

DIVISION ALGEBRAS AND THE PICARD NUMBER OF A RAMIFIED CYCLIC COVERING

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1. INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Let k denote a field in which n is invertible, and assume k contains ζ , a primitive n th root of unity. Let $A = k[x_1, \dots, x_m]$ be the affine coordinate ring of \mathbb{A}_k^m and $K = k(x_1, \dots, x_m)$ the field of rational functions. Given an irreducible polynomial f in A we consider the affine variety in $\mathbb{A}_k^{m+1} = \text{Spec } k[x_1, \dots, x_m, z]$ defined by the equation $z^n = f$. Let $T = A[z]/(z^n - f)$, $R = A[f^{-1}]$, and $S = T[z^{-1}]$. Then T is a ramified cyclic extension of A , and S is a Galois extension of R . Identifying z with $\sqrt[n]{f}$, the quotient field of T (and S) is $L = K(z)$ and L/K is a Kummer extension with cyclic Galois group. Let σ denote the K -algebra automorphism of $L = K(\sqrt[n]{f})$ defined by $z \mapsto \zeta z$. Let $G = \{1, \sigma, \dots, \sigma^{n-1}\}$ be the cyclic group generated by σ . Then G is a group of A -automorphisms of T , a group of R -automorphisms of S , and a group of K -automorphisms of $L = K(z)$. The rings together with their quotient fields appear in the following commutative diagram.

$$(1) \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} T = A[\sqrt[n]{f}] & \longrightarrow & S = R[\sqrt[n]{f}] & \longrightarrow & L = K(\sqrt[n]{f}) \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ A & \longrightarrow & R = A[f^{-1}] & \longrightarrow & K \end{array}$$

This article studies connections between K -division algebras and divisor classes on the affine varieties $\text{Spec } T$ and $\text{Spec } S$. Arithmetic in the Brauer group of K is exploited to study the Picard group $\text{Pic } S$ and the class group $\text{Cl}(T)$. We give sufficient conditions on f such that the Picard group $\text{Pic } S$ is nontrivial. For many examples, the Picard numbers are computed. Associated to the Galois extension S/R is the so-called seven term exact sequence of Chase, Harrison and Rosenberg:

$$(2) \quad 1 \rightarrow H^1(G, S^*) \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} \text{Pic}(R) \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} (\text{Pic } S)^G \xrightarrow{\alpha_3} H^2(G, S^*) \xrightarrow{\alpha_4} B(S/R) \xrightarrow{\alpha_5} H^1(G, \text{Pic } S) \xrightarrow{\alpha_6} H^3(G, S^*)$$

[1, Corollary 5.5] or [9, Theorem 13.3.1]. Since A and $R = A[1/f]$ are factorial, $\text{Pic } A = \text{Pic } R = 0$. Since G is cyclic, [10, Theorem 8.5.20] and the exact sequence (2) imply that $H^i(G, S^*) = \langle 1 \rangle$ for $i = 1, 3, \dots$. In our context, (2) reduces to the exact sequence

$$(3) \quad \langle 1 \rangle \rightarrow (\text{Pic } S)^G \xrightarrow{\alpha_3} H^2(G, S^*) \xrightarrow{\alpha_4} B(S/R) \xrightarrow{\alpha_5} H^1(G, \text{Pic } S) \rightarrow \langle 1 \rangle$$

In Section 2 below, the goal is to derive sufficient conditions on n and f such that there exist nontrivial elements in the image of α_5 . In Section 3, we derive sufficient conditions

on n and f such that there exists a homomorphism

$$(4) \quad B(S/R) \xrightarrow{\gamma_5} H^1(G, \text{Cl}(T))$$

and for any $N > 0$, the image of γ_5 contains a subgroup of order N or greater.

2. DOUBLE COVERS

In this section we continue to use the notation established above, with some modifications. The cyclic covering T/A is assumed to be quadratic. Thus, $n = 2$, and $L = K(\sqrt{f})$. The varieties are surfaces, thus $m = 2$, and we write $A = k[x, y]$. The polynomial f is always square-free, but not necessarily irreducible. Let $f = f_1 \cdots f_n$ be the factorization of f into irreducibles in the factorial ring A . The group of units of R is equal to $k^* \times \langle f_1 \rangle \times \cdots \langle f_n \rangle$, which is isomorphic to $k^* \times \mathbb{Z}^{(n)}$. By the Kummer sequence, $H^1(R, \mu_2) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{(n)}$. Since $H^1(R, \mu_2)$ classifies the étale double covers of R , we view S as a representative of the class $[S]$ in $H^1(R, \mu_2)$ corresponding to $f = f_1 \cdots f_n$. Fixing $[S]$ in one factor of the cup product $\smile: H^1(R, \mu_2) \times H^1(R, \mu_2) \rightarrow H^2(R, \mu_2)$ [18, p. 172] and following with the Kummer theory map $H^2(R, \mu_2) \rightarrow {}_2B(R)$, we have a homomorphism $(\cdot) \smile [S]: H^1(R, \mu_2) \rightarrow {}_2B(R)$. The image of $(\cdot) \smile [S]$ is denoted by $B^\smile(S/R)$. If we pass to the quotient fields, $K \rightarrow K(\sqrt{f})$, every element of the Brauer group $B(K)$ split by $K(\sqrt{f})$ is a cyclic crossed product, hence is in the image of the cup product map. In this sense, the classes of Azumaya algebras in $B^\smile(S/R)$ represent the obvious elements in $B(S/R)$. The short exact sequence of Theorem 2.1(a) is a special case of (2).

Theorem 2.1. *In the notation established above, the following are true.*

(a) *There is an exact sequence of abelian groups*

$$0 \rightarrow B^\smile(S/R) \rightarrow B(S/R) \xrightarrow{\alpha_5} \text{Pic } S \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2 \rightarrow 0.$$

(b) *The restriction-corestriction sequence*

$$0 \rightarrow B(S/R) \rightarrow {}_2B(R) \xrightarrow{\text{res}^2} {}_2B(S) \xrightarrow{\text{cor}^2} {}_2B(R) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact.

(c) *The $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -rank of $\text{Pic } S \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$ is less than or equal to the $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -rank of ${}_2B(R)$.*

Proof. [6, Theorem 2.1] and its proof. □

Theorem 2.2. *In the notation established above, assume f is irreducible. The following are true.*

- (a) $B^\smile(S/R) = \langle 0 \rangle$.
- (b) $\alpha_5: B(S/R) \cong \text{Pic } S \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$.
- (c) $\dim_{\mathbb{Z}/2} H^1(S, \mu_2) = \dim_{\mathbb{Z}/2} H^1(R, \mu_2) = 1$.
- (d) $\dim_{\mathbb{Z}/2} H^2(S, \mu_2) = 2 \dim_{\mathbb{Z}/2} H^2(R, \mu_2)$.
- (e) For all $i > 0$, $H^i(G, S^*) = \langle 1 \rangle$.
- (f) $(\text{Pic } S)^G = \langle 0 \rangle$.

Proof. [6, Theorem 2.8] □

Proposition 2.3. *If I is a prime ideal of S of height one, then I is a free R -module of rank two. There exist elements a, b in I such that $I = aS + bS$.*

Proof. Let I be a height one prime ideal in S . Then I is a rank one reflexive module and because S is non-singular, I is a rank one projective S -module (for example, [10, Theorem 12.6.9] or [13, Corollary II.6.16]). Since S is a free R -module of rank two, it follows that I is a projective R -module of rank two. By [19], the R -module I decomposes into a direct sum of two rank one projective modules. Since $\text{Pic } R = 0$, it follows that I is a free R -module. \square

2.1. Motivational Examples.

Example 2.4. Let $f = f_1 f_2 f_3 f_4 \in k[x, y]$, where f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4 are four linear polynomials in general position. Let $R = k[x, y][f^{-1}]$, $S = R[\sqrt{f}]$. Using [4, Theorem 4], we see that ${}_2B(R) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{(6)}$ and a basis consists of the symbol algebras $\{(f_i, f_j)_2 \mid i < j\}$. The group $B^\sim(S/R)$ is the subgroup of ${}_2B(R)$ generated by $\{(f, f_i)_2 \mid 1 \leq i \leq 4\}$. One computes that $B^\sim(R)$ is a group of order 2^3 . Let $F_i = Z(f_i)$ be the line defined by $f_i = 0$. Let $P_{12} = F_1 \cap F_2$ and $P_{34} = F_3 \cap F_4$. Let ℓ be the linear equation of the line L through P_{12} and P_{34} . Let $\Lambda = (f, \ell)_2$. As in [4, Theorem 4], one computes

$$(5) \quad \begin{aligned} (f, \ell)_2 &\sim (f_1 f_2, \ell)_2 (f_3 f_4, \ell)_2 \\ &\sim (f_1, f_2)_2 (f_3, f_4)_2 \end{aligned}$$

is in $B(S/R)$ and not in $B^\sim(S/R)$. By Theorem 2.1, $\alpha_5(\Lambda)$ represents a non-trivial element of $\text{Pic}(S) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$.

Example 2.5. As in Example 2.4, let f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4 be four linear polynomials in general position. Let $F_i = Z(f_i)$ be the line defined by $f_i = 0$. Let $P_{12} = F_1 \cap F_2$, $P_{34} = F_3 \cap F_4$, and let ℓ be the linear equation of the line L through P_{12} and P_{34} . Let F_0 be the line at infinity and let P_{05} be the point $F_0 \cap L$. Let F_5 be a line through P_{05} which is in general position with respect to F_1, F_2, F_3, F_4, L . Let $f = f_1 f_2 f_3 f_4 f_5$, $R = k[x, y][f^{-1}]$, and $S = R[\sqrt{f}]$. Then ${}_2B(R) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{(10)}$ and a basis consists of the symbol algebras $\{(f_i, f_j)_2 \mid i < j\}$. The group $B^\sim(S/R)$ is the subgroup of ${}_2B(R)$ generated by $\{(f, f_i)_2 \mid 1 \leq i \leq 5\}$. One computes that $B^\sim(S/R)$ is a group of order 2^4 . Let $\Lambda = (f, \ell)_2$. One computes

$$(6) \quad \begin{aligned} (f, \ell)_2 &\sim (f_1 f_2, \ell)_2 (f_3 f_4, \ell)_2 \\ &\sim (f_1, f_2)_2 (f_3, f_4)_2 \end{aligned}$$

is in $B(S/R)$ and not in $B^\sim(S/R)$. By Theorem 2.1, $\alpha_5(\Lambda)$ represents a non-trivial element of $\text{Pic}(S) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$.

Example 2.6. Pick a linear polynomial $\ell \in k[x, y]$, and let $L = Z(\ell)$ be the line in \mathbb{A}^2 defined by ℓ . Generalizing Example 2.5, a large class of f are presented such that $G = Z(\ell)$ is split by $R[\sqrt{f}]$. Let $m \geq 2$ and pick distinct points P_1, \dots, P_m on L . Let F_1, \dots, F_{2m} be general lines in \mathbb{A}^2 satisfying $P_i \in F_{2i-1} \cap F_{2i}$. Let $f_j = 0$ be the linear equation for F_j and set $f = f_1 f_2 \cdots f_{2m}$. Let $R = k[x, y][f^{-1}]$ and $S = R[\sqrt{f}]$. Then ${}_2B(R) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{(r)}$ where $r = 1 + 2 + \cdots + (2m - 1)$ and a basis consists of the symbol algebras $\{(f_i, f_j)_2 \mid i < j\}$. The group $B^\sim(S/R)$ is the subgroup of ${}_2B(R)$ generated by $\{(f, f_j)_2 \mid 1 \leq j \leq 2m - 1\}$. One computes that $B^\sim(S/R)$ is a $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -module of rank $2m - 1$. Let $\Lambda = (f, \ell)_2$. One computes

$$(7) \quad \begin{aligned} (f, \ell)_2 &\sim (f_1 f_2, \ell)_2 (f_3 f_4, \ell)_2 \cdots (f_{2m-1} f_{2m}, \ell)_2 \\ &\sim (f_1, f_2)_2 (f_3, f_4)_2 \cdots (f_{2m-1}, f_{2m})_2 \end{aligned}$$

is in $B(S/R)$ and not in $B^\sim(S/R)$. By Theorem 2.1, $\alpha_5(\Lambda)$ represents a non-trivial element of $\text{Pic}(S) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$.

2.2. Division Algebras over K and Primes of S . As in diagram (1), $A = k[x, y]$, f is square-free, $T = A[z]/(z^2 - f)$, $R = A[f^{-1}]$ and $S = T[z^{-1}]$. Let $\pi : \text{Spec } T \rightarrow \text{Spec } A$ be the corresponding morphism of surfaces. Since R and S are regular surfaces, $B(S/R) \rightarrow B(L/K)$ is one-to-one. An element of $B(S/R)$ is represented by a central K -division algebra $\Lambda \in B(L/K)$ and the ramification divisor of Λ is contained in $F = Z(f)$. By the crossed product theorem, the division algebra Λ is a symbol $(f, h)_2$ for some h in K^* (for instance, see [20, Corollary 7.11]). Since h is unique up to norms from L^* , we can assume h is a square-free element of A . Factoring h into irreducibles, the Brauer class of Λ is a product of classes of the form $(f, g)_2$, where g is an irreducible element of A . Denote by $C = Z(g)$ the irreducible curve on $\text{Spec } A$ defined by g . Consider the divisor $\tilde{C} = \pi^{-1}(C)$ on $\text{Spec } T$. The diagrams

$$(8) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \tilde{C} & \xrightarrow{\subseteq} & \text{Spec } T \\ \pi \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi \\ C & \xrightarrow{\subseteq} & \text{Spec } A \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} T & \longrightarrow & T/Tg \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ A & \longrightarrow & A/Ag \end{array}$$

commute, where (8) shows the morphisms of varieties on the left, and the coordinate rings on the right.

Proposition 2.7. *As above, $\pi : \text{Spec } T \rightarrow \text{Spec } A$ is the affine double plane defined by $z^2 = f$, where $A = k[x, y]$ and $K = k(x, y)$. Assume g is irreducible in A and the K -symbol algebra $(f, g)_2$ ramifies only along $F = Z(f)$. If $C = Z(g)$, then $\tilde{C} = \pi^{-1}(C)$ is not irreducible. The curve \tilde{C} is reducible with only one irreducible component if and only if g divides f . Otherwise $\tilde{C} = \tilde{C}_1 + \tilde{C}_2$ is reducible and has two irreducible components.*

Proof. If g divides f , then any prime of T containing g also contains z . In this case, g has a unique minimal prime in T , namely $P = (g, z)$. In the local ring T_P , the element g has valuation 2. This shows $\text{Div}(g) = 2P$. So \tilde{C} is reducible with only one irreducible component. Note that in this case, $(f, g)_2$ is in $B^\sim(S/R)$.

Now assume g does not divide f . Then g is irreducible in $R = A[f^{-1}]$. Let Q denote the prime ideal Rg in R . The field $K(C) = R_Q/QR_Q$ is the function field of C . Because $S = T \otimes_A R$ is Galois over R , $S \otimes_R K(C)$ is separable of degree two over $K(C)$. Either $S \otimes_R K(C)$ is a field, or a direct sum of two copies of $K(C)$ (for example, see [10, Corollary 5.5.9] or [15, Proposition III.4.1]). If $S \otimes_R K(C)$ is a field, then Sg is a prime ideal in S , so \tilde{C} is irreducible. In this case, the ramification of $(f, g)_2$ along the divisor C is the non-zero class of $S \otimes_R K(C)$ in $H^1(K(C), \mu_2)$. This case does not arise because we are assuming $(f, g)_2$ is unramified along C .

The last possibility is that $S \otimes_R K(C)$ is a direct sum of two copies of $K(C)$. In this case there are two minimal primes of Sg . Let P be one of them. The other is necessarily $\sigma(P)$ (for example [10, Theorem 6.3.6] or [17, (5.E), Theorem 5]). Because the residue fields of R_Q and S_P are equal, the image of QR_Q generates the maximal ideal of S_P . This means g is a local parameter for S_P . The divisor of g on $\text{Spec } S$ is $P + \sigma(P)$. \square

In Proposition 2.8 we prove a partial converse to Proposition 2.7. If $C = Z(g)$ splits over S into $\tilde{C} = \tilde{C}_1 + \tilde{C}_2$ where \tilde{C}_1 and \tilde{C}_2 are disjoint, then the K -symbol algebra $(f, g)_2$ is shown to represent a Brauer class in the image of $B(R) \rightarrow B(K)$.

Proposition 2.8. *In the context of Proposition 2.7, suppose $g \in R$ is irreducible and that $S/(g)$ is isomorphic to the direct sum of two copies of $R/(g)$.*

	$(1,0)$	$(z,0)$	$(0,g)$	$(0,z-h)$
$(1,0)$	$(1,0)$	$(z,0)$	$(0,g)$	$(0,z-h)$
$(z,0)$	$(z,0)$	$(f,0)$	$(0,zg)$	$(0,z(z-h))$
$(0,g)$	$(0,g)$	$(0,-zg)$	$(g,0)$	$(-z-h,0)$
$(0,z-h)$	$(0,z-h)$	$(0,-z(z-h))$	$(z-h,0)$	$(-u,0)$

TABLE 1. Multiplication table for $\Delta(I)$ in Proposition 2.8.

- (a) *There is an element h in $R - (0)$ such that the minimal primes of g in S are $I = (g, z-h)$ and $\sigma(I) = (g, z+h)$.*
(b) *The symbol algebra $(f, g)_2$ over K represents a class ξ in $B(S/R)$.*
(c) *The coset $\alpha_5(\xi)$ in $\text{Pic } S \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$ is represented by the ideal I .*

Proof. We are given that

$$\frac{S}{(g)} = \frac{(R/(g))[z]}{(z^2 - f)}$$

is the trivial quadratic extension of $R/(g)$. This means f is a non-zero square in $R/(g)$. There exist u, h in $R - (0)$ such that $f = ug + h^2$. Look at the ideal $I = (g, z-h)$ in S . Since

$$S/I = \frac{k[x, y, z][f^{-1}]}{(g, z^2 - f, z-h)} \cong \frac{k[x, y][f^{-1}]}{(g)}$$

we see that I is prime of height one. A typical element of S can be written in the form $a + b(z-h)$, for $a, b \in R$. If a, b, c, d are from R , then a typical element of I is

$$\begin{aligned} (a + b(z-h))g + (c + d(z-h))(z-h) &= ag + b(z-h)g + c(z-h) + d(z-h)^2 \\ &= ag + b(z-h)g + c(z-h) + d(z^2 - h^2 - 2zh + 2h^2) \\ &= (a + du)g + (bg + c - 2dh)(z-h) \end{aligned}$$

so $I = Rg + R(z-h)$. By Proposition 2.3, $g, z-h$ is a free R -basis for I . Since z is invertible in S , $I\sigma(I) = (g^2, g(z+h), g(z-h), ug) = Sg$. Let $\Delta(I)$ be the generalized cross product algebra, as defined in [6, §2.2]. Then $\Delta(I)$ is an Azumaya R -algebra which is split by S . As an R -module $\Delta(I)$ is generated by $(1,0)$, $(z,0)$, $(0,g)$, and $(0,z-h)$. Using equation [6, (16)], the multiplication table for $\Delta(I)$ is constructed in Table 1. Upon extending the ring of scalars to K , it is clear that $\Delta(I) \otimes_R K$ is isomorphic to the symbol algebra $(f, g)_2$. Therefore $(f, g)_2$ is unramified on $Z(g)$, represents a class ξ in $B(S/R)$, and $\alpha_5(\xi)$ is represented by the divisor class of the ideal $I = (g, z-h)$. \square

Suppose f and g are as in Proposition 2.7 and g does not divide f . If $C = Z(g)$ is rational and simply connected, then $\tilde{C} = \tilde{C}_1 + \tilde{C}_2$ is reducible if and only if the local intersection multiplicity of C and F at each point is even [13, Corollary IV.2.4].

Proposition 2.9. *As always, $A = k[x, y]$ and $K = k(x, y)$. Suppose f and g are in A , f is square-free, g is irreducible, g does not divide f , and the K -symbol algebra $(f, g)_2$ is unramified along each prime divisor of $R = A[f^{-1}]$. If $C = Z(g)$ on $\text{Spec } R$ is either nonsingular, or has only unbranched singularities, then $S/(g)$ is isomorphic to a direct sum of two copies of $R/(g)$.*

Proof. We are in the context of the paragraph preceding Proposition 2.7. Let $\Lambda = (f, g)_2$. The ramification $a_C(\Lambda)$ along C is given by the tame symbol. But R is factorial and g is irreducible. Therefore $a_C(\Lambda)$ is the quadratic extension $K(C)[z]/(z^2 - f)$, which by

assumption represents the zero class in $H^1(K(C), \mathbb{Z}/2)$. Let \bar{C} denote the normalization of C . Because C has at most unbranched singularities, the natural map $H^1(C, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^1(\bar{C}, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})$ is an isomorphism. For any closed point $p \in \bar{C}$, the natural map

$$H^1(\bar{C}, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^1(\bar{C} - p, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})$$

is one-to-one by cohomological purity [18, Theorem VI.5.1]. By a direct limit argument, the natural map

$$H^1(\bar{C}, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^1(K(C), \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})$$

is one-to-one. Therefore, the unramified quadratic extension $S/(g)$ represents the zero class in $H^1(C, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})$. So $S/(g)$ is isomorphic to a direct sum of two copies of $R/(g)$. \square

Example 2.10. This example shows that if the curve $R/(g)$ has a nodal singularity, the conclusion of Proposition 2.9 can fail. Let $f = x + 1$, $T = k[x, y, z]/(z^2 - f)$. Let $g = y^2 - x^2(x + 1)$. In T the element g factors into $(y - xz)(y + xz)$. Each factor is irreducible because the map $x \mapsto z^2 - 1$, $y \mapsto xz$ induces $T/(y - xz) \cong k[z]$. Since

$$\frac{T}{(y - xz, y + xz)} \cong \frac{k[z]}{(z(z^2 - 1))}$$

the elements $y - xz$ and $y + xz$ are not relatively prime, even in $S = T[z^{-1}]$. The conclusion of Proposition 2.9 is not satisfied. Now look at the symbol algebra $\Lambda = (f, g)_2$ over $K = k(x, y)$. Since $1 \sim (x + 1, x)_2$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda &\sim (x + 1, x^{-2})_2(x + 1, y^2 - x^2(x + 1))_2 \\ &\sim (x + 1, (y/x)^2 - (x + 1))_2 \\ &\sim 1 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $(f, g)_2$ is split, hence unramified over R .

2.3. A Construction. Suppose our goal is to construct a double plane $\text{Spec } T \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^2$ with the property that the class group on the unramified set $\text{Spec } S \subseteq \text{Spec } T$ is non-trivial and easy to compute. An approach based on Theorem 2.1 is to find f such that we can compute elements that are in $B(S/R)$ but not in $B^\vee(S/R)$. The preceding examples provide some insight on how to pick elements f and g in A such that $(f, g)_2$ is in $B(S/R)$ and not in $B^\vee(S/R)$. Start with a sequence of distinct irreducible polynomials f_1, \dots, f_N in $A = k[x, y]$, where $N \geq 3$. Put $f = f_1 f_2 \cdots f_j + (f_{j+1} \cdots f_N)^2$, for some j such that $2 \leq j < N$. If f is square-free, then $z^2 - f$ is irreducible and $T = A[z]/(z^2 - f)$ is integrally closed. Let g be any one of f_1, \dots, f_j and $h = f_{j+1} \cdots f_N$. By construction, g does not divide f . Let $R = A[f^{-1}]$. The map

$$(9) \quad \frac{(R/(g))[z]}{(z^2 - h^2)} \xrightarrow{\beta} \frac{R}{(g)} \oplus \frac{R}{(g)}$$

is an isomorphism, where β maps $z \mapsto (h, -h)$. If $S = T[z^{-1}]$, then $S/(g)$ is isomorphic to the ring on the left hand side of (9). By Proposition 2.8, the symbol algebra $\Lambda = (f, g)_2$ ramifies only along the zeros of f . Also, the homomorphic image of $[\Lambda]$ under α_5 is the divisor class of the ideal $I = (g, z - h)$. Upon restriction to the quotient field $K = k(x, y)$, the symbol algebra $(f, g)_2$ is a division algebra if the ideal $I = (g, z - h)$ represents a non-trivial class in $\text{Pic } S \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$. The converse of this last statement is false, as shown in Example 2.6.

Example 2.11. This example is based on the construction of Section 2.3. Let ℓ_1, ℓ_2, ℓ_3 be three general linear polynomials in $k[x, y]$. Let $f = \ell_1 \ell_2 - \ell_3^2$. We can assume f is irreducible. Let $F = Z(f)$, $L_i = Z(\ell_i)$, and F_0 the line at infinity. Let $L_1 \cdot L_3 = P_1$ and $L_3 \cdot F_0 = P_{03}$. We see that $F \cdot L_1 = 2P_1$. By a general position argument, we can assume $F_0 \cdot F = P_{01} + P_{02}$. For the symbol algebra $(f, \ell_1)_2$, the weighted path in the graph $\Gamma = \Gamma(F + L_1 + F_0)$ is shown in Figure 1. The cycle $F \rightarrow P_{01} \rightarrow F_0 \rightarrow P_{02} \rightarrow F$ is non-trivial.

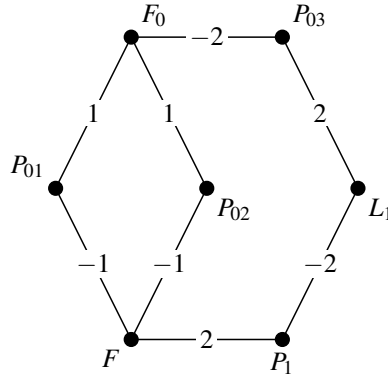


FIGURE 1. The weighted path of $(f, g)_2$ in Example 2.11.

The fact that the cycle in Figure 1 represents a non-trivial element in $H_1(\Gamma, \mathbb{Z}/2)$ proves that $(f, \ell_1)_2$ is a non-trivial element of $B(S/R)$. Since f is irreducible, Theorem 2.2 says $B^\vee(S/R) = (0)$. Therefore, the ideal $I = (\ell_1, z - \ell_3)$ is a non-trivial element of $\text{Pic } S \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$.

Example 2.12. This example is based on the construction of Section 2.3. Start with a sequence of distinct irreducible polynomials f_1, \dots, f_n in $A = k[x, y]$, where $n \geq 2$. Set $f = f_1 f_2 \cdots f_n + h^2$, for some $h \in A$ such that f is irreducible. Let $R = A[f^{-1}]$, and $S = R[z]/(z^2 - f)$. Theorem 2.2 says $B(S/R) \cong \text{Pic}(S) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$. Let g be any one of f_1, \dots, f_n . Let $F = Z(f)$, F_0 the line at infinity, $G = Z(g)$, and $H = Z(h)$. At a finite point P , the local intersection multiplicity $(F \cdot G)_P$ is divisible by 2. Assume there exists P_0 in $F_0 \cap F$ such that P_0 is not a point of G and the local intersection multiplicity $(F_0 \cdot F)_{P_0}$ is odd. If we assume $\deg G$ is odd, then the weighted path in the graph $\Gamma(F + G + F_0)$ of the symbol algebra $(f, g)_2$, has loops of the type $F \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow F_0 \rightarrow P_{0,j} \rightarrow F$. Therefore, $(f, g)_2$, is a division algebra and the ideal $I = (g, z - h)$ is a non-trivial element of $\text{Pic } S \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$.

Example 2.13. This example is based on Example 2.12. This example shows that it is not necessary to assume the degree of p_1 is odd. Let ℓ_1, ℓ_2 be linear polynomials in $k[x, y]$ and c an irreducible conic such that $f = \ell_1 c + \ell_2^2$ is an irreducible cubic. Assume ℓ_1, ℓ_2, c , and the line at infinity F_0 are in general position. In this example we prove that $(f, c)_2$ is a

division algebra. Let $C = Z(c)$, $F = Z(F)$, $L_i = Z(\ell_i)$, and F_0 the line at infinity. Let

$$\begin{aligned}
 C \cdot L_1 &= P_1 + P_2 \\
 C \cdot L_2 &= P_3 + P_4 \\
 L_1 \cdot L_2 &= P_5 \\
 L_1 \cdot F_0 &= P_6 \\
 L_2 \cdot F_0 &= P_7 \\
 C \cdot F_0 &= P_8 + P_9
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{10}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 F \cdot C &= 2F \cdot L_2 + F \cdot F_0 \\
 &= 2L_2 \cdot C + C \cdot F_0 \\
 &= 2P_3 + 2P_4 + P_8 + P_9 \\
 F \cdot F_0 &= L_1 \cdot F_0 + C \cdot F_0 \\
 &= P_6 + P_8 + P_9
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{11}$$

From this we compute the weighted path in the graph $\Gamma(F + C + F_0)$ for the symbol algebra $(f, c)_2$, with coefficients in $\mathbb{Z}/2$. The graph and edge weights are shown in Figure 2. There

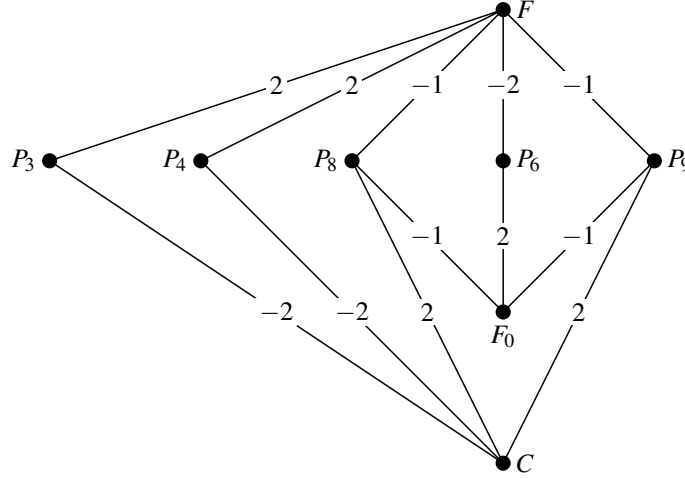


FIGURE 2. The weighted path of $(f, c)_2$ in Example 2.13

is one non-trivial loop, $F \rightarrow P_8 \rightarrow F_0 \rightarrow P_9 \rightarrow F$. Therefore $(f, c)_2$ is a division algebra and corresponds to a non-trivial element in $B(S/R)$.

Notice that $F \cdot L_1 = 2P_5 + P_7$. Compute the weighted path in the graph $\Gamma(F + L_1 + F_0)$ for the symbol algebra $(f, \ell_1)_2$, with coefficients in $\mathbb{Z}/2$. There is a non-trivial cycle, $F \rightarrow P_6 \rightarrow F_0 \rightarrow P_7 \rightarrow F \rightarrow P_8 \rightarrow F_0 \rightarrow P_9 \rightarrow F$. This proves $(f, \ell_1)_2$ is a division algebra and corresponds to a non-trivial element in $B(S/R)$. It follows that the order of $\text{Pic } S \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$ is at least 4. The ideals $(c, z - \ell_2)$ and $(\ell_1, z - \ell_2)$ are independent in $\text{Pic } S \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$.

Example 2.14. Say ℓ and c are in $k[x, y]$, where ℓ is a line and c is an irreducible conic. Let $C = Z(c)$, $L = Z(\ell)$. Let F_0 denote the line at infinity. Assume L , C and F_0 are in general

position. Let $f = \ell c - 1$ and assume f is irreducible. An argument similar to that used in Example 2.13 shows that over $k(x, y)$, both $(f, \ell)_2$ and $(f, c)_2$ are division algebras.

2.4. More examples.

Example 2.15. As in Example 2.4, we consider a double plane ramified over four lines. We consider the case where two of the four lines are parallel. Start with a linear polynomial $\ell \in k[x, y]$ which defines the line $L = Z(\ell)$ in \mathbb{A}^2 . Pick a point P on L . Let F_1 and F_2 be general lines which are parallel to L . Let F_3 and F_4 be general lines that intersect L at P . Let f_i be the equation for F_i . Let $f = f_1 f_2 f_3 f_4$, $R = k[x, y][f^{-1}]$, and $S = R[\sqrt{f}]$. Then ${}_2B(R)$ is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{Z}/2)^{(5)}$. A basis consists of the symbol algebras

$$\{(f_1, f_3)_2, (f_1, f_4)_2, (f_2, f_3)_2, (f_2, f_4)_2, (f_3, f_4)_2\}.$$

The group $B^\sim(S/R)$ is the subgroup of ${}_2B(R)$ generated by $\{(f, f_1)_2, \dots, (f, f_4)_2\}$. One computes that $B^\sim(S/R)$ is a $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -module of rank 3, with a basis being

$$\{(f_1, f_3)_2(f_1, f_4)_2, (f_2, f_3)_2(f_2, f_4)_2, (f_1, f_3)_2(f_2, f_3)_2(f_3, f_4)_2\}.$$

Let $\Lambda = (f, \ell)_2$. One computes $(f, \ell)_2 \sim (f_3 f_4, \ell)_2 \sim (f_3, f_4)_2$ which is in $B(S/R)$, but not $B^\sim(S/R)$. Theorem 2.1 says $\alpha_5(\Lambda)$ represents a non-trivial element of $\text{Pic}(S) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$.

The case where f_1 and f_2 are parallel, and f_3 and f_4 are parallel is the subject of Example 2.16, where it is shown that α_5 is zero. The double plane ramified over four lines passing through a common point is studied in [8], where it is shown that α_5 is zero.

Example 2.16. Let $f = (x^2 - 1)(y^2 - 1) \in k[x, y]$. Set $R = k[x, y][f^{-1}]$ and $S = R[\sqrt{f}]$. Let $T = k[x, y, z]/(z^2 = f)$. As computed in [16], $\text{Cl}(T) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{(3)}$. By [6, Theorem 2.4], $H^1(G, \text{Cl}(T)) \cong \text{Cl}(T) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2 \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{(3)}$. As shown in [6, Theorem 2.5], $H^1(G, \text{Cl}(T)) \rightarrow B(S/R)$ is onto. Using [4], one can check that ${}_2B(R) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{(4)}$ and $B^\sim(S/R) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{(3)}$. This proves $B^\sim(S/R) = B(S/R)$ and $\text{Pic } S \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2 = (0)$. Consider the symbol algebra $(f, y - x)_2$. Check that

$$\begin{aligned} (f, y - x)_2 &\sim ((x - 1)(y - 1), y - x)_2((x + 1)(y + 1), y - x)_2 \\ (12) \quad &\sim (x - 1, y - 1)_2(x + 1, y + 1)_2 \\ &\sim (f, (x - 1)(y + 1))_2 \end{aligned}$$

Upon restriction to the field $K = k(x, y)$, $(f, y - x)_2$ is a division algebra. The ideal $S(y - x)$ has two minimal primes, namely $(y - x, z - x^2 + 1)$ and $(y - x, z + x^2 - 1)$ and they are comaximal. The ring $S/(y - x)$ is a direct sum of two copies of $R/(y - x)$. The ring in Example 2.4 was a double plane ramified over four lines in general position. The ring in Example 2.15 was a double plane ramified over four lines, three of which are in general position. In both of these examples, it was shown that $\text{Pic } S \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$ was non-trivial. By comparison, in this example we find that $\text{Pic } S \otimes \mathbb{Z}/2$ is trivial because the four lines are not sufficiently general.

One can check that the K -symbol algebra $\Lambda = (x - 1, y - 1)_2$ represents a class in $B(R)$ that is not in $B^\sim(S/R)$. If L is the quotient field of T , then $\Lambda \otimes_K L$ is a division algebra over L . Moreover, $\Lambda \otimes_K L$ is unramified at every height one prime of T . By [3, Corollary 3] the sequence

$$(13) \quad 0 \rightarrow B(L/T) \rightarrow B(T) \rightarrow B(V) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact, where V is the set of regular points of $\text{Spec } T$. We know that a maximal \mathcal{O}_V -order in $\Lambda \otimes L$ is Azumaya. It would be informative to have a description of an Azumaya T -algebra whose generic stalk is Brauer equivalent to $\Lambda \otimes L$.

Example 2.17. Now we give an example where, in the context of Section 2.3, the symbol algebra $(f, g)_2$ is split, the ideal $I = (g, z - h)$ represents a non-trivial class in $\text{Pic } S$, and I is in $2\text{Pic } S$. Start with the special case $n = 3$ of [6, §3.3]. Let $f_1 = 2xy - 1$, $\ell_1 = x - 1$, $\ell_2 = x + 1$, $f = f_1 \ell_1 \ell_2$, $R = k[x, y][f^{-1}]$, and $S = R[z]/(z^2 - f)$. By [6, Proposition 3.4] we know that $\text{Pic } S$ is infinite cyclic and is generated by the class of $I_1 = (z - 1, x)$. The divisor of x is $\text{Div}(x) = I_1 + I_2$, where $I_2 = (z + 1, x)$. Take $g = x^2 + y^2 - 1$. Check that

$$(14) \quad \begin{aligned} f_1 &= g - (x - y)^2 \\ f_2 f_3 &= g - y^2 \end{aligned}$$

so the symbol algebras $(f_1, g)_2$ and $(f_2 f_3, g)_2$ are split. It follows that $(f_1, g)_2 (f_2 f_3, g)_2 \sim (f, g)_2$ is also split. Multiply on both sides of (14),

$$(15) \quad \begin{aligned} f &= f_1 f_2 f_3 = g(g - (x - y)^2 - y^2) + (x - y)^2 y^2 \\ &= g(2xy - y^2 - 1) + (x - y)^2 y^2 \end{aligned}$$

In the notation of Proposition 2.8, $u = 2xy - y^2 - 1$ and $h = (x - y)y$. Let $I = (g, z - (x - y)y)$. Then I is a height one prime of S , $\sigma(I) + I = S$, and $I\sigma(I) = Sg$. The divisor of g is $\text{Div}(g) = I + \sigma(I)$. Let

$$(16) \quad \begin{aligned} m &= g - (z - xy + y^2) \\ &= x^2 + xy - 1 - z = x(x + y) - (z + 1) \end{aligned}$$

Note that m is in I and $m(z + xy - y^2) = g(1 + z - xy)$. Since $z + xy - y^2$ and $1 + z - xy$ are not in I , the valuation of m at I is one. Any prime ideal that contains m must contain g or $1 + z - xy$. The ideal I is generated by m and g . Since $m + (1 + z - xy) = x^2$, if a prime contains m and not g , then it contains x . Any ideal that has both m and x also has $z + 1 = xy + x^2 - m$. Therefore, the only minimal primes of m are I and I_2 . One checks that $(z + 1)^2 = x^2(2xy + 1) - 2(x(x + y) - (z + 1))$, from which it follows $m \in I_2^2$. Lastly, it is straightforward to check that $(z + 1)^2 - x^2(2xy + 1)$ is not in I_2^3 , so the divisor of m is $\text{Div}(m) = 2I_2 + I$. Therefore, I is a non-trivial element in $2\text{Pic}(S)$.

Example 2.18. Let $f \in A = k[x, y]$ be a general polynomial of degree six. Let $R = A[f^{-1}]$, $S = R[\sqrt{f}]$. As observed in [14, §7] and [2, Example 1.2], S is an open subset of a $K3$ surface. Because f is general, it follows that $\text{Pic } S = 0$. We are in the context of Theorem 2.2. Therefore, $B(S/R) = 0$ and the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow {}_2B(R) \xrightarrow{\text{res}} {}_2B(S) \xrightarrow{\text{cor}} {}_2B(R) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact.

Example 2.19. Let a_1, \dots, a_n be distinct elements of k , and set $\ell_i = x - a_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$. Let $f = y^2 - \ell_1 \cdots \ell_n$, $R = A[f^{-1}]$, and $S = R[\sqrt{f}]$. We are in the context of Theorem 2.2. As observed in [8], S is a nonsingular affine rational surface, $B(S/R) = {}_2B(R) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{n-1}$, and the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow {}_2B(S/R) \rightarrow B(R) \rightarrow B(S) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact.

3. A CYCLIC COVERING OF DEGREE n

Let k be a field in which n is invertible, and assume k contains ζ , a primitive n th root of unity.

3.1. A Construction. Let \bar{k} be an algebraic closure of k . The example we consider is a cyclic covering of $\mathbb{A}^m = \text{Spec } k[x_1, \dots, x_m]$ in $\mathbb{A}^{m+1} = \text{Spec } k[x_1, \dots, x_m, z]$ defined by a single equation of the form $z^n = f$, where f is an irreducible polynomial in $k[x_1, \dots, x_m]$. Our notation in this section will agree with that of Section 1. To define f , start with a sequence of irreducible polynomials f_1, \dots, f_v in $A = k[x_1, \dots, x_m]$ such that the polynomial $f = f_1 f_2 \cdots f_v + 1$ is irreducible in $\bar{k}[x_1, \dots, x_m]$. Let $T = A[z]/(z^n - f)$, $R = A[f^{-1}]$ and $S = R[z]/(z^n - f)$. Since f is irreducible, an application of Eisenstein's Criterion (for example, [11, Theorem 3.7.6]) shows T is an integral domain. The quotient field of A is $K = k(x_1, \dots, x_m)$ and that of T is $L = K[z]/(z^n - f)$. From the Jacobian and Serre's Criteria (for example, [10, Theorems 11.6.5 and 11.4.8] or [13, Theorem I.5.1 and Proposition II.8.23]), we know that $\bar{T} = T \otimes_k \bar{k}$ is normal. Since $T \rightarrow T \otimes_k \bar{k}$ is faithfully flat, T is integrally closed in L (see, for example, [10, Example 11.6.7]). Let σ be the A -algebra automorphism of T defined by $\sigma(z) = \zeta z$. Then we will also view σ as an R -automorphism of S and K -automorphism of L . Since f and n are invertible in R , by Kummer Theory S/R is Galois with group $G = \langle \sigma \rangle$ (see for example [9, Example 12.9.5] or [18, § III.4, pp. 125-126]). Since R is regular, so is S (see for example [10, Corollary 11.5.4]). The map $\pi : \text{Spec } T \rightarrow \text{Spec } A$ ramifies only over the hypersurface $F = Z(f)$. Lying above F is the irreducible hypersurface defined by $z = 0$ and the ramification index is n . If we set $U = \text{Spec } R$ and $V = \text{Spec } S$, then we are in the context of [7, Section 1.1]. In particular, [7, Theorem 1.1] applies and there is a homomorphism

$$(17) \quad \gamma_5 : B(S/R) \rightarrow H^1(G, \text{Cl}(T))$$

of abelian groups. The goal of Section 3 is to derive sufficient conditions on f_1, \dots, f_v such that there exists a subgroup of $B(S/R)$ of order n^{v-1} which embeds in $H^1(G, \text{Cl}(T))$. This result appears below in Proposition 3.3. To compute the subgroup, and its image under γ_5 , the proof applies the results of [7, Sections 3 and 4].

Lemma 3.1. *Let f_1, f_2 be polynomials in $k[x_1, \dots, x_m]$ such that f_1 is irreducible in $k[x_1, \dots, x_m]$ and $f = f_1 f_2 + 1$ is irreducible in $\bar{k}[x_1, \dots, x_m]$. For any $0 \leq j < n$, consider the ideal $I = (\zeta^j z - 1, f_1)$ in $T = k[x_1, \dots, x_m]/(z^n - f)$. In the context of the previous paragraph the following are true.*

- (a) *I is a height one prime ideal in T .*
- (b) *I is an invertible fractional ideal of T in L , the quotient field of T , hence I represents a class in $\text{Pic}(T) \subseteq \text{Cl}(T)$.*
- (c) *Under the action of $G = \langle \sigma \rangle$ on $\text{Pic}(T)$, the norm of I is the principal ideal $T f_1$. That is, $T f_1 = I \sigma(I) \cdots \sigma^{n-1}(I)$.*

Proof. [7, Lemma 5.1]. □

In the notation of the first paragraph of Section 3, consider the ideals $P_1 = (z - 1, f_1)$, \dots , $P_{n-1} = (z - 1, f_{v-1})$ in the ring T . For each i , Lemma 3.1 shows the norm of P_i is equal to $T f_i$. Therefore we can construct the A -algebra $\Lambda_i = \Delta(T/A, P_i, f_i)$ as in [7, Definition 3.2]. By [7, Corollary 3.10], the generic stalk of Λ_i is $\Lambda_i \otimes_A K = (L/K, \sigma, f_i^{-1})$, which we identify with the symbol algebra $(f, f_i^{-1})_n$ over K . By [7, Corollary 3.12], $\Lambda_i \otimes_A R$ is an Azumaya R -algebra that is split by S . By [7, Theorem 4.17], the homomorphism (17) maps the Brauer class $[\Lambda_i \otimes_A R]$ to the 1-cocycle in $H^1(G, \text{Cl}(T))$ represented by the class of P_i . We have shown

Proposition 3.2. *Assume f_1, f_2, \dots, f_v are irreducible polynomials in $k[x_1, \dots, x_m]$, and the polynomial $f = f_1 f_2 \cdots f_v + 1$ is irreducible in $\bar{k}[x_1, \dots, x_m]$. Then in the above context, the following are true.*

- (a) For each i , $\Lambda_i \otimes_A R = \Delta(T/A, P_i, f_i) \otimes_A R$ is an Azumaya R -algebra split by S .
(b) Under the homomorphism γ_S of (17), the Brauer class $[\Lambda_i \otimes_A R]$ in $B(S/R)$ is mapped by γ_S to the 1-cocycle in $H^1(G, \text{Cl}(T))$ represented by the class of P_i .

Now we apply Proposition 3.2 to algebraic surfaces. For the following, the polynomial ring A is $k[x, y]$. We derive sufficient conditions on the polynomials f_1, \dots, f_v in A such that the Brauer classes represented by $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_{v-1}$ are \mathbb{Z}/n -independent in the group $B(S/R)$. In the usual way embed $\mathbb{A}_{\bar{k}}^2$ as an open subset of the projective plane $\mathbb{P}_{\bar{k}}^2$ and let F_∞ denote the line at infinity. For $i = 1, \dots, v$, let $F_i = Z(f_i)$ be the projective plane curve in $\mathbb{P}_{\bar{k}}^2$ defined by f_i . Let $d_i = \deg f_i$ be the degree of f_i . The degree of $f = f_1 f_2 \cdots f_v + 1$ is $d = d_1 + \cdots + d_v$. Proposition 3.3 is a variation of [7, Proposition 5.3].

Proposition 3.3. *In the above context, assume $v \geq 2$ and f_1, f_2, \dots, f_v are irreducible polynomials in $k[x, y]$ satisfying the following.*

- (A) *In $\mathbb{P}_{\bar{k}}^2$ the curve $Z(f_1 f_2 \cdots f_v)$ intersects F_∞ in $d = d_1 + \cdots + d_v$ distinct points.*
(B) *$f = f_1 f_2 \cdots f_v + 1$ is irreducible in $\bar{k}[x, y]$.*
(C) *One of the following sets of conditions is satisfied:*
(i) $1 = \gcd(d, n) = \gcd(d_1, n) = \cdots = \gcd(d_{v-1}, n)$.
(ii) $\gcd(d, n) = 1$ and $0 \equiv d_1 \equiv \cdots \equiv d_{v-1} \pmod{n}$.

Then the following are true.

- (a) *The classes represented by the symbol algebras $(f, f_1)_n, \dots, (f, f_{v-1})_n$ generate a subgroup of $B(L/K)$ of order n^{v-1} .*
(b) *The classes represented by $\Lambda_1 \otimes_A R, \dots, \Lambda_{v-1} \otimes_A R$ generate a subgroup of $B(S/R)$ of order n^{v-1} .*
(c) *The classes represented by the ideals P_1, \dots, P_{v-1} generate a subgroup of $H^1(G, \text{Cl} T)$ of order n^{v-1} .*

Proposition 3.3 is proved utilizing the cycle space of the graph associated to a plane curve. Before the proof, we review the definition.

Definition 3.4. Let Y be a reduced curve in $\mathbb{P}_{\bar{k}}^2$ and write $Y = Y_1 \cup \cdots \cup Y_m$, where the Y_i are the distinct irreducible components of Y . For each i let $\tilde{Y}_i \rightarrow Y_i$ be the normalization and define \tilde{Y} to be the disjoint union $\tilde{Y}_1 \cup \cdots \cup \tilde{Y}_m$. There is a natural map $\pi : \tilde{Y} \rightarrow Y$. Let $P = \{p_1, \dots, p_s\}$ be the singular set of Y , and $\tilde{P} = \pi^{-1}(P) = \{q_1, \dots, q_e\}$. The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \tilde{P} = \{q_1, \dots, q_e\} & \xrightarrow{\subseteq} & \tilde{Y} = \tilde{Y}_1 \cup \cdots \cup \tilde{Y}_m \\ \pi \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi \\ P = \{p_1, \dots, p_s\} & \xrightarrow{\subseteq} & Y = Y_1 \cup \cdots \cup Y_m \end{array}$$

commutes. To the curve Y is associated a bipartite graph $\Gamma(Y)$ with vertex set $\{\tilde{Y}_1, \dots, \tilde{Y}_m\} \cup \{p_1, \dots, p_s\}$ and edge set \tilde{P} . The edge $q \in \tilde{P}$ connects the vertex $\tilde{Y}_i \in \tilde{Y}$ to the vertex $p_j \in P$ if and only if $q \in \tilde{Y}_i$ and $\pi(q) = p_j$. By [5, Corollary 1.3] there is an isomorphism of abelian groups ${}_n B(\mathbb{P}^2 - Y) \rightarrow H^1(\tilde{Y}, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}) \oplus H_1(\Gamma(Y), \mathbb{Z}/n)$ (modulo torsion divisible by $\text{char } k$). The element in the cycle space of $\Gamma(Y)$ associated to a symbol algebra can be computed using local intersection multiplicities [5, Theorem 2.1]. Suppose Y_i and Y_j intersect at the point p with local intersection multiplicity $\mu = (F_i, F_j)_p$. The definition simplifies if we assume both Y_i and Y_j are nonsingular at p . This is true in the application below. Let f_i and f_j be local equations for the two curves and consider the symbol algebra

$(f_i, f_j)_n$ over the field of rational functions on \mathbb{P}^2 . Then near the vertex p , the cycle in Γ corresponding to $(f_i, f_j)_n$ looks like $F_i \xrightarrow{\mu} p \xrightarrow{-\mu} F_j$.

Proof of Proposition 3.3. The diagram

$$(18) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} B(R) & \longrightarrow & B(R \otimes_k \bar{k}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ B(k(x, y)) & \longrightarrow & B(\bar{k}(x, y)) \end{array}$$

commutes. The ring R is a localization of $k[x, y]$ in $K = k(x, y)$, so the vertical arrows in (18) are one-to-one. Part (b) follows from Proposition 3.2 and Part (a). The diagram

$$(19) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} B(S/R) & \xrightarrow{\gamma_S} & H^1(G, \text{Cl}(T)) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ B(\bar{S}/\bar{R}) & \longrightarrow & H^1(G, \text{Cl}(T \otimes_k \bar{k})) \end{array}$$

commutes. By [12, Proposition 2.1], $H^2(G, (T \otimes_k \bar{k})^*) = \langle 1 \rangle$, hence by [7, Theorem 1.1, Eq. (4)] the arrow in the bottom row of (19) is one-to-one. Therefore (c) follows from Proposition 3.2 and (b). To prove (a), by (18) it is enough to show the symbol algebras $(f, f_1)_n, \dots, (f, f_{v-1})_n$ generate a subgroup of order n^{v-1} in $B(\bar{k}(x, y))$. For the remainder of the proof, we assume k is algebraically closed. If we write

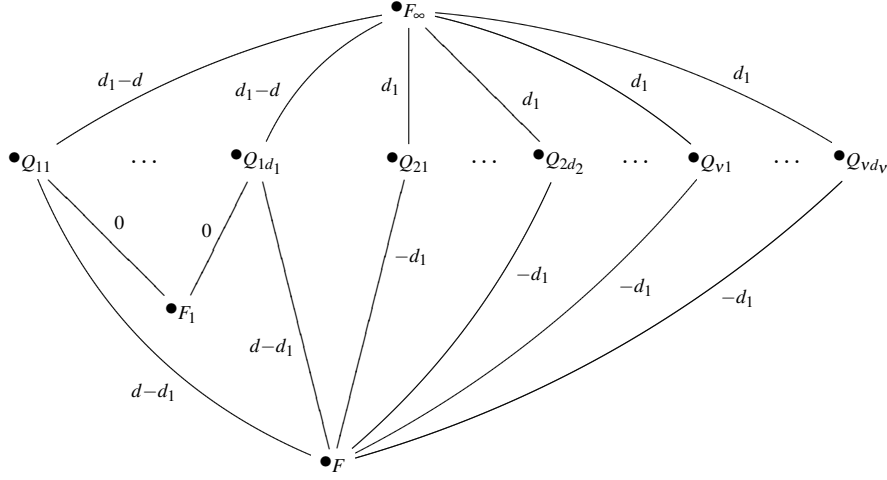
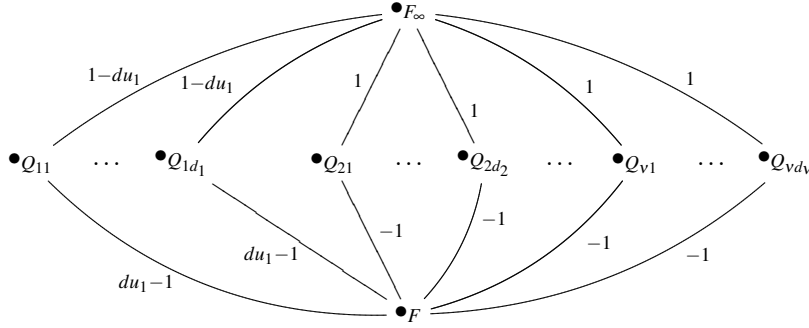
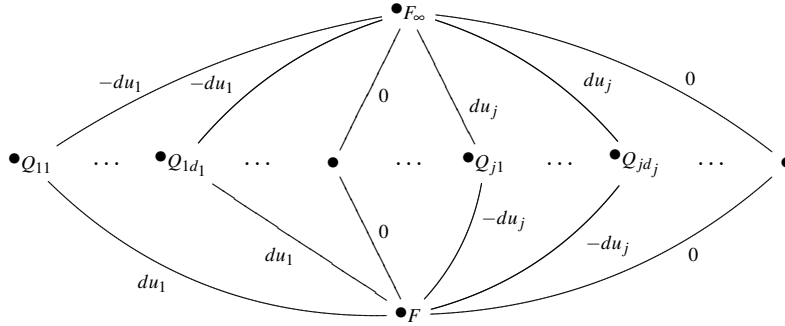
$$(20) \quad F_i \cdot F_\infty = Q_{i1} + \dots + Q_{id_i},$$

for $1 \leq i \leq v$, then the set $\{Q_{ij}\}$ contains d distinct points. Then

$$(21) \quad \begin{aligned} F \cdot F_\infty &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^{d_i} Q_{ij}, \text{ and} \\ F \cdot F_i &= dQ_{i1} + \dots + dQ_{id_i} \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq v. \end{aligned}$$

For each i , the symbol algebra $(f, f_i)_n$ represents a Brauer class on the open complement of the curve $F + F_1 + \dots + F_v + F_\infty$ in \mathbb{P}^2 . We use [5, Theorem 2.1] to associate to $(f, f_i)_n$ a cycle in the edge space of the graph Γ associated to the plane curve $F + F_1 + \dots + F_v + F_\infty$. The edge weights are computed from the local intersection multiplicities. From (20) and (21) we compute the weighted path in the graph $\Gamma(F + F_1 + F_\infty)$ for the symbol algebra $(f, f_1)_n$. The homology is computed with coefficients in \mathbb{Z}/n . The graph and edge weights are shown in Figure 3. For each $i = 1, \dots, v$ the graph for $(f, f_i)_n$ is similar. It suffices to show that the cycles in the graph Γ corresponding to $(f, f_1)_n, \dots, (f, f_{v-1})_n$ generate a subgroup of order n^{v-1} in $H_1(\Gamma, \mathbb{Z}/n)$. We sketch a proof of this assuming condition (C)(i) is satisfied. The proof when (C)(ii) is satisfied is left to the reader. Find u_1, \dots, u_{v-1} such that $d_i u_i \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$. The cycle in the graph for the symbol algebra $(f, f_1^{u_1})_n$ is shown in Figure 4. Figure 5 shows the cycle in the graph for $(f, f_1^{u_1} f_j^{-u_j})_n$, when $1 < j < v$. It is not hard to see that in the edge space of the graph Γ over \mathbb{Z}/n the cycles for $(f, f_1^{u_1})_n, (f, f_1^{u_1} f_2^{-u_2})_n, \dots, (f, f_1^{u_1} f_{v-1}^{-u_{v-1}})_n$ are independent. This proves the symbol algebras $(f, f_1)_n, \dots, (f, f_{v-1})_n$ generate a subgroup of order n^{v-1} in $B(L/K)$. \square

3.2. A Nonnormal Surface. The surface $z^n = y^{n-1}(y - p(x))$. Let k be an algebraically closed field and $n \geq 2$ an integer which is invertible in k . In this section we study the divisor classes and algebra classes on the surface defined by $z^n = y^{n-1}(y - p(x))$, where $p(x) \in k[x]$ is a monic polynomial of degree $d > 1$. Let $f_1 = y$, $f_2 = y - p(x)$, and $f = f_1^{n-1} f_2$. Let

FIGURE 3. The weighted path of $(f, f_1)_n$ in Proposition 3.3FIGURE 4. The weighted path of $(f, f_1^{u_1})_n$ in Proposition 3.3FIGURE 5. The weighted path of $(f, f_1^{u_1} f_j^{-u_j})_n$ in Proposition 3.3

$A = k[x, y]$, $R = A[f^{-1}]$, $T = A[z]/(z^n - f)$ and $S = T[z^{-1}]$. The quotient field of A and R is $K = k(x, y)$. The quotient field of T and S is $L = K[z]/(z^n - f)$. In A let $p(x) = \ell_1^{e_1} \cdots \ell_v^{e_v}$

be the unique factorization into irreducibles. Let $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_v$ be the distinct roots of $p(x)$. Let $F_i = Z(f_i)$ which we embed into \mathbb{P}^2 in the usual way. Let F_0 be the line at infinity. Then $F_1 \cdot F_2 = e_1 P_1 + \dots + e_v P_v$, $F_1 \cdot F_0 = P_{01}$ and $F_2 \cdot F_0 = P_{02}$. The graph Γ of the curve $F = F_0 + F_1 + F_2$ is seen in Figure 6. If $i > 1$, the node P_i and its edges exist only if $v \geq i$. This explains why the edges to P_2, \dots, P_v are dashed. As in [9, Example 12.9.5], if σ is the A -algebra automorphism of T defined by $z \mapsto \zeta z$, then S/R is a cyclic Galois extension with group $\langle \sigma \rangle$. In our setting, (3) is an exact sequence. If $n = 2$, then f is square-free, and as in Section 2, T is a normal surface. If $n \geq 3$, then T is not integrally closed. One way to see this is to compute the singular locus of the surface $z^n = y^{n-1}(y - p(x))$ in \mathbb{A}^2 using the jacobian criterion (for example [10, Theorem 11.6.5]). Alternatively, if P is the prime ideal of height one generated by y and z in T , then the local ring T_P is not integrally closed. For instance, yz^{-1} is in L , yz^{-1} is not in T_P , but $(yz^{-1})^{n-1}$ is in T_P .

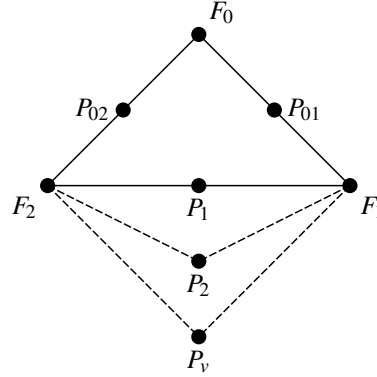


FIGURE 6. The graph in Section 3.2.

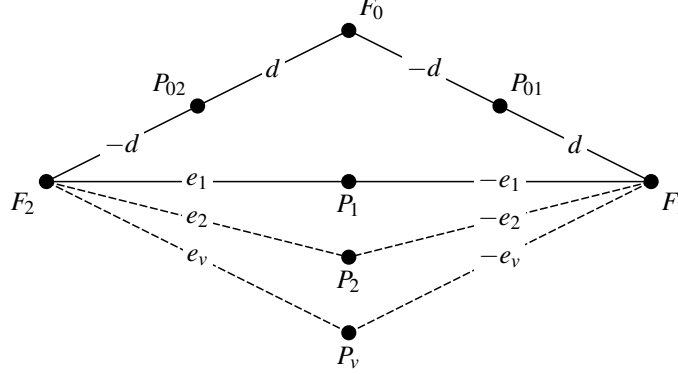
Proposition 3.5. *In the above context,*

- (1) $B(R) \cong (\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})^{(v)}$.
- (2) The image of $\alpha_4 : H^2(G, S^*) \rightarrow B(S/R)$ is a cyclic \mathbb{Z}/n -module.
- (3) $B(S/R) = {}_n B(R) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/n)^{(v)}$.
- (4) $H^1(G, \text{Pic } S)$ contains a subgroup that has order n^{v-1} .
- (5) $B(S) \cong (\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})^{(v)}$.
- (6) The sequence $0 \rightarrow {}_n B(R) \rightarrow B(R) \rightarrow B(S) \rightarrow 0$ is exact.

Proof. (1): Using [4, Theorem 5], $B(R) \cong (\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})^{(v)}$.

(2): By [9, Section 13.4], the image of α_4 is generated by cyclic crossed products. For the Kummer extension S/R , cyclic crossed products can be identified as symbol algebras $(f, u)_n$, for $u \in R^*$. The group of units in R is $k^* \times \langle y \rangle \times \langle y - p(x) \rangle$, and $(f, y)_n \sim (y - p(x), y)_n \sim (y^{-1}, y - p(x))_n \sim (y^{n-1}, y - p(x))_n \sim (f, y - p(x))_n$. Hence the image of α_4 is cyclic. The weighted element of the edge space corresponding to the symbol algebra $(y - p(x), y)_n$ is computed as in [5, § 2] and is shown in Figure 7. Therefore, as a function of the multiplicities e_1, \dots, e_v , the order of the image of α_4 can be any positive divisor of n .

(3): Let $L_i = Z(\ell_i)$. Then $L_i \cdot F_0 = P_{02}$, $L_i \cdot F_1 = P_i$, and $L_i \cdot F_2 = P_i + (d-1)P_{02}$. Let $m > 1$ be an integer that is invertible in k . Using the method of [5, § 2], the weighted path associated to the symbol algebra $(fy^{-n}, \ell_i)_m$ is computed to be $F_2 \rightarrow P_{02} \rightarrow F_0 \rightarrow P_{01} \rightarrow$

FIGURE 7. The weighted path of $(y - p(x), y)_n$ in Proposition 3.5.

$F_1 \rightarrow P_i \rightarrow F_2$. For $i = 1, \dots, v$, these cycles make up a basis for $H_1(\Gamma, \mathbb{Z}/m)$. Therefore, a basis for ${}_m B(R)$ consists of the classes of the algebras

$$(22) \quad (fy^{-n}, \ell_1)_m, \dots, (fy^{-n}, \ell_v)_m.$$

This shows that a basis of ${}_n B(R)$ consists of $(f, \ell_1)_n, \dots, (f, \ell_v)_n$, all of which are in $B(S/R)$, which proves (3).

(4): This follows from (2), (3) and the exact sequence (3).

(5): Consider the homomorphism of k -algebras

$$(23) \quad T = \frac{k[x, y, z]}{(z^n - y^{n-1}(y - p(x)))} \xrightarrow{\beta} U = k[x, w][(1 - w^n)^{-1}]$$

defined by $x \mapsto x$, $y \mapsto p(x)/(1 - w^n)$, $z \mapsto wp(x)/(1 - w^n)$. One checks that β is well defined and becomes an isomorphism upon adjoining $1/p(x)$, $1/z$ to T and $1/p(x)$, $1/w$ to U . Both rings in (23) are integral domains of Krull dimension two, hence β is one-to-one. Since U is rational, so is T . There is an isomomorphism

$$(24) \quad B(S[p(x)^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{\beta} B(k[x, w][p(x)^{-1}, w^{-1}, (1 - w^n)^{-1}])$$

which is induced by the map β of (23). Using [4, Theorem 4], compute the Brauer group on the right hand side of (24). It is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})^{(n+1)v}$, and a basis for the subgroup annihilated by m is made up of the symbol algebras

$$\{(w, \ell_i)_m \mid i = 1, \dots, v\} \cup \{(w - \zeta^j, \ell_i)_m \mid i = 1, \dots, v, j = 0, \dots, n-1\}.$$

Using β , it follows that the symbol algebras

$$(25) \quad \{(zy^{-1}, \ell_i)_m \mid i = 1, \dots, v\} \cup \{((z - y\zeta^j)y^{-1}, \ell_i)_m \mid i = 1, \dots, v, j = 0, \dots, n-1\}$$

make up a basis for the subgroup ${}_m B(S[p(x)^{-1}])$. There is an exact sequence [5, Corollary 1.4]

$$(26) \quad 0 \rightarrow B(S) \rightarrow B(S[p(x)^{-1}]) \xrightarrow{a} H^1(S/(p(x)), \mu) \rightarrow 0.$$

The ring $S/(p(x))$ is the disjoint union of nv copies of the algebraic torus $k[z, z^{-1}]$. Therefore, $H^1(S/(p(x)), \mu) \cong (\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})^{(nv)}$. Look at the component of $S/(p(x))$ corresponding to the minimal prime $I_{ij} = (z - y\zeta^j, \ell_i)$. The symbol algebra $((z - y\zeta^j)y^{-1}, \ell_i)_m$ is mapped

by the ramification map a in (26) to the Kummer extension $(S/I_{ij})[y^{-1/m}]$, which represents an element of order m in $H^1(S/(p(x)), \mathbb{Z}/m)$. It follows that in sequence (26), the group ${}_m B(S[p(x)^{-1}])$ maps onto $H^1(S/(p(x)), \mu_m)$ and a basis for ${}_m B(S)$ consists of $(zy^{-1}, \ell_i)_m$ for $i = 1, \dots, v$. This shows $B(S) \cong (\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})^{(v)}$, which is (5).

(6): By (22), the symbol algebra

$$(zy^{-1}, \ell_i)_m \sim (zy^{-1}, \ell_i)_{nm}^n \sim (z^n y^{-n}, \ell_i)_{nm} \sim (fy^{-n}, \ell_i)_{nm}$$

is in the image of $B(R) \rightarrow B(S)$. Therefore, the sequence

$$(27) \quad 0 \rightarrow {}_n B(R) \rightarrow B(R) \rightarrow B(S) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact. As a homomorphism of abstract groups, the natural map $B(R) \rightarrow B(S)$ is “multiplication by n ”. \square

Proposition 3.6. *In the context of Section 3.2, if $D = \gcd(e_1, \dots, e_v)$, then*

- (1) $S^* = k^* \times \langle z \rangle \times \langle y \rangle$.
- (2) $\text{Pic } S = \text{Cl}(S) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/D)^{n-1} \oplus \mathbb{Z}^{(n-1)(v-1)}$.

Proof. We have

$$(28) \quad k[x, w][p(x)^{-1}, w^{-1}, (1 - w^n)^{-1}]^* = k^* \times \langle w \rangle \times \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} \langle w - \zeta^j \rangle \times \prod_{i=1}^v \langle \ell_i \rangle.$$

Using the map β of (23) we find $zy^{-1} \mapsto w$, $(z - y\zeta^j)y^{-1} \mapsto w - \zeta^j$, hence

$$(29) \quad S[p(x)^{-1}]^* = T[p(x)^{-1}, z^{-1}]^* = k^* \times \langle zy^{-1} \rangle \times \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} \left\langle \frac{z - y\zeta^j}{y} \right\rangle \times \prod_{i=1}^v \langle \ell_i \rangle.$$

Using (29), we see that $z, y, z - y\zeta, \dots, z - y\zeta^{n-1}, \ell_1, \dots, \ell_v$ make up a basis for the abelian group $S[p(x)^{-1}]^*/k^*$. The elements z and y are units of S . In S the minimal primes of ℓ_i are $(z - y\zeta^j, \ell_i)$, $j = 0, \dots, n-1$ and the minimal primes of $z - y\zeta^j$ are $(z - y\zeta^j, \ell_i)$, $i = 1, \dots, v$. It is routine to verify that

$$(30) \quad \begin{aligned} \text{Div}(\ell_i) &= \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (z - y\zeta^j, \ell_i) \\ \text{Div}(z - \zeta^j y) &= \sum_{i=1}^v e_i (z - y\zeta^j, \ell_i). \end{aligned}$$

Since $S[p(x)^{-1}]$ is factorial, the Nagata sequence ([10, Theorem 11.4.14])

$$(31) \quad 1 \rightarrow S^* \rightarrow S[p(x)^{-1}]^* \xrightarrow{\text{Div}} \bigoplus_{i=1}^v \bigoplus_{j=0}^{n-1} \mathbb{Z}(z - \zeta^j y, \ell_i) \rightarrow \text{Cl}(S) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact. In (31), the image of Div is a free \mathbb{Z} -module of rank $v + n - 1$. This proves $S^* = k^* \times \langle z \rangle \times \langle y \rangle$. Using (30), one checks that the nonzero elementary divisors of the map Div are 1 with multiplicity v and D with multiplicity $n - 1$. \square

Proposition 3.7. *In the context of Section 3.2, if $n = 2$ and $D = \gcd(e_1, \dots, e_v)$, then $T^* = k^*$, $\text{Cl}(T) \cong \mathbb{Z}/(2D) \oplus \mathbb{Z}^{(v-1)}$ and $H^1(G, \text{Cl}(T)) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{(v)}$.*

Proof. Since $n = 2$, T is the affine surface defined by the equation $z^2 = y(y - p(x))$, hence we are in the context of Section 2. In particular, T is normal. By Proposition 3.6(1), $S^* = k^* \times \langle z \rangle \times \langle y \rangle$. From the Nagata sequence

$$1 \rightarrow T^* \rightarrow S^* \xrightarrow{\text{Div}} \mathbb{Z}F_1 \oplus \mathbb{Z}F_2$$

we know that S^*/T^* is free of rank two. It follows that $T^* = k^*$. Using the homomorphism β of (23), we have

$$(32) \quad k[x, w][p(x)^{-1}, w^{-1}, (1 - w^2)^{-1}]^* = k^* \times \langle w \rangle \times \langle 1 - w \rangle \times \langle 1 + w \rangle \times \prod_{i=1}^v \langle \ell_i \rangle.$$

Using β we find $zy^{-1} \mapsto w$, $(z - y)y^{-1} \mapsto w - 1$, $(z + y)y^{-1} \mapsto w + 1$, hence

$$(33) \quad T[p(x)^{-1}, z^{-1}]^* = k^* \times \langle zy^{-1} \rangle \times \langle (z - y)y^{-1} \rangle \times \langle (z + y)y^{-1} \rangle \times \prod_{i=1}^v \langle \ell_i \rangle.$$

Since U is factorial, Nagata's Theorem says the class group of T is generated by the minimal primes of z , $z^2 - y^2$, y , and ℓ_1, \dots, ℓ_v . It is routine to verify that

$$(34) \quad \begin{aligned} \text{Div}(z) &= (z, y) + (z, y - p(x)) \\ \text{Div}(z - y) &= (z, y) + e_1(z - y, \ell_1) + \dots + e_v(z - y, \ell_v) \\ \text{Div}(z + y) &= (z, y) + e_1(z + y, \ell_1) + \dots + e_v(z + y, \ell_v) \\ \text{Div}(y) &= 2(z, y) \\ \text{Div}(\ell_i) &= (z - y, \ell_i) + (z + y, \ell_i) \\ \text{Div}(y - p(x)) &= 2(z, y - p(x)). \end{aligned}$$

The class group $\text{Cl}(T)$ is generated by the $2v + 2$ prime divisors

$$(35) \quad (z, y), (z, y - p(x)), (z - y, \ell_1), \dots, (z - y, \ell_v), (z + y, \ell_1), \dots, (z + y, \ell_v).$$

Using the principal divisors $\text{Div}(\ell_i) = (z - y, \ell_i) + (z + y, \ell_i) \sim 0$ and $\text{Div}(z) = (z, y) + (z, y - p(x)) \sim 0$, we can eliminate half of the generators and all but two of the relations. The group $\text{Cl}(T)$ is generated by the $v + 1$ divisors $(z, y), (z - y, \ell_1), \dots, (z - y, \ell_v)$ modulo the two principal divisors $2(z, y), (z, y) + e_1(z - y, \ell_1) + \dots + e_v(z - y, \ell_v)$. If $D = \gcd(e_1, \dots, e_v)$, then

$$(36) \quad \begin{aligned} \text{Cl}(T) &\cong \mathbb{Z}/(2D) \oplus \mathbb{Z}^{(v-1)} \\ H^1(G, \text{Cl}(T)) &\cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{(v)} \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof. Note that (36) together with Proposition 3.5(3) show that $B(S/R)$ is isomorphic to $H^1(G, \text{Cl}(T))$, which agrees with the conclusion of [6, Theorem 2.7]. \square

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