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over Henselian fields**

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The existence of noncrossed product division algebras (finite-dimensional central division algebras with no maximal subfield that is Galois over the center) was for a time the biggest open problem in the theory of division algebras, until it was settled by Amitsur.

Motivated by Brussel's discovery of noncrossed products over $\mathbb{Q}((t))$, we describe the "location" of noncrossed products in the Brauer group of general Henselian valued fields with arbitrary value group and global residue field. We show that within the fibers defined canonically by Witt's decomposition of the Brauer group of such fields, crossed products and noncrossed products are, roughly speaking, separated by an index bound. This generalizes a result of Hanke and Sonn for rank-1 valued Henselian fields.

Furthermore, we show that the new index bounds are of different nature from the rank-1 case. In particular, all fibers not covered by the rank-1 case contain noncrossed products, unless the residue characteristic interferes.

1. Introduction

A finite-dimensional division algebra over its center F is called a *crossed product* if it has a maximal commutative subfield which is Galois over F , and otherwise a *noncrossed product*.

After Amitsur [1972] settled the fundamental long-standing problem of existence of noncrossed products, they were discovered over more familiar fields. Most notably, Brussel [1995; 2002] showed that noncrossed products exist over complete discrete rank-1 valued fields with a global residue field,¹ for example, over $\mathbb{Q}((x))$. From this basic case, their existence over many other fields was derived, for example, over all finitely generated fields that are neither finite nor global [Brussel 2002], and over all function fields of curves over complete discrete valuation rings [Brussel 2001; Chen 2010].

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¹By a global field we mean a finite extension of \mathbb{Q} or a finite extension of $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$, where \mathbb{F}_q is a finite field.

The basic setup used for Brussel’s discovery is Witt’s description [1936] of the Brauer group $\text{Br}(F)$ of a complete discrete rank-1 valued field. More precisely, Witt’s theorem describes the inertially split part $\text{SBr}(F)$, which consists of all elements of $\text{Br}(F)$ split by an unramified extension (see [Hanke 2011, §5]). Witt’s theorem applies more generally to Henselian fields F with arbitrary value group Γ (see [Scharlau 1969; Jacob and Wadsworth 1990, §5; Aljadeff et al. 2007, Theorem 3.2]; or the section titled “The canonical Brauer group filtration” in [Tignol and Wadsworth \geq 2014]), for example, to the field of iterated Laurent series $\mathbb{Q}((x_1)) \dots ((x_r))$, and gives an isomorphism

$$\text{SBr}(F) \cong \text{Br}(K) \oplus \text{Hom}_c(G_K, \Delta/\Gamma), \quad (1-1)$$

where K is the residue field and G_K is its absolute Galois group equipped with the Krull topology, Δ is the divisible hull of Γ , Δ/Γ is equipped with the discrete topology, and Hom_c is the group of continuous homomorphisms.

Assume K is a global field. Hanke and Sonn [2011] took the approach of fixing an element $\chi \in \text{Hom}_c(G_K, \Delta/\Gamma)$ and considering the *fiber* $\text{Br}(K) + \chi$. We call χ *cyclic* if its image $\text{Im}(\chi)$ is cyclic. For cyclic χ , [Hanke and Sonn 2011] shows that for every $N \in \mathbb{N}$ there are only two possible cases:

- (I) all division algebras of index N in the fiber over χ are crossed products;
- (II) the fiber over χ contains infinitely many noncrossed products of index N .

Furthermore, and most importantly, there are bounds on the exponents in the prime decomposition of N such that case (I) occurs “below the bounds” and case (II) “above”. A precise formulation of this result is the special case of [Theorem 1.1](#) below, in which χ is assumed to be cyclic.²

Little was known about the appearance of noncrossed products in the more complicated case of noncyclic χ . In fact, there were only two examples [Coyette 2012; Hanke 2004] of noncyclic χ , the fiber of which contains noncrossed products.

In the present paper, we show that the phenomenon discovered in [Hanke and Sonn 2011] for cyclic χ holds more generally for arbitrary χ ([Theorem 1.1](#)). Moreover, we show that “away from $\text{char } K$ ” noncrossed products appear in every noncyclic fiber ([Theorem 1.2](#)).

Note that by [Jacob and Wadsworth 1990, Theorem 5.15(a)], the index of an element in the fiber over χ is always a multiple of $|\chi| := |\text{Im}(\chi)|$.

Theorem 1.1. *There exists a collection of bounds $b_p = b_p(\chi) \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$, where p runs through the rational primes, such that, for every natural number $m = \prod p^{n_p}$,*

²In order to see that [Theorem 1.1](#) for cyclic χ was proved in [Hanke and Sonn 2011] not only for rank-1 valued fields, one should replace [Hanke and Sonn 2011, Brussel’s Lemma, p. 322] by [Hanke 2011, Corollary 5].

- (a) if $n_p \leq b_p(\chi)$ for all p , then all division algebras of index $m|\chi|$ in the fiber over χ are crossed products;
- (b) if $n_p > b_p(\chi)$ for some p , then the fiber over χ contains infinitely many noncrossed products of index $m|\chi|$.

Our proof of [Theorem 1.1](#) includes the case of cyclic χ and is simpler than [\[Hanke and Sonn 2011\]](#).

Note that $b_p(\chi) = \infty$ is allowed, and hence, as shown in [\[Hanke and Sonn 2011\]](#), it may happen that for some cyclic χ , only (I) occurs. However, in striking contrast to the cyclic case, we show:

Let M be the fixed field of the kernel of χ .

Theorem 1.2. *If $p \neq \text{char } K$ and the p -Sylow subgroup of $\text{Im}(\chi)$ is noncyclic, then:*

- (i) $b_p(\chi) < \infty$;
- (ii) if M does not contain the p -th roots of unity, then $b_p(\chi) = 0$.

In particular, the fiber over χ contains noncrossed products whenever the maximal prime-to-char K subgroup of $\text{Im}(\chi)$ is noncyclic.

This is in contrast to the cyclic case because, according to [\[Hanke and Sonn 2011\]](#), $b_p(\chi) = \infty$ can occur for cyclic χ , even if M does not contain the p -th roots of unity. Thus, neither of statements (i) and (ii) of [Theorem 1.2](#) holds for cyclic χ .

[Section 4](#) demonstrates, for noncyclic χ , how a description of the bounds obtained from the proof of [Theorem 1.1](#) can be used to compute the bounds in examples. In particular, we obtain new noncrossed products of low index ([Examples 4.1, 4.3](#)) and show that, unlike in the rank-1 case, the value of the bound $b_p(\chi)$ can be zero regardless of the number of roots of unity in M .

2. Existence of bounds

Setup. Let F be a Henselian valued field with value group Γ and residue field a global field K . Let Δ denote the divisible hull of Γ . We fix an isomorphism as in [\(1-1\)](#) and write $\alpha + \chi$ to denote an element of $\text{SBr}(F)$ corresponding to (α, χ) .

Throughout the paper, we consider the character $\chi \in \text{Hom}_c(G_K, \Delta/\Gamma)$ as fixed. We let M denote the fixed field of the kernel of χ , which is a finite abelian extension of K with Galois group $\text{Im}(\chi)$.

Let \mathbb{P} be the set of finite rational primes, and for any $p \in \mathbb{P}, n \in \mathbb{N}$, denote by $v_p(n)$ the maximal exponent e such that $p^e \mid n$.

Towards the proof of [Theorem 1.1](#). For $\alpha \in \text{Br}(K)$, we denote by α^M the image of α in $\text{Br}(M)$ under the restriction map. The index formula [\[Jacob and Wadsworth](#)

1990, Theorem 5.15(a)]³ gives

$$\text{ind}(\alpha + \chi) = |\chi| \text{ind} \alpha^M.$$

Therefore, in order to prove [Theorem 1.1](#), we consider the following condition on χ :

$$\text{For every } \alpha \in \text{Br}(K) \text{ with } \text{ind} \alpha^M = m, \text{ the division algebra underlying } \alpha + \chi \text{ is a crossed product.} \tag{I_m}$$

For a global field K , we shall prove the existence of bounds $b_p(\chi)$ such that [\(I_m\)](#) holds if and only if $v_p(m) \leq b_p(\chi)$ for all $p \in \mathbb{P}$. The details of our proof will reveal that if [\(I_m\)](#) does not hold, then there are in fact infinitely many $\alpha \in \text{Br}(K)$ with $\text{ind} \alpha^M = m$ such that the division algebra underlying $\alpha + \chi$ is a noncrossed product ([Remark 2.9](#)). The proof of [Theorem 1.1](#) will then be completed.

Galois covers. We say that a field $L \supseteq M$ is a *cover* of M/K if L/K is Galois. In this case, we call $m := [L : M]$ the *degree* of the cover and speak of L as an *m-cover*.

The division algebra underlying $\alpha + \chi$ is a crossed product if and only if the division algebra underlying α^M contains a maximal subfield which is Galois over K (see [[Hanke 2011](#), Corollary 5; [Brussel 1995](#), p. 381, Corollary] for complete discrete rank-1 valued F). Such maximal subfields are characterized as the m -covers of M/K that split α , where $m = \text{ind} \alpha^M$ (see, for example, [[Pierce 1982](#), Corollary 13.3]). Condition [\(I_m\)](#) is therefore equivalent to:

$$\text{Every } \alpha \in \text{Br}(K) \text{ with } \text{ind} \alpha^M = m \text{ is split by an } m\text{-cover of } M/K. \tag{A_m}$$

Remark 2.1. (i) For the equivalence of [\(I_m\)](#) and [\(A_m\)](#) it is not required that K be a global field.

(ii) Condition [\(A_m\)](#) is a condition on M rather than on χ . [\(A_m\)](#) can be considered more generally for any Galois extension M/K . In fact, from now on M may be replaced by an arbitrary finite Galois extension of the global field K .

Local and global splitting covers. Let L be a cover of the fixed Galois extension M/K . We write $K_{\mathfrak{p}}$ for the completion at \mathfrak{p} and $[L : M]_{\mathfrak{p}} := [L_{\mathfrak{p}} : M_{\mathfrak{p}}]$ for the *local degree* of L at \mathfrak{p} , where \mathfrak{p} is any prime of L dividing \mathfrak{p} .

Let $\alpha \in \text{Br}(K)$. For a prime \mathfrak{p} of K , let $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha := \text{ind}(\alpha^{K_{\mathfrak{p}}})$ and $\text{inv}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha \in \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$ be the Hasse invariant at \mathfrak{p} . Recall (see, for example, [[Pierce 1982](#), §17.10]) that $\text{inv}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha$ is of order $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha$ and that $\text{inv}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^L = [L : K]_{\mathfrak{p}} \text{inv}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha$ for any Galois extension L/K and $\mathfrak{p} \mid \mathfrak{p}$. Thus, $L_{\mathfrak{p}}$ splits $\alpha^{K_{\mathfrak{p}}}$ if and only if $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha \mid [L : K]_{\mathfrak{p}}$, and $L_{\mathfrak{p}}$ embeds into the division algebra underlying $\alpha^{K_{\mathfrak{p}}}$ if and only if $[L : K]_{\mathfrak{p}} \mid \text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha$. We also get

$$v_{\mathfrak{p}}(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha) \leq v_{\mathfrak{p}}(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^L) + v_{\mathfrak{p}}([L : K]_{\mathfrak{p}}), \tag{2-1}$$

³ Theorem 5.15(a) of [[Jacob and Wadsworth 1990](#)] does not require that K be a global field.

where $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^L := \text{ind} \alpha^{L_{\mathfrak{p}}}$ for any prime \mathfrak{p} of L dividing \mathfrak{p} . Furthermore, (2-1) is an equality if $v_{\mathfrak{p}}(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^L) > 0$.

By the theorem of Albert, Brauer, Hasse, and Noether (see, for example, [Pierce 1982, §18.4]), a Brauer class over a global field is split by a field L if and only if its completions are split by L . In particular, for any cover L of M/K ,

$$L \text{ splits } \alpha \text{ if and only if } \text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M \mid [L : M]_{\mathfrak{p}} \text{ for all primes } \mathfrak{p} \text{ of } K. \tag{2-2}$$

Limits on local indices. Our first goal is to translate (A_m) to a condition about the existence of M/K with prescribed local degrees at finitely many primes of K (see Proposition 2.8 below). For this, in view of (2-2), we analyze the possible local indices $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M$. We describe upper limits for the possible local indices in Lemmas 2.3 and 2.4, using the following terminology:

Definition 2.2. For $p \in \mathbb{P}$, let $u_p^{(1)}, u_p^{(2)}, \dots$ be the family of numbers $v_p([M : K]_{\mathfrak{p}})$, where \mathfrak{p} runs over the primes of K , ordered so that $u_p^{(1)} \geq u_p^{(2)} \geq \dots$. If $u_p^{(1)} > u_p^{(2)}$, then the unique prime \mathfrak{p} of K with $v_p([M : K]_{\mathfrak{p}}) = u_p^{(1)}$ is called *p-isolated* in M/K . We denote by g_p the gap $u_p^{(1)} - u_p^{(2)}$, so that $g_p > 0$ if and only if there is a *p-isolated* prime. We shall call a prime \mathfrak{p} of K *isolated* if it is *p-isolated* for some $p \in \mathbb{P}$.

Let U_p be the set of primes \mathfrak{p} of K for which $v_p([M : K]_{\mathfrak{p}}) \geq u_p^{(2)}$. Let U consist of the isolated primes in M/K , and if $|U_2|$ is finite and odd, also of the primes in U_2 .

The following properties are deduced from Chebotarev’s density theorem. For every infinite prime \mathfrak{q} of K , $[M : K]_{\mathfrak{q}}$ is at most 2. If $2 \mid [M : K]$, by Chebotarev’s theorem, there is a finite prime \mathfrak{p} such that $[M : K]_{\mathfrak{p}} = 2$. In particular, infinite primes are nonisolated, and for every $i \in \mathbb{N}$ there is a finite prime \mathfrak{p}_i with

$$v_p([M : K]_{\mathfrak{p}_i}) = u_p^{(i)}. \tag{2-3}$$

Moreover, for any prime \mathfrak{q} of K unramified in M , by Chebotarev’s theorem, there is a prime \mathfrak{p} with $[M : K]_{\mathfrak{p}} = [M : K]_{\mathfrak{q}}$. Hence, isolated primes must ramify nontrivially in M/K , and the set U is finite. For every $p \in U_p$, the set U_p can be infinite, and in view of (2-3), it contains at least two finite primes.

For $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and a prime \mathfrak{p} of K , define

$$w_p(m, \mathfrak{p}) := \begin{cases} v_p(m) & \text{if } \mathfrak{p} \text{ is non-}p\text{-isolated,} \\ \max\{v_p(m) - g_p, 0\} & \text{if } \mathfrak{p} \text{ is } p\text{-isolated.} \end{cases} \tag{2-4}$$

Note that the dependence on \mathfrak{p} is marginal⁴ and that clearly $w_p(m, \mathfrak{p}) \leq v_p(m)$.

⁴A reader who for the time being decides to disregard the possible appearance of isolated primes may substitute $v_p(m)$ for $w_p(m, \mathfrak{p})$.

Lemma 2.3. *For every $\alpha \in \text{Br}(K)$ and prime \mathfrak{p} of K ,*

$$v_p(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M) \leq w_p(\text{ind} \alpha^M, \mathfrak{p}). \tag{2-5}$$

Proof. Set $k := v_p(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M)$, $n := v_p(\text{ind} \alpha^M)$, and let $u_p^{(1)}, u_p^{(2)}$ be as above. For a non- p -isolated prime \mathfrak{p} , the assertion holds since $k \leq n$. Assume that \mathfrak{p} is p -isolated. The assertion to prove is: $k = 0$ or $n \geq k + g_p$. Assume $k > 0$. By (2-1),

$$v_p(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha) = v_p(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M) + v_p([M : K]_{\mathfrak{p}}) = k + u_p^{(1)}.$$

Since the sum of Hasse invariants of α is 0, there exists a prime $\mathfrak{p}_1 \neq \mathfrak{p}$ of K with $v_p(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}_1} \alpha) \geq k + u_p^{(1)}$. Since $v_p([M : K]_{\mathfrak{p}_1}) \leq u_p^{(2)}$, (2-1) gives

$$n \geq v_p(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}_1} \alpha^M) \geq v_p(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}_1} \alpha) - v_p([M : K]_{\mathfrak{p}_1}) \geq k + u_p^{(1)} - u_p^{(2)} = k + g_p. \quad \square$$

To prove the second restriction, we use the following inequality, which holds⁵ for every prime \mathfrak{p} of K , $p \in \mathbb{P}$, and $m \in \mathbb{N}$:

$$w_p(m, \mathfrak{p}) + v_p([M : K]_{\mathfrak{p}}) \leq v_p(m) + u_p^{(2)}, \tag{2-6}$$

with equality if and only if $\mathfrak{p} \in U_p$.

Lemma 2.4. *Let $\alpha \in \text{Br}(K)$ with $v_2(\text{ind} \alpha^M) > g_2$ and let $p = 2$. Then the number of primes $\mathfrak{p} \in U_2$ for which (2-5) is an equality is even.*

Proof. Let $m = \text{ind} \alpha^M$. Let $U_{2,\alpha}$ be the set of primes $\mathfrak{p} \in U_2$ for which (2-5) is an equality. Then (2-1), (2-5), and (2-6) imply

$$\begin{aligned} v_2(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha) &\leq v_2(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M) + v_2([M : K]_{\mathfrak{p}}) \\ &\leq w_2(\text{ind} \alpha^M, \mathfrak{p}) + v_2([M : K]_{\mathfrak{p}}) \leq v_2(\text{ind} \alpha^M) + u_2^{(2)} \end{aligned} \tag{2-7}$$

for every prime \mathfrak{p} of K , with equalities for every $\mathfrak{p} \in U_{2,\alpha}$. Since (2-6) is strict for $\mathfrak{p} \notin U_2$ and (2-5) is strict for $\mathfrak{p} \in U_2 \setminus U_{2,\alpha}$, (2-7) is strict for every prime $\mathfrak{p} \notin U_{2,\alpha}$.

Let $r := v_2(\text{ind} \alpha^M) + u_2^{(2)}$. Since (2-7) holds for all \mathfrak{p} , we have $v_2(\text{ind} \alpha) \leq r$ with equality if and only if $U_{2,\alpha}$ is nonempty. If $v_2(\text{ind} \alpha) < r$, then $U_{2,\alpha}$ is empty and the assertion holds. Thus, we may assume $v_2(\text{ind} \alpha) = r$ and write $\text{ind} \alpha = 2^r m'$ for odd m' . Then the class $\alpha' := \alpha^{2^{r-1} m'} \in \text{Br}(K)$ has exponent 2, nontrivial Hasse invariants at primes of $U_{2,\alpha}$, and trivial invariants outside $U_{2,\alpha}$. Since the sum of invariants of α' is 0, $|U_{2,\alpha}|$ is even. \square

Lemmas 2.3 and 2.4 lead to upper limits on local indices (see Proposition 2.8). We shall now construct elements which attain these upper bounds. We divide the construction into several cases:

⁵This inequality is easily verified separately for p -isolated and non- p -isolated primes.

Definition 2.5. For a finite set S of primes of K and $m \in \mathbb{N}$, (S, m) is *balanced* if $v_2(m) \leq g_2$ or $|S \cap U_2|$ is even. We say that (S, m) is *balanceable* if S can be enlarged so that (S, m) is balanced, and otherwise *unbalanceable*.

Remark 2.6. Note that (S, m) is unbalanceable if and only if $|U_2|$ is odd, $S \supseteq U_2$, and $v_2(m) > g_2$. In particular, (S, m) can be unbalanceable only if m is even.

Lemma 2.4 shows that if $(S, 2^n)$ is unbalanceable, then there are no elements $\alpha \in \text{Br}(K)$ with $\text{ind } \alpha^M = 2^n$, and $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M = 2^{w_2(2^n, \mathfrak{p})}$ for every $\mathfrak{p} \in S$. The following lemma constructs such elements if (S, m) is balanced.

Lemma 2.7. *Let n be a positive integer, $p \in \mathbb{P}$, $m = p^n$, and $\mathfrak{q} \in U_2$. Let S be a finite set of primes of K which contains at least two finite primes of U_p .*

Then there exists $\alpha \in \text{Br}(K)$, with $\text{ind } \alpha^M = m$, $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M = 1$ for all $\mathfrak{p} \notin S$ and $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M = \gcd(p, 2)$ for every real $\mathfrak{p} \in S$ which is unramified in M , such that

- (i) *if (S, m) is balanced, then $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M = p^{w_{\mathfrak{p}}(m, \mathfrak{p})}$ for all finite $\mathfrak{p} \in S$;*
- (ii) *if (S, m) is unbalanceable, then $p = 2$, $\mathfrak{q} \in S$, $w_2(m, \mathfrak{q}) > 0$, $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M = 2^{w_2(m, \mathfrak{p})}$ for all finite $\mathfrak{p} \in S \setminus \{\mathfrak{q}\}$, and $2^{w_2(m, \mathfrak{q})-1} \mid \text{ind}_{\mathfrak{q}} \alpha^M$.*

Proof. Write $S_p := U_p \cap S$. Note that if (S, m) is unbalanceable then $p = 2$, $U_2 \subseteq S$, and $n - g_2 > 0$, and hence $\mathfrak{q} \in U_2 \subseteq S$ and $w_2(m, \mathfrak{q}) \geq n - g_2 > 0$.

If $p = 2$ and (S, m) is balanced, we claim that $|S_2|$ can be assumed to be even. Indeed, if $|S_2|$ is odd, then $n \leq g_2$, M/K has a 2-isolated prime \mathfrak{p}_1 , and $w_2(m, \mathfrak{p}_1) = 0$. Hence by [Lemma 2.3](#), for any $\alpha \in \text{Br}(K)$ with $\text{ind } \alpha^M = m$, one has $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}_1} \alpha^M = 1$. Thus, we may add or remove \mathfrak{p}_1 from S without changing the desired assertion. We may therefore assume that $|S_2|$ is even, proving the claim.

We define α by setting its Hasse invariants. Let $\mathfrak{q}_1, \mathfrak{q}_2$ be two distinct finite primes in S_p . If (S, m) is unbalanceable, assume $\mathfrak{q}_1 = \mathfrak{q}$. Set $\text{inv}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha$ to be of order $p^{r_{\mathfrak{p}}}$, where $r_{\mathfrak{p}} = n + v_p([M : K]_{\mathfrak{p}})$ for every finite $\mathfrak{p} \in S \setminus S_p$ and $r_{\mathfrak{p}} = n + u_p^{(2)}$ for every finite $\mathfrak{p} \in S_p \setminus \{\mathfrak{q}_1, \mathfrak{q}_2\}$, and of order $\gcd(p, 2)$ for every real $\mathfrak{p} \in S \setminus \{\mathfrak{q}_1, \mathfrak{q}_2\}$.

The order of all invariants we have set so far divides $p^{n+u_p^{(2)}}$. If (S, m) is balanced, we can set $\text{inv}_{\mathfrak{q}_2} \alpha$ to be of order $p^{n+u_p^{(2)}}$ such that $x := \sum_{\mathfrak{p} \in S \setminus \{\mathfrak{q}_1\}} \text{inv}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha$ has order $p^{n+u_p^{(2)}}$. Note that this is possible for $p = 2$ since the invariants which were set to be of order $2^{n+u_2^{(2)}}$ are at primes of $S_2 \setminus \{\mathfrak{q}_1, \mathfrak{q}_2\}$, a set of even order. If (S, m) is unbalanceable then $p = 2$, $n + u_2^{(2)} \geq 2$, and we can set $\text{inv}_{\mathfrak{q}_2} \alpha = a/2^{n+u_2^{(2)}}$ for odd a such that $x := \sum_{\mathfrak{p} \in S \setminus \{\mathfrak{q}_1\}} \text{inv}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha = b/2^{n+u_2^{(2)}}$ with $b \not\equiv 0 \pmod{4}$. Note that this is possible since a can be chosen to be congruent to either 1 or 3 (mod 4).

Setting $\text{inv}_{\mathfrak{q}_1} \alpha := -x$ and $\text{inv}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha = 0$ for $\mathfrak{p} \notin S$ completes the definition of α . By (2-1), we have

$$v_p(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M) = \max\{v_p(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha) - v_p([M : K]_{\mathfrak{p}}), 0\}. \tag{2-8}$$

For finite $\mathfrak{p} \in S \setminus S_p$, we have $v_p(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha) = n + v_p([M : K]_{\mathfrak{p}})$, and hence $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M = p^n$ by (2-8). For finite $\mathfrak{p} \in S_p \setminus \{q_1\}$, we have $v_p(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha) = n + u_p^{(2)}$, and hence (2-8) gives $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M = p^{w_p(m, \mathfrak{p})}$ for all finite $\mathfrak{p} \in S \setminus \{q_1\}$, and $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M = \gcd(p, 2)$ for all real $\mathfrak{p} \in S \setminus \{q_1\}$ unramified in M/K . If (S, p^n) is balanced, $\text{ind}_{q_1} \alpha = p^{n+u_p^{(2)}}$, and hence by (2-8) we have $\text{ind}_{q_1} \alpha^M = p^{w_p(p^n, q_1)}$, as required.

If (S, p^n) is unbalanceable then $p = 2$, $2^{n+u_2^{(2)}-1} \mid \text{ind}_{q_1} \alpha$, $n > g_2$, and hence $w_2(2^n, q_1) > 0$. Thus, (2-8) and (2-6) give

$$v_2(\text{ind}_{q_1} \alpha^M) \geq n + u_2^{(2)} - 1 - v_2([M : K]_{q_1}) = w_2(2^n, q_1) - 1.$$

Since $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M \mid p^n$ for all \mathfrak{p} , $\text{ind} \alpha^M \mid p^n$. Since S_p contains two finite primes, at least one of these primes \mathfrak{p} satisfies $w_p(m, \mathfrak{p}) = n$, and hence $\text{ind} \alpha^M = \text{ind} \alpha_p^M = p^n$. \square

Covers with prescribed local degrees. We can now translate (A_m) to a condition on the local degrees of covers. Let $m \in \mathbb{N}$. For a finite prime \mathfrak{p} of K , define $d_{\mathfrak{p}}(m) \in \mathbb{N}$ by requiring $p \in \mathbb{P}$ for every $v_p(d_{\mathfrak{p}}(m)) = w_p(m, \mathfrak{p})$. For an infinite prime \mathfrak{p} of K , set $d_{\mathfrak{p}}(m) := \gcd(m, 2)$ if \mathfrak{p} is real and unramified in M and $d_{\mathfrak{p}}(m) := 1$ otherwise.

Clearly, $d_{\mathfrak{p}}(m) \mid m$ for any \mathfrak{p} , and $d_{\mathfrak{p}}(m) = m$ if \mathfrak{p} is finite and nonisolated.

Proposition 2.8. *Condition (A_m) is equivalent to:*

For every finite set S and $q \in U_2$, M/K has an m -cover L such that $d_{\mathfrak{p}}(m) \mid [L : M]_{\mathfrak{p}}$ for every $\mathfrak{p} \in S$, except for $\mathfrak{p} = q$ when (S, m) is unbalanceable, in which case $(d_q(m)/2) \mid [L : M]_q$. (B_m)

Proof. $(B_m) \implies (A_m)$: Let $\alpha \in \text{Br}(K)$ with $\text{ind} \alpha^M = m$. Let S be the set of primes \mathfrak{p} of K such that $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha \neq 1$. For every finite \mathfrak{p} and $p \in \mathbb{P}$, Lemma 2.3 implies

$$v_p(\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M) \leq w_p(m, \mathfrak{p}) = v_p(d_{\mathfrak{p}}(m)).$$

If \mathfrak{p} is real and unramified in M , $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M \mid \gcd(m, 2) = d_{\mathfrak{p}}(m)$. Thus, $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha \mid d_{\mathfrak{p}}(m)$ for all primes \mathfrak{p} of K . If (S, m) is balanceable, (B_m) gives an m -cover L for which $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M \mid [L : M]_{\mathfrak{p}}$ for all $\mathfrak{p} \in S$. Hence, by (2-2), L splits α .

Assume (S, m) is unbalanceable. By Lemma 2.4, there is a prime $q \in U_2 \subseteq S$ for which

$$v_2(\text{ind}_q \alpha^M) \leq w_2(m, q) - 1.$$

It follows that $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M \mid d_{\mathfrak{p}}(m)$ for all $\mathfrak{p} \neq q$ and $\text{ind}_q \alpha^M \mid (d_q(m)/2)$. Letting L be the m -cover obtained by applying (B_m) with S and q , we have $\text{ind}_{\mathfrak{p}} \alpha^M \mid [L : M]_{\mathfrak{p}}$ for all $\mathfrak{p} \in S$. Hence, by (2-2), L splits α .

$(A_m) \implies (B_m)$: Let S be any finite set of primes of K and $q \in U_2$. For every $p \mid m$, if $|S \cap U_p| \geq 2$, let $S_p := S$; otherwise form S_p by adding to S finite primes of U_p , so that $|S_p \cap U_p| = 2$. Note that (S_2, m) is unbalanceable if and only if (S, m) is unbalanceable. If (S_2, m) is balanceable, enlarge S_2 to assume that (S_2, m) is balanced.

For every $p \mid m$, construct α_p by applying [Lemma 2.7](#) with p , $n = v_p(m)$, q , and S_p . Set $\alpha = \sum_{p \mid m} \alpha_p$. Since $S_p \supseteq S$, by the definition of $d_p(m)$, the properties of α_p , $p \mid m$, give $\text{ind} \alpha^M = m$, $\text{ind}_p \alpha^M = \gcd(m, 2)$ for all real $p \in S$ which are unramified in M , and $\text{ind}_p \alpha^M = d_p(m)$ for every finite $p \in S$, except for $p = q$ when (S, m) is unbalanceable, in which case $\text{ind}_q \alpha^M = d_q(m)/2$. Applying [\(A_m\)](#) to α , we obtain the desired cover L . \square

Remark 2.9. The proof of [Proposition 2.8](#) shows that if there are noncrossed products $\alpha + \chi$ with $\text{ind} \alpha^M = m$, then there are infinitely many such noncrossed products. Indeed, if [\(B_m\)](#) fails for a set S_0 , it fails for every set S containing S_0 , so that (S, m) is balanceable if and only if (S_0, m) is balanceable. The proof reveals that for every such set S , there is an α whose Hasse invariants are nonzero at primes of S and $\alpha + \chi$ is a noncrossed product. In particular, there are infinitely many such classes α .

Definition 2.10. For a prime p of K , we say that the cover L has *full local degree* at p if $[L : M]_p = [L : M]$ for finite p , or if $[L : M]_p = \gcd(2, [L : M])$ for real p , or if p is complex. For a set S of primes of K , we say L has *full local degree in S* if L has full local degree at each $p \in S$.

Note that [\(B_m\)](#) requires full local degree at every $p \in S \setminus U$.

Lemma 2.11. *Let $m' \mid m$. Suppose there is a finite nonempty set S_0 disjoint from U such that any m -cover of M/K with full local degree in S_0 contains an m' -cover. Then [\(B_m\)](#) implies [\(B_{m'}\)](#).*

Proof. Let p_1 be a finite prime for which $v_2([M : K]_{p_1}) = u_2^{(1)}$. For a given finite set S , let $S' := S \cup S_0$. Note that there are three possible cases: (a) (S', m') and (S', m) are balanceable; (b) (S', m') and (S', m) are unbalanceable; (c) (S', m') is balanceable and (S', m) is not. Also note that (c) occurs only if $w_2(m', p_1) = 0$.

If (b) occurs, fix a prime $q \in U_2$. Let L be an m -cover obtained by applying [\(B_m\)](#) to S' , S' and q , and S' and p_1 in cases (a), (b), (c), respectively. Since $S_0 \cap U = \emptyset$, L has full local degree in S_0 . By assumption, L contains an m' -cover L' of M/K . Since $d_p(m) \mid [L : M]_p$ (resp. $(d_p(m)/2) \mid [L : M]_p$) implies $d_p(m') \mid [L' : M]_p$ (resp. $(d_p(m')/2) \mid [L' : M]_p$) for all primes p of K , L' satisfies $d_p(m') \mid [L' : M]_p$ for all $p \in S$ except for $p = q$ when (b) holds, in which case $(d_q(m')/2) \mid [L' : M]_p$. \square

Reduction to prime powers. Having shown the equivalence of [\(I_m\)](#) and [\(B_m\)](#), we now consider [\(B_m\)](#). We provide choices of the set S that enforce tight restrictions on the structure of $\text{Gal}(L/K)$ for covers L of M/K with full local degree in S .

Our first usage of this strategy is in reducing [\(B_m\)](#) from arbitrary $m \in \mathbb{N}$ to prime powers. Except for the part concerning the characteristic of K ([Lemma 2.13](#) below), this reduction is identical to the corresponding one in [\[Hanke and Sonn 2011\]](#).

Let $m = \prod p^{n_p}$ be the prime factorization. By taking field composita of covers, if $(B_{p^{n_p}})$ holds for all $p \mid m$, then (B_m) holds. We show:

Proposition 2.12. (B_m) holds if and only if $(B_{p^{n_p}})$ holds for all $p \mid m$.

We first treat the wild case separately:

Lemma 2.13. If $p = \text{char } K$ then (B_{p^n}) holds for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Proof. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and S be a finite set of primes of K . For every $\mathfrak{p} \in S$ there is a cyclic p^n -extension $L'(\mathfrak{p})/K_{\mathfrak{p}}$ which is disjoint from $M_{\mathfrak{p}}$ (see [Koch 1970, Satz 10.4]⁶). By the Grunwald–Wang theorem, there is a cyclic p^n -extension L'/K whose completion at \mathfrak{p} is $L'_{\mathfrak{p}} = L'(\mathfrak{p})$ for all $\mathfrak{p} \in S$. Let $L := L'M$. Since $L'_{\mathfrak{p}} \cap M_{\mathfrak{p}} = K_{\mathfrak{p}}$, one has $[L : M]_{\mathfrak{p}} = p^n$ for all $\mathfrak{p} \in S$. Thus, L is a p^n -cover of M/K with full local degree in S . \square

It remains to show that (B_m) implies $(B_{p^{n_p}})$ for all $p \mid m$ with $p \neq \text{char } K$.

Proof of Proposition 2.12. Let $p \mid m$ with $p \neq \text{char } K$. By [Hanke and Sonn 2011, §7, p. 325, Corollary], there are infinitely many primes \mathfrak{p} of K such that for any m -cover of M/K with full local degree at \mathfrak{p} , the p -Sylow subgroup of $\text{Gal}(L/M)$ has a complement $\text{Gal}(L/M_0)$ which is normal in $\text{Gal}(L/K)$, and hence L contains a p^n -cover M_0 of M/K . (Note that the assumption M/K cyclic is never used in the proof of [Hanke and Sonn 2011, §7, p. 325, Corollary].) Since U is finite we can choose such $\mathfrak{p} \notin U$. The proof is completed by setting $S_0 := \{\mathfrak{p}\}$ in Lemma 2.11. \square

An invariant subgroup. We are now able to complete the proof of Theorem 1.1. As outlined in Section 2, and using Propositions 2.8 and 2.12, it remains to prove Proposition 2.14 below. Let $p \in \mathbb{P}$ be fixed.

Proposition 2.14. For any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, (B_{p^n}) implies $(B_{p^{n-1}})$.

Indeed, the bound $b_p(\chi)$ of Theorem 1.1 is the maximal n for which (B_{p^n}) holds if such a maximum exists, and $b_p(\chi) = \infty$ otherwise. For more details on the description of $b_p(\chi)$, see Corollary 2.17 below.

For any cover L of M/K , we consider the group extension

$$1 \rightarrow \text{Gal}(L/M) \rightarrow \text{Gal}(L/K) \rightarrow \text{Gal}(M/K) \rightarrow 1. \tag{2-9}$$

We will analyze several kinds of constraints that are imposed on (2-9) by the condition that L has full local degree in S_0 , for certain chosen sets S_0 . More precisely, after showing that the kernel $A := \text{Gal}(L/M)$ can be assumed to be abelian, we focus on constraints regarding the conjugation action of $B := \text{Gal}(M/K)$ on A . The analysis of this action is the main ingredient in the proofs of both Proposition 2.14 and Theorem 1.2 below.

⁶Koch’s book has been translated into English. However, Theorem 10.4 in the English version contains a typo: “finitely generated” should be replaced by “on countably many generators”.

In view of [Lemma 2.13](#), we assume from now on that $p \neq \text{char } K$. Fix p^n and set $T := M \cap K(\mu_{p^\infty})$. For the proof of [Proposition 2.14](#), it will suffice to analyze the action of $\text{Gal}(M/T)$ on A .

Lemma 2.15. *There exists a finite set S_0 of primes of K disjoint from U such that for any p^n -cover L of M/K with full local degree in S_0 , the kernel A is abelian, the group $\text{Gal}(M/T)$ acts trivially on A , and A has rank at most 2.*

Proof. At first fix a $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(M/T)$. By the Chebotarev density theorem, the Galois extension $M(\mu_{p^n})/K$ has infinitely many unramified finite primes \mathfrak{P} of $M(\mu_{p^n})$ whose Frobenius element restricts to the identity on $K(\mu_{p^n})$ and to σ on M . Of those infinitely many \mathfrak{P} , choose one such that $\mathfrak{p} := \mathfrak{P} \cap K \notin U$ and p does not divide the norm $N(\mathfrak{p})$. (There are only finitely many \mathfrak{P} that do not satisfy this, since $p \neq \text{char } K$.) Since $p \nmid N(\mathfrak{p})$ and $\mu_{p^n} \subset K_{\mathfrak{p}}$, we have $N(\mathfrak{p}) \equiv 1 \pmod{p^n}$.

Assume a p^n -cover L of M/K has full local degree at the chosen \mathfrak{p} . Let \mathfrak{P} be a prime of L dividing \mathfrak{p} . The decomposition group $\text{Gal}(L_{\mathfrak{P}}/K_{\mathfrak{p}})$ then equals $\text{Gal}(L/M^\sigma)$, where M^σ is the fixed field of σ . We will show that $\text{Gal}(L_{\mathfrak{P}}/K_{\mathfrak{p}})$ is abelian, and thus σ acts trivially on $\text{Gal}(L/M)$: since $\text{char } K \nmid N(\mathfrak{p})$, $L_{\mathfrak{P}}/K_{\mathfrak{p}}$ is tame. Therefore, $\text{Gal}(L_{\mathfrak{P}}/K_{\mathfrak{p}})$ is a metacyclic group, generated by the inertia group $I_{\mathfrak{P}}$ and the Frobenius element, with the Frobenius acting on $I_{\mathfrak{P}}$ by raising each element to the power $N(\mathfrak{p})$. Since \mathfrak{p} is unramified in M , $|I_{\mathfrak{P}}|$ divides p^n . Hence $\text{Gal}(L_{\mathfrak{P}}/K_{\mathfrak{p}})$ is abelian, because $N(\mathfrak{p}) \equiv 1 \pmod{p^n}$.

Now let Σ be a set of generators of $\text{Gal}(M/T)$, or $\Sigma = \{1\}$ if $M = T$. For each $\sigma \in \Sigma$, choose a prime \mathfrak{p}_σ as described in the first paragraph of the proof. Then $S_0 := \{\mathfrak{p}_\sigma \mid \mathfrak{p} \in \Sigma\}$ has the desired property. \square

By [Lemma 2.11](#), [Proposition 2.14](#) is completed once we show:

Proposition 2.16. *Let S_0 be as in [Lemma 2.15](#). Any p^n -cover of M/K with full local degree in S_0 contains a p^{n-1} -cover of M/K .*

Proof. We have assumed $p \neq \text{char } K$. Let $B = \text{Gal}(M/K)$. Let L be a p^n -cover of M/K with full local degree in S_0 . By [Lemma 2.15](#), the kernel A is abelian. The subgroup $A[p]$ of p -torsion elements is a characteristic subgroup and hence invariant under the action of B (we say B -invariant). It suffices to find a B -invariant subgroup $A_0 \leq A[p]$ of order p ; then the fixed field L^{A_0} is the desired p^{n-1} -cover.

If A is cyclic then $A[p]$ itself is such a subgroup; hence, assume A noncyclic for the rest of the proof.

Recall that $A[p]$ is an \mathbb{F}_p -vector space and that any action of some group H on $A[p]$ is a representation of H over \mathbb{F}_p . In this sense, the H -invariant subgroups of order p are the H -invariant subspaces of dimension 1.

By [Lemma 2.15](#), B acts on A through $\text{Gal}(T/K)$. Let $\text{Gal}(T/K) = P \oplus C$ with P the p -part and $|C|$ prime to p . Then $|C|$ divides $p - 1$. Since $|C|$ is prime

to p , any representation of C over \mathbb{F}_p is semisimple and hence decomposes into a product of irreducible representations. Since \mathbb{F}_p contains the $|C|$ -th roots of unity, the irreducible representations of C are of dimension 1. Thus, there is a C -invariant subgroup $A_0 \leq A[p]$ of order p .

By Lemma 2.15, A has rank 2, that is, $A[p] \cong C_p \times C_p$. This group has exactly $p + 1$ order- p subgroups, say A_0, \dots, A_p , which are permuted by the action of B . Thus, we have an induced action of B on the set of indices $\{0, \dots, p\}$.

We know A_0 is C -invariant. If A_0 is P -invariant then A_0 is B -invariant and we are done. Assume A_0 is not P -invariant. Since P is a p -group, there are two P -orbits on $\{0, \dots, p\}$, say $\{0, \dots, p - 1\}$ and $\{p\}$. Since P and C commute and A_0 is C -invariant, each of A_0, \dots, A_{p-1} is also C -invariant. Hence the remaining subgroup A_p is C -invariant and P -invariant. We found a B -invariant subgroup A_p of A with $|A_p| = p$. As noted in the beginning of the proof, this gives the assertion. □

This completes the proof of Proposition 2.14, and hence of Theorem 1.1.

Summary. In addition to the existence of bounds (Theorem 1.1) we get:

Corollary 2.17. *The bound $b_p(\chi)$ is the maximal n such that for every finite set S of primes of K and $\mathfrak{q} \in U_2$, there is a p^n -cover L of M/K satisfying:*

- (i) $d_{\mathfrak{p}}(p^n) \mid [L : M]_{\mathfrak{p}}$ for all $\mathfrak{p} \in S$, except for $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{q}$ when $p = 2$ and $(S, 2^n)$ is unbalanceable, in which case $(d_{\mathfrak{q}}(2^n)/2) \mid [L : M]_{\mathfrak{q}}$;
- (ii) $A = \text{Gal}(L/M)$ is abelian of rank at most 2;
- (iii) $\text{Gal}(M/T)$ acts trivially on A via conjugation in $\text{Gal}(L/K)$.

If no maximal n exists, then $b_p(\chi) = \infty$.

Proof. Let S_0 be a finite set of primes of K that is disjoint from U . Suppose that any p^n -cover of L with full local degree in S_0 has a certain property. Then this property can be added to the condition (B_{p^n}) without changing the truth value of (B_{p^n}) , because the set S in (B_{p^n}) can be enlarged by S_0 . By Lemma 2.15, this argument applies to the properties (ii) and (iii). Hence, the corollary is a consequence of Proposition 2.14. □

Remark 2.18. Regarding condition (i) in Corollary 2.17, if \mathfrak{p} is not isolated, then $d_{\mathfrak{p}}(p^n) \mid [L : M]_{\mathfrak{p}}$ is equivalent to saying that L has full local degree at \mathfrak{p} .

Regarding condition (iii) in Corollary 2.17, if M and $K(\mu_{p^\infty})$ are disjoint over K , then (iii) is equivalent to saying that the group extension (2-9) is central.

3. Finiteness of bounds

The exponents of kernels. Suppose we use the setup described in Section 2, so that M/K is an abelian extension of global fields. Let $p \in \mathbb{P}$ be fixed and different

from char K , and as before set $T := K(\mu_{p^\infty}) \cap M$. In Section 2 we showed that suitable choices of the set S put constraints on structure of covers L of M/K with full local degree in S , to the extent that the action of $\text{Gal}(M/T)$ on $A = \text{Gal}(L/M)$ is trivial. This was sufficient to prove the existence of the bounds. Now, in order to prove the finiteness of the bounds, we analyze constraints on the action of the entire group $B = \text{Gal}(M/K)$ on A . The set S for this purpose will be constructed from the families Q_σ , which we define next for each $\sigma \in B$.

Denote by p^s the number of p -power roots of unity in M and by r the maximal number for which $\mu_{2^r} \subseteq M(\sqrt{-1})$. Let U be the finite set defined in Definition 2.2, so that for every finite set S , condition (B_m) requires full local degree at every prime $\mathfrak{p} \in S \setminus U$.

Fix an element $\sigma \in B$ and let f_σ be the order of the restriction $\sigma|_T$ of σ to T . We define Q_σ to be the set of all primes $\mathfrak{p} \notin U$ of K , unramified in M , whose Frobenius automorphism in M/K is σ , and such that the norm $N(\mathfrak{p})$ is prime to p and is of order strictly greater than f_σ as an element of $(\mathbb{Z}/p^{s+1}\mathbb{Z})^*$ (resp. mod $(\mathbb{Z}/2^{r+2}\mathbb{Z})^*$ if $p = 2$).

Lemma 3.1. *For every $\sigma \in B$, the set Q_σ is infinite.*

Proof. Assume without loss of generality that $\sqrt{-1} \in M$. Otherwise, repeat the proof for a lift $\tau \in \text{Gal}(M(\sqrt{-1})/K)$ of σ to deduce that Q_τ is infinite. Since $Q_\tau \subseteq Q_\sigma$ and $f_\tau \geq f_\sigma$, the assertion for σ follows. Note that under this assumption we have $r = s$, so we will use only s in the rest of the proof. Set $T' := K(\mu_{p^{s+1}})$ (resp. $T' := K(\mu_{2^{s+2}})$ if $p = 2$) and note that $T' \cap M = T$.

We first claim that $\text{Gal}(T'/K)$ contains an element σ' of order greater than f_σ whose restriction to T is $\sigma|_T$. For $s > 0$, $T = K(\mu_{p^s})$, and hence the group $\text{Gal}(T/T^\sigma)$ is naturally identified with a subgroup H of $(\mathbb{Z}/p^s\mathbb{Z})^*$, and $\text{Gal}(T'/T^\sigma)$ is identified with the full preimage of H under the natural projection

$$\pi : (\mathbb{Z}/p^{s+1}\mathbb{Z})^* \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/p^s\mathbb{Z})^* \quad (\text{resp. } \pi : (\mathbb{Z}/2^{s+2}\mathbb{Z})^* \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/2^s\mathbb{Z})^* \text{ if } p = 2).$$

The claim follows for $s > 0$ since each element of $(\mathbb{Z}/p^s\mathbb{Z})^*$ has a preimage under π of a greater order. If $s = 0$, then p is odd, and the claim holds, as the restriction map $\text{Gal}(T'/T^\sigma) \rightarrow \text{Gal}(T/T^\sigma)$ is an epimorphism of cyclic groups with nontrivial kernel.

Since σ and σ' agree on T , Chebotarev’s density theorem implies that there are infinitely many primes \mathfrak{p} of K , with $p \nmid N(\mathfrak{p})$, whose Frobenius automorphism is σ' in T'/K and is σ in M/K . Such primes are in Q_σ since the order of the norm of \mathfrak{p} as an element in $(\mathbb{Z}/p^{s+1}\mathbb{Z})^*$ (resp. in $(\mathbb{Z}/2^{s+2}\mathbb{Z})^*$) is the same as the order of their Frobenius automorphism in $K(\mu_{p^{s+1}})/K$ (resp. in $K(\mu_{2^{s+2}})/K$). \square

For a prime \mathfrak{p} of K , denote by $e_{\mathfrak{p}}(L/K)$ the ramification index of \mathfrak{p} in a Galois extension L/K .

Lemma 3.2. *Let S_0 be as in Lemma 2.15 and let $\sigma \in B$. Suppose that a p^n -cover L of M/K has full local degree in S_0 and at $\mathfrak{p} \in Q_\sigma$. Then $e_{\mathfrak{p}}(L/K) \mid p^s$ if p is odd and $e_{\mathfrak{p}}(L/K) \mid 2^{r+1}$ if $p = 2$.*

Proof. By Lemma 2.15, the kernel A is abelian, $\text{Gal}(M/T)$ acts trivially on A , and hence the action of B on A factors through the action of $\text{Gal}(T/K)$. Thus, σ acts on the inertia group $I \subseteq A$ of \mathfrak{p} in L/K as an automorphism of order at most f_σ .

Assume on the contrary that there is an element $a \in I$ of order p^{s+1} (resp. 2^{r+2} if $p = 2$). Since \mathfrak{p} is tamely ramified in L , σ acts on I by raising each element to the power $N(\mathfrak{p})$ and hence defines an automorphism of order greater than f_σ on $\langle a \rangle$, a contradiction. \square

We derive Theorem 1.2 from the following proposition, whose proof appears in the end of this subsection.

Proposition 3.3. *Assume the p -Sylow subgroup of B is noncyclic. Then there exists a finite set S_0 of primes of K disjoint from U such that for any p^n -cover L of M/K with full local degree in S_0 , $\text{Gal}(L/M)$ is abelian of rank at most 2 and exponent at most p^s (resp. 2^{r+2} if $p = 2$).*

If the p -Sylow subgroup of B is noncyclic, then Proposition 3.3 allows us to improve on Corollary 2.17 by adding the following property to the list:

(iv) $\exp A \mid p^s$ if p is odd and $\exp A \mid 2^{r+2}$ if $p = 2$.

In particular, since A has rank at most 2, $b_p(\chi) \leq 2s$ if p is odd and $b_p(\chi) \leq 2(r+2)$ if $p = 2$. This proves Theorem 1.2.

The proof of Proposition 3.3 relies on the following group-theoretic proposition, whose proof is given starting on page 851.

Proposition 3.4. *Let*

$$1 \rightarrow A \rightarrow G \xrightarrow{\pi} B \rightarrow 1 \tag{3-1}$$

be an extension of nontrivial abelian p -groups A, B . If B is noncyclic and $\pi^{-1}\langle x \rangle$ is cyclic for all $x \in B$, then $|A| = 2$.

Proof of Proposition 3.3. Replacing K with the fixed field of the p -Sylow subgroup of B , we can assume without loss of generality that B is a p -group. By the assumptions of the proposition, B is a noncyclic abelian group.

Choose S_0 to be the set from Lemma 2.15 joined with one $\mathfrak{p}_\sigma \in Q_\sigma$ for each $\sigma \in B$. Suppose L is a p^n -cover of M/K with full local degree in S_0 .

By Lemma 2.15, A is abelian of rank at most 2. Since the p^s -torsion subgroup $A[p^s]$ is a characteristic subgroup of A , it is a normal subgroup of $\text{Gal}(L/K)$ and hence the fixed field $L_0 := L^{A[p^s]}$ is Galois over K . If $p = 2$, then we consider $L_0 := L^{A[2^{r+1}]}$ instead, which is also Galois over K . To prove our claim it suffices to show that $L_0 = M$ (resp. $[L_0 : M] \leq 2$ if $p = 2$).

Fix an element $\sigma \in B$ and let \mathfrak{P}_σ be a prime of L which divides \mathfrak{p}_σ . Let $I_\sigma \subseteq A$ be the inertia group of \mathfrak{P}_σ in L/K . By Lemma 3.2, $|I_\sigma| \leq p^s$ (resp. $|I_\sigma| \leq 2^{r+1}$) and hence $I_\sigma \subseteq A[p^s]$ (resp. $I_\sigma \subseteq A[2^{r+1}]$). Thus, L_0/K is unramified at \mathfrak{p}_σ and hence $\mathfrak{P}_\sigma \cap L_0$ has a cyclic decomposition group in L_0/K . Since L_0 has full local degree at \mathfrak{p} , the decomposition group of $\mathfrak{P}_\sigma \cap L_0$ in L_0/K is $\text{Gal}(L_0/M^\sigma)$, and hence L_0/M^σ is a cyclic extension.

Since L_0/M^σ is cyclic for all $\sigma \in B$ and since B is noncyclic, Proposition 3.4 applied to the group extension

$$1 \rightarrow \text{Gal}(L_0/M) \rightarrow \text{Gal}(L_0/K) \rightarrow \text{Gal}(M/K) \rightarrow 1$$

shows $L_0 = M$ (resp. $[L_0 : M] \leq 2$ if $p = 2$), proving the claim. □

Central group extensions. The last ingredient is a proof of Proposition 3.4. We begin with elementary properties of commutators in a central group extension

$$1 \rightarrow A \rightarrow G \rightarrow B \rightarrow 1 \tag{3-2}$$

of abelian groups A, B . Let $s : B \rightarrow G$ be a section of $G \rightarrow B$ (not necessarily a homomorphism).

Lemma 3.5. *Commutators in G are bimultiplicative. That is, the map*

$$\beta : B \times B \rightarrow A, \quad (x, y) \mapsto [s(x), s(y)]$$

does not depend on the choice of s and is bimultiplicative.

Proof. Since $[G, G] \subseteq A \subseteq Z(G)$, we have

$$[ab, x] = abxb^{-1}a^{-1}x^{-1} = a(bxb^{-1}x^{-1})xa^{-1}x^{-1} = [a, x][b, x].$$

Similarly one checks $[x, ab] = [x, a][x, b]$, that is, that commutators are bimultiplicative. The statement about β follows from this. □

We next look at the meaning of the condition that $\pi^{-1} \langle x \rangle$ is cyclic for $x \in B$. For $x = 1$ it means A is cyclic, and for $x \neq 1$ one has:

Lemma 3.6. *Assume A is cyclic. For $x \in B, x \neq 1, \pi^{-1} \langle x \rangle$ is cyclic if and only if A is trivial or generated by $s(x)^{\text{ord } x}$.*

In order to prove Proposition 3.4, we now assume A, B are nontrivial p -groups and A is cyclic. The map

$$\gamma : B[p] \rightarrow A/A^p, \quad x \mapsto s(x)^p$$

is obviously independent of the choice of s .

Lemma 3.7. *Assume A, B are nontrivial p -groups and A is cyclic.*

- (i) *For $x \in B[p], x \neq 1, \pi^{-1} \langle x \rangle$ is cyclic if and only if $\gamma(x) \neq 1$.*

- (ii) If p is odd then γ is a homomorphism.
- (iii) If $p = 2$ then γ is a homomorphism if and only if $\beta(x, y) \in A^2$ for all x, y in $B[2]$.

Proof. (i) is [Lemma 3.6](#). Since $[G, G] \subseteq A \subseteq Z(G)$, we have $(s(x)s(y))^p = s(x)^p s(y)^p \beta(x, y)^{p(p-1)/2}$ for all $x, y \in B$. In particular, for all $x, y \in B[p]$,

$$\gamma(xy) = s(xy)^p A^p = (s(x)s(y))^p A^p = \gamma(x)\gamma(y)\beta(x, y)^{p(p-1)/2}.$$

Thus γ is a homomorphism if and only if $\beta(x, y)^{p(p-1)/2} \in A^p$. If $p = 2$ then $p(p-1)/2 = 1$, proving (iii). For p odd, we use [Lemma 3.5](#) to see that $\beta(x, y) \in A[p]$ for all $x, y \in B[p]$, so the term $\beta(x, y)^{p(p-1)/2}$ vanishes. \square

Proof of [Proposition 3.4](#). Let A, B be nontrivial abelian p -groups, A cyclic and B noncyclic. By hypothesis and [Lemma 3.7\(i\)](#), $\gamma(x) \neq 1$ for all $x \in B[p]$, $x \neq 1$. Therefore, if γ is a homomorphism then it is injective, in contradiction to A being cyclic and B noncyclic. Hence, γ is not a homomorphism. By parts (ii) and (iii) of [Lemma 3.7](#), we have $p = 2$ and an element $a := \beta(x, y) \notin A^2$ for some $x, y \in B[2]$. By [Lemma 3.5](#), $a \in A[2] \setminus A^2$ and hence $|A| = 2$. \square

4. Examples

Suppose we are in the setup described in [Section 2](#). In particular, $\alpha \in \text{Br}(K)$, $\chi \in \text{Hom}(G_K, \Delta/\Gamma)$, and M is the fixed field of $\ker \chi$, an abelian extension of K . In this section we provide examples of noncrossed products with the smallest possible indices in fibers over noncyclic χ .

For $p \in \mathbb{P}$, let $p^{s_p(M)}$ denote the number of p -power roots of unity in M . If $\alpha + \chi$ has index equal to $|\chi|$, then the division algebra contained in $\alpha + \chi$ is a crossed product, because α is split by M . Therefore, noncrossed products of index p^2 are possible only if $|\chi| = p$, in particular only if χ is cyclic.

Suppose χ is noncyclic with $|\chi| = p^2$. If $b_p(\chi) = 0$, then the fiber over χ contains infinitely many noncrossed products of index $p|\chi|$. By [Theorem 1.2](#), this happens, for example, whenever $s_p(M) = 0$. We give examples of bicyclic χ with $|\chi| = p^2$ and $b_p(\chi) = 0$ but $s_p(M) \geq 1$. Note that such a phenomenon is in contrast to the case of cyclic χ , for which one always has $b_p(\chi) \geq s_p(M)$ (see [[Hanke and Sonn 2011](#)]).

For $p = 2$, an example as described above was given over $K = \mathbb{Q}$ in [[Hanke 2004](#)] and over $K = \mathbb{F}_q(t)$ for all $q \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ in [[Coyette 2012](#), Example 2.8]. These turn out to be special cases of our Examples [4.1](#) and [4.3](#) below.

We start with $K = \mathbb{Q}$ and $p = 2$:

Example 4.1. Let q, ℓ be odd primes such that $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$, $q \not\equiv -\ell \pmod{8}$, and q is a nonsquare modulo ℓ . Note that for any odd prime ℓ , a suitable q can be

chosen using Dirichlet’s theorem.⁷ Let $M := \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{q}, \sqrt{-\ell})$. [Corollary 2.17](#) applied with $S = \{\ell\}$ and the following claim show $b_p(\chi) = 0$.

Claim. The extension M/\mathbb{Q} has no isolated primes and there is no 2-cover L of M/K with local degree $[L : M]_\ell = 2$.

Proof. Set $K_1 := \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{q})$, $K_2 := \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-\ell})$ and let χ be a character for which the fixed field of $\ker \chi$ is M .

We first check that M/\mathbb{Q} has no isolated primes. The prime ℓ ramifies in K_2 and is inert in K_1 , so $[M : \mathbb{Q}]_\ell = 4$.

Case $\ell \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$: By reciprocity, ℓ is a square modulo q , and hence $-\ell$ is a nonsquare modulo q . The prime q thus ramifies in K_1 and is inert in K_2 , so $[M : \mathbb{Q}]_q = 4$.

Case $\ell \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$: Since $q \not\equiv -\ell \pmod{8}$, we have $\mathbb{Q}_2(\sqrt{q}) \neq \mathbb{Q}_2(\sqrt{-\ell})$, so $[M : \mathbb{Q}]_2 = 4$. In any case, M/\mathbb{Q} has no isolated prime.

Now assume L is a 2-cover of M/\mathbb{Q} with full local degree at ℓ . Since K_1 is real and M is not, M/K_1 does not have a cyclic 2-cover. Since $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$, -1 is not a square in \mathbb{Q}_q . This implies that \mathbb{Q}_q does not have any totally ramified degree-4 extension, so that any ramified quadratic extension of \mathbb{Q}_q cannot have a cyclic 2-cover. Thus, globally, K_1/\mathbb{Q} does not have a cyclic 2-cover. The inertia field of ℓ in L/\mathbb{Q} contains K_1 and is cyclic over \mathbb{Q} , and thus is equal to K_1 . This is a contradiction because L is then a cyclic 2-cover of M/K_1 . \square

Remark. (i) Suppose M/\mathbb{Q} is as in [Example 4.1](#). Consider $\alpha \in \text{Br}(\mathbb{Q})$ such that $\text{ind } \alpha = 8$ and $\text{ind } \alpha^{\mathbb{Q}(\chi)} = 2$. Since ℓ is not 2-isolated in M/\mathbb{Q} , we can find such an α with $\text{ind}_\ell \alpha = 8$. Since M/\mathbb{Q} does not have a 2-cover L with $[L : M]_\ell = 2$, no 2-cover of M/\mathbb{Q} splits α . Hence, the underlying division algebra of $\alpha + \chi$ is a noncrossed product of index 8.

(ii) In [Example 4.1](#) we can choose $(\ell, q) = (3, 11), (5, 7), (7, 3)$, etc. The example in [\[Hanke 2004\]](#) is the case $\ell = 7$ and $q = 3$.

We now turn to arbitrary global fields K and a prime $p \neq \text{char } K$. [Example 4.1](#) does not generalize immediately because its proof uses a real prime. The following argument uses a third finite prime instead of a real prime:

Proposition 4.2. *Let K be a global field and let $p \in \mathbb{P}$ with $p \neq \text{char } K$. Assume $s := s_p(K) > 0$. Let \mathfrak{p} be any prime of K with $p \nmid N(\mathfrak{p})$. There exists a bicyclic extension M/K with group $C_{p^s} \times C_{p^s}$ and without isolated primes such that no p -cover L of M/K has $[L : M]_{\mathfrak{p}} = p$.*

⁷Using the reciprocity law, it is also possible to choose a suitable ℓ for any prime $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$.

Proof. By Chebotarev's density theorem, there are primes q_1, q_2 of K such that $N(q_i) \equiv 1 \pmod{p^s}$ but $N(q_i) \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^{s+1}}$. By the Grunwald–Wang theorem, there are cyclic extensions K_i/K of degree $[K_i : K] = p^s$ such that in K_1 , \mathfrak{p} is inert, q_1 is totally ramified, and q_2 splits completely; and in K_2 , q_1 is inert and \mathfrak{p} and q_2 are totally ramified. Since \mathfrak{p} and q_1 both have full local degree in M , M/K has no isolated primes.

Since $N(q_1) \not\equiv 1 \pmod{p^{s+1}}$ and q_1 is totally ramified in K_1/K , K_1/K does not have a cyclic p -cover. Similarly, considering q_2 , M/K_1 does not have a cyclic p -cover.

Assume on the contrary there is a p -cover L of M/K with $[L : M]_{\mathfrak{p}} = p$. Since the inertia field of \mathfrak{p} contains K_1 and is cyclic over K , it equals K_1 . This shows that L is a cyclic p -cover of M/K_1 , a contradiction. \square

Example 4.3. Let $p \in \mathbb{P}$ and $K = \mathbb{F}_q(t)$ for $q \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$, so that $s := s_p(K) > 0$. Assume $a \notin (K^\times)^p$. Let $M = K(\sqrt[p^s]{t}, \sqrt[p^s]{(t-1)(t-a)})$. By the following claim, the proof of Proposition 4.2 applies to M and the primes $\mathfrak{p} = (t-a)$, $q_1 = (t)$, $q_2 = (t-1)$. Therefore, $b_p(\chi) = 0$ for any χ for which M is the fixed field of $\ker \chi$.

For $q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ and $p = 2$, Example 4.3 is identical to [Coyette 2012, Example 2.8].

Claim. Let $K_1 = K(\sqrt[p^s]{t})$, $K_2 = K(\sqrt[p^s]{(t-1)(t-a)})$. Then $(t-a)$ is inert in K_1 and totally ramified in K_2 , (t) is totally ramified in K_1 and inert in K_2 , and $(t-1)$ splits completely in K_1 and is totally ramified in K_2 .

Proof. In K_1 we have: $t \equiv a \pmod{t-a}$ is not a p -th power and $t \equiv 1 \pmod{t-1}$ is a p^s -th power, and hence $(t-a)$ is inert, $(t-1)$ splits completely, and (t) is totally ramified.

In K_2 we have: $(t-1)(t-a) \equiv a \pmod{t}$ is not a p -th power, and hence (t) is inert and $(t-1)$, $(t-a)$ are totally ramified. \square

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