

ON THE BRAUER GROUP AND THE CUP PRODUCT MAP

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ABSTRACT. This article is concerned with the cup product map

$$\mu : H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow {}_n B(X).$$

Under certain conditions we describe the image and kernel of μ for the spectrum of $k[x_1, \dots, x_v, f^{-1}]$ and for a fiber product space.

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Throughout X will be a connected scheme over $\mathbb{Z}[1/n][\omega]$ where $n > 1$ is an integer and ω is a primitive n -th root of unity. We denote by $B(X)$ the Brauer group of X and by $B'(X)$ the cohomological Brauer group of X [13]. For any abelian group A we let ${}_n A$ denote the subgroup of A annihilated by n . All cohomology and sheaves are for the étale topology. Let G_m denote the sheaf of units on X and μ_n the

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sheaf of n -th roots of unity. The sequence

$$(1) \quad 1 \rightarrow \mu_n \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_m \xrightarrow{n} \mathbb{G}_m \rightarrow 1$$

is exact. Since $\Gamma(X, \mathbb{G}_m)$ contains ω , μ_n is (non-canonically) isomorphic to the constant sheaf \mathbb{Z}/n . The long exact sequence of cohomology associated to (1) is

$$(2) \quad 1 \rightarrow \mu_n \rightarrow \Gamma(X, \mathbb{G}_m) \xrightarrow{n} \Gamma(X, \mathbb{G}_m) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow \text{Pic } X \xrightarrow{n} \text{Pic } X \\ \rightarrow H^2(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow B'(X) \xrightarrow{n} B'(X) \rightarrow \dots$$

where we have identified $\text{Pic } X = H^1(X, \mathbb{G}_m)$ and $B'(X) = \text{tors}(H^2(X, \mathbb{G}_m))$. If X is affine, it is known that $B(X) = B'(X)$ under the natural map $B(X) \rightarrow H^2(X, \mathbb{G}_m)$ [11], [17]. The cup product map [21, V.1.17]

$$H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow H^2(X, \mathbb{Z}/n)$$

followed by the homomorphism

$$H^2(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow {}_n B'(X)$$

defines a homomorphism

$$(3) \quad \mu : H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow {}_n B'(X)$$

which will also be called cup product.

This article is concerned with the study of the map μ . If X is the spectrum of a field k this problem has been completely solved by Merkurjev [19], [22] if $n = 2$ and by Merkurjev and Suslin [20] for all $n > 1$. For $\text{Spec } k$, μ is always surjective and $\ker \mu$ is the Steinberg relation group of k . In [3] L. Childs shows that if R is the ring of

algebraic integers in a number field, then ${}_n\mathbf{B}(R)$ is not always generated by $\text{im } \mu$.

The group $\mathbf{H}^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/n)$ classifies Galois covers of X with group \mathbb{Z}/n . It is known that μ corresponds to taking the smash product of two cyclic Galois covers of X [12]. Since the smash product of cyclic Galois extensions is an Azumaya algebra, $\text{im } \mu \subseteq {}_n\mathbf{B}(X)$. When $n = 2$ it is shown in [7] that μ is intimately connected to the group structure of the Brauer-Wall group $\mathbf{BW}(X)$ and the Brauer-Long group $\mathbf{BD}(X, \mathbb{Z}/2)$. To compute $\mathbf{BD}(X, \mathbb{Z}/2)$ it suffices to compute $\mathbf{B}(X)$, $\mathbf{H}^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/2)$, and the cup product map μ .

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First we consider rings of the form $R = k[x_1, \dots, x_v, f^{-1}]$. If f factors into linear polynomials, Theorem 1 shows μ is onto and $\ker \mu$ is described. Examples 2 and 3 illustrate that this is not the case in general.

Let Y_0, \dots, Y_m be distinct hyperplanes in \mathbb{P}^v , $v > 1$. Let $Y = Y_0 \cup \dots \cup Y_m$. Let P denote the singular set of Y , $P = \{Y_i \cap Y_j \mid i \neq j\}$. Write $P = p_1 \cup \dots \cup p_s$ where the p_i are the irreducible components of P . Each p_i is a linear subvariety of \mathbb{P}^v of codimension 2, hence is isomorphic to \mathbb{P}^{v-2} . Define a graph Γ associated to Y . The vertices of Γ are the hyperplanes Y_0, \dots, Y_m and the varieties p_1, \dots, p_s . There is an edge connecting Y_i and p_j if and only if p_j is a subvariety of Y_i . The graph Γ is bipartite and connected. We orient Γ by taking the positive end of an edge E the Y_i and the negative end the p_j . Let e be the number of edges.

Theorem 1. [10, Theorem 1] *Let k be an algebraically closed field of characteristic p . Let f_1, \dots, f_m be linear polynomials in $k[x_1, \dots, x_v]$ and*

$$R = k[x_1, \dots, x_v][f_1^{-1}, \dots, f_m^{-1}].$$

Let Y_0 be the hyperplane at infinity and Y_1, \dots, Y_m the complete hyperplanes in \mathbb{P}^v defined by f_1, \dots, f_m . Assume that the Y_i are distinct. Let $Y = Y_0 \cup \dots \cup Y_m$ and Γ the graph of Y . Then modulo p -groups $B(R) = \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}^{(r)}$ where $r = e - m - s$ is the rank of the cycle space of Γ . The cup product map

$$\mu : H^1(R, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes H^1(R, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow {}_n B(R)$$

is surjective for all n relatively prime to p and $\ker \mu$ is generated by

$$\{f_i \otimes f_j | Y_i \cap Y_0 = Y_j \cap Y_0\} \cup \{(f_i \otimes f_j)(f_j \otimes f_i)(f_i \otimes f_i)^{-1} | Y_i \cap Y_i = Y_j \cap Y_i\}.$$

Example 2. Let $k = \mathbb{C}$ be the field of complex numbers. Choose four points in the affine plane over k not all on a conic of the form $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ and no three on a line. Choose four conics A, B, C, D each with equation of the form $y = ax^2 + bx + c$, each passing through exactly three of the above points, no two conics containing the same three points. Let $R = k[x, y][\alpha^{-1}, \beta^{-1}, \gamma^{-1}, \delta^{-1}]$ where $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$ are the polynomials in $k[x, y]$ corresponding to A, B, C, D . In [10] it is shown that $H^1(R, \mathbb{Z}/2) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{(4)}$, ${}_2 B(R) = (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{(8)}$ and $\text{im } \mu \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{(5)}$. Thus μ is not surjective.

Example 3. Let k be an algebraically closed field and n relatively prime to the characteristic of k . Let $f = x^n - y^{n-1}z$ and $R = k[x, y, z, f^{-1}]$. In [10] it is shown that $H^1(R, \mathbb{Z}/n) \cong \mathbb{Z}/n$, $B(R) \cong \mathbb{Z}/n$ and μ is the zero map.

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Now we consider fiber product spaces. In Example 4 we see that the Brauer group of a Laurent polynomial ring is generated by cup products and the Brauer group of the base ring. Corollary 6, a Künneth formula for the Brauer group, gives sufficient conditions for ${}_n\mathbf{B}'(X \times Y)$ to be generated by ${}_n\mathbf{B}'(X)$, ${}_n\mathbf{B}'(Y)$, and cup products.

Example 4. Suppose R is a $\mathbb{Z}[1/n][\omega]$ -algebra and $\text{Spec}R$ is connected. Let t be an indeterminate. In [9] it is shown

$$(4) \quad {}_n\mathbf{B}(R[t, 1/t]) \cong {}_n\mathbf{B}(R) \oplus (\mathbf{H}^1(R, \mathbb{Z}/n)/(C/nC))$$

where $C = \text{Pic}R[t, 1/t]/\text{Pic}R$. The homomorphism $\mathbf{H}^1(R, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow {}_n\mathbf{B}(R)$ is induced (non-canonically) by taking the smash product of a cyclic Galois extension L with the cyclic extension $R[t, 1/t][t^{1/n}]$. Therefore ${}_n\mathbf{B}(R[t, 1/t])$ is generated by ${}_n\mathbf{B}(R)$ and $\text{im}\mu$. If R contains an algebraically closed field, this is a special case of Corollary 6.

Theorem 5. [21, VI.8.25] and [4, Th. finitude, 1.11]. *Let X and Y be schemes of finite type over the separably closed field k . Let n be relatively prime to the characteristic of k . Let F and G be sheaves of \mathbb{Z}/n -modules on X and Y respectively. The Künneth map*

$$(5) \quad R\Gamma(X, F) \otimes^L R\Gamma(Y, G) \rightarrow R\Gamma(X \times Y, F \boxtimes^L G)$$

is a quasi-isomorphism.

Corollary 6. *Let X and Y be connected schemes of finite type over the algebraically closed field k . Let $n > 1$ be relatively prime to the characteristic of k . Suppose $H^i(X, \mathbb{Z}/n)$ is a free \mathbb{Z}/n -module for $i > 0$. Then the following sequences are exact, where C is defined by the first sequence.*

$$(6) \quad 0 \rightarrow \text{Pic } X \oplus \text{Pic } Y \rightarrow \text{Pic } X \times Y \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$$

$$(7) \quad 0 \rightarrow C/nC \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes H^1(Y, \mathbb{Z}/n) \xrightarrow{\mu} {}_n B'(X \times Y) \rightarrow {}_n B'(X) \oplus {}_n B'(Y) \rightarrow 0$$

Proof. Because $H^i(X, \mathbb{Z}/n)$ is flat for $i > 0$, Theorem 5 gives

$$(8) \quad H^2(X \times Y, \mathbb{Z}/n) \cong \bigoplus_{p+q=2} H^p(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes H^q(Y, \mathbb{Z}/n)$$

Since k is algebraically closed the natural projections $X \times Y \rightarrow X$, $X \times Y \rightarrow Y$ admit sections. Therefore, the natural maps $B'(X) \oplus B'(Y) \rightarrow B'(X \times Y)$ and $\text{Pic } X \oplus \text{Pic } Y \rightarrow \text{Pic } X \times Y$ split. Let C be defined by (6). Then $\text{Pic } X \times Y \cong \text{Pic } X \oplus \text{Pic } Y \oplus C$ and $\text{Pic}(X \times Y)/n\text{Pic}(X \times Y) \cong \text{Pic } X/n\text{Pic } X \oplus \text{Pic } Y/n\text{Pic } Y \oplus C/nC$. Kummer theory (2) gives a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc}
0 & \longrightarrow & \frac{\text{Pic } Y}{n\text{Pic } Y} & \longrightarrow & \text{H}^2(Y, \mathbb{Z}/n) & \longrightarrow & {}_n\text{B}'(Y) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
(9) \quad 0 & \longrightarrow & \frac{\text{Pic } X \times Y}{n\text{Pic } X \times Y} & \longrightarrow & \text{H}^2(X \times Y, \mathbb{Z}/n) & \longrightarrow & {}_n\text{B}'(X \times Y) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
& & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & \frac{\text{Pic } X}{n\text{Pic } X} & \longrightarrow & \text{H}^2(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) & \longrightarrow & {}_n\text{B}'(X) & \longrightarrow & 0
\end{array}$$

with split vertical arrows and exact rows. From (9) we have the exact sequence:

$$\begin{aligned}
(10) \quad 0 \rightarrow \frac{\text{Pic}(X \times Y) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/n}{(\text{Pic } X \oplus \text{Pic } Y) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/n} &\rightarrow \frac{\text{H}^2(X \times Y, \mathbb{Z}/n)}{\text{H}^2(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) \oplus \text{H}^2(Y, \mathbb{Z}/n)} \\
&\rightarrow \frac{{}_n\text{B}'(X \times Y)}{{}_n\text{B}'(X) \oplus {}_n\text{B}'(Y)} \rightarrow 0
\end{aligned}$$

Combining (10) and (8) yields (7). \square

Corollary 7. *Let X and Y be smooth curves over the algebraically closed field k of characteristic p . If n is relatively prime to p , then there are exact sequences*

$$(11) \quad 0 \rightarrow \text{Pic } X \oplus \text{Pic } Y \rightarrow \text{Pic } X \times Y \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$$

$$(12) \quad 0 \rightarrow C/nC \rightarrow \text{H}^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes \text{H}^1(Y, \mathbb{Z}/n) \xrightarrow{\mu} {}_n\text{B}(X \times Y) \rightarrow 0$$

where C is defined by the first sequence.

Proof. For the smooth surface $X \times Y$, $B(X \times Y) = B'(X \times Y)$. For smooth curves the groups $H^i(X, \mathbb{Z}/n)$ are free \mathbb{Z}/n -modules, $i > 0$. Over k the Brauer group of a curve is trivial. \square

Corollary 8. *Let X and Y be projective nonsingular varieties over the algebraically closed field k of characteristic p . Assume n is relatively prime to p and either*

- a. X and Y are both curves, or*
- b. n is a prime.*

If $C = \text{Pic}(X \times Y) / (\text{Pic}X \oplus \text{Pic}Y)$ and

$$(13) \quad \mu : K(X)^* / K(X)^{*n} \otimes K(Y)^* / K(Y)^{*n} \rightarrow B(K(X \times Y))$$

then $C/nC \cong \ker \mu$.

Proof. There is a natural injection

$$H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes H^1(Y, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow K(X)^* / K(X)^{*n} \otimes K(Y)^* / K(Y)^{*n}.$$

Choose arbitrary open subsets U and V of X and Y respectively. Let

$$D = \text{Pic}(U \times V) / (\text{Pic}U \oplus \text{Pic}V).$$

The diagram

$$(14) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}X \oplus \text{Pic}Y & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}X \times Y & \longrightarrow & C \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow \alpha & & \downarrow \beta & & \downarrow \phi \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}U \oplus \text{Pic}V & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}U \times V & \longrightarrow & D \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

commutes. Since α and β are surjective, ϕ is surjective. The diagram

$$(15) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & C/nC & \longrightarrow & H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes H^1(Y, \mathbb{Z}/n) & \longrightarrow & {}_n\mathbf{B}(X \times Y) \\ & & \downarrow \sigma & & \downarrow \tau & & \downarrow \gamma \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & D/nD & \longrightarrow & H^1(U, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes H^1(V, \mathbb{Z}/n) & \longrightarrow & {}_n\mathbf{B}(U \times V) \end{array}$$

commutes and τ and γ are one-to-one. Therefore σ is one-to-one, hence $C/nC \cong D/nD$. Taking the limit of D/nD over all U and V gives $\ker \mu$. \square

Example 9. Let X be a projective nonsingular elliptic curve over the algebraically closed field k . Suppose $\text{char } k = p$, $p \neq 2$. With notation taken from [16, IV.4], say $\tau = i$, $j = 1728$. Then $\text{Pic } X = \mathbb{Z} \oplus (\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^2$. If C is as in (11), then $C = \text{End}(X, P_0) \cong \mathbb{Z}[i]$. Thus $C/nC \cong (\mathbb{Z}/n)^2$. $H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) \cong {}_n\text{Pic } X \cong (\mathbb{Z}/n)^2$. Applying Corollary 7 we get ${}_n\mathbf{B}(X \times X) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/n)^2$. Modulo p -groups, $\mathbf{B}(X \times X) \cong (\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})^2$.

Example 10. Let k be the complex number field. Let X be the complement of the curve $x^n = y^{n-1}z$ in the projective plane \mathbb{P}^2 . Let Y be the affine nodal curve $y^2 = x^2(x+1)$. In [8] it was shown that $\mathbf{B}(X \times Y) \cong \mathbb{Z}/n$. One can compute $\mathbf{B}(X) = \mathbf{B}(Y) = 0$, $\text{Pic } X = \mathbb{Z}/n$, $H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) = \mathbb{Z}/n$, $H^2(X, \mathbb{Z}/n) = \mathbb{Z}/n$, $H^1(Y, \mathbb{Z}/n) = \mathbb{Z}/n$, and in (6) $C = 0$. Applying Corollary 6 we see that the generator of $\mathbf{B}(X \times Y)$ is a cup product.

Corollary 11. Let X and Y be connected schemes of finite type over the algebraically closed field k of characteristic p . Let $n > 1$ be relatively prime to p . Suppose $H^i(X, \mathbb{Z}/n)$ is a free \mathbb{Z}/n -module for $i > 0$. If ${}_n\mathbf{B}(X) = {}_n\mathbf{B}'(X)$ and ${}_n\mathbf{B}(Y) = {}_n\mathbf{B}'(Y)$, then ${}_n\mathbf{B}(X \times Y) = {}_n\mathbf{B}'(X \times Y)$.

Proof. From Corollary 6, ${}_n\mathbf{B}'(X \times Y)$ is generated by ${}_n\mathbf{B}(X)$, ${}_n\mathbf{B}(Y)$ and $\text{im } \mu$. But these groups are subgroups of ${}_n\mathbf{B}(X \times Y)$. \square

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