

Ideal Class Groups ¹

David Ang

LSGNT

Short introductory talk

Wednesday, 6 October 2021

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

► Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$.

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$.

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$. Claim: $y = 0$.

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$. Claim: $y = 0$.
Check: x odd.

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$. Claim: $y = 0$.
Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[i]$,

$$(y + i)(y - i) = x^3$$

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$. Claim: $y = 0$.
Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[i]$,

$$(y + i)(y - i) = x^3 \xrightarrow{N_m} y \pm i \text{ coprime}$$

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$. Claim: $y = 0$.
Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[i]$,

$$(y + i)(y - i) = x^3 \xrightarrow{N_m} y \pm i \text{ coprime}$$

Otherwise

$$p \mid y \pm i$$

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$. Claim: $y = 0$.
Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[i]$,

$$(y + i)(y - i) = x^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} y \pm i \text{ coprime}$$

Otherwise

$$p \mid y \pm i \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \text{Nm}(p) \mid y^2 + 1 = x^3$$

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$. Claim: $y = 0$.
Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[i]$,

$$(y + i)(y - i) = x^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} y \pm i \text{ coprime}$$

Otherwise

$$p \mid y \pm i \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \text{Nm}(p) \mid y^2 + 1 = x^3$$

\Downarrow

$$p \mid 2i$$

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$. Claim: $y = 0$.
Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[i]$,

$$(y + i)(y - i) = x^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} y \pm i \text{ coprime}$$

Otherwise

$$p \mid y \pm i \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \text{Nm}(p) \mid y^2 + 1 = x^3$$

\Downarrow

$$p \mid 2i \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \text{Nm}(p) \mid 4$$

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$. Claim: $y = 0$.
Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[i]$,

$$(y + i)(y - i) = x^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} y \pm i \text{ coprime}$$

Otherwise

$$\begin{aligned} p \mid y \pm i &\xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \text{Nm}(p) \mid y^2 + 1 = x^3 \\ \downarrow & \implies \text{Nm}(p) = 1 \\ p \mid 2i &\xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \text{Nm}(p) \mid 4 \end{aligned}$$

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$. Claim: $y = 0$.
Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[i]$,

$$(y + i)(y - i) = x^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} y \pm i \text{ coprime}$$

Otherwise

$$\begin{aligned} p \mid y \pm i &\xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \text{Nm}(p) \mid y^2 + 1 = x^3 \\ &\downarrow && \implies \text{Nm}(p) = 1 \nexists \\ p \mid 2i &\xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \text{Nm}(p) \mid 4 \end{aligned}$$

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$. Claim: $y = 0$.
Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[i]$,

$$(y + i)(y - i) = x^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} y \pm i \text{ coprime} \xrightarrow{\text{UFD}} y \pm i \text{ cubes.}$$

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$. Claim: $y = 0$.
Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[i]$,

$$(y + i)(y - i) = x^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} y \pm i \text{ coprime} \xrightarrow{\text{UFD}} y \pm i \text{ cubes.}$$

Let

$$y + i = (a + bi)^3 = a(a^2 - 3b^2) + b(3a^2 - b^2)i.$$

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$. Claim: $y = 0$.
Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[i]$,

$$(y + i)(y - i) = x^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} y \pm i \text{ coprime} \xrightarrow{\text{UFD}} y \pm i \text{ cubes.}$$

Let

$$y + i = (a + bi)^3 = a(a^2 - 3b^2) + b(3a^2 - b^2)i.$$

Then $b = \pm 1$.

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$. Claim: $y = 0$.
Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[i]$,

$$(y + i)(y - i) = x^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} y \pm i \text{ coprime} \xrightarrow{\text{UFD}} y \pm i \text{ cubes.}$$

Let

$$y + i = (a + bi)^3 = a(a^2 - 3b^2) + b(3a^2 - b^2)i.$$

Then $b = \pm 1$.

- ▶ $b = 1 \implies 3a^2 = 2 \nmid$

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$. Claim: $y = 0$.
Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[i]$,

$$(y + i)(y - i) = x^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} y \pm i \text{ coprime} \xrightarrow{\text{UFD}} y \pm i \text{ cubes.}$$

Let

$$y + i = (a + bi)^3 = a(a^2 - 3b^2) + b(3a^2 - b^2)i.$$

Then $b = \pm 1$.

- ▶ $b = 1 \implies 3a^2 = 2 \nmid$
- ▶ $b = -1 \implies 3a^2 = 0 \implies y = 0 \checkmark$

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Solution: $(1, 0)$. Claim: $y = 0$.
Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[i]$,

$$(y + i)(y - i) = x^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} y \pm i \text{ coprime} \xrightarrow{\text{UFD}} y \pm i \text{ cubes.}$$

Let

$$y + i = (a + bi)^3 = a(a^2 - 3b^2) + b(3a^2 - b^2)i.$$

Then $b = \pm 1$.

- ▶ $b = 1 \implies 3a^2 = 2 \nmid$
- ▶ $b = -1 \implies 3a^2 = 0 \implies y = 0 \checkmark$

Idea: use UF of $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ and $\text{Nm} : \mathbb{Z}[i] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$.

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Idea: use UF of $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ and $\text{Nm} : \mathbb{Z}[i] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$.
- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$.

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Idea: use UF of $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ and $\text{Nm} : \mathbb{Z}[i] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$.
- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$6 = 2 \cdot 3 = (1 + \sqrt{-5}) \cdot (1 - \sqrt{-5}).$$

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Idea: use UF of $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ and $\text{Nm} : \mathbb{Z}[i] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$.
- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$6 = 2 \cdot 3 = (1 + \sqrt{-5}) \cdot (1 - \sqrt{-5}).$$

However, on ideals,

$$\langle 6 \rangle = \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle \cdot \langle 3, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \cdot \langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle.$$

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Idea: use UF of $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ and $\text{Nm} : \mathbb{Z}[i] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$.
- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$6 = 2 \cdot 3 = (1 + \sqrt{-5}) \cdot (1 - \sqrt{-5}).$$

However, on ideals,

$$\langle 6 \rangle = \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle \cdot \langle 3, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \cdot \langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle.$$

Furthermore, can define norm on ideals.

Diophantine equations!

Consider *Mordell's equation*

$$y^2 = x^3 + n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 1$. Idea: use UF of $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ and $\text{Nm} : \mathbb{Z}[i] \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$.
- ▶ Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$6 = 2 \cdot 3 = (1 + \sqrt{-5}) \cdot (1 - \sqrt{-5}).$$

However, on ideals,

$$\langle 6 \rangle = \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle \cdot \langle 3, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \cdot \langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle.$$

Furthermore, can define norm on ideals. Conclusion: consider ideals.

The ideal class group...

Let K be a number field,

The ideal class group...

Let K be a number field, and let \mathcal{O}_K be its *ring of integers*,

$$\mathcal{O}_K = \{x \in K \mid \exists f \in \mathbb{Z}[X] \text{ monic, } f(x) = 0\}.$$

The ideal class group...

Let K be a number field, and let \mathcal{O}_K be its *ring of integers*,

$$\mathcal{O}_K = \{x \in K \mid \exists f \in \mathbb{Z}[X] \text{ monic, } f(x) = 0\}.$$

Examples

- ▶ $K = \mathbb{Q}$ and $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}$,

The ideal class group...

Let K be a number field, and let \mathcal{O}_K be its *ring of integers*,

$$\mathcal{O}_K = \{x \in K \mid \exists f \in \mathbb{Z}[X] \text{ monic, } f(x) = 0\}.$$

Examples

- ▶ $K = \mathbb{Q}$ and $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}$,
- ▶ $K = \mathbb{Q}(i)$ and $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[i]$, or

The ideal class group...

Let K be a number field, and let \mathcal{O}_K be its *ring of integers*,

$$\mathcal{O}_K = \{x \in K \mid \exists f \in \mathbb{Z}[X] \text{ monic, } f(x) = 0\}.$$

Examples

- ▶ $K = \mathbb{Q}$ and $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}$,
- ▶ $K = \mathbb{Q}(i)$ and $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[i]$, or
- ▶ $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$ and $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[\omega]$ where $\omega = \frac{1+\sqrt{-3}}{2}$.

The ideal class group...

Let K be a number field, and let \mathcal{O}_K be its *ring of integers*,

$$\mathcal{O}_K = \{x \in K \mid \exists f \in \mathbb{Z}[X] \text{ monic, } f(x) = 0\}.$$

Examples

- ▶ $K = \mathbb{Q}$ and $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}$,
- ▶ $K = \mathbb{Q}(i)$ and $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[i]$, or
- ▶ $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$ and $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[\omega]$ where $\omega = \frac{1+\sqrt{-3}}{2}$.

Fact

\mathcal{O}_K is a *Dedekind domain*.

The ideal class group...

Let K be a number field, and let \mathcal{O}_K be its *ring of integers*,

$$\mathcal{O}_K = \{x \in K \mid \exists f \in \mathbb{Z}[X] \text{ monic, } f(x) = 0\}.$$

Examples

- ▶ $K = \mathbb{Q}$ and $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}$,
- ▶ $K = \mathbb{Q}(i)$ and $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[i]$, or
- ▶ $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$ and $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[\omega]$ where $\omega = \frac{1+\sqrt{-3}}{2}$.

Fact

\mathcal{O}_K is a Dedekind domain. Every DD has UF into prime ideals.

The ideal class group...

Let K be a number field, and let \mathcal{O}_K be its *ring of integers*,

$$\mathcal{O}_K = \{x \in K \mid \exists f \in \mathbb{Z}[X] \text{ monic, } f(x) = 0\}.$$

Examples

- ▶ $K = \mathbb{Q}$ and $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}$,
- ▶ $K = \mathbb{Q}(i)$ and $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[i]$, or
- ▶ $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$ and $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[\omega]$ where $\omega = \frac{1+\sqrt{-3}}{2}$.

Fact

\mathcal{O}_K is a Dedekind domain. Every DD has UF into prime ideals.



The ideal class group...

The *ideal norm* is

$$\mathrm{Nm}(I) = \#(\mathcal{O}_K/I), \quad I \trianglelefteq \mathcal{O}_K.$$

The ideal class group...

The *ideal norm* is

$$\mathrm{Nm}(I) = \#(\mathcal{O}_K/I), \quad I \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K.$$

Example

If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K$

The ideal class group...

The *ideal norm* is

$$\text{Nm}(I) = \#(\mathcal{O}_K/I), \quad I \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K.$$

Example

If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K$ has ideal norm

$$\text{Nm}(\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle) = \#(\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]/\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle)$$

The ideal class group...

The *ideal norm* is

$$\mathrm{Nm}(I) = \#(\mathcal{O}_K/I), \quad I \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K.$$

Example

If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K$ has ideal norm

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Nm}(\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle) &= \#(\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]/\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle) \\ &= \#(\mathbb{Z}[X]/\langle 2, 1 + X, 5 + X^2 \rangle) \end{aligned}$$

The ideal class group...

The *ideal norm* is

$$\text{Nm}(I) = \#(\mathcal{O}_K/I), \quad I \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K.$$

Example

If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K$ has ideal norm

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Nm}(\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle) &= \#(\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]/\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle) \\ &= \#(\mathbb{Z}[X]/\langle 2, 1 + X, 5 + X^2 \rangle) \\ &= \#(\mathbb{F}_2[X]/\langle 1 + X, 1 + X^2 \rangle) \end{aligned}$$

The ideal class group...

The *ideal norm* is

$$\mathrm{Nm}(I) = \#(\mathcal{O}_K/I), \quad I \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K.$$

Example

If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K$ has ideal norm

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Nm}(\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle) &= \#(\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]/\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle) \\ &= \#(\mathbb{Z}[X]/\langle 2, 1 + X, 5 + X^2 \rangle) \\ &= \#(\mathbb{F}_2[X]/\langle 1 + X, 1 + X^2 \rangle) = 2. \end{aligned}$$

The ideal class group...

The *ideal norm* is

$$\text{Nm}(I) = \#(\mathcal{O}_K/I), \quad I \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K.$$

Example

If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K$ has ideal norm

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Nm}(\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle) &= \#(\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]/\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle) \\ &= \#(\mathbb{Z}[X]/\langle 2, 1 + X, 5 + X^2 \rangle) \\ &= \#(\mathbb{F}_2[X]/\langle 1 + X, 1 + X^2 \rangle) = 2. \end{aligned}$$

Fact

$$\text{Nm}(I \cdot J) = \text{Nm}(I)\text{Nm}(J), \quad \text{Nm}(\langle x \rangle) = \text{Nm}(x) = \prod_{\sigma: K \rightarrow \bar{K}} \sigma(x).$$

The ideal class group...

Consider the set of non-zero *fractional ideals* of \mathcal{O}_K ,

$$\mathcal{I}(K) = \{x^{-1}I \subseteq K \mid x \in \mathcal{O}_K^\times, I \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K\} \setminus \{\langle 0 \rangle\}.$$

The ideal class group...

Consider the set of non-zero *fractional ideals* of \mathcal{O}_K ,

$$\mathcal{I}(K) = \{x^{-1}I \subseteq K \mid x \in \mathcal{O}_K^\times, I \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K\} \setminus \{\langle 0 \rangle\}.$$

This is an abelian group under ideal multiplication, with identity $\langle 1 \rangle$ and

$$I^{-1} = \{x \in K \mid xI \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K\}, \quad I \in \mathcal{I}(K).$$

The ideal class group...

Consider the set of non-zero *fractional ideals* of \mathcal{O}_K ,

$$\mathcal{I}(K) = \{x^{-1}I \subseteq K \mid x \in \mathcal{O}_K^\times, I \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K\} \setminus \{\langle 0 \rangle\}.$$

This is an abelian group under ideal multiplication, with identity $\langle 1 \rangle$ and

$$I^{-1} = \{x \in K \mid xI \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K\}, \quad I \in \mathcal{I}(K).$$

It has a subgroup of *principal fractional ideals*

$$\mathcal{P}(K) = \{\langle x \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K) \mid x \in K^\times\} \subseteq \mathcal{I}(K).$$

The ideal class group...

Consider the set of non-zero *fractional ideals* of \mathcal{O}_K ,

$$\mathcal{I}(K) = \{x^{-1}I \subseteq K \mid x \in \mathcal{O}_K^\times, I \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K\} \setminus \{\langle 0 \rangle\}.$$

This is an abelian group under ideal multiplication, with identity $\langle 1 \rangle$ and

$$I^{-1} = \{x \in K \mid xI \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K\}, \quad I \in \mathcal{I}(K).$$

It has a subgroup of *principal fractional ideals*

$$\mathcal{P}(K) = \{\langle x \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K) \mid x \in K^\times\} \subseteq \mathcal{I}(K).$$

The quotient is the *ideal class group* $\text{Cl}(K)$.

The ideal class group...

Consider the set of non-zero *fractional ideals* of \mathcal{O}_K ,

$$\mathcal{I}(K) = \{x^{-1}I \subseteq K \mid x \in \mathcal{O}_K^\times, I \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K\} \setminus \{\langle 0 \rangle\}.$$

This is an abelian group under ideal multiplication, with identity $\langle 1 \rangle$ and

$$I^{-1} = \{x \in K \mid xI \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K\}, \quad I \in \mathcal{I}(K).$$

It has a subgroup of *principal fractional ideals*

$$\mathcal{P}(K) = \{\langle x \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K) \mid x \in K^\times\} \subseteq \mathcal{I}(K).$$

The quotient is the *ideal class group* $\text{Cl}(K)$.

Theorem

$\text{Cl}(K)$ is finite.

The ideal class group...

Consider the set of non-zero *fractional ideals* of \mathcal{O}_K ,

$$\mathcal{I}(K) = \{x^{-1}I \subseteq K \mid x \in \mathcal{O}_K^\times, I \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K\} \setminus \{\langle 0 \rangle\}.$$

This is an abelian group under ideal multiplication, with identity $\langle 1 \rangle$ and

$$I^{-1} = \{x \in K \mid xI \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K\}, \quad I \in \mathcal{I}(K).$$

It has a subgroup of *principal fractional ideals*

$$\mathcal{P}(K) = \{\langle x \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K) \mid x \in K^\times\} \subseteq \mathcal{I}(K).$$

The quotient is the *ideal class group* $\text{Cl}(K)$.

Theorem

$\text{Cl}(K)$ is finite.

Proof.

Geometry of numbers gives Minkowski's bound $M_K \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$.



The ideal class group...

Consider the set of non-zero *fractional ideals* of \mathcal{O}_K ,

$$\mathcal{I}(K) = \{x^{-1}I \subseteq K \mid x \in \mathcal{O}_K^\times, I \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K\} \setminus \{\langle 0 \rangle\}.$$

This is an abelian group under ideal multiplication, with identity $\langle 1 \rangle$ and

$$I^{-1} = \{x \in K \mid xI \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K\}, \quad I \in \mathcal{I}(K).$$

It has a subgroup of *principal fractional ideals*

$$\mathcal{P}(K) = \{\langle x \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K) \mid x \in K^\times\} \subseteq \mathcal{I}(K).$$

The quotient is the *ideal class group* $\text{Cl}(K)$.

Theorem

$\text{Cl}(K)$ is finite.

Proof.

Geometry of numbers gives Minkowski's bound $M_K \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$.

Every $[I] \in \text{Cl}(K)$ has a representative $I \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K$ with $\text{Nm}(I) \leq M_K$. □

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal.

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$.

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$. In fact $\text{Cl}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, for instance $\langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle \frac{1 - \sqrt{-5}}{2} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle$.

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$. In fact $\text{Cl}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, for instance $\langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle \frac{1 - \sqrt{-5}}{2} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle$.

Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$.

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$. In fact $\text{Cl}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, for instance $\langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle \frac{1 - \sqrt{-5}}{2} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle$.

Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. Check: x odd.

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$. In fact $\text{Cl}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, for instance $\langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle \frac{1 - \sqrt{-5}}{2} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle$.

Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$\langle y + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \langle y - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle x \rangle^3$$

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$. In fact $\text{Cl}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, for instance $\langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle \frac{1 - \sqrt{-5}}{2} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle$.

Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$\langle y + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \langle y - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle x \rangle^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ coprime ideals}$$

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$. In fact $\text{Cl}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, for instance $\langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle \frac{1 - \sqrt{-5}}{2} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle$.

Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$\langle y + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \langle y - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle x \rangle^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ coprime ideals}$$

Otherwise

$$\mathfrak{p} \mid \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle$$

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$. In fact $\text{Cl}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, for instance $\langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle \frac{1 - \sqrt{-5}}{2} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle$.

Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$\langle y + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \langle y - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle x \rangle^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ coprime ideals}$$

Otherwise

$$\mathfrak{p} \mid \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \text{Nm}(\mathfrak{p}) \mid y^2 + 5 = x^3$$

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$. In fact $\text{Cl}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, for instance $\langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle \frac{1 - \sqrt{-5}}{2} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle$.

Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$\langle y + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \langle y - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle x \rangle^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ coprime ideals}$$

Otherwise

$$\mathfrak{p} \mid \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \text{Nm}(\mathfrak{p}) \mid y^2 + 5 = x^3$$

\Downarrow

$$\mathfrak{p} \mid \langle 2\sqrt{-5} \rangle$$

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$. In fact $\text{Cl}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, for instance $\langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle \frac{1 - \sqrt{-5}}{2} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle$.

Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$\langle y + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \langle y - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle x \rangle^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ coprime ideals}$$

Otherwise

$$\mathfrak{p} \mid \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \text{Nm}(\mathfrak{p}) \mid y^2 + 5 = x^3$$

\Downarrow

$$\mathfrak{p} \mid \langle 2\sqrt{-5} \rangle \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \text{Nm}(\mathfrak{p}) \mid 20$$

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$. In fact $\text{Cl}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, for instance $\langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle \frac{1 - \sqrt{-5}}{2} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle$.

Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$\langle y + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \langle y - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle x \rangle^3 \xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ coprime ideals}$$

Otherwise

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{p} \mid \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle &\xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \text{Nm}(\mathfrak{p}) \mid y^2 + 5 = x^3 \\ \downarrow &\implies \text{Nm}(\mathfrak{p}) = 1, 5 \nmid \\ \mathfrak{p} \mid \langle 2\sqrt{-5} \rangle &\xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \text{Nm}(\mathfrak{p}) \mid 20 \end{aligned}$$

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$. In fact $\text{Cl}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, for instance $\langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle \frac{1 - \sqrt{-5}}{2} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle$.

Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle y + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \langle y - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle x \rangle^3 &\xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ coprime ideals} \\ &\xrightarrow{\text{DD}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ ideal cubes.} \end{aligned}$$

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$. In fact $\text{Cl}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, for instance $\langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle \frac{1 - \sqrt{-5}}{2} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle$.

Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle y + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \langle y - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle x \rangle^3 &\xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ coprime ideals} \\ &\xrightarrow{\text{DD}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ ideal cubes.} \end{aligned}$$

Since $3 \nmid \#\text{Cl}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5}))$,

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$. In fact $\text{Cl}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, for instance $\langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle \frac{1 - \sqrt{-5}}{2} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle$.

Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle y + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \langle y - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle x \rangle^3 &\xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ coprime ideals} \\ &\xrightarrow{\text{DD}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ ideal cubes.} \end{aligned}$$

Since $3 \nmid \#\text{Cl}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5}))$,

$$\langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle a \pm b\sqrt{-5} \rangle^3$$

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$. In fact $\text{Cl}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, for instance $\langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle \frac{1 - \sqrt{-5}}{2} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle$.

Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle y + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \langle y - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle x \rangle^3 &\xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ coprime ideals} \\ &\xrightarrow{\text{DD}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ ideal cubes.} \end{aligned}$$

Since $3 \nmid \#\text{Cl}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5}))$,

$$\langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle a \pm b\sqrt{-5} \rangle^3 \implies y \pm \sqrt{-5} = (a \pm b\sqrt{-5})^3$$

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$. In fact $\text{Cl}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, for instance $\langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle \frac{1 - \sqrt{-5}}{2} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle$.

Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle y + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \langle y - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle x \rangle^3 &\xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ coprime ideals} \\ &\xrightarrow{\text{DD}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ ideal cubes.} \end{aligned}$$

Since $3 \nmid \#\text{Cl}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5}))$,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle a \pm b\sqrt{-5} \rangle^3 &\implies y \pm \sqrt{-5} = (a \pm b\sqrt{-5})^3 \\ &\implies \dots \end{aligned}$$

The ideal class group...

Examples

- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(i), \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) = 1$, since \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.
- ▶ If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$, then $\text{Cl}(K) \neq 1$, since $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \in \mathcal{I}(K)$ is not principal. However $\langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle^2 = \langle 2 \rangle$, so $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \leq \text{Cl}(K)$. In fact $\text{Cl}(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, for instance $\langle 3, 1 - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle \frac{1 - \sqrt{-5}}{2} \rangle \cdot \langle 2, 1 + \sqrt{-5} \rangle$.

Consider $y^2 = x^3 - 5$. Check: x odd. In $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle y + \sqrt{-5} \rangle \langle y - \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle x \rangle^3 &\xrightarrow{\text{Nm}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ coprime ideals} \\ &\xrightarrow{\text{DD}} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle \text{ ideal cubes.} \end{aligned}$$

Since $3 \nmid \#\text{Cl}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5}))$,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle y \pm \sqrt{-5} \rangle = \langle a \pm b\sqrt{-5} \rangle^3 &\implies y \pm \sqrt{-5} = (a \pm b\sqrt{-5})^3 \\ &\implies \dots \\ &\implies \text{⚡} \end{aligned}$$

What's next?

- ▶ Quadratic forms and form class group

$$\text{Cl}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{n})) \cong \text{FCG}(\Delta_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{n})})$$

What's next?

- ▶ Quadratic forms and form class group

$$\mathrm{Cl}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{n})) \cong \mathrm{FCG}(\Delta_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{n})})$$

- ▶ Picard group and algebraic K-theory

$$\mathrm{Cl}(K) \cong \mathrm{Pic}(\mathrm{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_K)) \quad K_0(\mathcal{O}_K) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathrm{Cl}(K)$$

What's next?

- ▶ Quadratic forms and form class group

$$\mathrm{Cl}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{n})) \cong \mathrm{FCG}(\Delta_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{n})})$$

- ▶ Picard group and algebraic K-theory

$$\mathrm{Cl}(K) \cong \mathrm{Pic}(\mathrm{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_K)) \quad K_0(\mathcal{O}_K) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathrm{Cl}(K)$$

- ▶ Idele class group and class field theory

$$C^1(K) \twoheadrightarrow \mathrm{Cl}(K) \quad \mathrm{Cl}(K) \cong \mathrm{Gal}(\mathrm{HCF}(K)/K)$$

What's next?

- ▶ Quadratic forms and form class group

$$\mathrm{Cl}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{n})) \cong \mathrm{FCG}(\Delta_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{n})})$$

- ▶ Picard group and algebraic K-theory

$$\mathrm{Cl}(K) \cong \mathrm{Pic}(\mathrm{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_K)) \quad K_0(\mathcal{O}_K) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathrm{Cl}(K)$$

- ▶ Idele class group and class field theory

$$C^1(K) \twoheadrightarrow \mathrm{Cl}(K) \quad \mathrm{Cl}(K) \cong \mathrm{Gal}(\mathrm{HCF}(K)/K)$$

- ▶ Elliptic curves and Tate-Shafarevich group

$$\mathrm{Cl}(K) \cong \mathrm{III}(K)$$

What's next?

- ▶ Quadratic forms and form class group

$$\mathrm{Cl}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{n})) \cong \mathrm{FCG}(\Delta_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{n})})$$

- ▶ Picard group and algebraic K-theory

$$\mathrm{Cl}(K) \cong \mathrm{Pic}(\mathrm{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_K)) \quad K_0(\mathcal{O}_K) \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathrm{Cl}(K)$$

- ▶ Idele class group and class field theory

$$C^1(K) \twoheadrightarrow \mathrm{Cl}(K) \quad \mathrm{Cl}(K) \cong \mathrm{Gal}(\mathrm{HCF}(K)/K)$$

- ▶ Elliptic curves and Tate-Shafarevich group

$$\mathrm{Cl}(K) \cong \mathrm{III}(K)$$

- ▶ Class number one problem and Cohen-Lenstra heuristics

$$\mathrm{Prob}(\mathrm{Cl}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p})) = 1 \mid p > 0 \text{ prime}) \approx \frac{3}{4}$$