


COMPARING THE BRAUER GROUP TO THE TATE–SHAFAREVICH GROUP

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Abstract We give a formula relating the order of the Brauer group of a surface fibered over a curve over a finite field to the order of the Tate–Shafarevich group of the Jacobian of the generic fiber. The formula implies that the Brauer group of a smooth and proper surface over a finite field is a square if it is finite.

Keywords: Brauer group; Tate–Shafarevich group

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1. Introduction

Let K be a global field, and let V be the smooth and proper model if K has characteristic p , or the spectrum of the ring of integers of K in the number field case. Let X be a regular surface and $X \rightarrow V$ a projective flat map with geometrically connected fibers such that $X_K = X \times_V K$ is smooth over K . For a point $v \in V$, let K_v be the completion of K and $X_{K_v} = X \times_V K_v$.

It is a classical result of Artin and Grothendieck [5] that the Brauer group of X is finite if and only if the Tate–Shafarevich group of the Jacobian $A = \text{Pic}_{X_K}^0$ of X_K is finite. Grothendieck [5, (4.7)], Milne [10], and Gonzalez-Aviles [2] gave formulas relating the order of the Brauer group of X to the order of the Tate–Shafarevich group $\text{III}(A)$ under some conditions on the periods of X_{K_v} . We give a general formula without any conditions. Let δ and δ_v be the indices of X_K and X_{K_v} , respectively, and α and α_v be the orders of the cokernel of the inclusion $\text{Pic}^0(X_K) \rightarrow H^0(K, \text{Pic}_{X_K}^0)$ and $\text{Pic}^0(X_{K_v}) \rightarrow H^0(K_v, \text{Pic}_{X_{K_v}}^0)$, respectively. By Lichtenbaum [6, Theorem 3 (proof)], α_v is equal to the period δ'_v of X_{K_v} .

Theorem 1.1. *If K has no real embeddings and if the Brauer group $\text{Br}(X)$ is finite, then*

$$|\text{Br}(X)|\alpha^2\delta^2 = |\text{III}(A)| \prod_{v \in V} \alpha_v \delta_v. \quad (1)$$

This generalizes the results of Grothendieck, Milne and Gonzalez-Aviles, and corrects the formula of Liu, Lorenzini and Raynaud [8] by the factor α^2 . The problem is that [8] uses the incorrect [4, Lemma 4.2], which implies that $\alpha = 1$, see their corrigendum [9]. If K is a number field with real embeddings, then the same formula holds up to a power

of 2 (due to the usual problem with duality for Galois cohomology of a number ring with real places). By [7, Remark 4.5], the right-hand side in Theorem 1.1 is a square, hence the argument of [8] gives the following.

Corollary 1.2. *Let X be a smooth and proper surface over a finite field. If the Brauer group is finite, then its order is a square.*

A key ingredient in the proof is the following local-to-global result for the Brauer group:

Theorem 1.3. *If $\text{Br}(X)$ is finite and K has no real embeddings, then*

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Br}(X) \rightarrow \text{Br}(X_K) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{v \in V} \text{Br}(X_{K_v}) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\text{Pic}(X_K), \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact.

2. Brauer groups and Tate–Shafarevich groups

We continue to use the notation of the introduction. For a closed point v of V , we let \mathcal{O}_v be the completion of V at v , k_v the residue field at v , and $Y_v = X \times_V k_v$. Let G and G_v be the Galois groups of K and K_v , respectively.

Denoting the Pontrjagin dual of the abelian group A by $A^* = \text{Hom}(A, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})$, we have Lichtenbaum’s duality for the curve X_{K_v} [6]

$$\text{Pic}(X_{K_v})^* \cong \text{Br}(X_{K_v}). \tag{2}$$

This duality has been generalized by Saito to include the finite characteristic case in [12, Theorem 9.2]. Both Lichtenbaum’s and Saito’s pairing are defined by pulling back elements of $\text{Br}(X_{K_v})$ along divisors, and checking that the result vanishes on principal divisors. Composing with the dual of the natural map $\text{Pic}(X_K) \rightarrow \prod_{v \in V} \text{Pic}(X_{K_v})$, we obtain a map of discrete torsion groups

$$\bigoplus_{v \in V} \text{Br}(X_{K_v}) \xrightarrow{l} \text{Pic}(X_K)^*.$$

Proof of Theorem 1.3. Exactness at the left two terms can be found in [10, Lemma 2.6]. Exactness on the right follows from (2) and injectivity of $\text{Pic}(X_K) \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X_{K_v})$ for every v . Indeed, if X_K has a point over a finite Galois extension L and w is a place of L above v , then $\text{Pic}(X_K) \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X_L) \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X_{L_w})$ is injective, the former by the Hochschild–Serre spectral sequence and the latter because the Picard functor is representable in the presence of a rational point. It remains to show the exactness at the sum. Consider the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{Br}(X_K) & \longrightarrow & \bigoplus_{v \in V} \text{Br}(X_{K_v}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}(X_K)^* & \xrightarrow{\text{inj}} & \text{Pic}(X)^* \\ \parallel & & \text{inj} \downarrow & & & & \parallel \\ \text{Br}(X_K) & \longrightarrow & \bigoplus_{v \in V} H_{Y_v}^3(X, \mathbb{G}_m) & \longrightarrow & H_{\text{et}}^3(X, \mathbb{G}_m) & \xrightarrow{\xi} & \text{Pic}(X)^*. \end{array}$$

The left three terms of the second row arise from the localization sequence for étale cohomology for X , and the second vertical injection is the sum of the localization sequences for the $X_{\mathcal{O}_v}$, using the vanishing of $\text{Br}(X_{\mathcal{O}_v})$ ([5, Theorem 3.1], see the proof of [10, Lemma 2.6]), and the fact that $H_{Y_v}^3(X, \mathbb{G}_m) \cong H_{Y_v}^3(X_{\mathcal{O}_v}, \mathbb{G}_m)$. A diagram chase shows that the exactness at the sum follows if we can define an injective map ξ such that the right rectangle commutes.

We define the map ξ by using a divisor D on X to pull back cohomology classes in $H_{\text{ét}}^3(X, \mathbb{G}_m)$ to the normalization $H_{\text{ét}}^3(\tilde{D}, \mathbb{G}_m)$, which is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})^c$, c the number of irreducible components of D [11, II Remark 2.2 (b)], and then summing up. Then the right rectangle commutes because both compositions are defined by pulling back cohomology classes along divisors. Saito defines a map $\phi^1 : H_{\text{ét}}^3(X, \mathbb{G}_m) \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X)^*$ and shows in [13, Theorem 5.5(2)] that it is a surjection whose kernel vanishes if $\text{Br}(X)$ is finite. It suffices to show that $\phi^1 = \xi$. In the proof of loc. cit., one chooses a divisor Y whose components generate $\text{Pic}(X)$, pulls back cohomology classes $H_{\text{ét}}^3(X, \mathbb{G}_m)$ to $H_{\text{ét}}^3(Y, i^*\mathbb{G}_m)$, and uses the duality between $H_{\text{ét}}^3(Y, i^*\mathbb{G}_m) \cong (\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})^c$ and $H_Y^1(X, \mathbb{G}_m) \cong \mathbb{Z}^c$, where c is the number of components of Y [13, Proposition 4.6]. Now it suffices to observe that under the given hypothesis, the map $H_{\text{ét}}^3(X, \mathbb{G}_m)$ to $H_{\text{ét}}^3(Y, i^*\mathbb{G}_m)$ is injective, the map $\mathbb{Z}^c \cong H_Y^1(X, \mathbb{G}_m) \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X)$ sends a generator corresponding to a component of Y to its divisor class, and

$$H_{\text{ét}}^3(Y, i^*\mathbb{G}_m) \cong H_{\text{ét}}^3(Y, \mathbb{G}_m) \cong H_{\text{ét}}^3(\tilde{Y}, \mathbb{G}_m) \cong (\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})^c,$$

which follows from the proof of [13, (4–11)]. □

Remark 2.1. (1) In the function field case one can show that the sequence is exact except at the sum, where its cohomology is $(T \text{Br}(X))^*$ up to p -groups.

(2) The hypothesis on 2-torsion in case of real embeddings is used to apply Saito’s result, see [13, §5].

The following generalization of the Cassels–Tate exact sequence by Gonzalez-Aviles and Tan [3] can be thought of as the analog of Theorem 1.3 for the Tate–Shafarevich group. The results on flat cohomology that are used have been corrected in [1].

Theorem 2.2. *Let A be an abelian variety over K with dual A^t , and assume that the Tate–Shafarevich group $\text{III}(A^t)$ is finite. Then the sequence*

$$0 \rightarrow \text{III}(A) \rightarrow H^1(K, A) \xrightarrow{\beta^1} \bigoplus_v H^1(K_v, A) \xrightarrow{\gamma^1} H^0(K, A^t)^* \rightarrow 0$$

is exact.

Here the map γ^1 is the dual of the injection

$$\beta^0 : H^0(K, A^t)^\wedge \rightarrow \prod_v H^0(K_v, A^t)^\wedge \cong \left(\bigoplus_v H^1(K_v, A) \right)^*$$

where $G^\wedge = \lim_m G/m$ denotes the completion of an abelian group G .

3. Comparison

We complete the proof of Theorem 1.1 by comparing the sequences of Theorem 1.3 and of Theorem 2.2 applied to Pic_X^0 via their maps to

$$H^1(K, \text{Pic}_{X_K}) \rightarrow \bigoplus_v H^1(K_v, \text{Pic}_{X_K}).$$

The long exact sequence of Galois cohomology groups associated to the degree map over the separable closure K^s of K

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X_{K^s})^0 \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X_{K^s}) \xrightarrow{\text{deg}} \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 0$$

induces the middle two exact rows of the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & \text{III}(\text{Pic}_{X_K}^0) & \longrightarrow & \Phi & & \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/\delta' & \longrightarrow & H^1(K, \text{Pic}_{X_K}^0) & \longrightarrow & H^1(K, \text{Pic}_{X_K}) \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \beta^1 \downarrow & & \tau \downarrow \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & \bigoplus_v \mathbb{Z}/\delta'_v & \longrightarrow & \bigoplus_v H^1(K_v, \text{Pic}_{X_K}^0) & \longrightarrow & \bigoplus_v H^1(K_v, \text{Pic}_{X_K}) \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & & & \gamma^1 \downarrow & & \rho \downarrow \\
 & & & & H^0(K, \text{Pic}_{X_K}^0)^* & \xrightarrow{\omega} & \Psi
 \end{array} \tag{3}$$

The upper and lower rows are the kernels and cokernels of the vertical maps. Finiteness of $\text{III}(\text{Pic}_{X_K}^0)$ and of $\bigoplus \mathbb{Z}/\delta'_v$ implies finiteness of Φ . Counting orders we obtain the formula

$$|\Phi| = \frac{|\text{III}(\text{Pic}_{X_K}^0)| \cdot \prod_v \delta'_v}{|\ker \omega| \cdot \delta'}.$$

Now we use the (functorial) Hochschild–Serre spectral sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X_K) \rightarrow H^0(K, \text{Pic}_{X_K}) \rightarrow \text{Br}(K) \rightarrow \text{Br}(X_K) \rightarrow H^1(K, \text{Pic}_{X_K}) \rightarrow 0 \tag{4}$$

for X and X_{K_v} to obtain the middle two exact rows of the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Br}(X) & \longrightarrow & \Phi \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 0 \rightarrow & P & \longrightarrow & \text{Br}(K) & \longrightarrow & \text{Br}(X_K) & \longrightarrow H^1(K, \text{Pic}_{X_K}) \rightarrow 0 \\
 & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \tau \downarrow \\
 0 \rightarrow & \bigoplus \mathbb{Z}/\delta_v & \longrightarrow & \bigoplus \text{Br}(K_v) & \longrightarrow & \bigoplus \text{Br}(X_{K_v}) & \longrightarrow \bigoplus H^1(K_v, \text{Pic}_{X_K}) \rightarrow 0 \\
 & & & \Sigma \downarrow & & \downarrow & \rho \downarrow \\
 & & & \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} & \xrightarrow{\text{deg}^*} & \text{Pic}(X_K)^* & \xrightarrow{\sigma} \Psi \rightarrow 0
 \end{array} \tag{5}$$

The upper and lower rows are the kernels and cokernels of the vertical maps. The kernel of $\text{Br}(K_v) \rightarrow \text{Br}(X_{K_v})$ is isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}/δ_v by the Lichtenbaum–Roquette theorem [6, Theorem 3]. Lichtenbaum’s result is stated in characteristic 0, but the proof works in characteristic p as soon as duality for Galois cohomology of abelian varieties holds [12, Theorems 9.2, 9.3]. The lower middle square is commutative by the definition of the pairing (2), see [6, p. 125], and functoriality of the degree map:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Br}(K_v) & \xlongequal{\quad} & \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} & \xlongequal{\quad} & \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} \\ \downarrow & & \text{deg}^* \downarrow & & \text{deg}^* \downarrow \\ \text{Br}(X_{K_v}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}(X_{K_v})^* & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}(X_K)^* \end{array}$$

We have $|\ker \text{deg}^*| = \delta$, and $\text{Pic}^0(X_K)^* \cong \text{coker } \text{deg}^* \cong \Psi$. Counting orders, we obtain the formula

$$|\Phi| = \frac{|\text{Br}(X)| \cdot |P| \cdot \delta}{\prod_v \delta_v}$$

To relate ω to the canonical injection $f : \text{Pic}^0(X_K) \rightarrow H^0(K, \text{Pic}^0_{X_K})$, we consider the following diagram, in which the horizontal maps are surjective and all maps except the named ones are the canonical maps:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Br}(X_{K_v}) & \longrightarrow & H^1(K_v, \text{Pic}_{X_K}) & \longleftarrow & H^1(K_v, \text{Pic}^0_{X_K}) \\ \parallel & & \parallel & & \parallel \\ \text{Pic}(X_{K_v})^* & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}^0(X_{K_v})^* & \longleftarrow & H^0(K_v, \text{Pic}^0_{X_K})^* \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \gamma^1 \\ \text{Pic}(X_K)^* & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}^0(X_K)^* & \xleftarrow{f^*} & H^0(K, \text{Pic}^0_{X_K})^* \\ \parallel & & \cong \downarrow & & \parallel \\ \text{Pic}(X_K)^* & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & \Psi & \xleftarrow{\omega} & H^0(K, \text{Pic}^0_{X_K})^* \end{array}$$

If we replace the middle composition by ρ , then the diagram defines the maps σ of (5) in the left half and ω of (3) in the right half. The upper two squares are commutative by compatibility of Lichtenbaum’s perfect pairings [6, §4], and the middle squares are obviously commutative. Then the left half of the diagram shows that the middle composition as indicated agrees with the map ρ , and the right half of the diagram shows that $\omega = f^*$ so that $|\ker \omega| = |\ker f^*|$.

Finally, the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}^0(X_K) & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}(X_K) & \longrightarrow & \delta\mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & f \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & H^0(K, \text{Pic}^0_{X_K}) & \longrightarrow & H^0(K, \text{Pic}_{X_K}) & \longrightarrow & \delta'\mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0 \end{array} \tag{6}$$

shows that $|\ker f^*| \cdot \delta = |P| \cdot \delta'$. Since $\alpha = |\ker f^*|$, we obtain Theorem 1.1 by equating the two formulas for $|\Phi|$.

Remark 3.1. The following example that for a curve C over a global field K , the l -rank of $\text{coker Pic}^0(C) \rightarrow H^0(K, \text{Pic}_C^0)$ can be arbitrary large for any l was communicated to us by Starr. By the sequence (4) and the diagram (6), it suffices to find C such that the l -rank of the kernel of $\text{Br}(K) \rightarrow \text{Br}(C)$ is arbitrary large. Let a_0, \dots, a_r be \mathbb{Z}/l -linearly independent classes in $\text{Br}(K)[l]$, and let P_0, \dots, P_r be the associated Severi–Brauer K -schemes. Now let C be a general complete intersection curve in the product variety $P = P_0 \times_K \cdots \times_K P_r$. Then the kernel of the pullback map $\text{Br}(K) \rightarrow \text{Br}(P)$ contains the classes a_0, \dots, a_r , hence so does the kernel of $\text{Br}(K) \rightarrow \text{Br}(C)$.

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