

### 3-class field towers of exact length 3

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For an algebraic number field  $K$ , let  $P$  be the Galois group of the maximal unramified pro-3 extension  $F_3^\infty(K)$ , and  $G \simeq P/P''$  be the Galois group of the second Hilbert 3-class field  $F_3^2(K)$ . If  $K$  has 3-class group  $\text{Cl}_3(K) \simeq P/P'$  of type  $(3, 3)$  and the capitulation of  $K$  in its unramified cyclic cubic extensions  $L_1, \dots, L_4$  is of type  $\varkappa(K) = (2, 2, 3, 1)$ , resp.  $(1, 2, 3, 1)$ , then the 3-class numbers of  $L_1, \dots, L_4$  are  $(3^c, 27, 27, 27)$ , for some  $c \geq 4$ , and  $G$  is isomorphic to  $G_0^{c+1, c+2}(0, 0, \pm 1, 1)$ , resp.  $G_0^{c+1, c+2}(1, 0, -1, 1)$ , [2, Thm. 1.3, p. 405], with presentation defined in [2, § 3.3.3, p. 430].  $G$  is a metabelian 3-group of order  $3^{c+2}$  and class  $c$ . If  $K$  is a complex quadratic field then  $c \geq 5$  must be odd [2, § 3.4.2, p. 436] and  $P$  must have relation rank  $r(P)$  equal to the generator rank  $d(P) = 2$  [4, p. 146, eqn. (28)]. Such a group is called *balanced*. Since  $G$  has  $r(G) > d(G) = 2$ , the 3-class field tower of  $K$  cannot stop at the second stage. This is the first faultless disproof of the statement  $P \simeq G$ , claimed by Heider and Schmithals [1, p. 20] in full generality, independently of the value of  $c$ , and claimed by Scholz and Taussky [3, p. 41] at least for the particular instance  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-9748})$ , where  $\varkappa(K) = (2, 2, 3, 1)$  and  $c = 5$ . Furthermore, the 3-tower of  $K$  is actually of exact length 3, since the 3-tower group  $P = P_{r,c}$  is given as the class- $c$  quotient of  $L/S_{r,c}$ , where  $L$  is an infinite topological group with five generators, whose presentation is known explicitly,

$$\langle t, u, y, z, a \mid [[u, t], t] = 1, [[u, t], u] = 1, y^3 = 1, z^3 = 1, [y, z] = 1, [t, y] = 1, [u, y] = 1, [t, z] = 1, [u, z] = 1, t^a = u, u^a t u y [u, t]^{-1} = 1, [y, a] = 1, a^3 [[t, a], t] = z \rangle$$

and  $S_{r,c}$  is a closed subgroup generated by two elements,

$$y([t, a]^{(c-1)})^r [[t, a]^{(c-3)}, [t, a]] \text{ and } z[t, a]^{(c-1)},$$

involving the parameter  $r \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$  and the odd exponent  $c \geq 5$  in  $h_3(L_1) = 3^c$ . The 3-group  $P_{r,c}$  is balanced and non-metabelian of derived length 3, order  $3^{(3c+1)/2}$  and class  $c$ . The value of  $r$  is determined as  $r = \pm 1$  for  $\varkappa(K) = (2, 2, 3, 1)$ , and uniquely as  $r = 0$  for  $\varkappa(K) = (1, 2, 3, 1)$ .

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