Solving index form equations in the two parametric families of biquadratic fields

Borka Jadrijević*

Abstract

In this paper we find minimal index and determine all integral elements with minimal index in the two families of totally real bicyclic biquadratic fields of the form $K_c = \mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt{(c-2)c}, \sqrt{(c+2)c}\right)$ and of the form $L_c = \mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt{(c-2)c}, \sqrt{(c+4)c}\right)$.

1 Introduction

Consider an algebraic number field K of degree n with ring of integers $\mathcal{O}_K$. It is a classical problem in algebraic number theory to decide if K admits power integral bases, that is, integral bases of the form $\left\{1, \alpha, ..., \alpha^{n-1}\right\}$. If there exist power integral bases in K, then $\mathcal{O}_K$ is simple ring extension $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$ of $\mathbb{Z}$ and it is called monogenic.
Let $\alpha \in \mathcal{O}_K$ be a primitive element of K, that is $K = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$. Index of α is defined by

$$I(\alpha) = \left[\mathcal{O}_K^+ : \mathbb{Z}[\alpha]^+\right],$$

where $\mathcal{O}_K^+$ and $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]^+$ respectively denote the additive groups of $\mathcal{O}_K$ and the polynomial ring $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$. Therefore, the primitive element $\alpha \in \mathcal{O}_K$ generates a power integral basis if and only if $I(\alpha) = 1$. The minimal index $\mu(K)$ of K is the minimum of the indices of all primitive integers in the field K. The greatest common divisor of indices of all primitive integers of K is called the field index of K, and will be denoted by $m(K)$. Monogenic fields have both $\mu(K) = 1$ and $m(K) = 1$, but $m(K) = 1$ is not sufficient for the mongenity.

For any integral basis $\{1, \omega_2, ..., \omega_n\}$ of K let

$$L_i(\underline{X}) = X_1 + \omega_2^{(i)} X_2 + ... + \omega_n^{(i)} X_n, \quad i = 1, ..., n,$$

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where superscripts denote the conjugates. Then

$$\prod_{1\leq i<j\leq n}\left(L_i\left(\underline{X}\right)-L_j\left(\underline{X}\right)\right)^2=\left(I\left(X_2,...,X_n\right)\right)^2 D_K,$$

where D_K denotes the discriminant of K and $I\left(X_2,...,X_n\right)$ is a homogenous polynomial in $n-1$ variables of degree $n\left(n-1\right)/2$ with rational integer coefficients. This form is called the *index form* corresponding to the integral basis $\{1,\omega_2,...,\omega_n\}$. It can be shown that if the primitive integer $\alpha\in\mathcal{O}_K$ is represented by an integral basis as $\alpha=x_1+x_2\omega_2+...+x_n\omega_n$, then the index of α is just $I\left(\alpha\right)=\left|I\left(x_2,...,x_n\right)\right|$. Consequently, the minimal $\mu\in\mathbb{N}$ for which the equation $I\left(x_2,...,x_n\right)=\pm\mu$ is solvable in $x_2,...,x_n\in\mathbb{Z}$ is a minimal index $\mu\left(K\right)$.

Biquadratic fields $K=\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt{m},\sqrt{n}\right)$ (where m, n are distinct square-free integers) were considered by several authors. K. S. Williams [23] gave an explicit formula for integral basis and discriminant of these fields. Necessary and sufficient conditions for biquadratic fields being monogenic where given by M. N. Gras and F. Tanoe [16]. T. Nakahara [20] proved that infinitely many fields of this type are monogenic but the minimal index of such fields can be arbitrary large. I. Gaál, A. Pethő and M. Pohst [15] gave an algorithm for determining minimal index and all generators of integral bases in the totally real case by solving systems of simultaneous Pellian equations. G. Nyul [19] gave a complete characterization of power integral bases in the monogenic totally complex fields of this type. In [18] we have determined a minimal index and all elements with minimal index for infinite family of totally real bicyclic biquadratic fields of the form $K=\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt{\left(4c+1\right)c},\sqrt{\left(c-1\right)c}\right)$ using theory of continued fractions. In the present paper, we will do the same for the two infinite families of totally real bicyclic biquadratic fields of the form

$$K_c=\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt{\left(c-2\right)c},\sqrt{c\left(c+2\right)}\right)= \tag{1}$$
$$\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt{\left(c+2\right)\left(c-2\right)},\sqrt{c\left(c-2\right)}\right)=\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt{\left(c+2\right)\left(c-2\right)},\sqrt{\left(c+2\right)c}\right)$$

and of the form

$$L_c=\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt{\left(c-2\right)c},\sqrt{c\left(c+4\right)}\right)= \tag{2}$$
$$\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt{\left(c+4\right)\left(c-2\right)},\sqrt{c\left(c-2\right)}\right)=\mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt{\left(c+4\right)\left(c-2\right)},\sqrt{\left(c+4\right)c}\right).$$

The main results of the present paper are given the following theorems:

Theorem 1 *Let $c\geq 3$ be an odd positive integer such that c, $c-2$, $c+2$ are square-free integers. Then (1) is totally real bicyclic biquadratic field and*

i) *its field index is $m\left(K_c\right)=1$ for all c;*

ii) *the minimal index of K_c is $\mu\left(K_c\right)=4$;*

iii) *all integral elements with minimal index are given by*

$$x_1 + x_2\sqrt{c(c-2)} + x_3\frac{\sqrt{c(c-2)}+\sqrt{c(c+2)}}{2} + x_4\frac{1+\sqrt{(c-2)(c+2)}}{2},$$

where $x_1 \in \mathbb{Z}$ *and* $(x_2, x_3, x_4) = \pm(0, \pm 1, 1), \pm(1, 1, -1), \pm(-1, -1, 1)$.

Theorem 2 *Let* $c \geq 3$ *be an odd positive integer such that* c, $c-2$, $c+4$ *are square-free integers relatively prime in pairs. Then (2) is totally real bicyclic biquadratic field and*

i) *its field index is* $m(L_c) = 1$ *for all* c;

ii) *the minimal index of* L_c *is* $\mu(L_c) = 12$ *if* $c \geq 7$ *and* $\mu(L_c) = 1$ *if* $c = 3$;

iii) *all integral elements with minimal index are given by*

$$x_1 + x_2\sqrt{(c-2)(c+4)} + x_3\frac{\sqrt{(c-2)(c+4)}+\sqrt{(c-2)c}}{2} + x_4\frac{1+\sqrt{c(c+4)}}{2},$$

where $x_1 \in \mathbb{Z}$, $(x_2, x_3, x_4) = \pm(0, 1, 1), \pm(0, 1, -1), \pm(1, -1, -1), \pm(1, -1, 1)$ *if* $c \geq 7$ *and* $(x_2, x_3, x_4) = \pm(-1, 1, 0), \pm(0, 1, 0)$ *if* $c = 3$.

2 Preliminaries

Let m, n be distinct square-free integers, $l = \gcd(m, n)$ and define m_1, n_1 by $m = lm_1$, $n = ln_1$. Under these conditions the quartic field $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{m}, \sqrt{n})$ has three distinct quadratic subfields, namely $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{m})$, $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{n})$, $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{m_1 n_1})$ and Galois group V_4 (the Klein four group). These fields have very nice special structure.

Integral basis and discriminant of K was described K.S. Williams [23] in terms in terms of m, n, m_1, n_1, l. He distinguished five cases according to the congruence behavior of m, n, m_1, n_1 modulo 4. In [13], I. Gaál, A. Pethő and M. Pohst described the corresponding index forms $I(x_2, x_3, x_4)$. They showed that in all five cases index form is a product of three quadratic factors. For $x_2, x_3, x_4 \in \mathbb{Z}$ the quadratic factors of the index form admit integral values. If we fix the order of the factors in index form and if we denote the absolute value of the first, second and third factor by $F_1 = F_1(x_2, x_3, x_4)$, $F_2 = F_3(x_2, x_3, x_4)$, $F_3 = F_3(x_2, x_3, x_4)$, respectively, then finding the minimal index $\mu(K)$ is equivalent to find integers x_2, x_3, x_4 such that the product $F_1F_2F_3$ is minimal. It can be easily shown that $\pm F_1$, $\pm F_2$, $\pm F_3$ are not independent, i.e. that they are related, according to five possible cases, by relations given in [15, Lemma 1]. Biquadratic field $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{m}, \sqrt{n})$ is totally complex or totally real (there are no mixed fields of this type). In the totally real case the index form is the product of tree factors F_1, F_2, F_3, of "Pellian type". In this case I. Gaál, A. Pethő and M. Pohst [15] gave following algorithm for finding the minimal index and all elements with minimal index. Consider system of equations obtained by equating the first quartic factor of the index form with $\pm F_1$ and second factor with $\pm F_2$. The system of these two equations can be written as

$$Ax^2 - By^2 = C \tag{3}$$

$$Dx^2 - Fz^2 = G \quad \text{in} \quad x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}, \tag{4}$$

where the values of A, B, C, D, F, G and the new variables x, y, z, according to five possible cases, are listed in the table (see [15, p. 104]). In each particular case, first we find the field index $m(K)$ which we can easy calculate from [13, Theorem 4]. We proceed with $\mu = \nu \cdot m(K)$ $(\nu = 1, 2, ...)$. For each such μ we try to find positive integers F_1, F_2, F_3 with $\mu = F_1F_2F_3$ satisfying the corresponding relation of [15, Lemma 1]. If there exist such F_1, F_2, F_3, then we calculate all such triples. For each such triple we determine all solutions of the corresponding system (3) and (4). If none of these systems of equations have solutions, then we proceed to the next ν, otherwise μ is the minimal index and collecting all solutions of systems of equations corresponding to valid factors F_1, F_2, F_3 of μ we get all solutions of equation

$$I(x_2, x_3, x_4) = \pm\mu,$$

i.e. we obtain all integral elements with minimal index in K.

3 Minimal index of the field K_c

Let $c \geq 3$ be positive integer such that $c, c-2, c+2$ are square-free integers relatively prime in pairs. Let $m = m_1 l$, $n = n_1 l$ where $m_1, n_1, l \in \{c, c-2, c+2\}$ are distinct integers. Then field (1) is totally real bicyclic biquadratic field.

First note that if $c, c-2, c+2$ are integers relatively prime in pairs, than c is an odd positive integer. Furthermore, by [10], there are infinitely many positive integers c for which $c(c-2)(c+2)$ is square-free integer. Therefore, there are infinitely many positive integers c for which c, $c-2$, $c+2$ are square-free integers relatively prime in pairs, which again implies that there are infinitely many totally real bicyclic biquadratic fields of the form (1).

In order to prove Theorem 1 will use a method of I. Gaál, A. Pethő and M. Pohst [15] given in previous section. Let $n_1 = c-2$, $m_1 = c+2$ and $l = c$. We have to observe following cases:

i) If $c \equiv 1 \pmod 4$, then $n_1 \equiv 3 \pmod 4$, $m_1 \equiv 3 \pmod 4$, $l \equiv 1 \pmod 4$ which implies $m = m_1 l \equiv 3 \pmod 4$ and $n = n_1 l \equiv 3 \pmod 4$;

ii) If $c \equiv 3 \pmod 4$, then $n_1 \equiv 1 \pmod 4$, $m_1 \equiv 1 \pmod 4$, $l \equiv 3 \pmod 4$ which implies $m = m_1 l \equiv 3 \pmod 4$ and $n = n_1 l \equiv 3 \pmod 4$.

Since, in both cases, we have $(m, n) \equiv (3, 3) \pmod 4$, by equating the first, second and third quartic factor of the corresponding index form with $\pm F_1$,

$\pm F_2$ and $\pm F_3$, respectively, according to [15], we obtain the system

$$cU^2 - (c-2)\,V^2 = \pm F_1 \tag{5}$$

$$cZ^2 - (c+2)\,V^2 = \pm F_2 \tag{6}$$

$$(c-2)\,Z^2 - (c+2)\,U^2 = \pm 4F_3, \tag{7}$$

where

$$U = 2x_2 + x_4,\ \ V = x_4,\ \ Z = x_3, \tag{8}$$

and from [15, Lemma 1] we have that

$$\pm (c+2)\,F_1 \pm (c-2)\,F_2 = \pm 4cF_3 \tag{9}$$

must hold. In this case the integral basis of K_c is

$$\left\{1,\ \sqrt{c\,(c+2)},\ \frac{\sqrt{c\,(c+2)} + \sqrt{c\,(c-2)}}{2},\ \frac{1+\sqrt{(c-2)\,(c+2)}}{2}\right\}$$

and its discriminant is $D_{K_c} = (4c\,(c-2)\,(c+2))^2$.

Now we will prove statement *i)* of Theorem 1. First we form differences $d_1 = m_1 - l$, $d_2 = n_1 - l$, $d_3 = m_1 - n_1$. We have $d_1 = 2$, $d_2 = -2$, $d_3 = 4$. Since neither 3 nor 4 divides all three differences d_1, d_2, d_3, according to [13, Theorem 4], we conclude $m\,(K_c) = 1$.

Now we will formulate our strategy of searching the minimal index $\mu\,(K_c) =: \mu\,(c)$ and all elements with minimal index. Finding of minimal index $\mu\,(c)$ is equivalent to finding system of above form with minimal product $F_1F_2F_3$ which has solution.

Observe that if $(\pm F_1, \pm F_2, \pm F_3) = (2, -2, 1)$, then system (5), (6) and (7) has solutions $(U, V, Z) = (\pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 1)$ which implies that $\mu\,(c) \leq 4$ for all $c \equiv 1, 3 \pmod 4$.

For $c = 3$ and $c = 5$ we have discriminant $D_{K_c} < 10^6$. In [15] I. Gaál, A. Pethő and M. Pohst determined the minimal indices and all elements with minimal index in all 196 fields and totally real bicyclic biquadratic fields with discriminant $< 10^6$. There it can be found that $\mu\,(3) = \mu\,(5) = 4$ and all elements with minimal index are given by $(x_2, x_3, x_4) = \pm\,(0, \pm 1, 1), \pm\,(1, 1, -1), \pm\,(-1, -1, 1)$.

Let $c \equiv 1 \pmod 2$, $c \geq 3$. First suppose that (U, V, Z) is nonnegative integer solution of the system of equations (5), (6) and (7) with $F_1F_2F_3 \leq 4$. Observe that if one of the integers U, V, Z is equal to zero, then (5), (6) and (7) imply that other two integers are not equal to zero.

i) If $V = 0$, then (5) and (6) imply

$$cU^2 = \pm F_1, \quad cZ^2 = \pm F_2.$$

Therefrom we have $F_1F_2 = c^2Z^2U^2 \leq 4$. Since $c \geq 3$ and U, $Z \neq 0$ we obtain a contradiction.

ii) If $Z=0$, then (6) and (7) imply

$$-(c+2)\,V^2=\pm F_2,\qquad -(c+2)\,U^2=\pm 4F_3.$$

Therefrom we have $F_2F_3=\frac{(c+2)^2}{4}U^2V^2\le 4$. Since $c\ge 3$ and $U,\ V\ne 0$ we obtain a contradiction.

iii) If $U=0$, then (5), (6) and (7) imply

$$-(c-2)\,V^2=\pm F_1,\quad cZ^2-(c+2)\,V^2=\pm F_2,\quad (c-2)\,Z^2=\pm 4F_3.$$

Therefrom we have $F_1F_3=\frac{(c-2)^2}{4}V^2Z^2\le 4$ and Z is an even integer. Since $V\ne 0$ and $Z^2\ge 4$ we obtain a contradiction if $c\ne 3$. If $c=3$, then $F_1F_3=\frac{1}{4}V^2Z^2\le 4$ which implies $(V,Z)=(1,2)$. Additionally, we have

$$F_1F_2F_3=\left|cZ^2-(c+2)\,V^2\right|\cdot\frac{(c-2)^2}{4}\cdot V^2Z^2\le 4. \tag{10}$$

Now, for $c=3$ and $(V,Z)=(1,2)$ inequality (10) implies a contradiction.

Let (U,V,Z) be a positive integer solution of the system of Pellian equations

$$cU^2-(c-2)\,V^2=\lambda_1, \tag{11}$$
$$cZ^2-(c+2)\,V^2=\lambda_2, \tag{12}$$

where λ_1 and λ_2 are non-zero integers such that $|\lambda_1|\le 4$ and $|\lambda_2|\le 4$. We find

$$V+\sqrt{\frac{c}{c-2}}U>\sqrt{\frac{c}{c-2}}U,$$

which implies

$$\left|\sqrt{\frac{c}{c-2}}-\frac{V}{U}\right|=\left|\frac{c}{c-2}-\frac{V^2}{U^2}\right|\cdot\left|\sqrt{\frac{c}{c-2}}+\frac{V}{U}\right|^{-1}$$
$$<\frac{|\lambda_1|}{(c-2)\,U^2}\cdot\sqrt{\frac{c-2}{c}}\le\frac{4}{\sqrt{c\,(c-2)}U^2}\le\begin{cases}\frac{3}{U^2}, & \text{if } c=3\\ \frac{2}{U^2}, & \text{if } c=5\\ \frac{1}{U^2}, & \text{if } c\ge 7\end{cases}.$$

Similarly,

$$Z+\sqrt{\frac{c+2}{c}}V>\sqrt{\frac{c+2}{c}}V$$

implies

$$\left|\sqrt{\frac{c+2}{c}}-\frac{Z}{V}\right|=\left|\frac{c+2}{c}-\frac{Z^2}{V^2}\right|\cdot\left|\sqrt{\frac{c+2}{c}}+\frac{Z}{V}\right|^{-1}$$
$$<\frac{|\lambda_2|}{cV^2}\cdot\sqrt{\frac{c}{c+2}}\le\frac{4}{\sqrt{c\,(c+2)}V^2}\le\begin{cases}\frac{2}{V^2}, & \text{if } c=3\\ \frac{1}{V^2}, & \text{if } c\ge 5\end{cases}.$$

The simple continued fraction expansion of a quadratic irrational $\alpha = \frac{a+\sqrt{d}}{b}$ is periodic. This expansion can be obtained using the following algorithm. Multiplying the numerator and the denominator by b, if necessary, we may assume that $b|(d-a^2)$. Let $s_0 = a$, $t_0 = b$ and

$$a_n = \left\lfloor \frac{s_n+\sqrt{d}}{t_n} \right\rfloor, \quad s_{n+1} = a_n t_n - s_n, \quad t_{n+1} = \frac{d-s_{n+1}^2}{t_n} \quad \text{for } n \geq 0 \tag{13}$$

(see [21, Chapter 7.7]). If $(s_j, t_j) = (s_k, t_k)$ for $j < k$, then

$$\alpha = [a_0, \ldots, a_{j-1}, \overline{a_j, \ldots, a_{k-1}}].$$

Applying this algorithm to quadratic irrationals

$$\sqrt{\frac{c+2}{c}} = \frac{\sqrt{c(c+2)}}{c} \quad \text{and} \quad \sqrt{\frac{c}{c-2}} = \frac{\sqrt{c(c-2)}}{c-2}$$

we find that

$$\sqrt{\frac{c+2}{c}} = \left[1, \overline{c, 2}\right], \text{ where } (s_0, t_0) = (0, c),$$
$$(s_1, t_1) = (c, 2), (s_2, t_2) = (c, c), (s_3, t_3) = (c, 2)$$

and

$$\sqrt{\frac{c}{c-2}} = \left[1, \overline{c-2, 2}\right], \text{ where } (s_0, t_0) = (0, c-2),$$
$$(s_1, t_1) = (c-2, 2), (s_2, t_2) = (c-2, c-2), (s_3, t_3) = (c-2, 2).$$

Let p_n/q_n denote the nth convergent of α. The following result of Worley [24] and Dujella [5] extends classical results of Legendere and Fatou concerning Diophantine approximations of the form $\left|\alpha - \frac{a}{b}\right| < \frac{1}{2b^2}$ and $\left|\alpha - \frac{a}{b}\right| < \frac{1}{b^2}$.

Theorem 3 (Worley [24], Dujella [5]) *Let α be a real number and a and b coprime nonzero integers, satisfying the inequality*

$$\left|\alpha - \frac{a}{b}\right| < \frac{M}{b^2},$$

where M is a positive real number. Then $(a, b) = (rp_{n+1} \pm up_n, rq_{n+1} \pm uq_n)$, for some $n \geq -1$ and nonnegative integers r and u such that $ru < 2M$.

We would like to apply Theorem 3 in order to determine all values of λ_1 with $|\lambda_1| \leq 4$, for which equation (11) has solution in coprime integers and all values of λ_2 with $|\lambda_2| \leq 4$ for which equation (12) has solutions in coprime integers. Explicit versions of Theorem 3 for $M = 2$, was given by Worley [24, Corollary, p. 206]. Recently, Dujella and Ibrahimpašić [6, Propositions 2.1 and 2.2] extended Worley's work and gave explicit and sharp versions of Theorem 3 for $M = 3, 4, ..., 12$. We need following lemma (see [8, Lemma 1]).

Lemma 1 *Let $\alpha\beta$ be a positive integer which is not a perfect square, and let p_n/q_n denotes the nth convergent of continued fraction expansion of $\sqrt{\frac{\alpha}{\beta}}$. Let the sequences (s_n) and (t_n) be defined by (13) for the quadratic irrational $\frac{\sqrt{\alpha\beta}}{\beta}$. Then*

$$\alpha(rq_{n+1}+uq_n)^2-\beta(rp_{n+1}+up_n)^2=(-1)^n(u^2t_{n+1}+2rus_{n+2}-r^2t_{n+2}). \quad (14)$$

Since the period length of the continued fraction expansions of both $\sqrt{\frac{c+2}{c}}$ and $\sqrt{\frac{c+2}{c}}$ is equal to 2, according to Lemma 1, we have to consider only the fractions $(rp_{n+1}+up_n)/(rq_{n+1}+uq_n)$ for $n=0$ and $n=1$. By checking all possibilities, it is now easy to prove the following results.

Proposition 1 *Let $c\geq 3$ be an odd integer and λ_1 be an non-zero integer such that $|\lambda_1|\leq 4$ and such that the equation (11) has a solution in relatively prime integers U and V.*

i) If $c\geq 7$, then $\lambda_1\in A_1(c)=\{2\}$.

ii) If $c=5$, then $\lambda_1\in A_1(5)=\{2,2-c,32-7c\}=\{2,-3\}$.

iii) If $c=3$, then $\lambda_1\in A_1(3)=\{2,c,2-c,8-3c,18-5c\}=\{2,3,-1\}$.

Proposition 2 *Let $c\geq 3$ be an odd integer and λ_1 be an non-zero integer such that $|\lambda_1|\leq 4$ and such that the equation (12) has a solution in relatively prime integers V and Z.*

i) If $c\geq 5$, then $\lambda_2\in A_2(c)=\{-2\}$.

ii) If $c=3$, then $\lambda_2\in A_2(c)=\{-2,c,7c-18\}=\{-2,3\}$.

Corollary 1 *Let $c\geq 3$ be an odd integer.*

i) Let (U,V) be positive integer solution of the equation (5) such that $\gcd(U,V)=d$ *and $F_1\leq 4d^2$. Then*

$$\pm F_1\in\left\{\lambda_1 d^2:\lambda_1\in A_1(c)\right\},$$

where sets $A_1(c)$ are given in Proposition 1.

ii) Let (V,Z) be positive integer solution of the equation (6) such that $\gcd(V,Z)=g$ *and $F_2\leq 4g^2$. Then*

$$\pm F_2\in\left\{\lambda_2 g^2:\lambda_2\in A_2(c)\right\},$$

where sets $A_2(c)$ are given in Proposition 2.

Proof. Directly from Propositions 1 and 2. ■

Proposition 3 *Let $c \geq 3$ be an odd integer. Let (U, V, Z) be positive integer solution of the system of Pellian equations (5) and (6) where* $\gcd(U, V) = d$, $\gcd(V, Z) = g$ *and $F_1, F_2 \leq 4$. Then*

i)
$$(\pm F_1, \pm F_2) \in B(c) \times D(c),$$
where $B(c) = B_0 \cup B_1(c)$, $D(c) = D_0 \cup D_1(c)$ and
$$B_0 = \{2\}, \quad D_0 = \{-2\},$$
$$B_1(5) = \{-3\}, \ B_1(3) = \{3, -1, -4\}, \ B_1(c) = \emptyset, c \geq 7,$$
$$D_1(3) = \{3\}, \ D_1(c) = \emptyset, c \geq 5,$$

ii) Additionally, if $F_1F_2 \leq 4$, then $(\pm F_1, \pm F_2) \in S(c)$ where $S(c) = S_0 \cup S_1(c)$ and
$$S_0 = \{(2, -2)\}$$
$$S_1(3) = \{(-1, -2), (-1, 3)\}, \ S_1(c) = \emptyset \text{ for } c \geq 5.$$

Proof.

i) From Corollary 1 we have $\pm F_1 \in \{\lambda_1 d^2 : \lambda_1 \in A_1(c)\}$ and $\pm F_2 \in \{\lambda_2 g^2 : \lambda_2 \in A_2(c)\}$ where sets $A_1(c)$ and $A_2(c)$ are given in Propositions 1 and 2, respectively.

a) For all $c \geq 3$ we have $\pm F_1 = 2d^2$. Additionally, we have $\pm F_1 = -3d^2$ if $c = 5$ and $\pm F_1 = 3d^2$, $-d^2$ if $c = 3$. Since $F_1 \leq 4$, we obtain:

i. $F_1 = 2d^2 \leq 4$ implies $d = 1$, i.e. $\pm F_1 = 2$;

ii. $F_1 = 3d^2 \leq 4$ implies $d = 1$. Thus, $\pm F_1 = -3$ for $c = 5$ and $\pm F_1 = 3$ for $c = 3$;

iii. $F_1 = d^2 \leq 4$ implies $d = 1, 2$. Thus, $\pm F_1 = -1, -4$ for $c = 3$.

Therefrom, we obtain sets $B(c)$.

b) For all $c \geq 3$ we have $\pm F_2 = -2d^2$. Additionally, we have $\pm F_1 = 3d^2$ if $c = 3$. Since $F_2 \leq 4$, we obtain:

i. $F_2 = 2d^2 \leq 4$ implies $d = 1$, i.e. $\pm F_2 = -2$;

ii. $F_2 = 3d^2 \leq 4$ implies $d = 1$. Thus, $\pm F_2 = 3$ for $c = 3$.

Therefrom, we get sets $D(c)$.

ii) Directly from *i)* since $S(c) = \{(s, t) \in B(c) \times D(c) : |s| \cdot |t| \leq 4\}$.

■

If system (5), (6) and (7) has a solution for some positive integers F_1, F_2, F_3, $F_1F_2F_3 \leq 4$, then $(\pm F_1, \pm F_2) \in S(c)$, where set $S(c)$ is given in Proposition 3 and triple $(\pm F_1, \pm F_2, \pm F_3)$ satisfies one of the equations in (9). First, for each pair $(\pm F_1, \pm F_2) \in S(c)$ we check if there exist $F_3 \in \mathbb{N}$, $F_1F_2F_3 \leq 4$, such that any of the equations (9) holds. For all pairs of the form $(\pm F_1, \pm F_2) =$

(s,t) condition $F_1F_2F_3 \leq 4$ is satisfied if $F_3 \in F(s,t) = \{k \in \mathbb{N} : k|s||t| \leq 4\}$. Therefore, for each pair $(s,t) \in S(c)$ and for each $k \in F(s,t)$, we have to check if any of these four equations

$$s(c+2) + t(c-2) = \pm 4kc \quad \text{or} \quad s(c+2) - t(c-2) = \pm 4kc \tag{15}$$

holds. For example, if $c \geq 3$, then $(\pm F_1, \pm F_2) = (2,-2) \in S(c)$. From (15) we obtain

$$8 = \pm 4kc \quad \text{or} \quad 4c = \pm 4kc.$$

Since $k \in F(2,-2) = \{1\}$, the only possibility is $\pm F_3 = 1$. We proceed similarly for $(-1,-2), (-1,3) \in S(3)$. The only triple we obtain on this way is $(\pm F_1, \pm F_2, \pm F_3) = (2,-2,1)$ and the corresponding system is

$$cU^2 - (c-2)V^2 = 2 \tag{16}$$

$$cZ^2 - (c+2)V^2 = -2 \tag{17}$$

$$(c-2)Z^2 - (c+2)U^2 = 4. \tag{18}$$

Since this system has solution $(U,V,Z) = (\pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 1)$, we have $\mu(c) = 4$ for all $c \equiv 1 \pmod 2$, $c \geq 3$.

Next step is finding all elements with minimal index. Therefore we have to solve the above system. In [17], Ibrahimpašić showed that if $c \geq 3$ is positive integer, than the only solutions of the system (16) and (17) are $(U,V,Z) = (\pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 1)$. Therefrom we have following proposition which finishes the proof of Theorem 1.

Proposition 4 *Let $c \geq 3$ be an odd positive integer such that c, $c+2$, $c-2$ are square-free integers. Then all integral elements with minimal index in the field $K_c = \mathbb{Q}\left(\sqrt{(c-2)c}, \sqrt{c(c+2)}\right)$ are given by $(x_2,x_3,x_4) = \pm(0,\pm 1,1)$, $\pm(1,1,-1)$, $\pm(-1,1,1)$.*

Proof. Since all solutions of the system (16), (17) and (18) are given by $(U,V,Z) = (\pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 1)$ and since we have $U = 2x_2 + x_4$, $V = x_4$, $Z = x_3$, we obtain

$$2x_2 + x_4 = \pm 1, \ x_4 = \pm 1, \ x_3 = \pm 1,$$

which implies $(x_2,x_3,x_4) = \pm(0,\pm 1,1), \pm(1,1,-1), \pm(-1,1,1)$. ∎

4 Minimal index of the field L_c

Let $c \geq 3$ be positive integer such that $c, c-2, c+4$ are square-free integers relatively prime in pairs. Then field (2) is totally real bicyclic biquadratic field.

Note that $c, c-2, c+4$ are integers relatively prime in pairs except when $c \equiv 0 \pmod 2$ or $c \equiv 2 \pmod 3$. Furthermore, by [10], there are infinitely many positive integers c for which $c(c-2)(c+4)$ is square-free integer. Therefore, there are infinitely many positive integers c for which $c, c-2, c+4$ are square-free integers relatively prime in pairs, which again implies that there are infinitely many totally real bicyclic biquadratic fields of the form (2).

In order to prove Theorem 2 we will use a method of I. Gaál, A. Pethő and M. Pohst [15] again. We have to observe following cases:

i) If $c \equiv 1 \, (\mathrm{mod}\, 4)$, $l = c-2$, $m_1 = c+4$ and $n_1 = c$, then $n_1 \equiv 1 \, (\mathrm{mod}\, 4)$, $m_1 \equiv 1 \, (\mathrm{mod}\, 4)$, $l \equiv 3 \, (\mathrm{mod}\, 4)$ which implies $m = m_1 l \equiv 3 \, (\mathrm{mod}\, 4)$ and $n = n_1 l \equiv 3 \, (\mathrm{mod}\, 4)$;

ii) Let $c \equiv 3 \, (\mathrm{mod}\, 4)$, $l = c-2$, $m_1 = c+4$ and $n_1 = c$. Then $l \equiv 1 \, (\mathrm{mod}\, 4)$, $m_1 \equiv 3 \, (\mathrm{mod}\, 4)$, $n_1 \equiv 3 \, (\mathrm{mod}\, 4)$ which implies $m = m_1 l \equiv 3 \, (\mathrm{mod}\, 4)$ and $n = n_1 l \equiv 3 \, (\mathrm{mod}\, 4)$.

Since, in both cases, we have $(m, n) \equiv (3, 3) \, (\mathrm{mod}\, 4)$, similarly as in Section 3, according to [15], we obtain the system

$$(c-2)\, U^2 - cV^2 = \pm F_1 \tag{19}$$

$$(c-2)\, Z^2 - (c+4)\, V^2 = \pm F_2 \tag{20}$$

$$cZ^2 - (c+4)\, U^2 = \pm 4F_3, \tag{21}$$

where

$$U = 2x_2 + x_3, \;\; V = x_4, \;\; Z = x_3, \tag{22}$$

and from Lemma [15, Lemma 1] we obtain that

$$\pm (c+4)\, F_1 \pm cF_2 = \pm 4\, (c-2)\, F_3 \tag{23}$$

must hold. In this case the integral basis of L_c is

$$\left\{ 1, \; \sqrt{(c-2)\,(c+4)}, \; \frac{\sqrt{(c-2)\,(c+4)} + \sqrt{(c-2)\, c}}{2}, \; \frac{1 + \sqrt{c\,(c+4)}}{2} \right\}$$

and its discriminant is $D = (4c\,(c-2)\,(c+4))^2$.

Now we will calculate the field index $m\,(L_c)$ of L_c. We form differences $d_1 = m_1 - l = 6$, $d_2 = n_1 - l = 2$, $d_3 = m_1 - n_1 = 4$. Since neither 3 nor 4 divides all three differences d_1, d_2, d_3, according to [13, Theorem 4], we conclude $m\,(L_c) = 1$. Therefore, we have proved statement *i)* of Theorem 2.

Will apply the same strategy of searching the minimal index and all elements with minimal index as in previous case. Observe that if $(\pm F_1, \pm F_2, \pm 4F_3) = (-2, -6, -4)$, then system (19), (20) and (21) has solutions $(U, V, Z) = (\pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 1)$ which implies that $\mu\,(L_c) =: \mu\,(c) \leq 12$.

Also, if $c = 3$ and $(\pm F_1, \pm F_2, \pm 4F_3) = (1, 1, -4)$, then system (19), (20) and (21) has solutions $(U, V, Z) = (\pm 1, 0, \pm 1)$ which implies that $\mu\,(3) = 1$, i.e. field L_3 is monogenic. In [15, p. 109] it can be found that $\mu\,(3) = 1$ and all elements with minimal index are given by $(x_2, x_3, x_4) = \pm(-1, 1, 0), \pm(0, 1, 0)$.

4.1 Case $c \geq 7$

Let $c \equiv 1 (\mathrm{mod}\, 2)$, $c \not\equiv 2 (\mathrm{mod}\, 3)$, $c \geq 7$. First suppose that (U, V, Z) is a non-negative integer solution of the system of equations (19), (20) and (21) with $F_1 F_2 F_3 \leq 12$. If one of the integers U, V, Z is equal to zero, then (19), (20) and (21) imply that other two integers are not equal to zero. Thus we have:

i) If $V = 0$, then (19) and (20) imply

$$(c-2)\, U^2 = \pm F_1, \quad (c-2)\, Z^2 = \pm F_2.$$

Therefrom we have $F_1 F_2 = (c-2)^2 Z^2 U^2 \leq 12$. If $c \geq 7$ and $U,\, Z \neq 0$ we obtain a contradiction.

ii) If $Z = 0$, then (20) and (21) imply

$$-(c+4)\, V^2 = \pm F_2, \quad -(c+4)\, U^2 = \pm 4F_3.$$

Therefrom we have $F_2 F_3 = \frac{(c+4)^2}{4} U^2 V^2 \leq 12$. Since $c \geq 7$ and $U,\, V \neq 0$ we obtain a contradiction.

iii) If $U = 0$, then (19) and (21) imply

$$-cV^2 = \pm F_1, \quad cZ^2 = \pm 4F_3.$$

Therefrom we have $F_1 F_3 = \frac{c^2}{4} V^2 Z^2 \leq 12$ and Z is an even integer. Since $c \geq 7$, $V \neq 0$ and $Z^2 \geq 4$ we obtain a contradiction.

Let (U, V, Z) be positive integer solution of the system of Pellian equations

$$(c-2)\, U^2 - cV^2 = \lambda_1, \tag{24}$$

$$cZ^2 - (c+4)\, U^2 = \lambda_3, \tag{25}$$

where λ_1 and λ_3 are non-zero integers such that $|\lambda_1| \leq 12$ and $|\lambda_3| \leq 48$. We have

$$\left|\sqrt{\frac{c}{c-2}} - \frac{U}{V}\right| = \left|\frac{c}{c-2} - \frac{U^2}{V^2}\right| \cdot \left|\sqrt{\frac{c}{c-2}} + \frac{U}{V}\right|^{-1}$$

$$< \frac{|\lambda_1|}{(c-2)\, V^2} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{c-2}{c}} \leq \frac{12}{\sqrt{c\,(c-2)} V^2} \leq \begin{cases} \frac{3}{V^2}, & \text{if } c = 7 \\ \frac{2}{V^2}, & \text{if } c = 9, 13 \\ \frac{1}{V^2}, & \text{if } c \geq 15 \end{cases}$$

and

$$\left|\sqrt{\frac{c+4}{c}} - \frac{Z}{U}\right| = \left|\frac{c+4}{c} - \frac{Z^2}{U^2}\right| \cdot \left|\sqrt{\frac{c+4}{c}} + \frac{Z}{U}\right|^{-1}$$

$$< \frac{|\lambda_3|}{cU^2} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{c}{c+4}} \leq \frac{48}{\sqrt{c\,(c+4)} U^2} \leq \frac{M}{U^2},$$

where $M = 1$ if $c \geq 49$, $M = 2$ if $25 \leq c \leq 45$, $M = 3$ if $15 \leq c \leq 21$, $M = 4$ if $c = 13$, $M = 5$ if $c = 9$ and $M = 6$ if $c = 7$.

Applying algorithm (13) to quadratic irrationals

$$\sqrt{\frac{c+4}{c}} = \frac{\sqrt{c(c+4)}}{c} \quad \text{and} \quad \sqrt{\frac{c}{c-2}} = \frac{\sqrt{c(c-2)}}{c-2}$$

we find that if $c > 1$ is an odd positive integer, than

$$\sqrt{\frac{c+4}{c}} = \left[1, \overline{\frac{c-1}{2}, 1, 2c+2, 1, \frac{c-1}{2}, 2}\right],$$
$$(s_0, t_0) = (0, c), (s_1, t_1) = (c, 4),$$
$$(s_2, t_2) = (c-2, 2c-1), (s_3, t_3) = (c+1, 1),$$
$$(s_4, t_4) = (c+1, 2c-1), (s_5, t_5) = (c-2, 4),$$
$$(s_6, t_6) = (c, c), (s_7, t_7) = (c, 4),$$

and

$$\sqrt{\frac{c}{c-2}} = \left[1, \overline{c-2, 2}\right], \text{ where } (s_0, t_0) = (0, c-2),$$
$$(s_1, t_1) = (c-2, 2), (s_2, t_2) = (c-2, c-2), (s_3, t_3) = (c-2, 2),$$

for all positive integers $c \geq 3$.

Now we will apply Theorem 3 and Lemma 1 in order to determine all values of λ_1 with $|\lambda_1| \leq 12$, for which equation (11) has solution in relatively prime integers and all values of λ_2 with $|\lambda_2| \leq 48$ for which equation (12) has solutions in relatively prime integers.

Since the period length of the continued fraction expansion of $\sqrt{\frac{c+4}{c}}$ is equal to 6 if $c > 1$ is odd, according to Lemma 1, we have to consider only the fractions $(rp_{n+1} + up_n)/(rq_{n+1} + uq_n)$ for $n = 0, 1, ..., 5$.

Since the period length of the continued fraction expansion of $\sqrt{\frac{c}{c-2}}$ is equal to 2, according to Lemma 1, we have to consider only the fractions $(rp_{n+1} + up_n)/(rq_{n+1} + uq_n)$ for $n = 0, 1$.

By checking all possibilities, it is now easy to prove the following results.

Proposition 5 *Let $c \geq 7$ be odd positive integer such that $c \not\equiv 2 \pmod 3$ and λ_1 be an non-zero integer such that $|\lambda_1| \leq 12$ and such that the equation (24) has a solution in relatively prime integers U and V.*

i) If $c \geq 15$, then

$$\lambda_1 \in A_1(c) = \{-2\}.$$

ii) If $c = 13$, then

$$\lambda_1 \in A_1(13) = \{-2, c-2\} = \{-2, 11\}.$$

iii) If $c = 9$, then

$$\lambda_1 \in A_1(9) = \{-2, -c, c-2\} = \{-2, -9, 7\}.$$

iv) If $c = 7$, then

$$\lambda_1 \in A_1(7) = \{-2, -c, c-2, 11c-72\} = \{-2, -7, 5\}.$$

Proposition 6 *Let $c \geq 7$ be odd positive integer such $c \not\equiv 2 \bmod 3$ and λ_3 be an non-zero integer such that $|\lambda_3| \leq 48$ and such that the equation (25) has a solution in relatively prime integers V and Z.*

i) If $c \geq 49$, then $\lambda_3 \in A_3(c) = \{-1, -4\}$.

ii) If $c = 45$, then $\lambda_3 \in A_3(c) = \{-1, -4, c\} = \{-1, -4, 45\}$.

iii) If $25 \leq c \leq 43$, then $\lambda_3 \in A_3(c) = \{-1, -4, -c-4, c\}$.

iv) If $c = 21$, then

$$\lambda_3 \in A_3(c) = \{-1, -4, 2c-1, -c-4, c\} = \{-1, -4, 41, -25, 21\}.$$

v) If $c = 19$, then

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_3 \in A_3(c) &= \{-1, -4, -2c-9, 2c-1, -c-4, c\} \\ &= \{-1, -4, -47, 37, -23, 19\}.\end{aligned}$$

vi) If $c = 15$, then

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_3 \in A_3(c) &= \{-1, -4, -2c-9, 2c-1, -c-4, 3c-4, c\} \\ &= \{-1, -4, -39, 29, -19, 41, 15\}.\end{aligned}$$

vii) If $c = 13$, then

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_3 \in A_3(c) = \{&-1, -4, 4c-9, -2c-9, 12c-121, 14c-169, 16c-225, \\ &2c-1, -c-4, 3c-4, 11c-100, 13c-144, 15c-196, c\} \\ = \{&-1, -4, 43, -35, 35, 13, -17, 25\}.\end{aligned}$$

viii) If $c = 9$, then

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_3 \in A_3(c) = \{&-1, -4, 4c-9, -2c-9, 4c, 6c-25, 8c-49, 10c-81, \\ &12c-121, 14c-169, 16c-225, 2c-1, -c-4, 3c-4, 5c-16, \\ &7c-36, 9c-64, 11c-100, -3c-16, 13c-144, c\} \\ = \{&-1, -4, 27, -27, 36, 29, 23, 9, -13, -43, 17\}.\end{aligned}$$

ix) If $c = 7$, then

$$\lambda_3 \in A_3(c) = \{-1, -4, 4c-9, -2c-9, 4c, 6c-25, 8c-49, 10c-81, \\ 12c-121, 6c-1, -4c-16, 2c-1, -c-4, 3c-4, 5c-16, 7c-36, 9c-64, \\ 11c-100, -3c-16, 5c-16, 9c-64, 11c-100, -3c-16, 5c-16, c\}$$

$$= \{-1, -4, 19, -23, 28, 17, 7, -11, -37, 41, -44, 13\}.$$

Corollary 2 *Let $c \geq 7$ be odd positive integer such $c \not\equiv 2 (\mathrm{mod}\, 3)$.*

i) Let (U, V) be positive integer solution of the equation (19) such that $\gcd(U, V) = d$ and $F_1 \leq 12d^2$. Then

$$\pm F_1 \in \left\{\lambda_1 d^2 : \lambda_1 \in A_1(c)\right\},$$

where sets $A_1(c)$ are given in Proposition 5.

ii) Let (V, Z) be positive integer solution of the equation (20) such that $\gcd(V, Z) = g$ and $4F_3 \leq 48g^2$. Then

$$\pm 4F_3 \in \left\{\lambda_3 g^2 : \lambda_3 \in A_3(c)\right\},$$

where sets $A_3(c)$ are given in Proposition 6.

Proof. Directly from Propositions 5 and 6. ∎

Proposition 7 *Let $c \geq 7$ be odd positive integer such $c \not\equiv 2 (\mathrm{mod}\, 3)$. Let (U, V, Z) be positive integer solution of the system of Pellian equations (19) and (20) where $\gcd(U, V) = d$, $\gcd(V, Z) = g$ and $F_1, F_3 \leq 12$. Then*

i)

$$(\pm F_1, \pm 4F_3) \in B(c) \times D(c),$$

where $B(c) = B_0 \cup B_1(c)$, $D(c) = D_0 \cup D_1(c)$ and

$$B_0 = \{-2, -8\}, \quad D_0 = \{-4, -16, -36\},$$
$$B_1(7) = \{5, -7\}, \; B_1(9) = \{7, -9\}, \; B_1(13) = \{11\}, \; B_1(c) = \emptyset, c \geq 15,$$
$$D_1(7) = \{28, -44\}, \; D_1(9) = \{36\}, \; D_1(c) = \emptyset, c \geq 13.$$

ii) Additionally, if $F_1 F_3 \leq 12$, then $(\pm F_1, \pm 4F_3) \in S(c)$ where $S(c) = S_0 \cup S_1(c)$ and

$$S_0 = \{(-2, -4), (-2, -16), (-8, -4)\},$$
$$S_1(7) = \{(5, -4), (-7, -4)\}, \; S_1(9) = \{(7, -4), (-9, -4)\},$$
$$S_1(13) = \{(11, -4)\} \text{ and } S_1(c) = \emptyset \text{ for } c \geq 15.$$

Proof.

i) From Corollary 2 we have $\pm F_1 \in \left\{\lambda_1 d^2 : \lambda_1 \in A_1(c)\right\}$ and $\pm 4F_3 \in \left\{\lambda_3 g^2 : \ \lambda_3 \in A_3(c)\right\}$ where sets $A_1(c)$ and $A_3(c)$ are given in Propositions 5 and 6, respectively.

a) For all $c \geq 7$ we have $\pm F_1 = -2d^2$. Additionally, we have $\pm F_1 = (c-2)\, d^2$ if $c \leq 13$ and $\pm F_1 = -cd^2$ if $c \leq 9$. Since $F_1 \leq 12$, we obtain:

i. $F_1 = 2d^2 \leq 12$ implies $d = 1, 2$, i.e. $\pm F_1 = -2, -8$;

ii. $F_1 = (c-2)\, d^2 \leq 12$ implies $d \leq \sqrt{\frac{12}{c-2}} < 2$. Thus, $\pm F_1 = 5$ for $c = 7$, $\pm F_1 = 7$ for $c = 9$ and $\pm F_1 = 11$ for $c = 13$;

iii. $F_1 = cd^2 \leq 12$ implies $d \leq \sqrt{\frac{12}{c}} < 2$. Thus, $\pm F_1 = -7$ for $c = 7$ and $\pm F_1 = -9$ for $c = 9$.

Therefrom, we obtain sets $B(c)$.

b) For all $c \geq 7$ we have $\pm 4F_3 = -g^2,\ -4g$. Since $F_3 \leq 12$, we obtain:

i. $4F_3 = g^2 \leq 48$ implies $g = 2, 4, 6$, i.e. $\pm 4F_3 = -4, -16, -36$;

ii. $4F_3 = 4g^2 \leq 48$ implies $g = 1, 2, 3$. Thus, $\pm 4F_3 = -4, -16, -36$.

Additionally, we have $\pm 4F_3 = cg^2$ if $c \leq 45$, $\pm 4F_3 = (-c-4)\, g^2$ if $c \leq 43$, $\pm 4F_3 = (2c-1)\, g^2$ if $c \leq 21$, $\pm 4F_3 = (-2c-9)\, g^2$ if $c \leq 19$, $\pm 4F_3 = (3c-4)\, g^2$ if $c \leq 15$, $\pm 4F_3 = (4c-9)\, g^2$, $(12c-121)\, g^2$, $(11c-100)\, g^2$ if $c \leq 13$, $\pm 4F_3 = 36g^2, 29g^2, 23g^2, -43g^2$ if $c = 9$ and $\pm 4F_3 = 28g^2, 17g^2, 41g^2, -44g^2$ if $c = 7$. Similarly, since $F_3 \leq 12$, we obtain:

iii. $4F_3 = cg^2 \leq 48$ implies $g = 2$ if $c = 7, 9$, i.e. $\pm 4F_3 = 28$ if $c = 7$ and $\pm 4F_3 = 36$ if $c = 9$;

iv. $4F_3 = (c+4)\, g^2 \leq 48$ implies $g = 2$ if $c = 7$, i.e. $\pm 4F_3 = -44$ if $c = 7$;

v. $4F_3 = |11c - 100|\, g^2 \leq 48$ implies $g = 2$ if $c = 9$, i.e. $\pm 4F_3 = -4$ if $c = 9$;

vi. $4F_3 = 36g^2 \leq 48$ implies $g = 1$, i.e. $\pm 4F_3 = 36$ if $c = 9$;

vii. $4F_3 = 28g^2 \leq 48$ implies $g = 1$, i.e. $\pm 4F_3 = 28$ if $c = 7$;

viii. $4F_3 = 44g^2 \leq 48$ implies $g = 1$, i.e. $\pm 4F_3 = -44$ if $c = 7$.

All other cases imply a contradiction. Therefrom, we get sets $D(c)$.

ii) Directly from *i)* since $S(c) = \{(s, t) \in B(c) \times D(c) : |s| \cdot |t| \leq 48\}$.

■

If system (19), (20) and (21) has solution for some positive integers F_1, F_2, F_3, $F_1F_2F_3 \leq 12$, then $(\pm F_1, \pm 4F_3) \in S(c)$, where set $S(c)$ is given in Proposition 7 and triple $(\pm F_1, \pm F_2, \pm 4F_3)$ satisfies one of the equations in (23). First, for each pair $(\pm F_1, \pm 4F_3) \in S(c)$ we check if there exist $F_2 \in \mathbb{N}$, $F_1F_2F_3 \leq 12$ such that any of the equations (23) holds. For all pairs of the form $(\pm F_1, \pm 4F_3) = (s,t)$ condition $F_1F_2F_3 \leq 12$ is satisfied if $F_2 \in F(s,t) = \{k \in \mathbb{N} : k\,|s|\,|t| \leq 48\}$. Therefore, for each pair $(s,t) \in S(c)$ and for each $k \in F(s,t)$, we have to check if any of these four equations

$$(c+4)\,s + (c-2)\,t = \pm ck \quad \text{or} \quad (c+4)\,s - (c-2)\,t = \pm ck \tag{26}$$

holds. For example, if $c \geq 7$, then $(\pm F_1, \pm 4F_3) = (-2,-4) \in S(c)$. From (26) we obtain

$$-6c = \pm ck \quad \text{or} \quad 2c - 16 = \pm ck.$$

Since $k \in F(-2,-4) = \{1,2,3,4,5,6\}$ the only possibility is $\pm F_2 = -6$. We proceed similarly for every element from set $S(c)$, $c \geq 7$. The only triple we obtain on this way is $(\pm F_1, \pm F_2, \pm 4F_3) = (-2,-6,-4)$ and the corresponding system is

$$(c-2)\,U^2 - cV^2 = -2 \tag{27}$$

$$(c-2)\,Z^2 - (c+4)\,V^2 = -6 \tag{28}$$

$$cZ^2 - (c+4)\,U^2 = -4. \tag{29}$$

Since this system has solution $(U,V,Z) = (\pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 1)$, we have $\mu(c) = 12$ for all $c \equiv 1 \,(\mathrm{mod}\, 2)$, $c \not\equiv 2 (\mathrm{mod}\, 3)$, $c \geq 7$.

Next step is finding all elements with minimal index. Therefore we have to solve system (27), (28) and (29). It will be done in Section 4.3.

4.2 Case $c = 3$

Let $c = 3$. In this case equations (19), (20) and (21) have a form

$$U^2 - 3V^2 = \pm F_1 \tag{30}$$

$$Z^2 - 7V^2 = \pm F_2 \tag{31}$$

$$3Z^2 - 7U^2 = \pm 4F_3 \tag{32}$$

and equation (23) has a form

$$\pm 7F_1 \pm 3F_2 = \pm 4F_3. \tag{33}$$

Since $\mu(3) = F_1F_2F_3 = 1$, we have to observe 8 systems of the form (30), (31) and (32) with $(\pm F_1, \pm F_2, \pm 4F_3) = (\pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 4)$. Suppose that (U,V,Z) is a nonnegative integer solution of one of those 8 system. If $\pm F_1 = -1$, from (30) we obtain $U^2 = 2 (\mathrm{mod}\, 3)$ which gives a contradiction. Therefore $\pm F_1 = 1$. If $\pm 4F_3 = 4$ from (32) we obtain $2U^2 = 1 (\mathrm{mod}\, 3)$ which gives a contradiction. Therefore $\pm 4F_3 = -4$.

Hence, if system (30), (31) and (32) has solution for some positive integers F_1, F_2, F_3, $F_1F_2F_3 = 1$, then $(\pm F_1, \pm 4F_3) = (1,-4)$ and triple $(\pm F_1, \pm F_2, \pm 4F_3)$ satisfies one of the equations in (33). If $(\pm F_1, \pm 4F_3) = (1,-4)$, then (33) implies

$\pm F_2 = 1$. Therefore, only triple we obtain is $(\pm F_1, \pm F_2, \pm 4F_3) = (1, 1, -4)$ and the corresponding system is

$$U^2 - 3V^2 = 1 \tag{34}$$

$$Z^2 - 7V^2 = 1 \tag{35}$$

$$3Z^2 - 7U^2 = -4. \tag{36}$$

In [1] Anglin showed that system (34) and (35) has only the trivial solutions $(U, V, Z) = (\pm 1, 0, \pm 1)$. Now using (22), we find that all integral elements with minimal index are given by $(x_2, x_3, x_4) = \pm(-1, 1, 0), \pm(0, 1, 0)$. This finishes the proof of Theorem 2 for $c = 3$.

4.3 Finding all elements with minimal index

Now, we have to solve system (27), (28) and (29) that is obtained in Section 4.1. That system is very suitable for application of method given in [7]. We will prove the following result

Theorem 4 *Let $c \geq 7$ be an odd integer. The only solutions to system (27), (28) and (29) are $(U, V, Z) = (\pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 1)$.*

Therefrom we have following corollary which finishes the proof of Theorem 2.

Corollary 3 *Let $c \geq 7$ be an odd positive integer such that c, $c-2$, $c+4$ are square-free integers relatively prime in pairs. Then all integral elements with minimal index in the field (2) are given by $(x_2, x_3, x_4) = \pm(0, 1, 1), \pm(0, 1, -1), \pm(1, -1, -1), \pm(1, -1, 1)$.*

Proof. Since all solutions of the system (27), (28) and (29) are given by $(U, V, Z) = (\pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 1)$ and since in this case we have $U = 2x_2 + x_3$, $V = x_4$, $Z = x_3$ we obtain

$$x_4 = \pm 1,\ 2x_2 + x_3 = \pm 1,\ x_3 = \pm 1,$$

which implies $(x_2, x_3, x_4) = \pm(0, 1, 1), \pm(0, 1, -1), \pm(1, -1, -1), \pm(1, -1, 1)$. ■

In order to prove Theorem 4, first we will find a lower bound for solutions of this system using the "congruence method" introduced in [9]. The comparison of this lower bound with an upper bound obtained from a theorem of Bennett [4] on simultaneous approximations of algebraic numbers finishes the proof for $c \geq 292023$. For $c \leq 292022$ we use a theorem a Baker and Wüstholz [3] and a version of the reduction procedure due to Baker and Davenport [2].

Lemma 2 *Let (U, V, Z) be positive integer solution of the system of Pellian equations (27) and (29). Then there exist nonnegative integers m and n such that*

$$U = u_m = v_n,$$

where the sequences (u_m), (v_n) *are given by*

$$u_0 = 1, \quad u_1 = 2c - 1, \quad u_{m+2} = (2c-2)\,u_{m+1} - u_m, \quad m \geq 0, \tag{37}$$

$$v_0 = 1, \quad v_1 = c + 1, \quad v_{n+2} = (c+2)\,v_{n+1} - v_n, \quad n \geq 0. \tag{38}$$

Proof. If (U, V) is solution of equation (27) then there exist $m \geq 0$ such that $U = u_m$ where sequence (u_m) is given by (37) (see [7, Lemma 2]).
Let $Z_1 = cZ$, then equation (29) is equivalent to equation

$$Z_1^2 - c\,(c+4)\,U^2 = -4c. \tag{39}$$

It is obvious that $(a_1, b_1) = (c+2, 1)$ is fundamental solutions of equation

$$A^2 - c\,(c+4)\,B^2 = 4.$$

By [22, Theorem 2], it follows that if (z_0, v_0) is the fundamental solution of a class of equation (39), than inequalities

$$0 < |z_0| \leq \sqrt{(a_1 - 2) \cdot c} = c$$
$$0 < v_0 \leq \frac{b_1}{\sqrt{(a_1 - 2)}}\sqrt{c} = 1$$

must hold. This implies that $(z_0, v_0) = (c, 1)$ and $(z_0', v_0') = (-c, 1)$ are possible fundamental solution of equation (39). Since

$$z_0 v_0' \equiv z_0' v_0 (\operatorname{mod} 2c),$$

these solutions belong to the same class (see [22, Theorem 4]). Therefore we have only one fundamental solution $(z_0, v_0) = (c, 1)$. Now, all solutions (z, v) of equation (39) in positive integers are given by $(Z_1, U) = (z_n, v_n)$ where

$$z_n + v_n\sqrt{c\,(c+4)} = \left(c + \sqrt{c\,(c+4)}\right)\left(\frac{c + 2 + \sqrt{c\,(c+4)}}{2}\right)^n \tag{40}$$

and n is nonnegative integer (see [22, Theorem 3]). From (40) we obtain that if (Z, U) is solution of equation (27) then there exist $n \geq 0$ such that $U = v_n$ where sequence (v_n) is given by (38). ∎

Therefore, in order to prove Theorem 4, it suffices to show that $v_m = w_n$ implies $m = n = 0$.

Solving recurrences (37) and (38) we find

$$u_m = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{c-2}}\Big[(\sqrt{c} + \sqrt{c-2})\Big(c - 1 + \sqrt{c(c-2)}\Big)^m - (\sqrt{c} - \sqrt{c-2})\Big(c - 1 - \sqrt{c(c-2)}\Big)^m\Big], \tag{41}$$

$$v_n = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{c+4}}\Big[(\sqrt{c} + \sqrt{c+4})\Big(\frac{c + 2 + \sqrt{c\,(c+4)}}{2}\Big)^n - (\sqrt{c} - \sqrt{c+4})\Big(\frac{c + 2 - \sqrt{c\,(c+4)}}{2}\Big)^n\Big]. \tag{42}$$

4.3.1 Congruence relations

Now we will find a lower bound for nontrivial solutions using the congruence method.

Lemma 3 *Let the sequences* (u_m) *and* (v_n) *be defined by (37) and (38), respectively. Then for all* $m, n \geq 0$ *we have*

$$u_m \equiv (-1)^{m-1} (m(m+1)c - 1) \pmod{4c^2}, \tag{43}$$

$$v_n \equiv \frac{n(n+1)}{2} c + 1 \pmod{c^2} . \tag{44}$$

Proof. We have obtained congruence (43) in [7, Lemma 3]. Congruence (44) is easy to prove by induction. ■

Suppose that m and n are positive integers such that $u_m = v_n$. Then, of course, $u_m \equiv v_n \pmod{c^2}$. By Lemma 3, we have $(-1)^m \equiv 1 \pmod{c}$ and therefore m is even.

Assume that $n(n+1) < \frac{2}{3}c$. Since $m \leq n$ we also have $m(m+1) < \frac{2}{3}c$. Furthermore, Lemma 3 implies

$$1 - m(m+1)c \equiv \frac{n(n+1)}{2} c + 1 \pmod{c^2}$$

and

$$-m(m+1) \equiv \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \pmod{c}. \tag{45}$$

Consider the positive integer

$$A = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + m(m+1).$$

We have $0 < A < c$ and, by (45), $A \equiv 0 \pmod{c}$, a contradiction.

Hence $n(n+1) \geq \frac{2}{3}c$ and it implies $n > \sqrt{0.703c} - 0.5$. Therefore we proved

Proposition 8 *If* $u_m = v_n$ *and* $m \neq 0$*, then* $n > \sqrt{0.703c} - 0.5$.

4.3.2 An application of a theorem of Bennett

It is clear that the solutions of the system (27) and (29) induce good rational approximations to the numbers

$$\theta_1 = \sqrt{\frac{c-2}{c}} \quad \text{and} \quad \theta_2 = \sqrt{\frac{c+4}{c}} .$$

More precisely, we have

Lemma 4 *All positive integer solutions* (U, V, Z) *of the system of Pellian equations (27) and (29) satisfy*

$$|\theta_1 - \frac{V}{U}| < \frac{1}{\sqrt{c\,(c-2)}} \cdot U^{-2}, \qquad |\theta_2 - \frac{Z}{U}| < \frac{2}{\sqrt{c\,(c+4)}} \cdot U^{-2}.$$

Proof. We have

$$\left|\sqrt{\frac{c-2}{c}}-\frac{V}{U}\right|=\left|\frac{c-2}{c}-\frac{V^2}{U^2}\right|\cdot\left|\sqrt{\frac{c-2}{c}}+\frac{V}{U}\right|^{-1}$$
$$<\frac{2}{cU^2}\cdot\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{c}{c-2}}=\frac{1}{\sqrt{c\,(c-2)}}\cdot U^{-2}$$

and

$$\left|\sqrt{\frac{c+4}{c}}-\frac{Z}{U}\right|=\left|\frac{c+4}{c}-\frac{Z^2}{U^2}\right|\cdot\left|\sqrt{\frac{c+4}{c}}+\frac{Z}{U}\right|^{-1}$$
$$<\frac{4}{cU^2}\cdot\sqrt{\frac{c}{c+4}}=\frac{4}{\sqrt{c\,(c+4)}}\cdot U^{-2}$$

■

The numbers θ_1 and θ_2 are square roots of rationals which are very close to 1. For simultaneous Diophantine approximations to such kind of numbers we will use the following theorem of Bennett [4, Theorem 3.2].

Theorem 5 *If a_i, p_i, q and N are integers for $0 \le i \le 2$, with $a_0 < a_1 < a_2$, $a_j = 0$ for some $0 \le j \le 2$, q nonzero and $N > M^9$, where*

$$M = \max_{0\le i\le 2}\{|a_i|\} \ge 3,$$

then we have

$$\max_{0\le i\le 2}\left\{\left|\sqrt{1+\frac{a_i}{N}}-\frac{p_i}{q}\right|\right\} > (130N\gamma)^{-1}q^{-\lambda}$$

where

$$\lambda = 1+\frac{\log(32.04N\gamma)}{\log\left(1.68N^2\prod_{0\le i<j\le 2}(a_i-a_j)^{-2}\right)}$$

and

$$\gamma = \begin{cases} \frac{(a_2-a_0)^2(a_2-a_1)^2}{2a_2-a_0-a_1} & \text{if } a_2-a_1 \ge a_1-a_0, \\ \frac{(a_2-a_0)^2(a_1-a_0)^2}{a_1+a_2-2a_0} & \text{if } a_2-a_1 < a_1-a_0. \end{cases}$$

We will apply Theorem 5 with $a_0 = -2$, $a_1 = 0$, $a_2 = 4$, $N = c$, $M = 4$, $q = U$, $p_0 = V$, $p_1 = U$, $p_2 = Z$. If $c \ge 262\,145$, then the condition $N > M^9$ is satisfied and we obtain

$$(130\cdot c\cdot\frac{288}{5})^{-1}U^{-\lambda} < \frac{4}{\sqrt{c\,(c+4)}}\cdot U^{-2}\,. \tag{46}$$

If $c \ge 281220$ then $2-\lambda > 0$ and (46) implies

$$\log U < \frac{10.082}{2-\lambda}\,. \tag{47}$$

Furthermore,

$$\frac{1}{2-\lambda} = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{\log(32.04 \cdot c^{\frac{288}{5}})}{\log(1.68c^2 \frac{1}{256})}} < \frac{\log\left(0.00657c^2\right)}{\log(0.00000355c)}\,.$$

On the other hand, from (42) we find that

$$v_n > 0.88\Big(\frac{c+2-\sqrt{c\,(c+4)}}{2}\Big)^n > (0.88c + 0.88)^n,$$

and Proposition 8 implies that if $(m,n) \neq (0,0)$, then

$$U > (0.88c + 0.88)^{\sqrt{0.703c} - 0.5}\,.$$

Therefore,

$$\log U > (\sqrt{0.703c} - 0.5)\log(0.88c + 0.88). \tag{48}$$

Combining (47) and (48) we obtain

$$\sqrt{0.703c} - 0.5 < \frac{10.082\log\left(0.00657c^2\right)}{\log(0.88c + 0.88)\log(0.00000355c)} \tag{49}$$

and (49) yields a contradiction if $c \geq 292023$. Therefore we proved

Proposition 9 *If c is an integer such that $c \geq 292023$, then the only solution of the equation $u_m = v_n$ is $(m,n) = (0,0)$.*

4.3.3 The Baker-Davenport method

In this section we will apply so called Baker-Davenport reduction method in order to prove Theorem 4 for $7 \leq c \leq 292022$.

Lemma 5 *If $u_m = v_n$ and $m \neq 0$, then*

$$0 < m\log\left(c - 1 + \sqrt{c(c-2)}\right) - n\log\Big(\frac{c+2+\sqrt{c\,(c+4)}}{2}\Big) + \log\frac{\sqrt{c+4}(\sqrt{c} + \sqrt{c-2})}{\sqrt{c-2}(\sqrt{c} + \sqrt{c+4})} < 0.23912\left(\frac{c+2+\sqrt{c\,(c+4)}}{2}\right)^{-2n}.$$

Proof. In standard way (for e.g. see [7, Lemma 5]). ■

Now we will apply the following theorem of Baker and Wüstholz [3]:

Theorem 6 *For a linear form $\Lambda \neq 0$ in logarithms of l algebraic numbers $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_l$ with rational integer coefficients $b_1, \ldots, b_l$ we have*

$$\log\Lambda \geq -18(l+1)!\, l^{l+1}(32d)^{l+2}h'(\alpha_1)\cdots h'(\alpha_l)\log(2ld)\log B\,,$$

where $B = \max\{|b_1|, \ldots, |b_l|\}$, and where d is the degree of the number field generated by $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_l$.

Here

$$h'(\alpha) = \frac{1}{d} \max \{h(\alpha), |\log \alpha|, 1\},$$

and $h(\alpha)$ denotes the standard logarithmic Weil height of α.

We will apply Theorem 6 to the form from Lemma 5. We have $l = 3$, $d = 4$, $B = n$,

$$\alpha_1 = c - 1 + \sqrt{c(c-2)}, \qquad \alpha_2 = \frac{c+2+\sqrt{c\,(c+4)}}{2},$$

$$\alpha_3 = \frac{\sqrt{c+4}(\sqrt{c}+\sqrt{c-2})}{\sqrt{c-2}(\sqrt{c}+\sqrt{c+4})}.$$

Under the assumption that $7 \leq c \leq 292022$ we find that

$$h'(\alpha_1) = \frac{1}{2}\log \alpha_1 < \frac{1}{2}\log 2c, \qquad h'(\alpha_2) = \frac{1}{2}\log \alpha_2 < 6.2924.$$

Furthermore, $\alpha_3 < 1.2145$, and the conjugates of α_3 satisfy

$$|\alpha_3'| = \frac{\sqrt{c+4}(\sqrt{c}-\sqrt{c-2})}{\sqrt{c-2}(\sqrt{c}+\sqrt{c+4})} < 1,$$

$$|\alpha_3''| = \frac{\sqrt{c+4}(\sqrt{c}+\sqrt{c-2})}{\sqrt{c-2}(\sqrt{c+4}-\sqrt{c})} < 292025.51$$

$$|\alpha_3'''| = \frac{\sqrt{c+4}(\sqrt{c}-\sqrt{c-2})}{\sqrt{c-2}(\sqrt{c+4}-\sqrt{c})} < 1.$$

Therefore,

$$h'(\alpha_3) < \frac{1}{4}\log\left[16\,(c-2)^2 \cdot 1.2145 \cdot 292025.51\right] < 10.181.$$

Finally,

$$\log\left[0.239\,12\left(\frac{c+2+\sqrt{c\,(c+4)}}{2}\right)^{-2n}\right] < -2n\log(2c)\,.$$

Hence, Theorem 6 implies

$$2n\log(2c) < 3.822 \cdot 10^{15} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \log(2c) \cdot 6.2924. \cdot 10.181 \log n$$

and

$$\frac{n}{\log n} < 6.12122 \cdot 10^{16}. \tag{50}$$

which implies $n < 2.59542 \times 10^{18}$.

We may reduce this large upper bound using a variant of the Baker-Davenport reduction procedure [2]. The following lemma is a slight modification of [9, Lemma 5 a)]:

Lemma 6 *Assume that M is a positive integer. Let p/q be a convergent of the continued fraction expansion of κ such that $q > 10M$ and let $\varepsilon = \|\mu q\| - M \cdot \|\kappa q\|$, where $\|\cdot\|$ denotes the distance from the nearest integer. If $\varepsilon > 0$, then there is no solution of the inequality*

$$0 < m - n\kappa + \mu < AB^{-n}$$

in integers m and n with

$$\frac{\log(Aq/\varepsilon)}{\log B} \leq n \leq M\,.$$

We apply Lemma 6 with

$$\kappa = \frac{\log \alpha_2}{\log \alpha_1}, \qquad \mu = \frac{\log \alpha_3}{\log \alpha_1}, \qquad A = \frac{0.239\,12}{\log \alpha_1},$$

$$B = \Big(\frac{c+2+\sqrt{c\,(c+4)}}{2}\Big)^2 \quad \text{and} \quad M = 2.59542 \times 10^{18}.$$

If the first convergent such that $q > 10M$ does not satisfy the condition $\varepsilon > 0$, then we use the next convergent.

We performed the reduction from Lemma 6 for $7 \leq c \leq 292022$. The use of the second convergent was necessary in 3686 cases ($\approx$ 3.63%), the third convergent was used in 209 cases ($\approx$ 0.07%), the forth in 37 cases, the fifth convergent is used in only one case: $c = 169901$. In all cases we obtained $n \leq 7$. More precisely, we obtained $n \leq 7$ for $c \geq 7$; $n \leq 6$ for $c \geq 9$; $n \leq 5$ for $c \geq 14$; $n \leq 4$ for $c \geq 57$; $n \leq 3$ for $c \geq 144$; $n \leq 2$ for $c \geq 1442$. The next step of the reduction in all cases gives $n \leq 1$, which completes the proof.

Therefore, we proved

Proposition 10 *If c is an integer such that $7 \leq c \leq 292022$, then the only solution of the equation $v_m = w_n$ is $(m,n) = (0,0)$.*

Proof of Theorem 4. The statement follows directly from Propositions 9 and 10.

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Department of Mathematics, University of Split, Teslina 12, 21000 Split, Croatia

E-mail address: borka@pmfst.hr