

# Arithmetic Milnor invariants and multiple power residue symbols in number fields: a précis

By

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## Abstract

This is a research announcement of my joint work with Fumiya Amano [AM] concerning a generalization of the Legendre, power residue symbols and the Rédei triple symbol. Such a generalization was firstly discussed by the author at the conference “Algebraic number theory and related topics (2000)” [Mo2]. Afterwards, a significant progress was made by Amano on the 4-tuple quadratic residue symbol over the rationals [A2], and now we are able to introduce  $n$ -tuple  $m$ -th power residue symbols for primes of a number field.

## Introduction

Our work is motivated originally by the works of Gauss, about two hundred years ago, on arithmetic of quadratic residue and topology of linking numbers [G1], [G2].

For distinct odd rational primes  $p_1$  and  $p_2$ , the quadratic residue symbol is given by

$$\left(\frac{p_1}{p_2}\right) = \text{Frobenius over } p_2 \text{ in } \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p_1})/\mathbb{Q}).$$

In view of the analogies between knots and primes [Mo5], it may be regarded as an arithmetic analogue of the mod 2 linking number,  $\text{lk}_2(p_1, p_2) \in \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ :

$$\left(\frac{p_1}{p_2}\right) = (-1)^{\text{lk}_2(p_1, p_2)}.$$

In the 19th century, Kummer and Hilbert etc. generalized the quadratic residue symbol to higher power residue symbols in number fields. Let  $k$  be a number field

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containing a primitive  $m$ -th root of unity ( $m \geq 2$ ). For distinct principal prime ideals  $\mathfrak{p}_1 = (\pi_1)$  and  $\mathfrak{p}_2 = (\pi_2)$ , prime to  $m$ , the  $m$ -th power residue symbol is given as

$$\left(\frac{\mathfrak{p}_1}{\mathfrak{p}_2}\right)_m = \text{Frobenius over } \mathfrak{p}_2 \text{ in } \text{Gal}(k(\sqrt[m]{\pi_1})/k).$$

Note that it is natural to assume  $\mathfrak{p}_i$  is principal, namely, “null-homologous” in  $\text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_k)$ , in order to define the mod  $m$  linking number  $\text{lk}_m(\mathfrak{p}_1, \mathfrak{p}_2) \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ . It may be noteworthy that Hilbert already discussed the power residue symbol for non-principal ideals in § 154 of his *Zahlbericht* [H].

In 1939, Rédei introduced the triple symbol aiming to generalize the arithmetic of quadratic fields such as Gauss’ theory of genera [R]. For distinct certain rational primes  $p_1, p_2$  and  $p_3$ , the Rédei symbol is defined well as

$$[p_1, p_2, p_3]_{\text{Rédei}} = \text{Frobenius over } p_3 \text{ in } \text{Gal}(\mathfrak{R}/\mathbb{Q}),$$

where  $\mathfrak{R}$  is determined by  $p_1, p_2$  and given concretely by

$$\mathfrak{R} = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p_1}, \sqrt{p_2}, \sqrt{\alpha}),$$

where  $\alpha = x + y\sqrt{p_1}$ ,  $x^2 - p_1y^2 - p_2z^2 = 0$  ( $x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}$ ). Note that  $\mathfrak{R}/\mathbb{Q}$  is a dihedral extension of degree 8, unramified outside  $p_1, p_2$  and  $\infty$  with ramification index for each  $p_i$  being 2. It might not be clear, however, why such a dihedral extension and triple symbol should be considered as a natural generalization of a quadratic field and the Legendre symbol, and it seemed that his work had been overlooked for a long time.

In the late 1990s, Kapranov and the author independently interpreted the Rédei symbol as an arithmetic analogue of a triple linking number for a link [Mi]. For example, the primes 13, 61 and 937 are linked like the Borromean ring [V].

Further the author introduced arithmetic analogues for rational primes of the Milnor invariants (higher order linking numbers) for a link in the 3-sphere [Mo1]-[Mo5]. For example, the mod 2 arithmetic Milnor invariant

$$\mu_2(12 \cdots n) \in \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$$

for certain rational primes  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n$  describes the decomposition law of  $p_n$  in a certain extension  $K(n)/\mathbb{Q}$ , determined by  $p_1, \dots, p_{n-1}$ , which has the following property:

- $K(n)/\mathbb{Q}$  is unramified outside  $p_1, \dots, p_{n-1}$  and  $\infty$  with ramification index for each  $p_i$  being 2, and the Galois group  $\text{Gal}(K(n)/\mathbb{Q}) \simeq N_n(\mathbb{F}_2)$ ,

where  $N_n(R)$  stands for the group of  $n$  by  $n$  upper-triangular unipotent matrices over a commutative ring  $R$ . In particular, we have

$$(-1)^{\mu_2(12)} = \begin{pmatrix} p_1 \\ p_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (-1)^{\mu_2(123)} = [p_1, p_2, p_3]_{\text{R\'edei}},$$

and further

$$K(2) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p_1}), \quad K(3) = \mathfrak{K}$$

for  $p_i \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$  ([A1], [Mo1]-[Mo4]). This unified interpretation may tell us that R\'edei's dihedral extension and triple symbol would be a natural generalization of a quadratic field and the Legendre symbol.

The idea is based on an analogy

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi_1^{\text{\'et}}(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{Z}) \setminus \{p_1, \dots, p_n\})(2) & \longleftrightarrow & \pi_1(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{K_1, \dots, K_n\}) \\ \text{pro-2 Galois group} & & \text{link group,} \end{array}$$

where  $\pi_1^{\text{\'et}}(\cdot)(l)$  means the maximal pro- $l$  quotient for a prime number  $l$  of the \'etale fundamental group  $\pi_1^{\text{\'et}}(\cdot)$ . Using this analogy, we pursue the analogies in arithmetic of the theory of Milnor invariants in link theory.

Since the Milnor invariants are defined for a link in a homology 3-sphere [T], it would be natural to ask the following

**Question:** Can we extend mod 2 arithmetic Milnor invariants to mod  $m$  arithmetic Milnor invariants for a finite set  $S$  of finite primes in a number field  $k$  which contains a primitive  $m$ -th root of unity and whose class group  $H_k = 1$  ?

However, we are faced immediately with the following difficulty: There is an obstruction  $B_S$  for the analogy

$$(\star) \quad \pi_1^{\text{\'et}}(\text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_k) \setminus S)(l) \longleftrightarrow \pi_1(M \setminus \mathcal{L}),$$

where  $l$  is a certain prime number and  $\mathcal{L}$  is a link in a 3-manifold  $M$ . We note that the obstruction  $B_S$  is closely related to the group of units  $\mathcal{O}_k^\times$ .

Despite of this difficulty, we have the following

**Result** (rough form): Suppose that  $m$  is a power of  $l$  and that  $k$  contains a primitive  $m$ -th root of unity  $\zeta_m$  and the  $l$ -class group  $H_k(l) = 1$ . Then we can introduce mod  $m$  arithmetic Milnor invariants  $\mu_m(12 \cdots n) \in \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  for a certain set  $S = \{\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n\}$  of finite primes of  $k$  and the  $n$ -tuple  $m$ -th power residue symbol in the manner

$$[\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n]_m = \zeta_m^{\mu_m(1 \dots n)}.$$

The idea is simple. Namely, we enlarge  $S$  so that the obstruction vanishes and we have the analogy  $(\star)$ , and then we show our invariants are independent of a choice of added auxiliary primes.

Throughout this article, we shall use the following

**Notations:**  $l :=$  a fixed prime number,  $m :=$  a fixed power of  $l$ .

$k =$  a finite algebraic number field such that  $k$  contains a fixed primitive  $m$ -th root of unity  $\zeta_m$  and the  $l$ -class group  $H_k(l) = 1$ .

$S := \{\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n\} =$  a finite set of finite primes  $\mathfrak{p}_i$  of  $k$  with  $(\mathfrak{p}_i, l) = 1$ . Note that  $N\mathfrak{p}_i \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ).

$k_{\mathfrak{p}_i} :=$  the  $\mathfrak{p}_i$ -adic completion of  $k$ .

$S_\infty :=$  the set of infinite primes of  $k$ .

$l_S := \max\{l^e \mid N\mathfrak{p}_i \equiv 1 \pmod{l^e} \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n\}$ .

$k_S(l) :=$  the maximal pro- $l$  Galois extension of  $k$ , unramified outside  $S \cup S_\infty$ .

$G_{k,S}(l) := \text{Gal}(k_S(l)/k) = \pi_1^{\text{ét}}(\text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_k) \setminus S)(l)$ .

## § 1. Obstructions and pro- $l$ Galois groups of link type

The *obstruction*  $B_S$  is defined by the  $\mathbb{F}_l$ -vector space

$$B_S := \{a \in k^\times \mid (a) = \mathfrak{a}^l, a \in (k_{\mathfrak{p}}^\times)^l \text{ for } \mathfrak{p} \in S \cup S_\infty\} / (k^\times)^l.$$

The following theorem is due to Koch.

**Theorem 1.1** ([K, 11.4]). *Assume  $B_S = 1$ . Then we have*

$$G_{k,S}(l) = \langle x_1, \dots, x_n \mid x_i^{N\mathfrak{p}_i-1} [x_i, y_i] = 1 \ (i = 1, \dots, n) \rangle,$$

where  $x_i$  is a word representing a monodromy over  $\mathfrak{p}_i$  and  $y_i$  is a pro- $l$  word of  $x_i$ 's representing a Frobenius automorphism over  $\mathfrak{p}_i$ .

The obstruction is closely related to the group of units  $\mathcal{O}_k^\times$ . We let

$$\mathcal{E}_k := \{\mathfrak{p} : \text{finite prime of } k \mid (\mathfrak{p}, l) = 1, \mathfrak{p} \text{ is inert in } k(\sqrt[l]{\mathcal{O}_k^\times})/k\},$$

which is an infinite set by the Chebotarev density theorem.

**Proposition 1.2** ([AM]). *If  $S$  contains a prime in  $\mathcal{E}_k$ , then  $B_S = 1$ .*

**Example 1.3.** (1) Let  $k = \mathbb{Q}$  and  $l = 2$ . Then we have  $B_S = 1$  for any  $S$ .  
 (2) Let  $k = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_3) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$  and  $l = 3$ . Then  $B_S = 1$  if and only if  $S$  contains a prime  $\mathfrak{p}$  such that  $N\mathfrak{p} \equiv 4$  or  $7 \pmod{9}$ .

**§ 2. Arithmetic Milnor invariants and multiple power residue symbols**

By Theorem 1.1 and Proposition 1.2, we can enlarge  $S$  to  $T = S \cup \{\mathfrak{p}_{n+1}, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_t\}$  so that  $B_T = 1$  and

$$G_{k,T}(l) = \langle x_1, \dots, x_t \mid x_i^{N\mathfrak{p}_i-1}[x_i, y_i] = 1 \ (i = 1, \dots, t) \rangle = F/N,$$

where  $F$  is the free pro- $l$  group on the words  $x_1, \dots, x_t$  and  $N$  is the closed subgroup of  $F$  generated normally by  $x_i^{N\mathfrak{p}_i-1}[x_i, y_i]$  ( $i = 1, \dots, t$ ). We let

$$\Theta : F \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}\langle\langle X_1, \dots, X_t \rangle\rangle^\times$$

be the mod  $m$  Magnus expansion defined by  $\Theta(x_i) := 1 + X_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq t$ . We write, for  $f \in F$ ,

$$\Theta(f) = 1 + \sum_{1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_r \leq t} \mu_m(i_1 \cdots i_r; f) X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_r}$$

and set

$$\mu_m(i_1 \cdots i_a) := \mu_m(i_1 \cdots i_{a-1}; y_{i_a}) \quad (a > 1),$$

and  $\mu_m(i) := 0$  ( $1 \leq i \leq t$ ). Define  $\Delta_m(1 \cdots n)$  by the ideal of  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$  generated by  $\mu_m(J)$  (multi-indices  $J$  running over all cyclic permutations of proper subsequence of  $1 \cdots n$ ) and the binomial coefficients  $\binom{l_S}{a}$  ( $1 \leq a < n$ ), and we let

$$\bar{\mu}_m(1 \cdots n) := \mu_m(1 \cdots n) \pmod{\Delta_m(1 \cdots n)}.$$

**Theorem 2.1** ([AM]). *Suppose  $2 \leq n < l_S$ . Then  $\bar{\mu}_m(1 \cdots n)$  is an invariant of determined by the  $n$ -tuple  $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n$  and  $m$ , more precisely, it is independent of choices of a monodromy and an extension of Frobenius over  $\mathfrak{p}_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq t$ ) and is independent of a choice of  $T$ .*

We call  $\bar{\mu}_m(1 \cdots n)$  the mod  $m$  arithmetic Milnor invariant of the  $n$ -tuple  $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n$ .

In the following, we assume for simplicity  $\binom{l_S}{a} \equiv 0 \pmod{m}$  ( $1 \leq a < n$ ) and  $\mu_m(j_1 \cdots j_a) = 0$  for any proper subset  $\{j_1, \dots, j_a\}$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ .

We then define the  $n$ -tuple  $m$ -th power residue symbol by

$$[\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n]_m := \zeta_m^{\mu_m(1 \cdots n)}.$$

We will discuss some properties of our multiple power residue symbols. We define a homomorphism

$$\rho_{m,n} : F \longrightarrow N_n(\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})$$

by

$$\rho_{m,n}(f) := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \mu_m(1; f) & \mu_m(12; f) & \cdots & \mu_m(1 \cdots n - 1; f) \\ 0 & 1 & \mu_m(2; f) & \cdots & \mu_m(2 \cdots n - 1; f) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & 1 & \mu_m(n - 1; f) \\ 0 & \cdots & \cdots & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

It is easily shown that  $\rho_{m,n}$  factors through the Galois group  $G_{k,T}(l)$ .

**Theorem 2.2** ([AM]). *Let  $K_m(n)$  be the subfield of  $k_T(l)$  fixed by  $\text{Ker}(\rho_{m,n})$ .*

*Then the followings hold.*

- (1)  $K_m(n)$  depends only on  $S$ .
- (2)  $K_m(n)/k$  is unramified outside  $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_{n-1}$  and  $S_\infty$  with ramification index for each  $\mathfrak{p}_i$  being  $m$ , and  $\text{Gal}(K_m(n)/k) \simeq N_n(\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})$ .
- (3)  $\mathfrak{p}_n$  is completely decomposed in  $K_m(n)/k$  if and only if  $[\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n]_m = 1$ .

In view of Theorem 2.2, the following problem is important in the arithmetic of multiple power residue symbols.

- Problem 2.3.** (i) Does the property (2) of Theorem 2.2 characterize  $K_m(n)$  uniquely ?
- (ii) Can one construct  $K_m(n)$  in a concrete manner ?

**Example 2.4.** (1) Let  $n = 2$ . The classical Kummer and Hilbert theory answers Problem 2.3 affirmatively and we have

$$[\mathfrak{p}_1, \mathfrak{p}_2]_m = \left( \frac{\pi_1}{\pi_2} \right)_m \text{ for } \mathfrak{p}_1 = (\pi_1).$$

(2) Let  $k = \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $l = m = 2$  and  $n = 3$ . Amano [A1] answers Problem 2.3 affirmatively so that  $K_2(3)$  coincides with Rédei's dihedral extension  $\mathfrak{R}$ , and we have

$$[p_1, p_2, p_3]_2 = [p_1, p_2, p_3]_{\text{Rédei}}.$$

(3) (Triple cubic residue symbol) This is a new case where  $k = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_3) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$ ,  $l = m = 3$  and  $n = 3$ . Let  $S = \{\mathfrak{p}_1, \mathfrak{p}_2, \mathfrak{p}_3\}$  with  $N\mathfrak{p}_i \equiv 1 \pmod{9}$ . Then there is  $\pi_i \in \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_3]$  uniquely such that  $\mathfrak{p}_i = (\pi_i)$  and  $\pi_i \equiv 1 \pmod{(1 - \zeta_3)^3}$ . Assume that

$$\left( \frac{\pi_i}{\pi_j} \right)_3 = 1 \quad (i \neq j).$$

By Theorem 2.2, the extension  $K_3(3)/k$  is a mod 3 Heisenberg extension of degree 27, unramified outside  $\mathfrak{p}_1, \mathfrak{p}_2$  with ramification index for each prime  $\mathfrak{p}_i$  being 3. Then we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.5** ([AM]). (1) *The property (2) of Theorem 2.2 with  $m = n = 3$  characterizes  $K_3(3)$  uniquely and we have*

$$K_3(3) = k(\sqrt[3]{\pi_1}, \sqrt[3]{\pi_2}, \sqrt[3]{\theta}),$$

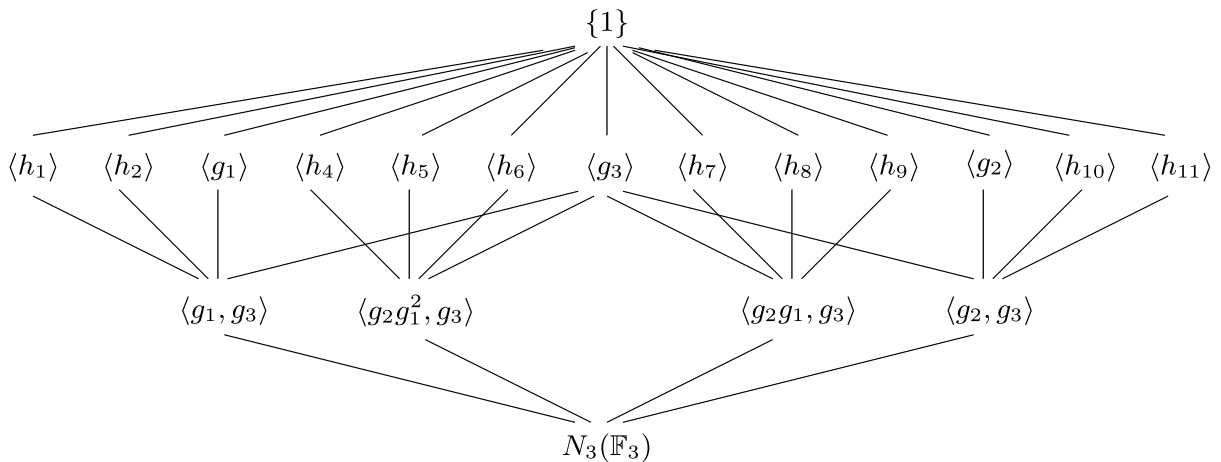
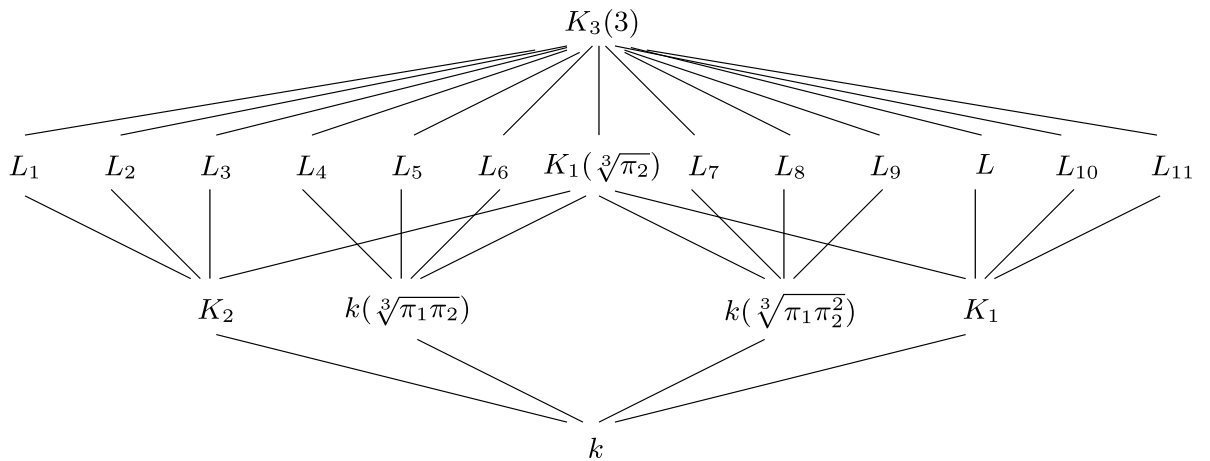
where  $\theta = x + y\sqrt[3]{\pi_1} + z(\sqrt[3]{\pi_1})^2$  is an algebraic integer in  $k(\sqrt[3]{\pi_1})$  satisfying  $x^3 + \pi_1 y^3 + \pi_1^2 z^3 - 3\pi_1 xyz - \pi_2^3 w^2 = 0$  ( $x, y, z, w \in \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_3]$ ). (For more detailed requirements of  $\theta$ , refer to [AM; Section 4])

(2) *We have*

$$[\mathfrak{p}_1, \mathfrak{p}_2, \mathfrak{p}_3]_3 = \frac{\text{Frob}_{\mathfrak{p}_3}(\sqrt[3]{\theta})}{\sqrt[3]{\theta}},$$

where  $\text{Frob}_{\mathfrak{p}_3}$  is an extension of Frobenius automorphism over  $\mathfrak{p}_3$  in  $K_3(3)/k$ .

All subgroups of  $\text{Gal}(K_3(3)/k)$  and the corresponding intermediate fields are illustrated as follows.



$$N_3(\mathbb{F}_3) = \left\langle g_1, g_2, g_3 \left| \begin{array}{l} g_1^3 = g_2^3 = g_3^3 = 1 \\ g_2g_1 = g_3g_2g_1, g_3g_1 = g_1g_3, g_3g_2 = g_2g_3 \end{array} \right. \right\rangle,$$

$$g_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad g_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad g_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} (= [g_2, g_1]).$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_1 &: (\sqrt[3]{\pi_1}, \sqrt[3]{\pi_2}, \sqrt[3]{\theta_1}, \sqrt[3]{\theta_2}, \sqrt[3]{\theta_3}) \mapsto (\zeta_3 \sqrt[3]{\pi_1}, \sqrt[3]{\pi_2}, \sqrt[3]{\theta_2}, \sqrt[3]{\theta_3}, \sqrt[3]{\theta_1}), \\ g_2 &: (\sqrt[3]{\pi_1}, \sqrt[3]{\pi_2}, \sqrt[3]{\theta_1}, \sqrt[3]{\theta_2}, \sqrt[3]{\theta_3}) \mapsto (\sqrt[3]{\pi_1}, \zeta_3 \sqrt[3]{\pi_2}, \sqrt[3]{\theta_1}, \zeta_3^2 \sqrt[3]{\theta_2}, \zeta_3 \sqrt[3]{\theta_3}), \\ g_3 &: (\sqrt[3]{\pi_1}, \sqrt[3]{\pi_2}, \sqrt[3]{\theta_1}, \sqrt[3]{\theta_2}, \sqrt[3]{\theta_3}) \mapsto (\sqrt[3]{\pi_1}, \sqrt[3]{\pi_2}, \zeta_3^2 \sqrt[3]{\theta_1}, \zeta_3^2 \sqrt[3]{\theta_2}, \zeta_3^2 \sqrt[3]{\theta_3}), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\theta_1 := \theta, \theta_2 := g_1(\theta), \theta_3 := g_1^2(\theta)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} h_1 &= g_1g_3, & h_2 &= g_1g_3^2, & h_4 &= g_2g_1^2, & h_5 &= g_2g_1^2g_3, & h_6 &= g_2g_1^2g_3^2, \\ h_7 &= g_2g_1, & h_8 &= g_2g_1g_3, & h_9 &= g_2g_1g_3^2, & h_{10} &= g_2g_3, & h_{11} &= g_2g_3^2. \end{aligned}$$

### § 3. Massey products

It is known that Milnor invariants of a link are interpreted as Massey products in the cohomology of the link complement [T]. Similarly, we can interpret our multiple power residue symbols as Massey products in the étale cohomology of the complement  $\mathfrak{X} := \text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_k) \setminus T$ , where  $T$  is, as in §2, a finite set containing  $S$  such that  $B_T = 1$ . This is a generalization of the cup product interpretation of the power residue symbol [S]. We keep the same notations as in Section 2.

In order to define the Massey product structure in étale cohomology, we use Verdier's construction of étale cohomology presented in [AGV; Exposé V]. Let  $U_\bullet$  be a hypercovering on  $\mathfrak{X}_{\text{ét}}$  and let  $C^j := C^j(U_\bullet, \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})$  be the Čech  $j$ -cochains ( $j \geq 0$ ) associated to  $U_\bullet$  with coefficients in the constant sheaf  $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$ . Consider the differential graded algebra  $(C^\bullet := \bigoplus_{j \geq 0} C^j, d^\bullet)$  equipped with multiplication given by the Alexander-Whitney cup product  $\cup$ . Then, by the general procedure to define Massey products [Ma], we have the Massey product structure on the étale cohomology  $H^\bullet(\mathfrak{X}_{\text{ét}}, \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}) = \varinjlim H^*(C^\bullet(U_\bullet, \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}))$ , where the limit is taken over the homotopy category of hypercoverings  $U_\bullet$ .

Let us explain concretely the triple Massey product concerning Example 2.4 (3). For the general case, we refer to [AM; Section 5]. Let  $\chi_i \in H^1(\mathfrak{X}_{\text{ét}}, \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})$  be the Kronecker dual to the monodromies  $x_j \in G_{k,T}(3)$ , namely,  $\chi_i(x_j) = \delta_{ij}$  for  $1 \leq i, j \leq \#T$ . By the

assumption  $\left(\frac{\pi_i}{\pi_j}\right)_3 = 1$  ( $i \neq j$ ), we have  $\chi_{12}, \chi_{23} \in C^1$  such that

$$\chi_1 \cup \chi_2 = d\chi_{12}, \quad \chi_2 \cup \chi_3 = d\chi_{23}.$$

Then the triple Massey product  $\langle \chi_1, \chi_2, \chi_3 \rangle \in H^2(\mathfrak{X}_{\text{ét}}, \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})$  is defined by the cohomology class of the 2-cocycle

$$\chi_1 \cup \chi_{23} + \chi_{12} \cup \chi_3.$$

On the other hand, let  $\delta_3 \in H_2(\mathfrak{X}_{\text{ét}}, \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})$  be the image of the canonical generator of  $H_2(\text{Spec}(k_{\mathfrak{p}_3})_{\text{ét}}, \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})$ , which represents a “boundary of a tubular neighborhood” of  $\text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_k/\mathfrak{p}_3)$ , under the natural homomorphism  $H_2(\text{Spec}(k_{\mathfrak{p}_3})_{\text{ét}}, \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H_2(\mathfrak{X}_{\text{ét}}, \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})$ .

**Theorem 3.1** ([AM]).  $[\mathfrak{p}_1, \mathfrak{p}_2, \mathfrak{p}_3]_3 = \zeta_3^{-\langle \chi_1, \chi_2, \chi_3 \rangle(\delta_3)}$ .

Finally we present an important problem left unsolved:

**Problem** (reciprocity law). Study the behavior of  $[\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n]_m$  under permutations of  $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_n$ .

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