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Automatic realizations of Galois groups with cyclic quotient of order p^n

par Ján MINÁČ, Andrew SCHULTZ et John SWALLOW

Résumé. Nous établissons des réalisations automatiques de groupes de Galois parmi les groupes $M \rtimes G$ où G est un groupe cyclique d'ordre p^n, p premier, et M un groupe quotient de l'anneau $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$.

Abstract. We establish automatic realizations of Galois groups among groups $M \rtimes G$, where G is a cyclic group of order p^n for a prime p and M is a quotient of the group ring $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$.

1. Introduction

The fundamental problem in inverse Galois theory is to determine, for a given field F and a given profinite group G, whether there exists a Galois extension K/F such that $\text{Gal}(K/F)$ is isomorphic to G. A natural sort of reduction theorem for this problem takes the form of a pair (A, B) of profinite groups with the property that, for all fields F, the existence of A as a Galois group over F implies the existence of B as a Galois group over F. We call such a pair an automatic realization of Galois groups and denote it $A \implies B$. The trivial automatic realizations are those given by quotients of Galois groups; by Galois theory, if G is realizable over F then so is every quotient H. It is a nontrivial fact, however, that there exist nontrivial automatic realizations. (See [4, 5, 6] for a good overview of the theory of automatic realizations. Some interesting automatic realizations of groups of order 16 are obtained in [2], and these and other automatic realizations of finite 2-groups are collected in [3]. For comprehensive treatments of related Galois embedding problems, see [7] and [9].)

The usual techniques for obtaining automatic realizations of Galois groups involve an analysis of Galois embedding problems. In this paper we offer a new approach based on the structure of natural Galois modules: we use equivariant Kummer theory to reformulate realization problems in terms of Galois modules, and then we solve Galois module problems. We

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take this approach in proving Theorem 1.1, which establishes automatic realizations for a useful family of finite metacyclic p-groups. Our methods extend those of [10], [11] and [12]. It is interesting to observe that, although not visible here, the essential fact underpinning our results is Hilbert 90. Indeed, the structural results in [12] rely crucially on the repeated application of Hilbert 90, using combinatorial and Galois-theoretic arguments to draw out the consequences.

Let p be a prime, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and G a cyclic group of order p^n with generator σ. For the group ring $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$, there exist precisely p^n nonzero ring quotients, namely $M_j := \mathbb{F}_p[G]/\langle(\sigma-1)^j\rangle$ for $j = 1, 2, \ldots, p^n$. Multiplication in $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$ induces an $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-action on each M_j. In particular, each M_j is a G-module. Let $M_j \rtimes G$ denote the semidirect product.

Theorem 1.1. *We have the following automatic realizations of Galois groups:*

$$M_{p^i+c} \rtimes G \implies M_{p^{i+1}} \rtimes G, \qquad 0 \le i < n, \quad 1 \le c < p^{i+1} - p^i.$$

In Section 2 we recall some facts about the set of quotients M_j and the semidirect products $M_j \rtimes G$. In Sections 3 through 5 we consider the case $\operatorname{char} F \neq p$. Following Waterhouse [15], we recall in Section 3 a generalized Kummer correspondence over K, where K is a cyclic extension of F of degree p^n, and in Section 4 we establish a proposition detecting when such extensions are Galois over F. In Section 5 we decompose J_ϵ, the crucial Kummer submodule of the module $K(\xi_p)^\times/K(\xi_p)^{\times p}$, as an $\mathbb{F}_p[\mathrm{Gal}(K(\xi_p)/F(\xi_p))]$-module, where ξ_p is a primitive pth root of unity. In Section 6 we prove Theorem 1.1, using Sections 3 through 5 in the case $\operatorname{char} F \neq p$ and Witt's Theorem in the case $\operatorname{char} F = p$. The case $i = 0$ was previously considered by two of the authors [11, Theorem 1(A)].

2. Groups and $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-modules

Let p be a prime and $G = \langle\sigma\rangle$ an abstract group of order p^n. We recall some facts concerning R-modules, where R is the group ring $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$. Because we frequently view R as a module over R, to prevent confusion we write the module R as

$$R = \oplus_{j=0}^{p^n-1} \mathbb{F}_p \tau^j,$$

where σ acts by multiplication by τ. For convenience we set $\rho := \sigma - 1$.

The set of nonzero cyclic R-modules is identical to the set of nonzero indecomposable R-modules, and these are precisely the p^n quotients $M_j := R/\langle(\tau-1)^j\rangle$, $1 \le j \le p^n$. Each M_j is a local ring, with unique maximal ideal ρM_j, and is annihilated by ρ^j but not ρ^{j-1}.

Moreover, for each j there exists a G-equivariant isomorphism from M_j to its dual M_j^*, as follows. For each $i \in \{1, \ldots, p^n\}$ we choose the $\mathbb{F}_p$-basis of M_j consisting of the images of $\{1, (\tau-1), \dots, (\tau-1)^{j-1}\}$ and define an $\mathbb{F}_p$-linear map $\lambda : M_j \to \mathbb{F}_p$ by

$$\lambda\left(f_0 + f_1\overline{(\tau-1)} + \cdots + f_{j-1}\overline{(\tau-1)}^{j-1}\right) = f_{j-1},$$

where $f_k \in \mathbb{F}_p$, $k = 0, \dots, j-1$. Observe that $\ker\lambda$ contains no nonzero ideal of M_j. Then

$$Q : M_j \times M_j \to \mathbb{F}_p, \qquad Q(a,b) := \lambda(ab),\ a, b \in M_j$$

is a nonsingular symmetric bilinear form. Thus M_j is a symmetric algebra. (See [8, page 442].) Moreover, Q induces a G-equivariant isomorphism $\psi : M_j \to M_j^*$ given by $(\psi(a))(b) = Q(a,b)$, $a, b \in M_j$.

Remark. In order for ψ to be G-equivariant, we must define the action on M_j^* by $\sigma f(m) = f(\sigma m)$ for all $m \in M_j$, and since G is commutative, this action is well-defined. It is worthwhile to observe, however, that M_j^* is $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-isomorphic to the module $\tilde{M}_j^*$ on which the action of G is defined by $\sigma f(m) = f(\sigma^{-1}m)$ for all $m \in M_j$. Indeed by the G-equivariant isomorphism between M_j and M_j^* it is sufficient to show that the $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-module $\tilde{M}_j$ obtained from M_j by twisting the action of G via the automorphism $\sigma \to \sigma^{-1}$ is naturally isomorphic to M_j. But this follows readily by extending the automorphism $\sigma \to \sigma^{-1}$ to the automorphism of the group ring $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$ and then inducing the required $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-isomorphism between M_j and M_j^*.

We also recall some facts about the semidirect products $H_j := M_j \rtimes G$, $j = 1, \dots, p^n$. For each j, the group H_j has order p^{j+n}; exponent p^n, except when $j = p^n$, in which case the exponent is p^{n+1}; nilpotent index j; rank (the smallest number of generators) 2; and Frattini subgroup $\Phi(H_j) = (\rho M_j) \rtimes G^p$. Finally, for $j < k$, H_j is a quotient of H_k by the normal subgroup $\rho^j M_k \rtimes 1$.

3. Kummer theory with operators

For Sections 3 through 5 we adopt the following hypotheses. Suppose that $G = \mathrm{Gal}(K/F) = \langle\sigma\rangle$ for an extension K/F of degree p^n of fields of characteristic not p. For any element $\tau \in G$ we denote the fixed subfield of τ as $\mathrm{Fix}_K(\tau)$. We let ξ_p be a primitive pth root of unity and set $\hat{F} := F(\xi_p)$, $\hat{K} := K(\xi_p)$, and $J := \hat{K}^\times/\hat{K}^{\times p}$, where $\hat{K}^\times$ denotes the multiplicative group $\hat{K} \setminus \{0\}$. We write the elements of J as $[\gamma]$, $\gamma \in \hat{K}^\times$, and we write the elements of $\hat{F}^\times/\hat{F}^{\times p}$ as $[\gamma]_{\hat{F}}$, $\gamma \in \hat{F}^\times$. We moreover let ϵ denote a generator of $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{F}/F)$ and set $s = [\hat{F} : F]$. Since p and s are relatively prime, $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{K}/F) \simeq \mathrm{Gal}(\hat{F}/F) \times \mathrm{Gal}(K/F)$. Therefore we may naturally extend ϵ and σ to $\hat{K}$, and the two automorphisms commute in $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{K}/F)$.

Using the extension of σ to $\hat{K}$, we write G for $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{K}/\hat{F})$ as well. Then J is an $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-module. Finally, we let $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $\epsilon(\xi_p) = \xi_p^t$. Then t is relatively prime to p, and we let J_ϵ be the t-eigenspace of J under the action of ϵ: $J_\epsilon = \{[\gamma] \ : \ \epsilon[\gamma] = [\gamma]^t\}$.

Observe that since ϵ and σ commute, J_ϵ is an $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-subspace of J. By [15, §5, Proposition], we have a Kummer correspondence over K of finite subspaces M of the $\mathbb{F}_p$-vector space J_ϵ and finite abelian exponent p extensions L of K:

$$M = ((\hat{K}L)^{\times p} \cap \hat{K}^\times)/\hat{K}^{\times p} \leftrightarrow$$
$$L = L_M = \text{maximal } p\text{-extension of } K \text{ in } \hat{L}_M := \hat{K}(\sqrt[p]{\gamma} : [\gamma] \in M).$$

As Waterhouse shows, for $M \subset J_\epsilon$, the automorphism $\epsilon \in \mathrm{Gal}(\hat{K}/K)$ has a unique lift $\tilde{\epsilon}$ to $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/K)$ of order s, and L_M is the fixed field of $\tilde{\epsilon}$.

In the next proposition we provide some information about the corresponding Galois modules when L_M/F is Galois. Recall that in the situation above, the Galois groups $\mathrm{Gal}(L_M/K)$ and $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{K})$ are naturally G-modules under the action induced by conjugations of lifts of the elements in G to $\mathrm{Gal}(L_M/F)$ and $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{F})$. Furthermore, because the Galois groups $\mathrm{Gal}(L_M/K)$ and $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{K})$ have exponents dividing p, we see that $\mathrm{Gal}(L_M/K)$ and $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{K})$ are in fact $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-modules.

Proposition 3.1. *Suppose that M is a finite $\mathbb{F}_p$-subspace of J_ϵ. Then*

(1) *L_M is Galois over F if and only if M is an $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-submodule of J_ϵ.*

(2) *If L_M/F is Galois, then base extension $F \to \hat{F}$ induces a natural isomorphism $\mathrm{Gal}(L_M/F) \simeq \mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{F})$ compatible with our isomorphism $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{K}/\hat{F}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathrm{Gal}(K/F) \simeq G$ under the restriction map.*

(3) *If L_M/F is Galois, then as G-modules,*

$$\mathrm{Gal}(L_M/K) \simeq \mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{K}) \simeq M.$$

Proof. (1). Suppose first that L_M/F is Galois. Then $\hat{L}_M = L\hat{K}/\hat{F}$ is Galois as well. Every automorphism of $\hat{K}$ extends to an automorphism of $\hat{L}_M$, and therefore M is an $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-submodule of J. From [15, §5, Proposition] we see that M is an $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-submodule of J_ϵ.

Going the other way, suppose that M is a finite $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-submodule of J_ϵ. By the correspondence above, L_M/K is Galois. Then M is also an $\mathbb{F}_p[\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{K}/F)]$-submodule of J_ϵ and therefore $\hat{L}_M/F$ is Galois. Now since K/F is Galois, every automorphism of $\hat{L}_M$ sends K to K. Moreover, since L_M is the unique maximal p-extension of K in $\hat{L}_M$, every automorphism of $\hat{L}_M$ sends L_M to L_M. Therefore L_M/F is Galois.

(2). Suppose L_M/F is Galois. Since $\hat{F}/F$ and L_M/F are of relatively prime degrees, we have $\mathrm{Gal}(L_M\hat{F}/F) \simeq \mathrm{Gal}(\hat{F}/F) \times \mathrm{Gal}(L_M/F)$. Therefore we have a natural isomorphism $G = \mathrm{Gal}(K/F) \simeq \mathrm{Gal}(\hat{K}/\hat{F})$, which is compatible with the natural isomorphism $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{F}) \simeq \mathrm{Gal}(L_M/F)$ under the usual restriction maps provided by Galois theory.

(3). Suppose L_M/F is Galois. By (2), it is enough to show that $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{K}) \simeq M$ as G-modules. Under the standard Kummer correspondence over $\hat{K}$, finite subspaces of the $\mathbb{F}_p$-vector space J correspond to finite abelian exponent p extensions $\hat{L}_M$ of $\hat{K}$, and M and $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{K})$ are dual G-modules under a G-equivariant canonical duality $\langle m, g\rangle = g(\sqrt[p]{m})/\sqrt[p]{m}$. (See [15, pages 134 and 135] and [11, §2.3].) Because M is finite, M decomposes into a direct sum of indecomposable $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-modules. From Section 2, all indecomposable $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-modules are G-equivariant self-dual modules. Hence there is a G-equivariant isomorphism between M and its dual M^*, and $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{F}) \simeq M$ as G-modules. □

4. The index

We keep the same assumptions given at the beginning of Section 3. Set $A := \mathrm{ann}_J\, \rho^{p^n-1} = \{[\gamma] \in J : \rho^{p^{n-1}-1}[\gamma] = [1]\}$. The following homomorphism appears in a somewhat different form in [15, Theorem 3]:

Definition. The *index* $e(\gamma) \in \mathbb{F}_p$ for $[\gamma] \in A$ is defined by

$$\xi_p^{e(\gamma)} = \left(\sqrt[p]{N_{\hat{K}/\hat{F}}(\gamma)}\right)^{\rho}.$$

The index is well-defined, as follows. First, since

$$1 + \sigma + \cdots + \sigma^{p^n-1} = (\sigma-1)^{p^n-1} = \rho^{p^n-1}$$

in $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$, $[N_{\hat{K}/\hat{F}}(\gamma)] = [\gamma]^{\rho^{p^n-1}}$, which is the trivial class [1] by the assumption $[\gamma] \in A$. As a result, $\sqrt[p]{N_{\hat{K}/\hat{F}}(\gamma)}$ lies in $\hat{K}$ and is acted upon by σ and therefore ρ. Observe that $e(\gamma)$ depends neither on the representative γ of $[\gamma]$ nor on the particular pth root of $N_{\hat{K}/\hat{F}}(\gamma)$.

The index function e is a group homomorphism from A to $\mathbb{F}_p$. Therefore the restriction of e to any submodule of A is either trivial or surjective. Moreover, the index is trivial for any $[\gamma]$ in the image of ρ:

$$\xi_p^{e(\gamma^\rho)} = \sqrt[p]{N_{\hat{K}/\hat{F}}(\gamma^\rho)}^{\rho} = \sqrt[p]{1}^{\rho} = 1,$$

or $e(\gamma^\rho) = 0$.

Following Waterhouse, we show how the index function permits the determination of $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{F})$ as a G-extension.

For $1 \le j \le p^n$ and $e \in \mathbb{F}_p$, write $H_{j,e}$ for the group extension of M_j by G with $\tilde{\sigma}^{p^n} = e(\tau-1)^{j-1}$, where $\tilde{\sigma}$ is a lift of σ. Observe that $H_{j,0} = H_j = M_j \rtimes G$.

Let N_γ denote the cyclic $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-submodule of J generated by $[\gamma]$.

Proposition 4.1. *(See* [15, Theorem 2]*.) Let* $[\gamma] \in J_\epsilon$ *and* $M = N_\gamma$*.*

(1) *If* $M \simeq M_j$ *for* $1 \le j < p^n$ *and* $e = e(\gamma)$*, then* $\mathrm{Gal}(L_M/F) \simeq H_{j,e}$ *as* G*-extensions.*

(2) *If* $M \simeq \mathbb{F}_p[G]$ *then* $\mathrm{Gal}(L_M/F) \simeq \mathbb{F}_p[G] \rtimes G$*.*

Before presenting the proof, we note that if $M \simeq M_j$ for $1 \le j < p^n$ then we have

$$\rho^{p^n-1}[\gamma] = \rho^{p^n-1-j}\left(\rho^j[\gamma]\right) = \rho^{p^n-1-j}[1] = [1].$$

Hence $[\gamma] \in A$, and so $e(\gamma)$ is defined. Furthermore, Waterhouse tells us in this case that if $e \neq 0$, then $H_{j,e} \not\simeq H_j$ (see [15, Theorem 2]). He also shows that if $j = p^n$ then there is a G-extension isomorphism $H_{p^n,e} \simeq H_{p^n}$ for every e. In particular, we may use Proposition 4.1 later to deduce that if $M \simeq M_j$ for $j < p^n$ and $\mathrm{Gal}(L_M/F) \simeq M_j \rtimes G$, then $e(\gamma) = 0$.

Proof. Suppose $M \simeq M_j$ for some $1 \le j \le p^n$. By Proposition 3.1(3), $\mathrm{Gal}(L_M/K) \simeq M_j$ as G-modules. Hence $\mathrm{Gal}(L_M/F) \simeq H_{j,e}$ for some e. If $j = p^n$ then from the isomorphism $H_{p^n,e} \simeq H_{p^n}$ above we have the second item. By Proposition 3.1(2), it remains only to show that if $j < p^n$, $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{F}) \simeq H_{j,e(\gamma)}$.

Let $\tilde{\sigma}$ denote a pullback of $\sigma \in G$ to $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{F})$. Then $\tilde{\sigma}^{p^n}$ lies in $Z(\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{F})) \cap \mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{K})$, where $Z(\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{F}))$ denotes the center of $\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{F})$. Using the G-equivariant Kummer pairing

$$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle \colon \mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{K}) \times M \to \langle \xi_p \rangle \simeq \mathbb{F}_p$$

we see that $Z(\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{K}))$ annihilates ρM. Furthermore, since this pairing is nonsingular we deduce that $Z(\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{K})) \simeq M/\rho M$ and we can choose a generator η of $Z(\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{L}_M/\hat{K}))$ such that

$$\langle \eta, [\gamma] \rangle = \eta(\sqrt[p]{\gamma})/\sqrt[p]{\gamma} = \xi_p.$$

In particular, if $\tilde{\sigma}^{p^n} = \eta^e$ then

$$(\sqrt[p]{\gamma})^{(\tilde{\sigma}^{p^n}-1)} = \xi_p^e.$$

Therefore

$$\sqrt[p]{\gamma}^{(\tilde{\sigma}^{p^n}-1)} = \sqrt[p]{\gamma}^{(1+\tilde{\sigma}+\cdots+\tilde{\sigma}^{p^n-1})(\tilde{\sigma}-1)} = \left(\sqrt[p]{N_{\hat{K}/\hat{F}}(\gamma)}\right)^{\rho} = \xi_p^{e(\gamma)}.$$

□

5. The $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-module J_ϵ

Again we keep the same assumptions given at the beginning of Section 3. In this section we develop the crucial technical results needed for Theorem 1.1: a decomposition of the $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-module J_ϵ into cyclic direct summands, and a determination of the value of the index function e on certain of the summands.

We first show that J_ϵ is indeed a summand of J. Then we combine a decomposition of J into indecomposables, taken from [12, Theorem 2], with uniqueness of decompositions into indecomposables, to achieve important restrictions on the possible summands of J_ϵ. Much of the remainder of the proof is devoted to establishing that we have an "exceptional summand" of dimension p^r+1 on which the index function is nontrivial. In the argument we need [12, Proposition 7] in particular to derive a lower bound for the dimension of that summand.

Theorem 5.1. *Suppose that $p > 2$ or $n > 1$. The $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-module J_ϵ decomposes into a direct sum $J_\epsilon = U \oplus_{\alpha\in\mathcal{A}} V_\alpha$, with $\mathcal{A}$ possibly empty, with the following properties:*

(1) *For each $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$ there exists $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ such that $V_\alpha \simeq M_{p^i}$.*
(2) *$U \simeq M_{p^r+1}$ for some $r \in \{-\infty, 0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$.*
(3) *$e(U) = \mathbb{F}_p$.*
(4) *If $V_\alpha \simeq M_{p^i}$ for $0 \le i \le r$, then $e(V_\alpha) = \{0\}$.*

Here we observe the convention that $p^{-\infty} = 0$.

Proof. We show first that J_ϵ is a direct summand of J by adapting an approach to descent from [13, page 258]. Recall that $[\hat{F} : F] = s$ and $\epsilon(\xi_p) = \xi_p^t$. Thus s and t are both relatively prime to p. Let $z \in \mathbb{Z}$ satisfy $zst^{s-1} \equiv 1 \pmod p$, and set

$$T = z \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{s} t^{s-i}\epsilon^{i-1} \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathrm{Gal}(\hat{K}/F)].$$

We calculate that $(t-\epsilon)T \equiv 0 \pmod p$, and hence the image of T on J lies in J_ϵ. Moreover, ϵ acts on J_ϵ by multiplication by t, and therefore T acts as the identity on J_ϵ. Finally, since ϵ and σ commute, T and $I-T$ commute with σ. Hence J decomposes into a direct sum $J_\epsilon \oplus J_\nu$, with associated projections T and $I-T$.

We claim that $e((I-T)A) = \{0\}$. Since $\xi_p \in \hat{F}$, the fixed field $\mathrm{Fix}_{\hat{K}}(\sigma^p)$ may be written $\hat{F}(\sqrt[p]{a})$ for a suitable $a \in \hat{F}^\times$. By [15, §5, Proposition], $\epsilon([a]_{\hat{F}}) = [a]_{\hat{F}}^t$. Suppose $\gamma \in \hat{K}^\times$ satisfies $[\gamma] \in A$. Then, since ϵ and σ commute,

$$[N_{\hat{K}/\hat{F}}(\epsilon(\gamma))]_{\hat{F}} = [\epsilon(N_{\hat{K}/\hat{F}}(\gamma))]_{\hat{F}} = \epsilon([N_{\hat{K}/\hat{F}}(\gamma)]_{\hat{F}}) = [N_{\hat{K}/\hat{F}}(\gamma)]_{\hat{F}}^t.$$

Hence $e(\epsilon([\gamma])) = t \cdot e([\gamma])$, and we then calculate that $e(T[\gamma]) = e([\gamma])$. Therefore $e((I-T)[\gamma]) = 0$, as desired.

Now since $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$ is an Artinian principal ideal ring, every $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-module decomposes into a direct sum of cyclic $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-modules [14, Theorem 6.7]. Since cyclic $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-modules are indecomposable, we have a decomposition of $J = J_\epsilon \oplus J_\nu$ as a direct sum of indecomposables. From Section 2 we know that each of these indecomposable modules are self-dual and local, and therefore they have local endomorphism rings. By the Krull-Schmidt-Azumaya Theorem (see [1, Theorem 12.6]), all decompositions of J into indecomposables are equivalent. (In our special case one can check this fact directly.)

On the other hand, we know by [12] several properties of J, including its decomposition as a direct sum of indecomposable $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-modules, as follows. By [12, Theorem 2],

$$J = X \oplus \bigoplus_{i=0}^{n} Y_i,$$

where each Y_i is a direct sum, possibly zero, of $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-modules isomorphic to M_{p^i}, and $X = N_\chi$ for some $\chi \in \hat{K}^\times$ such that $N_{\hat{K}/\hat{F}}(\chi) \in a^w \hat{F}^{\times p}$ for some w relatively prime to p. Moreover, $X \simeq M_{p^r+1}$ for some $r \in \{-\infty, 0, \ldots, n-1\}$. We deduce that $e(\chi) \neq 0$ and that e is surjective on X. Furthermore, considering each Y_i as a direct sum of indecomposable modules M_{p^i}, we have a decomposition of J into a direct sum of indecomposable modules.

We deduce that every indecomposable $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-submodule appearing as a direct summand in J_ϵ is isomorphic to M_{p^i} for some $i \in \{0, \ldots, n\}$, except possibly for one summand isomorphic to M_{p^r+1}. Moreover, we find that e is nontrivial on J_ϵ, as follows. From the hypothesis that either $p > 2$ or $n > 1$ we deduce that $p^r + 1 < p^n$. Therefore since $N_\chi \simeq M_{p^r+1}$ we have $[\chi] \in A$. Let $\theta, \omega \in \hat{K}^\times$ satisfy $[\theta] = T[\chi] \in J_\epsilon$ and $[\omega] = (I - T)[\chi]$. From $e((I-T)A) = \{0\}$ we obtain $e(\omega) = 0$. Therefore $e(\theta) \neq 0$. Observe that $\rho^{p^r+1}[\theta] = [1]$.

We next claim that e is trivial on any $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-submodule M of J_ϵ such that $M \simeq M_j$ for $j < p^r + 1$. Suppose not: M is an $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-submodule of J_ϵ isomorphic to M_j for some $j < p^r + 1$ and $e(M) \neq \{0\}$. Then $M = N_\gamma$ for some $\gamma \in \hat{K}^\times$. Since e is an $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-homomorphism and M is generated by $[\gamma]$, we have $e(\gamma) \neq 0$. But [12, Proposition 7 and Theorem 2] tells us that $c = p^r + 1$ is the minimal value of c such that $\rho^c[\beta] = [1]$ for $\beta \in \hat{K}$ with $N_{\hat{K}/\hat{F}}(\beta) \notin \hat{F}^{\times p}$. Hence we have a contradiction.

Because J_ϵ decomposes into a direct sum of cyclic $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-modules, we may write θ as an $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-linear combination of generators of such $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-modules, and we will use this combination and the fact that $e(\theta) \neq 0$ to prove that there exists a summand isomorphic to M_{p^r+1} on which e is nontrivial. Let $M = N_\delta$ be an arbitrary summand of J_ϵ. Then $M \simeq M_j$ for some j. Let $[\theta_\delta]$ be the projection of $[\theta]$ on M. Since $\rho^{p^r+1}[\theta] = [1]$, we deduce that $\rho^{p^r+1}[\theta_\delta] = [1]$. Now if $j > p^r + 1$ then $[\theta_\delta]$ lies in a proper submodule of M. Because ρM is the unique maximal ideal of M and e is an $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-module homomorphism, $e(\theta_\delta) = 0$. On the other hand, if $j < p^r + 1$ then we have already observed that $e(M) = \{0\}$. From $e(\theta) \neq 0$ we deduce that there must exist a summand isomorphic to M_{p^r+1} and on which e is nontrivial. Let U denote such a summand.

Now let $\{V_\alpha\}$, $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$, be the collection of summands of J_ϵ apart from U. Hence $J_\epsilon = U \oplus_{\alpha\in\mathcal{A}} V_\alpha$. Since every summand of J_ϵ is isomorphic to M_{p^i} where $i \in \{0, 1, \ldots, n\}$, except possibly for one summand isomorphic to M_{p^r+1}, we have (1). From the last paragraph, we have (2) and (3). Finally, since e is trivial on $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-submodules isomorphic to M_j with $j < p^r + 1$, we have (4). □

6. Proof of Theorem 1.1

Proof. We first consider the case $\operatorname{char} F \neq p$.

Suppose that L/F is a Galois extension with group $M_{p^i+c} \rtimes G$, where $0 \leq i < n$ and $1 \leq c < p^{i+1} - p^i$. Let $K = \operatorname{Fix}_L(M_{p^i+c})$ and identify G with $\operatorname{Gal}(K/F)$. Define $\hat{F}$, $\hat{K}$, J, J_ϵ, and A as in Sections 3 through 5. By the Kummer correspondence of Section 3 and Proposition 3.1, $L = L_M$ for some $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-submodule M of J_ϵ such that $M \simeq \operatorname{Gal}(L/K) \simeq M_{p^i+c}$ as $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-modules. Let $\gamma \in \hat{K}^\times$ be such that $M = N_\gamma$. Since $p^i + c < p^n$, we see that $M \subset A$ and so e is defined on M. By Proposition 4.1 and the discussion following it, from $\operatorname{Gal}(L/F) \simeq M_{p^i+c} \rtimes G$ we deduce $e(\gamma) = 0$.

Observe that if $p = 2$ then from $p^i + c < p^{i+1}$ and $1 \leq c$ we see that $i > 0$ and hence $n > 1$. By Theorem 5.1, J_ϵ has a decomposition into indecomposable $\mathbb{F}_p[G]$-modules

$$J_\epsilon = U \oplus \bigoplus_{\alpha\in\mathcal{A}} V_\alpha$$

such that each indecomposable V_α is isomorphic to M_{p^j} for some $j \in \{0, \ldots, n\}$, $U \simeq M_{p^r+1}$ for some $r \in \{-\infty, 0, \ldots, n-1\}$, $e(U) = \mathbb{F}_p$, and $e(V_\alpha) = \{0\}$ for all $V_\alpha \simeq M_{p^i}$ with $0 \leq i \leq r$. Let $U = N_\chi$ for some $\chi \in \hat{K}^\times$. Then $e(\chi) \neq 0$.

Because $\rho^{p^i+c-1} M \neq \{0\}$ we know that J_ϵ is not annihilated by ρ^{p^i+c-1}. Therefore either ρ^{p^i+c-1} does not annihilate $U \simeq M_{p^r+1}$, whence $p^r + 1 \geq p^i + c$, or $p^r + 1 < p^i + c$ and there exists an indecomposable summand isomorphic to M_{p^j} for some $j > i$.

Suppose first that $p^r + 1 < p^i + c$ and J_ϵ contains an indecomposable summand V isomorphic to M_{p^j} for some $j > i$. If $j = n$ then by Proposition 3.1

there exists a Galois extension L_V/F such that $\mathrm{Gal}(L_V/K) \simeq M_{p^n} \simeq \mathbb{F}_p[G]$. By Proposition 4.1(2), we have $\mathrm{Gal}(L_V/F) \simeq \mathbb{F}_p[G] \rtimes G$. Since $M_{p^{i+1}} \rtimes G$ is a quotient of $\mathbb{F}_p[G] \rtimes G$, we deduce that $M_{p^{i+1}} \rtimes G$ is a Galois group over F.

If instead $j < n$, then let $\gamma \in \hat{K}^\times$ such that $V = N_\gamma$. Because e is surjective on U we may find $\beta \in \hat{K}^\times$ such that $[\beta] \in U$ and $e(\beta) = e(\gamma)$. Now set $\delta := \gamma/\beta$. Then $e(\delta) = 0$ and we consider N_δ. From $p^j > p^i + c > p^r + 1$ and $\rho^{p^r+1}[\beta] = [1]$ we deduce that $\rho^{p^j-1}[\beta] = [1]$. Then $\rho^{p^j}[\delta] = [1]$ while $\rho^{p^j-1}[\delta] \neq [1]$, so $N_\delta \simeq M_{p^j}$. Let $W = N_\delta$. By Propositions 3.1 and 4.1 we obtain a Galois field extension with $\mathrm{Gal}(L_W/F) \simeq M_{p^j} \rtimes G$. Since $M_{p^{i+1}} \rtimes G$ is a quotient of $M_{p^j} \rtimes G$, we deduce that $M_{p^{i+1}} \rtimes G$ is a Galois group over F.

Suppose now that for every $j > i$ there does not exist an indecomposable summand isomorphic to M_{p^j}. We claim that $r > i$. Suppose not. Then from $p^r + 1 \geq p^i + c$ we obtain $r = i$ and $c = 1$. Moreover, U is the only summand of J_ϵ not annihilated by ρ^{p^i}. Let $\theta \in \hat{K}^\times$ such that $[\theta] = \mathrm{proj}_U\, \gamma$. If $[\theta] \in \rho U$, then $\rho^{p^i}[\gamma] = [1]$, whence $\rho^{p^i} M = \{0\}$, a contradiction. Since $[\theta] \in U \setminus \rho U$ and ρU is the unique maximal ideal of U, we obtain that $U = N_\theta$. Since $e(U) = \mathbb{F}_p$, we deduce that $e(\theta) \neq 0$. Now if $V_\alpha \simeq M_{p^j}$ for $j \leq r$ then $e(V_\alpha) = \{0\}$. Hence $e(V_\alpha) = \{0\}$ for all $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$. We deduce that $e(\gamma) \neq 0$, a contradiction. Therefore $r \geq i + 1$.

Let $\omega = \rho\chi$ and consider $N_\omega = \rho N_\chi = \rho U$. We obtain that $e(\omega) = 0$ and $N_\omega \simeq M_{p^r}$. By Propositions 3.1 and 4.1, we have that $\mathrm{Gal}(L_W/F) \simeq M_{p^r} \rtimes G$ for some suitable cyclic submodule W of J_ϵ. Since $M_{p^{i+1}} \rtimes G$ is a quotient of $M_{p^r} \rtimes G$, we deduce that $M_{p^{i+1}} \rtimes G$ is a Galois group over F.

Finally we turn to the case $\mathrm{char}\, F = p$. Recall that we denote $M_j \rtimes G$, $j = 1, \ldots, p^n$, by H_j. We have short exact sequences

$$1 \to \mathbb{F}_p \simeq \rho^{p^i+c+k} M_{p^i+c+k+1} \rtimes 1 \to H_{p^i+c+k+1} \to H_{p^i+c+k} \to 1$$

for all $1 \leq i < n$, $1 \leq c < p^{i+1} - p^i$, and $0 \leq k < p^{i+1} - p^i - c$. For all of these, the kernels are central, and the groups $H_{p^i+c+k+1}$ and H_{p^i+c+k} have the same rank, so the sequences are nonsplit. By Witt's Theorem, all central nonsplit Galois embedding problems with kernel $\mathbb{F}_p$ are solvable. (See [7, Appendix A].) Hence if H_{p^i+c} is a Galois group over F, one may successively solve a chain of suitable central nonsplit embedding problems with kernel $\mathbb{F}_p$ to obtain $H_{p^{i+1}}$ as a Galois group over F. □

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