

**Action of the möbius group  $M = \langle x, y : x^2 = y^6 = 1 \rangle$  on certain real quadratic fields**

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**Abstract.** Let  $C' = C \cup \{\infty\}$  be the extended complex plane and  $M = \langle x, y : x^2 = y^6 = 1 \rangle$ , where  $x(z) = \frac{-1}{3z}$  and  $y(z) = \frac{-1}{3(z+1)}$  are the linear fractional transformations from  $C' \rightarrow C'$ . Let  $m$  be a square-free positive integer. Then  $Q^*(\sqrt{n}) = \{\frac{a+\sqrt{n}}{c} : a, c \neq 0, b = \frac{a^2-n}{c} \in Z \text{ and } (a, b, c) = 1\}$  where  $n = k^2m$ , is a proper subset of  $Q(\sqrt{m})$  for all  $k \in N$ . For non-square  $n = 3^h \prod_{i=1}^r p_i^{k_i}$ , it was proved in an earlier paper by the same authors that the set  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) = \{\frac{\alpha}{t} : \alpha \in Q^*(\sqrt{n}), t = 1, 3\}$  is  $M$ -set  $\forall h \geq 0$  whereas if  $h = 0$  or  $1$ , then  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{n}) = \{\frac{a+\sqrt{n}}{c} : \frac{a+\sqrt{n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \text{ and } 3 \mid c\}$  is an  $M$ -subset of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) = Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \cup Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})$ . In this paper we prove that if  $h \geq 2$ , then  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) = (Q^*(\sqrt{\frac{n}{9}}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{\frac{n}{9}})) \cup Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \cup Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})$  and also determine its proper  $M$ -subsets. In particular  $Q(\sqrt{m}) \setminus Q = \cup Q'''(\sqrt{k^2m})$  for all  $k \in N$ .

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1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout the paper we take  $m$  as a square free positive integer. Since every element of  $Q(\sqrt{m}) \setminus Q$  can be expressed uniquely as  $\frac{a+\sqrt{n}}{c}$ , where  $n = k^2m$ ,  $k$  is any positive

integer and  $a, b = \frac{a^2-n}{c}$  and  $c$  are relatively prime integers and we denote it by  $\alpha_n(a, b, c)$  or  $\alpha(a, b, c)$ . Then

$$Q^*(\sqrt{n}) = \left\{ \frac{a + \sqrt{n}}{c} : a, c, b = \frac{a^2-n}{c} \in Z \text{ and } (a, b, c) = 1 \right\},$$

$$Q'''(\sqrt{n}) = \left\{ \frac{\alpha}{t} : \alpha \in Q^*(\sqrt{n}), t = 1, 3 \right\},$$

$$Q^{***}(\sqrt{n}) = \left\{ \frac{a + \sqrt{n}}{c} : \frac{a + \sqrt{n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \text{ and } 3 \mid c \right\}$$

are subsets of the real quadratic field  $Q(\sqrt{m})$  for all  $n$  and  $Q(\sqrt{m}) \setminus Q$  is a disjoint union of  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  for all  $n$ . If  $\alpha(a, b, c) \in Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  and its conjugate  $\bar{\alpha}$  have opposite signs then  $\alpha$  is called an ambiguous number [7]. A non-empty set  $\Omega$  with an action of a group  $G$  on it, is said to be a  $G$ -set. We say that  $\Omega$  is a transitive  $G$ -set if, for any  $p, q$  in  $\Omega$  there exists a  $g$  in  $G$  such that  $p^g = q$ .

We are interested in linear-fractional transformations  $x, y$  satisfying the relations  $x^2 = y^r = 1$ , with a view to studying an action of the group  $\langle x, y \rangle$  on real quadratic fields. If  $y : z \rightarrow \frac{az+b}{cz+d}$  is to act on all real quadratic fields then  $a, b, c, d$  must be rational numbers, and can be taken to be integers. Thus  $\frac{(a+b)^2}{ad-bc}$  is rational. But if  $z \rightarrow \frac{az+b}{cz+d}$  is of order of  $r$ , one must have  $\frac{(a+b)^2}{ad-bc} = \omega + \omega^{-1} + 2$ , where  $\omega$  is a primitive  $r$ -th root of unity. Now  $\omega + \omega^{-1}$  is rational, for a primitive  $r$ -th root, only if  $r = 1, 2, 3, 4$  or  $6$ , so that these are the only possible orders of  $y$ . The group  $\langle x, y : x^2 = y^r = 1 \rangle$  is cyclic of order 2 or  $D_\infty$  (an infinite dihedral group) according as  $r = 1$  or 2. For  $r = 3$ , the group  $\langle x, y \rangle$  is the modular group  $PSL(2, Z)$ . The fractional linear transformations  $x, y$  with  $x(z) = \frac{-1}{3z}$  and  $y(z) = \frac{-1}{3(z+1)}$  generate a subgroup  $M$  of the modular group which is isomorphic to the abstract group  $\langle x, y : x^2 = y^6 = 1 \rangle$ . It is a standard example from the theory of the modular group. It has been shown in [10] that the action of  $M$  on the rational projective line  $Q \cup \{\infty\}$  is transitive.

In our case the set  $Q(\sqrt{m}) \setminus Q$  is an  $M$ -set. It is noted that  $M$  is the free product of  $C_2 = \langle x : x^2 = 1 \rangle$  and  $C_6 = \langle x : y^6 = 1 \rangle$ . The action of the modular group  $PSL(2, Z)$  on the real quadratic fields has been discussed in detail in [1, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12]. The actual number of ambiguous numbers in  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  has been discussed in [8] as a function of  $n$ .

In a recent paper [11], the authors have investigated that the cardinality of the set  $E_p$ ,  $p$  a prime factor of  $n$ , consisting of all classes  $[a, b, c](\text{mod } p)$  of the elements of  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  is  $p^3 - 1$  and obtained two proper  $G$ -subsets of  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  corresponding to each odd prime divisor of  $n$ . The same authors in [12] have determined the cardinality of the set  $E_{p^r}$ ,  $r \geq 1$ , consisting of all classes  $[a, b, c](\text{mod } p^r)$  of the elements of  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  and have determined, for each non-square  $n$ , the  $G$ -subsets of an invariant subset  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  of  $Q(\sqrt{m}) \setminus Q$  under the modular group action by using classes  $[a, b, c](\text{mod } n)$ . Real quadratic irrational numbers under the action of the group  $M$  have been studied in [3, 4, 5, 7, 10]. Closed paths in the coset diagrams under the action of a proper subgroup of  $M$  on  $Q(\sqrt{m})$  have been discussed in [4]. M. Aslam Malik *et al.* in [2] have studied the action of  $H = \langle x, y : x^2 = y^4 = 1 \rangle$ , where  $x(z) = \frac{-1}{2z}$  and  $y(z) = \frac{-1}{2(z+1)}$ , on  $Q(\sqrt{m}) \setminus Q$ . The same authors, in [3], have discussed the properties of real quadratic irrational numbers under the action of the group  $M$ . The authors proved, in [3], that if  $n \equiv 1, 3, 4, 6$  or  $7(\text{mod } 9)$

then  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  is an  $M$ -subset of  $Q(\sqrt{m}) \setminus Q$  and  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) = Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \cup Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})$ .

In this paper we extend these results for all non-square integers  $n$  and give some modifications of Lemma 1.1 of [3] for the case  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$  and prove that  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) = (Q^*(\sqrt{\frac{n}{9}}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{\frac{n}{9}})) \cup Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \cup Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})$  which shows that  $Q(\sqrt{m}) \setminus Q$  is the union of  $Q'''(\sqrt{k^2m}) \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ . However if  $n$  and  $n'$  are two distinct non-square positive integers then  $Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \cap Q^*(\sqrt{n'}) = \emptyset$  whereas  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \cap Q'''(\sqrt{n'})$  may or may not be empty. In particular  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \cap Q'''(\sqrt{9n})$  is not empty. In fact we prove that a superset namely

$$Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n}) \cup \left\{ \frac{\alpha}{3} : \alpha = \frac{3a + \sqrt{9n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{9n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n}) \right\}$$

of  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})$  is an  $M$ -subset of  $Q(\sqrt{m}) \setminus Q$ .

We have also found  $M$ -subsets of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n})$  such that these may or may not be transitive. However they help in determining the transitive  $M$ -subsets ( $M$ -orbits). The notation is standard and we follow [3], [9], [11] and [12]. In particular  $(\cdot/\cdot)$  denotes the Legendre symbol and  $x(Y) = \{\frac{1}{3\alpha} : \alpha \in Y\}$  for each subset  $Y$  of  $Q(\sqrt{m}) \setminus Q$ . Throughout this paper,  $n$  denotes a non-square positive integer and  $\alpha$  denotes  $\frac{a+\sqrt{n}}{c}$  with  $b = \frac{a^2-n}{c}$  such that  $(a, b, c) = 1$ .

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

The following results of [3], [11] and [12] will be used in the sequel.

**Lemma 1.** ([3]). Let  $\alpha = \frac{a+\sqrt{n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  with  $b = \frac{a^2-n}{c}$ . Then:

1. If  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{9}$  then  $\frac{\alpha}{3} \in Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  if and only if  $3 \mid b$ .
2.  $\frac{\alpha}{3} \in Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})$  if and only if  $3 \nmid b$ .

**Theorem 2.** ([3]) The set  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) = \{\frac{\alpha}{t} : \alpha \in Q^*(\sqrt{n}), t = 1, 3\}$  is invariant under the action of  $M$ .

**Theorem 3.** (see [3]) For each  $n \equiv 1, 3, 4, 6$  or  $7 \pmod{9}$ ,

$$Q^{***}(\sqrt{n}) = \left\{ \frac{a + \sqrt{n}}{c} : \frac{a + \sqrt{n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \text{ and } 3 \mid c \right\}$$

is an  $M$ -subset of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n})$ .

**Corollary 4.** ([3])  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{n}) = \emptyset$  if and only if  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ .

It is well known that  $G = \langle x, y : x^2 = y^3 = 1 \rangle$  represents the modular group, where  $x(z) = \frac{-1}{z}, y(z) = \frac{z-1}{z}$  are linear fractional transformations.

**Theorem 5.** ([11]) Let  $p$  be an odd prime factor of  $n$ . Then both of  $S_1^p = \{\alpha \in Q^*(\sqrt{n}) : (b/p) \text{ or } (c/p) = 1\}$  and  $S_2^p = \{\alpha \in Q^*(\sqrt{n}) : (b/p) \text{ or } (c/p) = -1\}$  are  $G$ -subsets of  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$ . In particular, these are the only  $G$ -subsets of  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  depending upon classes  $[a, b, c]$  modulo  $p$ .

**Theorem 6.** ([12]) Let  $n = 2^k p_1^{k_1} p_2^{k_2} \cdots p_r^{k_r}$  where  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r$  are distinct odd primes such that  $n$  is not equal to a single prime congruent to 1 modulo 8. Then the number of  $G$ -subsets of  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  is  $2^r$  namely  $S_{1 \leq i_1, i_2, i_3, \dots, i_r \leq 2}$  if  $k = 0$  or 1. Moreover if  $k \geq 2$ , then each  $G$ -subset  $X$  of these  $G$ -subsets further splits into two proper  $G$ -subsets  $\{\alpha \in X : b \text{ or } c \equiv 1 \pmod{4}\}$  and  $\{\alpha \in X : b \text{ or } c \equiv -1 \pmod{4}\}$ . Thus the number of  $G$ -subsets of  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  is  $2^{r+1}$  if  $k \geq 2$ . More precisely these are the only  $G$ -subsets of  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  depending upon classes  $[a, b, c]$  modulo  $n$ .

### 3. ACTION OF $M = \langle x, y : x^2 = y^6 = 1 \rangle$ ON $Q'''(\sqrt{n})$

In this section we establish that if  $n$  contains  $r$  distinct prime factors then  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  is the disjoint union of  $2^r$  subsets which are invariant under the action of  $M$ . However these  $M$  invariant subsets may further split into transitive  $M$ -subsets ( $M$ -orbits) of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n})$ , for example  $Q'''(\sqrt{37})$  splits into twelve orbits namely  $(\sqrt{37})^M, (-\sqrt{37})^M, (\frac{1+\sqrt{37}}{4})^M, (\frac{-1+\sqrt{37}}{4})^M, (\frac{1+\sqrt{37}}{-4})^M, (\frac{-1+\sqrt{37}}{-4})^M, (\frac{1+\sqrt{37}}{3})^M, (\frac{-1+\sqrt{37}}{-3})^M, (\frac{1+\sqrt{37}}{6})^M, (\frac{-1+\sqrt{37}}{-6})^M, (\frac{1+\sqrt{37}}{2})^M$  and  $(\frac{1+\sqrt{37}}{-2})^M$ . The first six orbits are contained in  $A_1^{37} \cup x(A_1^{37})$  and last four orbits are contained in  $A_2^{37} \cup x(A_2^{37})$  where  $A_1^{37} = S_1^{37} \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{37})$  and  $A_2^{37} = S_2^{37} \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{37})$ .

**Lemma 7.** *Let  $n \equiv 1, 3, 4, 6$  or  $7 \pmod{9}$ . Let  $Y = S \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  where  $S$  is any  $G$ -subset of  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$ . Then  $Y \cup x(Y)$  is an  $M$ -subset of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ .*

*Proof.* : By Theorem 3, we know that  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  is an  $M$ -set. For any  $\alpha \in Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ , Lemma 7 follows from the equations  $x(\alpha) = \frac{-1}{3\alpha}, x(\frac{-1}{3\alpha}) = \alpha, y(\alpha) = \frac{-1}{3(\alpha+1)} = \frac{-1}{3\alpha'}$ , where  $\alpha' = \alpha + 1$  and  $y(\frac{-1}{3\alpha'}) = \frac{-1}{3\beta}$ , where  $\beta = \frac{-1}{3\alpha} + 1$ . Since every element of the group  $M = \langle x, y : x^2 = y^6 = 1 \rangle$  is a word in the generators  $x, y$  of the group  $M$  and the transformations  $\alpha \mapsto \alpha + 1, \alpha \mapsto \alpha - 1$  belong to both of the groups  $G$  and  $M$ .  $\square$

The following corollary is an immediate consequence of Lemma 7 since we know by Corollary 4 that  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{n}) = \emptyset$  if and only if  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ .

**Corollary 8.** *Let  $n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ . Let  $S$  be any  $G$ -subset of  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$ . Then  $S \cup x(S)$  is an  $M$ -subset of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n})$ .*

**Theorem 9.** *Let  $n \equiv 1, 3, 4, 6$  or  $7 \pmod{9}$  be a non-square positive integer such that  $p \mid n$ . Let  $A_1^p = S_1^p \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  and  $A_2^p = S_2^p \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ . Then both of  $A_1^p \cup x(A_1^p)$  and  $A_2^p \cup x(A_2^p)$  are  $M$ -subsets of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ . Consequently the action of  $M$  on  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  is intransitive.*

*Proof.* : follows from Theorem 5 and Lemma 7.  $\square$

We now extend Theorem 9 for each non-square  $n$ .

**Theorem 10.** *Let  $n = 2^k p_1^{k_1} p_2^{k_2} \cdots p_r^{k_r}$ , where  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r$  are distinct odd primes and  $k = 0$  or  $1$ . Let  $A_{1 \leq i_1, i_2, i_3, \dots, i_r \leq 2} = S_{1 \leq i_1, i_2, i_3, \dots, i_r \leq 2} \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ . Then  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  is the disjoint union of  $2^r$  subsets  $A_{1 \leq i_1, i_2, i_3, \dots, i_r \leq 2} \cup x(A_{1 \leq i_1, i_2, i_3, \dots, i_r \leq 2})$  which are invariant under the action of  $M$ . More precisely these are the only  $M$ -subsets of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  depending upon classes  $[a, b, c]$  modulo  $n$ .*

*Proof.* : follows directly from Theorem 6 and Lemma 7.  $\square$

**Theorem 11.** *Let  $n = 2^k p_1^{k_1} p_2^{k_2} \cdots p_r^{k_r}$ , where  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r$  are distinct odd primes and  $k \geq 2$ . If  $S$  is any of the  $G$ -subsets given in Theorem 6. Let  $A = S \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ . Then  $A \cup x(A)$  is  $M$ -subset of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ . More precisely these are the only  $M$ -subsets of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  depending upon classes  $[a, b, c]$  modulo  $n$ .*

*Proof.* : Proof follows from Theorem 6 and Lemma 7.  $\square$

If  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ , then by Theorem 5,  $S = \{\alpha \in X : c \text{ or } b \equiv 1 \pmod{3}\}$  and  $-S = \{\alpha \in X : c \text{ or } b \equiv -1 \pmod{3}\}$  are  $G$ -subsets whereas if  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}$ , then  $S$

and  $-S$  are not  $G$ -subsets of  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$ . However the following lemma shows that  $S \cup x(S)$  and  $-S \cup x(-S)$  are distinct  $M$ -subsets of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n})$ .

**Lemma 12.** *If  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{9}$  and  $Y$  be any of the  $G$ -subsets of  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$ . Let  $X = Y \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ . Let  $S = \{\alpha \in X : c \text{ or } b \equiv 1 \pmod{3}\}$  and  $-S = \{\alpha \in X : c \text{ or } b \equiv -1 \pmod{3}\}$ . Then  $S \cup x(S)$  and  $-S \cup x(-S)$  are both disjoint  $M$ -subsets of  $X \cup x(X)$ . Consequently the action of  $M$  on each of  $X \cup x(X)$  is intransitive.*

If  $n \equiv 2, 5$  or  $8 \pmod{9}$  then, by Corollary 4,  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  is empty. But if  $n \equiv 1, 3, 4, 6$  or  $7 \pmod{9}$ , then, by Theorem 3,  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  is an  $M$ -subset of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n})$ . If  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ , then  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  is not an  $M$ -subset of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n})$ . Instead we later prove that  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n}) \cup \{\frac{\alpha}{3} : \alpha = \frac{3a+\sqrt{9n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{9n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})\}$  is an  $M$ -subset of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n})$ . For this we need to establish the following results.

**Lemma 13.** *Let  $n \equiv 1, 3, 4, 6$  or  $7 \pmod{9}$ . Then*

1.  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n}) = Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  and
2.  $Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n}) = \{\frac{\alpha}{3} : \alpha = \frac{3a+\sqrt{9n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{9n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})\}$ .

*Proof.* : 1. Let  $\frac{a+\sqrt{9n}}{c} \in Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n}) = \{\frac{a+\sqrt{9n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{9n}) \text{ and } 3 \mid c\}$ . Then  $\frac{a^2-9n}{c}$  and  $\frac{c}{3}$  are both integers and  $(a, \frac{a^2-9n}{c}, c) = 1$ . As  $c$  and  $9n$  are both divisible by 3, so  $3 \mid a$ . Let  $a = 3a', c = 3c'$ . Now  $\frac{a^2-9n}{c} = 3(\frac{a'^2-n}{c'})$  is not divisible by 3 because otherwise  $(a, \frac{a^2-9n}{c}, c) \neq 1$ . So  $c' = 3c''$ . This shows that  $\frac{(a')^2-n}{c''}$  is an integer, while  $\frac{(a')^2-n}{c''}$  is not an integer for otherwise  $\frac{a^2-9n}{c}$  is divisible by 3, a contradiction. Also  $(a, \frac{a^2-9n}{c}, c) = 1 \Leftrightarrow (a', \frac{(a')^2-n}{c''}, c'') = 1$ . Therefore  $\frac{a+\sqrt{9n}}{c} = \frac{a'+\sqrt{n}}{c''} = \frac{a'+\sqrt{n}}{3c''}$ , where  $\frac{a'+\sqrt{n}}{c''}$  belongs to  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$ . Thus  $\frac{a+\sqrt{9n}}{c}$  belongs to  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^*(\sqrt{n})$ .

Conversely let  $\frac{a+\sqrt{n}}{3c} \in Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^*(\sqrt{n})$ . Then, by Lemma 1,  $\frac{a+\sqrt{n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  such that  $\frac{a^2-n}{c}$  is not divisible by 3 and hence  $\frac{a+\sqrt{n}}{3c} = \frac{3a+\sqrt{9n}}{9c}$  belongs to  $Q^*(\sqrt{9n})$ . Obviously  $\frac{a+\sqrt{n}}{3c}$  belongs to  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})$ . This completes the first part of Lemma 13.

2. We now prove that  $\{\frac{\alpha}{3} : \alpha = \frac{3a+\sqrt{9n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{9n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})\} = Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ . For this let  $\frac{3a+\sqrt{9n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{9n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})$ . Then  $\frac{9a^2-9n}{c}$  is an integer and  $(3a, \frac{9a^2-9n}{c}, c) = 1$ . As  $3 \nmid c$  so  $\frac{9a^2-9n}{c} = 9(\frac{a^2-n}{c})$  is an integer if and only if  $(\frac{a^2-n}{c})$  is an integer and also  $(3a, \frac{9a^2-9n}{c}, c) = 1 \Leftrightarrow (a, \frac{a^2-n}{c}, c) = 1$ . This implies that  $\frac{3a+\sqrt{9n}}{3c} = \frac{a+\sqrt{n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ . Conversely suppose that  $\frac{a+\sqrt{n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ . Then clearly  $c$  is not divisible by 3 and  $(a, \frac{a^2-n}{c}, c) = 1$ . Also  $(a, \frac{a^2-n}{c}, c) = 1 \Leftrightarrow (3a, \frac{9a^2-9n}{c}, c) = 1$ . Thus  $\frac{a+\sqrt{n}}{c} = \frac{3a+\sqrt{9n}}{3c} = \frac{1}{3}(\frac{3a+\sqrt{9n}}{c})$ , where  $\frac{3a+\sqrt{9n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{9n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})$ . Hence the result.

*The following theorem is an extension of Lemma 13 to the case for all non-square positive integers  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$  and its proof is like the proof of Lemma 13.*

**Theorem 14.** *Let  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ . Then*

1.  $(Q^*(\sqrt{\frac{n}{9}}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{\frac{n}{9}})) \cup Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n}) = Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  and
2.  $Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n}) = \{\frac{\alpha}{3} : \alpha = \frac{3a+\sqrt{9n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{9n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})\}$ .

*The following corollary is an immediate consequence of Corollary 4 and Lemma 13.*

**Corollary 15.** Let  $n \equiv 2, 5$  or  $8 \pmod{9}$ . Then:

1.  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n}) = Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  and
2.  $\{\frac{\alpha}{3} : \alpha = \frac{3a+\sqrt{9n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{9n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})\} = Q^*(\sqrt{n})$ .

**Theorem 16.** Let  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ . Then

$Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n}) \cup \{\frac{\alpha}{3} : \alpha = \frac{3a+\sqrt{9n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{9n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})\}$  is an  $M$ -subset of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n})$ .

*Proof:* Let  $n \equiv 1, 3, 4, 6$  or  $7 \pmod{9}$ . Then by Lemma 13,  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n}) = Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  and  $\{\frac{\alpha}{3} : \alpha = \frac{3a+\sqrt{9n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{9n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})\} = Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ . However, if  $n \equiv 2, 5$  or  $8 \pmod{9}$  then, as mentioned earlier,  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  is empty. Hence the above result holds for all  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ . Thus if  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{9}$  then

$Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n}) \cup \{\frac{\alpha}{3} : \frac{3a+\sqrt{9n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{9n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})\} = Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ .

If  $n \equiv 2, 5$ , or  $8 \pmod{9}$  then, by Corollary 4,  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  is empty. However, if  $n \equiv 1, 3, 4, 6$  or  $7 \pmod{9}$  then, by Theorem 3,  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  is an  $M$ -subset of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n})$ . Also since  $Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  is not  $M$ -subset so  $Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  and  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  are not  $M$ -subsets of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n})$ . By Theorems 2 and 3, we know that  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  is an  $M$ -subset of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n})$  for all  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ .

Thus  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n}) \cup \{\frac{\alpha}{3} : \alpha = \frac{3a+\sqrt{9n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{9n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})\}$  is an  $M$ -subset of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n})$  for all  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ .

Following theorem is an extension of Theorem 16 for each non-square  $n$  and its proof follows from Theorem 14.

**Theorem 17.** Let  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ . Then

$Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n}) \cup \{\frac{\alpha}{3} : \alpha = \frac{3a+\sqrt{9n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{9n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})\}$  is an  $M$ -subset of  $Q'''(\sqrt{n})$ .

**Theorem 18.** Let  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ . Let  $\alpha = \frac{a+\sqrt{n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  with  $b = \frac{a^2-n}{c}$ . Then:

1. If  $3 \nmid a$  then  $\frac{\alpha}{3}$  belongs to  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})$ .
2. If  $3 \mid a$  then  $\frac{\alpha}{3}$  belongs to  $Q^*(\sqrt{\frac{n}{9}}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{\frac{n}{9}})$  or  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})$  according as  $\alpha \in Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  or  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ .

*Proof.* Let  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ . Let  $\alpha = \frac{a+\sqrt{n}}{c} \in Q^*(\sqrt{n})$  with  $b = \frac{a^2-n}{c}$ . Then:

(1) If  $3 \nmid a$  then  $bc = (a^2 - n) \equiv 1, 4$  or  $7 \pmod{9}$  so  $3 \nmid b$ . Therefore, by Lemma 1(2),  $\frac{\alpha}{3}$  belongs to  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})$ .

(2) If  $3 \mid a$  then  $(a^2 - n) \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ . So  $b, c$  cannot be both divisible by 3, as otherwise  $(a, b, c) \neq 1$ . Thus exactly one of  $b, c$  is divisible by 3. Therefore, again by second part of Lemma 1, if  $b$  is not divisible by 3 then  $\frac{\alpha}{3}$  belongs to  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})$ . But if  $b$  is divisible by 3 then, from the proof of Lemma 13(2),  $\frac{\alpha}{3}$  belongs to  $Q^*(\sqrt{\frac{n}{9}}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{\frac{n}{9}})$ . That is,  $\frac{\alpha}{3}$  belongs to  $Q^*(\sqrt{\frac{n}{9}}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{\frac{n}{9}})$  or  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})$  according as  $\alpha \in Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$  or  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ .  $\square$

Following example illustrates the above theorem.

**Example 19.** Let  $n = 27$ . Then  $\alpha = \frac{1+\sqrt{27}}{1} \in Q^*(\sqrt{27})$  but  $\frac{\alpha}{3} = \frac{1+\sqrt{27}}{3} = \frac{3+\sqrt{243}}{9} \in Q^{***}(\sqrt{243})$ . Also  $\beta = \frac{3+\sqrt{27}}{1} \in Q^*(\sqrt{27})$  but  $\frac{\beta}{3} = \frac{1+\sqrt{3}}{1} \in Q^*(\sqrt{3}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{3})$ . Similarly  $\gamma = \frac{3+\sqrt{27}}{18} \in Q^{***}(\sqrt{27})$  whereas  $\frac{\gamma}{3} = \frac{9+\sqrt{243}}{162} \in Q^{***}(\sqrt{243})$ .

Summarizing the above results we have the following

**Theorem 20.** Let  $n \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ . Then  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) = (Q^*(\sqrt{\frac{n}{9}}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{\frac{n}{9}})) \cup Q^*(\sqrt{n}) \cup Q^{***}(\sqrt{9n})$ .

*Proof.* Follows from Theorems 17 and 18.  $\square$

We conclude this paper with the following observations.

If  $n \equiv 2, 5$  or  $8 \pmod{9}$ , then  $Q'''(\sqrt{n})$ ,  $Q'''(\sqrt{9n}) \setminus Q'''(\sqrt{n})$  are both  $M$ -subsets of  $Q'''(\sqrt{9n})$  and in particular  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \subset Q'''(\sqrt{9n})$ . If  $n \equiv 1, 3, 4, 6$  or  $7 \pmod{9}$ , then  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ , and  $Q'''(\sqrt{9n}) \setminus Q'''(\sqrt{n})$  are all  $M$ -subsets of  $Q'''(\sqrt{9n})$ . In particular  $Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n}) \subseteq Q'''(\sqrt{9n})$ . That is  $Q'''(\sqrt{9n}) \cap Q'''(\sqrt{n}) = Q'''(\sqrt{n}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{n})$ . For the cases  $n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{9}$ . For  $n = 2$ ,  $9n = 18$ ,  $Q^{***}(\sqrt{2}) = \{\}$ ,  $Q'''(\sqrt{2}) = (\sqrt{2})^M \cup (-\sqrt{2})^M$ , and  $Q'''(\sqrt{18}) \setminus Q'''(\sqrt{2}) = (\sqrt{18})^M \cup (-\sqrt{18})^M$ . So  $Q'''(\sqrt{18})$  has exactly 4 orbits under the action of  $M$ . Also if  $n = 3$ ,  $9n = 27$ ,  $Q'''(\sqrt{3}) \setminus Q^{***}(\sqrt{3}) = (\sqrt{3})^M \cup (-\sqrt{3})^M$ ,  $Q'''(\sqrt{27}) \setminus Q'''(\sqrt{3}) = (\sqrt{27})^M \cup (-\sqrt{27})^M$ . So  $Q'''(\sqrt{27})$  has exactly 4 orbits under the action of  $M$ . Similarly if  $n = 5$ ,  $9n = 45$ ,  $Q'''(\sqrt{5}) = (\sqrt{5})^M \cup (-\sqrt{5})^M \cup (\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2})^M \cup (\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2})^M$ ,  $(\frac{1+\sqrt{45}}{2})^M \cup (\frac{1-\sqrt{45}}{2})^M \cup (\sqrt{45})^M \cup (-\sqrt{45})^M$ . So  $Q'''(\sqrt{45})$  splits into exactly 8 orbits under the action of  $M$ .

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