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THE IMAGE OF THE BOREL-SERRE BORDIFICATION IN ALGEBRAIC K -THEORY

ROB DE JEU AND ALEXANDER D. RAHM

ABSTRACT. We give a method for constructing explicit non-trivial elements in the third K -group (modulo torsion) of an imaginary quadratic number field. These arise from the relative homology of the map attaching the Borel–Serre boundary to the orbit space of the SL_2 group over the ring of imaginary quadratic integers on its symmetric space - hyperbolic three-space. We provide an algorithm which produces a chain of matrix quadruples specifying our element of K_3 of the field, modulo torsion. We carry out the algorithm for the Eisenstein integers as well as for the imaginary quadratic integers of discriminant -7 .

1. INTRODUCTION

We use the SL_2 -group of the ring of integers $\mathcal{O} := \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-m})}$ of an imaginary quadratic number field $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-m})$, where m is a square-free positive integer, in order to obtain explicit elements of infinite order in the algebraic K -group $K_3(\mathcal{O})/\text{torsion} = K_3(k)/\text{torsion}$.

Let Γ be a subgroup of finite index in $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$, with torsion-free image of Γ in $PSL_2(\mathcal{O})$; and let $\Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_s$ denote the stabilisers inside Γ of the cusps of the action on hyperbolic 3-space. Let P_\bullet be a projective resolution for Γ , and denote the homology of the cone of the natural map

$$\oplus_i P_\bullet(\Gamma_i) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma_i]} \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow P_\bullet(\Gamma) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]} \mathbb{Z},$$

by $H_*(\Gamma; \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_s)$. Then we have a long exact sequence

$$\cdots \rightarrow \oplus_i H_n(\Gamma_i) \rightarrow H_n(\Gamma) \rightarrow H_n(\Gamma; \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_s) \rightarrow \oplus_i H_{n-1}(\Gamma_i) \rightarrow H_{n-1}(\Gamma) \rightarrow \cdots$$

Let Δ_i be the stabiliser of the i th cusp inside $\Delta = GL_2(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-m}))$, so that Γ is a subgroup of Δ and each Γ_i is a subgroup of Δ_i . We can replace Γ with Δ and each Γ_i with Δ_i in the above, obtaining a long exact sequence of relative homology involving Δ and the Δ_i , and the natural homomorphisms give rise to a commutative diagram

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots & \longrightarrow & \oplus_i H_n(\Gamma_i) & \xrightarrow{\alpha_n} & H_n(\Gamma) & \longrightarrow & H_n(\Gamma; \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_s) \longrightarrow \oplus_i H_{n-1}(\Gamma_i) \xrightarrow{\alpha_{n-1}} \cdots \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \cdots & \longrightarrow & \oplus_i H_n(\Delta_i) & \longrightarrow & H_n(\Delta) & \longrightarrow & H_n(\Delta; \Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_s) \longrightarrow \oplus_i H_{n-1}(\Delta_i) \longrightarrow \cdots \end{array}$$

Using a result of Suslin, one can see that the map $\oplus_i H_{n-1}(\Gamma_i) \rightarrow \oplus_i H_{n-1}(\Delta_i)$ is trivial for $n \geq 2$ (cf. Lemma 2.10). Therefore the image of a class in $H_3(\Gamma; \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_s)$ lifts to a class in $H_3(\Delta)$. From this lift, one can obtain an element in $K_3(k)/\text{torsion} \simeq \mathbb{Z}$ by standard methods. However, in order to show that the resulting element is non-trivial we need some more control. In Section 2 we therefore carry out a variation of this process, and apply it to suitable homology classes obtained from triangulations in Section 4. For the Eisenstein integers, our triangulation actually provides an element of $H_3(\Gamma; \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_s)$, but in the case of \mathcal{O} a non-principal ideal domain, the fact that there are several $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ -orbits of cusps does force us to bypass $H_3(\Gamma; \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_s)$ completely, which we achieve in Section 4, yielding an algorithm that works for all rings of imaginary quadratic integers.

2. THE RELATION WITH $K_3(k)$

In this section we modify some by now classical constructions in [9] and [3, p. 73] to suit our current needs. We shall use this in Theorem 4.6 below to show that our algorithm in Section 4 can be used to obtain a non-trivial element in $K_3(k)/\text{torsion}$ if k is an imaginary quadratic number field.

In order to be able to take non-trivial torsion in stabilisers into account, and be able to work in $PSL_2(\mathcal{O})$ instead of $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ if desired, we work in somewhat greater generality.

Let L be a field, and fix two subgroups $\Lambda \subseteq \tilde{\Lambda}$ of L^* . (Typically, we have in mind $\Lambda = \{1\}$ or $\{\pm 1\}$, and $\tilde{\Lambda} = \mathcal{O}_{\text{torsion}}^*$ with \mathcal{O} the ring of algebraic integers in a number field.) Let $\Delta = GL_2(L)/\Lambda$. Let \mathcal{L} be the set of orbits for the action of $\tilde{\Lambda}$ on $L^2 \setminus \{(0, 0)\}$ given by scalar multiplication, which has a natural map to \mathbb{P}_L^1 . For $n \geq 0$ we let $C_n(\mathcal{L}^2)$ be the free Abelian group with as generators $(n+1)$ -tuples (l_0, \dots, l_n) of elements in \mathcal{L} such that if l_{i_1} and l_{i_2} have the same image in \mathbb{P}_L^1 then $l_{i_1} = l_{i_2}$. We shall call such a tuple (l_0, \dots, l_n) with all l_i distinct in \mathcal{L} (or equivalently, in \mathbb{P}_L^1) non-degenerate, and we shall call it degenerate otherwise. Then Δ acts on $C_n(\mathcal{L}^2)$ as $\Lambda \subseteq \tilde{\Lambda}$, and with the usual boundary map $d : C_n(\mathcal{L}^2) \rightarrow C_{n-1}(\mathcal{L}^2)$ for $n \geq 1$ given by $d(l_0, \dots, l_n) = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i (l_0, \dots, \widehat{l_i}, \dots, l_n)$ we get a complex

$$\dots \xrightarrow{d} C_4(\mathcal{L}^2) \xrightarrow{d} C_3(\mathcal{L}^2) \xrightarrow{d} C_2(\mathcal{L}^2) \xrightarrow{d} C_1(\mathcal{L}^2) \xrightarrow{d} C_0(\mathcal{L}^2)$$

of $\mathbb{Z}[\Delta]$ -modules.

Let

$$\tilde{\Lambda}^2 L^* = \frac{L^* \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} L^*}{\langle (x) \otimes (-x) \text{ with } x \text{ in } L^* \rangle}.$$

We denote the class of $a \otimes b$ in $\tilde{\Lambda}^2 L^*$ with $(a) \tilde{\Lambda} (b)$. It is easily verified that $(a) \tilde{\Lambda} (b) + (b) \tilde{\Lambda} (a)$ is trivial.

For three non-zero points p_0, p_1 and p_2 in L^2 with distinct images in \mathbb{P}_L^1 , we define $cr_2(p_0, p_1, p_2)$ in $\tilde{\Lambda}^2 L^*$ by the rules:

- $cr_2(gp_1, gp_2, gp_3) = cr_2(p_1, p_2, p_3)$ for every g in $GL_2(L)$;
- $cr_2((1, 0), (0, 1), (a, b)) = (a) \tilde{\Lambda} (b)$.

Because $cr_2((0, 1), (1, 0), (a, b)) = (b) \tilde{\Lambda} (a)$ and $cr_2((1, 0), (a, b), (0, 1)) = (-ab^{-1}) \tilde{\Lambda} (b^{-1}) = -(a) \tilde{\Lambda} (b)$, we see that cr_2 is alternating. It is also clear that if we scale one of the p_i by λ in $\tilde{\Lambda}$ then $cr_2(p_0, p_1, p_2)$ changes by a term $(\lambda) \tilde{\Lambda} (c)$ with c in L^* . Let

$$(2.1) \quad \tilde{\Lambda}^2 L^* / \tilde{\Lambda} \tilde{\Lambda} L^* = \frac{\tilde{\Lambda}^2 L^*}{\langle (\lambda) \tilde{\Lambda} (c) \text{ with } \lambda \text{ in } \tilde{\Lambda} \text{ and } c \text{ in } L^* \rangle}.$$

We then obtain a group homomorphism $f_{2,L} : C_2(\mathcal{L}^2) \rightarrow \tilde{\Lambda}^2 L^* / \tilde{\Lambda} \tilde{\Lambda} L^*$ by letting this be trivial on a degenerate generator (l_0, l_1, l_2) , and by mapping a non-degenerate generator (l_0, l_1, l_2) to $cr_2(p_0, p_1, p_2)$ with p_i a point in l_i .

We also define a group homomorphism $f_{3,L} : C_3(\mathcal{L}^2) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[L^b]$, with $L^b = L \setminus \{0, 1\}$. We define it to be trivial on a degenerate generator (l_0, l_1, l_2, l_3) , and we let it map a non-degenerate generator (l_0, l_1, l_2, l_3) to $[cr_3(\bar{l}_0, \bar{l}_1, \bar{l}_2, \bar{l}_3)]$, the cross-ratio of the images of the points in \mathbb{P}_L^1 . Recall that cr_3 is defined by similar rules as those for cr_2 :

- $cr_3(g\bar{l}_0, g\bar{l}_1, g\bar{l}_2, g\bar{l}_3) = cr_3(\bar{l}_0, \bar{l}_1, \bar{l}_2, \bar{l}_3)$ for every g in $GL_2(L)$;
- $cr_3([1, 0], [0, 1], [1, 1], [x, 1]) = x$ for $x \neq 0, 1$.

We define $\delta_{2,L} : \mathbb{Z}[L^b] \rightarrow \tilde{\Lambda}^2 L^* / \tilde{\Lambda} \tilde{\Lambda} L^*$ by mapping a generator $[x]$ to the class of $(1-x) \tilde{\Lambda} (x)$. Then the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C_3(\mathcal{L}^2) & \xrightarrow{d} & C_2(\mathcal{L}^2) \\ \downarrow f_{3,L} & & \downarrow f_{2,L} \\ \mathbb{Z}[L^b] & \xrightarrow{\delta_{2,L}} & \tilde{\Lambda}^2 L^* / \tilde{\Lambda} \tilde{\Lambda} L^* \end{array}$$

commutes. For the non-degenerate case this is a direct calculation: using the $GL_2(L)$ -invariance of both $f_{3,L}$ and $f_{2,L}$ and the $GL_2(L)$ -equivariance of d we can start with a generator (l_0, l_1, l_2, l_3) containing the classes of $(a, 0)$, $(0, b)$, $(1, 1)$ and (xc, c) in \mathcal{L} for some a, b and c in L^* and x in L^b , which results in $[x]$ in $\mathbb{Z}[L^b]$ under $f_{3,L}$ and the class of $(1-x)\tilde{\wedge}(x)$ under $f_{2,L} \circ d$. For a degenerate tuple (l_0, l_1, l_2, l_3) the commutativity is obvious if $\{l_0, l_1, l_2, l_3\}$ has at most two elements as then $f_{2,L}$ is trivial on every term in $d(l_0, l_1, l_2, l_3)$. If it consists of three classes A, B and C with A occurring twice among l_0, l_1, l_2 and l_3 , then up to permuting B and C the six possibilities for (l_0, l_1, l_2, l_3) are (A, A, B, C) , (A, B, A, C) , (A, B, C, A) , (B, A, A, C) , (B, A, C, A) and (B, C, A, A) . After cancellation of identical terms with opposite signs in $d(l_0, l_1, l_2, l_3)$, we see that commutativity follows because $f_{2,L}$ is alternating.

From the above diagram we now obtain the commutative diagram

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots & \xrightarrow{d} & C_4(\mathcal{L}^2) & \xrightarrow{d} & C_3(\mathcal{L}^2) & \xrightarrow{d} & C_2(\mathcal{L}^2) & \xrightarrow{d} & C_1(\mathcal{L}^2) & \xrightarrow{d} & C_0(\mathcal{L}^2) \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow f_{3,L} & & \downarrow f_{2,L} & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ & & 0 & \longrightarrow & \overline{B}_2(L) & \xrightarrow{\delta_{2,L}} & \tilde{\wedge}^2 L^* / \tilde{\wedge} \tilde{\wedge} L^* & \longrightarrow & 0 & & \end{array}$$

with

$$(2.3) \quad \overline{B}_2(L) = \frac{\mathbb{Z}[L^b]}{f_{3,L} \circ d(C_4(\mathcal{L}^2))}.$$

We observe that we could take $GL_2(L)$ -coinvariants in the top row because of the properties of $f_{3,L}$ and $f_{2,L}$. In particular, $f_{3,L}$ induces a homomorphism $H_3(C_\bullet(\mathcal{L}^2)_\Delta) \rightarrow \ker(\delta_{2,L})$.

In order to describe $\overline{B}_2(L)$ more explicitly, we note that $f_{3,L} \circ d$ maps a non-degenerate generator (l_0, \dots, l_4) to $\sum_{i=1}^5 (-1)^i cr_3(\overline{l}_0, \dots, \widehat{\overline{l}_i}, \dots, \overline{l}_4)$ with $\overline{l}_0, \dots, \overline{l}_4$ distinct points in \mathbb{P}_L^1 . Using the invariance of cr_3 under the action of $GL_2(L)$, we may use the points $[1, 0]$, $[0, 1]$, $[1, 1]$, $[x, 1]$ and $[y, 1]$ in \mathbb{P}_L^1 for x and y in L^b with $x \neq y$. This then under $f_{3,L} \circ d$ yields the 5-term relation

$$(2.4) \quad [x] - [y] + [y/x] - [(1-y)/(1-x)] + [(1-y^{-1})/(1-x^{-1})].$$

For a degenerate generator (l_0, \dots, l_4) we note that $f_{3,L} \circ d$ is trivial if $\{l_0, \dots, l_4\}$ has at most three elements because all the terms in $d(l_0, \dots, l_4)$ are degenerate. If this set contains four classes, then after cancelling possible identical terms in $d(l_0, \dots, l_4)$ and applying $f_{3,L}$ to the result we see that it is of the form $[cr_3(\overline{m}_1, \dots, \overline{m}_4)] - \text{sgn}(\sigma)[cr_3(\overline{m}_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, \overline{m}_{\sigma(4)})]$ for a permutation σ in S_4 with sign $\text{sgn}(\sigma)$, and four distinct points \overline{m}_i in \mathbb{P}_L^1 . Those images generate the subgroup

$$(2.5) \quad \langle [x] + [x^{-1}] \text{ with } x \text{ in } L^b \rangle + \langle [y] + [1-y] \text{ with } y \text{ in } L^b \rangle$$

of $\mathbb{Z}[L^b]$.

Remark 2.6. According to (the proofs of) Lemmas 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 of [9], if L has at least four elements, then the group $\overline{B}_2(L)$ is a quotient of the group

$$\mathfrak{p}(L) = \frac{\mathbb{Z}[L^b]}{\langle [x] - [y] + [y/x] + [(1-x)/(1-y)] - [(1-x^{-1})/(1-y^{-1})] \text{ with } x, y \text{ in } L^b, x \neq y \rangle}$$

of loc. cit. It is obtained from $\mathfrak{p}(L)$ by dividing out certain elements of exponent dividing 6 (and their exponent divides 2 if $x^2 - x + 1$ has a solution in L).

Recall from loc. cit. that if L is infinite, then there is a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Tor}(L^*, L^*)^\sim \rightarrow K_3(L)_{\text{ind}} \rightarrow B(L) \rightarrow 0,$$

where $\text{Tor}(L^*, L^*)^\sim$ denotes the unique non-trivial extension of $\text{Tor}(L^*, L^*)$ by $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ if L has characteristic different from 2, and $\text{Tor}(L^*, L^*)$ otherwise, $K_3(L)_{\text{ind}} = \text{coker}(K_3^M(L) \rightarrow K_3(L))$, and $B(F)$ is the kernel of $\mathfrak{p}(F) \rightarrow F^* \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} F^* / \langle x \otimes y + y \otimes x \rangle$ under the map $[x] \rightarrow x \otimes (1-x)$.

By mapping $x \otimes y$ to $(y)\tilde{\wedge}(x)$, we get a map from the complex $0 \rightarrow \mathfrak{p}(L) \rightarrow L^* \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} L^* / \langle x \otimes y + y \otimes x \rangle \rightarrow 0$ to the complex in the bottom row of (2.2). Since $2(-x) \otimes x = 2(x \otimes x)$ it is clear from the definition of $\tilde{\wedge}^2 L^* / \tilde{\wedge} \tilde{\wedge} L^*$ in (2.1) that the map $F^* \otimes F^* / \langle x \otimes y + y \otimes x \rangle \rightarrow \tilde{\wedge}^2 L^* / \tilde{\wedge} \tilde{\wedge} L^*$ is surjective with kernel of exponent dividing $a = \text{lcm}(2, |\tilde{\wedge}|)$ whenever $\tilde{\wedge}$ is finite. Multiplying by a then gives a map $\ker(\delta_{2,L})/\text{torsion} \rightarrow B(L)/\text{torsion}$, with the latter isomorphic with $K_3(L)_{\text{ind}}/\text{torsion}$ if L is infinite.

Fix a non-zero point p in L^2 , and for $n \geq 0$ let $P_n(L) = P_n(L, p, \Lambda)$ be the free Abelian group with as generators the $(n+1)$ -tuples (g_0, \dots, g_n) of elements in Δ such that if $g_{i_1}p$ and $g_{i_2}p$ give the same point in \mathbb{P}_L^1 then $g_{i_1}p = g_{i_2}p$ already in \mathcal{L} . Clearly, $P_n(L)$ is a projective $\mathbb{Z}[\Delta]$ -module, and $P_{\bullet}(L)$ with the boundary $d : P_n(L) \rightarrow P_{n-1}(L)$ for $n \geq 1$ given by $d(g_0, \dots, g_n) = \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^i (g_0, \dots, \hat{g}_i, \dots, g_n)$ is a complex of projective $\mathbb{Z}[\Delta]$ -modules. The evaluation homomorphism $P_n(L) \rightarrow C_n(\mathcal{L}^2)$ mapping (g_0, \dots, g_n) to (g_0p, \dots, g_np) gives the commutative diagram

$$(2.7) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccccc} \cdots & \xrightarrow{d} & P_4(L) & \xrightarrow{d} & P_3(L) & \xrightarrow{d} & P_2(L) & \xrightarrow{d} & P_1(L) & \xrightarrow{d} & P_0(L) \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \cdots & \xrightarrow{d} & C_4(\mathcal{L}^2) & \xrightarrow{d} & C_3(\mathcal{L}^2) & \xrightarrow{d} & C_2(\mathcal{L}^2) & \xrightarrow{d} & C_1(\mathcal{L}^2) & \xrightarrow{d} & C_0(\mathcal{L}^2) \end{array}$$

of $\mathbb{Z}[\Delta]$ -modules, and we obtain a homomorphism $H_3(P_{\bullet}(L)_{\Delta}) \rightarrow H_3(C_{\bullet}(\mathcal{L}^2)_{\Delta})$. Combining it with the map in (2.2), we obtain a homomorphism

$$(2.8) \quad H_3(P_{\bullet}(L)_{\Delta}) \rightarrow \ker(\delta_{2,L}).$$

Remark 2.9. There are augmentations $P_{\bullet}(L) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ and $C_{\bullet}(\mathcal{L}^2) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$, and if L is infinite those give $\mathbb{Z}[\Delta]$ -resolutions of \mathbb{Z} , with the first being a projective resolution. Clearly $P_{\bullet}(L)$ is a subcomplex of the standard resolution for Δ , so we obtain a canonical isomorphism $H_3(P_{\bullet}(L)_{\Delta}) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_3(\Delta, \mathbb{Z})$. In this case the morphism $P_{\bullet}(L) \rightarrow C_{\bullet}(\mathcal{L}^2)$ is the (up to chain homotopy unique) morphism of $\mathbb{Z}[\Delta]$ -resolutions of \mathbb{Z} .

Now let p be the point $[1, 0]$ in \mathbb{P}_L^1 and consider its stabiliser

$$\Delta^{\infty} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & c \end{pmatrix} \text{ with } a, c \text{ in } L^*, b \text{ in } L \right\} / \Lambda \cdot \text{id}_2$$

in Δ . Let $N_1 = \{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & c \end{pmatrix} \text{ with } b \text{ in } L, c \text{ in } L^* \} \subset GL_2(L)$ and $N_{1,1}$ the subgroup of N_1 where $c = 1$. Let Δ_1^{∞} be the image of $\tilde{\Lambda} \cdot N_1$ in Δ^{∞} and let $\Delta_{1,1}^{\infty}$ be a subgroup of the image of $\tilde{\Lambda} \cdot N_{1,1}$.

Lemma 2.10. *Let $m \geq 1$ and assume $[L : \tilde{\Lambda}]$ is finite but L is infinite.*

- (1) *The image of the map $H_m(\Delta_{1,1}^{\infty}, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H_m(\Delta_1^{\infty}, \mathbb{Z})$ is killed by multiplication by $[\tilde{\Lambda} : \Lambda]$.*
- (2) *If $\tilde{\Lambda}/\Lambda$ is cyclic and m is even then the image of the map $H_m(\Delta_{1,1}^{\infty}, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H_m(\Delta_1^{\infty}, \mathbb{Z})$ is trivial.*

Proof. It will suffice to prove those results for $\Delta_{1,1}^{\infty}$ equal to the image of $\tilde{\Lambda} \cdot N_{1,1}$ in Δ_1^{∞} . Note that we have compatible isomorphisms $\Delta_1^{\infty} \simeq \tilde{\Lambda}/\Lambda \times N_1$ and $\Delta_{1,1}^{\infty} \simeq \tilde{\Lambda}/\Lambda \times N_{1,1}$. If $N'_1 \subset N_1$ consists of the matrices $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & c \end{pmatrix}$ with c in L^* then by [10, Theorem 1.9] the natural map $N_1 \rightarrow N'_1$ induces an isomorphism on homology. The composition $\Delta_1^{\infty} \simeq \tilde{\Lambda}/\Lambda \times N_1 \rightarrow \tilde{\Lambda}/\Lambda \times N'_1$ then induces an isomorphism on homology. Since this composition maps $\Delta_{1,1}^{\infty}$ to $\tilde{\Lambda}/\Lambda \times \{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \}$, the result is clear. \square

Let p_1, \dots, p_s with $s \geq 1$ be distinct points in \mathbb{P}_L^1 . Fix elements A_1, \dots, A_s in Δ with $p_j = A_j[1, 0]$. Then $A_{j_1}^{-1} A_{j_2}$ is in Δ_1^{∞} if and only if $j_1 = j_2$.

We shall consider elements in $P_3(L)$ satisfying the following. (In Proposition 4.5 we shall prove that it is fulfilled by the elements obtained from our algorithm in Section 4.)

Assumption 2.11. *Suppose α in $P_3(L)$ is such that the following hold.*

- (1) It is a sum of (g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3) with each g_i in a coset $A_{j_i} \Delta_1^\infty$.
- (2) In $P_2(L)_\Delta$, we can write $d\alpha = \sum_{j=1}^s A_j \beta_j$ for β_j in the kernel of

$$d : \mathbb{Z}[\Delta_{1,1}^\infty \times \Delta_{1,1}^\infty \times \Delta_{1,1}^\infty]_{\Delta_{1,1}^\infty} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[\Delta_{1,1}^\infty \times \Delta_{1,1}^\infty]_{\Delta_{1,1}^\infty}.$$

Note that each (g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3) in the first condition is in $P_3(L)$ for $p = (1, 0)$: $A_{j_1} \gamma_1[1, 0] = A_{j_2} \gamma_2[1, 0]$ with the γ_i in Δ_1^∞ implies $j_1 = j_2$, and $\gamma_1(1, 0) = \gamma_2(1, 0)$ already in \mathcal{L} because of the definition of Δ_1^∞ .

We now prove that under mild hypotheses we can associate an element in $\ker(\delta_{2,L})$ to any α satisfying Assumption 2.11.

Proposition 2.12. *Assume $[\tilde{\Lambda} : \Lambda]$ is finite, and let $t \geq 1$ be an integer such that the image of $H_2(\Delta_{1,1}^\infty, \mathbb{Z})$ in $H_2(\Delta_1^\infty, \mathbb{Z})$ is annihilated by multiplication by t . To α satisfying Assumption 2.11 we can then associate a well-defined element in $\ker(\delta_{2,L})$ by computing the map in (2.8) with $p = [1, 0]$ on those (g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3) in $t\alpha$ for which the g_0, \dots, g_3 lie in four distinct cosets $A_j \Delta_1^\infty$.*

Proof. Note that a t exists by Lemma 2.10 if L is infinite, and it obviously exists if L is finite. We can write $t\beta_j = d\tilde{\beta}_j$ in $\mathbb{Z}[\Delta_1^\infty \times \Delta_1^\infty \times \Delta_1^\infty]_{\Delta_1^\infty}$ for some $\tilde{\beta}_j$ in $\mathbb{Z}[\Delta_1^\infty \times \Delta_1^\infty \times \Delta_1^\infty \times \Delta_1^\infty]$, which is unique up to adding an element in the kernel of $\mathbb{Z}[\Delta_1^\infty \times \Delta_1^\infty \times \Delta_1^\infty \times \Delta_1^\infty] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[\Delta_1^\infty \times \Delta_1^\infty \times \Delta_1^\infty]_{\Delta_1^\infty}$. From the definitions we clearly have that the standard resolution of Δ_1^∞ is a subcomplex of $P_\bullet(L)$, so that

$$\tilde{\alpha} = t\alpha - \sum_{j=1}^s A_j \tilde{\beta}_j$$

gives a well-defined class in $H_3(P_\bullet(L)_\Delta)$ modulo the image of $H_3(\Delta_1^\infty, \mathbb{Z})$. Note that under the composition (2.8) of the homomorphisms obtained from (2.7) and (2.2), the $\tilde{\beta}_j$ do not contribute to the image (and hence this image is independent of the choice of the $\tilde{\beta}_j$) because $\gamma'[1, 0] = [1, 0]$ for all γ' in Δ_1^∞ , so they only result in combinations of degenerate generators in $C_3(\mathcal{L}^2)$, which are killed by $f_{3,L}$. Similarly, the only terms $(A_{j_1} \gamma_1, A_{j_2} \gamma_2, A_{j_3} \gamma_3, A_{j_4} \gamma_4)$ (with all γ_i in Δ_1^∞) in α that contribute are those where all A_{j_i} are distinct. \square

Remark 2.13. If $\tilde{\Lambda}$ is finite, and $a = \text{lcm}(2, |\tilde{\Lambda}|)$, then according to Remark 2.6, multiplication by a gives us a map $\ker(\delta_{2,L})/\text{torsion} \rightarrow B(L)/\text{torsion}$. If L is infinite then the latter is isomorphic with $K_3(L)_{\text{ind}}/\text{torsion}$. So for finite $\tilde{\Lambda}$ and infinite L , Proposition 2.12 gives a way of constructing an element in $K_3(L)_{\text{ind}}/\text{torsion}$ out of α . We shall use this in Section 4 in order to show that for an imaginary quadratic number field k , we can obtain elements of infinite order in $K_3(k)/\text{torsion} \simeq \mathbb{Z}$ from suitable triangulations of hyperbolic 3-space.

3. THE BOREL-SERRE BOUNDARY

Let k be an imaginary quadratic number field, and let \mathcal{O} be its ring of algebraic integers. We work with the Borel–Serre bordification $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}$ of hyperbolic 3-space \mathcal{H} , which yields a compact orbit space $\Gamma \backslash \widehat{\mathcal{H}}$ [7, appendix]. Recall from [7, page 512] the identification, for a torsion-free subgroup Γ of finite index in $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$, between the integral homology of the cusp stabiliser Γ_i and the integral homology of the torus \mathbf{T}_i joined at the i th cusp by the Borel–Serre compactification. Namely,

$$\oplus_i H_n(\Gamma_i; \mathbb{Z}) \cong \oplus_i H_n(\mathbf{T}_i; \mathbb{Z}) \cong H_n(\partial(\Gamma \backslash \mathcal{H}); \mathbb{Z}),$$

where the direct sum runs over the orbits of cusps modulo Γ , and the identification passes over to the boundary of the quotient of hyperbolic 3-space \mathcal{H} by Γ . Consider the map α induced on homology when attaching the boundary in the Borel–Serre compactification of $\Gamma \backslash \mathcal{H}$.

It turns out [5] that the above relative homology group $H_3(\Gamma; \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_s)$ is precisely the kernel of the map α_2 induced on second degree homology by the attaching map α . So the answer given in [5] to a question of Serre provides an isomorphism from $H_3(\Gamma; \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_s)$ to the one-generator group $\langle \cup_i \mathbf{T}_i \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}$.

This is the case because we can locate the induced maps α_n in the first of the long exact sequences (1.1). Taking into account that the cohomological dimension of Γ is 2, this long exact sequence concentrates in

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & \dots & \xrightarrow{\alpha_3 = 0} & H_3(\Gamma) = 0 & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \\ & \searrow & & & & & \\ & & \langle \cup_i \mathbf{T}_i \rangle & \longrightarrow & \oplus_i \langle \mathbf{T}_i \rangle & \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} & \oplus_i \langle \mathbf{T}_i \rangle / \langle \cup_i \mathbf{T}_i \rangle \oplus H_2^{cusp} \\ & \searrow & & & & & \\ & & H_2^{cusp} \oplus \langle x_i \rangle & \longrightarrow & \oplus_i \langle x_i, y_i \rangle & \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} & \oplus_i \langle y_i \rangle \oplus H_1^{cusp} \\ & \searrow & & & & & \\ & & H_1^{cusp} \oplus \{ \text{vanishing ideal} \} & \longrightarrow & \oplus_i \mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow[\text{augmentation}]{\alpha_0} & \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

where x_i and y_i denote the cycles generating $H_1(\mathbf{T}_i)$, and the maps without labels are the obvious restriction maps making the sequence exact. Note that the cuspidal homology satisfies equality of ranks between H_2^{cusp} and H_1^{cusp} , because the naive Euler–Poincaré characteristic vanishes.

The isomorphism from $H_3(\Gamma; \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_s)$ to the one-generator group $\langle \cup_i \mathbf{T}_i \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}$ tells us that a representative for the generator of $H_3(\Gamma; \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_s)$ is given by the Borel–Serre bordification \widehat{F} of an ideal fundamental polyhedron F for the action of Γ on \mathcal{H} , because the boundary of $\Gamma \backslash \widehat{F}$ is $\cup_i \mathbf{T}_i$. In $H_3(\Gamma; \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_s)$, the polyhedron \widehat{F} is given as a chain of matrix quadruples: we triangulate \widehat{F} into tetrahedra, fix a basepoint, and then replace each tetrahedron by the quadruple of matrices that map the basepoint to its four corners. The vertices of the tetrahedra are actually on one Δ -orbit, because we have chosen F to be an ideal polyhedron (all of its vertices are cusps). If \mathcal{O} is a principal ideal domain, then these vertices are even on one Γ -orbit, because there is just one $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ -orbit of cusps in this case.

4. EXPLICIT DETERMINATION OF THE HOMOLOGY CLASSES

In this section, we outline an algorithm to compute a chain of matrix quadruples satisfying Assumption 2.11, for an imaginary quadratic number field k with ring of algebraic integers \mathcal{O} .

We call a polyhedron in hyperbolic 3-space \mathcal{H} an ideal polyhedron, if all of its vertices are cusps. Our algorithm inputs an ideal polyhedron F tessellated by finitely many fundamental domains for the action of $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ on \mathcal{H} , such that the facets of F occur in pairs with an $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ -identification between them. Yasaki [12] has conceived and implemented an algorithm which, for all \mathcal{O} , produces ideal polyhedra satisfying this condition. He has obtained explicit polyhedra for all discriminants of absolute value smaller than 100, and all imaginary quadratic fields of class number 1 and 2. So we know that our input object exists and is practically available for our computations. We equip the Borel–Serre boundary of hyperbolic 3-space \mathcal{H} with a coordinate system by taking the cusp in $\mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ as the first coordinate, and the position on the attached real plane, expressed as a number in \mathbb{C} , as the second coordinate.

Before we proceed we need some preliminaries. Recall that $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ acts on the boundary of hyperbolic 3-space by fractional linear transformations, via the formula

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \cdot z = \frac{az + b}{cz + d}.$$

The $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ -orbits of \mathbb{P}_k^1 for this action correspond to the ideal class group of k , with the principal ideals corresponding to the orbit of ∞ .

Lemma 4.1 (Flöge). *Let $\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$ in \mathbb{P}_k^1 be any cusp with (α, β) not a principal ideal. Then its stabiliser in $PSL_2(\mathcal{O})$ is isomorphic to the Abelian group (with respect to natural addition)*

$$\mathcal{A} := \left\{ c \in \mathcal{O} \mid c \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \in \mathcal{O} \text{ and } c \frac{\alpha^2}{\beta^2} \in \mathcal{O} \right\}$$

by the map

$$c \mapsto \pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 - c \frac{\alpha}{\beta} & c (\frac{\alpha}{\beta})^2 \\ -c & 1 + c \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Proof. Given in [2, 9.3]. Note that Flöge used the action formula $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \cdot z = \frac{az+b}{cz+d}$. □

Corollary 4.2. *Let $\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$ in \mathbb{P}_k^1 be any cusp with (α, β) not a principal ideal, and let $M_{\alpha, \beta} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & -\frac{1}{\beta} \\ \beta & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.*

Then $M_{\alpha, \beta}^{-1}$ conjugates the stabiliser of $\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$ in $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ to the group $\pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{\mathcal{O}}{\alpha^2} \cap \frac{\mathcal{O}}{\beta^2} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

Proof. We perform the conjugation using the explicit shape of the cusp stabiliser given in Flöge’s lemma above, finding

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{\beta} \\ -\beta & \alpha \end{pmatrix} \left(\pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 - c \frac{\alpha}{\beta} & c (\frac{\alpha}{\beta})^2 \\ -c & 1 + c \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \end{pmatrix} \right) \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & -\frac{1}{\beta} \\ \beta & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{c}{\beta^2} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then by Lemma 4.1, the cusp stabiliser gets conjugated to the group $\pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{\beta^2} \mathcal{A} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$,

with $\mathcal{A} := \left\{ c \in \mathcal{O} \mid c \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \in \mathcal{O} \text{ and } c \frac{\alpha^2}{\beta^2} \in \mathcal{O} \right\}$. We have $\frac{\mathcal{A}}{\beta^2} = \frac{\mathcal{O}}{\alpha^2} \cap \frac{\mathcal{O}}{\alpha\beta} \cap \frac{\mathcal{O}}{\beta^2}$, which equals $\frac{\mathcal{O}}{\alpha^2} \cap \frac{\mathcal{O}}{\beta^2}$ by considering the factorisations of the fractional ideals for \mathcal{O} . □

We now once and for all fix representatives (α, β) of the ideal class group of k , and matrices $M_{\alpha, \beta}$ as above. (For the principal ideal we take $(1, 0)$ and $M_{1, 0} = \text{id}_2$ the 2×2 -identity matrix.) Let C_1, \dots, C_h (with h the class number of k) be the matrices thus obtained. Then every cusp in \mathbb{P}_k^1 is of the form $gC_i \cdot \infty$ for some g in $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$, with i uniquely determined by the $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ -orbit of the cusp.

Note that $g_1 C_{i_1} \cdot \infty = g_2 C_{i_2} \cdot \infty$, with the g_i in $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$, implies that $i_1 = i_2$, and with $i = i_1 = i_2$ we have that $C_i^{-1} g_2^{-1} g_1 C_i$ is in

$$(4.3) \quad \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} u & \mu \\ 0 & u^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \text{ with } u \text{ in } \mathcal{O}^* \text{ and } \mu \text{ in } \mathcal{I} \right\}$$

for some fractional ideal \mathcal{I} of k . Namely, for the orbit of ∞ this is clear because the corresponding C_i is the 2×2 -identity matrix; and for a cusp $C_i \cdot \infty$ corresponding to a non-principal ideal this follows from Corollary 4.2, using that $\mathcal{O}^* = \{\pm 1\}$, because the only two imaginary quadratic fields with $\mathcal{O}^* \neq \{\pm 1\}$ are $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$ and $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-1})$, which have class number 1.

Take F as at the beginning of this section, i.e., it is an ideal polyhedron tessellated by finitely many fundamental domains for the action of $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ on \mathcal{H} , such that the facets of F occur in pairs with an $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ -identification between them. Let p_1, \dots, p_s be the cusps in the boundary of F . Fix elements A_1, \dots, A_s in $GL_2(k)$ of the form $g C_i$ with g in $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ such that $p_j = A_j \cdot \infty$. On the plane attached to the cusp p_j , we induce the origin and axes for the second coordinate by transport with the matrix A_j of the origin and axes on the plane at the cusp ∞ . Denote the group $\{\pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \mu \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mid \mu \in \mathcal{O}\}$ by \mathcal{U} .

We then have the following algorithm.

Algorithm 4.4. *Input:* An ideal polyhedron F tessellated by finitely many fundamental domains for the action of $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ on \mathcal{H} , such that the facets of F occur in $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ -conjugate pairs of opposite orientation, and such that the basepoint $b := (\infty, 0)$ lies in the boundary of F .

First step: Triangulate the Borel–Serre bordification \hat{F} of F .

- Triangulate the surface of \hat{F} . *This is always possible since \hat{F} is a polyhedron and hence its surface is homeomorphic to a 2-sphere.* As \hat{F} is an ideal polyhedron, we can choose all of the vertices of the triangulation to lie again at the cusps; and we do so.
- Omit the triangles that touch the basepoint b , in order to obtain a set of base triangles.
- For each base triangle, record the tetrahedron that it spans together with b . *This collection of tetrahedra is the triangulation that we want.*

Second and final step: Express \hat{F} as a chain of matrix quadruples, such that each of the ideal tetrahedra is specified by the quadruple of matrices that map the basepoint b to its four corners. We obtain these matrices by concatenating

- a \mathcal{U} -move in the plane attached by the Borel–Serre construction at the cusp ∞ with
- the fixed matrix A_i moving the cusp ∞ to the cusp where the i -th corner of the tetrahedron is located.

We observe that the matrices chosen here are unique up to multiplication by $\pm \text{id}_2$. Moreover, if we have $g_i \cdot b = h g_j \cdot b$ for moves g_i and g_j , and h in $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$, then $g_i^{-1} h g_j$ is in the group in (4.3) and stabilises b , hence is of the form $\begin{pmatrix} u & 0 \\ 0 & u^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$ with u in \mathcal{O}^* . Taking, in the notation of Section 2, $\Lambda = \tilde{\Lambda} = \mathcal{O}^*$, and $\Delta = GL_2(k)/\tilde{\Lambda} \cdot \text{id}_2$, we have well-defined quadruples (g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3) of classes in Δ , and the geometric identification of points under the action of $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ now gives rise to identification of the classes in Δ of the corresponding chosen matrices. Finally, we notice that from (4.3) it is also clear that the quadruples are all in $P_3(k)$.

We now show that the resulting element α in $P_3(k)$ satisfies Assumption 2.11.

Proposition 4.5. *The formal sum α of quadruples of matrix classes produced by Algorithm 4.4 has the following properties.*

- (1) *It is a sum of (g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3) with each g_i in some coset $A_{j_i} \mathcal{U}$.*
- (2) *In $P_2(k)_\Delta$, we can write $d\alpha = \sum_{j=1}^s A_j \beta_j$ for β_j in the kernel of*

$$d : \mathbb{Z}[\mathcal{U} \times \mathcal{U} \times \mathcal{U}]_{\mathcal{U}} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[\mathcal{U} \times \mathcal{U}]_{\mathcal{U}}.$$

Proof. (1) The second step of Algorithm 4.4 places the matrices g_i into some coset $A_{j_i} \mathcal{U}$.

- (2) By Poincaré's theorem on fundamental polyhedra [4], the properties of F give rise to a finite index subgroup Γ of $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$, such that F is a fundamental domain for Γ , strict in its interior, and such that inside hyperbolic space, the polyhedron F has boundary zero modulo the action of Γ . Denoting the stabiliser in Γ of the cusp ∞ by Γ_∞ , this allows us to write $d\alpha = \sum_{j=1}^s A_j \beta_j$ in $\mathbb{Z}[\Delta \times \Delta \times \Delta]_\Gamma$ with β_j in $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma_\infty \times \Gamma_\infty \times \Gamma_\infty]_{\Gamma_\infty}$, where Γ_∞ is clearly contained in \mathcal{U} . As F is an ideal polyhedron, the orbit space F/Γ is a hyperbolic manifold, and hence the image of Γ in $PSL_2(\mathcal{O})$ is torsion-free. By the construction of the Borel-Serre compactification [7], the boundary of \widehat{F} modulo Γ consists of one 2-torus at each cusp. Tori are closed surfaces that admit no boundary, so for all j we obtain $d(\beta_j) = 0$. \square

Note that it is possible to obtain an explicit description of the group Γ involved in the above proof [6], but that this is outside of the aims of the present paper.

We shall now show that the classes obtained in Algorithm 4.4 give rise to non-zero classes in $K_3(\mathcal{O})/\text{torsion} = K_3(k)/\text{torsion} \simeq \mathbb{Z}$ under the method discussed in Remark 2.13.

We observe that $K_3^M(k)$ is 2-torsion for any number field k by [11, Theorem 8] (and in fact trivial if k is totally imaginary). Therefore $K_3(k)_{\text{ind}}/\text{torsion} = K_3(k)/\text{torsion}$. As stated in loc. cit., the rank of $K_3(k)$ is given by the number of infinite places, so that for an imaginary quadratic field k we have $K_3(k)_{\text{ind}}/\text{torsion} = K_3(k)/\text{torsion} \simeq \mathbb{Z}$.

Theorem 4.6. *Let k be an imaginary quadratic number field with ring of algebraic integers \mathcal{O} , and let α in $\mathbb{Z}[\Delta \times \Delta \times \Delta \times \Delta]_\Delta$ be a class obtained from Algorithm 4.4. Then Proposition 2.12 applies to α with $\Lambda = \widetilde{\Lambda} = \mathcal{O}^*$. Multiplying the resulting element in $\ker(\delta_{2,k})$ by $a = \text{lcm}(2, |\widetilde{\Lambda}|)$ as in Remark 2.6, we obtain a non-zero element in $K_3(k)/\text{torsion}$.*

Proof. That α satisfies the conditions in Assumption 2.11 is stated in Proposition 4.5. According to Lemma 2.10(2), Proposition 2.12 applies to α with $t = 1$.

Clearly Remark 2.6 applies, so it only remains to show that the resulting element in $B(k)/\text{torsion} \subseteq \mathfrak{p}(k)/\text{torsion}$ is non-trivial. But the dilogarithm $D : \mathbb{C}^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ applied to the generators of $\mathbb{Z}[\mathbb{C}^\times]$ satisfies all the relations imposed when creating $\mathfrak{p}(k)$ or $\overline{B}_2(k)$. Moreover, if an ideal tetrahedron in \mathcal{H} has vertices a_0, a_1, a_2 and a_3 in $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^1$, then its hyperbolic volume equals $cr_3(a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3)$. (For a discussion of those facts see, e.g., [13, §2].)

But according to Proposition 2.12, the only (g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3) in α that contribute to the image in $\mathfrak{p}(L)$ are those for which the four cusps $Q_i = g_i \cdot [1, 0]$ in $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^1$ are distinct. Applying the dilogarithm to the resulting generator $[cr_3(Q_0, Q_1, Q_2, Q_3)]$ in $\mathfrak{p}(L)$ then gives the volume of the corresponding ideal tetrahedron in \mathcal{H} in the triangulation of \mathcal{H} obtained by collapsing the boundary in the Borel-Serre bordification to single points at the cusps. Under this process all other (g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3) collapse to degenerate tetrahedra, so in total we obtain the volume of the triangulation, which is non-zero. \square

5. EXAMPLES

In this section, we consider some explicit examples for the machinery developed in Sections 2 and 4, by applying our algorithm to two cases where the ring of integers is Euclidean. For \mathcal{O} Euclidean, Cremona [1] has given a coordinate description of an ideal polyhedron in hyperbolic 3-space fulfilling our algorithm's input condition, and we use the coordinates printed there.

5.1. The Eisenstein integers case. We consider the case of the Eisenstein integers, namely the ring $\mathcal{O}_{-3} := \mathcal{O}_k$ for $k = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$. Let $\rho := \frac{1+\sqrt{-3}}{2}$.

The ideal polyhedron F specified for \mathcal{O}_{-3} in [1] admits as symmetry group the group of order 12 generated by $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \rho - 1 \\ \rho & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. Therefore the group Γ discussed in the proof of Proposition 4.5 is a normal subgroup of index 12 in $SL_2(\mathcal{O}_{-3})$, such that the quotient of $SL_2(\mathcal{O}_{-3})$ by Γ is that symmetry group.

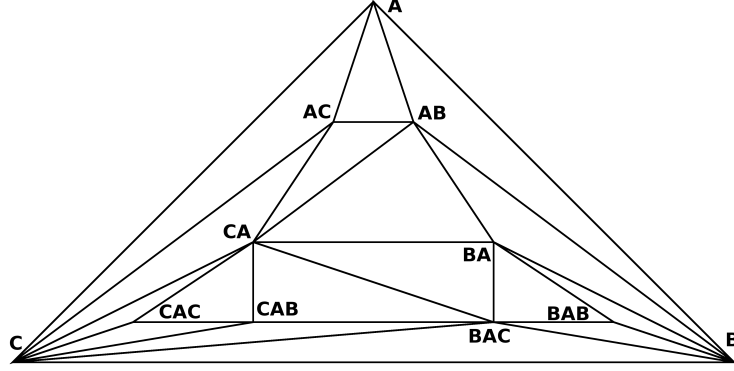


FIGURE 5.1. Base triangles for \mathcal{O}_{-3} . Each vertex is specified by the matrix which moves the point $(\infty, 0)$ into it.

Then the base triangles of the triangulation of the Borel–Serre compactification \widehat{F} of F for the action of Γ are given in Figure 5.1. Recall that the ideal tetrahedra of our triangulation are spanned as the convex hulls of a base triangle together with the basepoint. The set of cusps in the boundary of F is $\{0, 1, \rho, \infty\}$. We will make use of the following matrices in Γ , which map some (but not necessarily all) of the elements of this set of cusps back into this set.

$$A := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \rho \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad C := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The matrices B and C are in the cusp stabiliser Γ_∞ ; concatenating them *after* the matrix A gives the moves from the cusp at ∞ to the cusps at the corners of F ; and we generate them with the three basic moves $A \cdot \infty = 0$, $B \cdot 0 = \rho$ and $C \cdot 0 = 1$. Combining with words in B and C concatenated *before* the matrix A , allows us to express all of the vertices of the base triangles as images of the basepoint $b = (\infty, 0)$. The coordinates of the vertices of the base triangles in Figure 5.1 are then the following:

$$\begin{aligned} (\infty, \rho) &= B \cdot b, & (\infty, 1) &= C \cdot b, & (0, 0) &= A \cdot b, & (0, 1) &= AC \cdot b, \\ (0, \rho) &= AB \cdot b, & (1, 0) &= CA \cdot b, & (1, 1) &= CAC \cdot b, & (1, \rho) &= CAB \cdot b, \\ (\rho, 0) &= BA \cdot b, & (\rho, 1) &= BAC \cdot b, & (\rho, \rho) &= BAB \cdot b. \end{aligned}$$

The tetrahedra of the triangulation, specified by these base triangles, of \widehat{F} then give rise to the following chain of matrix quadruples α :

$$\begin{aligned} &(1, CAC, C, CAB) + (1, CAB, C, BAC) + (1, BAC, C, B) + (1, BAC, B, BAB) \\ &\quad + (1, BA, BAC, BAB) + (1, BA, BAB, B) + (1, AB, BA, B) + (1, A, AB, B) \\ &+ (1, A, AC, AB) + (1, A, C, AC) + (1, AC, C, CA) + (1, CA, C, CAC) + (1, CA, CAC, CAB) \\ &\quad + (1, CA, CAB, BAC) + (1, CA, BAC, BA) + (1, CA, BA, AB) + (1, CA, AB, AC). \end{aligned}$$

Here the quadruple $(1, CA, BA, AB)$ specifies the only tetrahedron of non-zero volume. Letting those matrices act on $[1, 0]$ and taking the cross-ratio of the resulting four points yields $-1/(\rho-1) = \rho$, so that the element we obtain in $\ker(\delta_{2,k})$ is $[\rho]$. Note that in this triangulation we use only Γ , not the full group $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$, and we can strengthen the discussion after Algorithm 4.4 and Proposition 4.5. Namely, because the image of Γ in $PSL_2(\mathcal{O})$ is torsion-free by the proof of Proposition 4.5, we can use $\Lambda = \widetilde{\Lambda} = \{\pm 1\}$ and $\Delta = GL_2(k)/\{\pm \text{id}_2\}$ in Theorem 4.6. Then $a = 2$, and the non-trivial element we obtain in $B(k)/\text{torsion} \simeq K_3(k)/\text{torsion}$ is $2[\rho]$.

5.2. The case of discriminant -7. Let $\omega := \frac{1+\sqrt{-7}}{2}$ in $k = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-7})$. The ideal polyhedron F specified for \mathcal{O}_{-7} in [1] admits as symmetry group the group of order 6 generated by

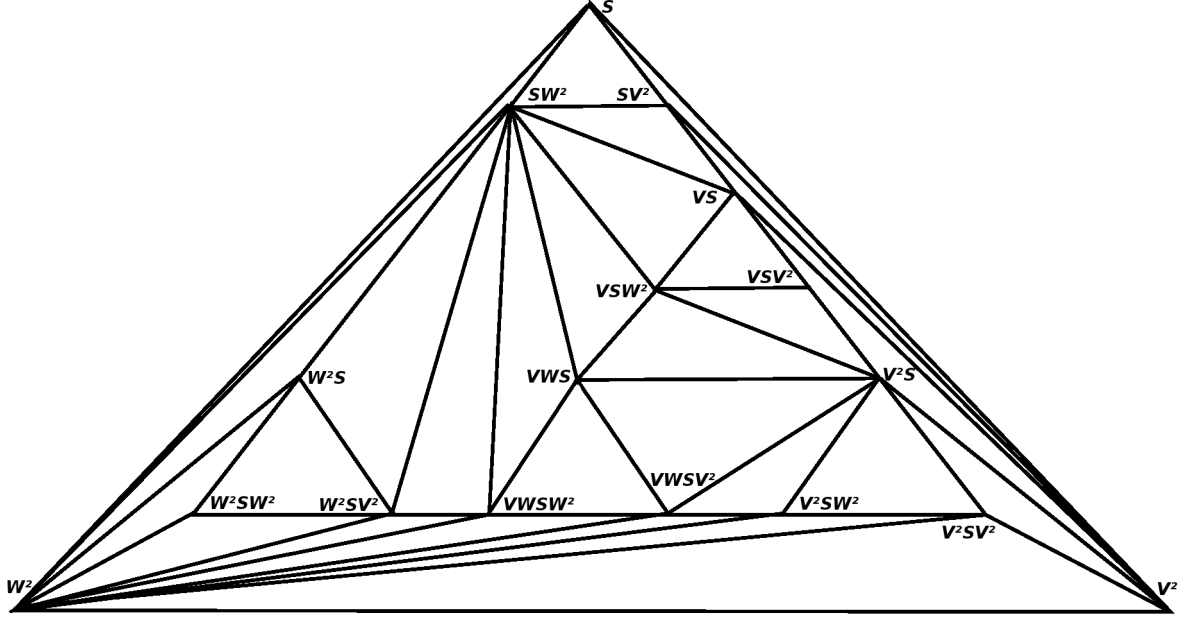


FIGURE 5.2. Base triangles for \mathcal{O}_{-7} . Each vertex is specified by the matrix which moves the point $(\infty, 0)$ into it.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} -1 & \omega \\ \omega - 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Therefore the group Γ discussed in the proof of Proposition 4.5 is a normal subgroup of index 6 in $SL_2(\mathcal{O}_{-7})$, such that the quotient of $SL_2(\mathcal{O}_{-7})$ by Γ is that symmetry group.

The set of cusps in the boundary of our ideal polyhedron F is $\{0, 1, \omega, \frac{\omega}{2}, \frac{\omega+1}{2}, \infty\}$. We will make use of the following matrices, which map some (but not necessarily all) of the elements of this set of cusps back into this set.

$$S := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad V := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{\omega}{2} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad W := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The matrices V and W are not in $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$, so we do not obtain an element of $H_3(\Gamma; \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_s)$ along the way as was the case with the element α for the Eisensteinian integers. But this is no problem, because for Theorem 4.6, we only need the matrices to be in $\Delta_{1,1}^\infty$. Concatenating words in V and W *after* the matrix S gives the moves from the cusp at ∞ to the cusps at the corners of F ; and we generate them with the three basic moves $S \cdot \infty = 0$, $V \cdot 0 = \frac{\omega}{2}$ and $W \cdot 0 = \frac{1}{2}$. The matrices V^2 and W^2 are in the cusp stabiliser Γ_∞ ; combining with words in V^2 and W^2 concatenated *before* the matrix S , allows us to express all of the vertices of the base triangles as images of the basepoint $b = (\infty, 0)$. The coordinates of the vertices of the base triangles in Figure 5.2 are then the following:

$$\begin{array}{llll} (\infty, \omega) = V^2 \cdot b, & (\infty, 1) = W^2 \cdot b, & (0, 0) = S \cdot b, & (0, 1) = SW^2 \cdot b, \\ (0, \omega) = SV^2 \cdot b, & (1, 0) = W^2 S \cdot b, & (1, 1) = W^2 SW^2 \cdot b, & (1, \omega) = W^2 SV^2 \cdot b, \\ (\omega, 0) = V^2 S \cdot b, & (\omega, 1) = V^2 SW^2 \cdot b, & (\omega, \omega) = V^2 SV^2 \cdot b, & \\ (\frac{\omega+1}{2}, \omega) = VWSV^2 \cdot b, & (\frac{\omega+1}{2}, 0) = VWS \cdot b, & (\frac{\omega+1}{2}, 1) = VWSW^2 \cdot b, & \\ (\frac{\omega}{2}, 0) = VS \cdot b, & (\frac{\omega}{2}, 1) = VSW^2 \cdot b, & (\frac{\omega}{2}, \omega) = VSV^2 \cdot b, & \end{array}$$

The tetrahedra of the triangulation, specified by these base triangles, then give the following α :

$$(1, SW^2, VWS, VSW^2) + (1, SW^2, W^2SV^2, VWSW^2) + (1, VSW^2, VWS, V^2S)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& +(1, S, SW^2, SV^2) + (1, S, W^2, SW^2) + (1, SW^2, W^2, W^2S) + (1, W^2S, W^2, W^2SW^2) \\
& +(1, W^2SV^2, W^2SW^2, W^2) + (1, VW SW^2, W^2SV^2, W^2) + (1, VW SV^2, VW SW^2, W^2) \\
& +(1, V^2SW^2, VW SV^2, W^2) + (1, V^2SV^2, V^2SW^2, W^2) + (1, V^2SV^2, W^2, V^2) \\
& +(1, V^2SV^2, V^2, V^2S) + (1, SV^2, V^2, S) + (1, V^2S, V^2, VSV^2) + (1, VSV^2, V^2, VS) \\
& +(1, VS, V^2, SV^2) + (1, SV^2, SW^2, VS) + (1, SW^2, VSW^2, VS) \\
& +(1, SW^2, VW SW^2, VWS) + (1, SW^2, W^2S, W^2SV^2) + (1, W^2S, W^2SW^2, W^2SV^2) \\
& +(1, VS, VSW^2, VSV^2) + (1, VSV^2, VSW^2, V^2S) + (1, VWS, VW SV^2, V^2S) \\
& +(1, VW SV^2, V^2SW^2, V^2S) + (1, V^2SW^2, V^2SV^2, V^2S) + (1, VWS, VW SW^2, VW SV^2).
\end{aligned}$$

Here the three quadruples in the first row specify the only tetrahedra of non-zero volume. For each of those quadruples, letting the matrices act on $[1, 0]$ and taking the cross-ratio of the resulting four points yields $\omega/(\omega + 1) = (2 + \omega)/4$, $(\omega + 1)/2$ and ω so that the element we obtain in $\ker(\delta_{2,k})$ is $[\omega/(\omega + 1)] + [-(1 - \omega)/\omega] + [\omega]$. (Note that $2 = \omega(1 - \omega)$ and $1 + \omega = -(1 - \omega)^2$.) Because k contains only two roots of unity, Theorem 4.6 gives that $2[\omega/(\omega + 1)] + 2[-(1 - \omega)/\omega] + 2[\omega]$ is a non-trivial element in $B(k)/\text{torsion} \simeq K_3(k)/\text{torsion}$.

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