UPPER BOUNDS FOR THE EUCLIDEAN MINIMA OF ABELIAN FIELDS

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Abstract. The aim of this paper is to survey and extend recent results concerning bounds for the Euclidean minima of algebraic number fields. In particular, we give upper bounds for the Euclidean minima of abelian fields of prime power conductor.

1. Introduction

Let \( K \) be an algebraic number field, and let \( \mathcal{O}_K \) be its ring of integers. We denote by \( N : K \to \mathbb{Q} \) the absolute value of the norm map. The number field \( K \) is said to be Euclidean (with respect to the norm) if for every \( a, b \in \mathcal{O}_K \) with \( b \neq 0 \) there exist \( c, d \in \mathcal{O}_K \) such that \( a = bc + d \) and \( N(d) < N(b) \). It is easy to check that \( K \) is Euclidean if and only if for every \( x \in K \) there exists \( c \in \mathcal{O}_K \) such that \( N(x - c) < 1 \). This suggests to look at

\[
M(K) = \sup_{x \in K} \inf_{c \in \mathcal{O}_K} N(x - c),
\]

called the Euclidean minimum of \( K \).

The study of Euclidean number fields and Euclidean minima is a classical one. However, little is known about the precise value of \( M(K) \) (see for instance [Le 95] for a survey, and the tables of Cerri [C 07] for some numerical results). Hence, it is natural to look for upper bounds for \( M(K) \). This is also a classical topic, for which a survey can be found in [Le 95].

Let \( n \) be the degree of \( K \) and \( D_K \) the absolute value of its discriminant. It is shown in [BF 06] that for any number field \( K \), we have \( M(K) \leq 2^{-n} D_K \). The case of totally real fields is especially interesting, and has been the subject matter of several papers. In particular, a conjecture attributed to Minkowski states that if \( K \) is totally real, then \( M(K) \leq 2^{-n} \sqrt{D_K} \). This conjecture is proved for \( n \leq 8 \), cf. [Mc 05], [HGRS 09], [HGRS 11].

Several recent results concern the case of abelian fields. In [BFM 13], upper bounds are given for abelian fields of conductor \( p^r \), where \( p \) is an odd prime. The present paper complements these results by handling the case of abelian fields of conductor a power of 2. In particular, we have

**Theorem.** If \( K \) is totally real of conductor \( p^r \), where \( p \) is a prime and \( r \geq 2 \), then

\[
M(K) \leq 2^{-n} \sqrt{D_K}.
\]

In other words, Minkowski’s conjecture holds for such fields.

These results are based on the study of lattices associated to number fields (see [BF 99], [BF 02]). In §2, we recall some results on lattices and number fields, and in §3 we survey the results of [BFM 13] concerning abelian fields of conductor an odd prime power. The case of abelian fields of power of 2 conductor is the subject

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matters of §4. Finally, we survey some results concerning cyclotomic fields and their maximal totally real subfields in §5.

2. LATTICES AND NUMBER FIELDS

We start by recalling some standard notions concerning Euclidean lattices (see for instance [CS 99] and [M 96]. A lattice is a pair $(L, q)$, where $L$ is a free $\mathbb{Z}$-module of finite rank, and $q : L_\mathbb{R} \times L_\mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ is a positive definite symmetric bilinear form, where $L_\mathbb{R} = L \otimes _\mathbb{Z} \mathbb{R}$. If $(L, q)$ is a lattice and $a \in \mathbb{R}$, then we denote by $a(L, q)$ the lattice $(L, aq)$. Two lattices $(L, q)$ and $(L', q')$ are said to be similar if and only if there exists $a \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $(L', q')$ and $a(L, q)$ are isomorphic, in other words if there exists an isomorphism of $\mathbb{Z}$-modules $f : L \to L'$ such that $q'(f(x), f(y)) = aq(x, y)$.

Let $(L, q)$ be a lattice, and set $q(x) = q(x, x)$. The maximum of $(L, q)$ is defined by

$$\max(L, q) = \sup_{x \in L_\mathbb{R}} \inf_{c \in L} q(x - c).$$

Note that $\max(L, q)$ is the square of the covering radius of the associated sphere covering. The determinant of $(L, q)$ is denoted by $\det(L, q)$. It is by definition the determinant of the matrix of $q$ in a $\mathbb{Z}$-basis of $L$. The Hermite–like thickness of $(L, q)$ is

$$\tau(L, q) = \frac{\max(L, q)}{\det(L, q)^{1/m}},$$

where $m$ is the rank of $L$. Note that $\tau(L, q)$ only depends on the similarity class of the lattice $(L, q)$.

Next we introduce a family of lattices that naturally occur in connection with abelian fields (see §2), and for which one has good upper bounds of the Hermite-like thickness. This family is defined as follows:

Let $m \in \mathbb{N}$, and $b \in \mathbb{R}$ with $b > m$. Let $L = L_{b,m}$ be a lattice in $\mathbb{R}^m$ with Gram matrix

$$bI_m - J_m = \begin{pmatrix} b-1 & -1 & \ldots & -1 \\ -1 & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & -1 \\ -1 & \ldots & -1 & b-1 \end{pmatrix},$$

where $I_m$ is the $m \times m$-identity matrix and $J_m$ is the all-ones matrix of size $m \times m$. These lattices were defined in [BFN 05], (4.1). Note that the lattice $L_{m+1,m}$ is similar to the dual lattice $A_m^\ast$ of the root lattice $A_m$ (see for instance [CS 99], Chapter 4, §6, or [M 96] for the definition of the root lattice $A_m$).

Let $K$ be an number field of degree $n$, and suppose that $K$ is either totally real or totally complex. Let us denote by $\tau : K \to K$ the identity in the first case and the complex conjugation in the second one, and let $P$ be the set of totally positive elements of the fixed field of this involution. Let us denote by $\text{Tr} : K \to \mathbb{Q}$ the trace map. For any $\alpha \in P$, set $q_\alpha(x, y) = \text{Tr}(\alpha xy)$ for all $x, y \in K$. Then $(\mathcal{O}_K, q_\alpha)$ is a lattice. Set

$$\tau_{\text{min}}(\mathcal{O}_K) = \inf \{ \tau(\mathcal{O}_K, q_\alpha) \mid \alpha \in P \}.$$

If $D_K$ is the absolute value of the discriminant of $K$, then, by [BF 06], Corollary (5.2), we have

$$M(K) \leq \left( \frac{\tau_{\text{min}}(\mathcal{O}_K)}{n} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \sqrt{D_K},$$

(2.1)
This is used in [BF 06], [BFN 05], [BFS 06] and [BFM 13] to give upper bounds of Euclidean minima (see also §3 and §5). The bounds of §4 are also based on this result.

3. Abelian fields of odd prime power conductor

The set of all abelian extensions of \( \mathbb{Q} \) of odd prime power conductor will be denoted by \( \mathcal{A} \). For \( K \in \mathcal{A} \) we denote by \( n \) the degree of \( K/\mathbb{Q} \), by \( D \) the absolute value of the discriminant of \( K \), by \( p \) the unique prime dividing the conductor of \( K \), and by \( r \) the \( p \)-adic additive valuation of the conductor of \( K \). If the dependence on the field \( K \) needs to be emphasized, we shall add the index \( K \) to the above symbols. For example, we shall write \( n_K \) instead of \( n \).

**Definition 3.1.** Let \( D \subset \mathcal{A} \), and let \( \psi : D \to \mathbb{R} \) be a function. We shall say that \( \psi_o \in \mathbb{R} \) is the limit of \( \psi \) as \( n_K \) goes to infinity and write
\[
\lim_{n_K \to \infty} \psi(K) = \psi_0
\]
if for every \( \epsilon > 0 \) there exists \( N > 0 \) such that for every field \( K \in D \)
\[
n_K > N \implies |\psi(K) - \psi_0| < \epsilon.
\]
We shall also write
\[
\lim_{p_K \to \infty} \psi(K) = \psi_0
\]
if for every \( \epsilon > 0 \) there exists \( N > 0 \) such that for every field \( K \in \mathcal{D} \)
\[
p_K > N \implies |\psi(K) - \psi_0| < \epsilon.
\]

The following is proved in [BFM 13], th. (3.1) and (3.2):

**Theorem 3.2.** Let \( K \in \mathcal{A} \). Then there exist constants \( \varepsilon = \varepsilon(K) \leq 2 \) and \( C = C(K) \leq \frac{3}{2} \) such that
\[
M(K) \leq C^n (\sqrt{D_K})^\varepsilon.
\]
If \( [K : \mathbb{Q}] > 2 \), then one may choose \( \varepsilon(K) < 2 \). Moreover,
\[
\lim_{n_K \to \infty} \varepsilon(K) = 1.
\]
If \( r_K \geq 2 \), or \( r_K = 1 \) and \([\mathbb{Q}(\zeta) : K] \) is constant, then we also have
\[
\lim_{p_K \to \infty} C(K) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}.
\]

**Theorem 3.3.** Let \( K \in \mathcal{A} \). Then there is a constant \( \omega = \omega(K) \) such that
\[
M(K) \leq \omega^n \sqrt{D_K}.
\]
If \( r_K \geq 2 \), or \( r_K = 1 \) and \([\mathbb{Q}(\zeta) : K] \) is constant, then
\[
\lim_{p_K \to \infty} \omega(K) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}.
\]
Moreover, if \( r_K \geq 2 \), then \( \omega(K) \leq 3^{-2/3} \).

Note that this implies that Minkowski’s conjecture holds for all totally real fields \( K \in \mathcal{A} \) with composite conductor:

**Corollary 3.4.** Let \( K \in \mathcal{A} \), and suppose that the conductor of \( K \) is of the form \( p^r \) with \( r > 1 \). Then
\[
M(K) \leq 2^{-n} \sqrt{D_K}.
\]
This follows from Theorem 3.3, since $3^{−2/3} < 1/2$, and for $K$ totally real this is precisely Minkowski’s conjecture.

The proofs of these results are based on the method of [B 05], outlined in the previous section. For $K ∈ A$, we denote by $O_K$ is the ring of integers of $K$, and we consider the lattice $(O_K, q)$, where $q$ is defined by $q(x, y) = η_K/Q(x, y)$. As we have seen in §4, the Hermite–like thickness of this lattice can be used to give an upper bound of the Euclidean minimum of $K$.

Let $ζ$ be a primitive root of unity of order $p^r$, let us denote by $e$ the degree $[Q(ζ) : K]$. Let $Γ_K$ be the orthogonal sum of $\frac{p^r−1}{e}$ copies of the lattice $p^{r−1}A_p−1$. Set $d = \frac{p^r−1}{e}$, and let $Λ_K = ep^{r−1}e_d$ (note that the scaling is taken in the sense of the previous section, that is it refers to multiplying the quadratic form by the scaling factor). We have (see [BFM 13], Theorem (6.1)):

**Theorem 3.5.** The lattice $(O_K, q)$ is isometric to the orthogonal sum of $Γ_K$ and of $Λ_K$.

This leads to the following upper bound of $τ_{min}(O_K)$:

**Corollary 3.6.** We have

$$τ_{min}(O_K) ≤ τ(O_K, q) ≤ n · p^{r−\frac{1}{2}} · p^{r+1} + p^{r+1} + 1 − e^2,$$

where

$$v = τ_n - \frac{(p^{r−1}−1)}{e} − 1.$$

This is proved in [BFM 13], Corollary (6.7). The proof uses an upper bound for the Hermite–like thickness of the lattices $Λ_{p, n}$ proved in [BFN 05], (4.1).

Using this corollary and (2.1), one proves (3.2) and (3.3) as in [BFM 13], §7.

4. ABELIAN FIELDS OF POWER OF TWO CONDUCTOR

We keep the notation of §1 and 2. In particular, $K$ is a number field of degree $n = n_K$, and the absolute value of its discriminant is denoted by $D = D_K$. Let $r ∈ N$, and let $ζ$ be a primitive $2^r$-th root of unity. A field $K$ is said to have conductor $2^r$ if $K$ is contained in the cyclotomic field $Q(ζ)$, but not in $Q(ζ^2)$. Note that there is no field of conductor 2 and the only field of conductor 4 is $Q(i)$. For $r ≥ 3$, we have

**Proposition 4.1.** Suppose that $K$ is an abelian field of conductor $2^r$, where $r ≥ 3$. Then we have

$$K = Q(ζ), Q(ζ + ζ−1), \text{ or } Q(ζ − ζ−1).$$

Moreover,

(a) If $K = Q(ζ)$ or $Q(ζ + ζ−1)$, then

$$M(K) ≤ 2^{−n\sqrt{D_K}}.$$

(b) If $K = Q(ζ − ζ−1)$, then

$$M(K) ≤ 2^{−n(2n − 1)\frac{3}{2}}.$$

**Proof.** Let us first prove that $K = Q(ζ)$, $Q(ζ + ζ−1)$ or $Q(ζ − ζ−1)$. Let $G = \text{Gal}(Q(ζ)/Q)$. Then $G = \langle σ, τ \rangle$ where $τ$ is the complex conjugation, and $σ(ζ) = ζ^3$. The subgroups of order 2 of $G$ are

$$H_1 = \langle τ \rangle, H_2 = \langle σ^2 τ^3 \rangle, \text{ and } H_3 = \langle σ^{2r−3} τ \rangle.$$
It is easy to check that we have $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{H1}) = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta + \zeta^{-1})$, $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{H2}) = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta^2)$ and $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{H3}) = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta - \zeta^{-1})$. Note that any proper subfield of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)$ is a subfield of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{Hi})$ for $i = 1, 2$ or 3, and the statement easily follows from this observation.

Part (a) follows from Proposition (10.1) in [BF 06] for $K = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta)$, and from Corollary (4.3) in [BFN 05] for $K = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta + \zeta^{-1})$.

Let us prove (b). Suppose that $K = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta - \zeta^{-1})$. Recall that $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{H3}) = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta - \zeta^{-1})$, and that the ring of integers of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)$ is $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta]$. Therefore the ring of integers of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta - \zeta^{-1})$ is $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta - \zeta^{-1}]$, and that for $-2n \leq i \leq 2n$ we have

$$\text{Tr}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(e_i) = \begin{cases} 2n & \text{if } i = 0, \\ -2n & \text{if } i = \pm 2n, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Recall that $\tau : K \to K$ is the complex conjugation, and let

$$q : \mathcal{O}_K \times \mathcal{O}_K \to \mathbb{Z}$$

given by

$$q(x, y) = \text{Tr}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(x\tau(y))$$

be the trace form. Then the Gram matrix of $(\mathcal{O}_K, q)$ with respect to the basis $1, e_1, \ldots, e_n$ is

$$\text{diag}(n, 2n, \ldots, 2n).$$

Note that this implies that we have

$$D_K = n^2 2^{n-1}.$$ 

Since $1, e_1, \ldots, e_{n-1}$ is an orthogonal basis for $(\mathcal{O}_K, q)$, it follows from the Pythagorean theorem that the point $x = \frac{1}{2}(1 + e_1 + \cdots + e_{n-1})$ is a deep hole of the lattice $(\mathcal{O}_K, q)$. Thus we have

$$\max(\mathcal{O}_K, q) = \inf_{c \in \mathcal{O}_K} q(x - c) = q(x) = \frac{n(2n - 1)}{4}.$$ 

Set

$$\tau(\mathcal{O}_K, q) = \frac{\max(\mathcal{O}_K, q)}{\det(\mathcal{O}_K, q)^{1/n}}.$$ 

Then we have

$$\tau(\mathcal{O}_K, q) = \frac{n(2n - 1)}{4(n^2 2^{n-1})^{1/n}} = \sqrt[4]{2} \cdot \left(\frac{2n - 1}{8}\right).$$

By (2.1), we have

$$M(K) \leq \left(\frac{\tau(\mathcal{O}_K, q)}{n}\right)^{2\sqrt[4]{D_K}}.$$ 

Thus we obtain

$$M(K) \leq 2^{-n}(2n - 1)^{2\sqrt[4]{D_K}}.$$ 

This completes the proof of the proposition. \qed

Let $r \geq 3$ and let $K$ be an abelian field of conductor $2^r$ of the form $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta - \zeta^{-1})$. The following two corollaries show an asymptotic behavior of the bound obtained in Proposition (4.1)(b).
Corollary 4.2. We have
\[ M(K) \leq 2^{-n}(\sqrt{D_K})^{1+\varepsilon(n)}, \]
where
\[ \varepsilon(n) \sim \frac{\ln 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2}}{n \ln n}. \]

Proof. We set
\[ \varepsilon(n) = \ln a_n + \ln 2 \]
where
\[ a_n = \left(1 - \frac{1}{2n}\right)^n. \]
Using the fact that \( D_K = n^n2^{n-1}, \) the inequality of Proposition (4.1)(b) can rewritten as
\[ M(K) \leq 2^{-n}(\sqrt{D_K})^{1+\varepsilon(n)}. \]
A simple calculation shows that
\[ \lim_{n \to \infty} \left(n \ln n \right) \cdot \varepsilon(n) = \ln 2 - \frac{1}{2}. \]
The result follows.

Corollary 4.3. We have
\[ M(K) \leq (\sqrt{2}e^{-1/4}) \cdot 2^{-n}\sqrt{D_K}. \]

Proof. Using the same notation as in the proof of Corollary (4.2), we can rewrite the inequality of Proposition (4.1)(b) as
\[ M(K) \leq (\sqrt{2a_n}) \cdot 2^{-n}\sqrt{D_K}. \]
The result follows from the fact that the sequence \((a_n)\) is increasing and its limit equals to \(e^{-1/2}. \)

5. Cyclotomic fields and their maximal totally real subfields

Let \( m \in \mathbb{N} \), and let \( \zeta \) be a primitive \( m \)-th root of unity. Let \( K = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta) \), and let \( F = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta + \zeta^{-1}) \) be its maximal totally real subfield. Let us denote by \( n_K \), \( n_F \), their degrees, and by \( D_K \), \( D_F \), the absolute values of their discriminants. The aim of this section is to survey some results concerning \( M(K) \) and \( M(F) \).

Theorem 5.1. We have
\[ M(K) \leq 2^{-n\kappa}\sqrt{D_K} \]

Proof. This is proved in [BF 06], Proposition (10.1).

For certain values of \( m \), one obtains better bounds:

Theorem 5.2. We have

(i) Suppose that \( m \) is of the form \( m = 2^r3^s5^t \), with \( r \geq 0, s \geq 1 \) and \( t \geq 1; \)
\( m = 2^r5^s \) with \( r \geq 2, s \geq 1; \) \( m = 2^33^s \) with \( r \geq 3, s \geq 1. \) Then
\[ M(K) \leq 8^{-n\kappa/2}\sqrt{D_K}. \]

(ii) Suppose that \( m \) is of the form \( m = 2^r5^s7^t \), with \( r \geq 0, s \geq 1, t \geq 1; \)
\( m = 2^r3^s5^t \) with \( r \geq 0, s \geq 2, t \geq 1; \) \( m = 2^33^s7^t \) with \( r \geq 2, s \geq 1, t \geq 1. \) Then
\[ M(K) \leq 12^{-n\kappa/2}\sqrt{D_K}. \]
Proof. This is proved in [BF 06], Proposition (10.2). The result follows from (2.1), and the fact that an orthogonal sum of lattices of type $E_8$ is defined over $K$ in the sense of §2 in case (i), and an orthogonal sum of lattices isomorphic to the Leech lattice in case (ii).

The results are less complete for the maximal totally real subfields. We have

**Theorem 5.3.** Suppose that $m = p^r$ where $p$ is a prime and $r \in \mathbb{N}$, or that $m = 4k$ with $k \in \mathbb{N}$ odd. Then we have

$$M(F) \leq 2^{-n_F} \sqrt{D_F}$$

Proof. This is proved in [BF 06], Proposition (8.4) for $m = p^r$ and $p$ and odd prime; in [BFN 05], Corollary (4.3) for $m = 2^r$; and in [BFS 06], Proposition (4.5) for $m = 4k$.

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