

Supplementary sheet on Galois cohomology

Ross Paterson and Happy Uppal

April 7, 2026

1 Quick Reference

The following is a quick guide to some results/notation in group/Galois cohomology.

We have starred all the things which are vital for the lectures.

We fix G to be a finite group and M a G -module.		
Object	Formula / statement	Section
* $H^0(G, M)$	M^G (fixed points) or $(M)^{\sigma=1}$ if $G = \langle \sigma \rangle$	§4.1
* $Z^1(G, M)$	maps $f : G \rightarrow M$ with $f(g_1g_2) = f(g_1) + g_1f(g_2)$	§4.1
* $B^1(G, M)$	maps $f : G \rightarrow M$ with $f(g) = g \cdot m - m$ for fixed $m \in M$	§ 4.1
G acts trivially on M	$H^1(G, M) = \text{Hom}(G, M)$	Ex. 4.7.
* $G = \langle \sigma \rangle$ is cyclic	$H^0(G, M) = M^G$ $H^{2n+1}(G, M) = \ker \mathbf{N} / \text{im}(1 - \sigma)$ $H^{2n+2}(G, M) = \ker(1 - \sigma) / \text{im } \mathbf{N}$	Prop 4.13
*Hilbert 90	$H^1(\text{Gal}(L/K), L^\times) = 0$	Thm 4.10
*Inflation map	$\text{Inf} : H^n(G/H, M^H) \rightarrow H^n(G, M)$	Def. 5.2
*Restriction map	$\text{Res} : H^n(G, M) \rightarrow H^n(H, M)$	Def. 5.1
Inf-Res sequence	$0 \rightarrow H^1(G/H, M^H) \xrightarrow{\text{Inf}} H^1(G, M) \xrightarrow{\text{Res}} H^1(H, M)$	Thm. 5.3
*Cup product	$\smile : H^p(G, M) \times H^q(G, N) \rightarrow H^{p+q}(G, M \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} N)$	Def 7.1.
Shapiro's Lemma	$H^n(G, \text{Ind}_H^G N) \cong H^n(H, N)$	Thm A.6
Herbrand quotient	$h^{2/1}(M) = H^2(G, M) / H^1(G, M) $ (or $h_{2/1}$ in Emerton's sheet)	§B

For a field K , we denote by G_K the absolute Galois group $\text{Gal}(K^{\text{sep}}/K)$.

2 G -Modules

Definition 2.1. A left G -module M is an abelian group $(M, +)$ on which G acts such that

1. $\text{id}_G m = m$ for all $m \in M$,
2. $g(m_1 + m_2) = gm_1 + gm_2$ for all $g \in G$ and $m_1, m_2 \in M$,
3. $(g_1g_2)m = g_1(g_2m)$ for all $g_1, g_2 \in G$ and $m \in M$.

2.1 Examples

Example 2.2. Let G be any group and M any abelian group. Then we can always endow M with a G -module structure by defining $g \cdot m = m$ for all $g \in G$ and $m \in M$. In this case we call M a *trivial* G -module.

Example 2.3. Let L/K be Galois with $G = \text{Gal}(L/K)$. Then $(L, +)$ (resp. (L^\times, \times)) are a G -modules via $\sigma \cdot x = \sigma(x)$ for all $\sigma \in G$ and $x \in L$ (resp. L^\times).

3 G -module homomorphisms

Definition 3.1. Let M be a G -module. A *submodule* of M is a subgroup $N \subseteq M$ which is also a G -module.

Definition 3.2. A G -module homomorphism $f : M \rightarrow N$ is a group homomorphism with $f(g \cdot m) = g \cdot f(m)$ for all $g \in G, m \in M$. We write $\text{Hom}_G(M, N)$ for the abelian group of such maps.

Exercise 3.3. Show that the kernel and image of G -module homomorphism $f : M \rightarrow N$ are submodules of M and N respectively.

4 Cohomology via explicit inhomogenous cochains

Definition 4.1. Let M be a G -module. For $n \geq 0$, set

$$C^n(G, M) := \{\text{maps } G^n \rightarrow M\}.$$

Elements of $C^n(G, M)$ are called n -cochains. The *coboundary maps* $d^n : C^n(G, M) \rightarrow C^{n+1}(G, M)$ are

$$\begin{aligned} (d^n f)(g_1, \dots, g_{n+1}) &= g_1 \cdot f(g_2, \dots, g_{n+1}) \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^i f(g_1, \dots, g_i g_{i+1}, \dots, g_{n+1}) \\ &\quad + (-1)^{n+1} f(g_1, \dots, g_n). \end{aligned}$$

Remark 4.2. When G is profinite and M has the discrete topology, we require the maps in $C^n(G, M)$ to be continuous.

Exercise 4.3. Show that $d^{n+1} \circ d^n = 0$.

Definition 4.4. For a G module M , the group of n -cocycles is

$$Z^n(G, M) := \ker(d^n : C^n(G, M) \rightarrow C^{n+1}(G, M))$$

and the group of n -coboundaries is

$$B^n(G, M) := \text{im}(d^{n-1} : C^{n-1}(G, M) \rightarrow C^n(G, M)).$$

Definition 4.5. Let M be a G -module. The n -th cohomology group of M is

$$H^n(G, M) := \frac{Z^n(G, M)}{B^n(G, M)}.$$

Lemma 4.6. Given a short exact sequence of G -modules

$$0 \rightarrow M' \rightarrow M \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow 0$$

there exists a canonical long exact sequence of abelian groups

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{H}^0(G, M') & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{H}^0(G, M) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{H}^0(G, M'') \\
 & & & & \delta^0 & & \\
 & & \longleftarrow & & \longleftarrow & & \longleftarrow \\
 & & \mathrm{H}^1(G, M') & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{H}^1(G, M) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{H}^1(G, M'') \\
 & & & & \delta^1 & & \\
 & & \longleftarrow & & \longleftarrow & & \longleftarrow \\
 & & \mathrm{H}^2(G, M') & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{H}^2(G, M) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{H}^2(G, M'') \\
 & & & & & & \text{---} \\
 & & \text{---} & & \text{---} & & \text{---} \\
 & & \mathrm{H}^n(G, M') & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{H}^n(G, M) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{H}^n(G, M'') \longrightarrow \dots
 \end{array}$$

in which the δ^i are certain connecting homomorphisms

4.1 Low-degree cochains

Degree 0: $(d^0 m)(g) = g \cdot m - m$, so

$$\boxed{\mathrm{H}^0(G, M) = M^G = \{m \in M : gm = m \text{ for all } g \in G\}.}$$

Degree 1: A 1-cochain is a map $f : G \rightarrow M$. Then $(d^1 f)(g_1, g_2) = g_1 \cdot f(g_2) - f(g_1 g_2) + f(g_1)$, so

$$\boxed{Z^1(G, M) = \{f : G \rightarrow M : f(g_1 g_2) = f(g_1) + g_1 \cdot f(g_2) \text{ for all } g_1, g_2 \in G.\}}$$

The 1-coboundaries are

$$\boxed{B^1(G, M) = \{f : G \rightarrow M : f(g) = g \cdot m - m \text{ for fixed } m \in M\}.}$$

Exercise 4.7. Show that when M is a trivial G -module, then $Z^1(G, M) = \mathrm{Hom}(G, M)$ and $B^1(G, M) = 0$, so $\mathrm{H}^1(G, M) = \mathrm{Hom}(G, M)$. Note that if G is profinite, these are continuous homomorphisms.

Example 4.8. An example of the above exercise would be $G_K := \mathrm{Gal}(K^{\mathrm{sep}}/K)$ acting on $M = \mu_2 = \{\pm 1\}$. Then

$$\mathrm{H}^1(G_K, \mu_2) = \mathrm{Hom}(G_K, \mu_2),$$

the group of continuous characters $G_K \rightarrow \{\pm 1\}$.

4.2 Hilbert 90

An important result in group cohomology is Hilbert 90.

Lemma 4.9 (Linear independence of characters). *Let G be a group and L a field. Let $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_n : G \rightarrow L$ be distinct homomorphisms. Then χ_1, \dots, χ_n are linearly independent, that is if there exists $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n \in L$ such that*

$$\sum_i \lambda_i \chi_i = 0$$

then $\lambda_i = 0$ for all i .

Theorem 4.10 (Hilbert 90). *Let L/K be a finite Galois extension with Galois group G . Then*

$$\mathrm{H}^1(G, L^\times) = 0.$$

Proof. Let $\phi \in Z(G, L^\times)$ i.e. $\phi(\tau\sigma) = \phi(\tau)\tau(\phi(\sigma))$ for $\sigma, \tau \in G$. We want to show there exists $a \in L^\times$ such that $\phi(\tau) = \tau(a)a^{-1}$. Note that each $\sigma \in G$ is a character $\sigma : L^\times \rightarrow L$ and the collection of elements are distinct. We have by Lemma 4.9 that there exists $c \in L^\times$ such that

$$b := \sum_{\sigma \in G} \phi(\sigma)\sigma(c) \neq 0.$$

For any $\tau \in G$ we have

$$\phi(\tau)\tau(b) = \phi(\tau) \sum_{\sigma \in G} \tau(\phi(\sigma)\sigma(c)) = \sum_{\sigma \in G} \phi(\tau)\tau(\phi(\sigma))\tau(\sigma(c)) = \sum_{\sigma \in G} \phi(\tau\sigma)(\tau\sigma)(c) = b$$

Hence, $\phi(\tau) = b\tau(b)^{-1}$. Let $a := b^{-1}$ and we have found our a . □

Remark 4.11. From this finite case we can deduce

$$H^1(G_K, (K^{\text{sep}})^\times) = 0$$

Remark 4.12. Note that the classical version of Hilbert 90 is as follows. Let L/K be a cyclic Galois extension and $G := \text{Gal}(L/K)$ generated by σ . Then there exists $a \in L^\times$ such that $\text{Norm}_{L/K}(a) = 1$ if and only if there exists $b \in L^\times$ such that

$$a = \frac{\sigma(b)}{b}.$$

4.3 Cohomology of Cyclic Groups

Let $G = \langle \sigma \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ and M a G -module. Write $\mathbf{N} = 1 + \sigma + \cdots + \sigma^{n-1}$ and $D = \sigma - 1$.

Proposition 4.13. *We have*

$$H^n(G, M) = \begin{cases} M^G & \text{if } n = 0, \\ \ker \mathbf{N} / \text{im}(1 - \sigma) & \text{if } n \text{ is odd,} \\ \ker(1 - \sigma) / \text{im } \mathbf{N} & \text{if } n \text{ is even and non-zero.} \end{cases}$$

Exercise 4.14. Show that the values of $H^n(G, M)$ in Proposition 4.13 are consistent with the cochain definition of group cohomology for $n = 0, 1$ and 2 .

Exercise 4.15. Let $G = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ act trivially on $M = \mathbb{Z}$ and compute $H^n(G, M)$ for $n \geq 0$.

Exercise 4.16. Let $G = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} = \langle \sigma \rangle$ act on $M = \mathbb{Z}$ by $\sigma \cdot n = -n$. Compute $H^n(G, M)$ for $n \geq 0$.

5 Inflation and Restriction

Let $H \trianglelefteq G$ be a normal subgroup and M a G -module. Since H acts on M , the subgroup M^H of H -fixed points is a G/H -module (via $\bar{g} \cdot m = g \cdot m$ for any lift $g \in G$).

5.1 Restriction

Definition 5.1 (Restriction). The *restriction map* $\text{Res} : H^n(G, M) \rightarrow H^n(H, M)$ is induced by pre-composing cochains with the inclusion $H \hookrightarrow G$:

$$\text{Res}(f)(h_1, \dots, h_n) := f(h_1, \dots, h_n).$$

This is defined for any subgroup $H \leq G$ (not just normal ones).

5.2 Inflation

Definition 5.2 (Inflation). The *inflation map* $\text{Inf} : H^n(G/H, M^H) \rightarrow H^n(G, M)$ is induced by pre-composing cochains with the quotient $\pi : G \rightarrow G/H$:

$$\text{Inf}(f)(g_1, \dots, g_n) := f(\bar{g}_1, \dots, \bar{g}_n) \quad \text{where } \bar{g}_i = \pi(g_i) \in G/H.$$

Since f takes values in $M^H \subset M$, this is a well-defined G -cochain.

5.3 The inflation-restriction exact sequence

Theorem 5.3 (Inflation-restriction exact sequence). *Let A be a G -module and H a normal subgroup of G . Then there is an exact sequence*

$$0 \rightarrow H^1(G/H, A^H) \xrightarrow{\text{Inf}} H^1(G, A) \xrightarrow{\text{Res}} H^1(H, A).$$

Example 5.4. Let $K \subset L \subset F$ be Galois with $H = \text{Gal}(F/L) \trianglelefteq G = \text{Gal}(F/K)$. Then inflation-restriction gives

$$0 \rightarrow H^1(\text{Gal}(L/K), M^H) \xrightarrow{\text{Inf}} H^1(G_K, M) \xrightarrow{\text{Res}} H^1(G_L, M).$$

A class in $H^1(G_K, M)$ restricting to zero over L comes from a class over $\text{Gal}(L/K)$.

6 Kummer theory

Definition 6.1 (Kummer extension). Let K be a field with $\text{char}(K) \nmid n$, and suppose $\mu_n \subset K$. A *Kummer extension* of K of exponent dividing n is a finite Galois extension L/K with $\text{Gal}(L/K)$ abelian of exponent dividing n .

Theorem 6.2 (Kummer correspondence). *Assume $\mu_n \subset K$. There is a perfect pairing of finite abelian groups*

$$\text{Gal}(L/K) \times \Delta_L \longrightarrow \mu_n, \quad (\sigma, a) \mapsto \frac{\sigma(\alpha)}{\alpha},$$

where $\Delta_L = \{a \in K^\times : a^{1/n} \in L\}/(K^\times)^n$ and α is any n -th root of a in L . This gives a natural bijection

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{subgroups } \Delta \subset K^\times/(K^\times)^n \end{array} \right\} \xleftrightarrow{1:1} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{abelian extensions } L/K \\ \text{of exponent dividing } n \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\Delta \longmapsto K(\Delta^{1/n}) := K(\{a^{1/n} : a \in \Delta\})$$

with $|\text{Gal}(L/K)| = [L : K] = |\Delta_L|$.

Exercise 6.3. Let K be a field of characteristic coprime to 2 and $G = \text{Gal}(K^{\text{sep}}/K)$.

- Apply the long exact sequence to $1 \rightarrow \mu_2 \rightarrow \overline{K}^\times \xrightarrow{x \mapsto x^2} \overline{K}^\times \rightarrow 1$ and use Hilbert 90 to show $H^1(G_K, \mu_2) \cong K^\times/(K^\times)^2$.
- For $K = \mathbb{Q}$: show $\mathbb{Q}^\times/(\mathbb{Q}^\times)^2$ is an \mathbb{F}_2 -vector space with basis $\{-1, p : p \text{ prime}\}$, and for $d \in \mathbb{Q}^\times/(\mathbb{Q}^\times)^2$ describe the corresponding characters $G_{\mathbb{Q}} \rightarrow \mu_2$ (i.e. the element of $H^1(G_{\mathbb{Q}}, \mu_2) = \text{Hom}(G_{\mathbb{Q}}, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$).

Exercise 6.4. Let $K = \mathbb{Q}$, $L = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$, $G = G_{\mathbb{Q}}$, $H = G_L$, $M = \mu_2$ (trivial action).

- Show $\text{Inf} : H^1(\text{Gal}(L/K), \mu_2) \rightarrow H^1(G_{\mathbb{Q}}, \mu_2)$ is injective.
- Show a character $\chi : G_{\mathbb{Q}} \rightarrow \mu_2$ is in the image of Inf if and only if $\chi|_{G_L} = 1$. Which squarefree integers d give such χ_d ?
- Compute $\text{Res} : H^1(G_{\mathbb{Q}}, \mu_2) \rightarrow H^1(G_L, \mu_2)$ and identify its kernel and image.

7 Cup Products

Cup products give a pairing on cohomology groups that is natural, associative, and compatible with restriction and inflation. Note that given two G -modules M and N , then $M \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} N$ is a G -module via the action $g \cdot (m \otimes n) = gm \otimes gn$.

Definition 7.1 (Cup product). For G -modules M and N , the *cup product* is a bilinear map

$$\smile: \mathbb{H}^p(G, M) \times \mathbb{H}^q(G, N) \longrightarrow \mathbb{H}^{p+q}(G, M \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} N),$$

defined on cochains by

$$(f \smile g)(g_1, \dots, g_{p+q}) := f(g_1, \dots, g_p) \otimes g_1 \cdots g_p \cdot g(g_{p+1}, \dots, g_{p+q}).$$

One checks this sends cocycles to cocycles and that the cup product of a cocycle with a coboundary is a coboundary, so it descends to cohomology.

Remark 7.2. For $p = q = 1$: given 1-cocycles $f : G \rightarrow M$ and $g : G \rightarrow N$,

$$\boxed{(f \smile g)(g_1, g_2) = f(g_1) \otimes g_1 \cdot g(g_2)}.$$

Proposition 7.3. *The cup product satisfies the following properties*

1. $\alpha \smile \beta = (-1)^{pq} \tau(\beta \smile \alpha)$ where $\tau : M \otimes N \rightarrow N \otimes M, m \otimes n \mapsto n \otimes m$.
2. $\text{Res}(\alpha \smile \beta) = \text{Res}(\alpha) \smile \text{Res}(\beta)$.
3. $\text{Inf}(\alpha \smile \beta) = \text{Inf}(\alpha) \smile \text{Inf}(\beta)$.
4. $(\alpha \smile \beta) \smile \gamma = \alpha \smile (\beta \smile \gamma)$.

Example 7.4. When G acts trivially on M and N , 1-cocycles are homomorphisms. For $\chi : G \rightarrow M$ and $\psi : G \rightarrow N$:

$$(\chi \smile \psi)(g_1, g_2) = \chi(g_1) \otimes \psi(g_2).$$

Example 7.5 (Quadratic characters). Let $G = G_{\mathbb{Q}}$, $M = N = \mu_2$ (trivial action), so $\mathbb{H}^1(G_{\mathbb{Q}}, \mu_2) = \text{Hom}(G_{\mathbb{Q}}, \mu_2)$. Note $\mu_2 \otimes \mu_2 \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ via $(-1) \otimes (-1) \mapsto 1$. For squarefree d, d' , the cup product

$$\chi_d \smile \chi_{d'} \in \mathbb{H}^2(G_{\mathbb{Q}}, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) (= \text{Br}(\mathbb{Q})[2])$$

encodes arithmetic information about the pair (d, d') : it is related to the Hilbert symbol $(d, d')_v$ at each place v of \mathbb{Q} , and vanishes globally iff (d, d') splits everywhere.

Exercise 7.6. Let G be a finite group acting trivially on abelian groups M and N .

- (a) For $\chi \in \text{Hom}(G, M)$ and $\psi \in \text{Hom}(G, N)$, verify directly that $(\chi \smile \psi)(g_1, g_2) = \chi(g_1) \otimes \psi(g_2)$ is a 2-cocycle.
- (b) Show $\chi \smile \psi$ is a coboundary if $\chi = 0$ or $\psi = 0$.
- (c) For $G = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, $M = N = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$: compute $\chi \smile \chi$ where $\chi : G \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ is the unique nontrivial homomorphism. Is this zero in $\mathbb{H}^2(G, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$? Use the cyclic formula to compute $\mathbb{H}^2(G, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ first.

Here we will cover some things that are useful to know for sheet 1 but not necessarily the actual lecture series.

A Induced Modules and Shapiro's Lemma

A.1 Group rings

Definition A.1 (Group ring). Let G be a group. The *group ring* $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ is the free abelian group on the set G , with ring structure extending the group multiplication:

$$\mathbb{Z}[G] = \left\{ \sum_{g \in G} n_g g \mid n_g \in \mathbb{Z}, \text{ almost all } n_g = 0 \right\}, \quad \left(\sum_g n_g g \right) \left(\sum_h m_h h \right) = \sum_k \left(\sum_{gh=k} n_g m_h \right) k.$$

Example A.2. For $G = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} = \langle \sigma \rangle$, one has $\mathbb{Z}[G] \cong \mathbb{Z}[X]/(X^n - 1)$ with $\sigma \mapsto X$. The *norm element* is $\mathbf{N} = 1 + \sigma + \cdots + \sigma^{n-1}$ and the *augmentation ideal* $I_G = \ker(\varepsilon : \mathbb{Z}[G] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z})$ is generated by $\sigma - 1$.

Example A.3. $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ is a G -module by left multiplication: $g \cdot (\sum n_h h) = \sum n_h (gh)$.

Proposition A.4 (Equivalence with $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ -modules). *The categories of left G -modules and left $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ -modules are isomorphic, via extending the G -action \mathbb{Z} -linearly: $(\sum n_g g) \cdot m = \sum n_g (gm)$.*

We can use G -module and $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ -module interchangeably.

Definition A.5 (Co-induced module). For $H \leq G$ and N an H -module, define

$$\text{Ind}_H^G N := \mathbb{Z}[G] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[H]} N$$

.

Theorem A.6 (Shapiro's Lemma). $H^n(G, \text{Ind}_H^G N) \cong H^n(H, N)$ for all $n \geq 0$.

Corollary A.7. $H^n(G, \text{Ind}_1^G N) = 0$ for $n \geq 1$.

Exercise A.8. Let L/K be a finite Galois extension, then by the normal basis theorem $L \cong K[\text{Gal}(L/K)]$. Deduce that $H^1(\text{Gal}(L/K), L) = 0$.

Exercise A.9. Let M be a G -module and M^\dagger for M viewed as an abelian group. We have an injection $M \hookrightarrow \text{Ind}_1^G M^\dagger$. Let $Q := \text{Ind}_1^G M^\dagger / M$. Show that

$$H^n(G, Q) \cong H^{n+1}(G, M)$$

for all $n \geq 1$.

B The Herbrand Quotient

Let G be a finite cyclic group of order n and let σ be a choice of generator. Recall that for a (finitely generated) $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ -module M , the Herbrand quotient is

$$h^{2/1}(M) := \frac{\# H^2(G, M)}{\# H^1(G, M)},$$

when it exists. Note that Emerton uses the notation $h_{2/1}$. A fact used in Emerton's sheet is the following.

Theorem B.1. *Let L/K be an extension of number fields with Galois group G , and S be a set of places of L containing the infinite ones which is preserved by G . Then considering $\mathcal{O}_{L,S}^\times$ as a module over G , we have*

$$h^{2/1}(\mathcal{O}_{L,S}^\times) = \frac{\prod_{w \in T} [L_w : K_w]}{[L : K]}.$$

where T is the set of places of K under S , and L_w denotes a choice of completion of L above w .

The rest of this document consists of a somewhat discursive proof. Firstly, note that Dirichlet's unit theorem furnishes us with a map of $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ -modules

$$\phi : \mathcal{O}_{L,S}^\times \rightarrow \bigoplus_{v \in S} \mathbb{R} \cdot v =: V,$$

where the component at a place v is

$$\phi(x)_v := \begin{cases} \log(|x|_v^2) & \text{if } v \text{ is a complex place,} \\ \log(|x|_v) & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

Let $\Lambda := \phi(\mathcal{O}_{L,S}^\times)$ be the image, which by the unit theorem is a full rank sublattice of the sum-zero hyperplane $H := \{(z_v)_{v \in S} : \sum_{v \in S} z_v = 0\}$.

Lemma B.2. *If $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$ is a short exact sequence of $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ -modules, then if the Herbrand quotients of A and C exist then so does that of B and moreover*

$$h^{2/1}(A)h^{2/1}(C) = h^{2/1}(B).$$

In particular, this will allow us to relate the Herbrand quotient of interest to that of Λ . Specifically,

$$h^{2/1}(\mathcal{O}_{L,S}^\times) = h^{2/1}(\Lambda) h^{2/1}(\mu(L)). \quad (1)$$

So we will study the Herbrand quotient of Λ . Moreover, let $\Lambda' := \Lambda \oplus \mathbb{Z} \cdot u$ be the span of Λ and the vector $u = (1, \dots, 1)$ inside of V . Note that this is a sum of $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ -modules. Then using Lemma B.2 we have $h^{2/1}(\Lambda') = h^{2/1}(\mathbb{Z})h^{2/1}(\Lambda)$, so we can update (1) to

$$h^{2/1}(\mathcal{O}_L^\times) = \frac{h^{2/1}(\mu_L) h^{2/1}(\Lambda')}{h^{2/1}(\mathbb{Z})}. \quad (2)$$

It would be very helpful if we could compute the Herbrand quotients of the modules which don't really seem to depend on the unit group. Then we could relate $h^{2/1}(\Lambda')$ to $h^{2/1}(\mathcal{O}_L^\times)$ explicitly.

Lemma B.3. *If M is a finite $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ -module then $h^{2/1}(M) = 1$.*

Lemma B.4. *If G is cyclic of order n , $h^{2/1}(\mathbb{Z}) = n$.*

Hence, we have moved the problem to studying the lattice Λ' .

$$h^{2/1}(\mathcal{O}_{L,S}^\times) = \frac{1}{n} h^{2/1}(\Lambda'). \quad (3)$$

Pausing for a moment, why are we expecting the Herbrand quotient of Λ' to be easier? Well that'd be the following lemma, which allows us to replace Λ' with as simple a sublattice of V as we like.

Lemma B.5. *Let W be a finitely generated $\mathbb{R}[G]$ -module, and Λ_1, Λ_2 be two full rank sublattices of W which are $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ -submodules. Then*

$$h^{2/1}(\Lambda_1) = h^{2/1}(\Lambda_2).$$

There's a natural sublattice of V , namely $M := \bigoplus_{v \in S} \mathbb{Z} \cdot v \subseteq V$, which looks quite approachable. Note that

$$M = \bigoplus_{w \in T} \left\{ \bigoplus_{v|w} \mathbb{Z} \cdot v \right\} \cong \bigoplus_{w \in T} \text{Ind}_{G_w}^G \mathbb{Z},$$

where G_w is a choice of decomposition group at w in G . Applying Shapiro's lemma and Lemma B.2, and then Lemma B.4 we have

$$h^{2/1}(M) = \prod_{w \in T} h^{2/1}(G_w, \mathbb{Z}) = \prod_{w \in T} [L_w : K_w],$$

where $h^{2/1}(G_w, \mathbb{Z})$ is the Herbrand quotient as $\mathbb{Z}[G_w]$ -modules. Hence, to conclude, by (3) and Lemma B.5 and we have

$$h^{2/1}(\mathcal{O}_L^\times) = \frac{h^{2/1}(\Lambda')}{[L : K]} = \frac{h^{2/1}(M)}{[L : K]} = \frac{\prod_{w \in T} [L_w : K_w]}{[L : K]},$$

as claimed. \square

Auxiliary Lemmata

We now prove the lemmata used above.

Proof of Lemma B.2. This makes use of the long-exact sequence in cohomology for cyclic groups, which forms a hexagon. See Neukirch's lectures on Class Field Theory Part I Theorem 6.4. \square

Proof of Lemma B.3. We will do this directly. Firstly, let σ be a generator of G and consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(G, M) \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{1-\sigma} M \rightarrow H_0(G, M) \rightarrow 0.$$

Hence, since M is finite we have $\#H^0(G, M) = \#H_0(G, M)$. Further we have an exact sequence induced by the norm N given by

$$0 \rightarrow \hat{H}^{-1}(G, M) \rightarrow H_0(G, M) \xrightarrow{N} H^0(G, M) \rightarrow \hat{H}^0(G, M) \rightarrow 0.$$

Hence again we have $\#\hat{H}^{-1}(G, M) = \#\hat{H}^0(G, M)$, and so since homology over cyclic groups is 2-periodic we have the claim. \square

Proof of Lemma B.4. This is an immediate calculation, writing N_G for the norm element for G :

$$H^1(G, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \hat{H}^{-1}(G, \mathbb{Z}) = \frac{\ker(N_G : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z})}{(1-\sigma)\mathbb{Z}} = 0,$$

and

$$H^2(G, \mathbb{Z}) \cong \hat{H}^0(G, \mathbb{Z}) = \frac{\mathbb{Z}}{N_G(\mathbb{Z})} = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}.$$

\square

Proof of Lemma B.5. Let us first assume that $\mathbb{Q} \cdot \Lambda_1 = \mathbb{Q} \cdot \Lambda_2$. In which case, note that $\mathbb{Q} \cdot \Lambda_1 / \Lambda_1 \cong \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}^r$, where r is the rank of Λ_1 . Since every element of this quotient is of finite order, the image of Λ_2 is a finite group and so there exists an integer m such that $m\Lambda_2 \subseteq \Lambda_1$. Now consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \Lambda_2 \xrightarrow{\times m} \Lambda_1 \rightarrow \Lambda_1/m\Lambda_2 \rightarrow 0.$$

The rightmost group is finite since Λ_1 and Λ_2 have the same rank, and so by Lemma B.2 and Lemma B.3 we have $h^{2/1}(\Lambda_1) = h^{2/1}(\Lambda_2)$.

We will now reduce the general case to the one above. Let $M_i := \mathbb{Q} \cdot \Lambda_i$. Note that

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbb{Q}[G]}(M_1, M_2) \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{R} \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}[G]}(M_1 \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{R}, M_2 \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{R}),$$

and so since $M_1 \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{R} = W = M_2 \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{R}$, the right hand side has a map with determinant 1 and so so too does the left hand side. Hence there is an isomorphism $M_1 \cong M_2$. Now, under this isomorphism we can assume we're in the special case above, and so the theorem holds. \square