

MONOMIAL ACTIONS OF THE SYMMETRIC GROUP.

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Abstract:

Let F be a field, and let G be a finite group. A rational extension of F on which G acts purely monomially, is of the form $F(M)$ for some ZG -lattice M , where $F(M)$ is the quotient field of the group algebra of the abelian group M . It follows from work of Endo-Miyata, Swan, and Lenstra, that G -faithful ZG -lattices are in the same flasque class if and only if they have G -isomorphic corresponding fields. We investigate the stable rationality of $F(M)^G$ over F , when G is S_p , the Symmetric group on p letters and p is a prime. Thus the study of flasque classes of ZS_p -lattices plays a fundamental role in this investigation. Let N be the normalizer of a p -syllow subgroup of S_p . We show that there are classes of ZS_p -lattices for which induction restriction from N to S_p , does not affect the flasque class. We also present sufficient conditions for the flasque class of a ZS_p -lattice to be zero, which implies that the corresponding fixed field is stably rational over F . In particular we study the flasque class of a specific lattice, G_p , which has the property that $F(G_p)^{S_p}$ is stably isomorphic to the center of the division ring of generic matrices, $[F]$. Let \hat{M} denote the p -adic completion of a ZS_p -lattice M . We show that any ZS_p -lattice M having the property that $M_q \cong (G_p)_q$ as Z_qG -lattices for all primes $q \neq p$, and that $\hat{M} \cong \hat{G}_p$ as $\hat{Z}N$ -lattices, is in the flasque class of G_p . For a finite group G , lattices in the same genus are not in general in the same flasque class, however they are for $G=S_n$. We extend this to a larger class of ZS_p -lattices containing the genus of G_p .¹

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Introduction:

This paper is in part a continuation of the investigation started in [B3], of the stable rationality of the center of the ring of $n \times n$ generic matrices over the complex numbers. Let G be a finite group, and let K be a field on which G acts as a group of automorphisms, possibly trivially. Let $K(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ be a rational extension of K . A monomial action of G on $K(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is defined by $g x_i = k_i x_1^{a_{i1}} \dots x_n^{a_{in}}$, where $g \in G$, and the matrix (a_{ij}) is an invertible matrix with integer entries, and $k_i \in K$. The action is said to be purely monomial if $k_i = 1$ for all i . If a group G acts on $K(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ purely monomially, and if we let M be the ZG -lattice with Z -basis $\{m_1, \dots, m_n\}$, where g acts on x_i as on m_i , then $K(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is isomorphic to $K(M)$, the quotient field of the group algebra $K[M]$, and the isomorphism respects the G -actions. Conversely if M is a ZG -lattice, then $K(M)$ has a purely monomial G -action.

Let F be a field and let C_n denote the center of the division ring of $n \times n$ generic matrices over F . It was shown in [F], that C_n is stably isomorphic over F , to the fixed field under the action of S_n of $F(G_n)$, where G_n is a specific ZS_n -lattice, which we define below. Thus the question of the stable rationality of C_n is a special case of the problem of finding invariants of fields on which a group acts purely monomially. Let $G = S_p$, the symmetric group on p symbols where p is a prime. In this paper we consider purely monomial actions on rational extensions of F , that is fields of the form $F(M)$, where M is a ZG -lattice and G acts trivially on F . It follows directly from work of Endo-Miyata [EM1], Lenstra [L], and Swan [S], that for any finite group G and any G -faithful ZG -lattices M and M' , $F(M)$ and $F(M')$ are stably isomorphic as G -fields if and only if M and M' are in the same flasque class, Theorem 1.1. Thus the study of flasque classes of ZG -lattices is the starting point in this investigation.

We present our results on this question in section 1. Let N be the normalizer of a p -syllow subgroup of G . Thus N is the semi-direct product of a group of order p by a cyclic group of order $p-1$. In Theorem 1.4, which is a generalization of [B3,

Proposition 2.4], we describe a class of ZG -lattices M for which induction-restriction from N to G preserves the flasque class; the flasque class of M will depend on the localization of M at all primes $q \neq p$.

In Theorem 1.6, we apply these results to the flasque class of G_p . We let \hat{M} denote the p -adic completion of a ZG -lattice M . We show that any ZG -lattice M having the property that $M_q \cong (G_p)_q$ as ZG -lattices, and that $\hat{M} \cong \hat{G}_p$ as $\hat{Z}N$ -lattices, is in the flasque class of G_p . Thus $F(M)^G$ is stably isomorphic to C_p , the center of the division ring of $p \times p$ generic matrices. For a finite group G , lattices in the same genus are not in general in the same flasque class, however they are if G is the symmetric group. Theorem 1.6 extends this to a larger class of ZG -lattices containing the genus of G_p . In Theorems 1.7 and 1.8, we present sufficient conditions for flasque classes to be 0, which implies that the corresponding fixed fields are stably rational over F .

Section 2 is devoted to finding the decomposition of \hat{G}_p into indecomposables - $\hat{Z}N$ -modules. The main result, Theorem 2.3, gives a characterization of all invertible ZG -lattices in the flasque class of G_p up to stable isomorphism, that is isomorphism up to permutation modules.

Section 1:

Let G be a finite group. Flasque classes of ZG -lattices play an important role in this problem; they are defined as follows. The ZG -lattices M and M' are said to be equivalent if there exist permutation modules P and P' such that $M \oplus P \cong M' \oplus P'$. This defines an equivalence relation on the category of ZG -lattices. The equivalence class of a ZG -lattice M will be denoted by $[M]$. The set of equivalence classes of ZG -lattices forms an abelian monoid under the direct sum. Lattices equivalent to 0 are said to be stably permutation. These are lattices M for which there exist permutation modules P and R such that $M \oplus P \cong R$.

For all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $H^n(G, M)$ will denote the n th Tate cohomology group of G with coefficients in M . A ZG -lattice M is flasque $H^{-1}(H, M) = 0$ for all subgroups H of G . A flasque resolution of a ZG -lattice M is an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow P \rightarrow E \rightarrow 0$$

with P permutation and E flasque. It follows directly from [EM1, Lemma 1.1], that for any ZG -lattice M , there exist such a flasque resolution. The flasque class of M is defined to be $[E]$. Lattices whose flasque class is 0 are said to be quasi-permutation. These are lattices for which there exists a ZG -exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow P \rightarrow R \rightarrow 0$$

with P and R permutation.

Throughout the rest of this paper we adopt the following notation unless otherwise specified.

- $G = S_p$, where p is prime.
- $H = p$ -sylow subgroup of G , so H is cyclic of order p .
- $a =$ primitive $(p-1)$ st root of 1 mod p .
- $N = N_G(H)$ will be the normalizer of H in G , so $N = H \rtimes \langle C \rangle$, where C is cyclic of order $p-1$.
- H will be generated by h , C by c , and we have $chc^{-1} = h^a$.
- For any finite group G , and for any ZG -lattice M , we will denote by $\phi(M)$ or $\phi_G(M)$ the flasque class of M .
- For any finite group G and any ZG -lattice M , \hat{M} will denote the p -adic completion of M , and for any prime q , M_q will denote the localization of M at q .

Definition:

Let Q be the field of rational numbers. Let G be a finite group, and let M be a ZG -lattice. The Q -class of M is the set of ZG -lattices M' such that $QM = QM'$.

Definition:

Let L and K be fields and let G be a finite subgroup of their automorphisms groups. L and K are said to be isomorphic (stably isomorphic) as G -fields if they are isomorphic (stably isomorphic) and the isomorphism respects their G -actions.

Theorem 1.1:

Let G be a finite group and let M and M' be G -faithful ZG -lattices. Then $F(M)$ and $F(M')$ are stably isomorphic as G -fields if and only if M and M' are in the same flasque class.

Proof:

By [B3, Lemma 2.1], $\phi(M) = \phi(M')$ implies that $F(M)$ and $F(M')$ are stably isomorphic as G -fields. To prove the converse, assume that $F(M)$ and $F(M')$ are stably isomorphic as G -fields. Then so are $F(ZG \oplus M)$ and $F(ZG \oplus M')$. Let $L = F(ZG)$. The following is an adaptation of the proof of [L, Theorem 1.7].

There exist G -trivial indeterminates y_i , which are algebraically independent over $L(M)$ and G -trivial interdeterminates z_i , which are algebraically independent over $L(M')$, such that

$$L(M)(y_1, \dots, y_t) \cong L(M')(z_1, \dots, z_r).$$

Let $R_1 = L[M][y_1, \dots, y_t]$ and $R_2 = L[M'][z_1, \dots, z_r]$. By [S, Lemma 8], there exists elements $a_1 \in R_1^G$ and $a_2 \in R_2^G$ such that $R_1[a_1^{-1}]$ and $R_2[a_2^{-1}]$ are isomorphic as L -algebras. By [S, Lemma 7], we have ZG -exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow R_1^* \rightarrow R_1[a_1^{-1}]^* \rightarrow P \rightarrow 0$$

$$0 \rightarrow R_2^* \rightarrow R_2[a_2^{-1}]^* \rightarrow S \rightarrow 0$$

where P and S are ZG - permutation. Thus we obtain ZG -exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow R_1^* / L^* \rightarrow R_1[a_1^{-1}]^* / L^* \rightarrow P \rightarrow 0$$

$$0 \rightarrow R_2^* / L^* \rightarrow R_2[a_2^{-1}]^* / L^* \rightarrow S \rightarrow 0$$

Since $R_1^* / L^* \cong M$ and $R_2^* / L^* \cong M'$, we have that $\phi(M) = \phi(M')$ by [CTS, Lemma 8, section 1].

We now define the lattice G_p mentioned in the introduction. Let U be the ZG -lattice with Z -basis $\{u_i : 1, \dots, p\}$ with G -action given by $gu_i = u_{g(i)}$ for g in G . Let A be the kernel of the map $U \rightarrow Z$ which sends the u_i to 1. Then G_p is defined to be $A \otimes_Z A$ and by [F, Theorem 3], $F(G_p)^G$ is stably isomorphic to the center of the ring of $p \times p$ generic matrices.

Corollary 1.2:

The classes $[G_p]$ and $[ZG \otimes_{ZN} G_p]$ of the ZG -lattices G_p and $ZG \otimes_{ZN} G_p$ are equal. In particular G_p and $ZG \otimes_{ZN} G_p$ are in the same flasque class.

Proof:

By [B3, Theorem 2.6], $F(G_p)$ and $F(ZG \otimes_{ZN} G_p)$ are isomorphic as G -fields. By Theorem 1.1 this implies that the flasque classes of G_p and $ZG \otimes_{ZN} G_p$ are equal. By [CTS, Lemma 8, section 1] this is equivalent to the existence of ZG -exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow G_p \rightarrow E \rightarrow P \rightarrow 0$$

and

$$0 \rightarrow ZG \otimes_{ZN} G_p \rightarrow E \rightarrow R \rightarrow 0.$$

with P and R permutation. By [BL, Proposition 3, section 3.1] G_p is invertible, and hence so is $ZG \otimes_{ZN} G_p$. Therefore these sequences split by [CTS, Lemma 9, section 1], and we have

$$E \cong G_p \oplus P \cong ZG \otimes_{ZN} G_p \oplus R.$$

Hence $[G_p] = [ZG \otimes_{ZN} G_p]$.

Lemma 1.3:

Let M and M' be ZG-lattices in the same Q-class. If there exists a ZG-exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow M' \rightarrow L \rightarrow 0.$$

where L is cohomologically trivial, then $[M] = [M']$. Consequently $\phi(M) = \phi(M')$.

Proof:

There exists a ZG-exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Pr} \rightarrow \text{Fr} \rightarrow L \rightarrow 0$$

with Fr free. Since both Fr and L are cohomologically trivial, so is Pr . By [BK, Theorem 8.10, Chapter VI], Pr is ZG-projective. We now form the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & & 0 & & 0 & \\
 & & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & \\
 0 & \rightarrow & M & \rightarrow & M' & \rightarrow & L \rightarrow 0 \\
 & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 0 & \rightarrow & M & \rightarrow & E & \rightarrow & \text{Fr} \rightarrow 0 \\
 & & & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 & & & & \text{Pr} & \rightarrow & \text{Pr} \\
 & & & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 & & & & 0 & & 0
 \end{array}$$

where E is the pullback of the maps $M' \rightarrow L$ and $\text{Fr} \rightarrow L$. Since Pr and Fr are projective, and since projectives are injectives in the category of ZG-lattices, we get $M \oplus \text{Fr} \cong M' \oplus \text{Pr}$. Now by [EM2, Theorem 3.3] Fr and Pr are stably permutation since $G=S_p$, thus M and M' are in the same class, and a fortiori in the same flasque class.

The following theorem is a generalization of [B3, proposition 2.4]. It describes a class of lattices for which induction-restriction from N to G preserves the flasque class.

Remark:

- Note that since $G=S_p$, every ZG -lattice is in the Q -class of a stably permutation lattice.
- Let G be any finite group, and let H be a subgroup of G . Let R be a ring, and let M be a RG -module. Let $\{g_i : i, \dots, [G:H]\}$ be a transversal for H in G . The map

$$\begin{aligned} RG/H \otimes_R M &\rightarrow RG \otimes_{RH} \text{Res}_H^G M \\ \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} \bar{g}_i \otimes m_j &\rightarrow \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} g_i \otimes g_i^{-1} m_j \end{aligned}$$

for $a_{ij} \in Z$ and $m_j \in M$, is an isomorphism of RG -modules.

Theorem 1.4:

Let $N=H \triangleright \triangleleft C$ be the normalizer of a p -Sylow subgroup H of G . Let M be a ZG -lattice and let R be a stably permutation ZG -lattice in the Q -class of M . If for each prime $q \neq p$, the q -primary component of R/M is cohomologically trivial then

$$\phi(M) = \phi(ZG \otimes_{ZN} M).$$

Consequently $F(M)$ and $F(ZG \otimes_{ZN} M)$ are stably isomorphic as G -fields.

Proof:

Since $QM = QR$ for some stably permutation ZG -lattice R , we have a ZG -exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow R \rightarrow L \rightarrow 0, \quad (1)$$

with $R/M = L$ finite. Since L is a finite abelian group, it is isomorphic to the direct sum of its primary components. So $L = \bigoplus_{q \text{ prime}} L_q$. Let $L' = (\bigoplus_{q \text{ prime}, q \neq p} L_q)$.

Now consider the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & 0 & & 0 & & \\ & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \\ & & L_p & \rightarrow & L_p & & \\ & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \\ 0 \rightarrow & M & \rightarrow & R & \rightarrow & L & \rightarrow 0 \\ & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & \\ 0 \rightarrow & M & \rightarrow & M' & \rightarrow & L' & \rightarrow 0 \\ & & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & \\ & & & 0 & & 0 & \end{array}$$

Here M' is the pullback of the maps $R \rightarrow L$ and $L' \rightarrow L$. Since the q -primary component of L is cohomologically trivial for each prime $q \neq p$, L' is cohomologically trivial by [BK, Corollary 10.2, and Theorem 10.3, Chapter III] and by Lemma 1.3, $\phi_G(M) = \phi_G(M')$. Thus it suffices to assume that $L = L_p$. Let $S = \mathbb{Z}/p^r\mathbb{Z}$ where p^r is the exponent of L . Tensoring sequence (1) by ZG over $\mathbb{Z}N$ we obtain

$$0 \rightarrow ZG \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}N} M \rightarrow ZG \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}N} R \rightarrow SG \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}N} L \rightarrow 0. \quad (2)$$

Now let $I_{G/N}$ be the kernel of the augmentation map $\mathbb{Z}_p G/N \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$, and let $I = I_{G/N}/p^r I_{G/N}$. Since $[G:N]$ is prime to p we have that

$$\mathbb{Z}_p G/N = \mathbb{Z}_p \oplus I_{G/N}, \quad \text{and} \quad SG/N = S \oplus I,$$

By Mackey's subgroup theorem [CR, Theorem 10.13], $\text{Res}_H^G \mathbb{Z}G/N = \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}H^m$ for some positive integer m , hence $I_{G/N} \cong \mathbb{Z}_p H^m$ as a $\mathbb{Z}_p H$ -lattice by [CR, Theorem 36.1]. Therefore $I \cong SH^m$ as an SH -module and hence as a ZH -module, where the ZH -action is via the ring map

$$ZH \rightarrow SH.$$

Now $I \otimes L \cong SH^m \otimes L \cong (SH \otimes_S L)^m$ and by the remark preceding the theorem, $SH \otimes_S L \cong SH \otimes_S \text{Res}_{\{1\}}^H L$ as SH -modules. Now as an abelian group, $L \cong \bigoplus_{i=1, \dots, r} (\mathbb{Z}/p^i \mathbb{Z})^{a_i}$. Therefore $I \otimes L \cong (SH \otimes_S L)^m \cong \bigoplus_{i=1, \dots, r} ((\mathbb{Z}/p^i \mathbb{Z})H)^{ma_i}$ as a SH -module and hence as a ZH -module. For each $i=1, \dots, r$, there exists a ZH -exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow ZH \rightarrow ZH \rightarrow ((\mathbb{Z}/p^i \mathbb{Z})H) \rightarrow 0$$

where the map $ZH \rightarrow ZH$ is multiplication by p^i . Thus we get a ZH -exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow ZH^k \rightarrow ZH^k \rightarrow I \otimes L \rightarrow 0,$$

where $k = m \sum_i a_i$.

Taking its cohomology, we see that $I \otimes L$ is cohomologically trivial as a ZH -lattice. For any integer n and any subgroup K of G , $H^n(K, I \otimes L)$ injects into $H^n(H, I \otimes L)$ since $I \otimes L$ is of p -power-order by [BK, Corollary 10.2, and Theorem 10.3, Chapter III]. Since $H^n(H, I \otimes L) = 0$, $I \otimes L$ is ZG -cohomologically trivial.

We now write sequence (2) as

$$0 \rightarrow ZG \otimes_{Z_N} M \rightarrow ZG \otimes_{Z_N} R \rightarrow L \oplus I \otimes L \rightarrow 0. \quad (2)$$

and consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M' \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow I \otimes L \rightarrow 0 \text{ with } M'' \text{ free.} \quad (3)$$

Since M'' and $L \otimes I$ are cohomologically-trivial so is M' , thus M' is ZG -projective by [BK, Theorem 8.10, Chapter VI], and by [EM2, Theorem 3.3] it is stably permutation. We add the sequences (1), (3) and form a commutative diagram with (2),

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & 0 & & 0 & & \\
 & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \\
 0 \rightarrow & ZG \otimes_{Z_N} M & \rightarrow & ZG \otimes_{Z_N} R & \rightarrow & L \oplus I \otimes L & \rightarrow 0 \\
 & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & \\
 0 \rightarrow & ZG \otimes_{Z_N} M & \rightarrow & M_3 & \rightarrow & R \oplus M'' & \rightarrow 0 \\
 & & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & \\
 & & & M' \oplus M & \rightarrow & M \oplus M' & \rightarrow 0 \\
 & & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & \\
 & & & 0 & & 0 &
 \end{array}$$

where M_3 is the pullback of the maps $ZG \otimes_{Z_N} R \rightarrow L \oplus I \otimes L$ and $R \oplus M'' \rightarrow L \oplus I \otimes L$.

Since M'' and, R and consequently $ZG \otimes_{Z_N} R$, are stably permutation, we have by [CTS, Lemma 8, section 1]

$$\phi(M) \oplus \phi(M') = \phi(ZG \otimes_{Z_N} M).$$

Since M' is stably permutation, $\phi(M') = 0$, hence $\phi(M) = \phi(ZG \otimes_{Z_N} M)$. The last statement follows by Theorem 1.1.

Theorem 1.5:

Let M, M' and R be ZG -lattices and assume that R is stably permutation. Suppose that $M_q \cong M'_q \cong R_q$ for all primes $q \neq p$. If $\hat{M} \cong \hat{M}'$ as $\hat{Z}N$ -lattices, then $\phi_G(M) = \phi_G(M')$.

Proof:

Let $J = \{q \in Z^+ : q \text{ prime, } q \text{ divides } |G| \text{ and } q \neq p\}$. By [CR, Lemma 31.4] there exists a ZG -exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow R \rightarrow L \rightarrow 0$$

with L finite of order prime to each element of J , since $M_q \cong R_q$ for all primes $q \in J$. Let $L = L_p \oplus L'$, where L_p is the p -primary component of L . Then L' has order prime to the order of G , and hence L' is cohomologically trivial by [BK, Corollary 10.2, Chapter III]. By Theorem 1.4, we have $\phi_G(M) = \phi_G(ZG \otimes_{ZN} M)$ and by a similar argument $\phi_G(M') = \phi_G(ZG \otimes_{ZN} M')$.

By [CR, Theorem 30.17] $M_p \cong M'_p$ as $Z_p N$ -lattices, hence M and M' are in the same genus as ZN -lattices, and thus $ZG \otimes_{ZN} M$ and $ZG \otimes_{ZN} M'$ are in the same genus as ZG -lattices. By [BL, Proposition 2, section 2.3], $[ZG \otimes_{ZN} M] = [ZG \otimes_{ZN} M']$, therefore $\phi_G(ZG \otimes_{ZN} M) = \phi_G(ZG \otimes_{ZN} M')$, and $\phi_G(M) = \phi_G(M')$.

We now apply these results to the flasque class of the ZG -lattice G_p .

Theorem 1.6:

Let M be a ZG -lattice such that $M_q \cong (G_p)_q$ for all primes $q \neq p$, and such that $\hat{G}_p \cong \hat{M}$ as $\hat{Z}N$ -lattices. Then the flasque classes of M and G_p are equal.

Proof:

By Theorem 1.5, it suffices to show that there exist a stably permutation ZG-lattice R such that $(G_p)_q \cong R_q$ for all primes $q \neq p$. Recall that $G_p = A \otimes_Z A$, where the defining sequence of the ZG-lattice A is

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow U \rightarrow Z \rightarrow 0 \\ u_i \rightarrow 1 \end{aligned}$$

For all primes $q \neq p$, this sequence splits, with splitting map $1 \rightarrow (1/p)\Sigma u_i$. Thus

$$U_q \cong A_q \oplus Z_q$$

and

$$U_q \otimes A_q \cong A_q \otimes A_q \oplus A_q$$

Since $G_p = A \otimes A$, we have

$$U_q \otimes A_q \cong (G_p)_q \oplus A_q$$

Thus

$$U_q \otimes A_q \oplus Z_q \cong (G_p)_q \oplus U_q$$

From the definition of U , one sees directly that $U \cong ZG/S_{n-1}$ and that as an S_{n-1} -module A is permutation. Thus $U \otimes A$ is ZG-permutation.

Now for any ZG-lattice M let $M^* = \text{Hom}_Z(M, Z)$ be its dual. If M is permutation then M^* is isomorphic to M by [CR, Corollary 10.29]. Therefore

$$U_q \cong A_q \oplus Z_q \cong A_q^* \oplus Z_q$$

and hence $\hat{A}_q \cong \hat{A}_q^*$ for all primes $q \neq p$. By [CR, Proposition 30.17] this implies that $A_q \cong A_q^*$ for all primes $q \neq p$.

Now by [B3, Proposition 1.1], the lattice $B = A^* \otimes A$ has the property that

$$U \otimes A \oplus Z \cong B \oplus U$$

and hence it is stably permutation. Furthermore $B_q \cong (G_p)_q$ for all primes $q \neq p$, and the result is proved by taking $B = R$.

The following result gives a sufficient condition for an invertible lattice to be stably permutation. The point of interest is that this is a condition on the restriction to N of the Q -class of the lattice, and on its localization at primes $q \neq p$.

Theorem 1.7:

Let M be an invertible ZG -lattice. If $\text{Res}_N^G M$ is in the Q -class of a projective ZN -lattice, then $\phi_G(ZG \otimes_{ZN} M) = 0$, that is $ZG \otimes_{ZN} M$ is stably permutation. If also, for all primes $q \neq p$, the q -primary component of R/M is cohomologically trivial, where R is a stably permutation ZG -lattice in the Q -class of M , then $\phi_G(M) = 0$. Thus $F(M)^G$ is stably rational over F .

Proof:

We have a ZN -exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow \text{Pr} \rightarrow L \rightarrow 0$$

with Pr projective and L finite. We will now show that L is cohomologically trivial. Let q be a prime. By Swan's theorem [CR, Theorem 32.11], $Q\text{Pr} \cong QN^m$ for some positive integer m . So QM is QS -free for any q -Sylow subgroup S of N . Since M is invertible and N is metacyclic, M is in the genus of a free ZS -lattice for each S , by [B2, Theorem 1.1]. Hence M is ZN -cohomologically trivial by [BK, Corollary 10.2 and Theorem 10.3, Chapter III]. By [BK, Theorem 8.10, Chapter VI] M is ZN -projective. Therefore $ZG \otimes_{ZN} M$ is ZG -projective, and by [EM2, Theorem 3.3] it is stably permutation, so $\phi(ZG \otimes_{ZN} M) = 0$. If also, for all primes $q \neq p$, the q -primary component of R/M is cohomologically trivial, where R is a stably permutation ZG -lattice in the Q -class of M , then $\phi_G(M) = \phi_G(ZG \otimes_{ZN} M)$ by Theorem 1.4. Thus $\phi_G(M) = 0$. The last statement follows from [B3, Lemma 2.1].

Theorem 1.8:

If M is a ZN -lattice such that $M^H = M$ then $\phi(ZG \otimes_{ZN} M) = 0$.

Proof:

The structure of M as a ZN -lattice is given by its structure as a ZC -lattice, since $ZC \cong ZN/H$. A ZC -flasque resolution for M , is also a ZN -flasque resolution. Let

$$0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow P \rightarrow E \rightarrow 0$$

be this resolution. So P is ZC -permutation, and since E is flasque and C is cyclic, E is ZC -invertible by [EM2, Theorem 1.5]. Hence there exist an invertible module E' and a permutation module R , such that $E \oplus E' = R$. Adding E' to the last two terms of the sequence we get

$$0 \rightarrow M \rightarrow E' \oplus P \rightarrow R \rightarrow 0$$

By [CTS, Lemma 7, section 1], $\phi(M) = \phi(E')$. By [EM1, Proposition 3.1 and Theorem 3.3] there exist ZC -permutation modules V and V' and a projective ideal I in ZC such that

$$E' \oplus V \cong V' \oplus I.$$

So $\phi(E') = \phi(I)$. By Swan's theorem [CR1, Theorem 32.11] we have $I_q \cong Z_q C \cong Z_q N/H$ for all primes q . This implies that $ZG \otimes_{ZN} (E' \oplus V)$ is in the genus of a ZG -permutation module and by [BL, Proposition 2, section 2.3] $[ZG \otimes_{ZN} E'] = 0$, therefore $\phi(ZG \otimes_{ZN} M) = 0$.

Corollary 1.9:

If M is any ZN -lattice then $\phi(ZG \otimes_{ZN} M) = 0$.

Proof:

The same arguments as in the proof of Theorem 1.8 hold since we are inducing from C which is cyclic, up to G .

Section 2:

We will use the same notation as in section 1. So G is S_p , the symmetric group on p letters, and p is a prime. N is the normalizer of a p -Sylow subgroup H of G , thus N is the semi-direct product of H by a cyclic group C of order $p-1$. H is generated by h , C by c , and we have $chc^{-1} = h^a$, where a was defined to be a primitive $(p-1)$ st root of 1 mod p .

In section 1 we defined the ZG -lattice A by the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow U \rightarrow Z \rightarrow 0$$

Let $A^* = \text{Hom}(A, Z)$ be its dual. It is immediate from its definition that $U \cong ZG/S_{p-1}$, and that $\text{Res}_N^G U \cong ZH$. This isomorphism is given by

$$\begin{aligned} U &\rightarrow ZH \\ u_i &\rightarrow h^i \quad \text{for } i=1, \dots, p \end{aligned}$$

where H acts in the natural way and $c.h^i = h^{ai}$. It follows that $A \cong ZH(h-1)$ as a ZN -module. Moreover as a ZH -module A is the augmentation ideal of the group ring ZH , and since H is cyclic $A_p \cong A_p^*$ as $Z_p H$ -modules. Thus $Z_p N \otimes_{Z_p H} A_p \cong Z_p N \otimes_{Z_p H} A_p^*$. For each $k=1, \dots, p-1$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} A &\cong ZH(h-1) \cong ZH(h-1)^k \text{ as } ZH\text{-modules} \\ h^i(h-1) &\rightarrow h^i(h-1)^k. \end{aligned}$$

Since $ZN/H \cong ZC \cong Z[x]/(x^{p-1}-1)$ as ZN -lattices, the decomposition of $\hat{Z}N/H$ into indecomposables is given by

$$\hat{Z}N/H \cong \bigoplus_{k=1, \dots, p-1} \hat{Z}[x]/(x-\theta^k) \cong \bigoplus_{k=1, \dots, p-1} Z_k$$

where θ is a primitive $(p-1)$ st root of 1 in \hat{Z} which is congruent to a mod p , and Z_k is the trivial $\hat{Z}N$ -module of \hat{Z} rank 1 with trivial H action, and such that $c1 = \theta^k$.

Notation:

- For $k=1, \dots, p-1$, we set $A_k = \hat{Z}H(h-1)^k$.

- For $k=1, \dots, p-1$, we set $G_k = \hat{A}^* \otimes \hat{Z}H(h-1)^k$.
- For $k=1, \dots, p-1$, we set $X_k = Z_k/pZ_k$.

Theorem 2.1:

For each $k=1, \dots, p-1$ we have $\hat{A}^* \otimes Z_k \cong A_k$ and $G_k \cong \hat{A}^* \otimes A_k$.

Proof:

By [B3, Lemma 1.2] there exists a ZN-exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow A^* \rightarrow X \rightarrow 0 \quad (1)$$

Tensoring by Z_k , and using the fact that for each k , the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow ZH(h-1)^{k+1} \rightarrow ZH(h-1)^k \rightarrow X_k \rightarrow 0$$

is exact, with the map $ZH(h-1)^k \rightarrow X_k$ given by $(h-1)^k \rightarrow 1$, we get the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & 0 & & 0 & & \\
 & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \\
 0 & \rightarrow & \hat{A} \otimes Z_k & \rightarrow & \hat{A}^* \otimes Z_k & \rightarrow & X_k \rightarrow 0 \\
 & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 0 & \rightarrow & \hat{A} \otimes Z_k & \rightarrow & M & \rightarrow & \hat{Z}H(h-1)^k \rightarrow 0 \\
 & & & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 & & & & \hat{Z}H(h-1)^{k+1} & \rightarrow & \hat{Z}H(h-1)^{k+1} \\
 & & & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\
 & & & & 0 & & 0
 \end{array}$$

where M is the pullback of the maps $\hat{A}^* \otimes Z_k \rightarrow X_k$ and $\hat{Z}H(h-1)^k \rightarrow X_k$. We now show that $\text{Ext}_H^1(A, A) = 0$ which will imply that $\text{Ext}_H^1(\hat{A}, \hat{A}) = 0$ since H is of order p , and hence that $\text{Ext}_H^1(\hat{A} \otimes Z_k, \hat{Z}H(h-1)^{k+1}) = 0$. Consider the ZH-sequence

$$0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow ZH \rightarrow Z \rightarrow 0$$

We have

$$\dots \rightarrow \text{Ext}_H^1(ZH, A) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_H^1(A, A) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_H^2(Z, A) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_H^2(ZH, A) \rightarrow \dots$$

Since ZH is ZH -free this becomes

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Ext}_H^1(A, A) \rightarrow \text{Ext}_H^2(Z, A) \rightarrow 0.$$

But $\text{Ext}_H^2(Z, A) = H^2(H, A)$. Since H is cyclic $H^2(H, A) = H^0(H, A)$, and $H^0(H, A) = 0$, since $A^H = 0$. The middle vertical sequence splits since $\text{Ext}_N^1(\hat{A} \otimes Z_k, \hat{Z}H(h-1)^{k+1})$ injects into $\text{Ext}_H^1(\hat{A} \otimes Z_k, \hat{Z}H(h-1)^{k+1}) \cong \text{Ext}_H^1(\hat{A}, \hat{A}) = 0$. Similarly $\text{Ext}_N^1(\hat{Z}H(h-1)^{k+1}, \hat{A} \otimes Z_k) = 0$, so

$$\hat{A} \otimes Z_k \oplus \hat{Z}H(h-1)^k \cong \hat{A}^* \otimes Z_k \oplus \hat{Z}H(h-1)^{k+1}.$$

It is clear that $\hat{A} \otimes Z_k$ and $\hat{A} \otimes Z_{k+1}$ are not isomorphic as $\hat{Z}N$ -lattices. Since all these modules are indecomposable the Krull-Schmidt-Azumaya implies that $\hat{Z}H(h-1)^k \cong \hat{A}^* \otimes Z_k$. Thus $A_k \cong \hat{A}^* \otimes Z_k$. Tensoring by \hat{A}^* , we get $G_k = \hat{A}^* \otimes \hat{Z}H(h-1)^k \cong \hat{A}^* \otimes \hat{A}_k$.

Remark:

Under the above notation we have $\hat{A} \cong \hat{Z}H(h-1) \cong \hat{A}^* \otimes Z_1$. Recall that G_p , the ZG -lattice defined in section 1, having the property that the center C_p is stably isomorphic to $F(G_p)^G$, is equal to $A \otimes A$. Therefore $\hat{G}_p \cong \hat{A}^* \otimes Z_1 \otimes \hat{A}^* \otimes Z_1 \cong \hat{A}^* \otimes \hat{A}^* \otimes Z_2 \cong \hat{A}^* \otimes A_2 \cong G_2$.

We will denote the ZN -lattice $ZH(h-1)^2$ by A' .

Theorem 2.2:

- 1) Set $J = \hat{A}^* \otimes A'$. Then J and G_p are in the same genus as ZN -modules. Furthermore the fields $F(J \oplus A')$ and $F(ZN)$ are isomorphic as N -fields.
- 2) The field $F(ZG \otimes_{ZN}(G_p \oplus A'))^G$ is stably rational over F .
- 3) $\phi_G(ZG \otimes_{ZN} A') = [G_p]$.

Proof:

From the ZN -exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow ZH(h-1)^{k+1} \rightarrow ZH(h-1)^k \rightarrow X_k \rightarrow 0$$

we have that $A_q' \cong Z_q H(h-1)^2 \cong A_q$ for all primes q different from p , since X_k is of order p . Dualizing the defining sequence for A , we get $\mathbb{Z}N$ -sequence

$$0 \rightarrow Z \rightarrow U \rightarrow A^* \rightarrow 0$$

Tensoring by A' over Z we get

$$0 \rightarrow A' \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}N \rightarrow J \rightarrow 0 \quad (1)$$

We have $J_q \cong A_q^* \otimes A_q \cong A_q \otimes A_q \cong A_q^* \otimes A_q' \cong (G_p)_q$ for all primes q different from p , and by Theorem 2.1 $\hat{G}_p \cong \hat{J}$, therefore J and G_p are in the same genus. This implies that J is invertible by [B1, Theorem A]. By applying [B3, Lemma 2.1] to sequence (1) we get $F(J \oplus A')$ and $F(\mathbb{Z}N)$ are isomorphic as N -fields. This proves 1).

Tensoring (1) by ZG over $\mathbb{Z}N$ we obtain

$$0 \rightarrow ZG \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}N} A' \rightarrow ZG \rightarrow ZG \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}N} J \rightarrow 0. \quad (2)$$

By [B3, Lemma 2.1], $F(ZG)$ and $F(ZG \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}N} (J \oplus A'))$ are stably isomorphic as G -fields. Since J and G_p are in the same genus as $\mathbb{Z}N$ -lattices, $ZG \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}N} J$ and $ZG \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}N} G_p$ are in the same class, by [BL, Propostion 2, section 2.3]. Therefore $F(ZG)$ and $F(ZG \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}N} (G_p \oplus A'))$ are stably isomorphic as G -fields. Again by [B3, Lemma 2.1] $F(ZG \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}N} (G_p \oplus A'))^G$ is stably rational over F . This proves 2).

Finally from sequence (2) we have $\phi(ZG \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}N} A') = [ZG \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}N} J] = [ZG \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}N} G_p] = [G_p]$.

Notation:

For $k=1, \dots, p-1$, let $U_k = \hat{U} \otimes Z_k$. Under this notation $\hat{U} = U_{p-1}$.

Theorem 2.3:

The decomposition of \hat{G}_p into indecomposable $\hat{Z}N$ -modules is given by

$$\hat{G}_p \cong \bigoplus_{k=1, \dots, p-2} U_k \oplus Z_1$$

Any invertible ZG -lattice in the flasque class of G_p will have the same $\hat{Z}N$ -decomposition up to stable isomorphism, that is isomorphism modulo permutation modules.

Proof:

We have $U \cong \mathbb{Z}N/C$ as a $\mathbb{Z}N$ -lattice, and $U \otimes A \cong \mathbb{Z}N \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}C} \text{Res}^N_C A$. A \mathbb{Z} -basis for A is $\{h^i - 1 : i=1, \dots, p-1\}$ and this basis is permuted by C . It follows directly that A is $\mathbb{Z}C$ -free. Thus

$$U \otimes A \cong \mathbb{Z}N \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}C} \text{Res}^N_C A \cong \mathbb{Z}N \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}C} \mathbb{Z}C \cong \mathbb{Z}N.$$

Let $B = A^* \otimes A$. By Theorem 2.2, \hat{B} is isomorphic to G_1 as a $\hat{\mathbb{Z}}N$ -module. By [B3, Proposition 1.1], we have $B \oplus U \cong U \otimes A \oplus \mathbb{Z}$ as $\mathbb{Z}G$ -lattices. Thus as $\hat{\mathbb{Z}}N$ -lattices

$$G_1 \oplus U_0 \cong \hat{\mathbb{Z}} \oplus \hat{\mathbb{Z}}N$$

Tensoring by Z_1 over \mathbb{Z} , we get

$$G_2 \oplus U_1 \cong Z_1 \oplus \hat{\mathbb{Z}}N$$

or equivalently

$$\hat{G}_p \oplus U_1 \cong Z_1 \oplus \hat{\mathbb{Z}}N.$$

Since $\hat{\mathbb{Z}}N \cong \hat{\mathbb{Z}}H \otimes \hat{\mathbb{Z}}C \cong \hat{U} \otimes (\bigoplus_{k=1, \dots, p-1} \mathbb{Z}Z_k) \cong \bigoplus_{k=1, \dots, p-1} U_k$, we have

$$\hat{G}_p \cong \bigoplus_{k=1, \dots, p-2} U_k \oplus Z_1.$$

For the second statement note that since G_p is invertible by [BL, Proposition 3, section 3.1], $\phi(G_p) = -[G_p]$. If I is an invertible $\mathbb{Z}G$ -lattice in the flasque class of G_p , then $\phi(I) = -[I] = \phi(G_p) = -[G_p]$, hence $[G_p] = [I]$. Thus there exist permutation $\mathbb{Z}G$ -lattices P and R such that

$$G_p \oplus P \cong I \oplus R.$$

and the result follows.

It is of interest to note that all summands in this decomposition are $\hat{Z}N$ -projective except Z_1 which is H-trivial. However, by Theorems 1.7 and 1.8 we know that there can be no ZG -lattice M in the flasque class of G_p such that $\text{Res}_N^G \hat{M}$ is the sum of a projective lattice and an H-trivial lattice, since $\phi(G_p) \neq 0$ for $p \geq 5$ by [BL, Corollary 1, section 3.2].

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