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Czechoslovak Mathematical Journal, Vol. 71 (2021), No. 1, 269–281

Persistent URL: <http://dml.cz/dmlcz/148739>

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ON THE HILBERT 2-CLASS FIELD TOWER OF SOME
IMAGINARY BIQUADRATIC NUMBER FIELDS

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Received July 27, 2019. Published online October 27, 2020.

Abstract. Let $\mathbb{k} = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{d})$ be an imaginary bicyclic biquadratic number field, where d is an odd negative square-free integer and $\mathbb{k}_2^{(2)}$ its second Hilbert 2-class field. Denote by $G = \text{Gal}(\mathbb{k}_2^{(2)}/\mathbb{k})$ the Galois group of $\mathbb{k}_2^{(2)}/\mathbb{k}$. The purpose of this note is to investigate the Hilbert 2-class field tower of \mathbb{k} and then deduce the structure of G .

Keywords: 2-class group; imaginary biquadratic number field; capitulation; Hilbert 2-class field

MSC 2020: 11R11, 11R27, 11R29, 11R37

1. INTRODUCTION

Let k be an algebraic number field. For a prime number p , let $\text{Cl}_p(k)$ be the p -Sylow subgroup of the ideal class group $\text{Cl}(k)$ of k . Let $k_p^{(1)}$ be the Hilbert p -class field of k , that is the maximal unramified (including the infinite primes) abelian field extension of k whose degree over k is a p -power. Put $k_p^{(0)} = k$ and let $k_p^{(i)}$ denote the Hilbert p -class field of $k_p^{(i-1)}$ for any integer $i \geq 1$. Then the sequence of fields

$$k = k_p^{(0)} \subset k_p^{(1)} \subset k_p^{(2)} \subset \dots \subset k_p^{(i)} \dots$$

is called the *p -class field tower* of k . If $k_p^{(i)} \neq k_p^{(i-1)}$ for all $i \geq 1$ the tower is said to be infinite, otherwise the tower is said to be finite, and the minimal integer i satisfying the condition $k_p^{(i)} = k_p^{(i-1)}$ is called the *length of the tower*.

One of the most important and difficult problems in algebraic number theory is to decide whether a p -class field tower of a number field is finite or not. Furthermore,

the study of structure of the Galois group of the tower is an open problem. However, for $p = 2$ and $\text{Cl}_p(k)$ being isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, the Hilbert 2-class field tower of k terminates in at most two steps and the structure of the Galois group $G = \text{Gal}(k_2^{(2)}/k)$ is closely related to the capitulation problem in the unramified quadratic extensions of k , see [15]. Our contribution in this paper is to investigate the Hilbert 2-class field tower of some families of imaginary bicyclic biquadratic number fields $\mathbb{k} = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{d})$, where d is an odd negative square free integer, and to determine the structure of G involving the capitulation problem.

Note that we are looking forward to make a detailed study of some imaginary triquadratic number fields of the form $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_8, \sqrt{d})$ for which the 2-class group is related to the one of \mathbb{k} in many cases (see for example [4], Theorem 5.17). Note also that there are many works interested in such question for the fields $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-2}, \sqrt{-d})$, $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{-d})$ and $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{d})$, d always being an odd negative square free integer (see for example [3], [5], [7]), which are all subfields of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_8, \sqrt{d})$.

2. NOTATIONS AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Let k be a number field. Along this paper, we adopt the following notations:

- ▷ d : a negative odd square free integer,
- ▷ $\mathbb{k} = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{d})$,
- ▷ k^* : the absolute genus field of k ,
- ▷ \mathcal{O}_k : the ring of integers of k ,
- ▷ $k_2^{(1)}$: the Hilbert 2-class field of k ,
- ▷ $k_2^{(2)}$: the Hilbert 2-class field of $k_2^{(1)}$,
- ▷ G : the Galois group of $k_2^{(2)}/\mathbb{k}$,
- ▷ $[\mathfrak{a}]$: the class of an ideal \mathfrak{a} in \mathcal{O}_k ,
- ▷ $\text{Cl}(k)$: the class group of k ,
- ▷ $\text{Cl}_2(k)$: the 2-class group of k ,
- ▷ $h_2(k)$: the 2-class number of k ,
- ▷ $h_2(m)$: the 2-class number of a quadratic field $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{m})$,
- ▷ $N_{k'/k}$: the norm map of some extension k'/k ,
- ▷ N : the absolute norm of a quadratic extension over \mathbb{Q} ,
- ▷ E_k : the unit group of \mathcal{O}_k ,
- ▷ ε_m : the fundamental unit of $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{m})$, if $m > 1$ is a square-free integer,
- ▷ $(a/p)_4$: the biquadratic residue symbol,
- ▷ k^+ : the maximal real subfield of k , if k is a CM-field,
- ▷ W_k : the group of roots of unity contained in k ,

- ▷ $Q_k = (E_k : W_k E_{k^+})$ is Hasse's unit index, if k is a CM-field,
- ▷ $q(k) = (E_k : \prod_i E_{k_i})$ is the unit index of k , if k is multiquadratic, and k_i are the quadratic subfields of k .

Let us start by determining fields $\mathbb{k} = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{d})$ satisfying the condition that $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ is of type $(2, 2)$ (i.e., isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$). We will also deduce the group of units of \mathbb{k} . From [18], Proposition 4 we get the following results.

Proposition 2.1. *Let d be an odd negative square free integer. Then the rank of $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ equals 2 if and only if d takes one of the following forms:*

- (1) $d = -p$ for a prime $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$,
- (2) $d = -pq \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ for primes p and q such that $(2/p) = (2/q) = -1$,
- (3) $d = -pq \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ for primes p and q such that $(2/p) \neq (2/q)$,
- (4) $d = -p_1 p_2 q$ for primes $p_1 \equiv p_2 \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ and $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$,
- (5) $d = -q_1 q_2 q_3$ for primes $q_1 \equiv q_2 \equiv q_3 \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$.

The third assertion of the above proposition implies the following theorem which gives conditions to have $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ of type $(2, 2)$.

Theorem 2.2. *Let d be an odd negative square free integer. Then $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ is of type $(2, 2)$ if and only if d takes one of the following forms:*

- (1) $d = -pq$ for primes $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ and $q \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$ satisfying $(p/q) = -1$,
- (2) $d = -pq$ for primes $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ and $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ satisfying $(p/q) = -1$.

Proof. Let d be an odd negative square free integer such that $d \neq -1$. By the class number formula (see [20]), we have:

$$h_2(\mathbb{k}) = \frac{1}{2} q(\mathbb{k}) h_2(2) h_2(2d) h_2(d) = \frac{1}{2} q(\mathbb{k}) h_2(2d) h_2(d).$$

We have that $-d\varepsilon_2$ is not a square in $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$. In fact, if $-d\varepsilon_2 = \alpha^2$ for some α in $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$ then $N_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})/\mathbb{Q}}(-d\varepsilon_2) = -d^2 = N_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha)^2$. So, by [1], Proposition 3, $\{\varepsilon_2\}$ is a fundamental system of units of \mathbb{k} . It follows that $q(\mathbb{k}) = 1$ and

$$(1) \quad h_2(\mathbb{k}) = \frac{1}{2} h_2(2d) h_2(d).$$

We discuss each case of d appearing in the previous proposition. Recall that for any prime p' we have $(2/p') = -1$ if and only if $p' \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ or $p' \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$.

- ▷ Suppose that d takes the first form of Proposition 2.1. We have that $h_2(-2p)$ and $h_2(-p)$ are divisible by 4 (see [13]), so by the formula (1), $h_2(\mathbb{k})$ is divisible by 8. Hence this case is eliminated.

- ▷ The second item of Proposition 2.1 is equivalent to the statement: $d = -pq$ with $p \equiv q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ or $p \equiv q \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$. If $p \equiv q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$, then by [14], pages 354 and 356, $h_2(-pq)$ and $h_2(-2pq)$ are divisible by 4 and 8, respectively. If $p \equiv q \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$, then by [14], pages 348–350, $h_2(-pq)$ and $h_2(-2pq)$ are divisible by 8 and 4, respectively. It follows by the formula (1) that $h_2(\mathbb{k})$ is divisible by 16. Hence this case is eliminated.
- ▷ The third item of Proposition 2.1 is equivalent to the statement: $d = -pq$ with $[p \equiv 5 \pmod{8} \text{ and } q \equiv 7 \pmod{8}]$ or $[p \equiv 1 \pmod{8} \text{ and } q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}]$.
 Suppose that, $d = -pq$ with $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ and $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$. If $(p/q) = -1$, then by [14], pages 353 and [8], Corollary 19.6, we have $h_2(-2pq) = 4$ and $h_2(-pq) = 2$, so by the formula (1), $h_2(\mathbb{k}) = 4$. If $(p/q) = 1$, then again by [14], page 353 and [8], Corollary 19.6, $h_2(-2pq)$ and $h_2(-pq)$ are divisible by 8 and 4, respectively. Thus, by formula (1), $h_2(\mathbb{k})$ is divisible by 16. Similarly, we show that if $d = -pq$ with $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ and $q \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$, then $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k}) \simeq (2, 2)$ if and only if $(p/q) = -1$.
- ▷ The fourth item of Proposition 2.1 is equivalent to the statement: $d = -p_1p_2q$ with $p_1 \equiv p_2 \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ and $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$. Thus $h_2(\mathbb{k}) = \frac{1}{2}h_2(-2p_1p_2q)h_2(-p_1p_2q)$. So by the genus theory of quadratic number fields (see e.g. [14], page 315) $h_2(\mathbb{k})$ is divisible by 16.
- ▷ Again by the genus theory of quadratic number fields we eliminate the fifth item of Proposition 2.1 and show that $h_2(\mathbb{k})$ is divisible by 16. This completes the proof. □

By the previous proof we deduce the following corollary.

Corollary 2.3. *Let $d \neq -1$ be an odd negative square free integer and $\mathbb{k} = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{d})$. Then $E_{\mathbb{k}} = \langle -1, \varepsilon_2 \rangle$ if $d < -3$ and $E_{\mathbb{k}} = \langle \zeta_6, \varepsilon_2 \rangle$ if $d = -3$. Thus $q(\mathbb{k}) = Q_{\mathbb{k}} = 1$.*

By [12], one deduces easily the following result.

Proposition 2.4. *Let d be an odd negative square free integer. If p_1, \dots, p_r are the prime divisors of d , then the genus field of $\mathbb{k} = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{d})$ is*

$$\mathbb{k}^* = \mathbb{k}(\sqrt{p_1^*}, \dots, \sqrt{p_r^*})$$

with $p_i^* = (-1)^{(p_i-1)/2}p_i$. In particular, if d takes one of the forms of Theorem 2.2, we infer that $\mathbb{k}^* = \mathbb{k}(\sqrt{p}, \sqrt{-q}) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{p}, \sqrt{-q})$.

3. MAIN RESULTS

Let us begin by recalling some points that are necessary for what follows. Let Q_m , D_m , and S_m denote the quaternion, dihedral and semidihedral groups of order 2^m , respectively, where $m \geq 3$ and $m \geq 4$ for S_m . In addition, let A denote the Klein four-group. Each of these groups is generated by two elements x and y , and admits a representation by generators and relations as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \{x, y: x^2 = y^2 = 1, y^{-1}xy = x\}, \\ Q_m &= \{x, y: x^{2^{m-2}} = y^2 = a, a^2 = 1, y^{-1}xy = x^{-1}\}, \\ D_m &= \{x, y: x^{2^{m-1}} = y^2 = 1, y^{-1}xy = x^{-1}\}, \\ S_m &= \{x, y: x^{2^{m-1}} = y^2 = 1, y^{-1}xy = x^{2^{m-2}-1}\}. \end{aligned}$$

We recall some well known properties of 2-groups G such that G/G' is of type $(2, 2)$, where G' denotes the commutator subgroup of G (see for more details [15], pages 272–273 and [9], Chapter 5).

Let k be an algebraic number field and $\text{Cl}_2(k)$ the 2-Sylow subgroup of its ideal class group $\text{Cl}(k)$. Let $k_2^{(1)}$ (or $k_2^{(2)}$) be the first (or second) Hilbert 2-class field of k , respectively. Put $G = \text{Gal}(k_2^{(2)}/k)$, then if G' denotes the commutator subgroup of G , we have by the class field theory $G' \simeq \text{Gal}(k_2^{(2)}/k_2^{(1)})$ and $G/G' \simeq \text{Gal}(k_2^{(1)}/k) \simeq \text{Cl}_2(k)$. Assume in all what follows that $\text{Cl}_2(k)$ is of type $(2, 2)$, then it is known that G is isomorphic to A , Q_m , D_m or S_m .

Let x and y be as above. Note that the commutator subgroup G' of G is always cyclic and $G' = \langle x^2 \rangle$. The group G possesses exactly three subgroups of index 2 which are

$$H_1 = \langle x \rangle, \quad H_2 = \langle x^2, y \rangle, \quad H_3 = \langle x^2, xy \rangle.$$

Furthermore, if G is isomorphic to A (or Q_3), then the subgroups H_i are cyclic of order 2 (or 4), respectively. If G is isomorphic to Q_m with $m > 3$, D_m or S_m , then H_1 is cyclic and H_i/H'_i is of type $(2, 2)$ for $i \in \{2, 3\}$, where H'_i is the commutator subgroup of H_i .

Let F_i be the subfield of $k_2^{(2)}$ fixed by H_i , where $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$. It is clear that F_1 has a cyclic 2-class group and $k_2^{(2)}$ is exactly the Hilbert 2-class field of F_1 (see the proof of Corollary 3.8 below). If $k_2^{(2)} \neq k_2^{(1)}$, $\langle x^4 \rangle$ is the unique subgroup of G' of index 2. Let L (L is defined only if $k_2^{(2)} \neq k_2^{(1)}$) be the subfield of $k_2^{(2)}$ fixed by $\langle x^4 \rangle$. Then F_1 , F_2 and F_3 are the three quadratic subextensions of $k_2^{(1)}/k$ and L is the unique subfield of $k_2^{(2)}$ such that L/k is a nonabelian Galois extension of degree 8. We first recall the definition of Taussky's conditions A and B , see [19].

Definition 3.1. Let k' be a cyclic unramified extension of a number field k and let j denote the basic homomorphism: $j_{k'/k}: \text{Cl}(k) \rightarrow \text{Cl}(k')$, induced by the extension of ideals from k to k' . Then:

- (1) k'/k satisfies condition A if and only if $|\ker(j_{k'/k}) \cap N_{k'/k}(\text{Cl}(k'))| > 1$.
- (2) k'/k satisfies condition B if and only if $|\ker(j_{k'/k}) \cap N_{k'/k}(\text{Cl}(k'))| = 1$.

Set $j_{F_i/k} = j_i$, $i = 1, 2, 3$. Then we have:

Theorem 3.2 ([15], Theorem 2).

- (1) If $k_2^{(1)} = k_2^{(2)}$, then F_i satisfy condition A , $|\ker(j_i)| = 4$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$ and G is abelian of type $(2, 2)$.
- (2) If $\text{Gal}(L/k) \simeq Q_3$, then F_i satisfy condition A and $|\ker(j_i)| = 2$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$ and $G \simeq Q_3$.
- (3) If $\text{Gal}(L/k) \simeq D_3$, then F_2, F_3 satisfy condition B and $|\ker j_2| = |\ker j_3| = 2$. Furthermore, if F_1 satisfies condition B , then $|\ker j_1| = 2$ and $G \simeq S_m$; if F_1 satisfies condition A and $|\ker j_1| = 2$ then $G \simeq Q_m$. If F_1 satisfies condition A and $|\ker j_1| = 4$ then $G \simeq D_m$.

These results are summarized in the following table.

$ \ker j_1 (A/B)$	$ \ker j_2 (A/B)$	$ \ker j_3 (A/B)$	G
4	4	4	$(2, 2)$
$2A$	$2A$	$2A$	Q_3
4	$2B$	$2B$	$D_m, m \geq 3$
$2A$	$2B$	$2B$	$Q_m, m > 3$
$2B$	$2B$	$2B$	$S_m, m > 3$

By Theorem 3.2 and group theoretic properties quoted in the beginning of this section, one can easily deduce the following remark.

Remark 3.3. The 2-class groups of the three unramified quadratic extensions of k are cyclic if and only if $k^{(1)} = k^{(2)}$ or $k^{(1)} \neq k^{(2)}$ and $G \simeq Q_3$. In the other cases the 2-class group of only one unramified quadratic extension is cyclic and the other are of type $(2, 2)$.

3.1. First case. In this subsection, we suppose that d takes the second form of Theorem 2.2, i.e.,

$$d = -pq \quad \text{with} \quad p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}, \quad q \equiv 3 \pmod{8} \quad \text{and} \quad \left(\frac{p}{q}\right) = -1.$$

Let \mathbb{k}^* be the genus field of \mathbb{k} and k_1, k_2 two other unramified quadratic extensions of \mathbb{k} .

Lemma 3.4. *Let $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$, $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ and $\mathbb{k}^* = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{p}, \sqrt{-q})$. Then we have:*

- (1) $\{\varepsilon_p, \varepsilon_2, \sqrt{\varepsilon_{2p}}\}$ is a fundamental system of units of \mathbb{k}^* if and only if the norm of ε_{2p} is 1.
- (2) $\{\varepsilon_{2p}, \varepsilon_2, \sqrt{\varepsilon_p \varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_{2p}}\}$ is a fundamental system of units of \mathbb{k}^* if and only if the norm of ε_{2p} is -1 .

Proof. Note that the norms of ε_2 and ε_p equal -1 . If the norm of ε_{2p} equals 1, then by [7], Théorème 3, $\{\varepsilon_p, \varepsilon_2, \sqrt{\varepsilon_{2p}}\}$ is a fundamental system of units of $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{p})$. It follows by [2], Proposition 20, that $\{\varepsilon_p, \varepsilon_2, \sqrt{\varepsilon_{2p}}\}$ is a fundamental system of units of \mathbb{k}^* . Similarly, if the norm of ε_{2p} equals -1 , then $\{\sqrt{\varepsilon_p \varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_{2p}}, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_{2p}\}$ is a fundamental system of units of $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{p})$ and by [2], Proposition 22, $\{\sqrt{\varepsilon_p \varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_{2p}}, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_{2p}\}$ is a fundamental system of units of \mathbb{k}^* . \square

Lemma 3.5. *Let $d = -pq$ with $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ and $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$. We have: $N_{\mathbb{k}^*/\mathbb{k}}(\sqrt{\varepsilon_p \varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_{2p}}) = \pm \varepsilon_2$ if $N(\varepsilon_{2p}) = -1$ and $N_{\mathbb{k}^*/\mathbb{k}}(\sqrt{\varepsilon_{2p}}) = \pm 1$ if $N(\varepsilon_{2p}) = 1$.*

Proof. We have $N_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p})/\mathbb{Q}}(\varepsilon_p) = -1$. If $N(\varepsilon_{2p}) = -1$, then:

$$\begin{aligned} N_{\mathbb{k}^*/\mathbb{k}}(\varepsilon_p \varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_{2p}) &= N_{\mathbb{k}^*/\mathbb{k}}(\varepsilon_p) N_{\mathbb{k}^*/\mathbb{k}}(\varepsilon_2) N_{\mathbb{k}^*/\mathbb{k}}(\varepsilon_{2p}) \\ &= \varepsilon_2^2 N_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p})/\mathbb{Q}}(\varepsilon_p) N_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2p})/\mathbb{Q}}(\varepsilon_{2p}) = \varepsilon_2^2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $N_{\mathbb{k}^*/\mathbb{k}}(\sqrt{\varepsilon_p \varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_{2p}}) = \pm \varepsilon_2$. Similarly, if $N(\varepsilon_{2p}) = 1$ then $N_{\mathbb{k}^*/\mathbb{k}}(\sqrt{\varepsilon_{2p}}) = \pm 1$. \square

Proposition 3.6. *Let $d = -pq$ be such that $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$, $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ and $(p/q) = -1$. Let \mathcal{P}_1 and \mathcal{P}_2 be two prime ideals of $\mathbb{k} = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{d})$ lying over p . Then $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ is generated by $[\mathcal{P}_1]$ and $[\mathcal{P}_2]$. Furthermore:*

- (1) *If the norm of ε_{2p} is -1 , then only $[1]$ and $[\mathcal{P}_1 \mathcal{P}_2]$ capitulate in \mathbb{k}^* .*
- (2) *If the norm of ε_{2p} is 1, then all the classes of $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ capitulate in \mathbb{k}^* .*

Proof. Let \mathfrak{p} be the prime ideal of $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-pq})$ lying over p . We claim that \mathfrak{p} is not principal, as otherwise, with some $\alpha = x + y\sqrt{-pq} \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-pq})}$, we would get $\mathfrak{p} = (\alpha) = (x + y\sqrt{-pq})$, so $N(\mathfrak{p}) = (x^2 + y^2 pq)$, yielding that $\pm p = x^2 + y^2 pq$. Thus p divides x , hence $\pm 1 = a^2 p + y^2 q$, where $x = pa$. We deduce that $(q/p) = (p/q) = 1$, which contradicts the fact that $(p/q) = -1$.

On the other hand, as $N_{\mathbb{k}/\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-pq})}(\mathcal{P}_i) = \mathfrak{p}$, so the class $[\mathcal{P}_i]$ is not trivial. To make sure that \mathcal{P}_1 and \mathcal{P}_2 are not in the same coset, it suffices to prove that $\mathcal{P}_1 \mathcal{P}_2$ is not principal. Suppose that $\mathcal{P}_1 \mathcal{P}_2$ is principal, i.e., there exists $\beta \in \mathbb{k}$ such that $\mathcal{P}_1 \mathcal{P}_2 = \beta \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{k}}$. So $p \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{k}} = \mathcal{P}_1^2 \mathcal{P}_2^2 = \beta^2 \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{k}}$. Thus, after modifying the chosen β by the square of unit we get $p \varepsilon_2^e = \pm \beta^2$ for some $e \in \{0, 1\}$. Set $\beta = \beta_1 + \beta_2 \sqrt{2}$, $\beta_1, \beta_2 \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-pq})$. So $p \varepsilon_2^e = \pm(\beta_1^2 + 2\beta_2^2 + 2\beta_1 \beta_2 \sqrt{2}) = \pm \beta_1^2 \pm 2\beta_2^2 \pm 2\beta_1 \beta_2 \sqrt{2}$.

If $e = 0$, then $p = \pm\beta_1^2 \pm 2\beta_2^2 \pm 2\beta_1\beta_2\sqrt{2}$ and $\beta_1 = 0$ or $\beta_2 = 0$. It follows that $p = \pm\beta_1^2$ or $p = \pm 2\beta_2^2$, which is impossible. If $e = 1$, then $p(1 + \sqrt{2}) = p + p\sqrt{2} = \pm\beta_1^2 \pm 2\beta_2^2 \pm 2\beta_1\beta_2\sqrt{2}$, so $\pm p = 2\beta_1\beta_2 = \beta_1^2 + 2\beta_2^2$, this implies that $(\beta_1 - \beta_2)^2 = -\beta_2^2$. Thus $\sqrt{-1} = (\beta_1 - \beta_2)/\beta_2 \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-pq})$, which is impossible, too. Hence $\mathcal{P}_1\mathcal{P}_2$ is not principal. So $[\mathcal{P}_1]$ and $[\mathcal{P}_2]$ generate $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$.

Since $\sqrt{p} \in \mathbb{k}^*$ and $p = \sqrt{p}^2$, then $\mathcal{P}_1\mathcal{P}_2$ capitulates in \mathbb{k}^* . As the number of classes of $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ which capitulate in \mathbb{k}^* is exactly $[\mathbb{k}^* : \mathbb{k}][E_{\mathbb{k}} : N_{\mathbb{k}^*/\mathbb{k}}(E_{\mathbb{k}^*})] = 2[E_{\mathbb{k}} : N_{\mathbb{k}^*/\mathbb{k}}(E_{\mathbb{k}^*})]$ (see [11]), then there are two cases to distinguish:

- ▷ If the norm of ε_{2p} is -1 , then by Corollary 2.3 and Lemmas 3.4, 3.5 there are exactly 2 classes that capitulate in \mathbb{k}^* . So the first item follows.
- ▷ If the norm of ε_{2p} is 1 , then by Corollary 2.3 and Lemmas 3.4, 3.5 there are 4 classes of $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ that capitulate in \mathbb{k}^* . So the second item follows.

□

In the following proposition, we characterize the structure of a 2-class of \mathbb{k}^* . For this recall, by the ambiguous class number formula (see e.g. [10]), that if F/k is a quadratic extension of number fields such that k has an odd class number, then the rank of the 2-class group F is given by $t - 1 - e$, where e is defined as

$$[E_k : E_k \cap N_{F/k}(F^*)] = 2^e$$

and t is the number of prime ideals of k ramified in F .

Proposition 3.7. *Let $d = -pq$ be such that $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$, $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ and $(p/q) = -1$. Set $\mathbb{k}^* = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{p}, \sqrt{-q})$. Then the 2-class group of \mathbb{k}^* is cyclic and $h_2(\mathbb{k}^*) = h_2(2p)$. Moreover:*

- (1) $h_2(\mathbb{k}^*) = 2$ if and only if $(2/p)_4 = -(-1)^{(p-1)/8}$. In this case, $N(\varepsilon_{2p}) = 1$.
- (2) If $(2/p)_4 = (-1)^{(p-1)/8} = -1$, then $h_2(\mathbb{k}^*) = 4$ and $N(\varepsilon_{2p}) = -1$.
- (3) If $(2/p)_4 = (-1)^{(p-1)/8} = 1$, then $h_2(\mathbb{k}^*)$ is divisible by 4 (and $h_2(\mathbb{k}^*)$ is divisible by 8 whenever $N(\varepsilon_{2p}) = -1$).

Proof. We have $q(\mathbb{k}^*) = 2$ by Lemma 3.4, $h_2(-2pq) = 4$ by [14], page 353, $h_2(p) = h_2(-q) = h_2(2) = 1$ by [8], Corollary 18.4 and $h_2(-2q) = h_2(-pq) = 2$ by [8], Corollary 19.6. Thus, by the class number formula (see [20]), we get

$$\begin{aligned} (2) \quad h_2(\mathbb{k}^*) &= \frac{1}{2^5} q(\mathbb{k}^*) h_2(p) h_2(2p) h_2(-q) h_2(-2q) h_2(-pq) h_2(-2pq) h_2(2) \\ &= \frac{1}{2^5} \cdot 2 \cdot 1 \cdot h_2(2p) \cdot 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 4 \cdot 1 = h_2(2p). \end{aligned}$$

Set $k' = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{-q})$. As $p\mathcal{O}_{k'} = \mathcal{P}\mathcal{P}'$ in k' , then it is easy to see that these two prime ideals are the only ramified primes of \mathbb{k}^*/k' . We have $h_2(k') = 1$, thus by

Kuroda's class number formula (see [17]), Corollary 2.3 and the above settings, we get

$$h_2(k') = \frac{1}{2}q(k')h_2(2)h_2(-2q)h_2(-q) = 1.$$

It follows that the rank of the 2-class group of \mathbb{k}^* is $2 - 1 - e = 1 - e$, where e is defined as above for $F = \mathbb{k}^*$ and $k = k'$. Since $h_2(2p)$ is even by [8], Corollary 18.4, then by the equality (2), we have that $e = 0$ and $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k}^*)$ is cyclic. Hence, [16], Theorem 2 completes the proof. \square

Corollary 3.8. *Let $d = -pq$ be such that $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$, $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ and $(p/q) = -1$. Then $|G| = 2 \cdot h_2(2p)$.*

Proof. Since $\mathbb{k}_2^{(1)}/\mathbb{k}^*$ is an unramified extension, then

$$\mathbb{k} \subset \mathbb{k}^* \subset \mathbb{k}_2^{(1)} \subset \mathbb{k}_2^{*(1)} \subset \mathbb{k}_2^{(2)} \subset \mathbb{k}_2^{*(2)}.$$

By Proposition 3.7, $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k}^*)$ is cyclic. So the 2-class field tower of \mathbb{k}^* terminates at its Hilbert 2-class field $\mathbb{k}_2^{*(1)}$, i.e., $\mathbb{k}_2^{*(1)} = \mathbb{k}_2^{*(2)}$, thus \mathbb{k}^* and $\mathbb{k}_2^{(1)}$ have the same Hilbert 2-class field which is $\mathbb{k}_2^{(2)}$. It follows that $|G| = 2 \cdot h_2(\mathbb{k}^*) = 2 \cdot h_2(2p)$. \square

Now we are able to state our first main theorem.

Theorem 3.9. *Let $d = -pq$ be such that $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$, $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ and $(p/q) = -1$. Set $\mathbb{k}^* = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{p}, \sqrt{-q})$.*

- (1) *If $(2/p)_4 \neq (-1)^{(p-1)/8}$, then all the classes of $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ capitulate in the three unramified quadratic extensions \mathbb{k}^* , k_1 and k_2 of \mathbb{k} , and G is abelian.*
- (2) *If $(2/p)_4 = (-1)^{(p-1)/8} = -1$, then $N(\varepsilon_{2p}) = -1$ and in each field \mathbb{k}^* , k_1 and k_2 , there are exactly 2 classes of $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$, which capitulate, and thus G is the quaternion group of order 8.*
- (3) *If $(2/p)_4 = (-1)^{(p-1)/8} = 1$ and $N(\varepsilon_{2p}) = 1$, then $h_2(2p) = 2^m$ with $m \geq 2$ and all the classes of $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ capitulate in \mathbb{k}^* , and only 2 classes capitulate in each k_1 and k_2 , and G is dihedral of order 2^{m+1} .*
- (4) *If $(2/p)_4 = (-1)^{(p-1)/8} = 1$ and $N(\varepsilon_{2p}) = -1$, then $h_2(2p) = 2^m$ with $m > 2$ and in each field \mathbb{k}^* , k_1 and k_2 , there are exactly 2 classes of $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ which capitulate and G is the quaternion group of order 2^{m+1} .*

Proof. (1) As $(2/p)_4 \neq (-1)^{(p-1)/8}$, then by Proposition 3.7, $h_2(\mathbb{k}^*) = 2$. Thus by Corollary 3.8, $|G| = 4$. It follows that $\mathbb{k}^{(1)} = \mathbb{k}^{(2)}$. Hence, G is abelian and the four classes of $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ capitulate in \mathbb{k}^* , k_1 and k_2 .

(2) As the norm of ε_{2p} equals -1 , then by Proposition 3.6, $\mathcal{P}_1\mathcal{P}_2$ capitulates in \mathbb{k}^* . Since \mathcal{P}_1 and \mathcal{P}_2 are inert in \mathbb{k}^* , then by the Artin reciprocity law \mathbb{k}^*/\mathbb{k} satisfies

condition *A*. It follows by Proposition 3.7, Corollary 3.8 and Theorem 3.2 that G is a quaternion of order 8 and there are exactly 2 classes of $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ which capitulate in the three unramified quadratic extensions of \mathbb{k} .

(3) Since the norm of ε_{2p} equals 1, then, by Proposition 3.6, all the classes capitulate in \mathbb{k}^* . Hence by Proposition 3.7, Corollary 3.8 and Theorem 3.2, G is dihedral of order 2^{m+1} and there are exactly 2 classes of $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ which capitulate in the other unramified quadratic extensions of \mathbb{k} .

(4) The proof of the fourth item is similar to the second one. □

Remark 3.10. Let $d = -pq$ be such that $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$, $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ and $(p/q) = -1$. By Remark 3.3, if p satisfies one of the conditions mentioned in the first and second items of the previous theorem, then $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k}^*) \simeq \mathbb{Z}/h_2(2p)\mathbb{Z}$, $\text{Cl}_2(k_1)$ and $\text{Cl}_2(k_2)$ are cyclic, otherwise $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k}^*) \simeq \mathbb{Z}/h_2(2p)\mathbb{Z}$ and $\text{Cl}_2(k_1) \simeq \text{Cl}_2(k_2) \simeq (2, 2)$.

3.2. Second case. In this subsection, we suppose that d takes the first form of Theorem 2.2, i.e.,

$$d = -pq \quad \text{with} \quad p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}, \quad q \equiv 7 \pmod{8} \quad \text{and} \quad \left(\frac{p}{q}\right) = -1.$$

Denote always by \mathbb{k}^* the genus field of \mathbb{k} and by k_1, k_2 two other unramified quadratic extensions of \mathbb{k} .

Lemma 3.11. *Let $d = -pq$ with $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$, $q \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$ and $\mathbb{k}^* = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{p}, \sqrt{-q})$. Then, $\{\varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_{2p}, \sqrt{\varepsilon_p \varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_{2p}}\}$ is a fundamental system of units of \mathbb{k}^* and $N_{\mathbb{k}^*/\mathbb{k}}(\sqrt{\varepsilon_p \varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_{2p}}) = \pm \varepsilon_2$.*

Proof. It is known that the norms of $\varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_p, \varepsilon_{2p}$ equal -1 . On the other hand, since $\{\varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_{2p}, \sqrt{\varepsilon_p \varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_{2p}}\}$ is a fundamental system of units of $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{p})$ (see [6], Théorème 6), thus, by [2], Proposition 22, $\{\varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_{2p}, \sqrt{\varepsilon_p \varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_{2p}}\}$ is a fundamental system of units of \mathbb{k}^* . □

Proposition 3.12. *Let $d = -pq$ with $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$, $q \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$ and $(p/q) = -1$, \mathcal{Q}_1 and \mathcal{Q}_2 be two prime ideals of \mathbb{k} lying over q . Then $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ is generated by $[\mathcal{Q}_1]$ and $[\mathcal{Q}_2]$. Furthermore, the classes of $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ which capitulate in \mathbb{k}^* are $[1]$ and $[\mathcal{Q}_1 \mathcal{Q}_2]$.*

Proof. By considering \mathfrak{q} , the prime ideal of $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-pq})$ lying over q , we proceed as in Proposition 3.6 to prove that $[\mathcal{Q}_1]$ and $[\mathcal{Q}_2]$ generate $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$. The number of classes of $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ which capitulate in \mathbb{k}^* is exactly $[\mathbb{k}^* : \mathbb{k}][E_{\mathbb{k}} : N_{\mathbb{k}^*/\mathbb{k}}(E_{\mathbb{k}^*})] =$

$2[E_{\mathbb{k}} : N_{\mathbb{k}^*/\mathbb{k}}(E_{\mathbb{k}^*})]$ (see [11]). As $\sqrt{-q} \in \mathbb{k}^*$ and $-q = \sqrt{-q}^2$, then $\mathcal{Q}_1 \mathcal{Q}_2$ capitulates in \mathbb{k}^* . By Corollary 2.3 and Lemma 3.11, we have $[\mathbb{k}^* : \mathbb{k}][E_{\mathbb{k}} : N_{\mathbb{k}^*/\mathbb{k}}(E_{\mathbb{k}^*})] = 2$. So the statement holds. \square

The following proposition gives the structure of the 2-class group of \mathbb{k}^* .

Proposition 3.13. *Let $d = -pq$ with $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$, $q \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$ and $(p/q) = -1$. Let $\mathbb{k}^* = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{p}, \sqrt{-q})$, then the 2-class group of \mathbb{k}^* is cyclic and $h_2(\mathbb{k}^*) = h_2(-2q)$. Furthermore, $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k}^*) = \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$ if and only if $q \equiv 7 \pmod{16}$.*

Proof. We have $q(\mathbb{k}^*) = 2$, $h_2(2p) = 2$, $h_2(-pq) = 2$, $h_2(p) = h_2(-q) = h_2(2) = 1$ and $h_2(-2pq) = 4$ by Lemma 3.11, [8], Corollaries 19.8, 19.6, 18.4 and [14], page 353, respectively. Then, the class number formula (see [20]) gives

$$\begin{aligned} h_2(\mathbb{k}^*) &= \frac{1}{2^5} q(\mathbb{k}^*) h_2(p) h_2(2p) h_2(-q) h_2(-2q) h_2(-pq) h_2(-2pq) h_2(2) \\ &= \frac{1}{2^5} \cdot 2 \cdot 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 \cdot h_2(-2q) \cdot 2 \cdot 4 \cdot 1 = h_2(-2q). \end{aligned}$$

As q decomposes into the product of two prime ideals of $k' = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{p})$ and $h_2(k') = 1$ (see [8], Proposition 21.5), then by the ambiguous class number formula (see [10]), the rank of the 2-class group of \mathbb{k}^* is $2 - 1 - e = 1 - e$. Since $h_2(-2q)$ is even (see [8], Corollary 18.4) then $e = 0$. Thus, $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k}^*)$ is cyclic. We have that $h_2(-2q)$ is divisible by 4 (see [8], Corollary 19.6) and $h_2(-2q)$ is divisible by 8 if and only if $q \equiv -1 \pmod{16}$ (see [13], Théorème 4), so the result follows. \square

In a way similar to Corollary 3.8 and Theorem 3.9, we prove our second main result.

Theorem 3.14. *Let $d = -pq$ be such that $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$, $q \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$ and $(p/q) = -1$. Let $\mathbb{k}^* = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{p}, \sqrt{-q})$, k_1 and k_2 be the three quadratic unramified extensions of \mathbb{k} . Set $h_2(-2q) = 2^m$, $m \geq 2$, then in each field \mathbb{k}^* , k_1 and k_2 , there are exactly two ideal classes of $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k})$ which capitulate. Thus G is the quaternion group of order 2^{m+1} .*

By Proposition 3.13, Theorem 3.14 and Remark 3.3, we easily deduce the following remark.

Remark 3.15. Let $d = -pq$ be such that $p \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$, $q \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$ and $(p/q) = -1$. If $q \equiv 7 \pmod{16}$, then $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k}^*) \simeq \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$, $\text{Cl}_2(k_1)$, and $\text{Cl}_2(k_2)$ are cyclic, otherwise $\text{Cl}_2(\mathbb{k}^*) \simeq \mathbb{Z}/h_2(-2q)\mathbb{Z}$ and $\text{Cl}_2(k_1) \simeq \text{Cl}_2(k_2) \simeq (2, 2)$.

Acknowledgment. We would like to thank the unknown referee for his/her several helpful suggestions and for calling our attention to the missing details.

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