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Laura Capuano, Nadir Murru & Lea Terracini

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Case 916 - Luminy
13288 Marseille Cedex 9
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Société Mathématique de France
Institut Henri Poincaré, 11, rue Pierre et Marie Curie
75231 Paris Cedex 05, France
Tél : (33) 1 44 27 67 99 • Fax : (33) 1 40 46 90 96
bulletin@smf.emath.fr • smf.emath.fr

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ON THE FINITENESS OF \mathfrak{P} -ADIC CONTINUED FRACTIONS FOR NUMBER FIELDS

BY LAURA CAPUANO, NADIR MURRU & LEA TERRACINI

ABSTRACT. — For a prime ideal \mathfrak{P} of the ring of integers of a number field K , we give a general definition of a \mathfrak{P} -adic continued fraction, which also includes classical definitions of continued fractions in the field of p -adic numbers. We give some necessary and sufficient conditions on K ensuring that for all but finitely many \mathfrak{P} , every $\alpha \in K$ admits a finite \mathfrak{P} -adic continued fraction expansion, addressing a similar problem posed by Rosen in the archimedean setting.

RÉSUMÉ (*Sur la finitude des fractions continues \mathfrak{P} -adiques pour les corps de nombres*). — Soit \mathfrak{P} un idéal premier de l'anneau des entiers d'un corps de nombres K . On donne une définition générale de fraction continue \mathfrak{P} -adique qui inclut les définitions classiques de fractions continues p -adiques. On présente des conditions nécessaires et suffisantes sur K qui assurent que pour tous idéaux \mathfrak{P} sauf un nombre fini, chaque élément $\alpha \in K$ ait une expansion finie en fraction continue \mathfrak{P} -adique. Ces résultats abordent dans le contexte p -adique un problème qui avait été posé par Rosen dans le cas archimédien.

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LAURA CAPUANO, Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica, Università degli Studi di Roma Tre
• *E-mail* : laura.capuano@uniroma3.it

NADIR MURRU, Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Trento • *E-mail* : nadir.murru@unitn.it

LEA TERRACINI, Dipartimento di Informatica, Università di Torino • *E-mail* : lea.terracini@unito.it

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1. Introduction

The classical continued fraction algorithm provides an integer sequence $[a_0, a_1, \dots]$ that represents a real number α_0 by means of the following recursive algorithm:

$$\begin{cases} a_n = [\alpha_n] \\ \alpha_{n+1} = \frac{1}{\alpha_n - a_n} \quad \text{if } \alpha_n - a_n \neq 0, \end{cases}$$

for all $n \geq 0$, where $[\cdot]$ denotes the integral part of a real number. The a_n 's and α_n 's are called *partial* and *complete* quotients, respectively. It is easy to see that, for classical continued fractions, the procedure eventually stops if and only if we start with a rational number, and, in the case of irrationals, they provide the best rational approximations of the number; this is one of the reasons why the study of continued fractions is very important in diophantine approximation and transcendence theory.

Motivated by this property, Rosen [34] posed the problem of finding more general definitions of continued fraction expansions characterizing all the elements of an algebraic number field K by means of finite expansions and providing approximations of elements not in the field by means of elements in K (as well as classical continued fractions that provide rational approximations of irrational numbers). In [34], Rosen gave an example of such continued fractions in the special case of $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$, using expansions of the form

$$a_0 + \frac{b_1}{a_1\varphi + \frac{b_2}{a_2\varphi + \frac{b_3}{\ddots}}},$$

where φ is the Golden ratio, $b_n = \pm 1$, and the $a_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ satisfies the property that $a_n\varphi$ is the integer multiple of φ nearest to the respective complete quotients. This is a special case of the so-called *Rosen continued fractions*, introduced by the same author in [33], where φ is replaced by irrational numbers of the form $2 \cos \frac{\pi}{q}$ with $q \geq 3$ an odd positive number, with the aim of studying Hecke groups.

The characterization of the real numbers having a finite Rosen continued fraction is still an open problem, see, e.g., [1, 9, 18] for further details. In [5], Bernat defined another continued fraction expansion in $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$, slightly different from the Rosen one, proving that also these continued fractions represent $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$ uniquely. Very recently in [27], the authors generalized a Bernat construction defining the so-called β -continued fraction with the aim of studying when the elements of $\mathbb{Q}(\beta)$ have a finite representation, where β is any quadratic Pisot number. More specifically, the authors proved that, if β is either

a quadratic Perron number or the square root of a positive integer, then every element of $\mathbb{Q}(\beta)$ has a finite or eventually periodic β -continued fraction expansion. Moreover, assuming a conjecture by Mercat [29], there exist only four quadratic Perron numbers β , such that the elements of $\mathbb{Q}(\beta)$ have a finite β -continued fraction expansion.

The problem of Rosen can be naturally translated into the context of p -adic numbers \mathbb{Q}_p ; indeed, starting from Mahler [26], continued fractions have been introduced and studied in \mathbb{Q}_p by several authors. In this context, however, there is no natural definition of a p -adic continued fraction, since there is no canonical definition for a p -adic floor function. The two main definitions of a p -adic continued fraction algorithm are due to Browkin [7] and Ruban [35]; they are both based on the definition of a p -adic floor function

$$s(\alpha) = \sum_{n=k}^0 x_n p^n \in \mathbb{Q}, \quad \text{where } \alpha = \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} x_n p^n \in \mathbb{Q}_p,$$

where the x_n 's are the representatives modulo p in the interval $(-p/2, p/2)$ for the Browkin definition and in the interval $[0, p - 1]$ for the Ruban definition. These continued fractions have been widely studied by several authors in terms of quality of the approximation, finiteness, and periodicity; see, e.g., [2, 4, 8, 10, 11, 39, 21, 32, 36]. In this setting, however, many differences to the classical case arise; for example, none of these definitions provide good approximations as in the real case, and no analogue of Lagrange's theorem holds for both Browkin and Ruban continued fractions, and, hence, the problem of finding a standard definition for a p -adic continued fraction still remains open. However, it has been proved that rational numbers always have a finite Browkin continued fraction expansion [8] and a finite or eventually periodic Ruban continued fraction expansion [21].

In this paper, we consider the p -adic analogue of the Rosen question. Given a number field K and a prime ideal \mathfrak{P} in its ring of integers \mathcal{O}_K , we give a very general definition of \mathfrak{P} -adic continued fractions; with this definition, the partial quotients are the values of a \mathfrak{P} -adic floor function s , which is a locally constant function from the \mathfrak{P} -adic completion of K to the ring of $\{\mathfrak{P}\}$ -integers of K . We will call the data $\tau = (K, \mathfrak{P}, s)$ a *type* and we will introduce the notion of continued fractions of type τ . With this definition, Browkin and Ruban continued fractions arise as particular p -adic types for \mathbb{Q} . If every element of K has a finite (or periodic) τ -expansion, then we shall say that the type τ enjoys the *continued fraction finiteness* (CFF) (or *continued fraction periodicity* (CFP)) property. Moreover, we shall say that the field K enjoys the \mathfrak{P} -adic CFF (or CFP) property if there exists a CFF (or CFP) type $\tau = (K, \mathfrak{P}, s)$. It is well known that \mathbb{Q} satisfies the p -adic CFF property for every odd prime p because of the finiteness of Browkin continued fraction expansions of rational numbers (see [7]).

In the first part of the paper, we prove a sufficient condition for a type to have the CFF (or CFP) property using general properties of the multiplicative Weil height of algebraic numbers and of the norms of matrices. This result allows us to study the \mathfrak{P} -adic CFF property when K is a norm-Euclidean field; in particular, we prove that a norm-Euclidean field with Euclidean minimum < 1 satisfies the \mathfrak{P} -adic CFF property for all but finitely many prime ideals \mathfrak{P} . Furthermore, for certain Euclidean quadratic fields K , we provide some more effective constructions by exploiting the form of unitary neighborhoods covering a fundamental domain of \mathcal{O}_K as done in [17].

In the last part of the paper, we study the CFF property of \mathfrak{P} -adic continued fractions in relation to the structure of the ideal class group for number fields, which are not necessarily norm-Euclidean. First, we show that, if the number field K satisfies the \mathfrak{P} -adic CFF property for all but finitely many prime ideals \mathfrak{P} , then \mathcal{O}_K is a PID, giving examples of number fields for which the CFF property fails to hold. Moreover, under milder hypotheses, we show that it is possible to ensure the CFF property for continued fractions associated to (almost all) primes belonging to a norm-Euclidean class, in the sense of [23]. Finally, for a general number field, we show that the obstruction to the CFF property depends on the existence of infinitely many partial quotients with \mathfrak{P} -adic valuation equal to -1 .

We conclude this Introduction by pointing out some open problems and directions for future work. First, effectiveness: our main results assert the existence of CFF types for a given number field, but in general it is not easy to define them explicitly. The construction of types satisfying the CFF property and the analysis of their properties, such as the study of the arithmetic of partial quotients, or of the dependence between the length of a finite continued fraction and the height of the algebraic number that it represents, are interesting topics that have left as outside of the scope of the present work. Moreover, it would be nice to obtain a full characterization of number fields K satisfying the \mathfrak{P} -adic CFF for a given ideal \mathfrak{P} . We show that a necessary condition for CFF is that the ideal class group K is generated by the class of \mathfrak{P} . We do not know if this condition is also sufficient, but we do not have arguments against this possibility.

Finally, it would be nice to investigate periodicity. Although we state a sufficient condition for a type to enjoy the CFP property, the present paper focuses specifically on finiteness. Nevertheless, periodicity is also a very interesting question, and an algebraic characterization of the elements represented by a periodic expansion (relative to a given type) would be a challenging objective.

2. Notations and prerequisites

For every rational prime p , let $|\cdot|_p$ be the p -adic absolute value, normalized in such a way that $|p|_p = \frac{1}{p}$. The archimedean absolute values on \mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C} will

be denoted by $|\cdot|$ or by $|\cdot|_\infty$, respectively. We will denote by \overline{K} an algebraic closure of any field K .

Let K be a number field of degree d over \mathbb{Q} and let \mathcal{O}_K be its ring of integers. We fix a prime ideal \mathfrak{P} of \mathcal{O}_K lying over an odd prime p . Let \mathcal{M}_K be a set of representatives for the places of K . For every rational prime q and every $v \in \mathcal{M}_K$ above q , let $K_v \subseteq \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_q$ be the completion of K with respect to the v -adic valuation and let \mathcal{O}_v be its valuation ring; we put $d_v = [K_v : \mathbb{Q}_q]$. Let $|\cdot|_v = |N_{K_v/\mathbb{Q}_q}(\cdot)|_q^{\frac{1}{d_v}}$ be the unique extension of $|\cdot|_q$ to K_v . Then the *product formula*

$$\prod_{v \in \mathcal{M}_K} |x|_v^{d_v} = 1$$

holds for all $x \in K^\times$ ([6, Prop. 1.4.4]). We recall the definition of multiplicative Weil height that will be useful in the paper.

DEFINITION 2.1. — For $\alpha \in K$, the (multiplicative) *Weil height* is defined as

$$H(x) = \prod_{v \in \mathcal{M}_K} \sup(1, |x|_v)^{\frac{d_v}{d}}.$$

Notice that all but finitely many factors of the infinite product are equal to 1, and, hence, $H(x)$ is well defined. Moreover, thanks to the choice of the normalization, the definition does not depend on the number field K , and, hence, it extends to a function $H : \overline{\mathbb{Q}} \rightarrow [1, +\infty)$. The function H satisfies the following important properties (see [6]):

PROPOSITION 2.2. — For every nonzero $x, y \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$, we have:

- a) $H(x + y) \leq 2H(x)H(y)$;
- b) $H(xy) \leq H(x)H(y)$;
- c) $H(x^n) = H(x)^{|n|}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$;
- d) $H(\sigma(x)) = H(x)$ for all $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$;
- e) **Northcott’s theorem:** *there are only finitely many algebraic numbers of bounded degree and bounded height;*
- f) **Kronecker’s theorem:** $H(x) = 1$ if and only if x is a root of unity.

3. \mathfrak{P} -adic continued fractions

In this section, we show, given a number field K and a prime ideal \mathfrak{P} of \mathcal{O}_K , how to define a general \mathfrak{P} -continued fraction. Our general definition will generalize the classical definitions of p -adic continued fractions given by Browkin and Ruban.

3.1. \mathfrak{P} -adic floor functions and types. — Let \mathfrak{P} be a prime ideal of \mathcal{O}_K , lying over an odd rational prime p and let $v_0 \in \mathcal{M}_K$ be the place corresponding to \mathfrak{P} .

DEFINITION 3.1. — A \mathfrak{P} -adic floor function for K is a function $s : K_{v_0} \rightarrow K$, such that

- a) $|\alpha - s(\alpha)|_{v_0} < 1$ for every $\alpha \in K_{v_0}$;
- b) $|s(\alpha)|_v \leq 1$ for every non-archimedean $v \in \mathcal{M}_K \setminus \{v_0\}$;
- c) $s(0) = 0$;
- d) $s(\alpha) = s(\beta)$ if $|\alpha - \beta|_{v_0} < 1$.

We recall the strong approximation theorem in number fields [12, Theorem 4.1].

THEOREM 3.2. — Let K be a global field and $\mathcal{M}_K = S \cup T \cup \{w\}$ be a partition of the places of K with S finite. For every $v \in S$, let a_v be an element in K_v and let $\epsilon_v \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$. Then, there exists an x in K , such that

$$\begin{aligned} |x - a_v|_v &< \epsilon_v && \text{for every } v \in S, \\ |x|_v &\leq 1 && \text{for every } v \in T. \end{aligned}$$

By strong approximation (or some other arguments), \mathfrak{P} -adic floor functions always exist, and there are infinitely many.

We define

$$\mathcal{O}_{K, \{v_0\}} = \{\alpha \in K \mid |\alpha|_v \leq 1 \text{ for every non-archimedean } v \neq v_0 \text{ in } \mathcal{M}_K\}.$$

Then, we can regard a \mathfrak{P} -adic floor function as a map $s : K_{v_0}/\mathfrak{P}\mathcal{O}_{v_0} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{K, \{v_0\}}$, such that $s(\mathfrak{P}\mathcal{O}_{v_0}) = 0$, and which is a section of the projection map $K_{v_0} \rightarrow K_{v_0}/\mathfrak{P}\mathcal{O}_{v_0}$. Therefore, the choice of a \mathfrak{P} -adic floor function amounts to choosing a set \mathcal{Y} of representatives of the cosets of $\mathfrak{P}\mathcal{O}_{v_0}$ in K_{v_0} containing 0 and contained in $\mathcal{O}_{K, \{v_0\}}$.

We shall call the data $\tau = (K, \mathfrak{P}, s)$ (or $(K, \mathfrak{P}, \mathcal{Y})$) a (\mathfrak{P} -adic) type.

3.2. Types arising from generators of \mathfrak{P} . — In the case \mathfrak{P} is principal, there is a more natural way of defining a floor function associated to \mathfrak{P} . Indeed, let $\pi \in \mathcal{O}_K$ be a generator of \mathfrak{P} and let \mathcal{R} be a complete set of representatives of $\mathcal{O}_K/\mathfrak{P}$ containing 0. Then, every $\alpha \in K_{v_0}$ can be expressed uniquely as a Laurent series $\alpha = \sum_{j=-n}^{\infty} c_j \pi^j$, where $c_j \in \mathcal{R}$, for every j . It is possible to define a \mathfrak{P} -adic floor function by

$$s(\alpha) = \sum_{j=-n}^0 c_j \pi^j \in K.$$

We shall denote the types $\tau = (K, \mathfrak{P}, s)$ obtained in this way by $\tau = (K, \pi, \mathcal{R})$ and we will usually call them special types.

EXAMPLE 3.3 (Browkin and Ruban types over \mathbb{Q} .) — Two main special types when $K = \mathbb{Q}$ and $\pi = p$ odd prime have been studied in the literature:

- the *Browkin type* $\tau_B = (\mathbb{Q}, p, \{-\frac{p-1}{2}, \dots, \frac{p-1}{2}\})$ (see [2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11]);
- the *Ruban type* $\tau_R = (\mathbb{Q}, p, \{0, \dots, p-1\})$ (see [10, 21, 35, 38]).

REMARK 3.4. — The absolute Galois group $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ acts on the set of types; indeed, if $\tau = (K, \mathfrak{P}, s)$ is a type, then $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ induces a continuous map $K_{v_0} \rightarrow K_{v'_0}$, where $v'_0 \in \mathcal{M}_{K^\sigma}$ corresponds to \mathfrak{P}^σ . Then $\tau^\sigma = (K^\sigma, \mathfrak{P}^\sigma, s^\sigma)$ is also a type, where $s^\sigma = \sigma \circ s \circ \sigma^{-1}$. In particular, if K/\mathbb{Q} is a Galois extension, and σ belongs to the decomposition group

$$D_{\mathfrak{P}} = \{\sigma \in \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q}) \mid \mathfrak{P}^\sigma = \mathfrak{P}\},$$

then $\tau^\sigma = (K, \mathfrak{P}, s^\sigma)$ is again a \mathfrak{P} -adic type.

3.3. \mathfrak{P} -adic continued fractions associated to types. — In this section, we give the definition of a \mathfrak{P} -adic continued fraction algorithm associated to \mathfrak{P} -adic types and prove some general properties for these continued fractions, generalizing the analogous well-established properties in the case of Browkin and Ruban.

Let $\tau = (K, \mathfrak{P}, s)$ be a type and put

$$\mathcal{Y}_s := \text{im}(s).$$

Then, \mathcal{Y}_s is a discrete subset of K_{v_0} .

DEFINITION 3.5. — Let $\tau = (K, \mathfrak{P}, s)$ be a type. A *continued fraction* of type τ is a possibly infinite sequence

$$[a_0, a_1, \dots]$$

of elements of \mathcal{Y}_s , such that $|a_n|_{v_0} > 1$ for $n \geq 1$.

We define the sequences $(A_n)_{n=-1}^\infty, (B_n)_{n=-1}^\infty$ by putting

$$\begin{aligned} A_{-1} &= 1, & A_0 &= a_0, & A_n &= a_n A_{n-1} + A_{n-2}, \\ B_{-1} &= 0, & B_0 &= 1, & B_n &= a_n B_{n-1} + B_{n-2}, \end{aligned}$$

for $n \geq 1$. By using matrices, we can write

$$(1) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_n &= \begin{pmatrix} a_n & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} & \text{for } n \geq 0, \\ \mathcal{B}_n &= \begin{pmatrix} A_n & A_{n-1} \\ B_n & B_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} & \text{for } n \geq 0; \end{aligned}$$

then,

$$\mathcal{B}_n = \mathcal{B}_{n-1} \mathcal{A}_n = \mathcal{A}_0 \mathcal{A}_1 \dots \mathcal{A}_n.$$

Notice that

$$\det(\mathcal{A}_n) = -1, \quad \det(\mathcal{B}_n) = (-1)^{n-1}.$$

We define the n^{th} -convergent to be

$$Q_n = \frac{A_n}{B_n} = a_0 + \frac{1}{a_1 + \frac{1}{\ddots + \frac{1}{a_n}}} \quad \text{for } n \geq 0.$$

Let $[a_0, a_1, \dots]$ be a continued fraction of type τ ; then, an easy induction shows that

$$(2) \quad |B_n|_{v_0} = \prod_{j=1}^n |a_j|_{v_0}.$$

We notice that the sequence of the convergents $(Q_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges \mathfrak{P} -adically; indeed, it is easy to see that $|Q_n - Q_{n-1}|_{v_0} = \frac{1}{|B_n|_{v_0}|B_{n-1}|_{v_0}}$. Then the claim follows by (2), because of the hypothesis that $|a_n|_{v_0} > 1$ for every $n \geq 1$.

Conversely, every $\alpha \in K_{v_0}$ is the limit of a (unique) continued fraction of type τ obtained by applying the following algorithm:

$$(3) \quad \begin{cases} \alpha_0 &= \alpha, \\ \alpha_{n+1} &= \frac{1}{\alpha_n - a_n}, \\ a_n &= s(\alpha_n). \end{cases}$$

Then, we have the following:

$$\alpha_n = a_n + \frac{1}{\alpha_{n+1}}.$$

The sequence $[a_0, a_1, \dots]$ obtained by applying (3) is called the *continued fraction expansion of type τ* of α . For any $n \geq -1$, we define

$$(4) \quad V_n := A_n - \alpha B_n.$$

The following properties are easily proved (see [11, Section 2]).

PROPOSITION 3.6. — *For every $n \geq 1$, one has:*

- a) $V_n = a_n V_{n-1} + V_{n-2}$;
- b) $\alpha_n V_{n-1} + V_{n-2} = 0$;
- c) $|V_n|_{v_0} = \prod_{j=1}^{n+1} \frac{1}{|a_j|_{v_0}}$;
- d) $V_n = (-1)^{n+1} \prod_{j=1}^{n+1} \frac{1}{\alpha_j}$;
- e) $\alpha_n B_{n-1} + B_{n-2} = \prod_{j=1}^n \alpha_j$;
- f) $\alpha = \frac{\alpha_n A_{n-1} + A_{n-2}}{\alpha_n B_{n-1} + B_{n-2}}$;
- g) $|\alpha_n|_{v_0} = |a_n|_{v_0} > 1$.

3.4. The quality of the \mathfrak{P} -adic approximation. — Given $\alpha \in K_{v_0}$, for every $n \geq 1$, let us put $\epsilon_n(\alpha) := |V_{n-1}|_{v_0}$, with the convention that $\epsilon_0(\alpha) = 1$. Notice that, for every $i = 0, \dots, n$, we have

$$(5) \quad \epsilon_n(\alpha) = \epsilon_i(\alpha)\epsilon_{n-i}(\alpha_i).$$

PROPOSITION 3.7. — *Given $\alpha, \alpha' \in K_{v_0}$, let $[a_0, \dots, a_k, \dots], [a'_0, \dots, a'_k, \dots]$ be the continued fraction expansions of type τ of α and α' , respectively. Assume that the length of the expansion of α is greater than or equal to n . If $|\alpha - \alpha'|_{v_0} < \epsilon_n(\alpha)^2$, then the length of the expansion of α' is greater than or equal to n and $a_i = a'_i$ for every $i = 0, \dots, n$.*

Proof. — We argue by induction on n . The claim is certainly true for $n = 0$, since

$$|x - y|_{v_0} < 1 \Leftrightarrow s(x) = s(y).$$

Suppose now that $|\alpha - \alpha'|_{v_0} < \epsilon_{n+1}(\alpha)^2$. First, for $n = 0$, we have that $a'_0 = a_0$; moreover, we observe that the hypothesis implies $|\alpha - \alpha'|_{v_0} < \frac{1}{|a_1|_{v_0}} = |\alpha - a_0|_{v_0}$. Applying the properties of the non-archimedean absolute values, we have

$$\frac{1}{|a'_1|_{v_0}} = |\alpha' - a_0|_{v_0} = \max\{|\alpha' - \alpha|_{v_0}, |\alpha - a_0|_{v_0}\} = |\alpha - a_0|_{v_0} = \frac{1}{|a_1|_{v_0}},$$

so that $|a_1|_{v_0} = |a'_1|_{v_0}$. By (5) we have $\epsilon_{n+1}(\alpha) = \frac{1}{|a_1|_{v_0}}\epsilon_n(\alpha_1)$; hence,

$$|\alpha_1 - \alpha'_1|_{v_0} = \left| \frac{1}{\alpha - a_0} - \frac{1}{\alpha' - a_0} \right|_{v_0} = |a_1|_{v_0}^2 |\alpha - \alpha'|_{v_0} < \prod_{j=2}^{n+1} \frac{1}{|a_j|_{v_0}^2} = \epsilon_n(\alpha_1)^2.$$

Applying the inductive hypothesis, we have that $a_i = a'_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, n + 1$, which concludes the proof. □

The next proposition proves that, if the n^{th} -convergents of α and β are the same, then the two numbers are v_0 -adically close. More precisely, we have the following result:

PROPOSITION 3.8. — *Let e be the ramification index of K_{v_0}/\mathbb{Q}_p . Assume $\alpha, \beta \in K_{v_0}$ be such that $Q_n^\alpha = Q_n^\beta$. Then $|\alpha - \beta|_{v_0} < \frac{1}{p^{\frac{2n}{e}}}$.*

Proof. — Notice that the hypothesis $Q_n^\alpha = Q_n^\beta$ is equivalent to saying that the first $n + 1$ partial quotients of α and β are equal. We argue by induction on n . The claim is certainly true for $n = 0$, so we assume that $n \geq 1$ and $Q_n^\alpha = Q_n^\beta$. This implies that $a_0 = s(\alpha) = s(\beta)$ and $Q_{n-1}^{\alpha_1} = Q_{n-1}^{\beta_1}$, so that $|\alpha_1 - \beta_1|_{v_0} < \frac{1}{p^{\frac{2(n-1)}{e}}}$. Since $|\alpha_1\beta_1|_{v_0} \geq p^{\frac{2}{e}}$, we have

$$|\alpha - \beta|_{v_0} = \left| a_0 + \frac{1}{\alpha_1} - a_0 - \frac{1}{\beta_1} \right|_{v_0} = \frac{|\alpha_1 - \beta_1|_{v_0}}{|\alpha_1|_{v_0}|\beta_1|_{v_0}} < \frac{1}{p^{\frac{2(n-1)+2}{e}}} = \frac{1}{p^{\frac{2n}{e}}},$$

which proves the claim. □

4. Finiteness and periodicity

Let $\tau = (K, \mathfrak{P}, s)$ be a type. It is clear by the construction that every finite continued fraction expansion of type τ represents an element in K , but the converse is not true in general. Motivated by a question of Rosen in the archimedean case, we are interested in giving necessary and sufficient conditions such that a type satisfies the property that every element of K has finite continued fraction expansion of type τ .

Following [27], where the authors address the Rosen problem in the archimedean case, we introduce the following definitions.

DEFINITION 4.1. — a) We say that τ satisfies the *continued fraction finiteness property* (CFF) (or the *continued fraction periodicity property* (CFP)) if every $\alpha \in K$ has a finite (or finite or periodic) τ -expansion.
 b) We say that the field K satisfies the \mathfrak{P} -*adic continued fraction finiteness property* (CFF) (or the \mathfrak{P} -*adic continued fraction periodicity property* (CFP)) if there is a type $\tau = (K, \mathfrak{P}, s)$ satisfying the CFF (or CFP) property.

In the following sections, we show that the Browkin and Ruban continued fractions satisfy the CFF and CFP property, respectively.

4.1. Browkin expansion of rational numbers. — In [7, §3], Browkin proved that, for every odd prime p , every rational number has a finite Browkin p -adic continued fraction expansion. Although not explicitly stated, the proof also gives a quantitative estimate for the length n of the expansion; namely, if $\alpha = p^s \frac{x}{y}$ with $s, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $(x, y) = 1$, then n does not exceed $|x|_\infty + 2|y|_\infty + 1$. We present here a slightly different proof improving the bound for n .

LEMMA 4.2. — Let $(t_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of real numbers ≥ 0 , such that there exist $c_0, c_1 \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ satisfying

$$t_{n+2} < c_1 t_{n+1} + c_0 t_n,$$

and let \tilde{x} be the (unique) positive real root of the polynomial

$$f(X) = X^2 - c_1 X - c_0.$$

Then,

- a) $|t_n|_\infty \leq \max\{t_0, \frac{t_1}{\tilde{x}}\} \cdot \tilde{x}^n$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$;
- b) if $c_0 + c_1 < 1$, we have that $|t_n|_\infty \rightarrow 0$.

Proof. — The first assertion follows easily by applying an induction on n . To prove part b), first notice that, since $\tilde{x} > 0$ and

$$\tilde{x} = c_1 + \frac{c_0}{\tilde{x}},$$

then $c_1 < \tilde{x}$. If $c_0 + c_1 < 1$, then $f(1) = 1 - (c_0 + c_1) > 0$, so that $0 < \tilde{x} < 1$, and we can conclude that $c_1 < \tilde{x} < 1$. Therefore,

$$\tilde{x} < 1 \Leftrightarrow c_1 + c_0 < 1.$$

Then, the claim follows from part a). □

PROPOSITION 4.3. — *Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$ and write $\alpha = \frac{x_0}{y_0}$, with $y_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$ not divisible by p and $x_0 \in \mathbb{Z}[\frac{1}{p}]$. Then, the Browkin p -adic continued fraction expansion of α is finite, and its length is strictly bounded by*

$$\frac{\log(\max\{|x_0|_\infty, |y_0|_\infty\})}{\log\left(\frac{p(\sqrt{p^2+16}-p)}{4}\right)}.$$

Proof. — Consider the sequence $(V_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ defined by (4) and put $y_{n+1} = y_0 V_n$. By Proposition 3.6 c) we have $y_n \in \mathbb{Z}[\frac{1}{p}] \cap p^n \mathbb{Z}_p = p^n \mathbb{Z}$. Moreover, by Proposition 3.6 a) the y_n 's satisfy the recurrence

$$y_{n+1} = a_n y_n + y_{n-1},$$

with $|a_n|_\infty < \frac{p}{2}$. Then, $\frac{y_n}{p^n} \in \mathbb{Z}$ and, by applying Lemma 4.2, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{|y_n|_\infty}{p^n} &< \frac{1}{2} \frac{|y_{n-1}|_\infty}{p^{n-1}} + \frac{1}{p^2} \frac{|y_{n-2}|_\infty}{p^{n-2}} \\ &< M \tilde{x}^n, \end{aligned}$$

where $M = \max\left\{|y_0|_\infty, \frac{|y_1|_\infty}{p}\right\}$ and $\tilde{x} = \frac{1}{4p}(\sqrt{p^2 + 16} + p)$ is the positive root of the polynomial $X^2 - \frac{1}{2}X - \frac{1}{p^2}$. It follows that $y_n = 0$ for $\tilde{x}^n \leq \frac{1}{M}$. Furthermore, we have

$$\frac{|y_1|_\infty}{p} = \frac{1}{p}|x_0 - a_0 y_0|_\infty < \frac{1}{p}|x_0|_\infty + \frac{1}{2}|y_0|_\infty;$$

therefore,

$$M < \max\left\{|y_0|_\infty, \frac{1}{2}(|x_0|_\infty + |y_0|_\infty)\right\} \leq \max\{|x_0|_\infty, |y_0|_\infty\},$$

so that $y_n = 0$ for $\tilde{x}^n \leq \frac{1}{\max\{|x_0|_\infty, |y_0|_\infty\}}$, that is for $n \geq -\frac{\log(\max\{|x_0|_\infty, |y_0|_\infty\})}{\log(\tilde{x}^{-1})}$, as wanted. □

4.2. Ruban expansion of rational numbers. — In [35], Ruban introduced a p -adic continued fraction corresponding to the type $\tau_R = (\mathbb{Q}, p, \{0, \dots, p-1\})$, proving that the continued fraction expansions coming from this type enjoy nice ergodic properties. However, it is easy to see that the Ruban type cannot satisfy CFF, since negative rational numbers cannot have a terminating Ruban continued fraction. In this setting, Laohakosol [21] and, independently, Wang [38] proved that τ_R satisfies CFP, proving in particular that, if a rational

number is a nonterminating τ_R -expansion, then the tail is equal to $\left[1 - \frac{1}{p}\right]$. However, none of these arguments were effective; more recently, in [10] the authors gave a quantitative estimate for the length of the expansion in the case that this is finite and an estimate on the length of the pre-periodic part in terms of the height of the rational number.

4.3. The main tools. — For $x \in \mathbb{C}$, we define

$$\theta(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left(|x|_\infty + \sqrt{|x|_\infty^2 + 4} \right);$$

then, we have the following inequality:

$$|x|_\infty \leq \theta(x) \leq |x|_\infty + 1,$$

and the map θ is a bijection from $[0, +\infty)$ to $[1, +\infty)$ whose inverse is given by $y \mapsto y - \frac{1}{y}$. In this section, we will prove that, given a type (K, \mathfrak{P}, τ) , a suitable bound involving the values of θ on the elements in the image of s and on their conjugates will guarantee that the type satisfies the CFF (or CFP) property.

We first need the following lemma:

LEMMA 4.4. — *Let $(a_n)_{n \geq 0}$ be any sequence of complex numbers and let $(v_n)_{n \geq -1}$ be a sequence of complex numbers satisfying, for every $n \geq 2$, the recurrence formula:*

$$v_n = a_n v_{n-1} + v_{n-2}.$$

Then for every $n \geq 0$,

$$\max\{|v_n|_\infty, |v_{n-1}|_\infty\} \leq \sqrt{|v_n|_\infty^2 + |v_{n-1}|_\infty^2} \leq \sqrt{|v_0|_\infty^2 + |v_{-1}|_\infty^2} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^n \theta(a_j).$$

Proof. — For any complex matrix M , let us consider the operator norm

$$\|M\| = \sup_{\mathbf{v} \neq \mathbf{0}} \frac{\|M\mathbf{v}\|}{\|\mathbf{v}\|},$$

where $\|\mathbf{v}\|$ denotes the Euclidean norm of a complex vector. The following facts are well known (see, for example, [20, Chapter 5]):

- $\|M_1 \cdot M_2\| \leq \|M_1\| \cdot \|M_2\|$;
- $\|M\| = \sqrt{|\gamma|_\infty}$, where γ is the dominant eigenvalue of $M \cdot M^*$ (here, M^* denotes the transpose conjugate of M).

In particular, we see that, for every $a \in \mathbb{C}$,

$$\left\| \begin{pmatrix} a & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\| = \theta(a).$$

Let \mathcal{A}_n be the matrix defined as in (1); then, for every $n \geq 1$,

$$\left\| \begin{pmatrix} v_n \\ v_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} \right\| = \left\| \mathcal{A}_n \begin{pmatrix} v_{n-1} \\ v_{n-2} \end{pmatrix} \right\| \leq \|\mathcal{A}_n\| \left\| \begin{pmatrix} v_{n-1} \\ v_{n-2} \end{pmatrix} \right\| = \theta(a_n) \left\| \begin{pmatrix} v_{n-1} \\ v_{n-2} \end{pmatrix} \right\|,$$

so that

$$\max\{|v_n|_\infty, |v_{n-1}|_\infty\} \leq \left\| \begin{pmatrix} v_n \\ v_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} \right\| \leq \left\| \begin{pmatrix} v_0 \\ v_{-1} \end{pmatrix} \right\| \cdot \prod_{j=1}^n \theta(a_j). \quad \square$$

THEOREM 4.5. — *Let $\tau = (K, \mathfrak{F}, s)$ be a type. Let Σ be the set of embeddings of K in \mathbb{C} , and let us denote by*

$$\nu_\tau = \sup \left\{ \frac{\prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \theta(a^\sigma)}{|a|_{v_0}^{d_{v_0}}} \mid a \in \mathcal{Y}_s, |a|_{v_0} > 1 \right\}.$$

Then,

- a) if $\nu_\tau \leq 1$, then τ satisfies CFP;
- b) if $\nu_\tau < 1$, then τ satisfies CFF.

Proof. — Let $\alpha \in K$; we notice that, for every $\sigma \in \Sigma$, the sequence V_n^σ satisfies the recurrence formula

$$V_n^\sigma = a_n^\sigma V_{n-1}^\sigma + V_{n-2}^\sigma,$$

for every $n \geq 1$, so by Lemma 4.4, there exists a suitable $C > 0$ (depending on α), such that

$$(6) \quad \prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \sup\{|V_n^\sigma|_\infty, |V_{n-1}^\sigma|_\infty\} \leq C \prod_{j=1}^n \prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \theta(a_j^\sigma).$$

Since $V_n \alpha_{n+1} + V_{n-1} = 0$, and recalling that $V_n \in K$, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} H(\alpha_{n+1})^d &= H\left(-\frac{V_{n-1}}{V_n}\right)^d \\ &= \prod_{v \in \mathcal{M}_K} \sup \left\{ \left| \frac{V_{n-1}}{V_n} \right|_v^{d_v}, 1 \right\}, \\ &= \prod_{v \in \mathcal{M}_K} \sup\{|V_n|_v^{d_v}, |V_{n-1}|_v^{d_v}\}. \end{aligned}$$

Using that, for every non-archimedean place $v \neq v_0$, we have that

$$|V_n|_v \leq \max\{|A_n|_v, |B_n|_v |\alpha|_v\} \leq \max\{|\alpha|_v, 1\},$$

and that $|V_n|_{v_0} < |V_{n-1}|_{v_0}$, we can bound from above the previous quantity obtaining

$$H(\alpha_{n+1})^d \leq H(\alpha)^d \cdot |V_{n-1}|_{v_0}^{d_{v_0}} \prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \max\{|V_n^\sigma|_\infty, |V_{n-1}^\sigma|_\infty\},$$

and, applying (6), we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq C \cdot H(\alpha)^d \cdot |V_{n-1}|_{v_0}^{d_{v_0}} \prod_{j=1}^n \prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \theta(a_j^\sigma) \\ &\leq C \cdot H(\alpha)^d \cdot |V_{n-1}|_{v_0}^{d_{v_0}} \nu_\tau^n \prod_{j=1}^n |a_j|_{v_0}^{d_{v_0}}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $V_{n-1} = (-1)^n \prod_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{\alpha_j}$ by Proposition 3.6, we have $|V_{n-1}|_{v_0} = \prod_{j=1}^n |\frac{1}{\alpha_j}|_{v_0}$, and, therefore,

$$H(\alpha_{n+1})^d \leq C \nu_\tau^n \cdot H(\alpha)^d.$$

Let us suppose that $\nu_\tau \leq 1$; by the Northcott finiteness theorem, the α_n 's vary in a finite set, so that either the continued fraction expansion of type τ for α is finite or there exist $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, such that $\alpha_m = \alpha_n$, so that the expansion is periodic. This proves part a). As for b), we see that if $\nu_\tau < 1$, then either α has a finite expansion or $H(\alpha_n)$ eventually becomes zero, and the latter is a contradiction. □

4.4. A particular case: CFF and CFP properties for special types. — When the type $\tau = (K, \pi, \mathcal{R})$ is special, i.e., the floor function is essentially given by the choice of a generator of \mathfrak{P} and by the choice of a set of representatives \mathcal{R} as explained in Section 3.2, Theorem 4.5 gives a more explicit criterion to detect CFP and CFF properties, which is the following result.

THEOREM 4.6. — *Let $\tau = (K, \pi, \mathcal{R})$ be a special type and let Σ be the set of embeddings of K in \mathbb{C} . For every $\sigma \in \Sigma$, let $L_\sigma = \max\{|c^\sigma|_\infty \mid c \in \mathcal{R}\}$, and $\lambda_\sigma = |\pi^\sigma|_\infty$. Assume that, for every $\sigma \in \Sigma$,*

$$\lambda_\sigma > 1 \text{ and } L_\sigma \leq (\lambda_\sigma - 1) \left(1 - \frac{1}{\lambda_\sigma^2}\right);$$

then,

- a) τ satisfies the CFP property;
- b) if, moreover, $L_\sigma < (\lambda_\sigma - 1) \left(1 - \frac{1}{\lambda_\sigma^2}\right)$ for at least one σ , then τ satisfies the CFF property.

Proof. — Recall that, for a special type $\tau = (K, \pi, \mathcal{R})$, every $a \in \mathcal{R}$ has the form $\sum_{j=-k}^0 c_j \pi^j$. Then, for every $a \in \mathcal{R}$ and every $\sigma \in \Sigma$, since by hypothesis $\lambda_\sigma > 1$, we have

$$|a^\sigma|_\infty \leq L_\sigma \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{1}{\lambda_\sigma^j} \leq \frac{L_\sigma \lambda_\sigma}{\lambda_\sigma - 1},$$

which using the hypothesis, gives $|a^\sigma|_\infty \leq \lambda_\sigma - \frac{1}{\lambda_\sigma}$, so that $\theta(a^\sigma) \leq \lambda_\sigma$. Then, under the assumption $|a|_{v_0} > 1$, we have

$$\frac{\prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \theta(a^\sigma)}{|a|_{v_0}^{d_{v_0}}} \leq \frac{\prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \lambda_\sigma}{|a|_{v_0}^{d_{v_0}}} \leq |N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\pi)|_\infty \cdot |\pi|_{v_0}^{d_{v_0}}$$

and, writing $d_{v_0} = e_{v_0} f_{v_0}$, where e_{v_0} is the ramification index and f_{v_0} the residual degree at v_0 , we further have

$$\leq p^{f_{v_0}} \cdot \frac{1}{p^{\frac{d_{v_0}}{e_{v_0}}}} \leq 1;$$

hence, $\nu_\tau \leq 1$, and we can apply part a) of Theorem 4.5, which proves a).

Let us now assume that there exists an embedding $\sigma_0 \in \Sigma$, such that $L_{\sigma_0} < (\lambda_{\sigma_0} - 1)(1 - \frac{1}{\lambda_{\sigma_0}^2})$; then, $|a^{\sigma_0}|_\infty \leq \frac{L_{\sigma_0} \lambda_{\sigma_0}}{\lambda_{\sigma_0} - 1} < \lambda_{\sigma_0} - \frac{1}{\lambda_{\sigma_0}}$, and, hence,

$$\theta(a^{\sigma_0}) \leq \theta\left(\frac{L_{\sigma_0} \lambda_{\sigma_0}}{\lambda_{\sigma_0} - 1}\right) < \lambda_{\sigma_0}.$$

Let us put $J := \frac{1}{\lambda_{\sigma_0}} \cdot \theta\left(\frac{L_{\sigma_0} \lambda_{\sigma_0}}{\lambda_{\sigma_0} - 1}\right) < 1$. Then, the same calculation as before shows that

$$\frac{\prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \theta(a^\sigma)}{|a|_{v_0}^{d_{v_0}}} \leq J \cdot \frac{\prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \lambda_\sigma}{|a|_{v_0}^{d_{v_0}}} \leq J < 1,$$

so that $\nu_\tau < 1$ and the conclusion follows by applying part b) of Theorem 4.5. □

5. The CFF property for norm-Euclidean number fields

Let K be a number field of degree d , and let us denote by r_1, r_2 the number of real and complex embeddings of K . For every $1 \leq i \leq r_1$, let σ_i be the real embeddings and, for every $1 \leq j \leq r_2$, let $(\tau_j, \bar{\tau}_j)$ be the r_2 pairs of complex embeddings. We denote by Σ the whole set of embeddings.

In what follows, we shall denote by $|\cdot|$ the standard complex absolute value.

Let

$$i : K \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{r_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{r_2}$$

$$\lambda \longmapsto (\sigma_1(\lambda), \dots, \sigma_{r_1}(\lambda), \tau_1(\lambda), \dots, \tau_{r_2}(\lambda))$$

be the canonical embedding of K and

$$\ell : K^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{r_1+r_2}$$

be the logarithmic embedding, i.e., the composition $L \circ i$, where

$$L : \mathbb{R}^{r_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{r_2} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{r_1} \times \mathbb{R}^{r_2}$$

$$(x_1, \dots, x_{r_1}, y_1, \dots, y_{r_2}) \longmapsto (\log(|x_1|), \dots, \log(|x_{r_1}|),$$

$$2 \log(|y_1|), \dots, 2 \log(|y_{r_2}|)).$$

For $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_{r_1}, y_1, \dots, y_{r_2}) \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{r_2}$, let us define

$$N(\mathbf{x}) = \prod_{i=1}^{r_1} |x_i| \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{r_2} |y_j|^2;$$

then, $N(i(a)) = |N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a)|$, for every $a \in K$.

In what follows, we want to deepen the study of types in the case of norm-Euclidean number fields; in this setting, we will see that the existence of \mathfrak{P} -adic types satisfying CFF is related to the notion of Euclidean minimum of the field.

5.1. Euclidean minimum. — We recall the definition and main properties of the Euclidean minimum.

DEFINITION 5.1. — Let $\alpha \in K$; the *Euclidean minimum* of α is the real number

$$m_K(\alpha) = \inf \{ |N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha - \gamma)| \mid \gamma \in \mathcal{O}_K \}.$$

The Euclidean minimum can be extended to $K \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{R} \simeq \mathbb{R}^{r_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{r_2}$ as in the following definition.

DEFINITION 5.2. — Let $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{r_2}$. The *inhomogeneous minimum* of \mathbf{x} is the real number

$$\overline{m}_K(\mathbf{x}) = \inf \{ |N(\mathbf{x} - i(\gamma))| \mid \gamma \in \mathcal{O}_K \}.$$

It is clear that $m_K(\alpha) = \overline{m}_K(i(\alpha))$, for every $\alpha \in K$. Moreover, \overline{m}_K induces an upper semicontinuous map of the torus $\mathbb{R}^{r_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{r_2} / i(\mathcal{O}_K)$, which is a compact set; therefore, \overline{m}_K is bounded and attains its maximum. Then, also m_K is bounded on K , and we can give the following definitions:

DEFINITION 5.3. — The *inhomogeneous minimum* of K is the positive real number

$$\overline{M}(K) = \sup \{ \overline{m}_K(\mathbf{x}) \mid \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{r_2} \}.$$

The *Euclidean minimum* of K is the positive real number

$$M(K) = \sup \{ m_K(\alpha) \mid \alpha \in K \}.$$

By the above definition it is clear that $M(K) \leq \overline{M}(K)$. Moreover, it is easy to see that K is norm-Euclidean if and only if $m_K(\alpha) < 1$, for every $\alpha \in K$. Therefore K is norm-Euclidean if $M(K) < 1$ and it is not norm-Euclidean if $M(K) > 1$. The following nontrivial result holds:

THEOREM 5.4 ([13, Theorem 3]). — *If K is a number field, then $M(K) = \overline{M}(K)$.*

5.2. The CFF property for norm-Euclidean number fields. — In order to prove our main results about the CFF property for norm-Euclidean fields, we shall impose conditions on a \mathfrak{P} -adic type τ allowing us to suitably bound the quantity ν_τ defined in Theorem 4.5. In particular, to apply Theorem 4.5 we need to control the size of $\prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \theta(a^\sigma)$ for $a \in \mathcal{Y}_\tau$ such that $|a|_{v_0} > 1$.

First, let us notice that

$$|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a)| < \prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \theta(a^\sigma) < \prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} (|a^\sigma| + 1),$$

and we can regard the latter expression as a sum

$$\prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} (|a^\sigma| + 1) = |N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a)| + F(|a^\sigma|, \sigma \in \Sigma).$$

We shall exploit norm-Euclidean properties of the field to bound $|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a)|$; on the other hand, in order to bound the second addend F , we need more refined conditions allowing us to control each archimedean absolute value of a and not only their product. For this purpose, the following lemma will be useful:

LEMMA 5.5. — *There exists $T_0 > 0$ (depending only on K), such that, for every $a \in K^\times$, there exists $u \in \mathcal{O}_K^\times$ satisfying, for every $\sigma \in \Sigma$,*

$$|(au)^\sigma| \leq T_0 \sqrt[d]{|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a)|}.$$

Proof. — We denote by \mathcal{H} the hyperplane in $\mathbb{R}^{r_1} \times \mathbb{R}^{r_2}$ defined by

$$x'_1 + \dots + x'_{r_1} + 2y'_1 + \dots + 2y'_{r_2} = 0,$$

and we denote as before by $\ell : K^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{r_1+r_2}$ the logarithmic embedding. Since $\ell(\mathcal{O}_K^\times)$ is a lattice in \mathcal{H} , there exists $T > 0$ such that, for every $\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{H}$, there is $u \in \mathcal{O}_K^\times$ with $\|\mathbf{b} + \ell(u)\|_\infty < T$, where $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ is the sup norm in $\mathbb{R}^{r_1+r_2}$.

For $a \in K^\times$, let us take

$$\mathbf{b} = L \left(\frac{i(a)}{\sqrt[d]{|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a)|}} \right) = \ell(a) - \frac{\log(|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a)|)}{d} (1, \dots, 1);$$

by construction, $\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{H}$, and, hence, there exists $u \in \mathcal{O}_K^\times$ such that $\|\mathbf{b} + \ell(u)\|_\infty < T$. This implies that, for every $\sigma \in \Sigma$,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \log \left(\left| \frac{(au)^\sigma}{\sqrt[d]{|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a)|}} \right| \right) \right| &= \left| \log \left(\left| \frac{a^\sigma}{\sqrt[d]{|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a)|}} \right| \right) + \log(|u^\sigma|) \right| \\ &\leq \|\mathbf{b} + \ell(u)\|_\infty < T, \end{aligned}$$

so that $|(au)^\sigma| < T_0 \sqrt[d]{|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a)|}$ for a suitable T_0 , as wanted. □

For $\alpha \in \mathcal{O}_K$, $\epsilon > 0$ and $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{r_2}$, we define

$$U_\epsilon(\alpha) = \{\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{r_2} \mid |N(i(\alpha) - \mathbf{y})| < \epsilon\}.$$

Then $U_\epsilon(\alpha)$ is an open subset of $\mathbb{R}^{r_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{r_2}$.

THEOREM 5.6. — *Assume that K is a norm-Euclidean number field, such that $M(K) < 1$. Then, the field K satisfies the \mathfrak{P} -adic CFF-property for all but finitely many prime ideals \mathfrak{P} of \mathcal{O}_K .*

Proof. — The image of \mathcal{O}_K in $\mathbb{R}^{r_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{r_2} \simeq \mathbb{R}^d$ is a lattice; we denote by $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{r_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{r_2}$ a compact fundamental domain for $i(\mathcal{O}_K)$. Since by assumption the Euclidean minimum $M(K) < 1$, we have by Theorem 5.4 that \mathcal{D} is covered by open neighborhood of radius 1, i.e., $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \bigcup_{\gamma \in \mathcal{O}_K} U_1(\gamma)$. Since \mathcal{D} is compact, and the $U_1(\alpha)$'s are open, there exists a finite number of elements $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s$ of \mathcal{O}_K and a real $0 < \tilde{\epsilon} < 1$, such that $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^s U_{\tilde{\epsilon}}(\alpha_i)$. Let \mathfrak{P} be a prime ideal of \mathcal{O}_K ; we put $q = N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{P}) = |\mathcal{O}_K/\mathfrak{P}|$, and, by Lemma 5.5, we choose a generator π of \mathfrak{P} , such that $|\pi^\sigma| < T_0 \sqrt[d]{q}$ for every embedding $\sigma \in \Sigma$.

We define a \mathfrak{P} -adic floor function s as follows: let us consider a nontrivial coset $\alpha + \mathfrak{P}\mathcal{O}_{v_0} \subseteq K_{v_0}$; by strong approximation, it contains an element $\alpha' \in K$, such that $|\alpha'|_v \leq 1$ for every non-archimedean $v \in \mathcal{M}_K$ and $v \neq v_0$. Then, $\alpha' \in \mathcal{O}_K[\frac{1}{\pi}]$. By translating $\frac{\alpha'}{\pi}$ by a suitable element of \mathcal{O}_K , we find a $\beta \in \mathcal{O}_K[\frac{1}{\pi}]$, such that $i(\beta) \in \mathcal{D}$ and $\alpha' \equiv \pi\beta \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$. Since \mathcal{D} is covered by $\bigcup_{i=1}^s U_{\tilde{\epsilon}}(\alpha_i)$, there exists $\alpha_i \in \mathcal{O}_K$, such that $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\beta - \alpha_i) < \tilde{\epsilon}$. Then, for every $\gamma \in \alpha + \mathfrak{P}\mathcal{O}_{v_0}$, we put $s(\gamma) := \pi(\beta - \alpha_i)$.

We want now to apply Theorem 4.5 to show that the type associated to this floor function satisfies the CFF property for all but finitely many prime ideals \mathfrak{P} of \mathcal{O}_K . To prove this, let $a = \pi(\beta - \alpha_i)$; then, $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a) \leq \tilde{\epsilon}q$. Since $i(\beta) \in \mathcal{D}$, which is a compact set, and the α_i are finitely many, there exists $H > 0$ depending only on K , such that $|\beta^\sigma - \alpha_i^\sigma| < H$ for every $\sigma \in \Sigma$, so that $|a^\sigma| < H|\pi^\sigma| < HT_0 \sqrt[d]{q}$. It follows that, for every subset $S \subsetneq \Sigma$,

$$\prod_{\sigma \in S} |a^\sigma| \leq (HT_0)^{|S|} \sqrt[d]{q^{|S|}}.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \theta(a^\sigma) &< \prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} (1 + |a^\sigma|) = \sum_{S \subsetneq \Sigma} \prod_{\sigma \in S} |a^\sigma| = N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a) + \sum_{S \subsetneq \Sigma} \prod_{\sigma \in S} |a^\sigma| \\ &\leq \tilde{\epsilon}q + \sum_{S \subsetneq \Sigma} (HT_0)^{|S|} \sqrt[d]{q^{|S|}} \leq \tilde{\epsilon}q + H_1 \sqrt[d]{q^{d-1}} \end{aligned}$$

for a suitable H_1 depending only on K , hence

$$\prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \theta(a^\sigma) < \epsilon'q \quad \text{for } q \gg 0,$$

for a suitable $\epsilon' < 1$.

Since $|a|_{v_0}^{d_{v_0}} \geq |\frac{1}{\pi}|_{v_0}^{d_{v_0}} = |N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\pi)|_p^{-1} = q$, we find that $\nu_\tau < 1$ for $p \gg 0$. Then the claim follows from Theorem 4.5. □

REMARK 5.7. — We point out that the condition $M(K) < 1$ in Theorem 5.6 is verified for “almost all” norm-Euclidean number fields. Indeed, in [13, Corollary 2], it is shown that a norm-Euclidean number field with $M(K) = 1$ must have unit rank $r = r_1 + r_2 - 1 \leq 1$. Since $d = r_1 + 2r_2$, the only exceptions can occur in the following three cases:

- a) K is quadratic;
- b) K is cubic with negative discriminant;
- c) K is a totally complex quartic field.

All quadratic norm-Euclidean fields have $M(K) < 1$; this is easily checked for imaginary quadratic fields; for real quadratic fields, it is shown in [25, §1.3] that the only K such that $M(K) = 1$ is $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{65})$, which is not Euclidean. On the other hand, Davenport proved in [15, 16] that norm-Euclidean fields satisfying b) or c) are finitely many.

6. Some more effective results for quadratic fields

In the case of quadratic fields, we can give more explicit results, proving effective bounds on the prime ideals \mathfrak{P} of K , such that K satisfies the \mathfrak{P} -adic CFF property. Moreover, in some cases, we will show how to construct explicit examples of types satisfying the CFF property. We start our investigation with the case of imaginary quadratic fields.

6.1. Imaginary norm-Euclidean quadratic fields. — Let $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-D})$ with D a square-free integer > 0 . It is known that

$$M(K) = \begin{cases} \frac{D+1}{4} & \text{if } D \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{4} \\ \frac{(D+1)^2}{16D} & \text{if } D \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \end{cases}$$

(see, for example, [22, Prop. 4.2]). It follows that the only norm-Euclidean quadratic imaginary fields are $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-D})$, with $D = 1, 2, 3, 7, 11$ and $M(K) < 1$ in each of these cases.

PROPOSITION 6.1. — *Let $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-D})$ be a imaginary quadratic norm-Euclidean field. Let \mathfrak{P} be a prime ideal of \mathcal{O}_K with odd residual characteristics. Put $\lambda = \sqrt{N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{P})}$. Then*

- a) *if $\sqrt{M(K)} < 1 - \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$, then K satisfies the \mathfrak{P} -adic CFF property.*
- b) *if $\sqrt{M(K)} < (1 - \frac{1}{\lambda})^2 (1 + \frac{1}{\lambda})$, then there exists a special type $\tau = (K, \pi, \mathcal{R})$ satisfying the CFF property.*

Proof. — Let \mathfrak{P} be a prime ideal of \mathcal{O}_K with odd residual characteristic p and let π be a generator of \mathfrak{P} . First, notice that $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\pi)$ is either p or p^2 , according to the decomposition of p in \mathcal{O}_K .

a) Assume that $\sqrt{M(K)} < 1 - \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$. Since K is norm-Euclidean, for every $\alpha \in K_{v_0}$, there is a representative β of $\frac{\alpha}{\pi}$ (mod \mathcal{O}_{v_0}), such that $\beta \in \mathcal{O}_{K, \{v_0\}}$ and $|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\beta)|_\infty \leq M(K)$. Therefore, applying the same construction as in Theorem 5.6, there is a type $\tau = (K, \mathfrak{P}, s)$, such that $|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a)|_\infty \leq M(K)|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\pi)|_\infty$, for every $a \in \mathcal{Y}_s$, such that $|a|_{v_0} > 1$, that is, $|a|_\infty \leq \sqrt{M(K)}\lambda < \lambda - \frac{1}{\lambda}$; hence

$$\theta(a) \leq \theta(\sqrt{M(K)}\lambda) < \lambda,$$

and the claim follows by Theorem 4.5 b).

b) Arguing as above we see that there is a complete set of representatives \mathcal{R} of $\mathcal{O}_K/\mathfrak{P}$, such that $|c|_\infty \leq \sqrt{M(K)} \cdot \lambda$ for every $c \in \mathcal{R}$. Let $L = \max\{|c|_\infty \mid c \in \mathcal{R}\}$. Then by hypothesis

$$L < (\lambda - 1) \left(1 - \frac{1}{\lambda^2}\right),$$

and if σ is the complex conjugation, then $|x^\sigma|_\infty = |x|_\infty$, for every $x \in K$; therefore, Theorem 4.6 b) can be applied to the type (K, π, \mathcal{R}) , which concludes the proof. \square

The following list summarizes the behavior of the CFF property for imaginary norm-Euclidean fields $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-D})$:

	D	1	2	3	7	11
CFF property	for $p \geq$	3	5	2	3	7
CFF special type	for $p \geq$	7	23	11	13	127

6.2. Real norm-Euclidean quadratic fields: some explicit constructions. — It is well known that a real quadratic field $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{D})$ is norm-Euclidean if and only if $D = 2, 3, 11, 13, 17, 19, 21, 29, 33, 37, 41, 57, 73$ (see, for example, [19]). In [17], the authors give an explicit proof of the theorem by showing that, in each of these cases, the fundamental region is covered by (finitely many) unit neighborhoods of the plane, giving the precise list for every of these fields. Using this in combination with the construction of the proof of Theorem 5.6, one can show how to construct explicitly a \mathfrak{P} -adic floor function for a prime ideal \mathfrak{P} of \mathcal{O}_K .

Let $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{D})$ be a real norm-Euclidean field; we consider the plane embedding given by

$$\begin{aligned} j : K &\longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \\ a + b\sqrt{D} &\longmapsto (a, b); \end{aligned}$$

this gives a representation of the elements of K as the points of the plane with rational coordinates.

Under this plane embedding, the algebraic integers correspond to the lattice points \mathbb{Z}^2 , if $D \equiv 2, 3 \pmod{4}$, and to the mid-lattice points $\frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}^2$ if $D \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$.

For any $\lambda \in \mathcal{O}_K$, we define the neighborhood of λ in K of radius ϵ to be the set

$$V_\epsilon(\lambda) = \{\beta \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{D}) \mid |N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\beta - \lambda)| < \epsilon\};$$

using the plane embedding, this maps to

$$V_\epsilon(x, y) = \{(r, s) \in \mathbb{Q}^2 \mid |(r - x)^2 - D(s - y)^2| < \epsilon\},$$

where $(x, y) = j(\lambda)$. Notice that these are infinite X -shaped regions in the plane bounded by conjugate hyperbolas.

It is then clear that, since we are assuming K to be norm-Euclidean, each $\beta \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{D})$ lies in the neighborhood $V_\epsilon(\lambda)$ for some $\lambda \in \mathcal{O}_K$, i.e., each point $(r, s) \in \mathbb{Q}^2$ lies in some neighborhood $V_\epsilon(x, y)$ in the plane, where $(x, y) = j(\lambda)$ for some $\lambda \in \mathcal{O}_K$.

Let \mathfrak{P} be a prime ideal in \mathcal{O}_K ; we can associate to every generator $\pi \in \mathfrak{P}$ a type $\tau_\pi = (\mathbb{Q}, \mathfrak{P}, s_\pi)$, where the floor function s_π is defined by the following algorithm. Given a coset $\alpha + \mathfrak{P}\mathcal{O}_{v_0}$ in K_{v_0} , we can find, by strong approximation, an element $\alpha' \in K$ belonging to this coset, such that $|\alpha'|_v < 1$ for every non-archimedean $v \in \mathcal{M}_K \setminus \{v_0\}$; in particular, $\alpha' \in \mathcal{O}_K[\frac{1}{\pi}]$. We can now translate $\frac{\alpha'}{\pi}$ by a suitable element $\mu \in \mathcal{O}_K$, so that $i(\beta) := i(\alpha' - \mu)$ belongs to the region

$$F(D) := \left\{ (r, s) \in \mathbb{Q}^2 \mid -\frac{1}{2} < r \leq \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2} < s \leq \frac{1}{2} \right\},$$

and such that β is unique. We call $F(D)$ a fundamental region. Notice that $\alpha' \equiv \pi\beta \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$. By [17] we have that $F(D)$ is covered by a finite number of neighborhoods or radius $\epsilon < 1$ (depending on D) $V_\epsilon(x_k, y_k)$; hence, $j(\beta)$ lies in (at least) one of these neighborhoods. We choose a neighborhood $V_\epsilon(x', y')$, such that $j(\beta)$ lies in it and, for every $\gamma \in \alpha + \mathfrak{P}\mathcal{O}_{v_0}$, we put

$$s_\pi(\gamma) := \pi(\beta - j^{-1}(x', y')).$$

EXAMPLE 6.2. — Let us consider the case $D = 17$; since $D \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, then $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[\frac{1+\sqrt{D}}{2}]$. Let us divide the fundamental region $F(17)$ into six subsets, namely:

- $F_1 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Q}^2 \mid 0 < r \leq 1/2, -1/4 < s \leq 1/4\}$;
- $F_2 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Q}^2 \mid -1/2 < r \leq 0, -1/4 < s \leq 1/4\}$;
- $F_3 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Q}^2 \mid 0 < r \leq 1/2, 1/4 < s \leq 1/2\}$;
- $F_4 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Q}^2 \mid 0 < r \leq 1/2, -1/2 < s \leq -1/4\}$;
- $F_5 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Q}^2 \mid -1/2 < r \leq 0, 1/4 < s \leq 1/2\}$;
- $F_6 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Q}^2 \mid -1/2 < r \leq 0, -1/2 < s \leq -1/4\}$.

Then, $F(17)$ is equal to the union of these regions, and the union is disjoint, and, hence, every $\beta \in F(17)$ belongs to one F_k . We now have to associate to every F_k a unit neighborhood $V(x, y)$ that covers the corresponding region; this can, of course, be done in many ways.

We use an argument analogous to [17]. By easy calculations we have that the point $(1/2, 1/4) \in F_1$ lies in the top boundary of the neighborhood $V_{13/16}(1, 0)$, and, hence, the preimage of every point in F_1 satisfies $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\beta - 1) \leq 13/16$. Similarly, the point $(1/2, 1/4)$ lies on the bottom boundary of the neighborhood $V_{13/16}(1, 1/2)$, and, hence, F_3 is contained in its closure. Using the symmetry properties of $F(17)$, it is easy to see that $F_2 \subset \overline{V_{13/16}(-1, 0)}$, $F_4 \subset \overline{V_{13/16}(1, -1/2)}$, $F_5 \subset \overline{V_{13/16}(-1, 1/2)}$, and $F_6 \subset \overline{V_{13/16}(-1, -1/2)}$. For every $k = 1, \dots, 6$, let us denote by δ_k the preimage in \mathcal{O}_K of the center of the corresponding neighborhood, i.e., $\delta_k := j^{-1}(x_k, y_k)$. Using this, we can perform the algorithm described above.

Given a prime ideal $\mathfrak{P} \subset \mathcal{O}_{v_0}$, choose a suitable generator π of $\mathfrak{P}\mathcal{O}_{v_0}$. Then, for every coset $\alpha + \mathfrak{P}\mathcal{O}_{v_0}$, choose $\alpha' \in \alpha + \mathfrak{P}\mathcal{O}_{v_0} \cap \mathcal{O}_K[1/\pi]$ and translate it by an element $\mu \in \mathcal{O}_K$, so that the image of $\beta := \alpha - \mu$ lies in the fundamental region; then $j(\beta) \in F_k$, for some $k = 1, \dots, 6$.

Take any $\gamma \in \alpha + \mathfrak{P}\mathcal{O}_{v_0}$; then, we denote

$$s_\pi(\gamma) := \pi(\beta - \delta_i).$$

Let us show, for example, that if p is an odd prime that is inert in \mathcal{O}_K , then this choice of the floor function gives rise to a type satisfying the CFF property.

If p is inert, then we can take $\pi = p$, and, hence, $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{P}) = p^2$. To apply Theorem 4.5, we have to estimate $\theta(a^\sigma)$, for every $a \in \mathcal{Y}_s$, such that $|a|_{v_0} > 1$ and every embedding σ of K into \mathbb{R} , which are exactly the identity and the one sending $\sqrt{17}$ to $-\sqrt{17}$. By the above choice of the neighborhoods covering the fundamental region and the corresponding construction of the floor function, we have that for every $\beta \in F_k$ and for every center of the corresponding neighborhood δ_k , $|\beta^\sigma - \delta_k^\sigma| \leq \sqrt{5}/4$, and $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\beta^\sigma - \delta_k^\sigma) \leq 1/4$; hence for every a , we have $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a) \leq \frac{13}{16}p^2$.

It follows that

$$\prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \theta(a^\sigma) < \prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} (1 + |a^\sigma|) \leq 1 + \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}p + \frac{13}{16}p^2.$$

Since $|a|_p^{d_p} \geq p^2$, we have that $\nu_{\tau_\pi} < 1$ if

$$1 + \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}p + \frac{13}{16}p^2 < p^2,$$

which holds for every prime $p \geq 3$. We finally point out that a similar argument involving another choice of the generator of the prime ideal \mathfrak{P} can be used in the case where p splits, as is done, for example, in Lemma 6.4.

6.3. The CFF property for $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$. — It is well known that $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$ is norm-Euclidean. We can regard K as a subfield of \mathbb{R} , so that $\Sigma = \{id, \sigma\}$, and σ is the embedding sending $\sqrt{2}$ in $-\sqrt{2}$. The fundamental unit is $u = 1 + \sqrt{2}$.

This section is devoted to proving the following result.

THEOREM 6.3. — *The field $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$ has the \mathfrak{P} -adic CFF property, for every prime ideal \mathfrak{P} of odd residual characteristics.*

Let \mathfrak{P} be a prime ideal in \mathcal{O}_K with residual characteristics $p > 2$. We can associate to every generator π of \mathfrak{P} a (not uniquely determined) type $\tau_\pi = (\mathbb{Q}, \mathfrak{P}, s_\pi)$ as follows: choose a coset $\alpha + \mathfrak{P}\mathcal{O}_{v_0}$ in K_{v_0} ; choose $b \in K$, such that $|b - \alpha|_{v_0} < 1$ and $|b|_v \leq 1$ for every non-archimedean $v \in \mathcal{M}_K \setminus \{v_0\}$; then we can write $b = \frac{A}{\pi^k}$, for some $k \geq 1$. By dividing A by π^{k+1} , we can find $\beta \in \mathcal{O}_K$, such that $\frac{A}{\pi^{k+1}} = \beta + \gamma$, with $\gamma = x + y\sqrt{2}$, $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$, $|x|_\infty, |y|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{2}$. Then, we can see that $\gamma \in \mathcal{O}_K[\frac{1}{\pi}]$ and, if we put $a = \pi\gamma$, we find $|a - \alpha|_{v_0} < 1$ and $|a|_v \leq 1$ for every non-archimedean $v \in \mathcal{M}_K$. We define $s_\pi(\alpha + \mathfrak{P}) = a$.

We denote by $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{P}) = p^f$ ($f \in \{1, 2\}$) and we put $\lambda = |\pi|_\infty$, $\lambda_\sigma = |\pi^\sigma|_\infty = \frac{p^f}{\lambda}$. Then we have

$$|a|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{2} (1 + \sqrt{2}) \lambda, \quad |a^\sigma|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{2} (1 + \sqrt{2}) \lambda_\sigma,$$

and

$$N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a) = p^f(x^2 - 2y^2) \leq \frac{1}{2} p^f.$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \theta(a)\theta(a^\sigma) &< (|a|_\infty + 1)(|a^\sigma|_\infty + 1) \leq |N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a)|_\infty + |a|_\infty + |a^\sigma|_\infty + 1 \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} p^f + \frac{1}{2} (1 + \sqrt{2}) \left(\lambda + \frac{p^f}{\lambda} \right) + 1. \end{aligned}$$

By imposing the last quantity to be less than p^f , we obtain

$$\lambda + \frac{p^f}{\lambda} < (\sqrt{2} - 1)(p^f - 2),$$

that is, $F_p(\lambda) < 0$, where

$$F_p(X) = X^2 - (\sqrt{2} - 1)(p^f - 2)X + p^f.$$

It follows by Theorem 4.5 that the type τ_π has the CFF property for every λ satisfying $F_p(\lambda) < 0$.

LEMMA 6.4. — *Assume that the residual characteristic p satisfies:*

- $p \geq 41$ if p splits in \mathcal{O}_K ;
- $p \geq 11$ if p is inert in \mathcal{O}_K ;

then, the \mathfrak{P} -adic CFF property holds for K .

Proof. — If p is inert in \mathcal{O}_K , take $\pi = p$ in the above considerations. Then $\lambda = p$, and we see that $F_p(p) < 0$, except for $p = 3, 5$. Therefore, the type τ_p satisfies the CFF property.

Assume now that p splits and let π be the unique generator of \mathfrak{P} , such that $0 < \pi \leq \sqrt{p}$ and $u\pi > \sqrt{p}$. It follows that $\frac{\sqrt{p}}{u} < \lambda < \sqrt{p}$, and it is straightforward to verify that $F_p(\lambda) < 0$ for $p \geq 71$. Therefore, the type τ_π satisfies the CFF property for a splitting $p \geq 71$.

It remains to consider the cases $p \in \{31, 41, 47\}$, p splitting. In this cases, it is straightforward to see that by setting $\pi = 1 + 4\sqrt{2}, 3 + 5\sqrt{2}, 5 + 6\sqrt{2}$, respectively, we fulfill the requirement $F_p(\lambda) < 0$, so that we get types τ_π satisfying the CFF property also in these last cases. □

In order to complete the proof of Theorem 6.3 it remains to consider the residual characteristics p in the set $S = \{3, 5, 7, 17, 23\}$. Notice that

- p is inert for $p = 3, 5$;
- p splits for $p = 7, 17, 23$.

Moreover, in these cases, $F_p(X)$ is strictly positive over \mathbb{R} , so that the above technique is not applicable. For the prime in S , the following proposition holds.

PROPOSITION 6.5. — *Let $p \in S$ and \mathfrak{P} be a prime ideal in \mathcal{O}_K with residual characteristics p . There exists a generator π of \mathfrak{P} , such that the type $\tau_\pi = (\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}), \mathfrak{P}, s_\pi)$ satisfies the CFF property.*

Proof. — Let us choose a generator π of \mathfrak{P} minimizing the distance from \sqrt{p} ; for example,

- for $p = 3, 5$ we set $\pi = p$;
- for $p = 7, 17, 23$, we choose π such that $1 < \pi < p$ and $\lambda + \lambda_\sigma$ is minimum, where $\lambda = |\pi|_\infty$.

Let $\alpha \in K_{v_0}$ be such that $|\alpha|_{v_0} > 1$ and put $a = s_\pi(\alpha)$. Our goal is to show that there exists $\epsilon < 1$, such that

$$|\theta(a)\theta(a^\sigma)| \leq \epsilon p^f,$$

so that we can apply Theorem 4.5 to prove the theorem. By recalling the construction of τ_π , this amounts to showing that the inequality

$$\tilde{Z}(x, y) = \theta((x + \sqrt{2}y)\pi)\theta((x - \sqrt{2}y)\pi^\sigma) \leq \epsilon p^f$$

holds on the square $\{(x, y) \mid -\frac{1}{2} \leq x, y \leq \frac{1}{2}\}$. By symmetry, it suffices to bound \tilde{Z} on the square $\{(x, y) \mid 0 \leq x, y \leq \frac{1}{2}\}$. By denoting $X = x + y\sqrt{2}$, $Y = x - y\sqrt{2}$, this amounts to showing that

$$Z(X, Y) = \theta(X\pi)\theta(Y\pi^\sigma) \leq \epsilon p^f,$$

on the parallelogram \mathcal{P} delimited by the lines

$$r_1 : X - Y = 0, \quad r_2 : X - Y = \sqrt{2}, \quad s_1 : X + Y = 0, \quad s_2 : X + Y = 1.$$

Since Z is increasing in the variable X , its maximum on \mathcal{P} must be achieved on the sides lying on the two lines r_2 and s_2 . We are, thus, led to show that the two functions

$$\begin{aligned} Z_1(X) &= \theta(X\pi)\theta((\sqrt{2} - X)\pi^\sigma), \\ Z_2(X) &= \theta(X\pi)\theta((X - 1)\pi^\sigma) \end{aligned}$$

are bounded by ϵp on the two intervals $I_1 = [\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{1+\sqrt{2}}{2}]$ and $I_2 = [\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1+\sqrt{2}}{2}]$, respectively. The function Z_1 is increasing on I_1 , and, therefore, it achieves its maximum in $X = \frac{1+\sqrt{2}}{2}$.

We split the interval I_2 in two sub-intervals $I'_2 = [\frac{1}{2}, 1]$ and $I''_2 = [1, \frac{1+\sqrt{2}}{2}]$; the function Z_2 is increasing on I''_2 , and, therefore, its maximum is achieved in $X = \frac{1+\sqrt{2}}{2}$. It follows that the values of Z over \mathcal{P} are bounded by the maximum between $Z_1(\frac{1+\sqrt{2}}{2})$, $Z_2(\frac{1}{2})$, $Z_2(\frac{1+\sqrt{2}}{2})$ and the local extremal values of Z_2 . A direct calculation shows that the derivative of Z_2 has a unique zero in

$$T = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + 4 \frac{\pi^2 - (\pi^\sigma)^2}{p^2} \right),$$

and it is straightforward to show that

$$Z_1 \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{2}}{2} \right), Z_2 \left(\frac{1}{2} \right), Z_2 \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{2}}{2} \right), Z_2(T) \leq \epsilon p^f,$$

for a suitably chosen $\epsilon < 1$. The claim follows by applying Theorem 4.5. □

7. The CFF property, class group, and Euclidean ideal classes

All the previous results about the CFF property concern norm-Euclidean number fields. In the following, we investigate more deeply the relationship between CFF property and the structure of the ideal class group $\text{Cl}(K)$, with the aim of showing that our hypothesis is not too restrictive. In what follows, for every fractional ideal I , we will denote its class in $\text{Cl}(K)$ by $[I]$.

PROPOSITION 7.1. — *Assume that the field K satisfies the \mathfrak{P} -adic CFF property. Then, $\text{Cl}(K)$ is cyclic, generated by $[\mathfrak{P}]$. In particular, if \mathfrak{P} is principal, then \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.*

Proof. — Let n_0 be the order of $[\mathfrak{P}]$ in $\text{Cl}(K)$ and let η be a generator of \mathfrak{P}^{n_0} ; then, $\mathcal{O}_{K, \{v_0\}} = \mathcal{O}_K[\frac{1}{\eta}]$. Since K satisfies the \mathfrak{P} -adic CFF property, then every element of K can be expressed as a quotient $\frac{A}{B}$ of elements in $\mathcal{O}_{K, \{v_0\}}$, such that A and B are coprime in $\mathcal{O}_{K, \{v_0\}}$, i.e., the ideal generated by A and B in $\mathcal{O}_{K, \{v_0\}}$ is trivial. This implies that a power of η can be written as an \mathcal{O}_K -linear combination of A and B , and, hence, the class of the fractional ideal generated by A and B is a power of $[\mathfrak{P}]$. Now, let I be any ideal of \mathcal{O}_K ; then I admits a set of generators of cardinality 2, i.e., $I = (\alpha, \beta)$; see, e.g., [30, §1.1 Cor. 5]).

By applying the above argument to $\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$ we find by [14, Proposition 18] that $[I]$ is a power of $[\mathfrak{P}]$ in $\text{Cl}(K)$. \square

COROLLARY 7.2. — *Assume that the field K satisfies the \mathfrak{P} -adic CFF property for all but finitely many prime ideals \mathfrak{P} . Then \mathcal{O}_K is a PID.*

Proof. — This is a direct consequence of Proposition 7.1 since every class of ideals contains infinitely many prime ideals (see, for example, [30, §7.2, Corollary 6 and p.93 for notation]). In particular, our hypothesis ensures that K satisfies the \mathfrak{P} -adic CFF property for at least one principal ideal \mathfrak{P} . \square

Proposition 7.1 allows us to give examples of number fields K for which the CFF property fails to hold. For example, if $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-D})$ is an imaginary quadratic field, and r is the number of the distinct prime divisors of its discriminant, then $\text{Cl}(K)$ maps onto $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^{r-1}$ (see [30, Theorem 8.23]); hence it is not cyclic for $r \geq 3$. It follows that such fields do not satisfy the \mathfrak{P} -adic CFF property for any prime \mathfrak{P} .

REMARK 7.3. — If $\text{Cl}(K)$ is cyclically generated by $[\mathfrak{P}]$, then $\mathcal{O}_{K, \{v_0\}}$ is a PID. By assuming the generalized Riemann hypothesis, it is Euclidean [37, Theorem 10] (not necessarily with respect to the norm) and, therefore, it satisfies the Euclidean chain condition [31, §14.1], i.e., every $\alpha \in K$ can be expressed as a finite continued fraction

$$(7) \quad \alpha = b_0 + \frac{1}{b_1 + \frac{1}{\ddots + \frac{1}{b_n}}} = [b_0, \dots, b_n], \text{ with } b_i \in \mathcal{O}_{K, \{v_0\}} \text{ for } i \geq 0.$$

If the CFF property holds for K , then every $\alpha \in K$ admits a representation of the form (7) satisfying the following additional properties, i.e.,

- $|b_i|_{v_0} > 1$ for $i > 1$;
- if $|b_0|_{v_0} < 1$, then $b_0 = 0$;
- if $b_i \equiv b_j \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$, then $b_i = b_j$.

We conclude our work by presenting two results that attempt to go beyond the Euclidean assumption that we made in this paper. The following Theorem 7.4 extends Theorem 5.6 to prime ideals lying in a *norm-Euclidean ideal class* in the sense of [23]. For a fractional ideal I of K , we will consider the following property:

if $\beta \in K$, there exists $\alpha \in I$ such that $|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha - \beta)| < N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(I)$.

This property depends only on the class $[I]$ in $\text{Cl}(K)$; such a class is called a *norm-Euclidean class*. Theorem 0.3 of [23] shows that $\text{Cl}(K)$ contains at most one norm-Euclidean class and if there is one, it generates $\text{Cl}(K)$. As it is shown in [28], for an ideal class \mathcal{C} one can give an analogous definition of Euclidean

minimum M_C and of inhomogeneous Euclidean minimum \overline{M}_C ; moreover, if the rank $r = r_1 + r_2 - 1$ of units is > 1 , one has $M_C = \overline{M}_C$. In particular, if $r > 1$, then a class \mathcal{C} is norm-Euclidean if and only if $\overline{M}_C < 1$.

We notice that nonprincipal Euclidean classes exist, for example, for fields like $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-15})$ and $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-20})$ (see [23, Prop. 2.1]), and $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{10})$, $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{15})$, $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{85})$ (see [23, 2.5]); other examples can be found in [24].

For number fields having norm-Euclidean class with inhomogeneous Euclidean minimum < 1 , one can generalize the proof of Theorem 7.4 to prove the following result.

THEOREM 7.4. — *Let K be a number field and assume that K has a norm-Euclidean ideal class \mathcal{C} , such that $\overline{M}_C < 1$. Then K satisfies the \mathfrak{P} -adic CFF property for all but finitely many $\mathfrak{P} \in \mathcal{C}$.*

REMARK 7.5. — If $r = r_1 + r_2 - 1 > 1$, then it is known that $M_C = \overline{M}_C < 1$ for every norm-Euclidean class \mathcal{C} . On the other hand, there are examples where $M_C = 1$, when $r \leq 1$ (see [24, 28]). It would be nice to replace the hypothesis $\overline{M}_C < 1$ in Theorem 7.4 with the more natural hypothesis $M_C < 1$; however, unlike the case $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{O}_K$, we do not know if an analogue of Theorem 5.4 is true for an arbitrary norm-Euclidean ideal class.

Proof of Theorem 7.4. — Fix \mathfrak{Q} a prime ideal in \mathcal{C} and let $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}_{\mathfrak{Q}} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{r_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{r_2}$ be a fundamental domain for the lattice $i(\mathfrak{Q})$. Since \mathcal{D} is compact, there exists a finite set $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s \in \mathfrak{Q}$ and $\epsilon < 1$, such that $\mathcal{D} \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^s U_{\epsilon N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{Q})}(\alpha_i)$.

For every prime ideal \mathfrak{P} in \mathcal{C} , we choose, by Lemma 5.5, an element $\gamma_{\mathfrak{P}} \in K$, such that $\gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}\mathfrak{Q} = \mathfrak{P}$ and $|\gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}^{\sigma}|_{\infty} \leq T_0 \sqrt[d]{|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\gamma_{\mathfrak{P}})|_{\infty}}$, for every $\sigma \in \Sigma$. Then, $\mathcal{D}_{\mathfrak{Q}} = i(\gamma_{\mathfrak{P}})\mathcal{D}$ is a fundamental domain for $i(\mathfrak{P})$. We construct a type $\tau_{\mathfrak{P}} = (K, \mathfrak{P}, s_{\mathfrak{P}})$ by mimicking the proof of Theorem 5.6: given a coset $\alpha + \mathfrak{P}_{v_{\mathfrak{P}}}$ in $K_{v_{\mathfrak{P}}}$ we find a representative $\beta \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathfrak{P}} \cap \mathcal{O}_{K, \{v_{\mathfrak{P}}\}} = \gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}(\mathcal{D} \cap \mathcal{O}_{K, \{v_{\mathfrak{P}}\}})$; then $|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}^{-1}\beta - \alpha_i)|_{\infty} < \epsilon N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{P})$, for some $i = 1, \dots, s$, which implies that $|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\beta - \gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}\alpha_i)|_{\infty} < \epsilon N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{P})$. We define

$$a = s_{\mathfrak{P}}(\alpha + \mathfrak{P}_{v_{\mathfrak{P}}}) = \beta - \gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}\alpha_i.$$

By construction we have

$$(8) \quad |N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(a)|_{\infty} < \epsilon N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{P}).$$

Moreover, since \mathcal{D} is bounded and the α_i are finitely many, there exists a constant C (depending on \mathfrak{Q}), such that

$$(9) \quad |a^{\sigma}|_{\infty} \leq C |\gamma_{\mathfrak{P}}^{\sigma}|_{\infty} \leq CT_0 \sqrt[d]{|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\gamma_{\mathfrak{P}})|_{\infty}} = \frac{CT_0}{\sqrt[d]{N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{Q})}} \sqrt[d]{N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{P})}.$$

As in the proof of Theorem 5.6, from (8) and (9), we conclude that

$$\prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \theta(a^{\sigma}) < \prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} (|a^{\sigma}| + 1) < \epsilon N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{P}) \quad \text{for } N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{P}) \gg 0.$$

Therefore, $\nu_{\tau_{\mathfrak{P}}} < 1$, for $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{P}) \gg 0$, so that $\tau_{\mathfrak{P}}$ satisfies the CFF property by Theorem 4.5. \square

For an arbitrary number field K , we have the following result.

THEOREM 7.6. — *Let K be a number field. Then, for all but finitely many prime ideals \mathfrak{P} , there exists a type $\tau_{\mathfrak{P}} = (K, \mathfrak{P}, s_{\mathfrak{P}})$ with the following property: if $\alpha \in K$ and the continued fraction $\tau_{\mathfrak{P}}$ -expansion $[a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots]$ for α is infinite, then $a_j \in \mathfrak{P}^{-1}$ for infinitely many $j \in \mathbb{N}$.*

Proof. — Fix an ideal class \mathcal{C} and let $\overline{M}_{\mathcal{C}}$ be the inhomogeneous Euclidean minimum of \mathcal{C} ; let $\epsilon > \overline{M}_{\mathcal{C}}$. As in the proof of Theorem 7.4, we can fix a prime ideal $\mathfrak{Q} \in \mathcal{C}$ and construct for every $\mathfrak{P} \in \mathcal{C}$ a type $\tau_{\mathfrak{P}} = (K, \mathfrak{P}, s_{\mathfrak{P}})$, such that every a belonging to the image of $s_{\mathfrak{P}}$ satisfies conditions (8) and (9). Then, it is easy to see that there exists a suitable constant $T_{\mathcal{C}} < 1$, depending only on the class \mathcal{C} , such that, for every $\delta > 0$,

$$\prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \theta(a^\sigma) \leq \prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} (|a^\sigma| + 1) < \epsilon N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{P}) < T_{\mathcal{C}} N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{P})^{1+\delta} \quad \text{for } N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{P}) \gg 0.$$

Since $\text{Cl}(K)$ is finite, we deduce that there is a constant $T < 1$ depending only on K , such that, for all but finitely many prime ideal \mathfrak{P} of \mathcal{O}_K and every a in the image of $s_{\mathfrak{P}}$, we have

$$\prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \theta(a^\sigma) < T N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{P})^{1+\epsilon}.$$

Now assume by contradiction that there exists $\alpha \in K$, such that the continued fraction $\tau_{\mathfrak{P}}$ -expansion $[a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots]$ of α is infinite and such that $a_j \notin \mathfrak{P}^{-1}$, for all but finitely many $j \in \mathbb{N}$. Possibly taking the tail of the expansion, we can assume that $a_j \notin \mathfrak{P}^{-1}$, for every $j \in \mathbb{N}$; this implies that

$$\sup_j \left\{ \frac{\prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \theta(a_j^\sigma)}{|a_j|_{v_{\mathfrak{P}}}} \right\} \leq \sup_j \left\{ \frac{\prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \theta(a_j^\sigma)}{N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{P})^2} \right\} \leq T < 1,$$

which gives a contradiction by Theorem 4.5. \square

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