ON THE GREATEST PRIME FACTORS OF DECOMPOSABLE FORMS AT INTEGER POINTS

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1. Introduction

Let $f \in \mathbf{Z}[x, y]$ be a binary form and assume that among the linear factors in the factorization of f at least three are distinct. Mahler [12] proved that $P(f(x, y)) \to \infty$ if $X = \max(|x|, |y|) \to \infty$ with $x, y \in \mathbf{Z}$, (x, y) = 1, where P(n) denotes the greatest prime factor of n. Mahler's work was generalized by Parry [14]. For irreducible forms f Coates [4] improved Mahler's result by showing that if $\alpha = 1/4$, then for any coprime integers x, y

(1)
$$P(f(x, y)) > c_1(\log \log X)^{\alpha}, \quad X \ge X_1,$$

where $c_1>0$ and $X_1>0$ depend only on f and can be given explicitly. Sprindžuk [21], [22] established (1) with $\alpha=1$ for all such forms of degree at least 5 and for so-called non-exceptional forms of degree 4. Kotov [11] generalized Sprindžuk's result to binary forms with algebraic integer coefficients. Shorey, van der Poorten, Tijdeman and Schinzel [20] proved that if $f \in \mathbb{Z}[x, y]$ has at least three distinct linear factors in its factorization and $\alpha=1$, then (1) holds for any $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ with (x, y)=d, where d is a fixed positive integer.

Schlickewei [17], [18] proved that for a large class of norm forms $F \in \mathbb{Z}[x_1, ..., x_m]$ in $m \ge 2$ variables and for $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, ..., x_m) \in \mathbb{Z}^m$ with relatively prime components, $P(F(\mathbf{x})) \to \infty$ as $|\mathbf{x}| = \max(|x_1|, ..., |x_m|) \to \infty$. For index forms $F \in \mathbb{Z}[x_1, ..., x_m]$ Trelina [24] showed that

$$P(F(\mathbf{x})) > c_2(\log \log |\mathbf{x}| \log \log \log |\mathbf{x}|)^{1/2}, \quad |\mathbf{x}| \ge X_2.$$

Independently, for discriminant forms and index forms $F \in \mathbb{Z}[x_1, ..., x_m]$

(2)
$$P(F(\mathbf{x})) > c_3 \log \log |\mathbf{x}|, \quad |\mathbf{x}| \ge X_3,$$

have been established by Papp and the author [8]. Here $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{Z}^m$ with $(x_1, \ldots, x_m) = 1$ and c_2 , c_3 , X_2 , X_3 are effectively computable positive numbers depending only on F. Recently the author [10] proved (2) for a wide class of irreducible norm forms $F(\mathbf{x})$ in $m \ge 2$ variables (including all binary forms). In [8] and [10] our estimates are established for forms $F(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbf{Z}_L[x_1, \ldots, x_m]$ at integer points $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{Z}_L^m$, where \mathbf{Z}_L denotes the ring of integers of an arbitrary but fixed algebraic number field L.

In this paper we give a common generalization of our results mentioned above and compute an explicit value of the constant corresponding to c_3 . Our main result implies the above-quoted theorems of Sprindžuk [21], [22], Kotov [11], Shorey, van der Poorten, Tijdeman and Schinzel [20], Trelina [24], Győry and Papp [8] and Győry [10].

2. Results

Before we state our theorem, we establish our notation and introduce some definitions.

A system \mathscr{L} of $n \geq 2$ linear forms $L_1(\mathbf{x}), \ldots, L_n(\mathbf{x})$ in $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \ldots, x_m)$ with algebraic coefficients will be called triangularly connected or, more briefly, Δ -connected (cf. [7]) if for any distinct i, j with $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ there is a sequence $L_i = L_{i_1}, \ldots, L_{i_v} = L_j$ in \mathscr{L} such that for each u with $1 \leq u \leq v - 1$, L_{i_u} , $L_{i_{u+1}}$ have a linear combination with non-zero algebraic coefficients which belongs to \mathscr{L} . If in particular m = 2, then every system \mathscr{L} which contains at least three pairwise non-proportional linear forms is Δ -connected.

Throughout the paper, L will denote a fixed algebraic number field of degree $l \ge 1$ with ring of integers \mathbf{Z}_L , and U_L will be the group of units in L. We denote by $\omega(\alpha)$ the number of distinct prime ideal divisors $\mathfrak p$ of a non-zero integer α in L and by $\mathscr P(\alpha)$ the greatest of the norms $N(\mathfrak p)$ of these prime ideals. For $\alpha \in U_L$ we take $\mathscr P(\alpha) = 1$ and $\omega(\alpha) = 0$.

If $F(x_1, ..., x_m) \in \mathbf{Z}_L[x_1, ..., x_m]$ is a form in $m \ge 2$ variables, then $F(x_1, ..., x_m)$ and $F(\varepsilon x_1, ..., \varepsilon x_m)$ have the same prime ideal decomposition for any $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, ..., x_m) \in \mathbf{Z}_L^m$ and $\varepsilon \in U_L$. It will be useful to introduce the notation $\overline{|\mathbf{x}|}$ defined by 1)

$$\overline{|\mathbf{x}|} = \min_{\varepsilon \in U_L} \max(\overline{|\varepsilon x_1|}, ..., \overline{|\varepsilon x_m|}), \quad m \ge 2,$$

where $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_m) \in \mathbf{Z}_L^m$. $s_0[\overline{\mathbf{x}}]$ can be effectively determined and clearly

(3)
$$N^{1/l} \leq |\overline{\mathbf{x}}| \leq \max(|\overline{x_1}|, \dots, |\overline{x_m}|)$$

for any $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{Z}_L^m$, where $N = \max_{1 \le i \le m} (|N_{L/Q}(x_i)|)$. Further, it is clear that in the special case $L = \mathbf{Q}$ $|\mathbf{x}|$ coincides with $|\mathbf{x}|$.

Our main result is the following

Theorem. Let $F(\mathbf{x}) = F(x_1, ..., x_m) \in \mathbf{Z}_L[x_1, ..., x_m]$ be a decomposable form of degree $n \ge 3$ in $m \ge 2$ variables with splitting field G over L, and let $[G: \mathbf{Q}] = g$, [G: L] = f. Suppose that the linear factors $L_1(\mathbf{x}), ..., L_n(\mathbf{x})$ in the factorization of

¹⁾ |y| denotes the maximum absolute value of the conjugates of an algebraic number y.

F form a Δ -connected system and that there is no $0 \neq \mathbf{x} \in L^m$ for which $L_j(\mathbf{x}) = 0$, j = 1, ..., n. Let d be a positive integer. Then there exists an effectively computable number X_4 depending only on F, d and L, such that

$$(4) (13f+1)s\log(s+1)+(g+1)\log\mathcal{P}>\log\log|\overline{\mathbf{x}}|$$

and

(5)
$$\mathscr{P} > ((13f+1)l)^{-\alpha}(\log\log|\overline{\mathbf{x}}|)^{\alpha}$$

for any $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{Z}_L^m$ with $N((x_1, ..., x_m)) \leq d$ and $|\mathbf{x}| \geq X_4$, where $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}(F(\mathbf{x}))$, $s = \omega(F(\mathbf{x}))$, $\mathcal{P} = P^{\alpha}$ and P is the maximal rational prime for which $(F(\mathbf{x}), P) \neq 1$.

It is easily seen that under the conditions and notations of the theorem we have $1 \le \alpha \le l$,

(4')
$$(13f+1)s\log(s+1) + (g+1)\log \mathcal{P} > \log\log N$$

and

$$\mathscr{P} > ((13f+1)l)^{-\alpha}(\log\log N)^{\alpha}$$

for any $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{Z}_L^m$ with $N((x_1, ..., x_m)) \leq d$ and $N = \max_{1 \leq i \leq m} (|N_{L/Q}(x_i)|) \geq N_1$. For small values of s the estimates (4) and (4') are obviously much better than (5) and (5').

Our theorem has several consequences. We first mention an application to diophantine equations. Let $F(\mathbf{x})$ and d be as in the theorem and let β , π_1, \ldots, π_t be fixed non-zero algebraic integers in L. Consider the equation

(6)
$$F(\mathbf{x}) = \beta \pi_{1}^{z_1} \dots \pi_{t}^{z_t}$$

in
$$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{Z}_L^m$$
, $z_1, \ldots, z_t \in \mathbf{Z}$ with $N((x_1, \ldots, x_m)) \leq d$ and $z_1, \ldots, z_t \geq 0$. Then (4) gives $\max(|\overline{\mathbf{x}}|, e^{\max_k (z_k)}) < C$

for all solutions \mathbf{x} , z_1, \ldots, z_t of (6), where C is an effectively computable number²) depending only on F, d, $\mathcal{P}(\beta \pi_1 \ldots \pi_t)$, $\omega(\beta \pi_1 \ldots \pi_t)$ and L. This result can be regarded as a p-adic analogue of our Theorem 1 in [7]. (In [7] it is not assumed $F \in \mathbf{Z}_L[\mathbf{x}]$; however, in the applications of Theorem 1 of [7] $F \in \mathbf{Z}_L[\mathbf{x}]$ is always supposed. Thus this is not an essential restriction.)

The following corollary enables us to obtain some information about the arithmetical structure of those algebraic integers of L which can be represented by a decomposable form of the above type.

Corollary 1. Suppose $F(x_1, ..., x_m)$ and d are as in the Theorem. Let F be any algebraic integer in L represented by $F(x_1, ..., x_m)$, where $x_1, ..., x_m \in \mathbf{Z}_L$ with $N((x_1, ..., x_m)) \leq d$. Then

(7)
$$(13f+1)\omega(F)\log(\omega(F)+1)+(g+1)\log\mathcal{P}(F)>\log\log N$$

²) We could easily obtain an explicit expression for C by computing each constant in the proof of our theorem. Added in proof: In my paper "Explicit upper bounds for the solutions of some diophantine equations" (to appear) I explicitly evaluated C in terms of each constant, (generalizing many earlier effective results on norm form, discriminant form and index form equations).

and

(8)
$$\mathscr{P}(F) > ((13f+1)l)^{-1}\log\log N$$

if $N=|N_{L/Q}(F)| \ge N_2$, where N_2 is an effectively computable positive number depending only on d, L and the form $F(x_1, ..., x_m)$.

Our Corollary 1 generalizes and improves Sprindžuk's theorems [22], [23] concerning rational integers represented by a binary form $f \in \mathbb{Z}[x, y]$.

Corollary 2. Let $F(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbf{Z}_L[x_1, ..., x_m]$ be a decomposable form with the properties specified in the Theorem. Let d and A be positive numbers with $d \ge 1$ and A < 1/(g+1). Then there exists an effectively computable number X_5 depending only on F, d, L and A such that if

$$\mathscr{P}(F(\mathbf{x})) \leq (\log |\overline{\mathbf{x}}|)^A, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{Z}_L^m, \quad |\overline{\mathbf{x}}| \geq X_5$$

and $N((x_1, ..., x_m)) \leq d$, then

(9)
$$\omega(F(\mathbf{x})) > c_4 \frac{\log \log |\overline{\mathbf{x}}|}{\log \log \log |\overline{\mathbf{x}}|},$$

where $c_4 = (1 - A(g+1))/(13f+1)$.

Let $f \in \mathbf{Z}_L[x]$ be a polynomial with at least three distinct roots. Since $\overline{|x|}^{1/l} \le \max{(\overline{|\epsilon x|}, \overline{|\epsilon|})}$ for any $x \in \mathbf{Z}_L$ and $\epsilon \in U_L$, our estimates (4), (5), (7), (8) and (9) remain obviously valid for $\mathscr{P}(f(x))$ and $\omega(f(x))$ with $\overline{|x|}$ instead of $\overline{|x|}$, where $x \in \mathbf{Z}_L$ and $\overline{|x|} > X_6$. We remark that for polynomials f(x) with rational integer coefficients Shorey and Tijdeman [19] obtained a much better result than our Corollary 2; they proved $\omega(f(x)) \gg (\log \log |x|)/(\log \log \log |x|)$ under the condition $P(f(x)) \le \exp((\log \log |x|)^A)$, where A is any positive number. As an immediate consequence of this result they derived a good lower bound for $\max_{1 \le i \le y} P(f(x+i))$.

As a consequence of our theorem we obtain the following generalization and improvement, respectively, of the theorems of Coates [4], Sprindžuk [21], [22], Kotov [11] and Shorey, van der Poorten, Tijdeman and Schinzel [20] on the maximal prime factors of binary forms.

Corollary 3. Let $f(x, y) \in \mathbf{Z}_L[x, y]$ be a binary form with splitting field G over L and suppose that among the linear factors in the factorization of f at least three are distinct³). Let $[G: \mathbf{Q}] = g$, [G: L] = f and $d \ge 1$. Then there exists an effectively computable positive number X_7 depending only on d, L and the form f(x, y) such that for all pairs $x, y \in \mathbf{Z}_L$ with $N((x, y)) \le d$ and $|\mathbf{x}| = \min_{\varepsilon \in U_L} \max(|\varepsilon x|, |\varepsilon y|) > X_7$, (4) and (5) hold, where $\mathscr{P} = \mathscr{P}(f(x, y))$, $s = \omega(f(x, y))$, $\mathscr{P} = P^{\alpha}$ and P is the maximal rational prime with $(f(x, y), P) \ne 1$.

³⁾ In other words f has at least three pairwise nonproportional linear factors in its factorization.

It follows from (5') that

(10)
$$\mathscr{P}(f(x,y)) > c_5(\log\log N)^{\alpha}$$

for all $x, y \in \mathbf{Z}_L$ with (x, y) = 1 and $N = \max(|N_{L/Q}(x)|, |N_{L/Q}(y)|) \ge N_3$, where $c_5 = ((13f+1)l)^{-\alpha}$. For irreducible forms $f \in \mathbf{Z}_L[x, y]$ of degree ≥ 5 (10) was earlier proved by Kotov [11].

An important special case of Corollary 3 is when $f(x, y) = (x - \alpha_1 y)...(x - \alpha_n y)$, where $\alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n \in \mathbb{Z}_L$ and at least three of them are distinct. This special case of Corollary 3 can be used to obtain an effective result on the diophantine equation $az^q = f(x, y)$ (cf. [20], pp. 63—65).

Corollary 4. Let K be an extension of degree $n \ge 3$ of L and let $F(\mathbf{x}) = a_0 N_{K/L}(x_1 + \alpha_2 x_2 + \ldots + \alpha_m x_m) \in \mathbf{Z}_L[x_1, \ldots, x_m]$ be a norm form in $m \ge 2$ variables such that $[L(\alpha_i): L] = n_i \ge 3$, $i = 2, \ldots, m$, and $n_2 \ldots n_m = n$. Then with the notations of the Theorem we have (4) and (5).

Corollary 4 implies Corollary 2 of [10] and Theorem 3 of Kotov [11].

Corollary 5. Let K be as in Corollary 4. Let $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_m$ be $m \ge 2$ algebraic integers in K with $K = L(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_m)$ and suppose that $1, \alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_m$ are linearly independent over L. Let $F(\mathbf{x})$ denote the discriminant form $\operatorname{Discr}_{K/L}(\alpha_1 x_1 + \ldots + \alpha_m x_m)$. Under the notations of the Theorem, for $F(\mathbf{x})$ (4) and (5) hold.

Corollary 5 improves Corollary 1 of our paper [8].

$$\mathrm{Discr}_{K/L}(\alpha_1 x_1 + \ldots + \alpha_{n-1} x_{n-1}) = [\mathrm{Ind}_{K/L}(\alpha_1 x_1 + \ldots + \alpha_{n-1} x_{n-1})]^2 D_{K/L}(1, \alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_{n-1}),$$

where $I(x) = \operatorname{Ind}_{K/L}(\alpha_1 x_1 + \ldots + \alpha_{n-1} x_{n-1}) \in \mathbf{Z}_L[x_1, \ldots, x_{n-1}]$ is a decomposable form of degree n(n-1)/2. It is called the index form of the basis 1, $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_{n-1}$ of O over L.

In the special case L=Q Trelina [24] obtained lower bounds for P(I(x)). Corollary 1 and Theorem 3 in our paper [8], established independently of Trelina, give lower bounds for $\mathcal{P}(I(x))$ in the above general case. As a consequence of Corollary 5 we obtain the following generalization and improvement of the estimates of Trelina [24] and Győry and Papp [8].

Corollary 6. Let L, K, d and $I(\mathbf{x})$ be defined as above. Then there exists an effectively computable positive number X_8 depending only on $I(\mathbf{x})$, d, L and $D_{K/L}(1, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1})$ such that (4) and (5) hold for any $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{Z}_L^{n-1}$ with $N((x_1, \dots, x_{n-1})) \leq d$ and $|\mathbf{x}| \geq X_8$, where $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{P}(I(\mathbf{x}))$, $s = \omega(I(\mathbf{x})D_{K/L}(1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}))$, $\mathcal{P} = P^x$ and P is the maximal rational prime with $(I(\mathbf{x}), P) \neq 1$.

The proof of our theorem depends on two deep theorems, due to van der Poorten and Loxton [16] and van der Poorten [15], which are essentially sharp inequalities on linear forms in the complex and in the p-adic case.

3. Proof of the Theorem

We first show that we can make certain assumptions without loss of generality. By using a well-known argument we can easily see that there exist algebraic integers a_2, \ldots, a_m in L such that $F(1, a_2, \ldots, a_m) \neq 0$ (see e.g. [3], p. 77). It suffices to prove the theorem for $F(x_1, a_2x_1 + x_2, \ldots, a_mx_1 + x_m)$, where the coefficient of x_1^n is non-zero. Hence we may suppose that

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = a_0 L_1(\mathbf{x}) \dots L_n(\mathbf{x})$$

with $0 \neq a_0 \in \mathbf{Z}_L$ and

$$L_i(\mathbf{x}) = x_1 + \alpha_{2i} x_2 + \dots + \alpha_{mi} x_m, \quad j = 1, \dots, n,$$

where $\alpha_{ij} \in G$, $2 \le i \le m$, $1 \le j \le n$. Writing $\alpha'_{ij} = a_0 \alpha_{ij}$ for $i \ge 2$ and $\alpha'_{ij} = a_0$ for i = 1, we have $\alpha'_{ij} \in Z_G$ for each i and j. We shall prove our theorem for

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = a_0^{n-1} F(\mathbf{x}) = \prod_{j=1}^n L'_j(\mathbf{x}),$$

where $L'_j(\mathbf{x}) = \alpha'_{1j} x_1 + ... + \alpha'_{mj} x_m$. This will imply at once the assertion of the theorem for $F(\mathbf{x})$.

We suppose that there are r_1 real and $2r_2$ complex conjugate fields to G and that they are chosen in the usual manner: if θ is in G, then $\theta^{(i)}$ is real for $1 \le i \le r_1$ and $\theta^{(i+r_2)} = \overline{\theta^{(i)}}$ for $r_1 + 1 \le i \le r_1 + r_2$. Put $r = r_1 + r_2 - 1$. It is well-known that there exist fundamental units η_1, \ldots, η_r in G and constants c_6, c_7 such that $|\log |\eta_h^{(i)}|| \le c_6$ for $1 \le h \le r$, $1 \le i \le g$ and $R_G > c_7$, where R_G denotes the regulator of G. Here, and below, c_6, c_7, \ldots will denote effectively computable positive numbers which depend only on $F(\mathbf{x})$, L and (some of them) on d.

Let $x_1, ..., x_m$ be any *m*-tuple of algebraic integers in L with $N((x_1, ..., x_m)) \le d$. Put

(12)
$$\beta_j = \alpha'_{1j} x_1 + \ldots + \alpha'_{mj} x_m, \quad j = 1, \ldots, n,$$

and

(13)
$$(f(\mathbf{x})) = (\beta_1 \dots \beta_n) = \mathfrak{p}_1^{v_1} \dots \mathfrak{p}_s^{v_s},$$

where $\mathfrak{p}_1, \ldots, \mathfrak{p}_s$ are distinct prime ideals in L. If X_4 is sufficiently large and $\overline{|\mathbf{x}|} \ge X_4$, then Theorem 1 of [7] implies s>0 and P>1. Let $\mathfrak{P}_1, \ldots, \mathfrak{P}_t$ be all distinct prime ideals in G lying above $\mathfrak{p}_1, \ldots, \mathfrak{p}_s$. Clearly $t \le sf$. Applying now the unique factorization theorem to (13) we get in Z_G

(14)
$$(\beta_i) = \mathfrak{P}_1^{U_{1j}} \dots \mathfrak{P}_t^{U_{tj}}, \quad j = 1, \dots, n,$$

where the U_{kj} are non-negative rational integers. Denote by h_G the class number of G and write $U_{kj} = h_G u_{kj} + r_{kj}$ with $0 \le r_{kj} < h_G$. We have $\mathfrak{P}_k^{h_G} = (\mu_k)$ with some $\mu_k \in \mathbf{Z}_G$. Then from (14) we see that

(15)
$$(\beta_j) = (\chi_j)(\mu_1)^{u_{1j}} \dots (\mu_t)^{u_{tj}},$$

where $(\chi_i) = \mathfrak{P}_1^{r_{1j}} \dots \mathfrak{P}_t^{r_{tj}}$ and

$$|N_{G/Q}(\mu_k)| \leq P^{gh_G}, \quad |N_{G/Q}(\chi_j)| \leq P^{gh_Gt}.$$

So, following a well-known argument (see e.g. [1], p. 188), we may choose μ_k and χ_i such that

(16)
$$\left|\log |\mu_k^{(i)}|\right| \le c_8 \log P, \quad \left|\log |\chi_j^{(i)}|\right| \le c_8 s \log P, \quad i = 1, \dots, g,$$

and, by (15), we have

$$\beta_j = \varepsilon_j \chi_j \mu_1^{u_{1j}} \dots \mu_t^{u_{tj}}, \quad j = 1, \dots, n,$$

for some unit ε_i of G.

Put $\mathscr{L} = \{L'_1, \ldots, L'_n\}$. By hypothesis there are two forms in \mathscr{L} , say L'_1 and L'_2 , such that $\lambda_1 L'_1(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda_2 L'_2(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathscr{L}$ with non-zero algebraic numbers λ_1 , λ_2 . Suppose, for convenience, that

$$\lambda_1 L_1'(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda_2 L_2'(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda_3 L_3'(\mathbf{x}) = 0$$

with $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 \lambda_3 \neq 0$. Further, we may assume that λ_1 , λ_2 , $\lambda_3 \in \mathbb{Z}_G$ and max $(|\lambda_1|, |\lambda_2|, |\lambda_3|) \leq c_9$. We obtain now

$$\lambda_1 \beta_1 + \lambda_2 \beta_2 + \lambda_3 \beta_3 = 0.$$

Put $a_k = \min_q u_{kq}$ and $u'_{kq} = u_{kq} - a_k$ for q = 1, 2, 3 and k = 1, ..., t. We may suppose without loss of generality that $U = \max_{k,q} u'_{kq} = u'_{11}$ and $u'_{13} = 0$. Since $\eta_1, ..., \eta_r$ are fundamental units, we can write

$$\varepsilon_1/\varepsilon_3 = \varrho_1 \eta_1^{w_{11}} \dots \eta_r^{w_{r1}}, \quad \varepsilon_2/\varepsilon_3 = \varrho_2 \eta_1^{w_{12}} \dots \eta_r^{w_{r2}},$$

where ϱ_1 , ϱ_2 are roots of unity in G and $w_{11}, \ldots, w_{r1}, w_{12}, \ldots, w_{r2}$ are rational integers. With the notation

$$(18) \qquad \beta_q = \sigma \delta_q, \quad \sigma = \varepsilon_3 \mu_1^{a_1} \dots \mu_t^{a_t}, \quad \delta_q = \chi_q \varrho_q \eta_1^{w_{1q}} \dots \eta_r^{w_{rq}} \mu_1^{u_{1q}} \dots \mu_t^{u_{tq}^{t}}$$

and $w_{13} = ... = w_{r3} = 0$, $\varrho_3 = 1$ we get from (17)

(19)
$$\Lambda = -\frac{\lambda_2 \delta_2}{\lambda_3 \delta_3} - 1 = \frac{\lambda_1 \delta_1}{\lambda_3 \delta_3} \neq 0.$$

We are now going to derive an upper bound for $H=\max(U, W)$, where $W=\max_{j,q}|w_{jq}|$. First suppose that $c_{10}s\log P\cdot U>H$ with a sufficiently large c_{10} . We may assume that $U \ge c_{11}s\log P$ with a sufficiently large c_{11} , for otherwise (21) immediately follows. We see from (19) that

$$\infty > \operatorname{ord}_{\mathfrak{P}_1} \Lambda \ge U - c_{12} s \log P \ge c_{13} U \ge \frac{c_{14}}{s \log P} H.$$

Further, by (19) we have

(20)
$$\Lambda = -\frac{\lambda_2 \chi_2 \varrho_2}{\lambda_3 \gamma_3} \eta_1^{w_{12}} \dots \eta_r^{w_{r^2}} \mu_1^{u'_{12} - u'_{13}} \dots \mu_t^{u'_{t2} - u'_{t3}} - 1.$$

Applying now Theorem 4 of van der Poorten [15] to Λ , we obtain by (16)

(21)
$$H < c_{15}(c_{16}s)^{12(r+sf)+28}P^{g}(\log P)^{sf+4}.$$

Suppose now that $c_{10} s \log P \cdot U \leq H$. Assume, for convenience, that $W = |w_{11}|$. From (18) we conclude

$$w_{11}\log|\eta_1^{(i)}|+\ldots+w_{r1}\log|\eta_r^{(i)}|=\log|\delta_1^{(i)}|-\log|\chi_1^{(i)}|-\sum_k u_{k1}'\log|\mu_k^{(i)}|$$

for each conjugate with $i=1,\ldots,r$. So for some h we must have

$$W \leq c_{17} (\left| \log |\delta_1^{(h)}| \right| + \left| \log |\chi_1^{(h)}| \right| + \sum_{k} u'_{k1} \left| \log |\mu_k^{(h)}| \right|).$$

Thus, by (16) we obtain

$$\left|\log |\delta_1^{(h)}|\right| \ge c_{18}W - c_{19} s \log P - c_{20} U s \log P \ge c_{21} H,$$

provided that c_{10} is sufficiently large. Further, by (16) and (18) we have

$$\log |N_{G/Q}(\delta_1)| \leq \log |N_{G/Q}(\chi_1)| + U \cdot \sum_k \log |N_{G/Q}(\mu_k)| \leq c_{22} U s \log P.$$

Hence we get for some m

$$(22) \log |\delta_1^{(m)}| \le -c_{23} H.$$

Formulae (16) and (18) imply

(23)
$$\log \left| \frac{\lambda_1^{(m)}}{\lambda_3^{(m)} \delta_3^{(m)}} \right| \le c_{24} + (g-1) \log |\overline{\delta_3}| \le c_{25} U \operatorname{s} \log P < \frac{c_{23}}{2} H.$$

We now omit the superscript (m). It then follows from (22) and (23) that

$$\log |A| < -\frac{c_{23}}{2} H.$$

Write $\eta_0 = -1$. By taking the principal values of the logarithms we obtain from (19) and (18)

$$(24) \qquad 0 < \left| \log \left(-\frac{\lambda_2 \delta_2}{\lambda_3 \delta_3} \right) \right|$$

$$= \left| \sum_{j=0}^{r} w_{j2} \log \eta_j + \sum_{k=1}^{t} (u'_{k2} - u'_{k3}) \log \mu_k - \log \left(-\frac{\lambda_3 \chi_3}{\lambda_2 \chi_2 \varrho_2} \right) \right| < e^{-\delta^* (r+t+1)H},$$

where $\delta^* = (c_{26}(r+t+1))^{-1}$ and w_{02} is a rational integer satisfying

$$|w_{02}| \leq (r+t+1)H$$
.

We can now apply Theorem 3 of van der Poorten and Loxton [16] to (24) and obtain

(25)
$$H < c_{27}(c_{28}s)^{10(r+sf)+33}(\log P)^{sf+3}.$$

So (21) and (25) imply

(26)
$$H < c_{29}(c_{30}s)^{12(r+sf)+31}P^g(\log P)^{sf+4}$$

and, by (16), (18) and (26), we have

(27)
$$\overline{|\delta_q|} < \exp\{c_{31}s\log P + c_{32}H + c_{33}Hs\log P\} <$$
$$< \exp\{c_{34}(c_{30}s)^{12(r+sf)+32}P^g(\log P)^{sf+5}\} = T_1, \quad q = 1, 2, 3.$$

Consider now any β_j with $3 \le j \le n$. By the assumption made on L'_1, \ldots, L'_n there is a sequence $\beta_2 = \beta_i, \ldots, \beta_i = \beta_j$ such that for each u with $1 \le u \le v - 1$

$$\lambda_{i_u}\beta_{i_u} + \lambda_{i_{u+1}}\beta_{i_{u+1}} + \lambda_{i_{u,u+1}}\beta_{i_{u,u+1}} = 0$$

holds with some non-zero λ_{i_u} , $\lambda_{i_{u+1}}$, $\lambda_{i_{u,u+1}} \in \mathbf{Z}_G$ satisfying max $(|\overline{\lambda_{i_u}}|, |\overline{\lambda_{i_{u+1}}}|, |\overline{\lambda_{i_{u,u+1}}}|) \le c_{35}$. Further, we may assume $v \le n$. We can see in the same way as above that

$$\beta_1 = \sigma \delta_1, \quad \beta_2 = \sigma \delta_2$$

and

(29)
$$\beta_{i_u} = \sigma_u \delta_{u, i_u}, \quad \beta_{i_{u+1}} = \sigma_u \delta_{u, i_{u+1}}$$

for u=1, ..., v-1, where $\delta_{u,i_u}, \delta_{u,i_{u+1}} \in \mathbf{Z}_G$ with

(30)
$$\max_{1 \leq u \leq v-1} (|\overline{\delta_{u,i_u}}|, |\overline{\delta_{u,i_{u+1}}}|) < T_1$$

and $\sigma_u = \vartheta_u \mu_1^{a_{1u}} \dots \mu_t^{a_{tu}}$ with units $\vartheta_u \in G$ and non-negative rational integers a_{1u}, \dots, a_{tu} . It follows from (28) and (29) that

$$\beta_j = \beta_{i_v} = \sigma \varphi_j / \psi_j$$

with

$$\varphi_j = \delta_2 \prod_{u=1}^{v-1} \delta_{u,i_{u+1}} \quad \text{and} \quad \psi_j = \prod_{u=1}^{v-1} \delta_{u,i_u}.$$

Write $\psi_1 = \psi_2 = 1$ and $\phi_j = \delta_j$ for j = 1, 2. It is clear that

(32)
$$\max(|\overline{\varphi_j}|, |\overline{\psi_j}|) < T_1^n, \quad j = 1, \dots, n.$$

We recall that $\sigma = \varepsilon_3 \mu_1^{a_1} \dots \mu_t^{a_t}$. Denote by $\mu_k^{b_k}$ the highest power of μ_k with $b_k \le a_k$ that divides at least one of the ψ_1, \dots, ψ_n . By taking norms we see that

$$b_k \le c_{36} \log T_1, \quad k = 1, \dots, t.$$

Putting

$$b_k^* = \min(a_k, b_k + 1), \quad d_k = a_k - b_k^*, \quad k = 1, \dots, t,$$

and

$$\tau_{i} = \mu_{1}^{b_{1}^{*}} \dots \mu_{t}^{b_{t}^{*}} \varphi_{i} / \psi_{i},$$

we get

(33)
$$\beta_{j} = \vartheta \mu_{1}^{d_{1}} \dots \mu_{t}^{d_{t}} \tau_{j}, \quad j = 1, \dots, n,$$

where $\vartheta = \varepsilon_3$ is a unit and τ_i are algebraic integers in G satisfying

(34)
$$|\overline{\tau_i}| < \exp\{c_{37} s \log P \log T_1\} = T_2.$$

Further, by (13) we have

(35)
$$\mathfrak{p}_{1}^{v_{1}} \dots \mathfrak{p}_{s}^{v_{s}} = (\beta_{1} \dots \beta_{n}) = ((\vartheta \mu_{1}^{d_{1}} \dots \mu_{t}^{d_{t}})^{n} \tau_{1} \dots \tau_{n}).$$

Let k, $1 \le k \le s$, be an arbitrary but fixed subscript, and let \mathfrak{P} denote an arbitrary prime ideal in G lying above \mathfrak{p}_k . If $\mathfrak{P}^{e_k} \| \mathfrak{p}_k$, e_k does not depend on the choice of \mathfrak{P} . Moreover, \mathfrak{P} divides only one of the μ_1, \ldots, μ_t . We shall now follow an argument used in the proof of Theorem 1 of [5] (cf. the deduction (36) \Rightarrow (41) of [5]). Let y_k be the greatest rational integer for which

(36)
$$\min\left(v_k e_k - \operatorname{ord}_{\mathfrak{P}}\left(\prod_{j=1}^n \tau_j\right), v_k e_k\right) \ge nh_L y_k e_k$$

holds for each \mathfrak{P} with $\mathfrak{P}|\mathfrak{p}_k$, where h_L denotes the class number of L. From (35) it follows that $y_k \ge 0$. By the definition of the y_k there is a \mathfrak{P} , lying above \mathfrak{p}_k , such that

(37)
$$nh_L(y_k+1)e_k > \min\left(v_k e_k - \operatorname{ord}_{\mathfrak{P}}\left(\prod_{j=1}^n \tau_j\right), \ v_k e_k\right).$$

Since (34) implies

$$\operatorname{ord}_{\mathfrak{P}}\left(\prod_{i=1}^{n}\tau_{i}\right) \leq c_{38}\log T_{2},$$

we get from (36) and (37)

(38)
$$0 \le v_k e_k - nh_L y_k e_k \le c_{39} \log T_2.$$

If now \mathfrak{P} is an arbitrary prime ideal in G lying above \mathfrak{p}_k and $\mathfrak{P}|(\mu_p)$, then (35), (36) and (38) give

$$0 \leq d_p \operatorname{ord}_{\mathfrak{P}} \mu_p - h_L y_k e_k \leq c_{40} \log T_2.$$

Let now $\mathfrak{p}_1^{h_L y_1} ... \mathfrak{p}_s^{h_L y_s} = (\varkappa)$, where $\varkappa \in \mathbb{Z}_L$, and choose ξ in such a way that

$$\mu_1^{d_1} \dots \mu_t^{d_t} = \kappa \xi.$$

In view of (39) ξ is an algebraic integer in G and

(41)
$$|N_{G/Q}(\xi)| \le \exp\{c_{41} s \log P \log T_2\}.$$

It follows from (33) and (40) that

$$\omega = \vartheta^n \xi^n \tau_1 \dots \tau_n \in \mathbf{Z}_L.$$

Further, Lemma 3 of [6] together with (34) and (41) imply that there is a unit $\theta_1 \in L$ and an $\omega' \in \mathbf{Z}_L$ such that

$$\omega = \theta_1^n \omega'$$

and

$$|\overline{\omega'}| < \exp\left\{c_{42} s \log P \log T_2\right\}.$$

Thus by (34) and (42) we have

$$|\overline{\theta_1^{-1} \Im \xi}| < \exp\left\{c_{43} \operatorname{s} \log P \log T_2\right\}.$$

Finally, writing $\xi_i = \theta_1^{-1} \Im \xi \tau_i$ we get

$$\beta_i = \theta_1 \varkappa \xi_I, \quad j = 1, \dots, n,$$

and, by (34) and (43),

(45)
$$|\overline{\xi_i}| < \exp\{c_{44} \operatorname{s} \log P \log T_2\} = T_3.$$

By hypothesis there is no $0 \neq x \in L^m$ for which $L'_j(x) = 0$, j = 1, ..., n. Consequently, the only solution in L of the system of equations

$$(46) L'_i(\mathbf{x}) = \beta_i, \quad j = 1, \dots, n,$$

is the $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, ..., x_m)$ considered above. Since $f(\mathbf{x})/a_0^n$ is a product of irreducible norm forms over L, (46) contains all conjugates of each equation over L. Following now an argument of the proof of Lemma 2 of [7], we can easily see that (46) has no other solutions in the complex field. So $m \le nf$, and by Cramer's rule we have

$$(47) x_i = \theta_1 \varkappa v_i / v, \quad i = 1, \dots, m,$$

where $v, v_i \in \mathbb{Z}_G, v_1, ..., v_m$ are not all zero,

$$(48) \overline{|\nu|} \le c_{45}$$

and, by (45),

$$(49) \overline{|v_i|} \leq c_{46} T_3, \quad i = 1, \dots, m.$$

In view of (47) we obtain in Z_G

$$|N_{G/Q}(\varkappa)| N((\nu_1, \ldots, \nu_m)) = |N_{G/Q}(\nu)| N((x_1, \ldots, x_m)).$$

Hence, by (48),

(50)
$$|N_{L/Q}(\varkappa)| \le |N_{G/Q}(\nu)|^{1/f} d \le c_{47}.$$

Thus we can write $\theta_1 \varkappa = \theta_2^{-1} \varkappa'$ with a unit $\theta_2 \in L$ and an algebraic integer $\varkappa' \in L$ satisfying

$$(51) |\overline{\varkappa'}| \le c_{48}.$$

It follows now from (47) that

$$x_i' = \theta_2 x_i = \varkappa' v_i / v, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m,$$

and this implies

$$x_i'^f = N_{G/L}(x_i') = N_{G/L}(x_i')/N_{G/L}(v), \quad i = 1, ..., m.$$

By the inequality (24) of [7] we have

$$|\overline{x_i'}|^f \leq |\overline{N_{G/L}(\varkappa'v_i)}|\overline{N_{G/L}(v)}|^{l-1} \leq |\overline{\varkappa'v_i}|^f |\overline{v}|^{(l-1)f},$$

whence, by (48), (49), (51), (45), (34) and (27) we obtain

(52)
$$\max_{1 \le i \le m} |\overline{x_i'}| < c_{49} T_3 \le \exp \{c_{50} (c_{51} s)^{12(r+sf)+34} P^g (\log P)^{sf+7} \}.$$

From (52) we deduce

(53)
$$\log \log |\overline{\mathbf{x}}| < \log c_{50} + (12(r+sf)+34)\log(c_{51}s) + g\log P + (sf+7)\log\log P$$
.

If X_4 is sufficiently large, then P is also sufficiently large and $s > (\log P)^{3f/(3f+1)}$ implies

$$\log c_{50} + (12(r+sf)+34)\log c_{51} + (12r+34)\log (s+1) + (sf+7)\log \log P$$

$$\leq \left(f + \frac{1}{2}\right)s\log (s+1).$$

On the other hand, for $s \le (\log P)^{3f/(3f+1)}$ we have

$$\log c_{50} + (12(r+sf)+34)\log c_{51} + (12r+34)\log(s+1) + (sf+7)\log\log P \le \log P.$$

Hence (53) gives

(54)
$$\log\log|\overline{\mathbf{x}}| < \left(13f + \frac{1}{2}\right)s\log(s+1) + (g+1)\log P,$$

whence (4) follows.

By prime number theory we can choose X_4 such that even $\pi(P) \le (1+\delta)P/\log P$ holds with $\delta = 1/(2(26f+1))$. Then $s \le l\pi(P) \le (1+\delta)lP/\log P$ and thus

(55)
$$\left(13f + \frac{1}{2}\right) s \log(s+1) + (g+1) \log P \le (13f+1) l P.$$

Finally, in consequence of (54), (55) and $\mathcal{P} = P^{\alpha}$ we obtain (5).

In order to prove (4') and (5') it suffices to observe that (53) and (3) imply

$$\log \log N < \log (lc_{50}) + (12(r+sf)+34)\log (c_{51}s) + g\log P + (sf+7)\log \log P.$$

If N is sufficiently large, we get (4') and (5') in the same way as we deduced (4) and (5) from (53).

4. Proofs of the Corollaries

Proof of Corollary 1. Let ε be a unit in L such that $\overline{|\mathbf{x}|} = \max(|\overline{\varepsilon x_1}|, ..., |\overline{\varepsilon x_m}|)$. Then

(56)
$$N = |N_{L/O}(F)| = |N_{L/O}(F(\varepsilon \mathbf{x}))| \le c_{52} |\mathbf{x}|^{nl}.$$

Therefore, for sufficiently large N, (4) implies (7), but only with $\log \log N - \log (2ln)$ in place of $\log \log N$. Following the argument applied at the end of the above proof, we obtain (7) and (8) from (53) and (56).

Proof of Corollary 2. Suppose

$$\omega(F(\mathbf{x})) \le c_4 \frac{\log \log |\overline{\mathbf{x}}|}{\log \log \log |\overline{\mathbf{x}}|}$$

for some $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{Z}_L^m$ with $|\mathbf{x}| \ge X_5$ and $N((x_1, ..., x_m)) \le d$. Then by our theorem we have

$$\log \log |\overline{\mathbf{x}}| < (13f+1)\omega(F(\mathbf{x}))\log(\omega(F(\mathbf{x}))+1)+(g+1)\log \mathscr{P}(F(\mathbf{x}))$$

$$\leq (13f+1)c_4\log\log |\overline{\mathbf{x}}| + A(g+1)\log\log |\overline{\mathbf{x}}|,$$

provided that X_5 is sufficiently large. Since $(13f+1)c_4+A(g+1)=1$, we have arrived at a contradiction and thus (9) is proved.

Proof of Corollary 3. By assumption there are at least three pairwise non-proportional linear factors in the factorization

$$f(x, y) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} (\alpha_{i1} x_1 + \alpha_{i2} y).$$

Consequently, the linear factors $\alpha_{i1}x + \alpha_{i2}y$, i = 1, ..., n, form a Δ -connected system and the system of equations

$$\alpha_{i1}x + \alpha_{i2}y = 0, \quad i = 1, ..., n,$$

has no non-trivial solution x, y in L. So the assertion of Corollary 3 follows at once from our theorem.

Proof of Corollary 4. F(x) can be written in the form

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = a_0 \prod_{i=1}^n (x_1 + \alpha_2^{(i)} x_2 + \dots + \alpha_m^{(i)} x_m),$$

where $\alpha_j^{(1)}, \ldots, \alpha_j^{(n)}$ denote the conjugates of α_j over L. As we showed in [7] (see also [9]), the conjugates $x_1 + \alpha_2^{(i)} x_2 + \ldots + \alpha_m^{(i)} x_m$ of $x_1 + \alpha_2 x_2 + \ldots + \alpha_m x_m$ over L form a Δ -connected system. Further, by virtue of the assumption $[L(\alpha_1): L] \ldots [L(\alpha_m): L] = n$, the only solution of the system of equations

$$x_1 + \alpha_2^{(i)} x_2 + \ldots + \alpha_m^{(i)} x_m = 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, n,$$

in L is $x_1 = ... = x_m = 0$. So our theorem implies the required assertion.

Proof of Corollary 5. Let $L(\mathbf{x}) = \alpha_1 x_1 + ... + \alpha_m x_m$ and let $L^{(1)}(\mathbf{x}), ..., L^{(n)}(\mathbf{x})$ be the conjugates of $L(\mathbf{x})$ over L. Put

$$l_{ij}(\mathbf{x}) = L^{(i)}(\mathbf{x}) - L^{(j)}(\mathbf{x}).$$

In proving Theorem 4 in [7] we showed that

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = \operatorname{Discr}_{K/L} (\alpha_1 x_1 + \dots + \alpha_m x_m) = (-1)^{n(n-1)/2} \prod_{\substack{i,j=1\\i \neq i}}^n l_{ij}(\mathbf{x})$$

satisfies all conditions made in our theorem. Thus (4) and (5) clearly follow.

Proof of Corollary 6. If X_8 is sufficiently large and $|\overline{\mathbf{x}}| \ge X_8$, by Corollary 5 and (11) we have $\mathcal{P}(D(\mathbf{x})) = \mathcal{P}(I(\mathbf{x}))$, where $D(\mathbf{x}) = \operatorname{Discr}_{K/L}(\alpha_1 x_1 + \ldots + \alpha_{n-1} x_{n-1})$. Thus Corollary 5 proves the assertion of Corollary 6.

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