POLYNOMIALS WITH PRESCRIBED BAD PRIMES

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Abstract. We tabulate polynomials in $\mathbb{Z}[t]$ with a given factorization partition, bad reduction entirely within a given set of primes, and satisfying auxiliary conditions associated to 0, 1, and ∞. We explain how these sets of polynomials are of particular interest because of their role in the construction of nonsolvable number fields of arbitrarily large degree and bounded ramification. Finally we discuss the similar but technically more complicated tabulation problem corresponding to removing the auxiliary conditions.

1. Introduction

1.1. **Overview.** For $P = \{p_1, \ldots, p_r\}$ a finite set of primes, let P^* be the set of integers of the form $\pm p_1^{e_1} \cdots p_r^{e_r}$. We say that a polynomial in $\mathbb{Z}[t]$ is normalized if its leading coefficient $s(\infty)$ is positive and the greatest common divisor of its coefficients is 1.

Definition 1.1. *For κ a partition,* $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ *is the set of normalized polynomials $s(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t]$ satisfying*

1: *The degrees of the irreducible factors of $s(t)$ form the partition κ;*

2: *The discriminant* $\mathrm{Disc}(s)$ *and the values $s(0)$, $s(1)$, $s(\infty)$ are all in P^*.*

The results of this paper identify many $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ completely and show that others are large.

A sample theoretical result and some computational results within it give a first sense of the content of this paper. The theoretical result is an algorithm to determine $\mathrm{Polys}_{3^c2^b1^a}(P)$ given the set of all j-invariants of elliptic curves with bad reduction within $P \cup \{2,3\}$. The computational result uses Coghlan's determination [4] of the eighty-one j-invariants for $P = \{2,3\}$ as input. Carrying out the algorithm gives $\mathrm{Polys}_{3^c2^b1^a}(\{2,3\})$ for all $(a,b,c) \in \mathbb{Z}^3_{\geq 0}$. The largest cardinality arising is $|\mathrm{Polys}_{3^41}(\{2,3\})| = 180,822$. The largest degree $3c+2b+a$ coming from a nonempty set of polynomials is 35, arising uniquely from $|\mathrm{Polys}_{3^11^12}(\{2,3\})| = 2$. One of the two elements of $\mathrm{Polys}_{3^11^12}(\{2,3\})$ is

$$\begin{aligned} s(t) \;=\; & \left(t^3-2\right)\left(t^3+3t^2-3t+1\right)\left(2t^3-6t^2+6t-1\right)\cdot \\ & \left(t^3-3t+4\right)\left(2t^3+3t-1\right)\left(4t^3-9t^2+6t-2\right)\cdot \\ & \left(t^3-3t^2+6t-2\right)\left(2t^3-3t+2\right)\left(2t^3-3t^2-1\right)\cdot \\ & \left(t^3-3t+1\right)\cdot\left(t^3-3t^2+1\right)\cdot\left(t^2-t+1\right). \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

The other one is $t^{35}s(1/t)$, and both polynomials have discriminant $2^{105}3^{533}$.

Our primary motivation is external, as polynomials in $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ are used in the construction of two types of nonsolvable number fields of arbitrarily large degree and bounded ramification. Katz number fields [12], [15] have Lie-type Galois groups and the least ramified examples tend to have two ramifying primes. Hurwitz number

fields [14, 16] typically have alternating or symmetric Galois groups and the least ramified examples tend to have three ramifying primes.

The natural problem corresponding to our title involves suitably tabulating polynomials when the conditions $s(0)$, $s(1)$, $s(\infty) \in P^*$ are removed. The special case we pursue here is more elementary but has much of the character of the general problem. The full problem is briefly discussed at the end of this paper.

1.2. **Three steps and three regimes.** Constructing all elements of $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ in general is naturally a three-step process. Step 1 is to identify the set $NF_d(P)$ of isomorphism classes of degree d number fields ramified within P, for each d appearing in κ. For many (d, P) this complete list is available at [7]. Step 2 is to get the contribution $\mathrm{Polys}_d^K(P)$ of each $K \in NF_d(P)$ to $\mathrm{Polys}_d(P)$ by inspecting the finite set of exceptional P-units in K. We expect an algorithm finding these units to appear in standard software shortly, generalizing the implementation in *Magma* [3] for the case $P = \emptyset$. Step 3 is to extract those products of the irreducible polynomials which are in $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$. This last step is essentially bookkeeping, but nonetheless presents difficulties as $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ can be very large even when all the relevant $\mathrm{Polys}_d(P)$ are relatively small.

One can informally distinguish three regimes as follows. For suitably small (κ, P), one can ask for the provably complete list of all elements in $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$. For intermediate (κ, P), one can seek lists which seem likely to be complete. For large (κ, P), one can seek systematic methods of constructing interesting elements of $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$. We present results here in all three regimes.

1.3. **Content of the sections.** Section 2 consist of preliminaries, with a focus on carrying out Step 3 by interpreting polynomials in $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ as cliques in a graph $\Gamma(P)$. Sections 3, 4, and 5 are in the first regime and are similar to each other in structure. They present general results corresponding to partitions κ of the form 1^a, 2^b1^a, and $3^c2^b1^a$ respectively. In these results, Steps 1 and 2 are carried out together by techniques particular to $d \leq 3$ involving ABC triples. As illustrations of the generalities, these sections completely identify all $\mathrm{Polys}_{1^a}(\{2, 3, 5, 7\})$, $\mathrm{Polys}_{2^b1^a}(\{2, 3, 5\})$, and the above-discussed $\mathrm{Polys}_{3^c2^b1^a}(\{2, 3\})$.

Section 6 is in the second regime and follows the three-step approach. To illustrate the general method, this section takes $P = \{2\}$ so that $NF_d(\{2\})$ is known to be empty for $d \in \{3, 5, 6, 7\}$. It identifies all $\mathrm{Polys}_{4^d2^b1^a}(\{2\})$, assuming the identification of $\mathrm{Polys}_4(\{2\})$ is correct. Because of the increase in allowed κ in Sections 3-6, our considerations become conceptually more complicated. Because of the simultaneous decrease in P, our computational examples remain at approximately the same level of complexity. Section 7 is in the third regime. It shows that some $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ are large because of products of cyclotomic polynomials while others are large because of polynomials related to fractals.

Section 8 sketches the applications to number field construction. Our presentation gives a feel for how the $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ enter by presenting one family of examples from the Katz setting and one family from the Hurwitz setting. Section 9 concludes the paper by discussing promising directions for future work, with a focus on moving into the more general setting where the auxiliary conditions on $s(0)$, $s(1)$, and $s(\infty)$ are removed.

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2. Preliminaries

2.1. **Sets related to** $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$**.** It is convenient to consider disjoint unions of $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ over varying κ as follows:

Full sets		Finite subsets	
$\mathrm{Polys}(P)$	$= \coprod_\kappa \mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$,	$\mathrm{Polys}(P)^f$	$= \coprod_{\max(\kappa)\le f} \mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$,
$\mathrm{Polys}(P)_\ell$	$= \coprod_{\mathrm{length}(\kappa)=\ell} \mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$,	$\mathrm{Polys}(P)_\ell^f$	$= \mathrm{Polys}(P)^f \cap \mathrm{Polys}(P)_\ell$.

Thus $\mathrm{Polys}(P)$ is the set of all polynomials under study for a given P. It and the subsets $\mathrm{Polys}(P)_\ell$ are always infinite for any $P \neq \emptyset$ and $\ell \geq 1$, as discussed further in Section 7.

We say that a polynomial is *f-split* if all its irreducible factors have degree at most f. From more general theorems cited in Section 9, the sets $\mathrm{Polys}(P)^f$ and thus $\mathrm{Polys}(P)_\ell^f$ of f-split polynomials are always finite. To focus just on degree and suppress reference to the factorization partition, another convenient finite set is $\mathrm{Polys}_{[k]}(P) = \coprod_{\kappa\vdash k} \mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$.

2.2. **Compatibility.** The study of $\mathrm{Polys}(P)$ reduces to a great extent to the study of $\mathrm{Polys}(P)_1$ as follows. Let $s_1, \ldots, s_\ell$ be in $\mathrm{Polys}(P)_1$, thus irreducible normalized polynomials in $\mathbb{Z}[t]$, with discriminants D_i and values $s_i(0)$, $s_i(1)$, $s_i(\infty)$ all in P^*. The product $s(t) = s_1(t)\cdots s_\ell(t)$ certainly satisfies $s(0)$, $s(1)$, $s(\infty) \in P^*$. Its discriminant is given by the product formula

$$D = \left(\prod_{i=1}^{\ell} D_i\right)\left(\prod_{i<j} R_{ij}^2\right),$$

where R_{ij} is the resultant $\mathrm{Res}(s_i, s_j) \in \mathbb{Z}$. In general, we say that two polynomials u and v in $\mathrm{Polys}(P)$ are *compatible* if $\mathrm{Res}(u, v) \in P^*$. Thus $s \in \mathrm{Polys}(P)_\ell$ if and only if its ℓ irreducible factors are pairwise compatible.

2.3. **Graph-theoretic interpretation.** To exploit the notion of compatibility, we think in terms of a graph $\Gamma(P)$ as follows. The vertex set of $\Gamma(P)$ is $\mathrm{Polys}(P)_1$. If a vertex corresponds to a degree d polynomial, we say it has degree d. The edge-set of $\Gamma(P)$ is $\mathrm{Polys}(P)_2$, with an edge s_1s_2 having endpoints s_1 and s_2. Thus edges are placed between compatible irreducible polynomials. In general, a polynomial in $\mathrm{Polys}(P)_\ell$ is identified with a clique in $\Gamma(P)$ of size ℓ, meaning a complete subgraph on ℓ vertices. For similar use of graph-theoretic language in contexts like ours, see e.g. [10].

When restricting attention to f-split polynomials, we likewise think in terms of the corresponding graph $\Gamma(P)^f$. This graph is now finite, with vertex set $\mathrm{Polys}(P)_1^f$, edge set $\mathrm{Polys}(P)_2^f$, and cliques of size ℓ corresponding to elements of $\mathrm{Polys}(P)_\ell^f$. Figure 2.1, discussed in more detail in §2.6 below, draws $\Gamma(\{2\})^2$.

2.4. **Packing points into the projective line.** Our problem of identifying $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ can be understood in geometric language as follows. For each prime p, let $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ be an algebraic closure of $\mathbb{F}_p$. For any prime power p^f, let $\mathbb{F}_{p^f}$ be the subfield of $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ having p^f elements. For any field F, let $\mathbb{P}^1(F) = F \cup \{\infty\}$ be the corresponding projective line.

Let $s(t) \in \mathrm{Polys}(P)$ have degree k. Denote its set of complex roots by Z, so that $|Z| = k$. Let $\widehat{Z} = Z \cup \{0, 1, \infty\} \subset \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$. For any prime p, similarly let Z_p be the root-set of $s(t)$ in $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ and $\widehat{Z}_p = Z \cup \{0, 1, \infty\} \subset \mathbb{P}^1(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$.

Let $\overline{\mathbb{Q}} \subset \mathbb{C}$ be the field of algebraic numbers. Via roots, our $\mathrm{Polys}(P)$ is in bijection with the set of finite subsets $\widehat{Z} \subset \mathbb{P}^1(\overline{\mathbb{Q}})$ which are $\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$-stable, contain $\{0, 1, \infty\}$, and have good reduction outside of P in the sense that the reduced sets $\widehat{Z}_p$ have the same size as $\widehat{Z}$ for p a prime not in P.

If $s(t) \in \mathrm{Polys}(P)^f$ then the set $\widehat{Z}_p$ lies in the finite set $\cup_{d \le f} \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_{p^d})$. The order of this set for $f = 1$, 2, 3, and 4 is respectively $p + 1$, $p^2 + 1$, $p^3 + p^2 - p + 1$, $p^4 + p^3 - p + 1$. One has the following trivial bound, which we highlight because of its importance:

Reduction Bound 2.1. *A polynomial $s(t) \in \mathrm{Polys}(P)^f$ has degree at most*

$$N(p, f) = |\bigcup_{d \le f} \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_{p^d})| - 3,$$

where p is the smallest prime not in P.

The room available for packing points increases polynomially with the first good prime p and exponentially with the degree cutoff f:

$N(p,f)$	1	2	3	4
2	0	2	8	20
3	*1*	*7*	31	**103**
5	3	23	**143**	743
7	5	**47**	383	2735
11	**9**	119	1439	15959.

The italicized entries are relevant to Figure 2.1 where both upper bounds are achieved. The boldface entries ascending to the right correspond to Sections 3, 4, 5, 6 respectively, with the bound being obtained only in the first case.

2.5. **S_3-symmetry.** If $s(t) \in \mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ has degree k, then its properly signed transforms

$$\begin{aligned} s_{(01)}(t) &= \pm s(1-t), \\ s_{(0\infty)}(t) &= \pm t^k s(1/t), \end{aligned}$$

are also elements in $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$. The two displayed transformations generate a six-element group S_3 which acts on each $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$. Our notation captures that these transformations arise from permuting the special points 0, 1, and ∞ arbitrarily.

2.6. **The graph $\Gamma(\{2\})^2$.** Figure 2.1 gives a simple example illustrating many of our considerations so far. The three white vertices are the polynomials in $\mathrm{Polys}_1(\{2\})$ and the subgraph $\Gamma(\{2\})^1$ consists of three isolated points. The fifteen black vertices are the elements of $\mathrm{Polys}_2(\{2\})$. That the drawn graph is indeed all of $\Gamma(\{2\})^2$ is a special case of the completeness results cited in Section 4.

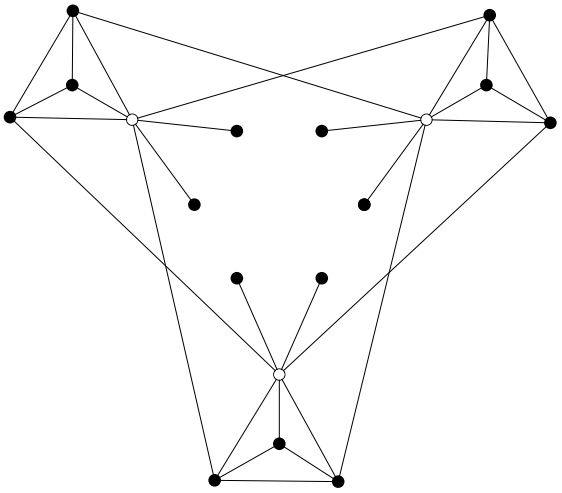

FIGURE 2.1. The graph $\Gamma(\{2\})^2$. The polynomials represented by the vertices in the lower third of the graph are indicated.

The sets $\mathrm{Polys}_{2^b1^a}(\{2\})$ can all be read off of Figure 2.1, and have sizes

(2.1)

b	$a=0$	$a=1$
0	1	3
1	15	21
2	9	9
3	3	3.

For example, the clique formed by the four lowest vertices gives the element

$$s(t) = (t^2 - 2t + 2)(t^2 - 2)(t^2 - 4t + 2)(t - 2)$$

of $\mathrm{Polys}_{2^31}(\{2\})$. The polynomial $s(t)$ and its transforms by S_3 give the bottom right 3 of (2.1). The graph-theoretic deductions in Sections 3-6 are conceptually no different from the visual inspection of Figure 2.1 needed to produce (2.1). However the graphs involved are much larger and the passage from graphs to cliques is incorporated into our programs as described next.

2.7. **Step 3 of the process.** To compute a graph $\Gamma(P)^f$ and all associated sets $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$, the first two steps as described in §1.2 yield the vertex set $\mathrm{Polys}(P)_1^f$. Step 3, passing from the vertex set to the entire graph, is then done as follows. For each vertex $s_1(t) \in \mathrm{Polys}(P)_1^f$ we compute resultants and determine its set $N_{s_1(t)}$ of lesser neighbors with respect to some ordering. The edge set $\mathrm{Polys}(P)_2^f$ is then all $s_1(t)s_2(t)$ with $s_2(t) \in N_{s_1(t)}$. One continues inductively, with $\mathrm{Polys}(P)_\ell^f$ being the set of $s_1(t)\cdots s_\ell(t)$ with $s_\ell(t) \in \cap_{i=1}^{\ell-1} N_{s_i(t)}$.

2.8. **Monic variants.** If $s(t) \in \mathbb{Z}[t]$ is a normalized polynomial then $s(t)/s(\infty) \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ is a monic polynomial. It is often technically more convenient to work with monic rather than normalized polynomials. Accordingly, we let $\mathrm{MPolys}(P)$ be the set of monic polynomials $s(t)/s(\infty)$ with $s(t) \in \mathrm{Polys}(P)$. So elements of $\mathrm{MPolys}(P)$ lie in $\mathbb{Z}^P[t]$, where $\mathbb{Z}^P$ is the ring of rational numbers with denominators

in P^*. As a general rule, we keep the focus on $\mathrm{Polys}(P)$, switching temporarily to the very mild variant $\mathrm{MPolys}(P)$ only when it is truly preferable.

3. 1-split polynomials

This section describes how one determines the sets $\mathrm{Polys}_{1^a}(P)$, We illustrate the procedure by determining $\mathrm{Polys}_{1^a}(\{2,3,5,7\})$ for all $a \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$.

3.1. **Vertices via ABC triples.** Step 1 from the introduction is trivial, since the only degree one number field is $\mathbb{Q}$. Step 2 is to determine the polynomials which lie in the vertex set $\mathrm{Polys}_1(P)$ of the graph $\Gamma(P)^1$. To make the S_3-symmetry of §2.5 completely evident it is convenient to work with ABC triples.

Definition 3.1. *For a rational number $u \neq 0, 1$, let A, B, and C be the unique pairwise relatively prime integers with $u = -A/C$, $A + B + C = 0$, and $ABC < 0$. For a set of primes P, the set $T_{\infty,\infty,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ is the set of u such that A, B, and C are in P^*.*

The notation $T_{\infty,\infty,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ is a specialization of the general notation $T_{p,q,r}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ of [12], and we will use other special cases in the next two sections. The action of S_3 on ABC triples by permutations corresponds to an action of S_3 on the projective u-line by fractional linear transformations, with (AB) corresponding to $u \mapsto 1 - u$ and (AC) to $u \mapsto 1/u$. Using the alternative monic language of §2.8, one has

$$\mathrm{MPolys}_1(P) = \{t - u\}_{u \in T_{\infty,\infty,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)}.$$

This very simple parametrization is a prototype for the more complicated parametrizations given in Theorems 4.1 and 5.1.

The set $T_{\infty,\infty,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ is empty if $2 \notin P$ by Reduction Bound 2.1. Otherwise $\{-1, 1/2, 2\}$ is a three-element S_3-orbit and all other S_3-orbits have size six. Elements of $T_{\infty,\infty,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ can be found by computer searches: to get all those with $\mathrm{height}(u) := \max(|A|, |C|)$ less than a certain cutoff, one searches over candidate (A, C) and selects those for which $B = -A - C$ is also in P^*.

In the case $P = \{2,3,5,7\}$, a search up to height 10^9 took ten seconds and yielded $375 = 3 + 6 \cdot 62$ elements. The eighteen of largest height come from the ABC triples

$$\begin{aligned} (1, 4374, -4375) &= (1, 2^1 3^7, -5^4 7), \\ (1, 2400, -2401) &= (1, 2^5 3^1 5^2, -7^4), \\ (5, 1024, -1029) &= (5, 2^{10}, -3^1 7^3). \end{aligned}$$

All the other elements have height at most 625. The completeness of this list is a special case of a result of de Weger [17, Theorem 5.4]. This result also gives $|\mathrm{Polys}_1(\{2,3,5,7,11\})| = 1137$ and $|\mathrm{Polys}_1(\{2,3,5,7,11,13\})| = 3267$, with largest heights 18255 and 1771561 respectively.

3.2. **The sets $\mathrm{Polys}_{1^a}(\{2,3,5,7\})$.** Tabulating cliques as described in §2.7 has a run-time of about two minutes and gives the following result.

Proposition 3.1. *The nonempty sets $\mathrm{Polys}_{1^a}(\{2,3,5,7\})$ have size as follows:*

a	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Size	1	375	9900	73000	232260	383712	356916	190620	55935	7425

The sets involved in the next case $\{2,3,5,7,11\}$ are already much larger, both because of the larger vertex set and from the relaxation of the compatibility condition.

3.3. **Extremal polynomials.** One of the 7425 elements of $\mathrm{Polys}_{1^9}(\{2,3,5,7\})$ is $s(t)=\prod_{u=2}^{10}(t-u)$. Similarly, suppose P consists of all primes strictly less than a fixed prime p. Then $s(t)=\prod_{u=2}^{p-1}(t-u)$ realizes Reduction Bound 2.1.

The 7425 polynomials in $\mathrm{Polys}_{1^9}(\{2,3,5,7\})$ are structured into packets as follows. Let $\prod_{i=1}^{9}(t-u_i)$ be a polynomial in $\mathrm{Polys}_{1^9}(\{2,3,5,7\})$ and consider the twelve element set $\{u_1,\ldots,u_9,0,1,\infty\}$. For any triple of distinct elements there is a unique fractional linear transformation in $PGL_2(\mathbb{Q})$ which takes these elements in order to 0, 1, and ∞. A given element of $\mathrm{Polys}_{1^9}(\{2,3,5,7\})$ determines $12\cdot 11\cdot 10/|A|$ elements of $\mathrm{Polys}_{1^9}(\{2,3,5,7\})$ in this way, with A its stabilizer subgroup. There are in fact thirteen such packets, eight with stabilizer subgroup C_2 and one each with stabilizer C_1, V, S_3, D_4 and D_6. The product $\prod_{u=2}^{10}(t-u)$ is in one of the eight packets with stabilizer C_2, its nontrivial automorphism being $t\mapsto 11-t$. As another example, the element

$$s(t)=(t+14)(t+8)(t+5)(t+4)(t+2)(t-2)(t-4)(t-10)(t-16)$$

represents the packet with trivial stabilizer C_1. The numbers presented are consistent via the mass-check

$$\frac{7425}{12\cdot 11\cdot 10}=5.875=1+8\cdot\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{4}+\frac{1}{6}+\frac{1}{8}+\frac{1}{12}.$$

The two minute run-time cited above corresponds to a simple program which does not exploit this type of symmetry.

4. 2-split polynomials

This section describes how one determines sets $\mathrm{Polys}_{2^b1^a}(P)$. Without loss of generality we restrict to P containing 2 throughout this section. Assuming $\mathrm{Polys}_1(P)$ as known from the previous section, to complete Steps 1 and 2 one needs to determine $\mathrm{Polys}_2(P)$ and Theorem 4.1 gives our method. We illustrate the full procedure by determining all $\mathrm{Polys}_{2^b1^a}(\{2,3,5\})$.

4.1. **Vertices via ABC triples.** Let $T_{\infty,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ be the set of rational numbers $w=-A/C$ exactly as in Definition 3.1 except that $B=-A-C$ is only required to have the form by^2 with $b\in P^*$. For an element $w\in T_{\infty,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$, its discriminant class by definition is $\delta=w(1-w)\in\mathbb{Q}^\times/\mathbb{Q}^{\times 2}$. This invariant gives a decomposition

$$T_{\infty,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)=\coprod_{\delta}T_{\infty,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)^\delta.$$

This decomposition is used in Theorem 4.1 below as one of two aspects of compatibility.

To find all w in $T_{\infty,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ up to a height bound of H, one searches over the exact same set of (A,C) as in the search for elements of $T_{\infty,\infty,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$. However now one keeps those (A,C) where the square-free part of $B=-A-C$ is in P^*. For our example, we need the set $T_{\infty,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3,5\}})$. A one-second search up to cutoff $H=10^9$ found 183 elements. The list consists of -1 and then 92 reciprocal pairs. The three pairs of largest height come from the triples

$$\begin{aligned}(1,-25921,25920) &= (1,161^2,2^6 3^4 5),\\ (9,-64009,64000) &= (3^2,-253^2,2^9 5^3),\\ (15625,-17161,1536) &= (5^6,-131^2,2^9 3).\end{aligned}$$

All the other elements have height at most 6561. The completeness of this list follows from [5], where the larger set $T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3,5\}})$ is calculated to have 440 elements. The distribution according to discriminant class δ is quite uneven, and given after the proof of Theorem 4.1 below.

4.2. **From the set $T_{\infty,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ of ABC triples to the set $\mathrm{Polys}_2(P)$ of degree two vertices in $\Gamma(P)$.** A general quadratic polynomial in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ can be written uniquely in the form

$$s(u_0,u_1,u_\infty;t)=u_\infty t^2+(u_1-u_0-u_\infty)t+u_0 \tag{4.1}$$

with $(u_0,u_1,u_\infty)\in\mathbb{Q}^3$. Its discriminant is

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta(u_0,u_1,u_\infty) &= (u_1-u_0-u_\infty)^2-4u_0u_\infty \\ &= \left(u_0^2+u_1^2+u_\infty^2\right)-2\left(u_0u_1+u_0u_\infty+u_1u_\infty\right).\end{aligned} \tag{4.2}$$

To complete an identification of the new part $\mathrm{Polys}_2(P)$ of the vertex set, we use the following result, which naturally gives $\mathrm{Polys}_{[2]}(P)=\mathrm{Polys}_2(P)\coprod\mathrm{Polys}_{1^2}(P)$.

Theorem 4.1. *Let P be a finite set of primes containing 2. Let $(\delta;w_0,w_1,w_\infty)$ run over triples where $\delta\in P^*$ is a square-free integer and the w_i are in $T_{\infty,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)^\delta\cup\{1\}$ satisfying*

$$\Delta(w_0,w_1,w_\infty)=-4w_0w_1w_\infty. \tag{4.3}$$

Then the polynomials

$$S(w_0,w_1,w_\infty)=\frac{1}{w_\infty}s(w_0,w_1,w_\infty;t) \tag{4.4}$$

have discriminant class δ and run over $\mathrm{MPolys}_{[2]}(P)$

Proof. Just using that w_0, w_1, w_∞ are all in $\mathbb{Z}^{P\times}$ one immediately gets that $S(0)$, $S(1)$, $S(\infty)$ are all in $\mathbb{Z}^{P\times}$. Assuming further that (w_0,w_1,w_∞) satisfies (4.3), then the discriminant $\Delta(w_0,w_1,w_\infty)$ is also in $\mathbb{Z}^{P\times}$. Thus quadratic polynomials as in the theorem are indeed in $\mathrm{MPolys}_{[2]}(P)$. The issue which remains is that these polynomials form all of $\mathrm{MPolys}_{[2]}(P)$. To prove this converse direction we start with the hypothesis that $s(u_0,u_1,u_\infty;t)/u_\infty\in\mathrm{MPolys}_{[2]}(P)$ and deduce that (u_0,u_1,u_∞) is proportional to a triple (w_0,w_1,w_∞) as in the theorem.

In general, suppose given an ordered triple of disjoint divisors (D_2,D_{1a},D_{1b}) on the projective line $\mathbb{P}^1$ over $\mathbb{Q}$, of degrees 2, 1, and 1 respectively. After applying a fractional linear transformation, one can partially normalize so that $D_{1a}=\{0\}$, $D_{1b}=\{\infty\}$, and D_2 consists of the roots of t^2+bt+c with b, $c\in\mathbb{Q}$. To continue with the normalization, suppose $b\neq 0$. Then one can uniquely scale so that still $D_{1a}=\{0\}$ and $D_{1b}=\{\infty\}$ but now D_2 consists of the roots of t^2-t+v for $v=c/b^2$ in $\mathbb{Q}$. Writing $v=1/4(1-w)$, one gets that $PGL_2(\mathbb{Q})$-orbits of the initial tuple (D_2,D_{1a},D_{1b}) yielding $b\neq 0$ are in bijection with $w\in\mathbb{Q}-\{0,1\}$. Moreover, the discriminant class in $\mathbb{Q}^\times/\mathbb{Q}^{\times 2}$ of the divisor D_2 is $w(1-w)$. Moreover, the orbit has a representative with good reduction outside of P if and only if $w\in T_{\infty,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$. There are infinitely many different orbits yielding $b=0$ and we associate all of them to $w=1$.

Let Z be the roots of (4.1). Then the invariants associated to $(Z,\{1\},\{\infty\})$, $(Z,\{\infty\},0)$, and $(Z,\{0\},\{1\})$ work out respectively to

$$(w_0,w_1,w_\infty)=\frac{-\Delta(u_0,u_1,u_\infty)}{4u_0u_1u_\infty}(u_0,u_1,u_\infty).$$

Thus any element of $\mathrm{MPolys}_{[2]}(P)$ is indeed of the special form (4.4). □

Let $\mathrm{Polys}^{\delta}_{[2]}(P)$ be the subset of $\mathrm{Polys}_{[2]}(P)$ consisting of polynomials of discriminant class δ. Applying Theorem 4.1 for $P = \{2, 3, 5\}$ to the known set $T_{\infty,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ gives sizes as follows:

δ	−30	−15	−10	−6	−5	−3	−2	−1	1	2	3	5	6	10	15	30
$\lvert T_{\infty,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)^{\delta}\rvert$	3	6	24	25	11	8	6	49	12	9	2	9	6	0	13	0
$\lvert \mathrm{Polys}^{\delta}_{[2]}(\mathbb{Z}^P)\rvert$	12	48	456	504	138	84	48	1020	171	108	10	96	48	0	204	0

Define the height of a normalized polynomial (4.1) to be $\max(|u_0|, |u_1|, |u_\infty|)$. With this definition, the height of a polynomial (4.1) depends only on its S_3 orbit. The three S_3-orbits with largest height all have height $3125 = 5^5$. They are represented by the following elements:

$$(w_0, w_1, w_\infty) = \frac{(-3^7, 2^7, 5^5)}{5^3}, \qquad s(t) = 3125t^2 - 810t - 2187$$

$$(w_0, w_1, w_\infty) = \frac{(-3^3, 2^{11}, 5^5)}{2^5 3 \cdot 5}, \qquad s(t) = (25t - 9)(125t + 3),$$

$$(w_0, w_1, w_\infty) = \frac{(-3, 2^{10} 3, 5^5)}{2^6 3^2 5}, \qquad s(t) = (25t - 1)(125t + 3).$$

4.3. **The sets** $\mathrm{Polys}_{2^b 1^a}(\{2, 3, 5\})$**.** Inductively tabulating cliques in $\Gamma(\{2, 3, 5\})^2$ gives the following statement

Proposition 4.1. *The nonempty sets* $\mathrm{Polys}_{2^b 1^a}(\{2, 3, 5\})$ *have size as in Table 4.1.*

The computation required to carry out Step 3 and thereby prove Proposition 4.1 took about two hours. The fact that all a's appearing in Table 4.1 are at most five is

b	$a = 0$	$a = 1$	$a = 2$	$a = 3$	$a = 4$	$a = 5$
0	1	99	1020	3100	3570	1386
1	1927	18225	60240	90640	64470	18018
2	44967	227751	477540	511200	279930	64176
3	238255	862029	1347060	1125940	502530	99960
4	551944	1567746	1913760	1269160	463470	83034
5	745824	1740246	1683180	867600	246120	40698
6	692476	1364910	1050150	409570	81690	12768
7	480862	812520	493440	146800	20370	3360
8	259974	376650	170850	38550	3990	756
9	112016	138096	39660	6020	420	84
10	39404	42216	5520	380		
11	11520	11436	360			
12	2751	2709				
13	495	495				
14	57	57				
15	3	3				

TABLE 4.1. Size of the nonempty sets $\mathrm{Polys}_{2^b 1^a}(\{2, 3, 5\})$.

known by Reduction Bound 2.1, because $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_7)$ has only five elements besides 0, 1, and ∞. In contrast, $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_{49}) - \{0, 1, \infty\}$ has $N(7, 2) = 47$ elements, corresponding

to the bound $2b+a \leq 47$. Thus our computation identifies many $\mathrm{Polys}_{2^b1^a}(\{2,3,5\})$ as empty even though the reduction bound allows them to be non-empty.

4.4. **Extremal Polynomials.** One of the three elements in $\mathrm{Polys}_{2^{15}1}(\{2,3,5\})$ is

$$\begin{aligned} s(t) \quad = \quad & \left(t^2+6t+3\right)\left(3t^2+6t+1\right)\left(t^2-6t+3\right)\left(3t^2-6t+1\right)\cdot \\ & \left(t^2-2t-5\right)\left(5t^2+2t-1\right)\left(t^2+2t-5\right)\left(5t^2-2t-1\right)\cdot \\ & \left(t^2-2t-1\right)\left(t^2+2t-1\right)\cdot\left(t^2-6t-1\right)\left(t^2+6t-1\right)\cdot \\ & \left(3t^2-2t-3\right)\left(3t^2+2t-3\right)\cdot\left(t^2+1\right)\cdot(t+1). \end{aligned} \tag{4.5}$$

Its discriminant is $2^{1046}3^{80}5^{104}$. Its roots, together with 1, are visibly invariant under the four-element group generated by negation and inversion, with minimal invariant factors separated by $\cdot$'s. The other two elements of $\mathrm{Polys}_{2^{15}1}(\{2,3,5\})$ are obtained from the given one by applying the transformations $t \mapsto 1-t$ and $t \mapsto t/(t-1)$.

5. 3-split polynomials

This section describes how one determines sets $\mathrm{Polys}_{3^c2^b1^a}(P)$. Without loss of generality we restrict to P containing 2 and 3 throughout this section. Assuming that $\mathrm{Polys}_1(P)$ and $\mathrm{Polys}_2(P)$ are known from the previous two sections, to complete Step 1 and 2 of the introduction, one needs to determine $\mathrm{Polys}_3(P)$ and Theorem 5.1 gives our method. We illustrate the full procedure by determining all $\mathrm{Polys}_{3^c2^b1^a}(\{2,3\})$.

5.1. **Compatible ABC triples and vertices.** Let $T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ be the set of rational numbers $j=-A/C$ exactly as in Definition 3.1 except that A and $B=-A-C$ are only required to have the respective forms ax^3 and by^2 with $a,b \in P^*$. For an element $j \in T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ the polynomial

$$S(j,t) \quad = \quad 4(j-1)t^3-27jt-27j \tag{5.1}$$

has discriminant $3^9j^2/2^4(j-1)^3$. Let c be the isomorphism class of the algebra $\mathbb{Q}[t]/S(j,t)$. This invariant gives a decomposition

$$T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P) = \coprod_c T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)^c. \tag{5.2}$$

This decomposition is used in Theorem 5.1 below as one of two aspects of compatibility.

To find all j in $T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ up to a height bound of H, one searches as before over (A,C). Now, however, the search is substantially larger as one only has $A=ax^3$ with $a \in P^*$. For our example, we need the set $T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3\}})$. A three minute search up to cutoff 10^{11} found 81 elements. Of these, the factorization partition of (5.1) is 3, 21, and 1^3 respectively 54, 24, and 3 times. The four j's with (5.1) irreducible of largest height come from the triples

$$\begin{aligned} (-73085409, 73085401, 8) \quad &= \quad (-3^5 67^3, 8466^2, 2^3), \\ (128787625, -531440809, 402653184) \quad &= \quad (505^3, -25053^2, 2^{27}3), \\ (7022735875, -7022744067, 8192) \quad &= \quad (1915^3, 3^1 48383^2, 2^{13}), \\ (67867385039, -67867385042, 3) \quad &= \quad (4079^3, -2^1 184211^2, 3). \end{aligned}$$

All the other elements have height at most 3,501,153. The completeness of this 81-element list dates back to [4]; it is also a subset of the 440-element set

$T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3,5\}})$ from [5] cited in the previous section. The distribution of the 54 irreducible j-invariants according to isomorphism class c is quite uneven, and given in Table 5.1 below.

5.2. **From the set $T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ of ABC triples to the set $\mathrm{Polys}_3(P)$ of degree three vertices in $\Gamma(P)$.** The current situation is similar to the passage from $T_{\infty,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ to $\mathrm{Polys}_2(P)$ but more complicated. The discriminant of a monic cubic polynomial $s(t) = t^3 + bt^2 + ct + d$ is

$$\Delta(b,c,d) = -4b^3d + b^2c^2 + 18bcd - 4c^3 - 27d^2.$$

If $s(t)$ is separable, so that $\Delta(b,c,d)$ is nonzero, the j-invariant is then

$$j = \frac{4(b^2-3c)^3}{27\Delta(b,c,d)}.$$

If one changes $s(t)$ to $m^{-3}s(mt+b)$ the j-invariant does not change. One can expect j-invariants to play a central role in our situation because for $j \neq 0, 1$, polynomials in $s(t) \in \mathbb{Q}[t]$ with a given j-invariant are all transforms of each other by fractional linear transformations in $PGL_2(\mathbb{Q})$.

Let

$$\begin{aligned} F(j,k,y) &= k\left(j^2y^3 - 2jy^3 + 3jy^2 - 3jy + 1\right)^2 - j\left(jy^2 - 2y + 1\right)^3 \\ &= j^2\left(j^2k - j^2 - 4jk + 4k\right)y^6 + (\text{terms of lower order in } y). \end{aligned}$$

We say that ∞ is a root of $F(j,k,y)$ if the coefficient of y^6 is zero. This polynomial is important for us because for $j, k \in \mathbb{Q} - \{0,1\}$, roots of $F(j,k)$ in $\overline{\mathbb{Q}} \cup \{\infty\}$ are in natural $\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$-equivariant bijection with bijections from roots of $S(j,t)$ to roots of $S(k,t)$. Note that

$$\mathrm{disc}_y(F(j,k,y)) = 2^{22}3^6j^{10}(j-1)^{15}k^4(k-1)^3.$$

Thus there indeed always six roots when $j, k \in \mathbb{Q} - \{0,1\}$.

Theorem 5.1. *Let P be a finite set of primes containing 2 and 3. Let c be the isomorphism class of a cubic field in $NF_3(P)$ and let $j \in T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)^c$. The polynomials in $\mathrm{MPolys}_3(P)^c$ with j-invariant j are among the polynomials*

$$s^{m,n}_{j_0,j_1,j}(t) = \frac{(j-1)(t(n-m)-n)^3 + (j-1)jm^3n^3 - j(mn - mt + nt - n)^3}{(m-n)^3}$$

with j_0, $j_1 \in (T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P))^c \cup \{0\}$. Here m and n run over solutions in $\mathbb{Q} \cup \{\infty\}$ of $F(j,j_0,y) = 0$ and $F(j,j_1,y) = 0$ respectively.

If m and/or n is ∞, one needs to understand the definition of $s^{m,n}_{j_0,j_1,j}(t)$ in a limiting sense. For example, $s^{\infty,n}_{j_0,j_1,j}(t) = t^3 - 3jnt^2 + 3jn^2t + j(j-2)n^3$

Proof. Let $s(t) = s_\infty(t) = t^3 + bt^2 + ct + d$ be a polynomial in $\mathrm{MPolys}_3(P)^c$. Then one has not only its usual j-invariant j, but also the j-invariants j_0 and j_1 of the transformed polynomials

$$s_0(t) = \frac{t^3}{d}s\left(\frac{1}{t}\right) \text{ and } s_1(t) = \frac{(t-1)^3}{1+b+c+d}s\left(\frac{t}{t-1}\right).$$

These two new j-invariants lie in $(T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P))^c \cup \{0\}$, with 0 only possible only if $\mathrm{disc}(s)$ is -3 times a square.

Recovering all possibilities for $s(t)$ from the three invariants (j_0, j_1, j) is complicated, because thirty-six different polynomials $x^3 + bx^2 + cx + d \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}[x]$ give rise to a given generic $(j_0, j_1, j) \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}^3$. Note that

$$\mathrm{disc}_t(s^{m,n}_{j_0,j_1,j}(t)) = \frac{2^2 3^3 j^2 (j-1)^2 m^6 n^6}{(m-n)^6}.$$

For generic (j_0, j_1, j) the thirty-six polynomials are just the thirty-six $s^{m,n}_{j_0,j_1,j}(t)$ as (m, n) varies over solutions to $F(j, j_0, m) = F(j, j_1, n) = 0$. The coordinate relations

$$m = -\frac{9\Delta(b,c,d)}{2\,(b^2-3c)\,(b^2c+9bd-6c^2)}, \tag{5.3}$$

$$n = -\frac{9\Delta(b,c,d)}{2\,(b^2-3c)\,(2b^3+b^2c-9bc+9bd-6c^2+27d)} \tag{5.4}$$

let one verify this statement algebraically.

There remains the concern that for nongeneric (j_0, j_1, j), there may be cubics in $\mathrm{MPolys}_3(P)^c$ which are not among the $s^{m,n}_{j_0,j_1,j}(t)$. This indeed happens in the excluded case $j = 0$, as discussed just after this proof. The case $j = 1$ is not relevant for the theorem because $S(1, t) = -27(1 + t)$ is not an irreducible cubic. The cases $m = 0$, $n = 0$, and $m = n$ arise only when $j = j_0$, $j = j_1$, and $j_0 = j_1$. Corresponding polynomials in $\mathrm{MPolys}_3(P)^c$ would have to be stable under $t \mapsto 1/t$, $t \mapsto t/(t-1)$, or $t \mapsto 1 - t$ respectively. But there are no such stable polynomials because the commutator of the possible Galois groups A_3 and S_3 in S_3 does not contain an element of order two. Thus, despite the occasional inseparability of $s^{m,n}_{j_0,j_1,j}(t)$, all polynomials in $\mathrm{MPolys}_3(P)^c$ with nonzero j-invariant are indeed among the $s^{m,n}_{j_0,j_1,j}(t)$. □

To get the complete determination of $\mathrm{MPolys}_3(P)$ we need to complement the polynomials coming directly from Theorem 5.1 with the list of polynomials with $j = 0$. A calculation shows that there are no separable polynomials at all with $(j_0, j_1, j) = (0, 0, 0)$. So if j is zero, at least one of j_0 and j_1 is nonzero. So the remaining polynomials are in fact just S_3-translates of polynomials already found.

Some further comments clarify Theorem 5.1 and how it is used in the construction of $\mathrm{MPolys}_3(P)$. Since $j \neq 0$ and the j_i belong to the same cubic field, there is a common Galois group, $G \in \{A_3, S_3\}$. The polynomials $F(j, j_i, y)$ can factor into irreducibles in three different ways:

$$F(j, j_i, y) = \begin{cases} (\text{cubic})(\text{quadratic})(\text{linear}) & (G = S_3,\ j_i \neq 0), \\ (\text{cubic})(\text{linear})(\text{linear})(\text{linear}) & (G = A_3), \\ -(s^2-1)^4 (y - \frac{1}{1-s})^3 (y - \frac{1}{1+s})^3 & (G = S_3,\ j_i = 0,\ j = 1 - s^2). \end{cases}$$

In the A_3 case, always $3^2 = 9$ of the thirty-six $s^{m,n}_{j_0,j_1,j}(t)$ are in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$. In the S_3 case with w zeros among $\{j_0, j_1\}$ there are 2^w rational polynomials. Of course it is trivial to see whether a candidate $s^{m,n}_{j_0,j_1,j}(t)$ from the theorem is actually in $\mathrm{MPolys}_3(P)$. Namely, if m and n are both finite then the quantities

$$s^{m,n}_{j_0,j_1,j_\infty}(0) = \frac{n^3\left(j^2m^3 - 2jm^3 + 3jm^2 - 3jm + 1\right)}{(m-n)^3},$$

$$s^{m,n}_{j_0,j_1,j_\infty}(1) = \frac{m^3\left(j^2n^3 - 2jn^3 + 3jn^2 - 3jn + 1\right)}{(m-n)^3},$$

$$\mathrm{disc}_t(s^{m,n}_{j_0,j_1,j_\infty}(t)) \quad = \quad \frac{108(j-1)^3 j^2 m^6 n^6}{(m-n)^6}$$

need to all be in $\mathbb{Z}^{P\times}$. When m and/or n is ∞, one just uses the limiting forms of these expressions.

Table 5.1 summarizes the determination of $\mathrm{Polys}_3(\{2,3\})$. The last block of

d	D	$f(t)$	$T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3\}})^c$	$\lvert\mathrm{Polys}_3(\{2,3\})^c\rvert$				
-6	-216	t^3+3t-2	10	6(66)			=	396
-3	-972	t^3-12	1	6(		1)	=	6
-3	-972	t^3-6	1	6(		1)	=	6
-3	-243	t^3-3	6	6(13	+13	+4)	=	180
-3	-108	t^3-2	4	6(4	+9	+3)	=	96
-2	-648	$t^3-3t-10$	9	6(17)			=	102
-1	-324	t^3-3t-4	9	6(44)			=	264
1	81	t^3-3t-1	3	6(6	+10)	+2(2)	=	100
6	1944	t^3-9t-6	11	6(58)			=	348
			54					1498

TABLE 5.1. The nine cubic fields $\mathbb{Q}[t]/f(t)$ with discriminant $\pm 2^a 3^b$ and associated integers.

columns illustrates how a general decomposition of $\mathrm{Polys}_3(P)^c$ into S_3-orbits appears in the case $P=\{2,3\}$. Let d be the square-free integer agreeing with the field discriminant D modulo squares. If $d\neq 1$ then all orbits have size six. Orbits are usually indexed by triples of distinct j-invariants. However for $d=-3$, an unordered triple $(j_0,j_1,0)$ can index up to two orbits and an unordered triple $(0,0,j)$ can index up to one orbit. The contributions from each possibility in the case $P=\{2,3\}$ are listed in order. For $d=1$, an unordered triple (j_0,j_1,j_∞) can index up to 9, 6, or 1 orbits, depending on whether it contains 3, 2, or 1 distinct j-invariants. All orbits again have size six, except for the ones indexed by (j,j,j), which have size two. The contributions from each possibility in the case $P=\{2,3\}$ are again listed in order.

As an example of the complications associated to $d=-3$, let c be the isomorphism class of $\mathbb{Q}[t]/(t^3-12)$. Then $T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3\}})^c=\{-24\}$. Consider $(j_0,j_1,j)=(0,0,-24)$. Theorem 5.1 formally yields four candidates.

$m\setminus n$	$-1/4$	$1/6$
$-1/4$	[1]	t^3+6t^2-6t+2
$1/6$	t^3-9t^2+9t-3	[1]

As always for $(0,0,j)$, only the two candidates coming from $m\neq n$ are separable and these are S_3-transforms of one another. In this case, both are in $\mathrm{Polys}_3(\{2,3\})^c$. The remaining S_3-transforms are $2t^3-3$, $2t^3-6t^2+6t+1$, $3t^3-2$, and $3t^3-9t^2+9t-1$, accounting for all of $\mathrm{Polys}_3(\{2,3\})^c$.

As an example of complications associated to $d=1$, let c come from A_3 field $\mathbb{Q}[t]/(t^3-t-1)$. Then $T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3\}})^c=\{1372/3,4,4/3\}$. The ordered tuple

c	a	$b=0$	$b=1$	$b=2$	$b=3$	$b=4$	$b=5$	$b=6$	$b=7$
0	0	1	169	981	1723	1390	630	150	12
0	1	21	675	2175	2559	1416	486	108	12
0	2	60	840	1710	1200	270			
0	3	40	340	570	340	70			
1	0	1498	6364	10854	8788	3958	1116	162	
1	1	4584	13632	18024	11280	3600	792	96	
1	2	4260	9900	10020	4800	720			
1	3	1120	2440	2040	1000	160			
2	0	21282	37374	34008	16866	4560	798	72	
2	1	41184	62208	49872	21000	3900	564	48	
2	2	24720	33180	23160	8940	900			
2	3	3960	6000	3720	1680	240			
3	0	81850	95578	54942	17398	2704	216		
3	1	117288	133632	71712	19800	1992	120		
3	2	49140	54660	27240	7380	540			
3	3	4520	6200	2760	1000	160			
4	0	156924	144000	55692	11434	1132	48		
4	1	180822	174564	64074	11004	684	24		
4	2	56910	56940	19050	2760	120			
4	3	3030	4020	1230	220	40			
5	0	173110	137530	38094	4848	282			
5	1	167448	144552	39048	3936	144			
5	2	42000	37260	8880	420				
5	3	1240	1600	360					
6	0	116552	85214	18186	1392	42			
6	1	95388	76440	16572	1044	24			
6	2	19800	15360	2820					
6	3	560	620	60					
7	0	49364	33650	5622	246				
7	1	33576	25440	4392	192				
7	2	5820	4140	600					
7	3	160	160						
8	0	12998	7916	954	24				
8	1	6870	4914	534	18				
8	2	960	720	60					
8	3	20	20						
9	0	1948	952	54					
9	1	648	456						
9	2	60	60						
10	0	162	54						
10	1	24	24						
11	0	8	2						

TABLE 5.2. Size of the nonempty sets $\mathrm{Polys}_{3^c2^b1^a}(\{2,3\})$

$(j_0, j_1, j) = (1372/3, 4, 4/3)$ gives nine candidates. They are

$m \setminus n$	1	1/2	∞
3	$8t^3 - 36t^2 + 30t + 1$	$[125t^3 - 225t^2 + 75t + 1]$	$t^3 + 9t^2 + 15t - 1$
3/8	$[125t^3 - 300t^2 + 180t - 8]$	$t^3 - 6t^2 + 9t - 1$	$64t^3 - 96t^2 + 36t - 1$
9/10	$t^3 + 6t^2 - 96t + 8$	$64t^3 - 48t^2 - 96t - 1$	$[125t^3 + 75t^2 - 120t + 1]$

The three in brackets are rejected and the other six are members of $\mathrm{Polys}_3(\{2,3\})^c$.

5.3. **The sets** $\mathrm{Polys}_{3^c2^b1^a}(\{2,3\})$**.** Inductively tabulating cliques in the graph $\Gamma(\{2,3\})^3$ takes about 15 minutes and yields the following statement.

Proposition 5.1. *The nonempty sets* $\mathrm{Polys}_{3^c2^b1^a}(\{2,3\})$ *have size as in Table 5.2.*

The largest a in Table 5.2 being 3 agrees with Reduction Bound 2.1, as there are only 3 points in $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_5)$ beyond those already used by $\{0,1,\infty\}$.

5.4. **Extreme polynomials.** One of the two polynomials in $\mathrm{Polys}_{3^{11}1}(\{2,3\})$ has already been given in (1.1). It is stable under the group A_3 of even permutations of the cusps $\{0,1,\infty\}$. The minimal A_3-stable factors are given between adjacent $\cdot$'s in (1.1).

6. f-split polynomials with $f \geq 4$

In the previous two sections we have used w-invariants in $T_{\infty,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ to construct sets $\mathrm{Polys}_2(P)$ and j-invariants in $T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ to construct sets $\mathrm{Polys}_3(P)$. For degrees $d \geq 4$, we follow the three-step approach of §1.2 to determining $\mathrm{Polys}_d(P)$.

6.1. **Excellent** P**-units and** $\mathrm{Polys}_d(P)$**.** Let $K_1,\dots, K_m$ be a list of degree d number fields unramified outside P such that every isomorphism class of such fields appears once. Let U_i be the P-unit group of K_i. The finitely generated group U_i is well-understood and there are algorithms to produce generators. A P-unit u is called an *exceptional P-unit* if $1-u$ is also a unit. Exceptional P-units have been the subject of many studies, e.g. [11].

Let $s_u(t)$ be the characteristic polynomial of a P-unit u. So $s_u(t)$ is a monic polynomial of degree d in $\mathbb{Z}^P[t]$ with constant term $s_u(0)$ in $\mathbb{Z}^{P\times}$. The unit u is exceptional if and only if also $s_u(1) \in \mathbb{Z}^{P\times}$. We say it is an *excellent P-unit* if furthermore $\mathrm{disc}(s_u(t)) \in \mathbb{Z}^{P\times}$. All elements of $\mathrm{MPolys}_d(P)$ arise in this way as characteristic polynomials of excellent units.

As the example of this section, we take $P=\{2\}$. The relevant set $NF_d(\{2\})$ of number fields is known in degrees $d \leq 15$ [6, 7]. In fact, for $d = 1,\ 2,\ 4,\ 8$ one has $|NF_d(\{2\})| = 1,\ 3,\ 7,\ 36$ and otherwise $NF_d(\{2\}) = 0$. The fields in question are all totally ramified at 2. This implies that an S_3-orbit of polynomials in $\mathrm{Polys}_d(\{2\})$ takes one of the following forms. First, the orbit may contain just three polynomials, one of which is palindromic. In this case the palindromic polynomial $s(t)$ is the unique member of the orbit with $2|s(1)$. Second, the orbit may contain six polynomials, none palindromic. In this case, exactly two of the polynomials $s_i(t)$ satisfy $2|s_i(1)$. They are related by $t^d s_1(1/t) = \pm s_2(t)$.

Table 6.1 describes the sets $\mathrm{Polys}_d(\{2\})$ for $d \in \{1,2,4\}$ by listing polynomials representing S_3-orbits. The fields defined by t^2+2, t^4+4t^2+2, and t^4+2 yield no polynomials at all. Their 3-adic factorization partitions λ_3 are respectively 1^2, 4, and 21^2. Thus, in the case of t^2+2 and t^4+2, the nonexistence of polynomials follows from Reduction Bound 2.1. The column λ_∞ gives the splitting over $\mathbb{R}$. The rank of U_i is the number of parts of λ_∞, and, as expected, more parts are correlated with more polynomials. Palindromic polynomials contributing three and nonpalindromic polynomials contributing six, one gets $|\mathrm{Polys}_1(\{2\})| = 3$, $|\mathrm{Polys}_2(\{2\})| = 15$, and $|\mathrm{Polys}_4(\{2\})| \geq 108$. We have taken the computation far enough that it seems unlikely that $\mathrm{Polys}_4(\{2\})$ contains polynomials beyond those we have found. The

G	d	λ_∞	λ_3	$s(t)$	Pal	$s(1)$	c	N_1	N_2	N_4
C_1	1	1	1	$t+1$	•	2	1	0	7	36
C_2	8	11	2	t^2+6t+1	•	8	2	1	0	7
				t^2-6t+1	•	-4	2	1	0	7
				t^2-2t-1		-2	1	2	2	13
C_2	-4	2	2	t^2+1	•	2	1	1	2	14
C_2	-8	2	11							
V	256	2	22	t^4+1	•	2	1	1	1	4
				t^4+6t^2+1		8	8	1	1	2
C_4	2048	1111	4	$t^4-4t^3-26t^2-4t+1$	•	-32	64	1	2	2
				$t^4+4t^3-26t^2+4t+1$	•	-16	64	1	2	2
				$t^4+28t^3+70t^2+28t+1$	•	128	512	1	1	0
				$t^4-28t^3+70t^2-28t+1$	•	16	512	1	1	0
				$t^4-4t^3-6t^2+4t+1$		-4	8	1	3	3
				$t^4-4t^3-2t^2+12t+1$		8	8	2	1	4
				$t^4+4t^3-2t^2-12t+1$		8	8	1	1	4
				$t^4-4t^3-2t^2+4t-1$		-2	1	2	2	7
				$t^4+4t^3-2t^2-4t-1$		-2	1	1	1	5
				$t^4-148t^3+102t^2-20t+1$		-64	512	0	0	1
				$t^4-20t^3+34t^2-12t+1$		4	32	0	2	0
C_4	2048	22	4							
D_4	-2048	211	22	$t^4+12t^3+6t^2+12t+1$	•	32	64	1	2	2
				$t^4-12t^3+6t^2-12t+1$	•	-16	64	1	2	2
				$t^4-4t^3+6t^2-4t-1$		-2	1	1	2	5
D_4	-2048	211	4	$t^4-4t^3-2t^2-4t+1$	•	-8	8	1	2	6
				$t^4+4t^3-2t^2+4t+1$	•	8	8	1	2	6
				$t^4+20t^3-26t^2+20t+1$	•	16	512	1	1	0
				$t^4-20t^3-26t^2-20t+1$	•	-64	512	1	1	2
				t^4-2t^2-1		-2	1	1	2	8
				$t^4-12t^3+10t^2-4t+1$		-4	8	1	2	2
D_4	2048	22	211							
D_4	512	22	4	$t^4-4t^3+22t^2-4t+1$	•	16	64	1	1	2
				$t^4+4t^3+22t^2+4t+1$	•	32	64	1	1	2
				t^4+4t^2-4t+1		2	1	1	1	4

TABLE 6.1. Information on the sets $\mathrm{Polys}_d(\{2\})$ for $d \in \{1,2,4\}$

polynomial discriminants are Dc^2, and the largest magnitude 2^{29} arises in five orbits.

6.2. **The sets** $\mathrm{Polys}_{4^d2^b1^a}(\{2\})$**.** The last three columns of Table 6.1 indicate the nature of the known part of the graph $\Gamma(\{2\})^4 = \Gamma(\{2\})^7$. For each polynomial, the number of neighbors of a given degree d is given as N_d. As one would expect in general, the number of neighbors tends to decrease as the largest coefficient of the polynomial increases. Carrying out Step 3 as in §2.7 takes less than a second and yields the following result.

$|\mathrm{Polys}_{4^d2^b}(\{2\})|$

b | $d:$	0	1	2	3	4
0	1	108	177	144	42
1	15	162	93	30	
2	9	30	21	6	
3	3	6	3		

$|\mathrm{Polys}_{4^d2^b1}(\{2\})|$

b | $d:$	0	1	2	3	4
0	3	108	129	90	24
1	21	156	63	18	
2	9	18	9		
3	3	6	3		

TABLE 6.2. Size of the nonempty sets $\mathrm{Polys}_{4^d2^b1^a}(\{2\})$, assuming $|\mathrm{Polys}_4(\{2\})| = 108$.

Proposition 6.1. *The sets* $\mathrm{Polys}_{4^d2^b1^a}(\{2\})$ *are at least as large as indicated in Table 6.2, with equality if* $|\mathrm{Polys}_4(\{2\})| = 108$.

6.3. **Extremal polynomials.** As an extreme example, the palindromic polynomial

$$\begin{aligned} s(t) \;=\; & (t+1)\left(t^2+1\right)\left(t^2-2t-1\right)\left(t^2+2t-1\right) \\ & \left(t^4-4t^3-6t^2+4t+1\right)\left(t^4+4t^3-6t^2-4t+1\right) \end{aligned}$$

has discriminant is -2^{184}. Its S_3 orbit in $\mathrm{Polys}_{4^2 2^3 1}(\{2\})$ corresponds to the bottom right 3 in Table 6.2.

7. Large degree polynomials

In this section, we enter the third regime of §1.2: the systematic construction of polynomials in $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ in settings where complete determination of $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ is well out of reach. Each subsection focuses on degree k polynomials, without pursuing details about their factorization, thus on the sets $\mathrm{Polys}_{[k]}(P) = \coprod_{\kappa\vdash k} \mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$.

7.1. **Cyclotomic polynomials.** The following simple result supports the main conjecture of [16].

Proposition 7.1. *Let* P *be a finite set of primes containing* 2 *and at least one odd prime. Let* $\mathrm{Polys}^{\mathrm{cyclo}}_{[k]}(P)$ *be the subset of* $\mathrm{Polys}_{[k]}(P)$ *consisting of products of cyclotomic polynomials. Then* $\lim_{k\to\infty} |\mathrm{Polys}^{\mathrm{cyclo}}_{[k]}(P)| = \infty$.

Proof. Let $P^\star$ denotes the set of all integers greater than one which are divisible only by primes of P. For $i \in P^\star$, let $\Phi_i(t)$ be the corresponding cyclotomic polynomial, of degree $\phi(i)$. Then

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} |\mathrm{Polys}^{\mathrm{cyclo}}_{[k]}(P)| x^k = \prod_{i\in P^\star} (1+x^{\phi(i)}). \tag{7.1}$$

To treat the sets P appearing in the proposition, we first consider the case $P = \{2\}$. One has $\{2\}^\star = \{2, 4, \dots, 2^j, \dots\}$ and $\phi(2^j) = 2^{j-1}$. Expanding the product $(1+x)(1+x^2)(1+x^4)\cdots$, Equation (7.1) becomes

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} |\mathrm{Polys}^{\mathrm{cyclo}}_{[k]}(\{2\})| x^k = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \cdots \tag{7.2}$$

For P as in the theorem, $\sum |\mathrm{Polys}^{\mathrm{cyclo}}_{[k]}(P)| x^k$ is an infinite sum of $x^j f(x)$ with $f(x)$ as in (7.2). Thus in fact $|\mathrm{Polys}^{\mathrm{cyclo}}_{[k]}(P)|$ grows monotonically to ∞. □

A numerical example of particular relevance to Hurwitz number fields is $P = \{2,3,5\}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
&\sum_{\rho=0}^{\infty} |\mathrm{Polys}_{[k]}^{\mathrm{cyclo}}(\{2,3,5\})| x^k \\
&= (1+x)(1+x^2)^3(1+x^4)^4(1+x^6)^2\cdots \qquad (7.3)\\
&= 1 + x + 3x^2 + 3x^3 + 7x^4 + \cdots + 3361607445659519x^{1000} + \cdots
\end{aligned}$$

We will return to this generating function in §8.8.

7.2. **Fractal polynomials.** A recursive three-point cover is a rational function $F(t) \in \mathbb{Q}(t)$ with all critical values in $\{0,1,\infty\}$ and $F(\{0,1,\infty\}) \subseteq \{0,1,\infty\}$. It has bad reduction within P if one can write $F(t) = uf(t)/g(t)$ with $f(t)$ and $g(t)$ compatible polynomials in $\mathrm{Polys}(P)$ and $u \in \mathbb{Z}^{P\times}$. Recursive three-point covers with bad reduction within P are closed under composition.

The degree 1 recursive three-point covers form the group $S_3 = \langle 1-t, 1/t\rangle$ and have bad reduction set $P = \{\}$. Other simple examples are $F(t) = t^p$ for a prime p with bad reduction set $\{p\}$. Combining just these via composition one already has a large collection of recursive three-point covers with solvable monodromy group [13]. One can easily extract many other recursive three-point covers from the literature. As an example coming from trinomials, $F_m(t) = t^m/(mt+1-m)$ has monodromy group S_m and bad reduction exactly at the primes dividing $m(m-1)$. From the definitions, one has the following fact:

Pullback Construction 7.1. *Let $F(t) = uf(t)/g(t)$ be a recursive three-point cover of degree m and bad reduction within P. Let $s(t) \in \mathrm{Polys}_{[k]}(P)$. Then the pullback $s(F(t))g(t)^k$ is a scalar multiple of a polynomial in $\mathrm{Polys}_{[mk]}(P)$.*

We use the word "fractal" because when one constructs polynomials by iterative pullback, their roots tend to have a fractal appearance, as in Figure 7.1.

To explain the source of Figure 7.1, and also as an example of using the pullback construction iteratively, we prove the following complement to Proposition 7.1.

Proposition 7.2. *The sets $\mathrm{Polys}_{[k]}(\{2\})$ can be arbitrarily large.*

Proof. Consider quartic recursive three-point cover

$$F(t) = \frac{-(t-1)^2(t+1)^2}{4t^2} = \frac{-(t^2+1)^2}{4t^2} + 1 = -\frac{\left(t^2-2t-1\right)\left(t^2+2t-1\right)}{4t^2} - 1.$$

Its bad reduction set is $\{2\}$. Some preimages are as follows, with Galois orbits separated by semi-colons:

$$\begin{aligned}
F^{-1}(0) &= \{-1;\ 1\}, & F^{-1}(1) &= \{i, -i\},\\
F^{-1}(\infty) &= \{0;\ \infty\}, & F^{-1}(-1) &= \{-1-\sqrt{2}, -1+\sqrt{2};\ 1-\sqrt{2}, 1+\sqrt{2}\}.
\end{aligned}$$

Let

$$R_{1,-1} = \{-1 \pm \sqrt{2}\}, \quad R_{1,0} = \{\pm i\}, \quad R_{1,1} = \{1 \pm \sqrt{2}\}, \quad \text{and } R_{i,j} = F^{1-i}(R_{1,j}).$$

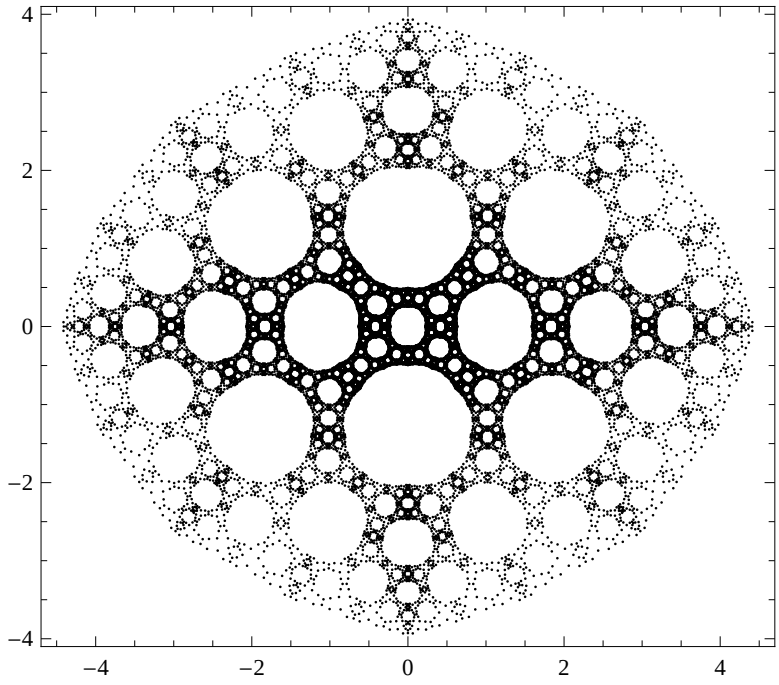

FIGURE 7.1. The set $R_{8,1}$ consisting of the $2^{15} = 32768$ roots of the specialization polynomial $s_{8,1}(t)$ with bad reduction only at 2.

The situation is summarized by the following diagrammatic description of the action of F on the entire iterated preimage of ∞:

$$
\begin{array}{ccccc}
\vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
R_{2,1} & & R_{2,-1} & & R_{2,0} \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\{1 \pm \sqrt{2}\} & & \{-1 \pm \sqrt{2}\} & & \{\pm i\} \\
& \searrow \swarrow & & & \downarrow \\
& \{-1\} & & & \{1\} \\
& & \searrow & \swarrow & \\
& & \{0\} & & \\
& & \downarrow & & \\
& & \{\infty\} & & \\
& & \circlearrowleft & &
\end{array}
$$

Note that the critical values 0, 1, and ∞ have two preimages each while all other values have four preimages.

For $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$ and $j \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$, let $s_{i,j}(t) \in \mathrm{Polys}_{[2^{2i-1}]}(\{2\})$ be the polynomial with roots $R_{i,j}$. Products of the form $s_{1,j_1}(t) \cdots s_{w,j_w}(t)$ give 3^w distinct polynomials in $\mathrm{Polys}_{[k]}(2)$ of the same degree $k = 2(4^w - 1)/3$. □

8. Specialization sets and number field construction

In this section, we sketch how the sets $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ are useful in constructing interesting number fields, focusing on two representative families of examples.

8.1. **Sets $U_\nu(R)$.** Let $\nu = (\nu_1, \ldots, \nu_r)$ be a list of positive integers. In this section, we assume $\nu_{r-2} = \nu_{r-1} = \nu_r = 1$ and these indices play a completely passive role. In the next section, we remove this assumption and the last three indices then take on an active role on the same footing with the other indices. Without loss of generality, we generally focus on the case where the ν_i are weakly decreasing, and use abbreviations such as $21^3 = (2, 1, 1, 1)$.

For any commutative ring R, define $U_\nu(R)$ to be the set of tuples $(s_1(t), \ldots, s_{r-3}(t))$ where $s_i(t)$ is a monic degree ν_i polynomial in $R[t]$ and the discriminant of

$$s_1(t) \cdots s_{r-3}(t) t(t-1)$$

is in the group of invertible elements $R^\times$. To be more explicit, write $k = \sum_{i=1}^{r-3} \nu_i$ and

$$s_i(t) = t^{\nu_i} + u_{i,1} t^{\nu_i - 1} + \cdots + u_{i,\nu_i - 1} t + u_{i,\nu_i}.$$

Then the lexicographically-ordered coordinates $u_{1,1}, \ldots, u_{r-3,\nu_{r-3}}$ realize $U_\nu(R)$ as a subset of R^k.

The sets $U_\nu(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ can be built in a straightforward fashion from the sets $\mathrm{MPolys}_\kappa(P)$ with κ running over refinements of the partition $(\nu_1, \ldots, \nu_{r-3})$. For example, $U_{1^{k+3}}(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ consists of tuples $(s_1(t), \ldots, s_k(t))$ having product $s_1(t) \cdots s_k(t)$ in $\mathrm{MPolys}_{1^k}(P)$. It is thus trivially built from $\mathrm{MPolys}_{1^k}(P)$, but $k!$ times as big. As another example, $U_{k1^3}(\mathbb{Z}^P) = \mathrm{MPolys}_{[k]}(P) = \coprod_{\kappa \vdash k} \mathrm{MPolys}_\kappa(P)$. In general, the construction of $U_\nu(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ from $\mathrm{MPolys}_\kappa(P)$ is similar, but combinatorially more complicated than the two simple extreme cases just presented.

8.2. **The scheme U_ν.** The object U_ν itself is an affine scheme, smooth and of relative dimension k over $\mathrm{Spec}(\mathbb{Z})$. We have a focused in Sections 1-7 on the sets $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ because of their relatively small size and their direct connection to graph theory. However the close variants $U_\nu(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ should be understood as the sets of true interest in the application.

The sets $U_\nu(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ fit into standard geometrical considerations much better than the $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ do. For example, $U_\nu(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ lies in the k-dimensional real manifold $U_\nu(\mathbb{R})$, while similar oversets are not as natural for $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$. Figure 8.1 draws examples, directly related to Sections 3 and 4. In each case, $U_\nu(\mathbb{R})$ is the complement in $\mathbb{R}^2$ of the drawn curves.

8.3. **Covers.** The fundamental groups of the complex manifolds $U_\nu(\mathbb{C})$ are braid groups. Katz's theory [9] of rigid local systems gives a whole hierarchy of covers of U_ν [12, 15]. The theory of Hurwitz varieties as presented in [1] likewise gives a another whole hierarchy of covers [16, 14]. In both cases, the covers have a topological description over $\mathbb{C}$, and this description forms the starting point of a more arithmetic description over $\mathbb{Z}$. In each case, the datum defining a cover determines a finite set W of primes. The cover is then unramified except in characteristics $p \in W$. For these bad characteristics, the cover is typically wildly ramified.

Rather than enter theoretically into these two theories, we discuss next two representative examples, both with $\nu = 21^3$ for uniformity. As coordinates, we work with $(u_{1,1}, u_{1,2}) = ((1 - v - u)/u, v/u)$ so that the right half of Figure 8.1 is

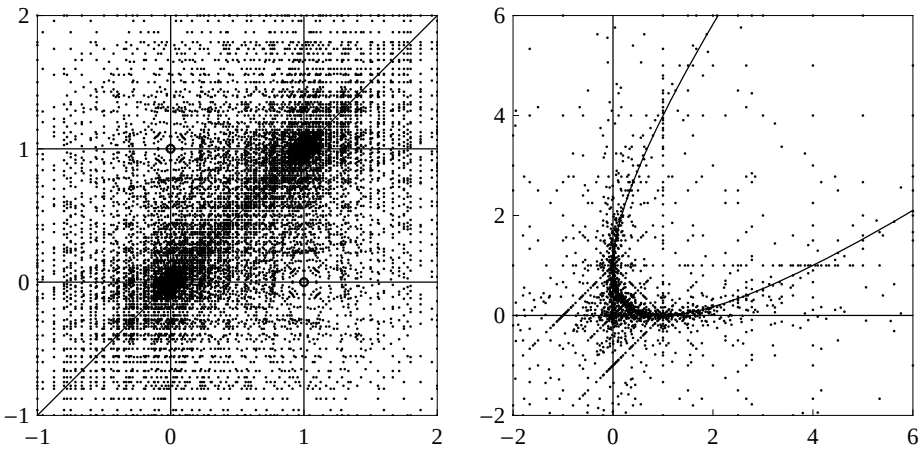

FIGURE 8.1. $U_{1^5}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3,5,7\}}) \subset U_{1^5}(\mathbb{R})$ and $U_{21^3}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3,5\}}) \subset U_{21^3}(\mathbb{R})$.

the u-v plane. Our current coordinates are related to the quantities of Section 4 by $u = u_0/u_1$ and $v = u_\infty/u_1$.

8.4. **A Katz cover.** The last half of [15] considers two Katz covers with bad reduction set $W = \{2, 3\}$. The smaller of the two is captured by the explicit polynomial

$$f_{27}(u, v, x) = \\ \left(x^3 - 3dx + 2ed\right)\left(x^6 - 15dx^4 + 40edx^3 - 45d^2x^2 + 24ed^2x - 32e^2d^2 + 27d^3\right)^4 \\ -432vd\left(x^4 - 6dx^2 + 8edx - 3d^2\right)^6,$$

with abbreviations $d = u^2+v^2-2uv-2u-2v+1$ and $e = u+v-1$. The polynomial discriminant factors,

$$D_{27}(u, v) = 2^{840}3^{270}u^{102}v^{126}d^{234}.$$

The Galois group of $f_{27}(u, v, x) \in \mathbb{Z}[u, v][x]$ is the orthogonal group $O_6^-(\mathbb{F}_2) \subset S_{27}$ of order $51,840 = 2^7\,3^4\,5$. The specialization set $U_{21^3}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3\}})$ has order $60+169 = 229$ from Table 5.2. This specialization process produces 193 number fields with Galois group $O_6^-(\mathbb{F}_2)$, 15 with Galois group the index two simple group $O_6^-(\mathbb{F}_2)^+$, and other number fields with various smaller Galois groups [15].

Covers in the Katz hierarchy typically yield Lie-type Galois groups, like in this example, with bad reduction set W containing at least two primes. By varying the Katz cover, a single fixed specialization point $u \in U_\nu(\mathbb{Z}^W)$ with $|W| \geq 2$ can be expected to yield infinitely many different fields ramified within W.

8.5. **A Hurwitz cover.** Many Hurwitz covers of U_{21^3} with bad reduction set $W = \{2, 3, 5\}$ are studied in [14]. One such cover has degree 36 and can be given via equations as follows. The cover X can be given coordinates x and y so that the

map to U_{21^3} takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} u &= -\frac{32\left(x^2-2y\right)^5}{27y(x-y)^4\left(8x^3-x^2-18xy+27y^2+2y\right)}, \\ v &= -\frac{\left(4x^3-x^2+18xy+27y^2-4y\right)^2\left(2x^4-5x^2y+6xy^2-y^3+2y^2\right)}{27y(x-y)^4\left(8x^3-x^2-18xy+27y^2+2y\right)}. \end{aligned}$$

Eliminating y gives $f_{36}(u,v,x) \in \mathbb{Z}[u,v][x]$ with x-degree 36 and 1125 terms. Its discriminant is

$$D_{36}(u,v) = -2^{337}3^{513}5^{750}u^{53}v^{13}d^{22}C(u,v)^2,$$

with the complicated polynomial $C(u,v) \in \mathbb{Z}[u,v]$ not contributing to field discriminants of specializations. The specialization set $U_{21^3}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3,5\}})$, drawn as the right half of Figure 8.1, has order $1927 + 1020 = 2947$ from Table 4.1. The specialization process produces 2652 number fields with Galois group S_{36}, 42 number fields with Galois group A_{36}, and others with various smaller Galois groups, all with bad reduction set exactly $\{2,3,5\}$.

Covers in the Hurwitz hierarchy typically yield alternating or symmetric groups, like in this example, with bad reduction set W containing all primes dividing the order of some nonabelian finite simple group, thus at least three primes. Here again, by varying the cover, a single fixed specialization point $u \in U_\nu(\mathbb{Z}^W)$ can give many different fields ramified within W.

8.6. **Constraining wild ramification.** Let K_u be an algebra obtained by specializing a cover with bad reduction set W at a point u with bad reduction set P. Then the typical behavior of p-adic ramification in K_u is as follows:

	$p \in P$	$p \notin P$
$p \in W$	very wild	slightly wild
$p \notin W$	tame	none

To illustrate the distinction between "very wild" and "slightly wild", we specialize the Katz cover $f_{27}(u,v,x)$ and the Hurwitz cover $f_{36}(u,v,x)$ at the 15-element set $U_{21^3}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2\}})$ appearing as black vertices in Figure 2.1:

u_0	u_1	u_∞	$d_{27}(u,v)$			$d_{36}(u,v)$		
8	1	1	$2^{88}3^{32}$	$2^{98}3^{36}$	$\bullet 2^{86}3^{34}$	$-2^{127}3^{39}5^{30}$	$-2^{127}3^{43}5^{30}$	$-2^{118}3^{39}5^{30}$
-4	1	1	$2^{80}3^{36}$	$2^{84}3^{36}$	$2^{80}3^{36}$	$2^{114}3^{39}5^{30}$	$2^{112}3^{39}5^{30}$	$\bullet -2^{100}3^{25}5^{28}$
2	1	1	$2^{88}3^{36}$	$2^{88}3^{30}$	$2^{82}3^{30}$	$-2^{115}3^{39}5^{30}$	$-2^{121}3^{39}5^{30}$	$-2^{118}3^{39}5^{30}$
-2	-1	1	$2^{98}3^{36}$	$2^{102}3^{34}$	$2^{96}3^{32}$	$-2^{137}3^{27}5^{30}$	$2^{137}3^{39}5^{30}$	$2^{134}3^{39}5^{30}$
2	-1	1	$2^{98}3^{36}$	$2^{102}3^{36}$	$2^{96}3^{36}$	$2^{137}3^{35}5^{30}$	$-2^{137}3^{27}5^{30}$	$2^{134}3^{39}5^{30}$

On a given row starting with (u_0,u_1,u_∞), the (u,v) in the second and third blocks are, in order, $(u_0,u_\infty)/u_1$, $(u_1,u_0)/u_\infty$, and $(u_\infty,u_1)/u_0$.

Field discriminants of the specializations are as indicated by the table. As (u,v) runs over all of $U_{21^3}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3\}})$ one gets discriminants $d_{27}(u,v) = 2^a3^b$ with $a \in [24,102]$ and $b \in [26,60]$. Restricting to $U_{21^3}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2\}})$, the maximum a appearing is not reduced at all, while the maximum b is reduced from 60 to 36. Similarly, as (u,v) runs over all of $U_{21^3}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3,5\}})$, one gets discriminants $d_{36}(u,v) = \pm 2^a3^b5^c$ with $a \in [40,137]$, $b \in [7,72]$, and $c \in [18,61]$. Restricting to $U_{21^3}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2\}})$, $a_{\max}$ is not reduced at all, while $b_{\max}$ is reduced from 72 to 39 and $c_{\max}$ is reduced from 61

to 30. This distinction between "very wild" and "slightly wild" makes all the sets $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ of interest in the applications, not just the ones where P is large enough to contain the bad reduction set W of a cover.

8.7. **Explicit examples.** To give completely explicit examples of number fields constructed using the specialization points, we continue the previous subsection. The fifteen specializations of $f_{27}(u,v,x)$ in the table all have Galois group $O_6^-(\mathbb{F}_2)$ except the bulleted one, which has Galois group the simple index two subgroup. A presentation for this field $K_{27,1/8,1/8}$ is $\mathbb{Q}[x]/g_{27}(x)$ with

$$\begin{aligned} g_{27}(x) &= x^{27} - 9x^{26} + 21x^{25} + 53x^{24} - 288x^{23} + 1628x^{21} - 1164x^{20} - 5409x^{19} \\ &\quad +5681x^{18} + 12159x^{17} - 14793x^{16} - 20548x^{15} + 25764x^{14} + 30324x^{13} \\ &\quad -36220x^{12} - 42249x^{11} + 48465x^{10} + 50819x^9 - 61773x^8 - 44220x^7 \\ &\quad +64172x^6 + 23712x^5 - 48024x^4 - 5725x^3 + 22509x^2 + 147x - 5045. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, the fifteen specializations of $f_{36}(u,v,x)$ in the table all have Galois group S_{36} except the bulleted one, for which the Galois group is intransitive. A presentation for this algebra $K_{36,-1/4,-1/4}$ is $\mathbb{Q}[x]/(g_{10}(x)g_{13}(x^2))$ with

$$\begin{aligned} g_{10}(x) &= x^{10} - 4x^9 + 2x^8 + 8x^7 - 8x^6 + 8x^5 - 20x^4 - 10x^2 + 80x - 60, \\ g_{13}(x) &= x^{13} - 44x^{12} + 728x^{11} - 5256x^{10} + 15240x^9 - 5320x^8 - 41620x^7 \\ &\quad +72280x^6 - 33940x^5 - 4320x^4 - 8760x^3 + 20480x^2 - 6140x + 480. \end{aligned}$$

The field $\mathbb{Q}[x]/g_{10}(x)$ has Galois group S_{10} and discriminant $2^{25}3^65^5$ while for $\mathbb{Q}[x]/g_{13}(x)$ these invariants are S_{13} and $2^{33}3^95^{11}$. Despite the small exponents, these fields are wildly ramified not only at 2, but also at 3 and 5.

8.8. **Larger degrees.** In larger degrees, the numerics of the sets $U_\nu(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ are reflected more clearly in the number fields constructed. For example, in a degree 202 example of [14], the specializations at $u \in U_{21^3}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3,5\}})$ produce 2947 distinct fields, all full in the sense of having Galois group all of A_{202} or S_{202}, all wildly ramified at 2, 3, and 5, and unramified elsewhere. We similarly expect $U_{21^3}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3,5\}})$ to be likewise responsible for exactly 2947 distinct full fields in many degrees $m > 202$. It seems possible that the Hurwitz construction accounts for all full fields in $NF_m(\{2,3,5\})$ for most of these degrees m.

As another example which gives a numerical sense of the asymptotics of this situation, consider the specialization set $U_{32768,1^3}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3,5\}}) = \mathrm{Polys}_{[32768]}(\{2,3,5\})$, chosen because it contains $s_{8,1}$ from Figure 7.1. From the generating function (7.3), this specialization set contains more than 7.46×10^{43} elements. One of the smallest degree covers of $U_{32678,1^3}$, in the language of [14, 16], comes from the Hurwitz parameter $(S_5, (21^3, 32, 221, 5), (32768, 1, 1, 1))$. This cover has degree exactly $(10^{32768} \cdot 20 \cdot 15 \cdot 24)/(60 \cdot 120) = 10^{32768}$. As u ranges over the large set $U_{32768,1^3}(\mathbb{Z}^{\{2,3,5\}})$ the specialized algebras K_u are all ramified within $\{2,3,5\}$. Other Hurwitz parameters give this same degree and we expect that there are many full fields in $NF_{10^{32768}}(\{2,3,5\})$. The point for this paper is that polynomials with bad reduction within $\{2,3,5\}$ are an ingredient in the construction of these K_u. By way of contrast, it seems possible that $NF_{10^{32678}+1}(\{2,3,5\})$ is empty.

9. Future directions

9.1. **Specialization sets $U_\nu[\mathbb{Z}^P]$ for general ν.** Let $\nu = (\nu_1, \ldots, \nu_r)$ be a sequence of positive integers. For F a field, let $\mathrm{Conf}_\nu(F)$ be the set of tuples of disjoint divisors $(D_1, \ldots, D_r)$ on the projective line over F, with D_i consisting of ν_i distinct geometric points. The group $PGL_2(F)$ acts on $\mathrm{Conf}_\nu(F)$ by fractional linear transformations. The object Conf_ν itself is a scheme which is smooth and of relative dimension $\sum \nu_i$ over $\mathrm{Spec}(\mathbb{Z})$.

There is a natural quotient scheme $U_\nu = \mathrm{Conf}_\nu / PGL_2$. The map $\epsilon_\nu : \mathrm{Conf}_\nu \to U_\nu$ induces a bijection $\mathrm{Conf}_\nu(F)/PGL_2(F) \to U_\nu(F)$ whenever F is an algebraically closed field. In the case that $\nu_{r-2} = \nu_{r-1} = \nu_r = 1$, the action of $PGL_2(F)$ on $\mathrm{Conf}_\nu(F)$ is free for all fields F, and the maps $\mathrm{Conf}_\nu(F)/PGL_2(F) \to U_\nu(F)$ are always bijective. The general case is more complicated because there may be points in $\mathrm{Conf}_\nu(F)$ for which the stablizer in $PGL_2(F)$ is nontrivial. The proofs of Theorems 4.1 and 5.1 involved the maps ϵ_ν for $\nu = 21^2$ and $\nu = 31$ without using this notation. Via the coordinates w and j respectively, one has $U_{21^2}(F) = F^\times$ and $U_{31}(F) = F$ for F of characteristic > 2 and > 3 respectively. The complications with fixed points are above $w = 1$ and $j = 0, 1$.

For P a finite set of primes, let $U_\nu[\mathbb{Z}^P]$ be the image of $\mathrm{Conf}_\nu(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ in $U_\nu(\mathbb{Q})$. The set $U_\nu[\mathbb{Z}^P]$ may be strictly smaller than the set $U_\nu(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ of scheme-theoretical P-integral points, as illustrated by the equalities $U_{21^2}[\mathbb{Z}^P] = T_{\infty,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P) \cup \{1\}$ and $U_{31}[\mathbb{Z}^P] = T_{3,2,\infty}(\mathbb{Z}^P) \cup \{0, 1\}$, which hold respectively under the assumptions $\{2\} \subseteq P$ and $\{2, 3\} \subseteq P$.

In this paper, we have focused on tabulating $\mathrm{Polys}_\kappa(P)$ to keep sets small and have a clear graph-theoretic interpretation. However from the point of view of Section 8, our actual problem has been the identification of $U_\nu(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ whenever $\nu_{r-2} = \nu_{r-1} = \nu_r = 1$. The natural generalization is to identify $U_\nu[\mathbb{Z}^P]$ for general (ν, P). The Katz and Hurwitz theories of the previous section naturally give covers of general U_ν for general ν.

The general problem of identifying $U_\nu[\mathbb{Z}^P]$ has the same character as the special case that we treat, but is technically more complicated because elements of $\mathrm{Conf}_\nu(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ can no longer be canonically normalized by applying a fractional linear transformation. In the extreme case $\nu = (n)$ the complications become quite severe: describing the scheme U_n is a goal of classical invariant theory, and explicit results become rapidly more complicated as n increases.

The group S_n acts naturally on the scheme U_{1^n}. Despite the normalization of three points to 0, 1, and ∞ in previous sections, the influence of this automorphism group has been visible. For example, the natural automorphism group of the left half of Figure 8.1 is S_5, and it acts transitively on the twelve components of $U_{1^5}(\mathbb{R})$. An alternative viewpoint on U_ν for general $\nu = (\nu_1, \ldots, \nu_r)$ is via the equation

$$U_\nu = U_{1^n} / (S_{\nu_1} \times \cdots \times S_{\nu_r}). \tag{9.1}$$

For example, the left half of Figure 8.1 covers the right half via $U_{1^5} \to U_{21^3}$, $(s, t) \mapsto (u, v) = (s + t, (1 - s)(1 - t))$. The map is not surjective even on $\mathbb{R}$-points or $\mathbb{Q}_p$-points. The map is very far from far from surjective on the $\mathbb{Z}^P$-points of interest to us, and so the new U_ν present genuinely new arithmetic sets $U_\nu[\mathbb{Z}^P]$ to be identified, despite the tight relation (9.1). Birch and Merriman [2] proved, as part of a considerably larger theory, that the sets $U_\nu[\mathbb{Z}^P]$ are all finite. Their finiteness theorem was made effective by Evertse and Győry [8].

9.2. **Descriptions of $U_\nu[\mathbb{Z}^P]$.** The most straightforward continuation of this paper would be to completely identify more $U_\nu[\mathbb{Z}^P]$. Staying first in the context $\nu_{r-2} = \nu_{r-1} = \nu_r = 1$, the direction needing most attention is general completeness results for the excellent P-units introduced in Section 6. *Magma* [3] already has the efficient command `ExceptionalUnits` giving complete lists of exceptional units. An extension of its functionality to P-units would immediately move many $U_\nu(\mathbb{Z}^P)$ currently in the second regime of expected completeness into the first regime of proved completeness. Leaving the context of $\nu_{r-2} = \nu_{r-1} = \nu_r = 1$, there are many more (ν, P) for which complete identification of $U_\nu[\mathbb{Z}^P]$ is within reach, as it is only required that the normalization problem be resolved in some different way.

In the third regime of the introduction, where complete tabulation is impossible, there are still many questions to pursue. One would first like heuristic estimates on $|U_\nu[\mathbb{Z}^P]|$; the study of exceptional units in [11] looks to be a useful guide. The "vertical" direction of P fixed and ν varying is interesting from the point of view of constructing number fields with larger degree and bounded ramification. In this direction it seems that close attention to constructional techniques like those of Section 7 may yield good lower bounds. In the "horizontal" direction of ν fixed and P increasing, the Reduction Bound 2.1 becomes particularly important and upper bounds on $|U_\nu[\mathbb{Z}^P]|$ may be available. Finally, the $U_\nu[\mathbb{Z}^P]$ are not just bare sets to be tabulated or counted, one should also pay attention to their natural structures. Figure 8.1 suggests that in the horizontal direction the asymptotic distribution of $U_\nu[\mathbb{Z}^P]$ in $U_\nu(\mathbb{R})$ may be governed by interesting densities. The asymptotic distribution of $U_\nu[\mathbb{Z}^P]$ in $U_\nu(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ is important for understanding the p-adic ramification of number fields constructed via covers, and may likewise be governed by densities.

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