KUCERA GROUP OF CIRCULAR UNITS IN FUNCTION FIELDS

JAEHYUN AHN AND HWANYUP JUNG

ABSTRACT. Let $\mathbb{A} = \mathbb{F}_q[T]$ be the polynomial ring over a finite field \mathbb{F}_q and $k = \mathbb{F}_q(T)$ its field of fractions. Let ℓ be a fixed prime divisor of q-1. Let J be a finite set of monic irreducible polynomials $P \in \mathbb{A}$ with $\deg P \equiv 0 \pmod{\ell}$. In this paper we define the group C_K of circular units in $K = k(\{\sqrt[\ell]{P} : P \in J\})$ in the sense of Kucera [4] and compute the index of C_K in the full unit group \mathcal{O}_K^* .

1. Introduction

Let $\mathbb{A} = \mathbb{F}_q[T]$ be the polynomial ring over a finite field \mathbb{F}_q and $\mathbb{A}^+ = \{N \in \mathbb{A} : N \text{ is monic}\}$. Let $k = \mathbb{F}_q(T)$ be the field of fractions of \mathbb{A} . Let k^{ab} be a fixed algebraic closure of k. For any non-constant $N \in \mathbb{A}$, we denote by Λ_N the set of zeros of $\rho_N(X)$ in k^{ab} , where ρ denotes the Carlitz module of \mathbb{A} . Then Λ_N is isomorphic to $\mathbb{A}/N\mathbb{A}$ as \mathbb{A} -modules. The field $k(\Lambda_N)$ which is obtained from k by adjoining Λ_N is called the N-th cyclotomic function field over k. Let us fix a generator λ_N of Λ_N . The extension $k(\Lambda_N)/k$ is a finite abelian extension and its Galois group G_N is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{A}/N\mathbb{A})^*$. Explicitly there is an isomorphism $\sigma: (\mathbb{A}/N\mathbb{A})^* \xrightarrow{\sim} G_N, A \mapsto \sigma_A$, where $\sigma_A(\lambda_N) = \rho_A(\lambda_N)$. Under this isomorphism, $I_{\infty} = \{\sigma_c : c \in \mathbb{F}_q\}$ is the inertia group of ∞ . The fixed field $k(\Lambda_N)^+$ of I_{∞} is called the maximal real subfield of $k(\Lambda_N)$. For more details on the Carlitz module and the cyclotomic function fields, we refer to the Rosen's Book [6].

Let ℓ be a fixed prime divisor of q-1. For any irreducible $P \in \mathbb{A}^+$ with $\deg(P) \equiv 0 \pmod{\ell}$, it is well known that $k(\sqrt[\ell]{P})$ is contained in $k(\Lambda_P)^+$. Hence we may regard such monic irreducible polynomial P as an analog of the prime number p with $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$. Let J be a finite set of monic irreducible polynomials P such that $\deg P \equiv 0 \pmod{\ell}$. Let $K = k(\{\sqrt[\ell]{P} : P \in J\})$ and $F = k(\sqrt[\ell]{D})$, where $D = \prod_{P \in J} P$. Let us denote by \mathcal{O}_K (resp. \mathcal{O}_F) the integral closure of \mathbb{A} in K (resp. in F). Let \mathcal{O}_K^* and \mathcal{O}_F^* be the group of units of \mathcal{O}_K

Received March 27, 2006.

 $^{2000\} Mathematics\ Subject\ Classification.\ 11R58,\ 11R29,\ 11R27.$

Key words and phrases. Kucera group, circular units, function fields.

This work was supported by the Korea Research Foundation Grant funded by the Korean Government (MOEHRD) (KRF-2004-000-10007-0).

and \mathcal{O}_F , respectively. In this paper, following Kucera's idea [4], we define the groups C_K and C_F of circular units of K and F, respectively. We also give a bases B_K and B_F of C_K/\mathbb{F}_q^* and C_F/\mathbb{F}_q^* , respectively. By using these bases, we calculate the indices $[\mathcal{O}_K^*: C_K]$ and $[\mathcal{O}_F: C_F]$.

2. Kucera group of circular units

Fix a prime divisor ℓ of q-1. Let J be a finite set of monic irreducible polynomials $P \in \mathbb{A}$ with deg $P \equiv 0 \pmod{\ell}$. It is well known ([1, Lemma 3.2]) that $k(\sqrt[\ell]{P})$ is contained in $k(\Lambda_P)^+$ for any $P \in J$. For any subset S of J let (by convention, an empty product is 1)

$$D_S = \prod_{P \in S} P, \quad \lambda_S = \lambda_{D_S}, \quad \Lambda_S = \Lambda_{D_S}, \quad K_S = k(\{\sqrt[\ell]{P} : P \in S\}).$$

For each $P \in J$, we denote by σ_P a fixed generator of $Gal(K_J/K_{J\setminus\{P\}})$. Following Kucera ([4, Sect.2]), let us further define

$$arepsilon_S = \left\{ egin{array}{lll} 1 & ext{if} & S = \emptyset, \ rac{1}{\sqrt[\ell]{P}} \ N_{k(\Lambda_S)/K_S}(\lambda_S) & ext{if} & S = \{P\}, \ N_{k(\Lambda_S)/K_S}(\lambda_S) & ext{if} & |S| > 1. \end{array}
ight.$$

It is easy to see that ε_S is a unit of \mathcal{O}_{K_S} .

For any irreducible $P \in \mathbb{A}^+$ and $A \in \mathbb{A}$ with $P \nmid A$, we denote by $(A/P)_{\ell}$ the ℓ -th power residue symbol, i.e., $(A/P)_{\ell}$ is the unique element of \mathbb{F}_q^* such that

$$A^{\frac{q^{\deg P}-1}{\ell}} \equiv (A/P)_{\ell} \pmod{P}.$$

Lemma 2.1. Let S be any subset of J and $P \in S$. Then

$$N_{K_S/K_{S\backslash\{P\}}}(\varepsilon_S) = \begin{cases} (-1)^{\ell-1} & \text{if} \quad S = \{P\}, \\ (Q/P)_{\ell} \cdot \varepsilon_{\{Q\}}^{1-\operatorname{Frob}^{-1}(P,K_{\{Q\}})} & \text{if} \quad S = \{P,Q\}, P \neq Q, \\ \varepsilon_{S\backslash\{P\}}^{1-\operatorname{Frob}^{-1}(P,K_{S\backslash\{P\}})} & \text{if} \quad |S| > 2, \end{cases}$$

where $Frob(P, K_{S\setminus\{P\}})$ denotes the Frobenius automorphism of P in $K_{S\setminus\{P\}}$.

Proof. At first, suppose that $S = \{P\}$. Since $N_{k(\sqrt[\ell]{P})/k}(\sqrt[\ell]{P}) = (-1)^{\ell-1}P$ and $N_{k(\Lambda_P)/k}(\lambda_P) = P$, we have

$$\begin{array}{lcl} N_{K_S/K_{S\backslash \{P\}}}(\varepsilon_S) & = & N_{k(\sqrt[\ell]{P})/k}(\sqrt[\ell]{P})^{-1}N_{k(\Lambda_P)/k}(\lambda_P) \\ \\ & = & (-1)^{\ell-1}P^{-1}P = (-1)^{\ell-1}. \end{array}$$

Let us suppose that |S| > 1. Then by Lemma 2.3 in [3],

$$\begin{split} N_{K_S/K_{S\backslash\{P\}}}(\varepsilon_S) &= N_{k(\Lambda_{S\backslash\{P\}})/K_{S\backslash\{P\}}} \left(N_{k(\Lambda_S)/k(\Lambda_{S\backslash\{P\}})}(\lambda_S)\right) \\ &= N_{k(\Lambda_{S\backslash\{P\}})/K_{S\backslash\{P\}}} \left(\lambda_{S\backslash\{P\}}^{1-\operatorname{Frob}^{-1}(P,k(\Lambda_{S\backslash\{P\}}))}\right) \\ &= N_{k(\Lambda_{S\backslash\{P\}})/K_{S\backslash\{P\}}} (\lambda_{S\backslash\{P\}})^{1-\operatorname{Frob}^{-1}(P,K_{S\backslash\{P\}})}. \end{split}$$

Thus the lemma is proved if |S| > 2. If $S = \{P, Q\}$, then we have

$$N_{k(\Lambda_Q)/k(\sqrt[\ell]{Q})}(\lambda_Q) = \sqrt[\ell]{Q} \cdot \varepsilon_{\{Q\}}.$$

Thus it suffices to show that $(\sqrt[\ell]{Q})^{1-\operatorname{Frob}^{-1}(P,k(\sqrt[\ell]{Q}))} = (Q/P)_{\ell}$. Write

$$(\sqrt[\ell]{Q})^{\operatorname{Frob}(P,k(\sqrt[\ell]{Q}))} = c \cdot \sqrt[\ell]{Q}$$

for some ℓ -th root of unity $c \in \mathbb{F}_q^*$. Then

$$c \equiv (\sqrt[\ell]{Q})^{q^{\deg P} - 1} = Q^{\frac{q^{\deg P} - 1}{\ell}} \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$$

for any prime ideal \mathfrak{P} of $\mathcal{O}_{k(\sqrt[\ell]{Q})}$ lying above P. Since c and $Q^{\frac{q^{\deg P}-1}{\ell}}$ are in k, we have $c \equiv Q^{\frac{q^{\deg P}-1}{\ell}} \pmod{P}$. Thus $c = (Q/P)_{\ell}$, and so

$$(\sqrt[\ell]{Q})^{1-\operatorname{Frob}^{-1}(P,k(\sqrt[\ell]{Q}))} = (Q/P)_{\ell}.$$

This completes the proof.

Let $K = K_J$, $F = k(\sqrt[\ell]{D})$ with $D = D_J$ and $G_K = \operatorname{Gal}(K/k)$, $G_F = \operatorname{Gal}(F/k)$. Let C_K be the subgroup of \mathcal{O}_K^* generated by \mathbb{F}_q^* and by $\{\varepsilon_S^{\sigma}: S \subseteq J, \sigma \in G_K\}$. Let $\eta = N_{K/F}(\varepsilon_J) \in \mathcal{O}_F^*$ and let C_F be the subgroup of \mathcal{O}_F^* generated by \mathbb{F}_q^* and $\{\eta^{\sigma}: \sigma \in G_F\}$.

Define $B_K = \{ \varepsilon_S^{\sigma} : \emptyset \neq S \subseteq J, \sigma = \prod_{P \in S} \sigma_P^{a_P}, 0 \leq a_P \leq \ell - 2 \}$ and $B_F = \{ \eta^{\tau^i} : 0 \leq i \leq \ell - 2 \}$, where $G_F = \langle \tau \rangle$. Then we have

Lemma 2.2. $\mathbb{F}_q^* \cup B_K$ and $\mathbb{F}_q^* \cup B_F$ are systems of generators of C_K and C_F , respectively.

Proof. Let $\sigma = \prod_{P \in J} \sigma_P^{a_P} \in G_K$ with $0 \le a_P \le \ell - 1$. Note that if $P \notin S$, then $\varepsilon_S^{\sigma_P} = \varepsilon_S$. Thus $\varepsilon_S^{\sigma} = \varepsilon_S^{\prod_{P \in S} \sigma_P^{a_P}}$. Hence it suffices to show that $\varepsilon_S^{\sigma_{P}^{\ell-1}}$ is generated by $\mathbb{F}_q^* \cup B_K$ for any $P \in S \subseteq J$. It easily follows from Lemma 2.1 and induction on |S|. Since $N_{F/k}(\eta) = \prod_{i=0}^{\ell-1} \eta^{\tau^i} \in \mathbb{F}_q^*$, $\mathbb{F}_q^* \cup B_F$ is a system of generators of C_F .

Let \widehat{G}_K and \widehat{G}_F be the character group of G_K and G_F with values in \mathbb{C}^* , respectively. For any $\chi \in \widehat{G}_K$, let $S_{\chi} = \{P \in J : \chi(\sigma_P) \neq 1\}$. Let ζ_{ℓ} be a fixed a primitive ℓ -th root of unity in \mathbb{C}^* . For any $P \in S_{\chi}$, the integer $a_{\chi,P}$ is defined by $\chi(\sigma_P) = \zeta_{\ell}^{a_{\chi,P}}$ with $1 \leq a_{\chi,P} \leq \ell - 1$. For any $\chi \in \widehat{G}_K$, we define $\varepsilon_{\chi} = \varepsilon_{S_{\chi}}^{\sigma_{\chi}}$ with $\sigma_{\chi} = \prod_{P \in S_{\chi}} \sigma_P^{(\ell-1-a_{\chi,P})}$. For any $1 \neq \psi \in \widehat{G}_F$, the integer a_{ψ} is defined by $\psi(\tau) = \zeta_{\ell}^{a_{\psi}}$ with $1 \leq a_{\psi} \leq \ell - 1$. Let $\eta_{\psi} = \eta^{\tau_{\psi}}$ with $\tau_{\psi} = \tau^{(\ell-1-a_{\psi})}$. Then we have

Proposition 2.3. $B_K = \{ \varepsilon_{\chi} : 1 \neq \chi \in \widehat{G}_K \} \text{ and } B_F = \{ \eta_{\psi} : 1 \neq \psi \in \widehat{G}_F \}.$

Proof. For any $\varepsilon_S^{\sigma} \in B_K$ with $\emptyset \neq S \subseteq J$, $\sigma = \prod_{P \in S} \sigma_P^{a_P}$ and $0 \leq a_P \leq \ell - 2$, there exists a unique $\chi \in \widehat{G}_K$ such that $\chi(\sigma_P) = \zeta_\ell^{(\ell-1-a_P)}$ if $P \in S$ and $\chi(\sigma_P) = 1$ if $P \notin S$. Thus $\varepsilon_S^{\sigma} = \varepsilon_{\chi}$. Therefore we have $B_K = \{\varepsilon_{\chi} : 1 \neq 1\}$

$$\chi \in \widehat{G}_K$$
. For any $1 \neq \psi \in \widehat{G}_F$, we have $0 \leq \ell - 1 - a_{\psi} \leq \ell - 2$. Thus $B_F = \{\eta_{\psi} : 1 \neq \psi \in \widehat{G}_F\}$.

3. Computation of $[\mathcal{O}_K^*:C_K]$ and $[\mathcal{O}_F^*:C_F]$

In this subsection, we follow Kucera's argument in [4, Sect.3] to compute the unit-indices $[\mathcal{O}_K^*: C_K]$ and $[\mathcal{O}_F^*: C_F]$.

Any place of K lying above the place ∞ of k is called an *infinite place* of K. Fix an infinite place ∞_K of K. Then $\{\sigma^{-1}\infty_K : \sigma \in G_K\}$ is the set of all infinite places of K. Let R'_K be the regulator of the set B_K . Then

$$R_K' = \left| \det \left(\operatorname{ord}_{\infty_K} (\varepsilon_{\chi}^{\sigma}) \right)_{\substack{1 \neq \sigma \in G_K \\ 1 \neq \chi \in \widehat{G}_K}} \right| = \frac{1}{[K:k]} \left| \det \left(\operatorname{ord}_{\infty_K} (\varepsilon_{\chi}^{\sigma}) \right)_{\substack{\sigma \in G_K \\ \chi \in \widehat{G}_K}} \right|.$$

Here we note that $\varepsilon_{\chi_0}^{\sigma} = 1$ for trivial character χ_0 . For any $\chi, \psi \in \widehat{G}_K$, let the elements $a_{\chi,\psi}$ be defined by the following matrix identity:

$$(a_{\chi,\psi})_{\chi,\psi\in\widehat{G}_K} = (\chi(\sigma))_{\chi\in\widehat{G}_K\atop \sigma\in G_K} \left(\operatorname{ord}_{\infty_K}(\varepsilon_{\psi}^{\sigma})\right)_{\substack{\sigma\in G_K\\ \psi\in\widehat{G}_K}}.$$

For any $\chi \in \widehat{G}_K$, let $\overline{\chi} \in \widehat{G}_K$ be the inverse of χ (i.e., $\overline{\chi}(\sigma) = \chi(\sigma)^{-1}$ for any $\sigma \in G_K$).

Lemma 3.1. Let $\chi, \psi \in \widehat{G}_K$. Then

$$a_{\chi,\psi} = \begin{cases} [K:k] & \text{if } \chi = 1 \text{ and } \psi = 1, \\ 0 & \text{if } \chi = 1 \text{ and } \psi \neq 1 \text{ or } \\ \chi \neq 1 \text{ and } \psi = 1, \\ 0 & \text{if } S_{\chi} \nsubseteq S_{\psi}, \\ (q-1)[K:K_{S_{\chi}}]\overline{\chi}(\sigma_{\psi})L_{k}(0,\chi) & \text{if } S_{\chi} = S_{\psi}, \chi \neq 1, \psi \neq 1, \end{cases}$$

where $L_k(s,\chi)$ is the Artin L-function associated to χ .

Proof. We only prove the case that $\chi \neq 1, \psi \neq 1$ and $S_{\chi} = S_{\psi}$. Since the conductor of χ is $D_{S_{\chi}}$, we can consider χ as a character of $Gal(K_{S_{\chi}}/k)$. Note that

$$\sum_{\sigma \in G_K} \chi(\sigma) \cdot \operatorname{ord}_{\infty_K}((\sqrt[\ell]{P})^{\sigma}) = \frac{\operatorname{ord}_{\infty_K}(P)}{\ell} \sum_{\sigma \in G_K} \chi(\sigma) = 0$$

for any $P \in J$. Let $l_K : K^* \to \mathbb{Q}[G_K]$ be the logarithm map defined by $l_K(x) = \sum_{\sigma \in G_K} \operatorname{ord}_{\infty_K}(x^{\sigma}) \sigma^{-1}$ for any $x \in K^*$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} a_{\chi,\psi} &=& \sum_{\sigma \in G_K} \chi(\sigma) \cdot \operatorname{ord}_{\infty_K}(N_{k(\Lambda_{S_\chi})/K_{S_\chi}}(\lambda_{S_\chi})^{\sigma_\psi \sigma}) \\ &=& \overline{\chi}(\sigma_\psi) \sum_{\sigma \in G} \chi(\sigma) \cdot \operatorname{ord}_{\infty_K}(N_{k(\Lambda_{S_\chi})/K_{S_\chi}}(\lambda_{S_\chi})^{\sigma}) \\ &=& \overline{\chi}(\sigma_\psi) \overline{\chi}(l_K(N_{k(\Lambda_{S_\chi})/K_{S_\chi}}(\lambda_{S_\chi})) = (q-1)[K:K_{S_\chi}] \overline{\chi}(\sigma_\psi) L_k(0,\chi), \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality follows from the equation (3.4) in [2].

To calculate the determinant of $(a_{\chi,\psi})_{\chi,\psi\in\widehat{G}}$, we needs a simple lemma. Let A and B be $m\times m$ and $n\times n$ matrices, respectively. We define A*B as the $mn\times mn$ matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11}B & \cdots & a_{1m}B \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{m1}B & \cdots & a_{mm}B \end{pmatrix} \text{ with } A = (a_{ij}).$$

The operation * is associative and det(A*B) = det(B*A). Moreover, we have the following which can be easily shown from the properties of determinant.

Lemma 3.2.
$$\det(A * B) = \det(A)^n \det(B)^m$$
.

Let h(K) and $h(\mathcal{O}_K)$ be the divisor class number of K and the ideal class number of \mathcal{O}_K , respectively. We compute the absolute value of determinant of $(a_{\chi,\psi})_{\chi,\psi\in\widehat{G}_K}$.

Lemma 3.3.
$$\left| \det \left(a_{\chi,\psi} \right)_{\chi,\psi \in \widehat{G}_K} \right| = (q-1)^{([K:k]-1)} \ell^{\frac{|J|\ell^{|J|}}{2}} \cdot h(K).$$

Proof. Let us fix some linear ordering \prec on \widehat{G}_K such that

(i)
$$S_{\chi} \subseteq S_{\psi} \Rightarrow \chi \prec \psi$$
,

(ii) if
$$\chi \prec \psi \prec \varphi$$
 and $S_{\chi} = S_{\varphi}$, then $S_{\chi} = S_{\psi} = S_{\varphi}$,

for any $\chi, \psi, \varphi \in \widehat{G}_K$. From Lemma 3.1, we see that $(a_{\chi,\psi})_{\chi,\psi \in \widehat{G}_K}$ is a upper block-triangular matrix with respect to \prec and

(3.1)
$$\begin{vmatrix} \det (a_{\chi,\psi})_{\chi,\psi \in \widehat{G}_{K}} \\ = (q-1)^{[K:k]-1}[K:k] |\det(\mathbb{B}_{K})| \prod_{1 \neq \chi \in \widehat{G}_{K}} [K:K_{S_{\chi}}] \prod_{1 \neq \chi \in \widehat{G}_{K}} L_{k}(0,\chi) \\ = (q-1)^{[K:k]-1} |\det(\mathbb{B}_{K})| h(K) \prod_{\chi \in \widehat{G}_{K}} [K:K_{S_{\chi}}],$$

where \mathbb{B}_K is the $(\ell^{|J|} - 1) \times (\ell^{|J|} - 1)$ block-diagonal matrix with blocks $\mathbb{B}_S = (\overline{\chi}(\sigma_{\psi}))_{\substack{\chi,\psi \in \widehat{G}_K \\ S_{\chi} = S_{\psi} = S}}$ for each $\emptyset \neq S \subseteq J$. To compute the $\det(\mathbb{B}_K)$, it suffices to compute the determinant of each block \mathbb{B}_S . Consider a block \mathbb{B}_S with |S| = 1, say $S = \{P\}$. The block is of the form

$$\mathbb{B}_{\{P\}} = \begin{pmatrix} \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 1 & \chi(\sigma_P) & \cdots & \chi(\sigma_P^{\ell-2}) \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \end{pmatrix}_{\chi \in \widehat{G}_K, S_{\chi} = \{P\}}.$$

Enlarge this matrix to

$$\tilde{\mathbb{B}}_{\{P\}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \chi(\sigma_P^{\ell-1}) & 1 & \chi(\sigma_P) & \cdots & \chi(\sigma_P^{\ell-2}) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \end{pmatrix}$$

by adding $(1 \cdots 1)$ to the first row, which corresponds to $\chi = 1$, and

$$^t(\cdots\chi(\sigma_P^{\ell-1})\cdots)_\chi$$

to the first column. The matrix $\tilde{\mathbb{B}}_{\{P\}}$ can be considered as $(\chi(\sigma))_{\substack{\sigma \in H \\ \chi \in \widehat{H}}}$ with $H = \langle \sigma_P \rangle$ by exchanging rows and columns if necessary. Thus, as in the proof of [4, Theorem 1], we have

$$\left|\det\left(\tilde{\mathbb{B}}_{\{P\}}\right)
ight|=\left|H
ight|^{\frac{|H|}{2}}=\ell^{\frac{\ell}{2}}.$$

On the other hand, by adding all the other columns to the first column in $\tilde{\mathbb{B}}_{\{P\}}$, we have

$$\det\left(\tilde{\mathbb{B}}_{\{P\}}\right) = \ell \cdot \det\left(\mathbb{B}_{\{P\}}\right).$$

Thus $|\det (\mathbb{B}_{\{P\}})| = \ell^{\frac{\ell}{2}-1}$. For the block \mathbb{B}_S with $|S| = d \geq 2$, say $S = \{P_1, P_2, \ldots, P_d\}$, \mathbb{B}_S becomes $\mathbb{B}_{\{P_1\}} * \cdots * \mathbb{B}_{\{P_d\}}$ by exchanging rows and columns if necessary. Thus, by applying Lemma 3.2 repeatedly, we have

$$|\det(\mathbb{B}_S)| = \ell^{(\frac{\ell}{2}-1)(\ell-1)^{d-1}d}.$$

Therefore

(3.2)
$$|\det(\mathbb{B}_{K})| = \prod_{\emptyset \neq S \subseteq J} \ell^{(\frac{\ell}{2} - 1)(\ell - 1)^{|S| - 1}|S|} = \prod_{d=1}^{|J|} (\ell^{(\frac{\ell}{2} - 1)(\ell - 1)^{d - 1}d})^{\binom{|J|}{d}}$$

$$= \ell^{(\frac{\ell}{2} - 1)\sum_{d=1}^{|J|} \binom{|J|}{d}(\ell - 1)^{d - 1}d} = \ell^{|J|(\frac{\ell}{2} - 1)\ell^{|J| - 1}}.$$

For any $S \subseteq J$, there are $(\ell - 1)^{|S|}$ different characters $\chi \in \widehat{G}_K$ with $S_{\chi} = S$. A simple computation shows that

(3.3)
$$\prod_{\chi \in \widehat{G}_K} [K : K_{S_\chi}] = \ell^{\sum_{\chi \in \widehat{G}_K} (|J| - |S_\chi|)} = \ell^{|J|\ell^{|J|-1}}.$$

By combining (3.1), (3.2) and (3.3), the lemma follows.

When we speak about a basis of a group of units we always have in mind a basis of non-torsion part. Consider the set B_K of Lemma 2.2. Then

Theorem 3.4. B_K is a basis of C_K . Moreover

$$[\mathcal{O}_K^*: C_K] = \frac{(q-1)^{[K:k]-1}}{[K:k]} \cdot h(\mathcal{O}_K).$$

Proof. As in the proof of [4, Theorem 1], we have

$$\left| \det \left(\chi(\sigma) \right)_{\substack{\sigma \in G_K \\ \chi \in \widehat{G}_K}} \right| = \left| G_K \right|^{\frac{|G_K|}{2}} = \ell^{\frac{|J|\ell^{|J|}}{2}}.$$

Thus, by Lemma 3.3, we have

$$R_K' = \frac{1}{[K:k]} \cdot \frac{\left| \left(a_{\chi,\psi} \right)_{\chi,\psi \in \widehat{G}_K} \right|}{\left| \det \left(\chi(\sigma) \right)_{\sigma \in G_K, \chi \in \widehat{G}_K} \right|} = \frac{(q-1)^{[K:k]-1}}{[K:k]} \cdot h(K) \neq 0.$$

Hence R'_K is linearly independent, and so B_K is a basis of C_K . Moreover $[\mathcal{O}_K^*:C_K]=R'_K/R(\mathcal{O}_K)$, where $R(\mathcal{O}_K)$ is the regulator of \mathcal{O}_K , and $h(K)=h(\mathcal{O}_K)R(\mathcal{O}_K)$. Thus the theorem follows.

The computation of the index $[\mathcal{O}_F^*: C_F]$ is much the same as the one of $[\mathcal{O}_K^*: C_K]$. We only state the result leaving the proof to the reader.

Theorem 3.5. B_F is a basis of C_F . Moreover

$$[\mathcal{O}_F^*: C_F] = \frac{(q-1)^{[F:k]-1}}{[F:k]} \cdot h(\mathcal{O}_F).$$

References

- [1] B. Angles, On Hilbert class field towers of global function fields, Drinfeld modules, modular schemes and applications (Alden-Biesen, 1996), 261–271, World Sci. Publ., River Edge, NJ, 1997.
- [2] J. Ahn, S. Bae, and H. Jung, Cyclotomic units and Stickelberger ideals of global function fields, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. **355** (2003), no. 5, 1803–1818.
- [3] J. Ahn and H. Jung, Cyclotomic units and divisibility of the class number of function fields, J. Korean Math. Soc. **39** (2002), no. 5, 765–773.
- [4] R. Kucera, On the Stickelberger ideal and circular units of a compositum of quadratic fields, J. Number Theory 56 (1996), no. 1, 139–166.
- [5] W. Sinnott, On the Stickelberger ideal and the circular units of an abelian field, Invent. Math. 62 (1980/81), no. 2, 181–234.
- [6] M. Rosen, Number theory in function fields, Graduate Texts in Mathematics, 210. Springer-Verlag, New York, 2002.

JAEHYUN AHN

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS CHUNGNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY DAEJEON 305-764, KOREA

E-mail address: jhahn@cnu.ac.kr

HWANYUP JUNG
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS EDUCATION
CHUNGBUK NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
CHEONGJU 361-763, KOREA

E-mail address: hyjung@chungbuk.ac.kr