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We generalize to hypercohomology the Brumer criterion for the strict cohomological dimension of profinite groups.

1. Introduction

The aim of this paper is to obtain a criterion determining the strict cohomological dimension of a profinite group.

The strict cohomological dimension of a profinite group G , written $\text{scd}_p G$, is the smallest integer n such that the p -primary component of $H^{n+1}(G, M)$ vanishes for all discrete G -modules M , where p is a prime number. There is also the notion of cohomological dimension of G , denoted by $\text{cd}_p G$. This is the smallest integer n such that $H^{n+1}(G, A) = 0$ for all discrete p -primary G -modules A .

It is well-known that the strict cohomological dimension of G is equal to $\text{cd}_p G$ or $\text{cd}_p G + 1$. This result is often useful. In many cases, in fact, it enables us to obtain sufficient information on the cohomology groups of a given profinite group. It is, nevertheless, quite difficult to determine the strict cohomological dimension of a given profinite group. Brumer gave a useful criterion determining it [1]:

Theorem 1.1 (Theorem 6.1, [1]). *The following are equivalent for a class formation (G, A) :*

- (1) $\text{scd}_p G = 2$.
- (2) *For each integer q and each pair $H \subset K$ of open subgroups of G such that H is normal in K , the homomorphism induced by the reciprocity map*

$$\widehat{H}^q(K/H, A^H) \rightarrow \widehat{H}^q(K/H, H^{\text{ab}})$$

induces an isomorphism onto on the p -primary component of the respective cohomology groups.

Using this criterion, Brumer showed, for example, that the absolute Galois group of a local field has strict cohomological dimension two.

The author developed in [8] the theory of class formations, including complexes and hypercohomology groups. Class formations can be applied

to higher-dimensional local fields and, of course, to the classical class field theory of usual local and global fields. Then the problem is whether one can generalize the Brumer criterion to the case of such class formations. This is the main motivation of this paper. We prove:

Theorem 1.2 (cf. Theorem 3.2). *The following statements are equivalent for a class formation (G, A^\bullet) :*

- (1) $\text{scd}_p G \leq n + 1$.
- (2) *For each integer q and each pair $H \subset K$ of open subgroups of G such that H is normal in K , the homomorphisms induced by the reciprocity map induce isomorphisms*

$$\widehat{H}^q(K/H, H^{-r}(H, A^\bullet))(p) \simeq \widehat{H}^q(K/H, H_{r+1}(H, \mathbb{Z}))(p)$$

for each $r = 0, \dots, n - 1$.

This is a generalization of the Brumer criterion, as can be seen by examining the case $n = 1$ (note that $\text{scd}_p G = 1$ if and only if $G = \{1\}$).

As an application, we determine the strict cohomological dimension of a two-dimensional local field, as Brumer did. Note that the point of this paper is to obtain a *necessary and sufficient condition* determining the strict cohomological dimension. If one wishes to determine only the strict cohomological dimension of higher local fields, there are other methods (see Section 4).

Notation 1.3. We will freely use standard notation about complexes and hypercohomology groups. Unless the contrary is explicitly stated, we employ the following notations and conventions:

- (1) For an abelian group A , we denote the group of n -torsion elements of A by A_n . In particular, in the case n is a prime number, $A(p)$ stands for p -primary torsion part of A .
- (2) For a field F , we denote the separable closure of F by F_s .

2. Generalities

In this section we obtain a criterion determining the strict cohomological dimension of a profinite group G in rather general contexts.

Unless the contrary is explicitly stated, let G be a profinite group, and let $H \subset K$ be open subgroups of G such that H is normal in K .

First of all, we fix notation used frequently in this paper.

Let G be as above. We may assume that

$$G = \varprojlim_U G/U,$$

where U runs through open normal subgroups of G . We define the complete group algebra $\mathbb{Z}_p[[G]]$ of G over the ring of p -adic integers to be the inverse

limit of the ordinary group ring of the finite quotients G/U of G over \mathbb{Z}_p :

$$\mathbb{Z}_p[[G]] = \varprojlim_U \mathbb{Z}_p[G/U].$$

For an arbitrary $\mathbb{Z}_p[[G]]$ -module A , we define the functor F_G by

$$F_G(A) = A/AI(G),$$

where $I(G)$ is the closed ideal of $\mathbb{Z}_p[[G]]$ generated by $\{1 - g \mid g \in G\}$.

Next, consider an exact sequence

$$\cdots P_n \rightarrow P_{n-1} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow 0$$

where, for each i , P_i is a projective $\mathbb{Z}_p[[G]]$ -module. We let Q_n denote $\text{Ker}(P_n \rightarrow P_{n-1})$, and formally define Q_{-1} to be \mathbb{Z}_p . Then the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H_{n+1}(H, \mathbb{Z}_p) \rightarrow F_H(Q_n) \rightarrow F_H(P_n) \rightarrow F_H(Q_{n-1}) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact. From this short exact sequence we obtain an induced homomorphism

$$\omega^q: \widehat{H}^{q-2}(K/H, F_H(Q_{n-2})) \rightarrow \widehat{H}^q(K/H, H_n(H, \mathbb{Z}_p))$$

defined as the composition of two boundary maps.

Lemma 2.1. *Let $H \subset K$ be as above and let q be an arbitrary integer. The following statements are equivalent:*

- (1) $\widehat{H}^{q-2}(K/H, F_H(Q_{n-2})) \simeq \widehat{H}^q(K/H, H_n(H, \mathbb{Z}_p))$.
- (2) $\widehat{H}^q(K/H, F_H(Q_{n-1})) = 0$.

This is an immediate consequence of the lemma below:

Lemma 2.2. *Let T be a finite group and let*

$$0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \xrightarrow{\omega} C \rightarrow D \rightarrow 0.$$

be an exact sequence of T -modules; we have an induced homomorphism

$$d_q: \widehat{H}^{q-2}(T, D) \rightarrow \widehat{H}^q(T, A)$$

defined as the composition of two boundary maps. The following statements are equivalent:

- (1) *For each q , d_q is an isomorphism on the p -primary components.*
- (2) *For each q , $\omega^*: \widehat{H}^q(T, B) \rightarrow \widehat{H}^q(T, C)$ is an isomorphism on the p -primary components.*

Lemma 2.1 enables us to prove the following:

Proposition 2.3. *Assume that*

$$\omega^q: \widehat{H}^{q-2}(K/H, F_H(Q_{n-2})) \simeq \widehat{H}^q(K/H, H_n(H, \mathbb{Z}_p))$$

for each integer q . Then $\text{scd}_p G \leq n + 1$.

Proof. Form the assumptions and Lemma 2.1 we can conclude that

$$\widehat{H}^q(K/H, F_H(Q_{n-1})) = 0.$$

Taking into account Lemma 6.7 of [1], we deduce $\text{hd}_{\mathbb{Z}_p[[G]]} Q_{n-1} \leq 1$. Therefore, we can find projective $\mathbb{Z}_p[[G]]$ -modules P'_{n+1} and P'_n such that

$$0 \rightarrow P'_{n+1} \rightarrow P'_n \rightarrow Q_{n-1} \rightarrow 0$$

is exact. Thus, we can take a projective resolution of \mathbb{Z}_p of the form

$$0 \rightarrow P'_{n+1} \rightarrow P'_n \rightarrow P_{n-1} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow 0,$$

and therefore $H_{n+2}(H, \mathbb{Z}_p) = 0$. Since $H^{n+2}(H, \mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p) \simeq (H_{n+2}(H, \mathbb{Z}_p))^*$, we obtain $\text{cd}_p G \leq n + 1$ (cf. Corollary 4 to Proposition 14, Chap. I, [13]).

From the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow Q_{n-1} \rightarrow P_{n-1} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow 0,$$

we obtain $\text{Tor}_{n+1}^K(\mathbb{Z}_p, \mathbb{Z}_p) = \text{Tor}_1^K(Q_{n-1}, \mathbb{Z}_p)$. On the other hand, the proof of [1, Lemma 6.7] shows $\text{Tor}_1^K(Q_{n-1}, \mathbb{Z}_p) = 0$. Applying [1, Corollary 5.5], we prove the proposition. \square

The following lemma gives us the converse of Proposition 2.3.

Lemma 2.4. *Suppose that we have $\text{scd}_p G \leq n + 1$. Then we can conclude*

$$\omega^q: \widehat{H}^{q-2}(K/H, F_H(Q_{n-2})) \simeq \widehat{H}^q(K/H, H_n(H, \mathbb{Z}_p))$$

for an arbitrary integer q .

Proof. Let

$$\cdots \rightarrow P_n \rightarrow P_{n-1} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow P_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow 0$$

be a projective resolution of \mathbb{Z}_p . Added to this, we denote the complex

$$\cdots \rightarrow \underbrace{F_H(P_n)}_{\text{deg } -2} \rightarrow \underbrace{F_H(P_{n-1})}_{\text{deg } -1} \rightarrow \underbrace{F_H(P_{n-2})}_{\text{deg } 0} \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \cdots$$

by C^\bullet . Since the sequence

$$\rightarrow P_n \rightarrow P_{n-1} \rightarrow P_{n-2} \rightarrow Q_{n-3} \rightarrow 0$$

is exact,

$$\tau_{\leq -1} C^\bullet \rightarrow C^\bullet \rightarrow F_H(Q_{n-3}) \rightarrow \tau_{\leq -1} C^\bullet[-1]$$

is a distinguished triangle. For sufficiently large q , we obtain

$$H_{q-1}(K, Q_{n-3}) \simeq \widehat{H}^{-q}(K/H, C^\bullet).$$

Since $\text{scd}_p G \leq n + 1$, we have $\widehat{H}^{-q}(K/H, C^\bullet) = 0$ for sufficiently large q , and therefore, for all q , we have $\widehat{H}^{-q}(K/H, C^\bullet) = 0$. Thus, we can conclude

$$(1) \quad \widehat{H}^{q-1}(K/H, F_H(Q_{n-3})) \simeq \widehat{H}^q(K/H, \tau_{\leq -1} C^\bullet),$$

for each integer q .

However, the assumption $\text{scd}_p G \leq n + 1$ gives $H_{n+1}(H, \mathbb{Z}_p) = 0$, so we know $H^q(\tau_{\leq -1} C^\bullet) = 0$ for $q < -2$. That is, we have a distinguished triangle

$$H_n(H, \mathbb{Z}_p)[2] \rightarrow \tau_{\leq -1} C^\bullet \rightarrow H_{n-1}(H, \mathbb{Z}_p)[-1] \rightarrow H_n(H, \mathbb{Z}_p)[1].$$

This triangle induces a long exact sequence of hypercohomology groups:

$$(2) \quad \dots \rightarrow \widehat{H}^{q+2}(K/H, H_n(H, \mathbb{Z}_p)) \rightarrow \widehat{H}^q(K/H, \tau_{\leq -1} C^\bullet) \\ \rightarrow \widehat{H}^{q+1}(K/H, H_{n-1}(H, \mathbb{Z}_p)) \rightarrow \dots$$

Now consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} B & \xrightarrow{\simeq} & B & & & & \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & & & \\ A & \longrightarrow & F_H(P_{n-1}) & \longrightarrow & F_H(P_{n-2}) & \longrightarrow & F_H(Q_{n-3}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow \simeq \\ 0 \rightarrow H_{n-1}(H, \mathbb{Z}_p) & \longrightarrow & F_H(Q_{n-2}) & \longrightarrow & F_H(P_{n-2}) & \longrightarrow & F_H(Q_{n-3}) \rightarrow 0, \end{array}$$

where we have put

$$A = \text{Ker}(F_H(P_{n-1}) \rightarrow F_H(P_{n-2})), \quad B = \text{Ker}(F_H(P_{n-1}) \rightarrow F_H(Q_{n-2})).$$

All horizontal sequences are exact. Applying the snake lemma, we have an exact sequence

$$\rightarrow \widehat{H}^{q+1}(K/H, B) \rightarrow \widehat{H}^{q+1}(K/H, A) \rightarrow \widehat{H}^{q+1}(K/H, H_{n-1}(H, \mathbb{Z}_p)) \rightarrow \dots$$

By observing the middle horizontal sequence in the preceding diagram, we have

$$\widehat{H}^{q-1}(K/H, F_H(Q_{n-3})) \simeq \widehat{H}^{q+1}(K/H, A),$$

and therefore, from (1), we also have

$$\widehat{H}^{q+1}(K/H, A) \simeq \widehat{H}^q(K/H, \tau_{\leq -1} C^\bullet).$$

On the other hand, from the definition of B , we know that

$$\widehat{H}^q(K/H, F_H(Q_{n-2})) \simeq \widehat{H}^{q+1}(K/H, B).$$

Thus, we have an exact sequence

$$\dots \rightarrow \widehat{H}^q(K/H, F_H(Q_{n-2})) \rightarrow \widehat{H}^q(K/H, \tau_{\leq -1} C^\bullet) \\ \rightarrow \widehat{H}^{q+1}(K/H, H_{n-1}(H, \mathbb{Z}_p)) \rightarrow \dots$$

By comparing this exact sequence with (2), we have

$$\widehat{H}^{q-2}(K/H, F_H(Q_{n-2})) \simeq \widehat{H}^q(K/H, H_n(H, \mathbb{Z}_p)). \quad \square$$

Thus, we obtain the following criterion determining the strict cohomological dimension of G :

Theorem 2.5. *The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) $\text{scd}_p G \leq n + 1$.
- (2) For each q , $\widehat{H}^{q-2}(K/H, F_H(Q_{n-2})) \simeq \widehat{H}^q(K/H, H_n(H, \mathbb{Z}_p))$.

3. Relation to class formations

Let G be a profinite group and A^\bullet a complex of G -modules acyclic outside $[-n, 0]$. Assume that the pair (G, A^\bullet) forms a class formation. See [8] about such class formation including complexes. In this case, as in [1], we can make more explicit the conditions to determine $\text{scd}_p G$.

Lemma 3.1. *Assume that the pair (G, A^\bullet) forms a class formation, where A^\bullet is acyclic outside $[-n, 0]$. The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1) For each $r = 0, \dots, n - 1$,

$$\widehat{H}^q(K/H, H^{-r}(H, A^\bullet))(p) \simeq \widehat{H}^q(K/H, H_{r+1}(H, \mathbb{Z}))_p.$$

- (2) For each q , $\widehat{H}^{q-2}(K/H, F_H(Q_{n-2})) \simeq \widehat{H}^q(K/H, H_n(H, \mathbb{Z}_p))$.

Proof. From the Tate–Nakayama theorem for hypercohomology [8], we have

$$\widehat{H}^q(K/H, \tau_{\leq 0}R\Gamma(H, A^\bullet)) \simeq \widehat{H}^{q-2}(K/H, \mathbb{Z}).$$

From the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H_1(H, \mathbb{Z}_p) \rightarrow F_H(Q_0) \rightarrow F_H(P_0) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow 0,$$

we obtain the following long exact sequence of cohomology groups:

$$\begin{aligned} \dots \rightarrow \widehat{H}^{q-2}(K/H, \mathbb{Z}_p) &\rightarrow \widehat{H}^q(K/H, H_1(H, \mathbb{Z}_p)) \\ &\rightarrow \widehat{H}^q(K/H, F_H(Q_0)) \rightarrow \widehat{H}^{q-1}(K/H, \mathbb{Z}_p) \rightarrow \dots \end{aligned}$$

Noting the results of the Tate–Nakayama theorem and the assumptions, we derive the long exact sequence

$$\begin{aligned} \dots \rightarrow \widehat{H}^q(K/H, \tau_{\leq 0}R\Gamma(H, A^\bullet)) &\rightarrow \widehat{H}^q(K/H, H^0(H, A^\bullet)) \\ &\rightarrow \widehat{H}^q(K/H, F_H(Q_0)) \rightarrow \widehat{H}^{q+1}(K/H, \tau_{\leq 0}R\Gamma(H, A^\bullet)) \rightarrow \dots \end{aligned}$$

By comparing the long exact sequence obtained from the distinguished triangle

$$\tau_{\leq -1}R\Gamma(H, A^\bullet) \rightarrow \tau_{\leq 0}R\Gamma(H, A^\bullet) \rightarrow H^0(H, A^\bullet) \rightarrow \tau_{\leq -1}R\Gamma(H, A^\bullet)[-1],$$

we can conclude that

$$\widehat{H}^{q-2}(K/H, F_H(Q_0)) \simeq \widehat{H}^q(K/H, \tau_{\leq -1}R\Gamma(H, A^\bullet)).$$

Similarly we have

$$\widehat{H}^{q-2}(K/H, F_H(Q_r)) \simeq \widehat{H}^q(K/H, \tau_{\leq -r-1}R\Gamma(H, A^\bullet)).$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{H}^{q-2}(K/H, F_H(Q_{n-2})) &\simeq \widehat{H}^q(K/H, \tau_{\leq -n+1} R\Gamma(H, A^\bullet)) \\ &\simeq \widehat{H}^q(K/H, H^{-n+1}(H, A^\bullet)) \\ &\simeq \widehat{H}^q(K/H, H_n(H, \mathbb{Z}_p)). \end{aligned}$$

The converse can be proven in a similar manner. \square

From the above lemma, we have:

Theorem 3.2. *The following are equivalent:*

(1) For each $r = 0, \dots, n-1$,

$$\widehat{H}^q(K/H, H^{-r}(H, A^\bullet))(p) \simeq \widehat{H}^q(K/H, H_{r+1}(H, \mathbb{Z}))(p).$$

(2) $\text{scd}_p G \leq n+1$.

4. An example

We now apply the result of the previous section to higher-dimensional local fields.

Let K be a two-dimensional local field (a complete discrete valuation field whose residue field is a usual local field). Let $\mathbb{Z}(2)$ be the Lichtenbaum complex for K . (For basic properties and proofs, see [10], [11] and [12].) We know that the pair $(\text{Gal}(K_s/K), \mathbb{Z}(2)[2])$ forms a class formation [8].

We will use the criterion established in the previous section to prove the following:

Theorem 4.1. *Let K be an 2-dimensional local field and p a prime number different from the characteristic of K . Then $\text{scd}_p \text{Gal}(K_s/K) = 3$.*

Remark 4.2. Tate [14] proved this for the case that K is a usual local field. Brumer gave a new proof in [1, Theorem 6.1].

For general higher-dimensional local fields, we gave a proof in [9], showing the following:

Theorem 4.3 ([9]). *Let K be an N -dimensional local field and let p be a prime number distinct from the characteristic of K . Then $\text{scd}_p \text{Gal}(K_s/K) = N+1$.*

In [9], we showed a kind of generalization of the Tate duality of Galois cohomology of higher-dimensional local fields with a finite coefficient, and determined the strict cohomological dimension of them as its application.

We have learned from K. Kato that there is a proof based on the duality of p -adic étale cohomology, which seems to be easier to understand and straightforward (The method given by Kato is rather different from ours). We do not know who first gave the proof mentioned by Kato.

In order to show Theorem 4.1, we may prove the following:

Proposition 4.4. *Let L/K be an arbitrary finite extension of K . The kernel and cokernel of the homomorphisms*

$$\omega_q^*: H^{3-q}(L, \mathbb{Z}(2)) \rightarrow H_q(L, \mathbb{Z})$$

are uniquely divisible for $q = 1, 2$. Here the maps ω_q^ are those induced from the reciprocity map of two-dimensional local class field theory.*

Then, from Theorem 3.2, we can conclude $\text{scd}_p \text{Gal}(K_s/K) \leq 3$. On the other hand, from [4] and [5], we already know $\text{cd}_p \text{Gal}(K_s/K) = 3$. Therefore, we can deduce that the strict cohomological dimension of a two-dimensional local field is 3.

The rest of the section is devoted to the proof of the proposition. We need the following lemma, an easy consequence of [7, Chap. I, §2, Theorem 2].

Lemma 4.5. *Let K be a 2-dimensional local field and p a prime number. Suppose that K contains a primitive p -th root of unity. Then the canonical homomorphism*

$$H^r(K, \mu_p^{\otimes 2}) \rightarrow H_{3-r}(K, \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$$

is bijective for $r = 0, 1, 2$.

By using the standard arguments on the restriction and the corestriction maps for the Galois cohomology, we may assume that the field L contains a primitive p -th root of unity.

First we prove $\text{Ker } \omega_2^* = \text{Coker } \omega_2^* = 0$.

Consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & H^0(L, \mu_p^{\otimes 2}) & \longrightarrow & H^1(L, \mathbb{Z}(2)) & \xrightarrow{p} & H^1(L, \mathbb{Z}(2)) \\ & & \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow \omega_2^* & & \downarrow \omega_2^* \\ & & H_3(L, \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}) & \longrightarrow & H_2(L, \mathbb{Z}) & \longrightarrow & H_2(L, \mathbb{Z}), \end{array}$$

where the upper and lower horizontal sequences are both exact. From this diagram, $\text{Ker } \omega_2^*$ is p -torsion-free. Since the group $\text{Ker } \omega_2^*$ is a torsion group, $\text{Ker } \omega_2^* = 0$. The homomorphism $H_3(L, \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H_2(L, \mathbb{Z})$ in the diagram is also injective. Thus, we may conclude $\text{Coker } \omega_2^*$ is p -torsion-free, and therefore, we have $\text{Coker } \omega_2^* = 0$. (The group $H_2(L, \mathbb{Z})$ is also a torsion group.)

Next we prove that the group $\text{Ker } \omega_1^*$ is uniquely p -divisible. Consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & H^1(L, \mathbb{Z}(2))/p & \longrightarrow & H^1(L, \mu_p^{\otimes 2}) & \longrightarrow & K_2K_p & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & H_2(L, \mathbb{Z})/p & \longrightarrow & H_2(L, \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}) & \longrightarrow & H_1(L, \mathbb{Z})_p & \longrightarrow & 0. \end{array}$$

Here the fact that the left vertical arrow is an isomorphism can be deduced from the vanishing of $\text{Ker } \omega_2^*$ and $\text{Coker } \omega_2^*$. From an investigation of the preceding diagram we see that the map $K_2K_p \rightarrow H_1(L, \mathbb{Z})_p$ is an isomorphism. On the other hand, by considering the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & K_2K_p & \longrightarrow & K_2K & \xrightarrow{p} & K_2K \\ & & \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow \omega_1^* & & \downarrow \omega_1^* \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & H_1(L, \mathbb{Z})_p & \longrightarrow & H_1(L, \mathbb{Z}) & \longrightarrow & H_1(L, \mathbb{Z}), \end{array}$$

we can conclude that the groups $\text{Ker } \omega_1^*$ and $\text{Coker } \omega_1^*$ are p -torsion-free.

The divisibility of $\text{Ker } \omega_1^*$ can be deduced from [2, §2.6, Corollary].

Finally, the divisibility of the group $\text{Coker } \omega_1^*$ can be deduced from Lemma 4.5.

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