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Demuškin groups, Galois modules, and the Elementary Type Conjecture

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Abstract

Let p be a prime and $F(p)$ the maximal p-extension of a field F containing a primitive pth root of unity. We give a new characterization of Demuškin groups among Galois groups $\mathrm{Gal}(F(p)/F)$ when $p = 2$, and, assuming the Elementary Type Conjecture, when $p > 2$ as well. This characterization is in terms of the structure, as Galois modules, of the Galois cohomology of index p subgroups of $\mathrm{Gal}(F(p)/F)$.

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0. Introduction

Let p be a prime and F a field containing a primitive pth root of unity ξ_p. The union $F(p)$ of all finite Galois extensions L/F in a fixed algebraic closure of F with $[L:F]$ a power of p is called the maximal p-extension of F. Consider $G = \mathrm{Gal}(F(p)/F)$. Observe that while every profinite group is a Galois group of some Galois extension [W1], the condition that $G = \mathrm{Gal}(F(p)/F)$ is substantially more restrictive.

We ask when $G = \mathrm{Gal}(F(p)/F)$ is a Demuškin group, that is, a finitely generated pro-p-group satisfying $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p) = 1$ such that the cup product

$$\gamma_F : H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p) \times H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p) \to H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$$

is a non-degenerate bilinear form. (See [NSW, §III.9] and [S, §I.4.5 and §II.5.6]. Others relax the requirement on finite generation, but in this article we consider only the finitely generated case.) Demuškin groups arise, for instance, as pro-p-completions of fundamental groups of compact surfaces T of genus $g \geqslant 1$ when T is orientable and $g \geqslant 2$ when T is not orientable. If F is a finite extension of the field of p-adic numbers $\mathbb{Q}_p$ and contains ξ_p, then G is Demuškin.

The study of Demuškin groups among Galois groups $\mathrm{Gal}(F(p)/F)$ is an important part of the program of classification of possible Galois groups of maximal p-extensions of fields, as these groups form an essential part of the local theory of this project. In turn, the classification of possible $\mathrm{Gal}(F(p)/F)$ is one of the key problems in current Galois theory. This study is also crucial for the development of anabelian algebraic geometry over fields. (See [Ef3,Ko], and further references in these papers.)

In this paper we detect whether $G = \mathrm{Gal}(F(p)/F)$ is a Demuškin group in terms of the Galois module structure of the Galois cohomology of index p subgroups of G. For such G, we establish a new characterization of Demuškin groups when $p = 2$. When $p > 2$ our characterization depends upon the Elementary Type Conjecture in the theory of Galois pro-p-groups. The close relationship of this characterization with the Elementary Type Conjecture offers a new approach to the Conjecture. (See Remark 2 in Section 5.)

The surprising new insight contained in Theorem 1 below is that G is Demuškin if $\mathrm{cd}(G) = 2$ and $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$, with N a subgroup of index p of G, does not grow "too fast." In fact a relatively mild condition on the growth of $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ guarantees that $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) = 1$.

In considering Galois cohomology groups as Galois modules, we could use the results of [LMS1,LMS2]. These results, however, depend upon recent, complex, partially published work of Rost–Voevodsky on the Bloch–Kato Conjecture. For the proof of the following theorem we use only the results in [MeSu] concerning the Bloch–Kato Conjecture in the case $n = 2$.

Before formulating the main theorem we recall that if G is a finitely generated pro-p-group, any subgroup of index p is closed [S, §I.4.2, Exercise 6], and that in a pro-p-group, any subgroup of index p is normal. Let H be a group and M be an $\mathbb{F}_p[H]$-module. We say that M is a trivial $\mathbb{F}_p[H]$-module if for each $\tau \in H$ and $m \in M$ we have $\tau(m) = m$.

Theorem 1. *Let F be a field containing a primitive pth root of unity, and suppose that $G = \mathrm{Gal}(F(p)/F)$ is a finitely generated pro-p-group of cohomological dimension 2. Then for each subgroup N of G of index p, the following conditions on the $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ are equivalent*:

(1) *$H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ has no nonzero free summand.*
(2) *$H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ is a trivial $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module.*

Now assume additionally that either $p = 2$ or $p > 2$ and the Elementary Type Conjecture holds. (*See the end of Section* 2.)

Then G is Demuškin if and only if, for every subgroup N of G of index p, $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ has no nonzero free summand.

We observe that the Elementary Type Conjecture has been established for some important classes of fields, including algebraic extensions F of $\mathbb{Q}$ with finitely generated $G = \mathrm{Gal}(F(p)/F)$. (See [Ef1,Ef2].) For such fields Theorem 1 is a precise characterization. For additional information about the Elementary Type Conjecture see [Ma2].

In [DuLa, Theorem 1] it was shown that a finitely generated pro-p-group G such that $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p) > 1$ and $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p) = 1$ is Demuškin if and only if $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) \cong \mathbb{F}_p$ for all subgroups N of G of index p. Note that in Theorem 1, under the assumption that $\mathrm{cd}(G) = 2$ and, if $p > 2$, that the Elementary Type Conjecture holds, we do not require that $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) \cong \mathbb{F}_p$ but instead only that $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ contains no nonzero free summand. In fact, we prove more than we claim in Theorem 1. Namely, from the proof of Theorem 1 it follows that we can replace the hypothesis $\mathrm{cd}(G) = 2$ by two conditions which follow from it: first, that the corestriction map from $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ to $H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$ is surjective for all subgroups N of G of index p, and, second, that $H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$ is not zero. We use deep results from Galois cohomology in our proof, and it would be interesting to see whether these characterizations of Demuškin groups among groups $\mathrm{Gal}(F(p)/F)$ also hold in the category of pro-p-groups.

The heart of our analysis is Section 4, where we determine the structure of the $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ when N is a subgroup of G of index p and the corestriction map $\mathrm{cor}: H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) \to H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$ is surjective. In particular, we show that $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) \cong X \oplus Y$ where X is trivial and Y is a free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module. Moreover, we characterize all such decompositions of $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$. We believe that these results are of independent interest; for example, we obtain immediately from this structure some information on the size of $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$. (See the corollary to Theorem 3.)

Our approach uses p-quaternionic pairings, and we closely follow [Ku2] in the first two sections. Some of the basic concepts recalled here were introduced by Hwang and Jacob in [HJ]. In the next sections we consider $H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_2)$ when cup products are strongly regular, as well as the Galois module structure of $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ for index p subgroups N of G when the corestriction is surjective. Then we prove Theorem 1 and its corollary. Finally, we close with a consideration of the $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module structure of the cohomology groups $H^1(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$.

1. p-Quaternionic pairings

We seek to understand the condition on the cup product in the definition of Demuškin groups by considering such products in the context of p-quaternionic pairings and bilinear forms in general.

Let H and Q be elementary abelian p-groups written multiplicatively and additively, respectively, and if $p=2$ choose a distinguished element $-1 \in H$, which may be trivial. Let $\gamma : H \times H \to Q$ be a bilinear form. For a given element $a \in H$, we define the group homomorphism

$$\gamma_a : H \to Q, \qquad \gamma_a(x) := \gamma(a, x), \quad x \in H,$$

and we denote by $Q(a)$ the value group $\gamma_a(H)$ of γ_a. We also define

$$N(a) = N_\gamma(a) = \ker \gamma_a = \{ b \in H \mid \gamma(a, b) = 0 \}.$$

We have $H/N(a) \cong Q(a)$.

The bilinear form γ is called *non-degenerate* if $Q(a) \neq \{0\}$ for all $a \in H \setminus \{1\}$. If $Q(a) = Q$ for all $a \in H \setminus \{1\}$, then the bilinear mapping γ is called *strongly regular*.

Observe that in the following definition of p-quaternionic pairing, the distinguished involution $-1 \in H$ is necessarily 1 if $p > 2$.

We say that (H, Q, γ) is a *p-quaternionic pairing* if there exists a distinguished involution $-1 \in H$ such that:

(1) Q is generated by the union $\bigcup_{a \in H} Q(a)$ of the value groups;
(2) $\gamma(a, a) = \gamma(a, -1)$ for all $a \in H$;
(3) if $p = 2$ then γ satisfies *the linkage condition*: if for $a, b, c, d \in H$ we have that $\gamma(a, b) = \gamma(c, d)$, then there exists $e \in H$ such that

$$\gamma(a, b) = \gamma(a, e) = \gamma(c, e) = \gamma(c, d);$$

and
(4) for every $n \geqslant 2$, the *$M(n)$ condition* holds: if for elements $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n$ and $b_1, b_2, \ldots, b_n$ of H with $a_1, \ldots, a_n$ linearly independent over $\mathbb{F}_p$, we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \gamma(a_i, b_i) = 0,$$

then there exist elements $a_{n+1}, \ldots, a_k \in H$, with $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_k$ linearly independent over $\mathbb{F}_p$ and $x_{j_1,\ldots,j_k} \in N_\gamma(a_1^{j_1} a_2^{j_2} \cdots a_k^{j_k})$ such that

$$b_i = \prod_{0 \leqslant j_1, j_2, \ldots, j_k \leqslant p-1} (x_{j_1,\ldots,j_k})^{j_i}, \quad i = 1, \ldots, k,$$

where $b_{n+1}, \ldots, b_k = 1$.

(It is worth observing that from the bilinearity of γ and condition (2), it follows that γ is skew-symmetric if $p > 2$ and symmetric if $p = 2$.)

A p-quaternionic pairing (H, Q, γ) is said to be *strongly regular* if γ is strongly regular. A p-quaternionic pairing is said to be *finite* if H is finite.

We consider several types of p-quaternionic pairings.

The cup product γ_F of a field F. Let F denote a field containing ξ_p and let $G = \mathrm{Gal}(F(p)/F)$. The cup product pairing

$$\gamma_F : H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p) \times H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p) \to H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$$

satisfies the $M(n)$ conditions (see [Me, Proposition 4] and [MeSu, Theorem 11.5]). In fact, the $M(n)$ conditions are a translation of the condition for the splitting of a sum of n symbols in Milnor's $k_2F = K_2F/pK_2F$ to the language of p-quaternionic pairings. Observe that in [Ku2] the set of conditions $M(n)$, $n \geqslant 2$, is a different condition than our condition (4), but the alteration of axiom (3) in [Ku2, p. 40] does not affect the results from [Ku2] that we use. Condition (1) also follows from [MeSu, Theorem 11.5]. Condition (2) is true when the distinguished involution $(-1) \in H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$ corresponds to $[-1] \in F^\times/F^{\times p}$ via Kummer theory. The linkage condition in (3) is well known. (See [L, Chapter 3, Theorem 4.13].)

Pairings of p-local type. A finite p-quaternionic pairing (H, Q, γ) with Q a group of order p and γ non-degenerate is said to be *of p-local type*. If $G = \mathrm{Gal}(F(p)/F)$ is a Demuškin group, then it follows from the definition that $(H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p), H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p), \gamma_F)$ is a p-quaternionic pairing of p-local type.

Strongly regular pairings. Suppose that $(H, \mathbb{F}_p, \gamma)$ is a p-quaternionic non-degenerate pairing. Observe that for each $a \in H \setminus \{1\}$, the subgroup $N(a)$ of H is of index p. Moreover, for $a, b \in H \setminus \{1\}$ we have

$$N(a)N(b) \neq H \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad N(a) = N(b) \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \langle a \rangle = \langle b \rangle.$$

Hence such p-quaternionic pairings are strongly regular. Now suppose instead that $Q = \{0\}$. If we set $\gamma(a, b) = 0$ for all $a, b \in H$, then (H, Q, γ) is a p-quaternionic pairing, called *totally degenerate*. Totally degenerate pairings are also strongly regular.

Pairings of weakly p-local type. A p-quaternionic pairing with $H = \{1\}$ is called *trivial*. Each trivial pairing is totally degenerate. We say that totally degenerate p-quaternionic pairings, as well as pairings of p-local type, are pairings *of weakly p-local type*.

2. *p*-Quaternionic pairings and the Elementary Type Conjecture

For $p > 2$ we define the direct product and the group extension of p-quaternionic pairings and consider the Elementary Type Conjecture. Because we do not need it in Theorem 1, we do not consider the Elementary Type Conjecture when $p = 2$. (See [Ma1, Chapter 5] for the $p = 2$ case in the context of abstract Witt rings.)

(A) *Direct product*. Let (H_i, Q_i, γ_i), $i = 1, 2$, be p-quaternionic pairings. Define $H = H_1 \times H_2$, $Q = Q_1 \times Q_2$, and

$$\gamma\big([a_1, a_2], [b_1, b_2]\big) = \big[\gamma_1(a_1, b_1), \gamma_2(a_2, b_2)\big], \quad a_i, b_i \in H_i.$$

Then (H, Q, γ) is a p-quaternionic pairing called the *direct product*.

(B) *Group extension*. Suppose that (H', Q', γ') is a p-quaternionic pairing and let T be a nontrivial finite elementary abelian p-group. The *group extension* of (H', Q', γ') by T is the p-quaternionic pairing (H, Q, γ), where $H = H' \times T$, $Q = Q' \times (H' \otimes T) \times (T \wedge T)$, and the pairing $\gamma : H \times H \to Q$ is given by

$$\gamma\big([a_1, t_1], [a_2, t_2]\big) = \big[\gamma'(a_1, a_2), a_1 \otimes t_2 - a_2 \otimes t_1, t_1 \wedge t_2\big].$$

Here $\otimes$ denotes the tensor product over $\mathbb{F}_p$ and $\wedge$ the exterior product.

For $p > 2$, we say a that a finite p-quaternionic pairing is *of elementary type* if it may be constructed from p-quaternionic pairings of weakly p-local type using the operations of (a) direct product and (b) group extension by nontrivial elementary abelian p-groups. The Elementary Type Conjecture for $p > 2$ is then as follows. (We note that there are several variants of the Elementary Type Conjecture which aim at the classification of finitely generated $\mathrm{Gal}(F(p)/F)$, contained in [Ef1,Ef2,En,JW], and [Ma1, p. 123].)

Elementary Type Conjecture for odd p. *Let $p > 2$ be a prime and F a field containing a primitive pth root of unity. Suppose that $G = \mathrm{Gal}(F(p)/F)$ is a finitely generated pro-p-group. Then the cup product pairing γ_F is of elementary type.*

Theorem 2. [Ku2, Corollary 5] *For $p > 2$, a p-quaternionic pairing of elementary type is not strongly regular unless it is of weakly p-local type.*

3. Strongly regular cup products and $H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_2)$

For the proof of the following proposition we originally used streamlined arguments from [FY, pp. 42–43]. Afterwards Kula sent us a nice simplification of the proof, using ideas in [Ku1, Proof of Proposition 2.16]. We are grateful to him for permitting us to adapt this simplification for use here.

Proposition 1. *Let F be a field of characteristic not 2, and suppose that $G = \mathrm{Gal}(F(2)/F) \neq \{1\}$ is a finitely generated pro-2-group with γ_F non-degenerate and strongly regular. Then $H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_2) \cong \mathbb{F}_2$.*

Proof. Assume that the hypotheses of our proposition are valid, and denote by $|A|$ the cardinality of a set A. Because the statement is trivial in the case $|H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2)| = 2$, we assume without loss of generality that $g := |H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2)| > 2$. Denote $h := |H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_2)| > 1$, as γ_F

is non-degenerate. Set $\operatorname{ann}(a) = \{(b) \in H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2) \mid (a) \cdot (b) = 0\}$. Since $(a) \cdot H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2) \cong H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2)/\operatorname{ann}(a)$, we see that

$$\left|\operatorname{ann}(a)\right| = \frac{|H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2)|}{|(a) \cdot H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2)|} = \frac{|H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2)|}{|H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_2)|} = \frac{g}{h}$$

for all nonzero $(a) \in H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2)$.

We show now that for arbitrary distinct, nonzero elements $(a), (b) \in H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2)$, we have $\operatorname{ann}(a) + \operatorname{ann}(b) = H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2)$. Let $(x) \in H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2)$ be arbitrary. If $q := (x) \cdot (a) = 0$, then $(x) \in \operatorname{ann}(a)$. Assume therefore that $q \neq 0$. Using the surjectivity of the map

$$\big((a) + (b)\big) \cdot - : H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2) \to H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_2)$$

and the linkage property, we see that there exists $(c) \in H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2)$ such that

$$q = (a) \cdot (x) = (a) \cdot (c) = \big((a) + (b)\big) \cdot (c).$$

Hence $((x) + (c)) \cdot (a) = 0 = (b) \cdot (c)$ and therefore $(x) + (c) \in \operatorname{ann}(a)$ and $(c) \in \operatorname{ann}(b)$. Thus $(x) = ((x) + (c)) + (c) \in \operatorname{ann}(a) + \operatorname{ann}(b)$, as required.

Let D be the set of nonzero elements in the dual space of $H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2)$. Similarly, for each nonzero element $(a) \in H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2)$, let $D_{(a)}$ be the set of all maps in D which are zero on $\operatorname{ann}(a)$. Because $\operatorname{ann}(a) + \operatorname{ann}(b) = H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_2)$ for all pairs of distinct, nonzero elements (a) and (b), D contains the disjoint union of all $D_{(a)}$. Since $|D| = g - 1$ and $|D_{(a)}| = h - 1$ for each nonzero (a), we obtain $(g-1)(h-1) \leqslant (g-1)$. Therefore $h = 2$. □

4. Surjective corestrictions and $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$

In the following theorem we do not assume that G is finitely generated.

Theorem 3. *Let F be a field containing a primitive pth root of unity, and suppose that $G = \operatorname{Gal}(F(p)/F)$. Let N be a subgroup of G of index p, and suppose that the corestriction map $\operatorname{cor}: H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) \to H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$ is surjective. Let $a \in F^\times$ be chosen so that the fixed field of N is $F(\sqrt[p]{a})$. Then the $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ decomposes as*

$$H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) = X \oplus Y$$

where X is a trivial $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module, Y is a free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module, and

(1) $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} X = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p)/\operatorname{ann}(a)$,
(2) $\operatorname{rank}_{\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]} Y = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)/(a) \cdot H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$.

After the proof, we characterize in Theorem 4 all decompositions of $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ into direct sums of trivial and free submodules.

Observe that we have a natural sequence

$$0 \to H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p)/\operatorname{ann}(a) \to H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p) \to H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)/(a) \cdot H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p) \to 0.$$

Assume that $d = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p) < \infty$, and set

$$x = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p)/\operatorname{ann}(a), \qquad y = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)/(a) \cdot H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p).$$

Then $d = x + y$ and we have the following corollary on the size of $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$:

Corollary. *Assume that G and N are as above. Then*

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) = x + py.$$

Before the proof we need several intermediate results. We assume throughout this section that F is a field containing a primitive pth root of unity ξ_p, $G = \operatorname{Gal}(F(p)/F)$, N is a subgroup of G of index p with fixed field $K = F(\sqrt[p]{a})$, and σ denotes a fixed generator of G/N with $\sqrt[p]{a}^{\sigma-1} = \xi_p$. For a field F, let G_F denote its absolute Galois group. Observe that because $1 + \sigma + \cdots + \sigma^{p-1} \equiv (\sigma - 1)^{p-1}$ modulo p, the endomorphism $(\sigma - 1)^{p-1}$ on $H^i(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ is identical to the composition $\operatorname{res} \circ \operatorname{cor}$.

Proposition 2.

(1) *The inflation maps* $\inf : H^i(G, \mathbb{F}_p) \to H^i(G_F, \mathbb{F}_p)$ *and* $\inf : H^i(N, \mathbb{F}_p) \to H^i(G_K, \mathbb{F}_p)$, $i = 1, 2$, *are isomorphisms. Moreover, the latter isomorphisms are* $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$*-equivariant.*
(2) *The kernel of the corestriction map* $\operatorname{cor} : H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) \to H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$ *is* $(\sigma - 1)H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) + \operatorname{res} H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$.
(3) *The kernel of the restriction map* $\operatorname{res} : H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p) \to H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ *is* $(a) \cdot H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$.

Proof. (1) We prove first the statements for G and G_F. Observe that since F contains a primitive pth root of unity, $F(p)$ is closed under taking pth roots and hence $H^1(G_{F(p)}, \mathbb{F}_p) = \{0\}$. Therefore by [MeSu, Theorem 11.5] we see that $H^2(G_{F(p)}, \mathbb{F}_p) = \{0\}$ as well. Then, considering the Lyndon–Hochschild–Serre spectral sequence associated to $1 \to G_{F(p)} \to G_F \to G \to 1$, we obtain that $\inf : H^i(G, \mathbb{F}_p) \to H^i(G_F, \mathbb{F}_p)$ is an isomorphism for each $i = 1, 2$. The proof that $\inf : H^i(N, \mathbb{F}_p) \to H^i(G_K, \mathbb{F}_p)$, $i = 1, 2$, are isomorphisms follows as above. The fact that these isomorphisms are $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-equivariant follows immediately from the explicit action of $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$ on cochains.

(2) By [MeSu, Proposition 15.1], the kernel of the corestriction map $\operatorname{cor} : H^2(G_K, \mathbb{F}_p) \to H^2(G_F, \mathbb{F}_p)$ is $(\sigma - 1)H^2(G_K, \mathbb{F}_p) + \operatorname{res} H^2(G_F, \mathbb{F}_p)$. Hence the second row is

exact in the following commutative diagram. (Observe that σ commutes with inf by (1), and the right-hand square commutes by [NSW, Proposition 1.5.5ii].)

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)\oplus H^2(G,\mathbb{F}_p) & \xrightarrow{\substack{(\sigma-1)\\ \oplus\,\mathrm{res}}} & H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p) & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{cor}} & H^2(G,\mathbb{F}_p) \\ \downarrow{\scriptstyle \inf\oplus\inf} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \inf} & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \inf} \\ H^2(G_K,\mathbb{F}_p)\oplus H^2(G_F,\mathbb{F}_p) & \xrightarrow{\substack{(\sigma-1)\\ \oplus\,\mathrm{res}}} & H^2(G_K,\mathbb{F}_p) & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{cor}} & H^2(G_F,\mathbb{F}_p) \end{array}$$

The first row is therefore exact and we have our statement.

(3) By [Me, Proposition 5] and [MeSu, Theorem 11.5], the kernel of the restriction map $\mathrm{res}: H^2(G_F,\mathbb{F}_p)\to H^2(G_K,\mathbb{F}_p)$ is $(a)\cdot H^1(G_F,\mathbb{F}_p)$. A commutative diagram analogous to that of part (2) then gives our statement. □

Corollary. *Suppose that the corestriction map* $\mathrm{cor}: H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)\to H^2(G,\mathbb{F}_p)$ *is surjective. Then* $\ker\mathrm{cor}=(\sigma-1)H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$.

Proof. By part (2) above, it is sufficient to show that $\mathrm{res}\, H^2(G,\mathbb{F}_p)$ is a subset of $(\sigma-1)H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$. Let $\alpha\in H^2(G,\mathbb{F}_p)$. By hypothesis, there exists $\beta\in H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$ such that $\mathrm{cor}\,\beta=\alpha$. Recalling that $\mathrm{res}\,\mathrm{cor}=(\sigma-1)^{p-1}$, we see that $\mathrm{res}\,\alpha=(\sigma-1)^{p-1}\beta\in(\sigma-1)H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$. □

Lemma 1. *Suppose that the corestriction map* $\mathrm{cor}: H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)\to H^2(G,\mathbb{F}_p)$ *is surjective. Then there exists a trivial* $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$*-submodule* X *of* $H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$ *such that*

$$\mathrm{cor}: X\to (a)\cdot H^1(G,\mathbb{F}_p)$$

is an isomorphism. In fact, $\mathrm{cor}(H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N})=(a)\cdot H^1(G,\mathbb{F}_p)$.

Proof. Let $\mathcal{I}$ be an $\mathbb{F}_p$-basis for $(a)\cdot H^1(G,\mathbb{F}_p)\subset H^2(G,\mathbb{F}_p)$. For each $(a)\cdot(f)\in\mathcal{I}$ we will define an element $x_f\in H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$ such that $\mathrm{cor}\,x_f=(a)\cdot(f)$ and $(\sigma-1)x_f=0$. Then the $\mathbb{F}_p$-span X of x_f will be our required module X. If $p=2$, then we proceed as follows. By hypothesis there exists $x_f\in H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_2)$ such that $\mathrm{cor}\,x_f=(a)\cdot(f)$. Then

$$(\sigma-1)x_f=(\sigma+1)x_f=\mathrm{res}\,\mathrm{cor}\,x_f=\mathrm{res}\big((a)\cdot(f)\big)=0,$$

and hence $x_f\in H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_2)^{G/N}$.

Now suppose that $p>2$. If $\mathrm{res}((\xi_p)\cdot(f))=0$ then set $x_f=(\sqrt[p]{a})\cdot(f)$. Observe that in this case $x_f\in H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N}$ and by the projection formula [NSW, Proposition 1.5.3iv], we have $\mathrm{cor}\,x_f=(a)\cdot(f)$. Otherwise, by hypothesis there exists $\alpha\in H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$ such that $\mathrm{cor}\,\alpha=(\xi_p)\cdot(f)$. Let $\beta=(\sigma-1)^{p-2}\alpha$. From $(\sigma-1)^{p-1}=\mathrm{res}\,\mathrm{cor}$ we obtain $(\sigma-1)\beta=\mathrm{res}((\xi_p)\cdot(f))$. Now set $x_f:=(\sqrt[p]{a})\cdot(f)-\beta$. Then

$$(\sigma-1)x_f=\mathrm{res}\big((\xi_p)\cdot(f)\big)-\mathrm{res}\big((\xi_p)\cdot(f)\big)=0,$$

so $x_f \in H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N}$. Observe that since the corestriction commutes with σ [NSW, Proposition 1.5.4], cor vanishes on the image of $\sigma - 1$. Hence $\operatorname{cor}\beta = 0$. By the projection formula again, $\operatorname{cor} x_f = (a)\cdot(f)$.

Letting X be the $\mathbb{F}_p$-span of the elements x_f, we have the first statement of the lemma.

For the second statement, let $\gamma \in H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N}$. Then $\operatorname{res}\operatorname{cor}\gamma = (\sigma-1)^{p-1}\gamma = 0$. By Proposition 2, part (3),

$$\operatorname{cor}\gamma \in \ker\operatorname{res} = (a)\cdot H^1(G,\mathbb{F}_p).$$

Therefore $\operatorname{cor}(H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N}) \subset (a)\cdot H^1(G,\mathbb{F}_p)$. The reverse inclusion follows from the first statement. □

Lemma 2. *Suppose that the corestriction map* $\operatorname{cor}: H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p) \to H^2(G,\mathbb{F}_p)$ *is surjective. Then*

$$H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N} \cap (\sigma-1)H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p) = (\sigma-1)^{p-1}H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p).$$

Proof. Since

$$(\sigma-1)^{p-1}H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p) \subset H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N} \cap (\sigma-1)H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p),$$

it is sufficient to prove the reverse inclusion. If $p=2$ the reverse inclusion is true since $(\sigma-1)H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p) \subset H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N}$. Therefore assume that $p>2$.

Let

$$\gamma \in H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N} \cap (\sigma-1)H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p).$$

Since $0 \in (\sigma-1)^{p-1}H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$ we also assume that $\gamma \neq 0$. Then $\gamma = (\sigma-1)\beta$ for some $\beta \in H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$. We shall show by induction on j, $2 \leqslant j \leqslant p$, that there exists $\beta_j \in H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$ such that

$$(\sigma-1)^{j-1}\beta_j = \gamma.$$

Then for β_p we shall have

$$(\sigma-1)^{p-1}\beta_p = \gamma \in (\sigma-1)^{p-1}H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p),$$

which will prove our desired inclusion

$$H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N} \cap (\sigma-1)H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p) \subset (\sigma-1)^{p-1}H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p).$$

If $j=2$ we set $\beta_2 = \beta$. Assume now that $2 \leqslant j-1 < p$ and that $(\sigma-1)^{j-2}\beta_{j-1} = \gamma$ for some $\beta_{j-1} \in H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$. Consider $\delta = \operatorname{cor}\beta_{j-1}$. Since

$$(\sigma-1)^{j-1}\beta_{j-1} = (\sigma-1)\gamma = 0$$

and $(\sigma-1)^{p-1}=\operatorname{res}\operatorname{cor}$, we obtain $\operatorname{res}\operatorname{cor}\beta_{j-1}=\operatorname{res}\delta=0$. By Proposition 2, part (3), $\delta=(a)\cdot(f)$ for $(f)\in H^1(G,\mathbb{F}_p)$. By Lemma 1 there exists an element $x\in H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N}$ such that $\operatorname{cor}x=(a)\cdot(f)$. Let $\beta'_{j-1}=\beta_{j-1}-x$.

From $(\sigma-1)x=0$ and $j>2$ we obtain

$$(\sigma-1)^{j-2}\beta'_{j-1}=(\sigma-1)^{j-2}\beta_{j-1}=\gamma.$$

Moreover, $\operatorname{cor}\beta'_{j-1}=0$. By the corollary to Proposition 2, there exists $\beta_j\in H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$ such that $(\sigma-1)\beta_j=\beta'_{j-1}$ and hence

$$(\sigma-1)^{j-1}\beta_j=(\sigma-1)^{j-2}\beta'_{j-1}=\gamma,$$

as desired. □

Lemma 3. *Let H be a cyclic group of order p generated by σ, and let T be an $\mathbb{F}_p[H]$-module. Suppose that $\alpha\in T$ and $(\sigma-1)^{p-1}\alpha\neq 0$. Then the $\mathbb{F}_p[H]$-submodule $\langle\alpha\rangle$ of T generated by α is a free $\mathbb{F}_p[H]$-module.*

Proof. Let $S=\mathbb{F}_p[H]$ and let I be any nonzero ideal of S. Let $w\neq 0$ be in I. Write

$$w=\sum_{i=k}^{p-1}c_i(\sigma-1)^i,\quad k\in\{0,1,\dots,p-1\},\ c_i\in\mathbb{F}_p,\ c_k\neq 0.$$

Then also $w(\sigma-1)^{p-1-k}=c_k(\sigma-1)^{p-1}\in I$, and hence $(\sigma-1)^{p-1}\in I$.

Now consider $\operatorname{ann}_S(\alpha)=\{s\in S\mid s\alpha=0\}$. If $\operatorname{ann}_S(\alpha)\neq\{0\}$ then $(\sigma-1)^{p-1}\in\operatorname{ann}_S(\alpha)$, contradicting our hypothesis. Hence $\operatorname{ann}_S(\alpha)=\{0\}$ and we see that $\langle\alpha\rangle$ is a free $\mathbb{F}_p[H]$-submodule of T. □

Proof of Theorem 3. By Lemma 1, there exists a trivial $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-submodule X of $H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$ such that $\operatorname{cor}:X\to(a)\cdot H^1(G,\mathbb{F}_p)$ is an isomorphism. Hence $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p}X=\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p}H^1(G,\mathbb{F}_p)/\operatorname{ann}(a)$. (Recall that $\operatorname{ann}(a)=\{(b)\in H^1(G,\mathbb{F}_p)\mid(a)\cdot(b)=0\}$.)

Furthermore, there exists a maximal free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-submodule Y of $H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$, as follows. (Y may be zero since we consider $\{0\}$ to be a free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module.) First by [La, §III.1, Proposition 1.4], an $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module M is free precisely when $H^2(G/N,M)=\{0\}$. Observe that the trace map $1+\sigma+\cdots+\sigma^{p-1}=(\sigma-1)^{p-1}$ in $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$. Recall that for any $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module M we have

$$H^2(G/N,M)=M^{G/N}/(\sigma-1)^{p-1}M.$$

(See [La, I.5].) Therefore M is a free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module if and only if $M^{G/N}=(\sigma-1)^{p-1}M$. Let $\mathcal{S}$ denote the set of free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-submodules of $H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$. Suppose $\mathcal{T}$ is a totally ordered subset of $\mathcal{S}$, and let $W = \bigcup_{S\in\mathcal{T}} S$. Then W is the inductive limit of $S \in \mathcal{T}$. Thus we have:

$$H^2(G/N, W) = H^2\Big(G/N, \varinjlim_{S\in\mathcal{T}} S\Big) = \varinjlim_{S\in\mathcal{T}} H^2(G/N, S) = \{0\}.$$

Hence W is a free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module. By Zorn's Lemma, $\mathcal{S}$ contains a maximal element Y. We then have $Y^{G/N} = (\sigma-1)^{p-1}Y$. Since $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} \mathbb{F}_p[G/N]^{G/N} = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p}\langle(\sigma-1)^{p-1}\rangle = 1$, we obtain

$$\operatorname{rank} Y = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} Y^{G/N} = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p}(\sigma-1)^{p-1}Y.$$

Because free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-modules are injective (see [C, Theorem 11.2]) we may write $H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p) = Y \oplus R$ for some $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-submodule R of $H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$. We will show that $R \cong X$ as $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-modules.

We first show that R is a trivial $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module. If there exists $\alpha \in R$ with $(\sigma-1)^{p-1}\alpha \neq 0$, by Lemma 3 we see that $Y \oplus \langle\alpha\rangle$ is a larger free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-submodule, a contradiction. We obtain $(\sigma-1)^{p-1}R = \{0\}$ and $(\sigma-1)^{p-1}Y = (\sigma-1)^{p-1}H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$.

Because $(\sigma-1)^{p-1}R = \{0\}$ there exists a minimal $0 \leqslant l \leqslant p-1$ such that $(\sigma-1)^l R = \{0\}$. Suppose $l > 1$. Then

$$\{0\} \neq (\sigma-1)^{l-1}R \subset H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N} \cap (\sigma-1)H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p).$$

By Lemma 2,

$$\{0\} \neq (\sigma-1)^{l-1}R \subset (\sigma-1)^{p-1}H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p) = (\sigma-1)^{p-1}Y.$$

But then $\{0\} \neq (\sigma-1)^{l-1}R \subset R \cap Y$, a contradiction. Therefore $l \leqslant 1$ and $(\sigma-1)R = \{0\}$. Hence R is indeed a trivial $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module.

In fact, we claim that $R \cap (\sigma-1)H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p) = \{0\}$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} R \cap (\sigma-1)H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p) &\subset H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N} \cap (\sigma-1)H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p) \\ &= (\sigma-1)^{p-1}H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p) = (\sigma-1)^{p-1}Y. \end{aligned}$$

From $R \cap Y = \{0\}$ we obtain $R \cap (\sigma-1)H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p) = \{0\}$.

Now consider the image of cor on

$$H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N} = R \oplus Y^{G/N} = R \oplus (\sigma-1)^{p-1}H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p).$$

Observe that since the corestriction commutes with σ [NSW, Proposition 1.5.4], cor vanishes on the image of $\sigma-1$. By Lemma 1, we find that $\operatorname{cor} R = (a)\cdot H^1(G,\mathbb{F}_p) = \operatorname{cor} X$. But by the corollary to Proposition 2 and the fact that $R \cap (\sigma-1)H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p) = \{0\}$, we deduce that cor acts injectively on R. Since, by Lemma 1, cor also acts injectively on X, we have that $R \cong X$. Hence we obtain that $H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p) \cong X \oplus Y$.

Now we determine the rank of Y. We have $(\sigma - 1)^{p-1}H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) = (\sigma - 1)^{p-1}Y$, and hence

$$\operatorname{rank} Y = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p}(\sigma - 1)^{p-1}H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p).$$

Using the hypothesis $\operatorname{cor} H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) = H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$ together with $\operatorname{res}\operatorname{cor} = (\sigma - 1)^{p-1}$, we obtain that $(\sigma - 1)^{p-1}H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) = \operatorname{res} H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$. By Proposition 2, part (3), the kernel of res is $(a) \cdot H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$. We deduce then that

$$\operatorname{rank} Y = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)/(a) \cdot H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p). \qquad \square$$

Theorem 4. *Let F be a field containing a primitive pth root of unity, and suppose that $G = \operatorname{Gal}(F(p)/F)$. Let N be a subgroup of G of index p, and suppose that the corestriction map $\operatorname{cor}: H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) \to H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$ is surjective.*

Suppose that X and Y are $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-submodules of $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ such that X is trivial and Y is free. Then $\operatorname{cor} X \subset (a) \cdot H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$ and the following are equivalent:

(1) $\operatorname{cor}: X \to (a) \cdot H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$ *is an isomorphism, and Y is a maximal free submodule.*
(2) $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) = X \oplus Y$.

Proof. Since X is a trivial $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module, $\operatorname{res}\operatorname{cor} X = (\sigma - 1)^{p-1}X = \{0\}$. By Proposition 2, part (3), $\operatorname{cor} X \subset (a) \cdot H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$.

(1) $\Rightarrow$ (2). Suppose $w \in X \cap Y$. Since X is a trivial $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module, $w \in Y^{G/N}$. Then because Y is a free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module, $Y^{G/N} = (\sigma - 1)^{p-1}Y$. In particular, $w \in (\sigma - 1)Y$. Since cor vanishes on the image of $\sigma - 1$, $\operatorname{cor} w = 0$, and because cor is injective on X, $w = 0$. Hence the submodule of $H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$ generated by X and Y is $X \oplus Y$.

Let R be a trivial $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-submodule of $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ such that $\operatorname{cor} R = \operatorname{cor} X$ and $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) = R \oplus Y$, as in the proof of Theorem 3. Since $(\sigma - 1)R = \{0\}$ we deduce that $(\sigma - 1)^{p-1}Y = (\sigma - 1)^{p-1}H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$.

To prove that $X \oplus Y = H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ it suffices to prove that $R \subset X \oplus Y$. Let $r \in R$. Then there exists $x \in X$ such that $\operatorname{cor} r = \operatorname{cor} x$. Thus $u = r - x \in H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N}$ and $\operatorname{cor} u = 0$. By the corollary to Proposition 2 we obtain that $u \in (\sigma - 1)H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$. Thus

$$u \in H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N} \cap (\sigma - 1)H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p),$$

and so by Lemma 2,

$$u \in (\sigma - 1)^{p-1}H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) = (\sigma - 1)^{p-1}Y.$$

Hence $r \in X \oplus Y$ as required and we have $X \oplus Y = H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$.

(2) $\Rightarrow$ (1). By Lemma 1, $\operatorname{cor}(H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N}) = (a) \cdot H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$. Since Y is free, $Y^{G/N} = (\sigma - 1)^{p-1}Y$, and since cor vanishes on the image of $\sigma - 1$, $\operatorname{cor} Y^{G/N} = \{0\}$. From $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N} = X \oplus Y^{G/N}$ we deduce that $\operatorname{cor}: X \to (a) \cdot H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$ is surjective. Now if $x \in X$ with $\operatorname{cor} x = 0$ then by the corollary to Proposition 2, $x \in (\sigma - 1)H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$. Because X is trivial and $X \oplus Y = H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$, we see that

$$x \in (\sigma - 1)H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) \cap H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)^{G/N}$$
$$= (\sigma - 1)^{p-1} H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) = (\sigma - 1)^{p-1} Y$$

by Lemma 2. Then $x \in X \cap Y$, and so $x = 0$. Hence cor is injective on X and therefore $\mathrm{cor}: X \to (a) \cdot H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$ is an isomorphism.

Finally, we show that Y is a maximal free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-submodule. Suppose $Y \subset T$ where T is a free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-submodule of $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$. Then because Y is injective we can write $T = Y \oplus S$ for some $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module S. Then S is a projective $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module, and since each projective $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module is free (see [C, proof of Theorem 11.2, pp. 70–71]) we see that S is in fact a free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-submodule of T. Then we have

$$\mathrm{res}\,\mathrm{cor}\, T = \mathrm{res}\,\mathrm{cor}\, Y \oplus \mathrm{res}\,\mathrm{cor}\, S$$
$$= (\sigma - 1)^{p-1} Y \oplus (\sigma - 1)^{p-1} S.$$

But since $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) = X \oplus Y$ and X is a trivial $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-submodule of $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ we see that

$$\mathrm{res}\,\mathrm{cor}\, H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) = (\sigma - 1)^{p-1} H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$$
$$= (\sigma - 1)^{p-1} Y.$$

Hence $(\sigma - 1)^{p-1} S = \{0\}$. Since S is free, $S = \{0\}$. Thus Y is indeed a maximal free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-submodule of $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$. □

5. Proof of Theorem 1

Let N be a subgroup of G of index p. Since G has cohomological dimension 2, the corestriction map $\mathrm{cor}: H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) \to H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$ is surjective [NSW, Proposition 3.3.8]. By Theorem 3 we have a decomposition $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p) = X \oplus Y$, where X is a trivial $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module and Y is a free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module. Hence $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ is trivial if and only if $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ contains no nonzero free submodule. We have established the first equivalence of the theorem.

For the next assertion, observe that if G is a Demuškin group of cohomological dimension 2 and N is a subgroup of G of index p, by [DuLa, Theorem 1], the $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ is a trivial $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module.

Conversely, by the definition of a Demuškin group, it suffices to show that $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p) = 1$ and γ_F is non-degenerate. Consider the decomposition $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ obtained above, for N an arbitrary subgroup of index p. Let $a \in F^\times$ be chosen so that the fixed field of N is $F(\sqrt[p]{a})$. Since we are assuming that $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ contains no nonzero free summand, from Theorem 3 we obtain $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)/(a) \cdot H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p) = 0$, or $(a) \cdot H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p) = H^2(G, \mathbb{F}_p)$. Hence γ_F is strongly regular. Moreover, $H^2(N, \mathbb{F}_p)$ has $\mathbb{F}_p$-dimension

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^1(G,\mathbb{F}_p)/\operatorname{ann}(a) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p}\bigl((a)\cdot H^1(G,\mathbb{F}_p)\bigr) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^2(G,\mathbb{F}_p).$$

Suppose that the pairing γ_F is degenerate. Then for some nonzero $(a) \in H^1(G,\mathbb{F}_p)$ we have $(a)\cdot H^1(G,\mathbb{F}_p) = \{0\}$. Then $H^2(G,\mathbb{F}_p) = \{0\}$, contradicting the cohomological dimension of G. Hence γ_F is non-degenerate. Now if $p = 2$ we have $H^2(G,\mathbb{F}_2) \cong \mathbb{F}_2$ by Proposition 1. If $p > 2$ and we assume the Elementary Type Conjecture, then by Theorem 2, γ_F is of p-local type and hence $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^2(G,\mathbb{F}_p) = 1$.

Thus G is a Demuškin group as required.

Remark 1. In the proof of Theorem 1 we cited [DuLa, Theorem 1] to establish that if G is Demuškin with $\operatorname{cd}(G) = 2$, then $H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$ is a trivial $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module. This result also follows from the fact that open subgroups of Demuškin groups $G \neq \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ are also Demuškin [S, Corollary I.4.5]. We observe that we can also deduce this result in our setting when $G = \operatorname{Gal}(F(p)/F)$ from Theorem 3, as follows. By Theorem 3, $H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$ is the direct sum of a trivial $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module X and a free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module Y. Since G is Demuškin, γ_F is strongly regular. From Theorem 3(2), we have $Y = \{0\}$. Hence $H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$ is a trivial $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module as required. More precisely, from Theorem 3(1) and the fact that γ_F is strongly regular we obtain $H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p) \cong X \cong \mathbb{F}_p$.

Remark 2. By Theorem 2, the Elementary Type Conjecture for odd p holds for a field F with a strongly regular not totally degenerate p-quaternionic pairing γ_F if and only if $G = \operatorname{Gal}(F(p)/F)$ is Demuškin. Thus Theorem 1 may be viewed as a translation of the Elementary Type Conjecture to the language of Galois $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-modules $H^2(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$ in the case of strongly regular not totally degenerate p-quaternionic pairings. There is some additional interest in this formulation because p-quaternionic pairings which are strongly regular but not weakly p-local have been abstractly constructed (see [Ku2, Theorem 9]), and it is not known whether these pairings are realizable as γ_F for suitable fields F.

6. Structure of $H^1(N,\mathbb{F}_p)$

In this section we keep our assumption that a primitive pth root of unity lies in F. For any finitely generated pro-p-group T we set $d(T) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^1(T,\mathbb{F}_p)$.

If G is a Demuškin pro-p-group then it is well known that

$$d(N) = p\bigl(d(G) - 2\bigr) + 2$$

for any subgroup N of index p of G. Moreover, this formula characterizes Demuškin groups among finitely generated pro-p-groups G with $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^2(G,\mathbb{F}_p) = 1$. (See [DuLa] or [NSW, Theorem 3.9.15].) In this section we show that this formula has an attractive explanation when $G = \operatorname{Gal}(F(p)/F)$. In the following theorem K is the fixed field in $F(p)$ of the index p subgroup N of G.

Theorem 5. *Let F be a field containing a primitive pth root of unity ξ_p, and suppose that $G = \mathrm{Gal}(F(p)/F)$ is a Demuškin group of rank $d(G) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^1(G, \mathbb{F}_p) = n$.*

If $p > 2$, then for each subgroup N of G of index p we have a decomposition into $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-modules

$$H^1(N, \mathbb{F}_p) = X \oplus Y,$$

where X is an $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module of dimension 2 and Y is a free $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module of rank $n-2$. The module X is trivial if $\xi_p \in N_{K/F}(K^\times)$ and is cyclic of dimension 2 otherwise.

If $p = 2$ then for each subgroup N of G of index p we have one of two decompositions into $\mathbb{F}_2[G/N]$-modules

$$H^1(N, \mathbb{F}_2) = X \oplus Y \quad \text{or} \quad H^1(N, \mathbb{F}_2) = Y.$$

The first case occurs when $-1 \in N_{K/F}(K^\times)$, and then X is trivial of dimension 2 and Y is free of rank $n-2$. The second occurs when $-1 \notin N_{K/F}(K^\times)$, and then Y is free of rank $n-1$.

Proof. Observe that for N an index p subgroup of the Demuškin group G and K its fixed field in $F(p)$, we have $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} F^\times/N_{K/F}(K^\times) = 1$. Using equivariant Kummer theory, as explained in [W2], to identify the first cohomology groups with their corresponding pth-power classes as $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-modules, the result then follows from the determination of the $\mathbb{F}_p[G/N]$-module structure of $K^\times/K^{\times p}$ in [MiSw, Theorem 3]. □

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