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*Stickelberger Elements for  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{p^{n+1}})^+$  and  $p$ -adic  $L$ -functions.*

Let  $k_n$  denote the cyclotomic field of conductor  $p^{n+1}$ . Stickelberger's theorem states that an explicit element, called the Stickelberger element, in the Galois group ring (with rational coefficients) essentially annihilates the ideal class group of  $k_n$ . Let  $\chi$  be an odd character of conductor  $p$  not equal to  $\omega$ , the Teichmüller character. Iwasawa noticed that the  $\chi$ -components of these Stickelberger elements were coherent in the cyclotomic  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -extension  $k_\infty$  thus giving rise to what we call a distribution. What's more, Iwasawa showed that the Fourier transform of this distribution is essentially the  $p$ -adic  $L$ -function attached to  $\chi^{-1}\omega$ . In this paper, we show that the above theory can be duplicated on the "plus" side. We construct Stickelberger elements for  $k_n^+$ , the maximal real subfield of  $k_n$ . These Stickelberger elements have  $p$ -adically defined coefficients and annihilate the  $p$ -part of the ideal class group of  $k_n^+$ . Moreover, the  $\chi\omega^{-1}$ -components of these Stickelberger elements are coherent in the cyclotomic  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -extension  $k_\infty^+$ , and the Fourier transform of the associated distribution is essentially the twisted  $p$ -adic  $L$ -function attached to  $\chi^{-1}\omega$ . (Received September 23, 2015)