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Mathematica Slovaca, Vol. 48 (1998), No. 4, 347--364

Persistent URL: <http://dml.cz/dmlcz/129907>

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Dedicated to Paulo Ribenboim

STICKELBERGER SUBIDEALS RELATED TO KUMMER TYPE CONGRUENCES

TAKASHI AGOH

(Communicated by Stanislav Jakubec)

ABSTRACT. A new type of the Kummer system of congruences is considered and some equivalent systems are discussed by using a polynomial identity. Further we define a special Stickelberger subideal in a certain group ring and transfer the Fueter type system into the group ring. Afterwards, by evaluating the determinant of a special matrix we deduce the index formula between the group ring and the Stickelberger subideal in terms of the relative class number of the l th cyclotomic field (where $l \geq 5$ is an odd prime).

1. Introduction

Let $l \geq 5$ be an odd prime, \mathbb{Z} the ring of integers, \mathbb{Q} the rational number field and $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)$ the cyclotomic field over \mathbb{Q} defined by a primitive l th root of unity $\zeta = e^{2\pi i/l}$. Further let $\Gamma = \{N_1, N_2, \dots, N_n\}$ be the set of positive integers N_1, N_2, \dots, N_n ($1 \leq n \leq l-2$) such that $2 \leq N_i \leq l-1$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n$) and $N_i \neq N_j$ if $i \neq j$, B_m the m th Bernoulli number defined by

$$\frac{x}{e^x - 1} = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{B_m}{m!} x^m$$

and $\varphi_k(x)$ the Mirimanoff polynomial, i.e.,

$$\varphi_k(x) = \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} v^{k-1} x^v \quad (k \in \mathbb{Z}).$$

AMS Subject Classification (1991): Primary 11D41, 11R54, 11B68.

Key words: Stickelberger ideal, Kummer system of congruences, class number formula, cyclotomic field, Bernoulli number, Mirimanoff polynomial.

The following system of congruences (in equivalent form) was first introduced by K u m m e r [K] in connection with the first case of Fermat's last theorem:

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{l-1}(t) &\equiv 0 \pmod{l}, \\ B_{2m}\varphi_{l-2m}(t) &\equiv 0 \pmod{l} \quad (1 \leq m \leq (l-3)/2). \end{aligned} \tag{K}$$

This system has many interesting variations and consequences (see, e.g., [A₁], [A₂], [G], [R]). In S k u l a 's papers [S₁], [S₂] this system was investigated from the viewpoint of the Stickelberger ideal in a certain group ring.

We now consider the following new system of congruences:

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{l-1}(t) &\equiv 0 \pmod{l}, \\ B_{2m}^{(\Gamma)}\varphi_{l-2m}(t) &\equiv 0 \pmod{l} \quad (1 \leq m \leq (l-3)/2), \end{aligned} \tag{K(\Gamma)}$$

where

$$B_k^{(\Gamma)} = \prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N^k - 1) \cdot \frac{B_k}{k} \quad (k \geq 1).$$

The system (K(Γ)) was first observed by B e n n e t o n [B] in the case $\Gamma = \{2\}$ (for another approach, see [S₃]), and it was recently investigated for the cases $\#\Gamma = 1$ and 2 in [AS] and [AM], respectively, by means of the Stickelberger subideals.

It is easily seen that if $\Gamma' (\neq \emptyset)$ is any subset of Γ , then the solution τ of (K) or (K(Γ')) is also a solution of (K(Γ)). Further we may state that if all the elements of Γ are primitive roots mod l , then the systems (K), (K(Γ')) and (K(Γ)) are mutually equivalent, in other words, these systems have the solutions in common. In addition, we note that if $i_\Gamma(l) = \#\{m \mid B_{2m}^{(\Gamma)} \equiv 0 \pmod{l}, 1 \leq m \leq (l-3)/2\}$, then the number of non-trivial congruences in (K(Γ)) is at most $(l-1)/2 - i_\Gamma(l)$.

The main purpose of this paper is to investigate a Stickelberger subideal relating to the K u m m e r type system of congruences and deduce the index formula of this subideal in the group ring $\mathbb{Z}[G]$, where G is a cyclic group of order $l-1$.

Section 2 is devoted to deducing various systems of congruences equivalent to (K(Γ)) by using a certain polynomial identity including all the terms in (K(Γ)). In Section 3, a special Stickelberger subideal \mathcal{B}_Γ in $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ is introduced and one of systems (the Fueter type system) equivalent to (K(Γ)) is observed by means of this subideal. In Section 4, we define a matrix \mathbf{K}_Γ with the entries concerned in the Fueter type system and evaluate its determinant in terms of the relative class number h^- of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)$. Using these results, we finally deduce the index formula of the Stickelbergèr subideal \mathcal{B}_Γ in $\mathbb{Z}[G]$. In addition, using the I w a s a w a class number formula we calculate some indices between the Stickelberger subideals.

2. Some systems equivalent to $(K(\Gamma))$

In this section we will exploit various systems of congruences equivalent to $(K(\Gamma))$ using a certain polynomial identity which includes all the terms in $(K(\Gamma))$.

For a fixed non-empty set Γ as stated in the Introduction, let $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}(\Gamma)$ be the power set of Γ and put for an element $P \in \mathcal{P}$

$$\mu(P) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } P = \emptyset, \\ \prod_{N \in \mathcal{P}} N & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Also we define

$$S_m(n; \Gamma) = \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}} \mu(P)^{m+1} S_m(n\mu(\tilde{P})) \quad (m \geq 0, n \geq 1),$$

where $\tilde{P} = \Gamma \setminus P$ for each $P \in \mathcal{P}$ and $S_m(k) = 1^m + 2^m + \dots + k^m$.

We first deduce the following polynomial identity, in which all the terms of the system $(K(\Gamma))$ are included:

PROPOSITION 2.1. *Let $1 \leq k \leq l - 1$ and $m \leq l - 3$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N - 1) \cdot (k\mu(\Gamma))^{l-2-m} \varphi_{l-1}(t) \\ & + \sum_{j=2}^{l-2-m} \binom{l-2-m}{j-1} (k\mu(\Gamma))^{l-1-m-j} \{B_j^{(\Gamma)} \varphi_{l-j}(t)\} \\ & = \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} S_{l-2-m}(vk; \Gamma) v^m t^v. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. We set

$$B(x) = \frac{x}{e^x - 1} \quad (\text{the generating function of Bernoulli numbers}),$$

$$W_\Gamma(x) = \frac{1}{x} \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}} B(\mu(P)x),$$

$$A_{k,m}(t, x) = \{B(x) e^x\} \varphi_{m+1}(t e^{kx}) - \varphi_{m+1}(t) B(x).$$

Here we have the identity

$$A_{k,m}(t, x) = x \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} \left(\sum_{j=0}^{vk} e^{jx} \right) v^m t^v \quad (\text{cf., [A}_1; 3.3]).$$

Since $B(x)e^x = x + B(x)$, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}} A_{k\mu(\tilde{P}),m}(t, \mu(P)x) \\
 &= \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}} B(\mu(P)x) e^{\mu(P)x} \right) \varphi_{m+1}(t e^{k\mu(\Gamma)x}) \\
 & \quad - \varphi_{m+1}(t) \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}} B(\mu(P)x) \\
 &= \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}} \{ \mu(P)x + B(\mu(P)x) \} \right) \varphi_{m+1}(t e^{k\mu(\Gamma)x}) \\
 & \quad - \varphi_{m+1}(t) \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}} B(\mu(P)x) \\
 &= x \left(\prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N-1) + W_\Gamma(x) \right) \varphi_{m+1}(t e^{k\mu(\Gamma)x}) - x W_\Gamma(x) \varphi_{m+1}(t),
 \end{aligned}$$

which gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left(\prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N-1) + W_\Gamma(x) \right) \varphi_{m+1}(t e^{k\mu(\Gamma)x}) - W_\Gamma(x) \varphi_{m+1}(t) \\
 &= \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}} \mu(P) \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} \left(\sum_{j=0}^{vk\mu(\tilde{P})} e^{j\mu(P)x} \right) v^m t^v.
 \end{aligned}$$

Since for $n \geq 0$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left[\frac{d^n}{dx^n} W_\Gamma(x) \right]_{x=0} &= \frac{1}{n+1} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}} \mu(P)^{n+1} \cdot B_{n+1} \right) = B_{n+1}^{(\Gamma)}, \\
 \left[\frac{d^n}{dx^n} \varphi_{m+1}(t e^{k\mu(\Gamma)x}) \right]_{x=0} &= (k\mu(\Gamma))^n \varphi_{m+n+1}(t),
 \end{aligned}$$

we get by making use of Leibniz's theorem for the above functional equality

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N-1) \cdot (k\mu(\Gamma))^{l-2-m} \varphi_{l-1}(t) \\
 & + \sum_{i=0}^{l-2-m} \binom{l-2-m}{i} (k\mu(\Gamma))^{l-2-m-i} \{B_{i+1}^{(\Gamma)} \varphi_{l-1-i}(t)\} - B_{l-m-1}^{(\Gamma)} \varphi_{m+1}(t) \\
 = & \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\# \bar{P}} \mu(P) \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} \left(\sum_{j=1}^{k\mu(\bar{P})v} (j\mu(P))^{l-2-m} \right) v^m t^v \\
 = & \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} S_{l-2-m}(vk; \Gamma) v^m t^v.
 \end{aligned}$$

Noting that $B_1^{(\Gamma)} = (-1/2) \prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N-1)$, this leads to the indicated relation. \square

We shall derive some systems equivalent to $(K(\Gamma))$ using Proposition 2.1, which have similar forms to those of the systems in [A₂; Theorem 1] and [AS; Theorem 3.3] presented for the systems (K) and $(K(\Gamma))$ with $\Gamma = \{N\}$, respectively.

THEOREM 2.2. *The system $(K(\Gamma))$ is equivalent to any one of the following systems of congruences:*

$$\sum_{v=1}^{l-1} S_{l-3}(vk; \Gamma) v t^v \equiv 0 \pmod{l} \quad (1 \leq k \leq l-1), \tag{I}$$

$$\sum_{v=1}^{l-1} S_{l-2}(vk; \Gamma) t^v \equiv 0 \pmod{l} \quad (1 \leq k \leq l-1), \tag{II}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \varphi_{l-1}(t) \equiv 0 \pmod{l}, \\
 & \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} S_{l-2-m}(vk; \Gamma) v^m t^v \equiv 0 \pmod{l} \tag{III}_k \\
 & (2 \leq m \leq l-3; \ k \text{ is any fixed integer with } 1 \leq k \leq l-1).
 \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Suppose that τ is a solution of $(K(\Gamma))$. Then we see from Proposition 2.1 that τ is a solution of

$$\sum_{v=1}^{l-1} S_{l-2-m}(vk; \Gamma) v^m t^v \equiv 0 \pmod{l} \quad (1 \leq k \leq l-1; \ 0 \leq m \leq l-3).$$

This shows that the solution τ of $(K(\Gamma))$ satisfies the systems (I), (II) and $(III)_k$. Conversely, if τ is a solution of the above congruence for certain k and

m ($1 \leq k \leq l-1$, $0 \leq m \leq l-3$), then we know from Proposition 2.1 that τ is a solution of the congruence

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N-1) \cdot (k\mu(\Gamma))^{l-2-m} \varphi_{l-1}(t) \\ & + \sum_{j=2}^{l-2-m} \binom{l-2-m}{j-1} (k\mu(\Gamma))^{l-1-m-j} \{B_j^{(\Gamma)} \varphi_{l-j}(t)\} \equiv 0 \pmod{l}. \end{aligned}$$

For a fixed integer m with $0 \leq m \leq l-3$, let $\mathbf{D} = [a_{ij}]_{1 \leq i, j \leq l-2-m}$ be a square matrix of order $l-2-m$ with the entries $a_{ij} = i^j$. Since $\det \mathbf{D}$ is a determinant of the Vandermonde type, it is easily seen that $\det \mathbf{D} \not\equiv 0 \pmod{l}$. Therefore, we see that if τ is a solution of (I) or (II), then τ is also a solution of $(K(\Gamma))$. On the other hand, for a fixed integer k with $1 \leq k \leq l-1$, by taking successively $m = l-3, l-5, \dots, 2$ in the latter congruence one knows that τ is a solution of $(K(\Gamma))$. This completes the proof of the theorem. \square

Next, we shall discuss the Fueter type system of congruences.

PROPOSITION 2.3. *Suppose that $\tau \equiv 1 \pmod{l}$ is not a solution of $(K(\Gamma))$ only for the case $\#\Gamma = 1$. Then τ is a solution of the system $(K(\Gamma))$ if and only if τ is a solution of the system of congruences*

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{k\mu(\tilde{P})v}{l} \right] \right) \frac{1}{v} t^v \equiv 0 \pmod{l} \quad (\text{F}(\Gamma)) \\ (1 \leq k \leq l-1), \end{aligned}$$

where $[x]$ is the greatest integer $\leq x$ for a real number x .

Proof. The case $\#\Gamma = 1$ was treated in [AS; Proposition 3.5]. So assume that $\#\Gamma \geq 2$. Take $m = -1$ in the polynomial identity of Proposition 2.1:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N-1) \cdot (k\mu(\Gamma))^{l-1} \varphi_{l-1}(t) + \sum_{j=2}^{l-1} \binom{l-1}{j-1} (k\mu(\Gamma))^{l-j} \{B_j^{(\Gamma)} \varphi_{l-j}(t)\} \\ = \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} S_{l-1}(vk; \Gamma) \frac{1}{v} t^v. \end{aligned}$$

Here, by the von Staudt-Clausen theorem $B_{l-1}^{(\Gamma)} \equiv (1/l) \prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N^{l-1} - 1) \equiv 0 \pmod{l}$ if $\#\Gamma \geq 2$. On the other hand, by Fermat's theorem we have

$$\begin{aligned} S_{l-1}(vk; \Gamma) &= \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}} \mu(P)^l S_{l-1}(k\mu(\tilde{P})v) \\ &\equiv \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}} \mu(P) \left(k\mu(\tilde{P})v - \left[\frac{k\mu(\tilde{P})v}{l} \right] \right) \\ &\equiv \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{k\mu(\tilde{P})v}{l} \right] \pmod{l}, \end{aligned}$$

which implies the result by the same argument as in the proof of Theorem 2.2. □

We note that the following original form of the system $(F(\Gamma))$ was first considered by F u e t e r [F] in 1922:

$$\sum_{v=1}^{l-1} \left[\frac{kv}{l} \right] \frac{1}{v} t^v \equiv 0 \pmod{l} \quad (1 \leq k \leq l-1). \tag{F}$$

We can say that the solution τ of the Kummer system (K) is also a solution of (F), hence of $(F(\Gamma))$. In [S₂] the equivalent system to (F) was investigated by means of the Stickelberger ideal. Similarly, we shall discuss the generalized system $(F(\Gamma))$ for $\#\Gamma \geq 1$ from the viewpoint of the Stickelberger subideal in the next section.

3. A special ideal \mathcal{B}_Γ and the system $(F(\Gamma))$

In this section we shall define a special element β_Γ depending on Γ and study some basic properties of β_Γ . Further, using this element β_Γ we define an ideal \mathcal{B}_Γ of the group ring $R = \mathbb{Z}[G]$, which is involved in the Stickelberger ideal \mathcal{I} for the l th cyclotomic field $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_l)$. Subsequently, we shall observe the equivalent system to $(F(\Gamma))$ in Proposition 2.3 by means of the Stickelberger subideal \mathcal{B}_Γ of \mathcal{I} .

Let r be a primitive root mod l , r_i the least positive residue of r^i modulo l , $G = \{1, s, s^2, \dots, s^{l-2}\}$ a multiplicative cyclic group of order $l-1$ generated by s and $R = \mathbb{Z}[G] = \left\{ \alpha = \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} a_i s^i \mid a_i \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$ the group ring of G over \mathbb{Z} .

We now offer the following special elements of R , which are concerned in a basis of the Stickelberger ideal \mathcal{I} defined below:

$$\gamma = \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} r_{-i} s^i, \quad \gamma_k = \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} \left[\frac{r_k r_{-i}}{l} \right] s^i \quad (k \in \mathbb{Z}), \quad \delta = \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} s^i.$$

Let $R' = \{\alpha \in R \mid (1 + s^{(l-1)/2})\alpha \in \delta\mathbb{Z}\}$ be a subring of R . For an element $\alpha = \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} a_i s^i$ of R' , the equality $a_j + a_{j+(l-1)/2} = a_k + a_{k+(l-1)/2}$ ($0 \leq j, k \leq (l-3)/2$) always holds. Here we may state that one of bases of R' regarded as a \mathbb{Z} -module is given by

$$S' = \{\varepsilon_j \mid 0 \leq j \leq (l-3)/2\} \cup \{\varepsilon\} \quad (\text{cf., [S}_2\text{]}),$$

where

$$\varepsilon_j = s^j(1 - s^{(l-1)/2}) \quad (j \in \mathbb{Z}) \quad \text{and} \quad \varepsilon = \sum_{i=0}^{(l-3)/2} s^i.$$

The Stickelberger ideal \mathcal{I} of R is defined by $\mathcal{I} = R \cap (\gamma/l)R$ with the Stickelberger element γ/l in the group ring $\mathbb{Q}[G]$ over \mathbb{Q} (see [W; §6.2]). Therefore, for an element $\alpha \in \mathcal{I}$ there exists $\nu \in R$ satisfying $l\alpha = \nu\gamma$. It is easily seen that $\mathcal{I} \subseteq R'$ and the above elements γ, γ_k, δ belong to the ideal \mathcal{I} . Further we may assert that these elements satisfy the relation

$$\gamma_k + \gamma_{k+(l-1)/2} = \gamma - \delta \quad (k \in \mathbb{Z}).$$

Noticing that $\gamma = \gamma_{(l-1)/2} + \delta$, we present a basis of \mathcal{I} given by Skula [S₂; Theorem 2.7].

THEOREM 3.1. *The system $\{\gamma_k \mid 1 \leq k \leq (l-1)/2\} \cup \{\delta\}$ forms a basis of the Stickelberger ideal \mathcal{I} considered as a \mathbb{Z} -module.*

Referring to the form of the system $(F(\Gamma))$ we define the following special element β_Γ of R depending on a non-empty set Γ :

$$\beta_\Gamma = \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})r_{-i}}{l} \right] \right) s^i.$$

We will show that the element β_Γ belongs to \mathcal{I} . Without loss of generality, assume that $\tilde{P} = \{N_1, N_2, \dots, N_k\}$ ($\neq \emptyset$) and $N_j = r_{m_j}$ ($j = 1, 2, \dots, k$) for a given primitive root $r \pmod{l}$. Then, letting $m = m(\tilde{P}) = m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_k$ we have

$$\mu(\tilde{P})r_{-i} = \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})r_{-i}}{l} \right] l + r_{m-i}, \quad r_m r_{-i} = \left[\frac{r_m r_{-i}}{l} \right] l + r_{m-i}.$$

Noting that $\mu(\tilde{P}) \equiv r_m \pmod{l}$ and $1 \leq r_m \leq l-1$, these relations offer

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})r_{-i}}{l} \right] &= \frac{(\mu(\tilde{P}) - r_m)r_{-i}}{l} + \left[\frac{r_m r_{-i}}{l} \right] \\ &= \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})}{l} \right] r_{-i} + \left[\frac{r_m r_{-i}}{l} \right] \quad (0 \leq i \leq l-2), \end{aligned}$$

which is also valid for the case $\tilde{P} = \emptyset$ (i.e., $\mu(\tilde{P}) = 1$). Therefore, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_\Gamma &= \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left(\left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})}{l} \right] r_{-i} + \left[\frac{r_m r_{-i}}{l} \right] \right) \right) s^i \\ &= \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})}{l} \right] \right) \gamma + \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \gamma_m. \end{aligned}$$

If m' is the non-negative least residue of m modulo $(l-1)/2$, then $\gamma_m = \gamma_{(l-1)/2} - \gamma_{m'}$, hence taking consideration of Theorem 3.1 we see $\beta_\Gamma \in \mathcal{I}$.

For the element $\beta_\Gamma \in \mathcal{I}$ we obtain:

PROPOSITION 3.2. *Let j be an integer. Then*

$$s^j \beta_\Gamma = \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P}) r_{-i+j}}{l} \right] \right) s^i$$

and

$$s^j \beta_\Gamma + s^{j+(l-1)/2} \beta_\Gamma = \prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N-1) \cdot \delta.$$

Proof. The expression of $s^j \beta$ can be easily deduced. Since for a positive integer a prime to l

$$\left[\frac{ar_{-i+j+(l-1)/2}}{l} \right] = \left[\frac{a(l-r_{-i+j})}{l} \right] = a-1 - \left[\frac{ar_{-i+j}}{l} \right],$$

we deduce

$$\begin{aligned} & s^{j+(l-1)/2} \beta_\Gamma \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P}) r_{-i+j+(l-1)/2}}{l} \right] \right) s^i \\ &= - \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) + \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P}) r_{-i+j}}{l} \right] \right) s^i \\ &= \prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N-1) \cdot \delta - s^j \beta_\Gamma, \end{aligned}$$

which proves the result. □

DEFINITION 3.3. We denote by \mathcal{B}_Γ the ideal of R generated by the elements β_Γ and δ , thus

$$\mathcal{B}_\Gamma = \{ \eta \beta_\Gamma + a \delta \mid \eta \in R, a \in \mathbb{Z} \} \subseteq \mathcal{I}.$$

By Theorem 3.1 we know that the elements of $\{s^j\beta_\Gamma \mid 0 \leq j \leq (l-3)/2\} \cup \{\delta\}$ are generators of the \mathbb{Z} -module \mathcal{B}_Γ .

Here we shall derive a certain system equivalent to $(F(\Gamma))$ in Proposition 2.3 by means of the elements $\alpha \in \mathcal{B}_\Gamma$. For this purpose we define the following polynomial $f_\alpha(t)$ ($\alpha \in R$) introduced by Skula [S₁; 1.3]:

DEFINITION 3.4. For an element $\alpha = \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} a_i s^i$ of R , define the polynomial $f_\alpha(t)$ as follows:

$$f_\alpha(t) = \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} a_{-\text{ind } v} \frac{1}{v} t^v,$$

where $\text{ind } v$ means the index of $v \in \mathbb{Z}$, $l \nmid v$, relating to the primitive root $r \pmod l$ and a_k ($k \in \mathbb{Z}$) may be replaced by a_i ($0 \leq i \leq l-2$) whenever $k \equiv i \pmod{l-1}$.

Using the above polynomial we can state:

THEOREM 3.5. *The system $(F(\Gamma))$ of Proposition 2.3 is equivalent to the system*

$$f_\alpha(t) \equiv 0 \pmod{l} \quad (\alpha \in \mathcal{B}_\Gamma).$$

Proof. Let k and u be integers satisfying $r_u = k$ ($1 \leq k \leq l-1$, $0 \leq u \leq l-2$). Based on Proposition 3.2 we let

$$\alpha = s^u \beta_\Gamma = \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P}) r_{-i+u}}{l} \right] \right) s^i \in \mathcal{B}_\Gamma.$$

Then it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} f_\alpha(t) &= \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P}) r_{\text{ind } v+u}}{l} \right] \right) \frac{1}{v} t^v \\ &= \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P}) \bar{v}k}{l} \right] \right) \frac{1}{v} t^v \\ &= \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left(\left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P}) vk}{l} \right] - \mu(\tilde{P}) \left[\frac{vk}{l} \right] \right) \right) \frac{1}{v} t^v \\ &= \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{k\mu(\tilde{P})v}{l} \right] \right) \frac{1}{v} t^v, \end{aligned}$$

where \bar{n} means the least non-negative residue of $n \geq 1$ modulo l . On the other hand, since $[a(l-1)/l] = a-1 - [a/l]$ for a positive integer a prime to l , one

can state

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})v}{l} \right] \right) \frac{1}{v} t^v \\ & \quad + \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})(l-1)v}{l} \right] \right) \frac{1}{v} t^v \\ & = \sum_{v=1}^{l-1} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} (\mu(\Gamma)v - \mu(P)) \right) \frac{1}{v} t^v \\ & \equiv \prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N-1) \cdot f_\delta(t) \pmod{l}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N-1) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{l}$. So the theorem follows. \square

4. The index of the Stickelberger subideal \mathcal{B}_Γ

In this section we define a special matrix \mathbf{K}_Γ and evaluate its determinant in terms of the relative class number h^- of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_l)$. Subsequently, using this evaluation we derive the index formula of the Stickelberger subideal \mathcal{B}_Γ of \mathcal{I} in the group ring R' .

For an element $\xi = \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} c_i s^i$ of the group ring $\mathbb{Q}[G]$ of G over \mathbb{Q} , there exist uniquely rational numbers c_{hk} ($0 \leq h, k \leq (l-3)/2$) such that

$$\varepsilon_h \xi = \sum_{k=0}^{(l-3)/2} c_{hk} \varepsilon_k \quad (h = 0, 1, \dots, (l-3)/2).$$

Now, consider the following square matrix $\mathbf{C}(\xi)$ of order $(l-1)/2$:

$$\mathbf{C}(\xi) = [c_{hk}]_{0 \leq h, k \leq (l-3)/2}.$$

Si n n o t t 's Lemma stated in [S; Lemma 1.2(b)] can be formulated as follows:

LEMMA 4.1. *Let X^- be the set of all odd characters of G . For an element*

$$\xi = \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} c_i s^i \in \mathbb{Q}[G] \quad (c_i \in \mathbb{Q})$$

$$\det \mathbf{C}(\xi) = \prod_{\chi \in X^-} \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} c_i \chi(s)^i.$$

Denoting by f the order of $N \pmod l$ we put

$$\omega(N) = \begin{cases} (N^{f/2} + 1)^{(l-1)/f} & \text{if } f \text{ is even,} \\ (N^f - 1)^{(l-1)/(2f)} & \text{if } f \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Using this notation we further define $\Omega(\Gamma)$ by

$$\Omega(\Gamma) = \prod_{N \in \Gamma} \omega(N).$$

By making use of Lemma 4.1 we shall calculate $\det \mathbf{C}(\xi)$ for $\xi = \beta_\Gamma$ and prove:

PROPOSITION 4.2. *Let h^- be the relative class number of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_l)$. Then*

$$\det \mathbf{C}(\beta_\Gamma) = (-1)^{(l-1)/2} 2^{(l-3)/2} \frac{\Omega(\Gamma)}{l} h^-.$$

Proof. We shall essentially follow the same proof as in [AS; Proposition 5.5] given for the case $\#\Gamma = 1$. It is well-known that h^- can be expressed as

$$h^- = 2l \prod_{\chi \in X^-} \left(-\frac{1}{2} B_{1,\chi} \right) \quad (\text{see, e.g., [W]}),$$

where $B_{1,\chi}$ is the generalized first Bernoulli number for an odd character χ of G , i.e., $B_{1,\chi} = (1/l) \sum_{a=1}^{l-1} \chi(a)a$. Also, we easily see that for each $N \in \Gamma$

$$\sum_{a=1}^{l-1} \left\langle \frac{Na}{l} \right\rangle \bar{\chi}(a) = \frac{\chi(N)}{l} \sum_{a=1}^{l-1} a \bar{\chi}(a), \quad \prod_{\chi \in X^-} (N - \chi(N)) = \omega(N),$$

where $\bar{\chi}$ is the conjugate character of χ and $\langle \theta \rangle$ is the fractional part of θ for a real number θ , so $\langle \theta \rangle = \theta - [\theta]$. Using these relations we obtain from Lemma 4.1

$$\begin{aligned} \det \mathbf{C}(\beta_\Gamma) &= \prod_{\chi \in X^-} \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})r_{-i}}{l} \right] \right) \chi(s)^i \\ &= \prod_{\chi \in X^-} \sum_{a=1}^{l-1} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})a}{l} \right] \right) \bar{\chi}(a) \\ &= \prod_{\chi \in X^-} \sum_{a=1}^{l-1} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left(\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})a}{l} - \left\langle \frac{\mu(\tilde{P})a}{l} \right\rangle \right) \right) \bar{\chi}(a) \\ &= \prod_{\chi \in X^-} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) (\mu(\tilde{P}) - \chi(\mu(\tilde{P}))) \cdot \frac{1}{l} \sum_{a=1}^{l-1} a \bar{\chi}(a) \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \prod_{\chi \in X^-} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}} \mu(P) \chi(\mu(\tilde{P})) \cdot \frac{1}{l} \sum_{a=1}^{l-1} a \bar{\chi}(a) \right) \\
 &= \prod_{\chi \in X^-} \prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N - \chi(N)) \cdot \prod_{\chi \in X^-} \left(\frac{1}{l} \sum_{a=1}^{l-1} a \chi(a) \right) \\
 &= (-2)^{(l-1)/2} \Omega(\Gamma) \cdot \prod_{\chi \in X^-} \left(-\frac{1}{2} B_{1,\chi} \right) \\
 &= (-1)^{(l-1)/2} 2^{(l-3)/2} \frac{\Omega(\Gamma)}{l} h^-,
 \end{aligned}$$

as indicated. This completes the proof. □

We consider the square matrix \mathbf{K}_Γ of order $(l-1)/2$ as follows:

DEFINITION 4.3. For a non-empty set Γ , define the square matrix of order $(l-1)/2$ as follows:

$$\mathbf{K}_\Gamma = [k_{ij}]_{1 \leq i, j \leq (l-1)/2},$$

where

$$k_{ij} = \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\overline{ij} \mu(\tilde{P})}{l} \right] - \frac{1}{2} \prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N - 1).$$

The matrix \mathbf{K}_Γ for the case $\#\Gamma = 1$ was considered in [AS] and its determinant was calculated in terms of the relative class number h^- of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_l)$. We would like to extend this result to more general situation for the case $\#\Gamma \geq 1$.

To decide the sign of $\det \mathbf{K}_\Gamma$ we need the following proposition [AS; Proposition 4.5]:

PROPOSITION 4.4. Let a_{uv} be complex numbers satisfying $a_{u+(l-1)/2,v} = a_{u,v+(l-1)/2} = -a_{uv}$ for all integers u, v . If \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{K} are the matrices defined by $\mathbf{A} = [a_{uv}]_{0 \leq u, v \leq (l-3)/2}$ and $\mathbf{K} = [k_{ij}]_{1 \leq i, j \leq (l-1)/2}$ with $k_{ij} = a_{\text{ind } i, -\text{ind } j}$, then

$$\det \mathbf{K} = (-1)^{(l-1)(l-3)/8} \det \mathbf{A}.$$

Note that the above proposition is also applicable to the transposed matrices \mathbf{A}^T and \mathbf{K}^T .

Now we can evaluate $\det \mathbf{K}_\Gamma$ and give the following formula:

THEOREM 4.5.

$$\det \mathbf{K}_\Gamma = (-1)^{(l^2-1)/8} \frac{\Omega(\Gamma)}{2l} h^-.$$

Proof. For integers u, v put

$$a_{uv} = \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P}) r_{-u+v}}{l} \right] - \frac{1}{2} \prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N - 1)$$

and consider the square matrix of order $(l-1)/2$:

$$\mathbf{A}_\Gamma = [a_{uv}]_{0 \leq u, v \leq (l-3)/2}.$$

We first want to show that a_{uv} satisfies the condition of Proposition 4.4, that is, $a_{u+(l-1)/2, v} = a_{u, v+(l-1)/2} = -a_{uv}$. For brevity set $\Pi_\Gamma = \prod_{N \in \Gamma} (N-1)$. By direct calculation one has

$$\begin{aligned} a_{u+(l-1)/2, v} &= a_{u, v+(l-1)/2} \\ &= \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})r_{-u+v+(l-1)/2}}{l} \right] - \frac{1}{2} \Pi_\Gamma \\ &= \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})(l-r_{-u+v})}{l} \right] - \frac{1}{2} \Pi_\Gamma \\ &= \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left(\mu(\tilde{P}) - 1 - \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})r_{-u+v}}{l} \right] \right) - \frac{1}{2} \Pi_\Gamma \\ &= \Pi_\Gamma - \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})r_{-u+v}}{l} \right] - \frac{1}{2} \Pi_\Gamma \\ &= -a_{uv}, \end{aligned}$$

as desired. Noting that $r_{-k-(l-1)/2+h} = l - r_{-k+h}$ ($0 \leq k, h \leq (l-3)/2$), we can deduce from Proposition 3.2

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_h \beta_\Gamma &= (s^h - s^{h+(l-1)/2}) \beta_\Gamma = 2s^h \beta_\Gamma - \Pi_\Gamma \delta \\ &= 2 \sum_{k=0}^{(l-3)/2} \left\{ \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left(\left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})r_{-k+h}}{l} \right] s^k \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})r_{-k-(l-1)/2+h}}{l} \right] s^{k+(l-1)/2} \right) \right\} - \Pi_\Gamma \delta \\ &= 2 \sum_{k=0}^{(l-3)/2} \left\{ \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left(\left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})r_{-k+h}}{l} \right] s^k \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + (\mu(\tilde{P}) - 1) s^{k+(l-1)/2} - \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})r_{-k+h}}{l} \right] s^{k+(l-1)/2} \right) \right\} \\ &\quad - \Pi_\Gamma \cdot (1 + s^{(l-1)/2}) \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 2 \sum_{k=0}^{(l-3)/2} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})r_{-k+h}}{l} \right] \varepsilon_k + \Pi_\Gamma \cdot s^{k+(l-1)/2} \right) \\
 &\quad - \Pi_\Gamma \cdot (1 + s^{(l-1)/2}) \varepsilon \\
 &= 2 \sum_{k=0}^{(l-3)/2} \left(\sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}-1} \mu(P) \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P})r_{-k+h}}{l} \right] \right) \varepsilon_k - \Pi_\Gamma \cdot (1 - s^{(l-1)/2}) \varepsilon \\
 &= 2 \sum_{k=0}^{(l-3)/2} a_{kh} \varepsilon_k .
 \end{aligned}$$

Since the entries k_{ij} ($1 \leq i, j \leq (l-1)/2$) of the matrix \mathbf{K}_Γ satisfy the identity $k_{ij} = a_{- \text{ind } j, \text{ind } i}$, we get from Propositions 4.2 and 4.4

$$\begin{aligned}
 \det \mathbf{K}_\Gamma &= (-1)^{(l-1)(l-3)/8} \det \mathbf{A}_\Gamma^\text{T} \\
 &= (-1)^{(l-1)(l-3)/8+(l-1)/2} \frac{\Omega(\Gamma)}{2l} h^- \\
 &= (-1)^{(l^2-1)/8} \frac{\Omega(\Gamma)}{2l} h^- ,
 \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof of the theorem. □

We should supplement here that H a z a m a [H] introduced the $(0, 1)$ square matrix $\mathbf{H} = [h_{ij}]_{1 \leq i, j \leq (l-1)/2}$ of order $(l-1)/2$ defined by $h_{ij} = 0$ if $\overline{ij} > l/2$ and $h_{ij} = 1$ if $\overline{ij} < l/2$, and he evaluated its determinant as follows:

$$\det \mathbf{H} = (-1)^{[(l-1)/4]} \frac{\omega(2)}{l} h^- .$$

The adjustment between the formulas of $\det \mathbf{H}$ and $\det \mathbf{K}_\Gamma$ for $\Gamma = \{2\}$ has been accurately mentioned in [AS; Proposition 4.3].

The following proposition was proved in [AS; Proposition 5.6]:

PROPOSITION 4.6. *Let S' be the basis of R' stated in Section 3 and $\xi \in R'$. If \mathbf{C} is the transition matrix from S' to the elements $s^j \xi$ ($0 \leq j \leq (l-3)/2$) and δ , then*

$$\det \mathbf{C} = 2^{-(l-3)/2} \det \mathbf{C}(\xi) .$$

Applying Propositions 4.2 and 4.6 we obtain:

THEOREM 4.7.

(i) If \mathbf{C}_Γ is the transition matrix from S' to the elements $s^j\beta_\Gamma$ ($0 \leq j \leq (l-3)/2$) and δ , then

$$\det \mathbf{C}_\Gamma = (-1)^{(l-1)/2} \frac{\Omega(\Gamma)}{l} h^-.$$

(ii) The system $\{s^j\beta_\Gamma \mid 0 \leq j \leq (l-3)/2\} \cup \{\delta\}$ forms a basis of \mathcal{B}_Γ regarded as a \mathbb{Z} -module.

As a consequence of Theorem 4.7, one can state the following index formula for the Stickelberger subideal \mathcal{B}_Γ of \mathcal{I} in R' :

THEOREM 4.8.

$$[R' : \mathcal{B}_\Gamma] = \frac{\Omega(\Gamma)}{l} h^-.$$

The next theorem follows from Iwasawa's class number formula ([I]) and it was extended by Sinnott [S] to a wider class of cyclotomic fields (see also [W; §6.4]).

THEOREM 4.9.

$$[R' : \mathcal{I}] = h^-.$$

Using Theorems 4.8 and 4.9 we may state:

COROLLARY 4.10.

$$[\mathcal{I} : \mathcal{B}_\Gamma] = \frac{\Omega(\Gamma)}{l}.$$

Next, we argue inclusion relation between the Stickelberger subideals of the above mentioned type.

PROPOSITION 4.11. *Let Γ' be a non-empty subset of Γ . Then $\mathcal{B}_{\Gamma'} \supseteq \mathcal{B}_\Gamma$.*

Proof. It is enough to prove the proposition only for the case $\Gamma = \Gamma' \cup \{M\}$, where M is a positive integer with $M \notin \Gamma'$ and $2 \leq M \leq l-1$. Let \mathcal{P}' be the power set of Γ' and put for simplicity

$$X_i = M \sum_{P' \in \mathcal{P}'} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}'-1} \mu(P') \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P}')r_{-i}}{l} \right],$$

$$Y_i = \sum_{P' \in \mathcal{P}'} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}'-1} \mu(P') \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P}')Mr_{-i}}{l} \right].$$

Then we see that $\beta_\Gamma = \sum_{i=0}^{l-2} (X_i - Y_i)s^i$. Here $\sum_{i=0}^{l-2} X_i s^i = M\beta_{\Gamma'} \in \mathcal{B}_{\Gamma'}$. We now

show that $\sum_{i=0}^{l-2} Y_i s^i \in \mathcal{B}_{\Gamma'}$. For a fixed primitive root $r \pmod{l}$, let g and m be

the integers satisfying $\mu(\tilde{P}') \equiv r_g \pmod{l}$ and $M = r_m$, respectively. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(\tilde{P}')Mr_{-i} &= \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P}')Mr_{-i}}{l} \right] l + r_{g+m-i}, \\ \mu(\tilde{P}')\overline{Mr_{-i}} &= \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P}')\overline{Mr_{-i}}}{l} \right] l + r_{g+m-i}, \end{aligned}$$

hence

$$\left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P}')Mr_{-i}}{l} \right] = \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P}')\overline{Mr_{-i}}}{l} \right] + \frac{\mu(\tilde{P}')(Mr_{-i} - \overline{Mr_{-i}})}{l}.$$

Since $\overline{Mr_{-i}} = r_{-i+m}$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} Y_i &= \sum_{P' \in \mathcal{P}'} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}'-1} \mu(P') \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P}')\overline{Mr_{-i}}}{l} \right] \\ &\quad + \frac{\mu(\Gamma)(Mr_{-i} - \overline{Mr_{-i}})}{l} \sum_{P' \in \mathcal{P}'} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}'-1} \\ &= \sum_{P' \in \mathcal{P}'} (-1)^{\#\tilde{P}'-1} \mu(P') \left[\frac{\mu(\tilde{P}')r_{-i+m}}{l} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, by Proposition 3.2 we see $\beta_\Gamma = M\beta_{\Gamma'} - s^m\beta_{\Gamma'} \in \mathcal{B}_{\Gamma'}$, which implies the result. \square

Incidentally, we add that if $m(N)$ is the integer with $N = r_{m(N)}$, then for any $N' \in \Gamma$

$$\beta_\Gamma = \gamma_{m(N')} \prod_{N \in \Gamma \setminus \{N'\}} (N - s^{m(N)}).$$

Based on Proposition 4.11, we obtain from Theorem 4.8:

COROLLARY 4.12. *Let Γ' be as in Proposition 4.11. Then*

$$[\mathcal{B}_{\Gamma'} : \mathcal{B}_\Gamma] = \Omega(\Gamma \setminus \Gamma').$$

Acknowledgment

The author thanks Ladislav Skula for his careful reading of the paper and useful comments.

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Received June 20, 1996
 Revised September 11, 1996

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