
ON THE SHAFAREVICH GROUP OF RESTRICTED RAMIFICATION EXTENSIONS OF NUMBER FIELDS IN THE TAME CASE

by

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Abstract. — Let K be a number field and S a finite set of places of K . We study the kernels \mathbb{III}_S^2 of maps $H^2(G_S, \mathbb{F}_p) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{v \in S} H^2(G_v, \mathbb{F}_p)$. There is a natural injection $\mathbb{III}_S^2 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{B}_S$, into the dual \mathbb{B}_S of a certain readily computable Kummer group V_S , which is always an isomorphism in the wild case. The tame case is much more mysterious. Our main result is that given a finite X coprime to p , there exists a finite set of places S coprime to p such that $\mathbb{III}_{S \cup X}^2 \xrightarrow{\simeq} \mathbb{B}_{S \cup X} \xleftarrow{\simeq} \mathbb{B}_X \hookrightarrow \mathbb{III}_X^2$. In particular, we show that in the tame case \mathbb{III}_Y^2 can *increase* with increasing Y . This is in contrast with the wild case where \mathbb{III}_Y^2 is nonincreasing in size with increasing Y .

Let K be a number field, and let S be a finite set of places of K . Denote by K_S the maximal extension of K unramified outside S , and set $G_S = \text{Gal}(K_S/K)$. Given a prime number p , let \mathbb{III}_S^2 be the 2-Shafarevich group associated to G_S and p : it is the kernel of the localization map of the cohomology group $H^2(G_S, \mathbb{F}_p)$:

$$\mathbb{III}_S^2 := \mathbb{III}^2(G_S, \mathbb{F}_p) = \ker(H^2(G_S, \mathbb{F}_p) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{v \in S} H^2(G_v, \mathbb{F}_p)),$$

where G_S acts trivially on \mathbb{F}_p . We denote by G_v the absolute Galois group of the maximal extension of the completion K_v of K at v .

It is well-known that \mathbb{III}_S^2 is closely related to $\mathbb{B}_S = (V_S/K^{\times p})^\vee$, where

$$V_S = \{x \in K^\times, v(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \forall v; x \in K_v^p \forall v \in S\}.$$

Clearly $K^{\times p} \subset V_S$ and $S \subset T \implies V_T \subset V_S$. Namely, in the wild case, when S contains all the places above p and all archimedean places, by Poitou-Tate duality Theorem one has $\mathbb{III}_S^2 \simeq \mathbb{B}_S$. See for example [5, Chapter X, §7]. It is important to note that algorithms exist to compute \mathbb{B}_S via ray class group computations over $K(\mu_p)$, so in the wild case one can, at least in theory, compute $d_p \mathbb{III}_S^2$. For the more general tame situation, one only

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has the following injection (due to Shafarevich and Koch, see for example [3, Chapter 11, §2] or [5, Chapter 10, §7])

$$(1) \quad \text{III}_S^2 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{B}_S.$$

At present there is no general algorithm to compute $d_p \text{III}_S^2$ in the tame case, short of computing G_S itself.

Let us write $K_S(p)/K$ as the maximal pro- p extension of K inside K_S , and put $G_S(p) = \text{Gal}(K_S(p)/K)$. It is an exercise to see the quotient $G_S \twoheadrightarrow G_S(p)$ induces the injection $\text{III}_{S,p}^2 \hookrightarrow \text{III}_S^2$, where $\text{III}_{S,p}^2 := \ker(H^2(G_S(p), \mathbb{F}_p) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{v \in S} H^2(G_v, \mathbb{F}_p))$. Observe that we can take $G_v(p)$ instead of G_v , due to the fact that $H^2(G_v(p), \mathbb{F}_p) \simeq H^2(G_v, \mathbb{F}_p)$ (see for example [5, Chapter VII, §5]).

The Shafarevich group III_S^2 is central to the study of the maximal pro- p quotient $G_S(p)$ of G_S , in particular when S is coprime to p : obviously, one gets

$$d_p H^2(G_S(p), \mathbb{F}_p) \leq \sum_{v \in S} d_p H^2(G_v, \mathbb{F}_p) + d_p \text{III}_S^2 \leq \sum_{v \in S} \delta_{v,p} + d_p \text{III}_S^2 \leq |S| + d_p V_S/K^{\times p},$$

which is sufficient to produce criteria involving the infiniteness of $G_S(p)$ (thanks to the Golod-Shafarevich Theorem). Here $\delta_{v,p} = 1$ or 0 as K_v contains the p th roots of unity or does not.

Observe that thanks to (1), one can force III_S^2 to be trivial (see the notion of saturated set S in §1.2), which can also yield situations where $G_S(p)$ has cohomological dimension 2. See [4] for the first examples and [6] for general statements.

Before giving our main result, we make the following observation: given p a prime number, and two finite sets S and X of places of K , one has:

$$(2) \quad \text{III}_{S \cup X, p}^2 \hookrightarrow \text{III}_{S \cup X}^2 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{B}_{S \cup X} \leftarrow \mathbb{B}_X \leftarrow \text{III}_X^2 \leftarrow \text{III}_{X, p}^2$$

where the middle surjection follows as $V_{S \cup X} \subset V_X$. To simplify, we consider only the case where the finite places X and S are coprime to p . Here we prove:

Theorem A. — *Let p be a prime number, and let K be a number field. Let X be a finite set of places of K coprime to p . There exist infinitely many finite sets S of finite places of K , all coprime to p , such that:*

$$\text{III}_{S \cup X, p}^2 \simeq \text{III}_{S \cup X}^2 \simeq \mathbb{B}_{S \cup X} \simeq \mathbb{B}_X.$$

Moreover such S can be chosen of size $|S| \leq d_p \mathbb{B}_\emptyset$.

Set $m := d_p \mathbb{B}_\emptyset$. Note $K^{\times p} \subset V_S$ for all S . In particular, we have the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_K^\times / \mathcal{O}_K^{\times p} \rightarrow V_\emptyset / K^{\times p} \rightarrow \text{Cl}_K[p] \rightarrow 0$$

so $m = d_p \text{Cl}_K + d_p \mathcal{O}_K^\times$.

As mentioned above, the computation of III_S^2 is very difficult in the tame case. Indeed, the only examples we know of where the map $\text{III}_{\emptyset, p}^2 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{B}_\emptyset$ is *not* an isomorphism are those in which we know the relation rank of $G_\emptyset(p)$ by knowing the full group itself. Using Theorem A, one may give situations where the value of $|\text{III}_S^2|$ is known without being trivial. As corollary, we get

Corollary A. — *There exist infinitely many finite sets $S_0 \subset S_1 \subset \dots \subset S_m$ of finite places of K all coprime to p , such that for $i = 0, \dots, m$, one has*

$$\text{III}_{S_i, p}^2 \simeq \text{III}_{S_i}^2 \simeq \mathbb{F}_p^{m-i}.$$

Remark. — *We will see that the sets S and S_i can be explicitly given by the Chebotarev density Theorem in some governing field extension over K .*

Remark. — *Let K_S^{ta}/K be the maximal Galois extension of K , unramified outside S , and tamely ramified at S ; put $G_S^{\text{ta}} = \text{Gal}(K_S^{\text{ta}}/K)$. Then instead of considering G_S one may consider G_S^{ta} which also surjects onto $G_S(p)$. Observe here that G_S^{ta} may be finite (typically when the discriminant of K and the norm of prime ideals of S are too small), even trivial (for example when $K = \mathbb{Q}$ and $S = \emptyset$).*

Notations

- We fix a prime number p and a number field K .
- Put $K' = K(\zeta_p)$ and $K'' = K(\zeta_{p^2})$, where ζ_{p^2} is some primitive p^2 th root of unity, and $\zeta_p = \zeta_{p^2}^p$.
- We denote by \mathcal{O}_K the ring of integers of K , by \mathcal{O}_K^\times the group of units of \mathcal{O}_K , and by Cl_K the class group of K .
- We identify a prime ideal $\mathfrak{p} \subset \mathcal{O}_K$ with the place v it defines. We write K_v for the completion of K at v and \mathcal{U}_v for the units of the local field K_v ; when v is archimedean, put $\mathcal{U}_v = K_v^\times$.
- One says that a prime ideal \mathfrak{p} is *tame* if $\#\mathcal{O}_K/\mathfrak{p} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$, which is equivalent to $\mu_p \subset K_v$, that is $\delta_{v,p} = 1$.
- If S is a finite set of places of K , we denote by $K_S(p)/K$ (resp. $K_S^{\text{ab}}(p)/K$) the maximal pro- p extension (resp. abelian) of K unramified outside S , and we put $G_S(p) = \text{Gal}(K_S(p)/K)$ (resp. $G_S^{\text{ab}}(p) = \text{Gal}(K_S^{\text{ab}}(p)/K)$). For $S = \emptyset$, we denote by $H := K_\emptyset^{\text{ab}}(p)$ the Hilbert p -class field of K .
- By convention, the infinite places in S are only real. Let us write $S = S_0 \cup S_\infty$, where S_0 contains only the finite places and S_∞ only the real ones. Put $\delta_{2,p} = \begin{cases} 1 & p = 2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$
- The set S is said to be coprime to p , if all finite places v of S are coprime to p ; it is said to be tame if S is coprime to p and $S_\infty = \emptyset$.
- Put $V_S = \{x \in K^\times, v(x) \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \forall v; x \in K_v^p \forall v \in S\}$. Note $K^{\times p} \subset V_S$ for all S .

1. Preliminaries

1.1. Extensions with prescribed ramification. — Let p be a prime number.

1.1.1. Governing fields. — We recall a result of Gras-Munnier (see [1, Chapter V, §2, Corollary 2.4.2], as well as [2]) which gives a criterion for the existence of totally ramified p -extension at some set S (and unramified outside S). Put $K' := K(\zeta_p)$ and consider the governing field $L' := K'(\sqrt[p]{V_\emptyset})$. The extension L'/K' has Galois group isomorphic to $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^{r_1+r_2-1+\delta+d}$, where $d = d_p \text{Cl}_K$.

Given a place v of K , we choose some place $w|v$ of L' above v , and we consider $\sigma_v \in \text{Gal}(L'/K')$ defined as follows:

- if v corresponds to a prime ideal \mathfrak{p} coprime to p , and \mathfrak{P} to w , then \mathfrak{P} is unramified in L'/K' , and then $\sigma_v = \sigma_{\mathfrak{p}} = \left(\frac{L'/K'}{\mathfrak{P}} \right)$ corresponds to the Frobenius elements at \mathfrak{P} in $\text{Gal}(L'/K')$;
- if v corresponds to a real place, then σ_v is the Artin symbol at w : $\sigma_v(\sqrt{\varepsilon}) = +1$ if ε is positive at w , and -1 otherwise.

While σ_v does in fact depend on the choice of \mathfrak{P} , it is easy to see a different choice of \mathfrak{P} gives a nonzero multiple of the previous choice of σ_v in the \mathbb{F}_p -vector space $\text{Gal}(L'/K')$. This is all we need when invoking Theorem 1.1 below. By abuse, we will also call the σ_v 's Frobenius elements.

Theorem 1.1 (Gras-Munnier). — *Let $S = \{v_1, \dots, v_t\}$ be a set of places of K coprime to p . There exists a cyclic degree p extension L/K , unramified outside S and totally ramified at each place of S , if and only if, for $i = 1, \dots, t$, there exists $a_i \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$, such that*

$$\prod_{i=1}^t \sigma_{v_i}^{a_i} = 1 \in \text{Gal}(L'/K').$$

When S is as in the Gras-Munnier criterion, i.e. the necessary and sufficient condition of the theorem holds, one says that the elements σ_{v_i} satisfy a *strongly nontrivial relation*. When one only has $\prod_{i=1}^t \sigma_{v_i}^{a_i} = 1$, with the a_i not all zero, one says that the σ_{v_i} 's satisfy a *nontrivial relation*.

Remark 1.2. — In fact, we don't find Theorem 1.1 in [1] in this form, the difference coming from the real places (and then only for $p = 2$). Indeed, one starts with the following: for a real place v , in our context we speak of *ramification*, and in the context of [1] Gras speaks of *decomposition*. Hence the governing field in [1] is smaller than L' and the condition he obtains did not involve the σ_v 's, $v \in S_\infty$ (in fact, in his case these σ_v are trivial). But the proof is the same, we can follow it without difficulty due to the fact that for $v \in S_\infty$, one has: $\mathcal{U}_v/\mathcal{U}_v^2 = \mathbb{R}^\times/\mathbb{R}^{\times 2} \simeq \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$; see Lemmas 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.4 and 2.3.5 of [1].

Remark 1.3. — The results of [1] allow us to also obtain the following: put $L'_0 := K'(\sqrt[p]{\mathcal{O}_K^\times})$, then $\#G_S^{ab}(p) > \#G_{\mathcal{O}}^{ab}(p)$ if and only if, there exists some nontrivial relation in $\text{Gal}(L'_0/K')$ between the σ_v 's, $v \in S$. See also Proposition 1.5.

As consequence of Theorem 1.1, one has:

Corollary 1.4. — *Given p and K , and two finite sets T and S of places of K coprime to p , there exists a cyclic degree p extension L/K , unramified outside $S \cup T$ and ramified at each place of S (no condition on the places of T), if and only if the σ_v 's for $v \in S$ satisfy a strongly nontrivial relation in the quotient $\text{Gal}(L'/K')/\langle \sigma_v, v \in T \rangle$.*

1.1.2. Extensions over the Hilbert p -class field of K that are abelian over K . — As noted in the beginning of Chapter V of [1], the result about the existence of a degree- p^e cyclic extension with prescribed ramification can be generalized in different forms. Let H be the Hilbert class field of K . In what follows, we only need the existence of a degree- p^2 cyclic extension of H , abelian over K , with prescribed ramification.

Now we follow the strategy of [1, Chapter V, §2, d)]. Put $B = \text{Gal}(K_S^{ab}(p)/H)$. Take Σ a finite set of places of K coprime to p (not necessarily satisfying the congruence $N(\mathfrak{p}) \equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$ when $\mathfrak{p} \in \Sigma_0$). By class field theory, we get

$$1 \longrightarrow (B/B^{p^2})^* \xrightarrow{\rho} \bigoplus_{v \in \Sigma} (\mathcal{U}_v/(\mathcal{U}_v)^{p^2})^* \longrightarrow (\iota(\mathcal{O}_K^\times))^* \longrightarrow 1,$$

where $\iota : \mathcal{O}_K^\times \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{v \in \Sigma} \mathcal{U}_v/(\mathcal{U}_v)^{p^2}$ is the diagonal embedding.

A cyclic degree- p^2 extension M of H , abelian over K and unramified outside Σ is given by a character ψ of B/B^{p^2} of order p^2 as follows:

Given $\psi_v \in (\mathcal{U}_v/(\mathcal{U}_v)^{p^2})^*$ for all $v \in \Sigma$, there exists a character ψ of B/B^{p^2} such that $\psi|_{\mathcal{U}_v} = \psi_v$ if and only if,

$$(3) \quad \forall \varepsilon \in \mathcal{O}_K^\times, \prod_{v \in \Sigma} \psi_v(\varepsilon) = 1.$$

As M/H is totally ramified at at least one prime ideal, at least one ψ_v has order p^2 .

Now we will focus on the case where Σ contains only finite places, and we use the notation \mathfrak{p} instead of v .

Let S be a finite non-empty set of tame places of K where each prime \mathfrak{p} (corresponding to $v \in S$) is such that $N(\mathfrak{q}) \equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$. Let us write now $\Sigma_{\mathfrak{q}} = S \cup T_{\mathfrak{q}}$, where $T_{\mathfrak{q}} = \{\mathfrak{q}\}$ is also tame. We are interested in the existence of a degree- p^2 cyclic extension $K_{\mathfrak{q}}/H$, abelian over K and unramified outside $\Sigma_{\mathfrak{q}}$, such that $K_{\mathfrak{q}}/H$ has degree p^2 and for which the inertia degree at \mathfrak{q} is exactly p .

For $\mathfrak{p} \in \Sigma_{\mathfrak{q}}$, let us fix $\chi_{\mathfrak{p}}$ a generator of $(\mathcal{U}_{\mathfrak{p}}/(\mathcal{U}_{\mathfrak{p}})^{p^2})^*$. By (3), $K_{\mathfrak{q}}$ exists if and only if, there exist $a_{\mathfrak{q}} \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$, and $b_{\mathfrak{p}} \in \mathbb{Z}/p^2$, $\mathfrak{p} \in S$, such that

$$\forall \varepsilon \in \mathcal{O}_K^\times, \hat{\chi}_{\mathfrak{q}}^{a_{\mathfrak{q}}}(\varepsilon) \prod_{\mathfrak{p} \in S} \chi_{\mathfrak{p}}^{b_{\mathfrak{p}}}(\varepsilon) = 1,$$

where

$$\hat{\chi}_{\mathfrak{q}} = \begin{cases} \chi_{\mathfrak{q}} & \text{if } N(\mathfrak{q}) \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^2} \\ \chi_{\mathfrak{q}}^p & \text{if } N(\mathfrak{q}) \equiv 1 \pmod{p^2} \end{cases},$$

and such that at least one $b_{\mathfrak{p}} \in (\mathbb{Z}/p^2\mathbb{Z})^\times$.

This last condition can be rephrased thanks to Kummer theory with the following governing field (see [1, Chapter V, §2, d)]):

$$L = K''(\sqrt[p^2]{\mathcal{O}_K^\times}),$$

where $K'' = K(\zeta_{p^2})$. For each prime $\mathfrak{p} \in \Sigma_{\mathfrak{q}}$ let us choose a prime $\mathfrak{P}|\mathfrak{p}$ of K'' , and denote by $\sigma_{\mathfrak{p}}$ the Frobenius of \mathfrak{P} in $\text{Gal}(L/K'')$. As before, $\sigma_{\mathfrak{p}}$ depends on $\mathfrak{P}|\mathfrak{p}$ only up to a power coprime to p .

The above discussion allows us to obtain the following:

Proposition 1.5. — *There exists a degree- p^2 cyclic extension $K_{\mathfrak{q}}/H$, abelian over K , unramified outside $\Sigma_{\mathfrak{q}}$, for which the inertia degree at \mathfrak{q} is exactly p , if and only if, there exists $a_{\mathfrak{q}} \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$, and $b_{\mathfrak{p}} \in \mathbb{Z}/p^2\mathbb{Z}$, $\mathfrak{p} \in S$, such that*

$$(4) \quad \hat{\sigma}_{\mathfrak{q}}^{a_{\mathfrak{q}}} \prod_{\mathfrak{p} \in S} \sigma_{\mathfrak{p}}^{b_{\mathfrak{p}}} = 1 \in \text{Gal}(L/K''),$$

where

$$\hat{\sigma}_{\mathfrak{q}} = \begin{cases} \sigma_{\mathfrak{q}} & \text{if } N(\mathfrak{q}) \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^2} \\ \sigma_{\mathfrak{q}}^p & \text{if } N(\mathfrak{q}) \equiv 1 \pmod{p^2} \end{cases},$$

with at least one $b_{\mathfrak{p}} \in (\mathbb{Z}/p^2\mathbb{Z})^\times$.

Remark. — Infinitely many such sets exist by the Chebotarev Density Theorem.

1.2. Saturated sets. — Take p, K as before, and let S be a finite set of places of K , coprime to p .

Definition 1.6. — The S set of places K is called saturated if $V_S/(K^\times)^p = \{1\}$.

Recall the following equality due to Shafarevich (see for example [5, Chapter X, §7, Corollary 10.7.7]):

$$(5) \quad d_p G_S = |S_0| + |S_\infty| \delta_{2,p} - (r_1 + r_2) + 1 - \delta + d_p V_S/(K^\times)^p,$$

showing that $d_p G_S$ is easy to compute when S is saturated.

Proposition 1.7. — Let S and T be two finite sets of places of K coprime to p . Suppose S is saturated. Then

- if $S \subset T$, then T is saturated;
- for every tame place $v \notin S$, one has $d_p G_{S \cup \{v\}} = d_p G_S + 1$.

Proof. — The first point is due to the fact that $V_T \subset V_S$, and the second point is a consequence of (5) along with the first point. \square

Theorem 1.8. — A finite set S coprime to p is saturated if and only if, the Frobenii σ_v , $v \in S$, generate the whole group $\text{Gal}(K'(\sqrt[p]{V_\emptyset})/K')$.

Proof. — • Suppose the Frobenii generate the full Galois group. By hypothesis, for each degree- p extension L/K' in $K'(\sqrt[p]{V_\emptyset})/K'$, there exists a place $v \in S$ such that v is inert in L/K' (when $v \in S_\infty$, v is ramified in L/K'). Let us take now $x \in V_S$: then every $v \in S$ splits totally in $K'(\sqrt[p]{x})/K'$. As $K'(\sqrt[p]{x}) \subset K'(\sqrt[p]{V_\emptyset})$, one deduces that $K'(\sqrt[p]{x}) = K'$, and then $x \in (K')^p$. As $[K' : K]$ is coprime to p , one finally obtains that $x \in K^{\times p}$, so $B_S = \{0\}$.
• If S is saturated, then for every finite set T of tame places of K with $T \cap S = \emptyset$, one has $d_p G_{S \cup T} = d_p G_S + |T|$ by Proposition 1.7. Then by the Gras-Munnier criterion, one has $\langle \sigma_v, v \in S \rangle = \text{Gal}(L'/K')$. \square

Corollary 1.9. — The finite set S coprime to p is saturated if and only if, for every finite set T of tame places of K , there exists a cyclic degree p -extension of K unramified outside $S \cup T$ but ramified at each place of T .

Proof. — • If S is saturated, then by Theorem 1.8 the Frobenii σ_v , $v \in S$, generate $\text{Gal}(L'/K')$, and the result follows by using Corollary 1.4.

• Suppose that S is such that for every finite set T of tame places of K , there exists a cyclic degree p -extension unramified outside $S \cup T$ and ramified at each place of T . Then by Corollary 1.4 and the Chebotarev density theorem, $\text{Gal}(L'/K') = \langle \sigma_v, v \in S \rangle$. By Theorem 1.8, S is saturated. \square

1.3. Spectral sequence. — Let S and T be two finite sets of places of K coprime to p . Consider the following exact sequence of pro- p groups

$$(6) \quad 1 \longrightarrow H_{S,T} \longrightarrow G_{S \cup T}(p) \longrightarrow G_S(p) \longrightarrow 1.$$

Definition 1.10. — Put

$$\mathcal{X}_{S,T} := H_{S,T}/[H_{S,T}, H_{S,T}]H_{S,T}^p,$$

and

$$X_{S,T} := (\mathcal{X}_{S,T})_{G_S(p)} = H_{S,T}/[H_{S,T}, G_S(p)]H_{S,T}^p.$$

Recall that as $G_S(p)$ is a pro- p group, then $\mathbb{F}_p[[G_S(p)]]$ is a local ring.

Lemma 1.11. — *The abelian group $\mathcal{X}_{S,T}$ is a $\mathbb{F}_p[[G_S(p)]]$ -module (with continuous action) that can be generated by $d_p X_{S,T}$ generators. Moreover, $d_p X_{S,T} \leq |T|$.*

Proof. — The first part follows from Nakayama's lemma. For the second, the fact that $G_S(p)$ acts transitively on the inertia groups I_w of $w|v \in T$ in $\mathcal{X}(S, T)$ implies

$$\bigoplus_{i=1}^t \mathbb{F}_p[[G_S(p)]] \twoheadrightarrow \langle I_w, w|v \in T \rangle = \mathcal{X}_{S,T},$$

where $t = |T|$. Taking the $G_S(p)$ -coinvariants, we obtain $\mathbb{F}_p^t \twoheadrightarrow X_{S,T}$. \square

Applying the Hochschild-Serre spectral sequence to (6), one gets:

Lemma 1.12. — *Let S, T be two finite sets of places of K coprime to p . Then one has :*

$$1 \longrightarrow H^1(G_S(p), \mathbb{F}_p) \longrightarrow H^1(G_{S \cup T}(p), \mathbb{F}_p) \longrightarrow X_{S,T}^\vee \longrightarrow \text{III}_{S,p}^2 \longrightarrow \text{III}_{S \cup T,p}^2.$$

Furthermore, the cokernel of the natural injection $\text{III}_{X,p} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{B}_X$ decreases in dimension as X increases.

Proof. — The Hochschild-Serre spectral sequence gives the exact commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} H^1(G_S(p), \mathbb{F}_p) & \hookrightarrow & H^1(G_{S \cup T}(p), \mathbb{F}_p) & \longrightarrow & X_{S,T}^\vee & \longrightarrow & H^2(G_S(p), \mathbb{F}_p) & \longrightarrow & H^2(G_{S \cup T}(p), \mathbb{F}_p) \\ & & & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ & & & & & & \bigoplus_{v \in S} H^2(G_v, \mathbb{F}_p) & \hookrightarrow & \bigoplus_{v \in S \cup T} H^2(G_v, \mathbb{F}_p) \end{array}$$

Chasing the transgression map $X_{S,T}^\vee \xrightarrow{tg} H^2(G_S(p))$ to the right gives that its image lies in $\text{III}_{S,p}^2$ whose image to the right lies in $\text{III}_{S \cup T,p}^2$. We now have the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & \longrightarrow & H^1(G_S(p), \mathbb{F}_p) & \longrightarrow & H^1(G_{S \cup T}(p), \mathbb{F}_p) & \longrightarrow & X_{S,T}^\vee & \longrightarrow & \text{III}_{S,p}^2 & \longrightarrow & \text{III}_{S \cup T,p}^2 \\ & & & & & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\ & & & & & & \mathbb{B}_S & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{B}_{S \cup T} & & \end{array}$$

where the bottom horizontal map is surjective as the inclusion $V_{S \cup T}/K^{\times p} \hookrightarrow V_S/K^{\times p}$ is immediate from the definition of V_X . The second result follows. \square

Corollary 1.13. — *If the natural injection $\text{III}_{X,p} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{B}_X$ is an isomorphism, then for any set Y we have $\text{III}_{X \cup Y,p} \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{B}_{X \cup Y}$*

Let us give an obvious consequence of Lemma 1.12.

Lemma 1.14. — Suppose that $H^1(G_S(p), \mathbb{F}_p) \simeq H^1(G_{S \cup T}(p), \mathbb{F}_p)$, then $X_{S,T}^\vee \hookrightarrow \text{III}_{S,p}^2$. If moreover $S \cup T$ is saturated then $X_{S,T}^\vee \simeq \text{III}_{S,p}^2$.

Proof. — If $S \cup T$ is saturated then $V_{S \cup T}/K^{\times p} = \{1\}$, which implies that $\mathbb{B}_{S \cup T} = \{1\}$. Hence, by (1) $\text{III}_{S \cup T}^2 = \{0\}$, and the same holds for $\text{III}_{S \cup T,p}^2$. We conclude with Lemma 1.12. \square

An important consequence of Lemmas 1.12 and 1.14 is that elements of $X_{S,T}^\vee$ can give rise to elements of $\text{III}_{S,p}^2$. The former can be found via ray class group computations. We thus have a method of producing independent elements of $\text{III}_{S,p}^2$. If we find $d_p \mathbb{B}_S$ such elements, we have established $\text{III}_{S,p}^2 \xrightarrow{\simeq} \text{III}_S^2 \xrightarrow{\simeq} \mathbb{B}_S$, and thus computed $d_p \text{III}_S^2$.

2. Proof of the results

2.1. A key Proposition. — Let p be a prime number. Let K be a number field and let X be a finite set of places of K coprime to p . The proof of Theorem 1.1 is a consequence of the following proposition.

Proposition 2.1. — There exist (infinitely many) pairs of finite sets of tame places S and T of K such that:

- (i) $T \cup X$ is saturated and $d_p G_{T \cup X} = d_p G_X$;
- (ii) $d_p G_{S \cup T \cup X} = d_p G_{S \cup X}$;
- (iii) $|T| \leq d_p \text{Cl}_K + r_1 + r_2 - 1 + \delta$ and $|S| \leq r_1 + r_2 - 1 + \delta$;
- (iv) for each prime $\mathfrak{q} \in T$, there exists a degree- p^2 cyclic extension $K_{\mathfrak{q}}$ of K^H , abelian over K , unramified outside $S \cup X \cup \{\mathfrak{q}\}$, where the inertia group at \mathfrak{q} is of order p .

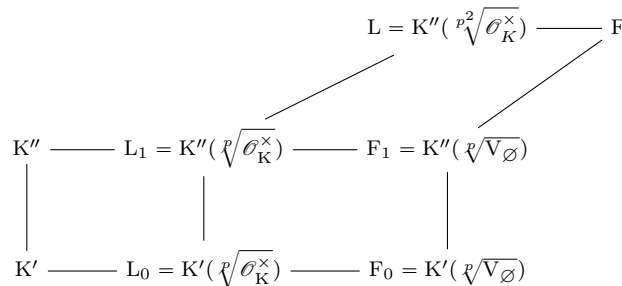
Put $F_0 = K'(\sqrt[p]{V_\emptyset})$, $L_0 = K'(\sqrt[p]{\mathcal{O}_K^\times})$, $K'' = K(\zeta_{p^2})$, $L_1 = K''(\sqrt[p^2]{\mathcal{O}_K^\times})$, $F_1 = K''(\sqrt[p]{V_\emptyset})$, and $F = \text{LF}_0 = K''(\sqrt[p^2]{\mathcal{O}_K^\times}, \sqrt[p]{V_\emptyset})$. Put $G = \text{Gal}(F/K')$.

Proof. — (of Proposition 2.1.)

Given a prime \mathfrak{p} of \mathcal{O}_K , coprime to p , we choose a prime $\mathfrak{P}|\mathfrak{p}$ of F , and we consider its Frobenius $\sigma_{\mathfrak{p}} := \sigma_{\mathfrak{P}}$ in the Galois group $\text{Gal}(F/K')$ and its quotients. As mentioned earlier, this is well-defined up to a nonzero scalar multiple in $\text{Gal}(F/K')$ and that is all we need.

Put $E_X = \langle \sigma_{\mathfrak{p}|F_0}, \mathfrak{p} \in X \rangle \subset \text{Gal}(F_0/K')$ the subgroup of $\text{Gal}(F_0/K')$ generated by the Frobenii of the primes $\mathfrak{p} \in X$. Put $m_X = d_p V_\emptyset - d_p E_X$.

a) Assume first that $F_0 \cap K'' = K'$.



We choose S and T as follows:

- let T be *any* set of primes \mathfrak{q} whose Frobenii $\sigma_{\mathfrak{q}}$ in G are such that the restriction in $\text{Gal}(F_0/K')$ forms an \mathbb{F}_p -basis of a subspace in direct sum with E_X : in other words,

$$\text{Gal}(F_0/K') = \langle \sigma_{\mathfrak{q}|_{F_0}}, \mathfrak{q} \in T \rangle \bigoplus E_X,$$

$$\text{and } \langle \sigma_{\mathfrak{q}|_{F_0}}, \mathfrak{q} \in T \rangle = \bigoplus_{\mathfrak{q} \in T} \langle \sigma_{\mathfrak{q}|_{F_0}} \rangle.$$

- let \tilde{X} be those places of X whose Frobenii lie in $\text{Gal}(F/F_1)$ and let S be *any* set of primes \mathfrak{p} whose Frobenii $\sigma_{\mathfrak{p}}$ in G form in direct sum with the Frobenii in \tilde{X} a basis of $\text{Gal}(F/F_1)$.

As $\text{Gal}(F_1/K')$ has exponent p , we see for each $\mathfrak{q} \in T$, $\sigma_{\mathfrak{q}}^p \in \text{Gal}(F/F_1)$. Observe also that if $\sigma_{\mathfrak{q}|_{K''}}$ is not trivial (which is equivalent to $N(\mathfrak{q}) \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^2}$), then $\sigma_{\mathfrak{q}}^p$ is the Frobenius at \mathfrak{P} in $\text{Gal}(F/F'')$; otherwise $\sigma_{\mathfrak{q}}^p$ is the p -power of the Frobenius at $\mathfrak{Q} \mid \mathfrak{q}$ in $\text{Gal}(F/F'')$.

By Theorem 1.8 the set $T \cup X$ is saturated. Moreover thanks to the condition on the direct sum for the Frobenius at $\mathfrak{p} \in T$, by Theorem 1.1, there is no cyclic degree- p extension of K , unramified outside $T \cup X$ and totally ramified at any nonempty subset of places of T : thus $d_p G_{T \cup X} = d_p G_X$, and (i) holds.

Moreover as each place of S splits totally in the governing extension F_0/K' , then again by Theorem 1.1, $d_p G_{S \cup T \cup X} = d_p G_{S \cup X}$, and (ii) holds.

The condition on S gives a relation of type (4) in $\text{Gal}(F/F_1) \subset \text{Gal}(F/L_1)$ for the set $S \cup \tilde{X} \cup \{\mathfrak{q}\}$, $\mathfrak{q} \in T$. After taking the quotient of this relation by $\text{Gal}(F/L)$, we obtain by Proposition 1.5 that for each prime $\mathfrak{q} \in T$, the existence of a degree- p^2 cyclic extension $K_{\mathfrak{q}}/H$, abelian over K and unramified outside $S \cup X \cup \{\mathfrak{q}\}$ for which the inertia at \mathfrak{q} is of order p , proving (iv).

(iii) is obvious.

b) Assume now that that $K'' \subset F_0$.

Let $\mathfrak{A}_i, i = 1, \dots, d$ be ideals of \mathcal{O}_K , whose classes are a system of minimal generators of $\text{Cl}_K[p]$, and let $a_i \in \mathcal{O}_K^\times$ such that $(a_i) = \mathfrak{A}_i^p$. Put $A = \langle a_1, \dots, a_d \rangle K^{\times p}/K^{\times p} \subset V_{\emptyset}/K^{\times p}$. Note $K'(\sqrt[p]{V_{\emptyset}}) = K'(\sqrt[p]{A}, \sqrt[p]{\mathcal{O}_K^\times})$.

As F_0/K' and K''/K' are abelian p -extensions, the containment $K'' \subset F_0$ implies $K' = K$. Moreover $L_0 \cap K''(\sqrt[p]{A}) = K''$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & & & L = K''(\sqrt[p^2]{\mathcal{O}_K^\times}) & \text{---} & F \\
 & & & & \swarrow & & \searrow \\
 & & & & & & \\
 L_0 = K'(\sqrt[p]{\mathcal{O}_K^\times}) & \text{---} & F_0 = F_1 = K'(\sqrt[p]{V_{\emptyset}}) & & & & \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & & \\
 K'' & \text{---} & K''(\sqrt[p]{A}) & & & & \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & & \\
 K' & \text{---} & K'(\sqrt[p]{A}) & & & &
 \end{array}$$

Now take T and S as in case a). □

Remark 2.2. — Observe that one can take T such that $|T| \leq m_X = d_p V_{\emptyset} - d_p E_X$.

2.2. Proof of Theorem A. — Let S and T as in Proposition 2.1. As $X \cup T$ is saturated, by (i) of Proposition 2.1 and (5), one obtains $|T| = d_p \mathbb{B}_X$. Moreover, $S \cup X \cup T$ is also saturated and in particular, $\mathbb{B}_{S \cup X \cup T} \simeq \mathbb{III}_{S \cup X \cup T, p}^2 = \{0\}$. With (ii), we see that $d_p \mathbb{B}_{S \cup X} = |T|$ so (i) and (ii) imply: $\mathbb{B}_{S \cup X} \simeq \mathbb{B}_X$.

Now let us take the spectral sequence of the short exact sequence

$$1 \longrightarrow H_{S \cup X, T} \longrightarrow G_{S \cup X \cup T}(p) \longrightarrow G_{S \cup X}(p) \longrightarrow 1$$

to obtain by Lemma 1.12:

$$1 \rightarrow H^1(G_{S \cup X}(p), \mathbb{F}_p) \rightarrow H^1(G_{S \cup X \cup T}(p), \mathbb{F}_p) \rightarrow X_{S \cup X, T}^\vee \rightarrow \mathbb{III}_{S \cup X, p}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{III}_{S \cup X \cup T, p}^2 = \{0\}.$$

Hence, $X_{S \cup X, T}^\vee \simeq \mathbb{III}_{S \cup X, p}^2$. Now (iv) of Proposition 2.1 implies that $d_p X_{S \cup X, T} \geq |T|$, and as obviously $d_p X_{S \cup X, T} \leq |T|$, we finally get $d_p \mathbb{III}_{S \cup X, p}^2 = |T|$.

Hence $d_p \mathbb{III}_{S \cup X, p}^2 = |T| = d_p \mathbb{B}_{S \cup X} = d_p \mathbb{B}_X$. Thanks to (2), one has

$$\mathbb{III}_{S \cup X, p}^2 \simeq \mathbb{III}_{S \cup X}^2 \simeq \mathbb{B}_{S \cup X} \simeq \mathbb{B}_X.$$

2.3. Proof of Corollary A. — Let us choose S and T as in proof of Proposition 2.1. Let us write $T = \{\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_{m_X}\}$, where $m_X = d_p \mathbb{B}_\emptyset - d_p E_X$. Put $S_0 = S \cup X$ and, for $i \geq 0$, $S_{i+1} = S \cup X \cup \{\mathfrak{p}_i\}$. Here, as $d_p G_{S_i} = d_p G_{S_{m_X}}$, the spectral sequence shows that

$$(7) \quad \mathbb{F}_p \hookrightarrow \mathbb{III}_{S_i, p}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{III}_{S_{i+1}, p}^2,$$

in particular $d_p \mathbb{III}_{S_i, p}^2 \leq d_p \mathbb{III}_{S_{i+1}, p}^2 + 1$. After noting that $d_p \mathbb{III}_{S_{m_X}, p}^2 = 0$ (the set $X \cup T$ is saturated) and that $d_p \mathbb{III}_{S_0, p}^2 = |T| = m_X$, then we conclude that $d_p \mathbb{III}_{S_i, p}^2 = m_X - i$. Observe also that (7) induces:

$$\mathbb{F}_p \hookrightarrow \mathbb{III}_{S_i}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{III}_{S_{i+1}}^2,$$

and as before $d_p \mathbb{III}_{S_i}^2 = m - i$. The isomorphisms $\mathbb{III}_{S_i, p}^2 \simeq \mathbb{III}_{S_i}^2$'s become obvious.

We have proved:

Corollary 2.3. — *One has $\mathbb{III}_{S_i}^2 \simeq \mathbb{F}_p^{m_X - i}$.*

Take $X = \emptyset$ to have Corollary A.

3. Examples

In this section we give a few examples of fields K and sets S such that in the diagram

$$\mathbb{III}_\emptyset^2 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{B}_\emptyset \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{B}_S \hookleftarrow \mathbb{III}_S^2,$$

the two maps on the right are isomorphisms. In our first two examples we show the left map is *not* an isomorphism. Thus we give explicit examples where \mathbb{III}_X^2 increases as X does, in contrast to the wild case.

In the third example we establish

$$\mathbb{B}_\emptyset \xrightarrow{\cong} \mathbb{B}_S \xleftarrow{\cong} \mathbb{III}_S^2,$$

but do not know whether $d_p \mathbb{III}_\emptyset^2 < d_p \mathbb{III}_S^2$. Indeed, we suspect equality in that case.

In the examples below, p_i refers to the i th prime of K above the rational prime p as MAGMA presents the factorization. All code was run unconditionally, that is we did *not* use GRH bounds for computing ray class groups.

Example 1. — Let K be the unique degree 3 subfield of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_7)$ and let $p = 2$. Then one can easily compute that K has trivial class group and, since K is totally real, $d_p \mathbb{B}_\emptyset = d_p \mathcal{O}_K^\times / \mathcal{O}_K^{\times 2} + d_p \text{Cl}_K[2] = 3$. Clearly $G_\emptyset = \{e\}$ and $d_p \mathbb{III}_\emptyset^2 = 0$ so $\mathbb{III}_\emptyset^2 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{B}_\emptyset$ has 3-dimensional cokernel. Set $S = \{37_1, 181_1, 293_1\}$ and $T = \{307_1, 311_1, 349_1\}$. One computes $d_p H^1(G_T, \mathbb{F}_2) = 0$ so T and $S \cup T$ are saturated. The 2-parts of the ray class groups for conductors $S \cup T$ and S are $(\mathbb{Z}/4)^3$ and $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^3$ respectively, so the map $H^1(G_S, \mathbb{F}_2) \rightarrow H^1(G_{S \cup T}, \mathbb{F}_2)$ is an isomorphism and $d_p X_{S \cup X, T}^\vee \geq 3$. As $d_p \mathbb{III}_S^2 \leq d_p \mathbb{B}_S \leq d_p \mathbb{B}_\emptyset = 3$, we see $d_p \mathbb{III}_S^2 = 3$.

Example 2. — Let K be the unique degree 3 subfield of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{349})$ and let $p = 2$. Here K has class group $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^2$ and is again totally real, so $d_p \mathbb{B}_\emptyset = d_p \mathcal{O}_K^\times / \mathcal{O}_K^{\times 2} + d_p \text{Cl}_K[2] = 5$. One computes the class group of the Hilbert class field of K is trivial so $G_\emptyset = \mathbb{Z}/2 \times \mathbb{Z}/2$ and has three relations. Thus $d_p \mathbb{III}_\emptyset^2 = d_p H^2(G_\emptyset, \mathbb{F}_2) = 3$ so the map $\mathbb{III}_\emptyset^2 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{B}_\emptyset$ has 2-dimensional cokernel. Set $S = \{701_1, 2857_1, 3169_1\}$ and $T = \{367_1, 397_1, 401_1, 409_1, 449_1\}$. One computes $d_p H^1(G_T, \mathbb{F}_2) = 2$ so T and $S \cup T$ are saturated. The 2-parts of the ray class groups for conductors $S \cup T$ and S are $\mathbb{Z}/4 \times (\mathbb{Z}/8)^2 \times \mathbb{Z}/16 \times \mathbb{Z}/32$ and $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^5$ respectively, so the map $H^1(G_S, \mathbb{F}_2) \rightarrow H^1(G_{S \cup T}, \mathbb{F}_2)$ is an isomorphism and $d_p X_{S \cup X, T}^\vee \geq 5$. As $d_p \mathbb{III}_S^2 \leq d_p \mathbb{B}_S \leq d_p \mathbb{B}_\emptyset = 5$, we see $d_p \mathbb{III}_S^2 = 5$.

Example 3. — Let $K = \mathbb{Q}[x]/(f(x))$ where $f(x) = x^{12} + 339x^{10} - 19752x^8 - 2188735x^6 + 284236829x^4 + 4401349506x^2 + 15622982921$. This polynomial is irreducible and K is totally complex with small root discriminant and has class group $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^6$. The field K has been used as a starting point in finding infinite towers of totally complex number fields whose root discriminants are the smallest currently known. Set

$$S = \{7_2, 11_1, 43_1, 47_3, 67_3, 97_1\}, \quad T = \{5_1, 13_1, 19_1, 19_2, 23_1, 23_2, 23_3, 29_1, 31_1, 61_1, 149_1, 149_4\}.$$

As K is totally complex,

$$d_p \mathbb{B}_\emptyset = d_p \mathcal{O}_K^\times / \mathcal{O}_K^{\times 2} + d_p \text{Cl}_K[2] = 6 + 6 = 12 = \#T.$$

One computes $d_p H^1(G_T, \mathbb{F}_2) = 6$ so T and $S \cup T$ are saturated. The 2-parts of the ray class groups for conductors $S \cup T$ and S are $(\mathbb{Z}/4)^5 \times (\mathbb{Z}/8)^4 \times (\mathbb{Z}/16)^3$ and $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^{11} \times \mathbb{Z}/8$ respectively, so the map $H^1(G_S, \mathbb{F}_2) \rightarrow H^1(G_{S \cup T}, \mathbb{F}_2)$ is an isomorphism. From this data one can only conclude $d_p X_{S \cup X, T}^\vee \geq 11$. On the other hand, for every $v \in T$ one computes the 2-part of the ray class group for conductor $S \cup \{v\}$ has order at least $2^{15} > 2^{14}$. As the latter quantity is the order of the 2-part of the ray class group with conductor S , we get $\#T = 12$ independent elements of $X_{S \cup X, T}^\vee$ so $d_p \mathbb{III}_S^2 \geq 12$. As $d_p \mathbb{B}_S \leq d_p \mathbb{B}_\emptyset = 12$, we have $d_p \mathbb{III}_S^2 = 12$. We suspect that in this case $d_p \mathbb{III}_\emptyset^2 = 12$.

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