21^3)_a$  has nearly constant TKT  $(0, \overbrace{2, \dots, 2})^{p \text{ times}}$ , with fixed point  $\varkappa_2 = 2$ .
  - (c)  $\Phi_6(21^3)_{b_r}$  has nearly constant TKT  $(0, \overbrace{1, \dots, 1})^{p \text{ times}}$ , without fixed point, for  $r \in \{1, \nu\}$ .
- (2) The next 2 groups are finitely capable vertices  $G$  of the coclass graph  $\mathcal{G}(p, 2)$  giving rise to finite trees of descendants within this graph. However, they give rise to infinitely many descendants spread over higher coclass graphs  $\mathcal{G}(p, r)$ ,  $r \geq 3$ . Their TKT  $\varkappa(G)$  is a permutation whose cycle pattern entirely consists of transpositions.
- (a)  $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{b_{(p-1)/2}}$  has TKT  $(1, 2, \dots)$  with two fixed points, whose cycle pattern consists of  $\frac{p-1}{2}$  transpositions.
  - (b)  $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{d_0}$  has TKT  $(2, 1, \dots)$  without fixed points, whose cycle pattern consists of  $\frac{p+1}{2}$  transpositions, the first of them being  $(1, 2)$ .
- (3) The last  $p+1$  groups are Schur  $\sigma$ -groups, in particular, they are terminal vertices of the coclass graph  $\mathcal{G}(p, 2)$  without descendants. Their TKT  $\varkappa(G)$  is a permutation whose cycle pattern does not contain transpositions.
- (a)  $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_a$  has TKT  $(1, 2, \dots, p+1)$ , the identity permutation with  $p+1$  fixed points.
  - (b)  $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{b_r}$  has TKT  $(1, 2, \dots)$  with two fixed points, whose cycle pattern consists of cycles of length  $\frac{p-1}{\gcd(r, p-1)} > 2$ , for  $1 \leq r < \frac{p-1}{2}$ .
  - (c)  $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{c_r}$  has TKT  $(6, 1, 2, 4, \dots)$  with a single fixed point and  $\varkappa_6 = 5$ , for  $r \in \{1, \nu\}$ .
  - (d)  $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{d_r}$  has TKT without fixed points, for  $1 \leq r \leq \frac{p-1}{2}$ .

*Proof.* This is Theorem 2.1 in [39]. The TKT  $\varkappa$  depends on the presentations given by James [30].  $\square$

For  $p+2$  isomorphism classes of stem groups in  $\Phi_6$ , the TKT depends on number theoretic properties of the prime  $p \geq 5$  and we have given explicit results for  $p \in \{5, 7\}$  in Theorem 7.1 and 7.2. For the other five, in (1)(a–c) and (3)(a), the TKT can be given uniformly for all  $p$ .

Now we come to the number theoretic harvest of Theorem 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3.

**Theorem 7.4.** *Let  $K$  be an arbitrary number field with 5-class group  $\text{Cl}_5 K$  of type  $(1^2)$ , whose Artin pattern  $\text{AP}(K) = (\tau(K), \varkappa(K))$  is given by*

- (1) *either  $\varkappa(K) = (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)$  (identity) and  $\tau(K) = ((1^3)^6)$*
- (2) *or  $\varkappa(K) = (1, 2, 5, 3, 6, 4)$  (4-cycle) and  $\tau(K) = ((21)^4, (1^3)^2)$*
- (3) *or  $\varkappa(K) = (6, 1, 2, 4, 3, 5)$  (5-cycle) and  $\tau(K) = ((21)^5, (1^3))$*

- (4) or  $\varkappa(K) = (5, 1, 2, 6, 4, 3)$  (6-cycle) and  $\tau(K) = ((21)^6)$
- (5) or  $\varkappa(K) = (3, 1, 2, 5, 6, 4)$  (two 3-cycles) and  $\tau(K) = ((21)^6)$ .

Then  $K$  has a 5-class field tower  $K < F_5^1 K < F_5^2 K = F_5^\infty K$  of exact length  $\ell_5 K = 2$ .

*Proof.* According to Theorem 7.1 and Table 3, the five given alternatives for the transfer kernel type  $\varkappa(K)$  of the number field  $K$ , which are permutations whose cycle decomposition does not contain 2-cycles, uniquely determine the Schur  $\sigma$ -groups  $\langle 5^5, n \rangle$  with identifiers  $n \in \{14, 11, 8, 13, 12, 9\}$ , except for the ambiguity of the 5-cycle with two possibilities  $n \in \{8, 13\}$ , provided the second 5-class group  $\mathfrak{M} = G_5^2 K$  of  $K$  belongs to the stem of  $\Phi_6$ . The latter condition is ensured by the additional assignment of the transfer target type  $\tau(K)$ , all of whose components are of logarithmic order  $\log_5 \tau_i = 3$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq 6$ .

It remains to show that the metabelian Schur  $\sigma$ -group  $\mathfrak{M}$  cannot be isomorphic to the second derived quotient  $G/G''$  of a non-metabelian 5-group  $G$ , that is, the cover  $\text{cov}(\mathfrak{M}) = \{\mathfrak{M}\}$  is trivial. This is a consequence of [16, Lem. 4.10, p. 273], which shows that an epimorphism  $G \rightarrow G/G'' \simeq \mathfrak{M}$  onto the balanced group  $\mathfrak{M}$  is an isomorphism  $G \simeq \mathfrak{M}$ . Therefore, we have  $G_5^\infty K \simeq G_5^2 K$  and thus  $\ell_5 K = 2$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 7.5.** *Let  $K$  be an arbitrary number field with 7-class group  $\text{Cl}_7 K$  of type  $(1^2)$ , whose Artin pattern  $\text{AP}(K) = (\tau(K), \varkappa(K))$  is given by*

- (1) either  $\varkappa(K) = (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)$  (identity) and  $\tau(K) = ((1^3)^8)$
- (2) or  $\varkappa(K) = (1, 2, 7, 5, 3, 8, 6, 4)$  (6-cycle) and  $\tau(K) = ((12)^6, (1^3)^2)$
- (3) or  $\varkappa(K) = (1, 2, 6, 3, 7, 4, 8, 5)$  (two 3-cycles) and  $\tau(K) = ((12)^6, (1^3)^2)$
- (4) or  $\varkappa(K) = (6, 1, 2, 4, 7, 5, 8, 3)$  (7-cycle) and  $\tau(K) = ((12)^7, (1^3))$
- (5) or  $\varkappa(K) = (8, 1, 2, 5, 6, 3, 4, 7)$  (8-cycle) and  $\tau(K) = ((12)^8)$
- (6) or  $\varkappa(K) = (4, 1, 2, 3, 8, 7, 5, 6)$  (two 4-cycles) and  $\tau(K) = ((12)^8)$ .

Then  $K$  has a 7-class field tower  $K < F_7^1 K < F_7^2 K = F_7^\infty K$  of exact length  $\ell_7 K = 2$ .

*Proof.* According to Theorem 7.2 and Table 4, the six given alternatives for the transfer kernel type  $\varkappa(K)$  of the number field  $K$ , which are permutations whose cycle decomposition does not contain 2-cycles, uniquely determine the Schur  $\sigma$ -groups  $\langle 7^5, n \rangle$  with identifiers  $n \in \{7, 11, 12, 9, 8, 15, 16, 14\}$ , except for the ambiguity of the 7-cycle with two possibilities  $n \in \{9, 8\}$  and of the 8-cycle with two possibilities  $n \in \{16, 14\}$ , provided the second 7-class group  $\mathfrak{M} = G_7^2 K$  of  $K$  belongs to the stem of  $\Phi_6$ . The latter condition is ensured by the additional assignment of the transfer target type  $\tau(K)$ , all of whose components are of logarithmic order  $\log_7 \tau_i = 3$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq 8$ .

Similarly as in the proof of Theorem 7.4, we have  $G_7^\infty K \simeq G_7^2 K$  and thus  $\ell_7 K = 2$ .  $\square$

Unfortunately, the TTT alone does not permit a decision about  $\ell_p K$  with the aid of Theorem 7.4 or 7.5, in general. The reason is that the groups  $\langle 3125, 7 \rangle$  and  $\langle 3125, 10 \rangle$  resp.  $\langle 16807, 10 \rangle$  and  $\langle 16807, 13 \rangle$ , must be identified by means of their TKT. However, an exception where the TTT suffices is given in the following Corollary, concerning  $\Phi_6(2^2 1)_{c_r}$  for  $r \in \{1, \nu\}$  (Theorem 7.3).

**Corollary 7.6.** (*Criterion for a two-stage  $p$ -class tower in terms of the TTT*)  
 Let  $p \geq 5$  be a prime and let  $K$  be an arbitrary number field with  $p$ -class group  $\text{Cl}_p K$  of type  $(1^2)$ . If the TTT of  $K$  is given by  $\tau(K) = ((21)^p, (1^3))$ , or equivalently, if  $\eta = 1$ , then  $\ell_p K = 2$ .

**Example 7.7.** We succeeded in realizing all the metabelian Schur  $\sigma$ -groups in Theorem 7.4 and 7.5, with the single exception of  $\langle 16807, 7 \rangle$ , by second  $p$ -class groups  $\mathfrak{M} = G_p^2 K$  of imaginary quadratic fields  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$  with  $p$ -class tower length  $\ell_p K = 2$ , whose absolute discriminants  $|d|$  are given in tree diagrams of the top region of the coclass graph  $\mathcal{G}(5, 2)$  in Figure 14 and of  $\mathcal{G}(7, 2)$  in Figure 15 of the Wikipedia article on the Artin transfer (group theory) ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artin\\_transfer\\_\(group\\_theory\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artin_transfer_(group_theory))).

*Remark 7.8.* We did not touch upon 3-groups in the stem of  $\Phi_6$ . We only remarked that they are irregular in the sense of Hall, which causes anomalies in the analogue of Theorem 7.3 for  $p = 3$ : among the 3-groups in  $\Phi_6(0)$ , there are, firstly, only 3 instead of 4 infinitely capable vertices of  $\mathcal{G}(3, 2)$ , namely  $\langle 243, n \rangle$  with  $n \in \{3, 6, 8\}$ , and secondly, only 2 instead of 4 terminal Schur  $\sigma$ -groups, namely  $\langle 243, n \rangle$  with  $n \in \{5, 7\}$ . Similarly as in Theorem 7.3, there are 2 finitely capable vertices of  $\mathcal{G}(3, 2)$ , namely  $\langle 243, n \rangle$  with  $n \in \{4, 9\}$ . An analogue of Theorem 7.4 and 7.5 for the Schur  $\sigma$ -groups  $\langle 243, n \rangle$  with  $n \in \{5, 7\}$  has been proved in [37, Thm. 1.5, p. 407]. It confirms results by Scholz and Taussky [53] with a short and elegant argumentation.

## 8. INFINITE 3-CLASS TOWERS

In the final section § 7 of [41], we proved that the second 3-class groups  $\mathfrak{M} = G_3^2 K$  of the 14 complex quadratic fields  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$  with fundamental discriminants  $-10^7 < d < 0$  and 3-class group  $\text{Cl}_3 K$  of type  $(1^3)$  are pairwise non-isomorphic [41, Thm. 7.1, p. 307]. All these fields have an infinite 3-class tower with  $\ell_3 K = \infty$ , according to Koch and Venkov [31]. For the proof of this theorem in [41, § 7.3, p. 311], the IPADs of the 14 fields were insufficient, since three critical fields with discriminants

$$d \in \{-4\,447\,704, -5\,067\,967, -8\,992\,363\}$$

share the common accumulated (unordered) IPAD

$$\tau^{(1)} K = [\tau_0 K; \tau_1 K] = [1^3; (32^2 1; (21^4)^5, (2^2 1^2)^7)].$$

To complete the proof we had to use information on the occupation numbers of the accumulated (unordered) IPODs,

$$\varkappa_1 K = [1, 2, 6, (8)^6, 9, (10)^2, 13] \text{ with maximal occupation number } 6$$

for  $d = -4\,447\,704$ ,

$$\varkappa_1 K = [1, 2, (3)^2, (4)^2, 6, (7)^2, 8, (9)^2, 12] \text{ with maximal occupation number } 2$$

for  $d = -5\,067\,967$ ,

$$\varkappa_1 K = [(2)^2, 5, 6, 7, (9)^2, (10)^3, (12)^3] \text{ with maximal occupation number } 3$$

for  $d = -8\,992\,363$ .

In [45], we succeeded in computing the *second layer* of the transfer target type,  $\tau_2 K$ , for the critical fields by determining the structure of the 3-class groups

$\text{Cl}_3 M$  of the 13 unramified bicyclic bicubic extensions  $M|K$  with relative degree  $[M : K] = 3^2$  and absolute degree 18 with the aid of the computational algebra system MAGMA [34]. In accumulated (unordered) form, the second layer of the TTTs is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_2 K &= [32^5 1^2; 4321^5; 2^5 1^3, (3^2 21^5)^2; 2^4 1^4, 32^2 1^5; (2^2 1^7)^3, (2^3 1^5)^3] \text{ for } d = -4\,447\,704, \\ \tau_2 K &= [3^2 2^2 1^4; (3^2 21^5)^3; 32^2 1^5; (2^3 1^5)^8] \text{ for } d = -5\,067\,967, \text{ and} \\ \tau_2 K &= [32^2 1^6, (3^2 21^5)^3; 2^4 1^4, 32^2 1^5; 2^2 1^7, (2^3 1^5)^6] \text{ for } d = -8\,992\,363. \end{aligned}$$

These results admit incredibly powerful conclusions, which bring us closer to the ultimate goal of determining the precise isomorphism type of  $\mathfrak{M} = G_3^2 K$ . Firstly, they clearly show that the second 3-class groups of the critical fields are pairwise non-isomorphic, without using the IPODs. Secondly, the component with the biggest order establishes an impressively sharpened estimate for the order of  $\mathfrak{M} = G_3^2 K$  from below.

**Theorem 8.1.** (*Fine estimate of the order  $|\mathfrak{M}|$* )

*None among the maximal subgroups of the second 3-class group  $\mathfrak{M} = G_3^2 K$  for the critical complex quadratic fields  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$ , with  $d \in \{-4\,447\,704, -5\,067\,967, -8\,992\,363\}$ , can be abelian.*

*The logarithmic order of  $\mathfrak{M}$  is bounded from below by*

$$\log_3 \mathfrak{M} \geq 17 \text{ for } d = -4\,447\,704,$$

$$\log_3 \mathfrak{M} \geq 16 \text{ for } d = -5\,067\,967,$$

$$\log_3 \mathfrak{M} \geq 15 \text{ for } d = -8\,992\,363.$$

*Proof.* This is Theorem 6.2 in [45]. □

**Example 8.2.** More recently, it came to our knowledge that Leshin [32] has proved the infinitude  $\ell_3 N = \infty$  of the 3-class tower of the sextic  $S_3$ -field  $N = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3}, \sqrt[3]{D})$  with radicand  $D = 79 \cdot 97 = 7\,663 \equiv 4 \pmod{9}$ . This is the normal closure of the pure cubic field  $L = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{D})$  with three ramified primes 3, 79, 97, the last two of them congruent to 1 modulo 3 and thus split in  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$ .

However, the 3-class group  $\text{Cl}_3 N$  is of type  $(1^5)$  with 3-class rank  $\varrho = 5$  and thus gives rise to 121 unramified cyclic cubic extensions. Thus, although we have seen that the search for the second 3-class group  $G_3^2 K$  of  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-4\,447\,704})$  with  $\varrho = 3$  is very tough already, it still seems to be more promising than the corresponding search for  $G_3^2 N$ .

Finally, we remark that the pure cubic field  $L = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{7\,663})$  is of the type with a relative principal factorization in  $N|\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$  in the sense of Barrucand and Cohn [8], since the 3-class group  $\text{Cl}_3 L$  is of type  $(1^3)$  and the class number formula  $3^5 = h_3 N = \frac{u}{3} \cdot h_3 L^2 = \frac{u}{3} \cdot (3^3)^2 = u \cdot 3^5$  yields the index  $u = 1$  of the subfield units in  $N$ .

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NAGLERGASSE 53, 8010 GRAZ, AUSTRIA.

E-mail address: [algebraic.number.theory@algebra.at](mailto:algebraic.number.theory@algebra.at)

URL: <http://www.algebra.at>