

Embedding Quadratic Fields into Quaternion Algebras

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Overview

- 1 Background and Definitions
- 2 p -adic Analysis
- 3 Limits and a Conjecture
- 4 Sieving and Bounding
- 5 Further Questions

Definition

A quadratic field is the set

$$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{k}) = \{a + b\sqrt{k} : a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}$$

with the usual addition and multiplication. Here k is a squarefree integer other than 0 or 1.

Definition

A quaternion algebra is the set of all elements

$$\left(\frac{m, n}{\mathbb{Q}} \right) = \{a + bi + cj + dij : a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Q}\}$$

with component-wise addition and multiplication defined by

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ij is often written as k .

Examples of Rational Quaternion Algebras

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The classic example is $\left(\frac{-1,-1}{\mathbb{Q}}\right)$, the Hamiltonian quaternions. Here $i^2 = j^2 = (ij)^2 = -1$.

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A more unusual example is $\left(\frac{2,-3}{\mathbb{Q}}\right)$. Here $i^2 = 2$, $j^2 = -3$, and $(ij)^2 = 6$.

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We say $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{k})$ **embeds** into a quaternion algebra $\left(\frac{m,n}{\mathbb{Q}}\right)$ if there exists an injective ring homomorphism $\phi : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{k}) \hookrightarrow \left(\frac{m,n}{\mathbb{Q}}\right)$.

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For fixed k , we are interested in knowing for which (m, n) there is such an embedding.

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- The other direction is similar.

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$$kW^2 - mX^2 - nY^2 + mnZ^2 = 0$$

for some $W, X, Y, Z \in \mathbb{Z}$ not all zero.

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Checking whether there are real solutions is easy.

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Let $P(x)$ be an integer polynomial. Suppose $P(x_0) \equiv 0 \pmod{p^n}$ and $P'(x_0) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$. Then $\exists \tilde{x}_0 \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ such that $P(\tilde{x}_0) = 0$.

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So, we can lift solutions modulo p into solutions in \mathbb{Z}_p .

Recall that:

Definition

For an odd prime p and an integer x , the Legendre symbol is defined by

$$\left(\frac{x}{p}\right) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } p \mid x \\ 1 & \text{if } \exists y \text{ s.t. } x \equiv y^2 \pmod{p} . \\ -1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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 - If $p \nmid m$, $p \mid n$, then $\left(\frac{m}{p}\right) = 1$.
- 3 (Conditions from \mathbb{Z}_2) Omitted for the sake of brevity.

Long-Term Behavior

The next logical question is to determine how often these conditions are met. Define

$$S_N = \{(m, n) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : 1 < m, n < N, m, n \text{ squarefree}\}$$

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Conjecture

For any fixed k ,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\# \left(S_N \cap \left\{ (m, n) : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{k}) \hookrightarrow \left(\frac{m, n}{\mathbb{Q}} \right) \right\} \right)}{\# S_N} = 0.$$

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where

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Note: we are using $1 < m, n < N$ for simplicity, but the same proof applies to $-1 > m, n > -N$.

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- To show that the limit is 0, we find an upper bound for the numerator that is $o(N^2)$.
- We do this by focusing exclusively on the p -adic conditions on n coming from m .

Definitions for a Sieve Approach

Recall that there is an embedding $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{k}) \hookrightarrow \left(\frac{m,n}{\mathbb{Q}}\right)$ only if

$$\text{If } p \mid m, p \nmid n, \text{ and } \left(\frac{k}{p}\right) = 1, \text{ then } \left(\frac{n}{p}\right) = 1$$

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Let

$$\tilde{m} = \prod_{\substack{\left(\frac{k}{p}\right) = 1 \\ p \mid m}} p.$$

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The admissible class is the set

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Note that n satisfies the conditions for an embedding if and only if

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Thus an upper bound for the numerator of our limit is given by

$$\sum_{(m,n) \in S'_N} 1_{\{n \bmod \tilde{m} \in \mathcal{A}(\tilde{m})\}}$$

Approximating the Size of the Admissible Class

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$$\#\mathcal{A}(\tilde{m}) \approx \frac{\tilde{m}}{2^{\omega(\tilde{m})}},$$

where $\omega(x)$ is the number of distinct prime factors of x .

An Upper Bound

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{(m,n) \in S'_N} 1_{\{n \bmod \tilde{m} \in \mathcal{A}(\tilde{m})\}} &\approx \sum_{m < N} \frac{N}{\tilde{m}} (\#\mathcal{A}(\tilde{m})) \\ &\approx N \sum_{m < N} \frac{1}{2^{\omega(\tilde{m})}}\end{aligned}$$

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Therefore, if we show that

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then we are done.

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So,

$$\sum_{m < N} \frac{1}{2^{\omega(\tilde{m})}} = \sum_{m \in B(N)} \frac{1}{2^{\omega(\tilde{m})}} + \sum_{m \in B(N)^c} \frac{1}{2^{\omega(\tilde{m})}}.$$

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- We are done!



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 - Can we find a lower bound on the number of embeddings?

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