

**THE FUNCTOR K_2 FOR THE RING OF INTEGERS
OF A NUMBER FIELD**

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Let O_F be the ring of integers of a number field F . In the present paper we give some results on the group $K_2 O_F$, where K_2 is the functor of Milnor.

D. Quillen proved [7] that the sequence

$$(1) \quad 0 \rightarrow K_2 O_F \rightarrow K_2 F \xrightarrow{\tau} \sum_{v \text{ fin}} \bar{F}_v^* \rightarrow 0$$

is exact, where the sum is extended over all finite places v of the number field F , and the homomorphism τ is defined by tame symbols:

$$\{a, b\} \mapsto (a, b)_v = (-1)^{v(a)v(b)} a^{v(b)} b^{-v(a)} \pmod{v}.$$

The group $K_2 O_F$ is finite (see H. Garland [4]). C. Moore proved [6] that the following sequence is exact

$$(2) \quad 0 \rightarrow \mathfrak{K}_2 F \rightarrow K_2 F \xrightarrow{\eta} \sum_{v \text{ non c.}} \mu_v \xrightarrow{d} \mu \rightarrow 0,$$

where the sum is extended over all non-complex places v of F , μ (resp. μ_v) is the group of roots of unity in F (resp. in the completion F_v); the homomorphism η is defined by Hilbert symbols $\{a, b\} \mapsto [a, b]_v$ (for the definition see e.g. [5], § 15), $\mathfrak{K}_2 F = \text{Ker } \eta$, and the homomorphism d is given by the formula

$$d((a_v)_{v \text{ non c.}}) = \prod_{v \text{ non c.}} a_v^{m_v/m},$$

where $m = |\mu|$, $m_v = |\mu_v|$.

It is known [1] that for any finite place v

$$(3) \quad [a, b]_v^{m_v/(N^v-1)} = (a, b)_v$$

holds, where $Nv = |\overline{F}_v|$ is the number of elements of the residue class field \overline{F}_v . Consequently $\text{Ker } \eta \subset \text{Ker } \tau$, i.e. the Hilbert kernel $\mathfrak{R}_2 F$ is a subgroup of the tame kernel $K_2 O_F$.

We shall give a description of the quotient group $K_2 O_F / \mathfrak{R}_2 F$ for any number field F .

First we determine places v satisfying $m_v = Nv - 1$. For a finite place v let p be the prime number satisfying $v(p) > 0$; then we write $v|p$.

THEOREM 1. *For any field E satisfying $F \subset E \subset F_v$ let μ_E be the group of roots of unity in E , and let $m_E = |\mu_E|$. Then for every finite place v of F we have*

$$m_E \nmid Nv - 1 \Leftrightarrow \zeta_p \in E,$$

where ζ_p is a primitive p -th root of unity and $v|p$.

Proof. \Rightarrow . Let ζ be a generator of μ_E , and $\eta = \zeta^{Nv-1}$. Then $\eta \equiv 1 \pmod{v}$ and $\eta \neq 1$ by assumption. Hence

$$0 = 1 + \eta + \eta^2 + \dots + \eta^{m_E-1} \equiv m_E \pmod{v}.$$

Consequently $p|m_E$, i.e. $\zeta_p \in E$.

\Leftarrow . From $p|m_E$ and $p|Nv$ it follows that $m_E \nmid Nv - 1$.

COROLLARY 1. (i) $m \nmid Nv - 1 \Leftrightarrow \zeta_p \in F$,

(ii) $m_v \neq Nv - 1 \Leftrightarrow m_v \nmid Nv - 1 \Leftrightarrow \zeta_p \in F_v$.

Proof. Put in Theorem 1 $E = F$ and $E = F_v$, respectively. Moreover, from $Nv - 1|m_v$ it follows the first part of (ii).

COROLLARY 2. *If $m_v \neq Nv - 1$, then $p - 1$ divides the ramification index $e_v(F|Q)$. Consequently $p = 2$ or v ramifies.*

Proof. From Corollary 1 we have $\zeta_p \in F_v$. Since $e_v(F_v/F) = 1$ and $e_v(Q(\zeta_p)/Q) = p - 1$, in view of the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Q(\zeta_p) & \longrightarrow & F_v \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ Q & \longrightarrow & F \end{array}$$

we obtain $p - 1|e_v(F|Q)$.

COROLLARY 3. *For almost all places v the Hilbert symbol $[a, b]_v$ is equal to the tame symbol $(a, b)_v$.*

THEOREM 2. *The group $K_2 O_F / \mathfrak{R}_2 F$ is isomorphic to the abelian group defined by the generators g_v , where v runs through all real places of F , and*

such finite places that $\zeta_p \in F_v$ for $v|p$, and relations

$$\begin{aligned} g_v^2 &= 1 && \text{for } v \text{ real,} \\ g_v^{m_v / (Nv-1)} &= 1 && \text{for } v \text{ finite,} \\ \prod_{\substack{v \text{ real} \\ \zeta_p \in F \text{ for } v|p}} g_v \cdot \prod_{\substack{v \text{ finite} \\ \zeta_p \in F \text{ for } v|p}} g_v^{m_v / m} &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

Remark. In the last relation in general not all generators occur, because it can happen that $\zeta_p \in F_v$ and $\zeta_p \notin F$ for $v|p$.

Proof. We define a homomorphism

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda: \prod_{v \text{ non c.}} \mu_v &\rightarrow \prod_{v \text{ fin.}} \overline{F}_v^*, \\ \lambda(a_v) &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } v \text{ is real,} \\ a_v^{m_v / (Nv-1)} & \text{if } v \text{ is finite,} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

where $a_v \in \mu_v$.

From (1) and (2) we obtain the commutative diagram with exact rows and columns:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & 0 & & 0 & & \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \rightarrow & \mathfrak{R}_2 F & \rightarrow & K_2 F & \rightarrow & \text{Im } \eta \rightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{id} & & \downarrow \lambda \\ 0 & \rightarrow & K_2 O_F & \rightarrow & K_2 F & \rightarrow & \prod_{v \text{ fin.}} \overline{F}_v^* \rightarrow 0 \\ & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ & & & & 0 & & 0 \end{array}$$

By the snake lemma we conclude that the groups $K_2 O_F / \mathfrak{R}_2 F$ and $\text{Im } \eta \cap \text{Ker } \lambda$ are isomorphic.

Let ζ_v be a generator of the group μ_v for non-complex v . We may assume that $\zeta_v^{m_v / m} = \zeta_m$, where ζ_m is a fixed generator of the group μ . From the definition of λ it follows that the group $\mu_v \cap \text{Ker } \lambda$ is generated by

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta_v, & \quad \text{if } v \text{ is real,} \\ \zeta_v^{Nv-1}, & \quad \text{if } v \text{ is finite.} \end{aligned}$$

Consequently

$$\text{Ker } \lambda = \prod_{v \text{ real}} \mu_v \times \prod_{v \text{ fin.}} \mu_v^{Nv-1}.$$

From Corollary 2 it follows that the group $\text{Ker } \lambda$ is finite. The sequence

$$(4) \quad \dots \rightarrow \text{Ker } d_1 \rightarrow \text{Ker } \lambda \xrightarrow{d_1} \mu$$

is exact, where d_1 is the homomorphism $d/\text{Ker } \lambda$. Hence from (2) we deduce that

$$\text{Ker } d_1 = \text{Ker } d \cap \text{Ker } \lambda = \text{Im } \eta \cap \text{Ker } \lambda.$$

By the Z -injectivity of Q/Z from (4) we obtain

$$(5) \quad 0 \leftarrow \text{Hom}_Z(\text{Ker } d_1, Q/Z) \leftarrow \text{Hom}_Z(\text{Ker } \lambda, Q/Z) \xleftarrow{d_1^*} \text{Hom}_Z(\mu, Q/Z),$$

where $d_1^*(\varphi) = \varphi \circ d_1$ for $\varphi \in \text{Hom}_Z(\mu, Q/Z)$.

Let us consider elements $g_v \in \text{Hom}_Z(\text{Ker } \lambda, Q/Z)$ defined by the conditions

$$g_v(\zeta_w) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} & \text{for } w = v, \\ 0 & \text{for } w \neq v, \end{cases} \quad \text{if } w \text{ is real,}$$

$$g_v(\zeta_w^{Nv-1}) = \begin{cases} \frac{Nv-1}{m_v} & \text{for } w = v, \\ 0 & \text{for } w \neq v, \end{cases} \quad \text{if } w \text{ is finite.}$$

Almost all elements g_v are trivial, and $\text{Hom}_Z(\text{Ker } \lambda, Q/Z)$ is the direct sum of groups generated by elements g_v . The element g_v is of order 2,

if v is real, and of order $\frac{m_v}{Nv-1}$, if v is finite.

The group $\text{Hom}_Z(\mu, Q/Z)$ is generated by the element g satisfying $g(\zeta_m) = 1/m$. Consequently the group $\text{Im } d_1^*$ is generated by the element $d_1^*(g) = g \circ d_1$. By a direct computation one can verify that

$$(6) \quad d_1^*(g) = \prod_{v \text{ non c.}} g_v^{m_v/m}.$$

It suffices to compare the values of both sides of (6) on the generators of the group $\text{Ker } \lambda$.

From (5) it follows that the group $\text{Hom}_Z(\text{Ker } d_1, Q/Z)$, isomorphic to $\text{Ker } d_1$, is also isomorphic to $\text{Hom}_Z(\text{Ker } \lambda, Q/Z)/\text{Im } d_1^*$. Hence it is isomorphic to the abelian group defined by the generators g_v , where v runs through non-complex places of F , and relations:

$$(7) \quad g_v^2 = 1 \quad \text{for } v \text{ real,} \quad g_v^{m_v/(Nv-1)} = 1 \quad \text{for } v \text{ finite,}$$

$$(8) \quad \prod_{v \text{ non c.}} g_v^{m_v/m} = 1.$$

If v is real, then $m_v = m = 2$; if v is finite and $m|Nv-1$, then $\frac{m_v}{Nv-1} \mid \frac{m_v}{m}$. Thus by (7) we have $g_v^{m_v/m} = 1$ and (8) takes the form

$$\prod_{v \text{ real}} g_v \prod_{\substack{v \text{ finite} \\ m \nmid Nv-1}} g_v^{m_v/m} = 1.$$

In view of Corollary 1 the result follows.

Applying Theorem 2 we determine the group $K_2 O_F / \mathcal{R}_2 F$ in the following cases: $F = Q$, $F = Q(\sqrt{d})$ and $F = Q(\zeta_p)$, where p is an odd prime number. The results are given in Table 1 (pp. 193–194). In the column denoted by “ v ” there are given all real places, and all finite places satisfying $\zeta_p \in F_v$ for $v|p$. If there is only one such place, we denote it by ∞ or p , if there are several such places we denote them by $\infty_1, \infty_2, \dots$ or p_1, p_2, \dots

Let $F = Q(\sqrt{d})$, where d is a squarefree integer. Since $e_v(F/Q) \leq 2$, it follows from Corollary 2 that $\zeta_p \in F_v$ implies $p \leq 3$. Evidently $\zeta_2 = -1 \in F_v$ for every v . It is easy to verify that $\zeta_3 \in F_v$ for $v|3$ if and only if $d \equiv -3 \pmod{9}$. Thus in the case $d \not\equiv -3 \pmod{9}$ the group $K_2 O_F / \mathcal{R}_2 F$ has generators g_v , where v is real or $v|2$. In the case $d \equiv -3 \pmod{9}$ there is one more generator g_v corresponding to the place v satisfying $v|3$.

In the case $F = Q(\zeta_p)$ the argument is similar.

The description of the group $K_2 O_F / \mathcal{R}_2 F$ in the case $F = Q(\zeta_p)$ has been applied by St. Chaładus [2] to obtain an estimation from below of order of $K_2(ZC_p)$, where ZC_p is the group ring of the cyclic group C_p of order p . He proved that

$$|K_2(ZC_p)| \geq 2^r,$$

where r is the number of prime ideals in $Q(\zeta_p)$ dividing 2. For a non-cyclic elementary abelian p -group G an estimation of order of $K_2(ZG)$ has been given by R. K. Dennis, M. E. Keating and M. R. Stein [3].

For any finite abelian group A let $r_2(A) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2}(F_2 \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} A)$, and let A_2 be the subgroup of A consisting of elements of order ≤ 2 . Evidently $r_2(A) = r_2(A_2)$.

For a number field F let $\text{Cl}(F)$ be its class group, and let $\text{Cl}_2(F)$ be the subgroup of $\text{Cl}(F)$ generated by classes containing prime ideals dividing 2. Let $j = r_2(\text{Cl}(F)/\text{Cl}_2(F))$.

Denote by $S(2)$ the set of all archimedean places of F and of finite places v satisfying $v|2$. Let r_1, r_2, r be respectively the number of real places, of complex places, and of finite places dividing 2.

THEOREM 3. *For every number field F we have*

$$r_2(K_2 O_F) = r_1 + r - 1 + j.$$

Proof. Let $\Gamma = \{a \in F^* : \{-1, a\} \in \text{Ker } \tau\}$ and $\Delta = \{a \in F^* : \{-1, a\} = 1\}$. J. Tate proved [9] that every element of order 2 in $K_2 F$ has the form $\{-1, a\}$ for $a \in F^*$. Thus the groups Γ/Δ and $(K_2 O_F)_2$ are isomorphic, and $\Gamma \supset \Delta \supset F^{*2}$. Consequently Δ/F^{*2} and Γ/F^{*2} are linear spaces over \mathbb{F}_2 .

J. Tate proved [9] that $r_2(\Delta/F^{*2}) = r_2 + 1$. Consequently it is sufficient to prove that $r_2(\Gamma/F^{*2}) = r_1 + r_2 + r + j$.

Let A_i ($i = 1, 2, \dots, j$) be a basis of $(\text{Cl}(F)/\text{Cl}_2(F))_2$, and let $\mathfrak{A}_i \in \text{Cl}(F)$ represent A_i and let an ideal \mathfrak{a}_i of the ring O_F belong to the class \mathfrak{A}_i . Then

$$(9) \quad \mathfrak{a}_i^2 = (a_i)\mathfrak{b}_i,$$

where $a_i \in F^*$ and $v(\mathfrak{b}_i) = 0$ for $v \notin S(2)$.

From the Dirichlet–Hasse–Chevalley theorem on units it follows that the group

$$U(2) = \{a \in F^* : v(a) = 0 \text{ for } v \notin S(2)\}$$

is the direct sum of the group μ and a free abelian group of the rank $t = r_1 + r_2 + r - 1$. Let $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \dots, \varepsilon_t$ be a free basis of this group. We shall prove that the elements

$$(10) \quad \zeta_m, \varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \dots, \varepsilon_t, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_j$$

form a basis of Γ/F^{*2} .

For any finite place v we have $(-1, \zeta_m)_v = 1$, $(-1, \varepsilon_k)_v = 1$ and $(-1, a_i)_v = 1$, because $v(a_i)$ is even for $v \notin S(2)$ in view of (9). Consequently elements (10) belong to Γ . We shall prove that they are linearly independent over F_2 .

Suppose that for some $\alpha, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_i, \beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_j = 0$ or 1 and $b \in F^*$ we have

$$(11) \quad \zeta_m^{\alpha} \varepsilon_1^{\alpha_1} \varepsilon_2^{\alpha_2} \dots \varepsilon_t^{\alpha_t} a_1^{\beta_1} a_2^{\beta_2} \dots a_j^{\beta_j} = b^2.$$

Then the class of the ideal $\mathfrak{a}_1^{\beta_1} \mathfrak{a}_2^{\beta_2} \dots \mathfrak{a}_j^{\beta_j} (b)^{-1}$ belongs to $\text{Cl}_2(F)$ and consequently $A_1^{\beta_1} A_2^{\beta_2} \dots A_j^{\beta_j} = 1$. Hence $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_j = 0$ and (11) takes the form

$$\zeta_m^{\alpha} \varepsilon_1^{\alpha_1} \varepsilon_2^{\alpha_2} \dots \varepsilon_t^{\alpha_t} = b^2.$$

It follows that $\alpha = \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \dots = \alpha_t = 0$.

Now we shall prove that the elements (10) generate Γ/F^{*2} . If $a \in \Gamma$, then $1 = (-1, a)_v = (-1)^{v(a)} \pmod{v}$ for every finite place v . Thus $2|v(a)$ for $v \notin S(2)$. Consequently $(a) = \mathfrak{a}^2 \mathfrak{b}$, where the ideal \mathfrak{b} satisfies $v(\mathfrak{b}) = 0$ for $v \notin S(2)$. Let \mathfrak{A} be the class containing \mathfrak{a} , and let $A \in \text{Cl}(F)/\text{Cl}_2(F)$ be the element represented by \mathfrak{A} . Since $\mathfrak{A}^2 = [\mathfrak{b}]^{-1} \in \text{Cl}_2(F)$ then A is a product of some A_i 's. Let e.g. $A = A_1 A_2 \dots A_n$. Then $\mathfrak{A} = \mathfrak{A}_1 \mathfrak{A}_2 \dots \mathfrak{A}_n \mathfrak{B}$, where $\mathfrak{B} \in \text{Cl}_2(F)$, and consequently $\mathfrak{a} = \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_n \bar{\mathfrak{b}} (c)$ for some $c \in F^*$ and $\bar{\mathfrak{b}}$ satisfying $v(\bar{\mathfrak{b}}) = 0$ for $v \notin S(2)$.

Hence $(a) = \mathfrak{a}^2 \mathfrak{b} = (a_1)(a_2) \dots (a_n) \mathfrak{b}_1 \mathfrak{b}_2 \dots \mathfrak{b}_n \bar{\mathfrak{b}}^2 (c)^2$ and it follows that $a(a_1 a_2 \dots a_n c^2)^{-1} \in U(2)$. Thus there exist $\gamma, \gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_t \in Z$ such that

$$a = a_1 a_2 \dots a_n \zeta_m^{\gamma} \varepsilon_1^{\gamma_1} \varepsilon_2^{\gamma_2} \dots \varepsilon_t^{\gamma_t} c^2.$$

COROLLARY 1. For every number field F we have

$$r_2(\mathfrak{R}_2 F) \geq r_1 + r - 1 + j - r_2(K_2 O_F / \mathfrak{R}_2 F).$$

Proof. For the exact sequence $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$ of finite abelian groups we have evidently $r_2(B) \leq r_2(A) + r_2(C)$. Hence $r_2(K_2 O_F) \leq r_2(\mathfrak{R}_2 F) + r_2(K_2 O_F / \mathfrak{R}_2 F)$, and corollary follows.

COROLLARY 2. If $F = Q(\sqrt{d})$, d squarefree, satisfy

$$r_2(\text{Cl}(F)) \geq \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } d \equiv 5 \pmod{8}, \\ 3 & \text{if } d \equiv 7 \pmod{8} \text{ and } d < 0, \\ 2 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

then $r_2(\mathfrak{R}_2 F) \geq 1$.

Proof. If $d \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$, then 2 is inert and hence $\text{Cl}_2(F) = 0$. Thus $j = r_2(\text{Cl}(F))$. From Table 1 we have $r_2(K_2 O_F / \mathfrak{R}_2 F) = r_1 + r - 1$, and the corollary follows from Corollary 1.

We proceed analogously in the remaining cases, due to the observation that $j \geq r_2(\text{Cl}(F)) - 1$, if 2 splits or ramifies.

EXAMPLES. 1. (J. Tate [8]). Let $d = -35$ or more generally let $d \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ have at least two prime factors. Then the class number of the field $F = Q(\sqrt{d})$ is even and from Corollary 2 we obtain that $r_2(\mathfrak{R}_2 F) \geq 1$.

2. Let $F = Q(\zeta_{29})$. It is known that 2 is inert in F and $\text{Cl}(F) = (Z/2Z)^3$. Then $\text{Cl}_2(F) = 0$ and from Corollary 1 and Table 1 we obtain $r_2(\mathfrak{R}_2 F) \geq j = r_2(\text{Cl}(F)) = 3$.

Table 1

	F	m	v	m_v	Nv	Relations	$r_1 + r - 1$	$K_2 O_F / \mathfrak{R}_2 F$
1.	Q	2	∞ 2	2 2	— 2	$g_{\infty}^2 = g_2^2 = 1$ $g_{\infty} g_2 = 1$	1	$Z/2Z$
2.	$Q(i)$	4	2	4	2	$g_4^2 = 1, g_2 = 1$	0	0
3.	$Q(\sqrt{-3})$	6	2 3	6 6	4 3	$g_2^2 = g_3^2 = 1$ $g_2 g_3 = 1$	0	0
4.	$Q(\sqrt{d}), d < 0$ $d \neq -1,$ -3 $d \neq -3(9)$ $d \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$	2	2_1 2_2	2 2	2 2	$g_{2_1}^2 = g_{2_2}^2 = 1$ $g_{2_1} g_{2_2} = 1$	1	$Z/2Z$
5.	$d \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$	2	2	6	4	$g_2^2 = 1, g_2^3 = 1$	0	0
6.	$d \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ $d \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$	2	2	2	2	$g_2^2 = 1, g_2 = 1$	0	0
7.	$d \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$	2	2	4	2	$g_2^4 = 1, g_2^2 = 1$	0	$Z/2Z$

Table 1, cont.

	F	m	v	m_v	Nv	Relations	r_1+r-1	K_2O_F/S_2F
4.	$Q(\sqrt{d}), d > 0$ $d \not\equiv -3(9)$ $d \equiv 1(8)$	2	∞_1 ∞_2 2_1 2_2	2 2 2 2	— — 2 2	$g_{\infty_1}^2 = g_{\infty_2}^2 = 1$ $g_{2_1}^2 = g_{2_2}^2 = 1$ $g_{\infty_1} \cdot g_{\infty_2} \cdot g_{2_1} \cdot g_{2_2} = 1$	3	$(Z/2Z)^3$
5.	$d \equiv 5(8)$	2	∞_1 ∞_2 2	2 2 6	— — 4	$g_{\infty_1}^2 = g_{\infty_2}^2 = 1$ $g_2^2 = 1$ $g_{\infty_1} \cdot g_{\infty_2} \cdot g_2^3 = 1$	2	$(Z/2Z)^2$
6.	$d \equiv 3(8)$ $d \equiv 2(4)$	2	∞_1 ∞_2 2	2 2 2	— — 2	$g_{\infty_1}^2 = g_{\infty_2}^2 = 1$ $g_2^2 = 1$ $g_{\infty_1} \cdot g_{\infty_2} \cdot g_2 = 1$	2	$(Z/2Z)^3$
7.	$d \equiv 7(8)$	2	∞_1 ∞_2 2	2 2 4	— — 2	$g_{\infty_1}^2 = g_{\infty_2}^2 = 1$ $g_2^4 = 1$ $g_{\infty_1} \cdot g_{\infty_2} \cdot g_2^2 = 1$	2	$(Z/2Z) \oplus (Z/4Z)$
8.	$Q(\zeta_p)$ p odd prime	$2p$	2_1 2_2 ... 2_r p	$2(2^f-1)$ $2(2^f-1)$... $2(2^f-1)$ $p(p-1)$	2^f 2^f ... 2^f p	$g_{2^f}^2 = 1$ $g_{p^f}^2 = 1$ $\prod_{i=1}^r \frac{1}{g_{2^i}^{2^i}} = 1$ $\times g_{2^f}^{2^f} = 1$	$r-1$	$(Z/2Z)^{r-1}$

If $d \equiv -3 \pmod{9}$, then in the lines 4. - 7. and 4'. - 7'. of the table one should add the following line

			3	6	3	$g_3^3 = 1$		
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and in the last column one should add the direct summand $Z/3Z$.

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