TRACE FORMS OF GALOIS FIELD EXTENSIONS IN THE PRESENCE OF ROOTS OF UNITY

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ABSTRACT. Let L/K be a Galois field extension and let G_2 be a Sylow subgroup of $\mathrm{Gal}(L/K)$. We show that if G_2 is not abelian then the trace form of L/K is hyperbolic, provided that K contains certain roots of unity.

1. INTRODUCTION

The trace form of a finite field extension (or, more generally of an etale algebra) L/K is the nonsingular quadratic form $q_{L/K}\colon x \mapsto \mathrm{tr}_{L/K}(x^2)$ defined over K. Trace forms have been much studied in recent years; for a survey and an extensive bibliography on the subject we refer the reader to [1].

Of special interest to us will be trace forms of Galois extensions L/K. Classifying such forms for a given $G = \mathrm{Gal}(L/K)$ (and without any further restrictions on K) is a rather delicate problem; in particular, the answer is not even known in the case where G is the cyclic group of order 16 (see [4, p. 222]). Much of the work in this area has been done in the case where K is a number field; for a survey of these results see [3] or [1, Section 6.3].

In this paper we show that the situation simplifies considerably if we require K to contain certain roots of unity. Our main result is the following:

Theorem 1.1. *Let L/K be a G-Galois extension and let G_2 be a Sylow 2-subgroup of G. Assume*

(a) G_2 is not abelian, and

(b) K contains a primitive eth root of unity, where e is the minimal value of the exponent of H, as H ranges over all non-abelian subgroups of G_2.

Then the trace form $q_{L/K}$ is hyperbolic over K.

Before we proceed with the proof several remarks are in order. First of all, Theorem 1.1 may be viewed as a generalization of [4, Corollary 6, p. 227], where the same assertion is proved for $|G_2| \le 16$.

Secondly, the theorem remains valid if we assume that L/K is a G-Galois algebra (as defined, e.g., in [2, 1.3]) and not just a field extension; see Proposition 2.5.

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Thirdly, if G_2 is an abelian group of rank r and exponent e, and K contains a primitive eth root of unity then it is well-known that $q_{L/K}$ is an r-fold Pfister form over K and that this form is not always hyperbolic; see Remark 3.2 and [4, Corollary 2, p. 212].

Finally, condition (b) of the theorem cannot be substantially weakened in the following sense: for every $n = 2^i \geq 4$ there exists a non-abelian group G of order $2n$ and exponent n, and a G-Galois extension L/K such that (i) K contains a primitive root of unity of degree $n/2$ but not one of degree n and (ii) $q_{L/K}$ is not hyperbolic; see Example 6.1.

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2. Notation and preliminaries

The following notational conventions will be used throughout the paper.

G	finite group
G_2	Sylow 2-subgroup of G
L/K	finite field extension
$q_{L/K}$	trace form $x \mapsto \mathrm{tr}_{L/K}(x^2)$
$q^a_{L/K}$	scaled trace form $x \mapsto \mathrm{tr}_{L/K}(ax^2)$
ζ_d	primitive dth root of unity
$W(K)$	the Witt ring of K
$<<a_1, \dots, a_r>>$	the r-fold Pfister form $<1, a_1> \otimes \cdots \otimes <1, a_r>$

In the remainder of this section we present several background results on trace forms. We record them in the form suitable for subsequent use and outline the proofs.

Subextensions. Let L/K be a field extension and let $a \in L^*$. We shall denote the scaled trace form $x \mapsto \mathrm{tr}(ax^2)$ by $q^a_{L/K}$. In particular, $q^1_{L/K} = q_{L/K}$ is the usual trace form of L/K.

Lemma 2.1. *Let L/K and K/F be finite field extensions. Suppose $q_{L/K} = <a_1, \dots, a_n>$. Then*

(a) $q_{L/F} = q^{a_1}_{K/F} \oplus \cdots \oplus q^{a_n}_{K/F}$.

(b) If every a_i lies in F then $q_{L/F} = <a_1, \dots, a_n> \otimes q_{K/F}$.

(c) If $q_{L/K}$ is hyperbolic over K then $q_{L/F}$ is hyperbolic over F.

Proof. (a) Suppose $q_{L/K} = <a_1, \dots, a_n>$ in the K-basis $v_1, \dots, v_n$ of L. Then $L = Kv_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus Kv_n$ as an F-vector space. One easily checks that $Kv_i \perp Kv_j$ with respect to $q_{L/F}$ for any $i \neq j$. Moreover, $q_{L/F} = q^{a_i}_{K/F}$ on Kv_i, and part (a) follows.

(b) If $a_i \in F$ then $q^{a_i}_{K/F} = <a_i> \otimes q_{K/F}$. The desired equality is now an immediate consequence of part (a).

(c) Follows from (b), since $0 \otimes q_{K/F} = 0$ in $W(F)$. □

Cyclic extensions.

Lemma 2.2. *Let K be a field containing a primitive nth root of unity and suppose $L = K(\sqrt[n]{a})$ is a cyclic extension of K of degree n for some $a \in K^*$. Then $q_{L/K} = <n, na>$ in $W(K)$.*

Proof. Set $x = \sqrt[n]{a}$. An easy computation in the basis $1, x, \dots, x^{n-1}$ shows that $q_{L/K} = <n, na>$ on $\mathrm{Span}_K\{1, x^{n/2}\}$ and is hyperbolic on $\mathrm{Span}_K\{x^i, x^{n-i}\}$ for every $i = 1, \dots, \frac{n}{2} - 1$. Thus $q_{L/K} = <n, na>$ in $W(K)$, as claimed. □

Lemma 2.3. *Let $L = K(\sqrt{b})$ be a quadratic field extension for some $b \in K$ and let $a \in L^*$.*

(a) If $\mathrm{tr}(a) = 0$ then $q^a_{L/K}$ is hyperbolic over K.

(b) If $\mathrm{tr}(a) \neq 0$ then $q^a_{L/K} = <\mathrm{tr}(a)> \otimes <1, n(a)b>$.

Here $\mathrm{tr}(a)$ and $n(a)$ denote the trace and the norm of a in L/K.

Proof. (a) Note that $q^a_{L/K}(1) = \mathrm{tr}(a) = 0$. Part (a) now follows from the fact that a 2-dimensional non-singular form is hyperbolic iff it is isotropic; see, e.g., [6, Theorem I.3.2].

(b) Let $c = \sqrt{b}$, i.e., $c \in L$ such that $c^2 = b$. The non-trivial element $\bar{}$ of $\mathrm{Gal}(L/K) \simeq \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ is given by $\overline{x + yc} = x - yc$ for any $x, y \in K$.

Recall that any non-singular 2-dimensional quadratic form q can be written as $q = <v> \otimes <1, \det(q)>$, where $v \in K^*$ is a value assumed by q; see, e.g., [6, Proposition I.5.1]. Since $q^a_{L/K}(1) = \mathrm{tr}(a)$, we can take $v = \mathrm{tr}(a)$.

The Gram matrix of $q^a_{L/K}$ in the basis $\{1, c\}$ is

$$\begin{pmatrix} a + \overline{a} & ac + \overline{ac} \\ ac + \overline{ac} & b(a + \overline{a}) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Computing the determinant of this matrix, we find that $\det(q) = 4ba\overline{a} = 4b\, n(a)$ in $(K)^*/(K^*)^2$, and the lemma follows. □

Linear representations.

Lemma 2.4. *Let V and V' be faithful linear representations of a finite group G over a field k and let $L = k(V)$, $K = L^G$, $L' = k(V')$ and $K' = L'^G$. If $q_{L/K}$ is hyperbolic then so is $q_{L'/K'}$.*

Proof. Let $n = \dim_k(V)$, $n' = \dim_k(V')$ and let $s_1, \dots, s_n, t_1, \dots, t_{n'}$ be independent variables. By the no-name lemma (see, e.g., [11, Appendix 3]), $L(t) \simeq L'(s)$ as G-fields, where G acts trivially on the variables $s = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$ and $t = (t_1, \dots, t_{n'})$. Thus $q_{L(t)/K(t)} = q_{L'(s)/K'(s)}$ is hyperbolic over $K(t) = K'(s)$. The desired result now follows from the fact that the natural map $W(K') \longrightarrow W(K'(s))$ is injective; see [6, Lemma IX.1.1]. □

Proposition 2.5. *Let V be a finite-dimensional faithful linear representation of a finite group G over a field k, If $q_{k(V)/k(V)^G}$ is hyperbolic then so is $q_{L/K}$, for any G-Galois algebra (and, in particular, any G-Galois field extension) L/K, where K contains k.*

Proof. By Lemma 2.4, we may assume that $V \simeq k[G]$ is the regular representation of G. Let $t = (t_1, \dots, t_n)$ be an n-tuple of independent variables, where $n = |G|$. By [8, Theorem 4.2] there exists an element $a \in L(t)$ whose n conjugates $g(a)$ are algebraically independent over k. Then $F = k(g(a) \,|\, g \in G)$ is isomorphic to $k(V)$ as a G-field. Thus $q_{F/F^G} = q_{k(V)/k(V)^G}$ is hyperbolic over F^G and hence, $q_{L(t)/K(t)}$ is hyperbolic over $K(t)$. This implies that $q_{L/K}$ is hyperbolic over K (cf. [6, Lemma IX.1.1]), as claimed. □

3. Property (*)

Definition 3.1. Let G be a 2-group of exponent d. We shall say that G has property (*) if for every G-Galois extension L/K such that K contains a primitive dth root of unity, the trace form $q_{L/K}$ is hyperbolic.

Remark 3.2. No abelian 2-group G has property $(*)$. Indeed, let $G = \mathbb{Z}/n_1\mathbb{Z} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{Z}/n_r\mathbb{Z}$ be an abelian 2-group, $K = \mathbb{C}(a_1, \dots, a_r)$ and $L = \mathbb{C}(\sqrt[n_1]{a_1}, \dots, \sqrt[n_r]{a_r})$, where $\mathbb{C}$ is the field of complex numbers and $a_1, \dots, a_r$ are algebraically independent variables over $\mathbb{C}$. Then an easy induction argument on r, using Lemmas 2.2 and Lemma 2.1(b), shows that $q_{L/K} = <|G|> \otimes << a_1, \dots, a_r >>$. This form is anisotropic (and, hence, not hyperbolic) over K; see [7, Example 8.1.2(6)].

Reduction 3.3. In order to prove Theorem 1.1 it is sufficient to show that every non-abelian 2-group G has property (*).

Proof. Indeed, let G, e and L/K be as in Theorem 1.1, and let H be a non-abelian subgroup of G_2 of exponent e. Consider the intermediate extension $K \subset L^H \subset L$. Since K (and thus L^H) contains a primitive eth root of unity, and we are assuming H has property (*), q_{L/L^H} is hyperbolic. Now, by Lemma 2.1(c) $q_{L/K}$ is hyperbolic as well. □

In view of Reduction 3.3, the goal of the rest of this paper will be to prove the following.

Theorem 3.4. *Every non-abelian 2-group G has property (*) (see Definition 3.1).*

We begin by showing that property (*) is inherited from subgroups and from certain quotients.

Proposition 3.5. *Let G be a 2-group and let H be a subgroup of G.*

(a) If H has property (*) then so does G.

(b) Suppose $H = <r>$ is cyclic. Assume a proper subgroup H_0 of H is normal in G. If G/H_0 has property (*) then so does G.

Proof. Let d be the exponent of G and let L/K is a G-Galois extension, and $\zeta_d \in K$. We want to show that $q_{L/K} = 0$ in $W(K)$.

(a) Consider the intermediate extension $K \subset L^H \subset L$. Since the exponent of H is $\leq d$ and $\zeta_d \in K \subset L^H$, our assumption on H implies that q_{L/L^H} is hyperbolic over L^H. Now Lemma 2.1(c) tells us that $q_{L/K}$ is hyperbolic over K, as desired.

(b) Suppose $H = <r>$ is of order n and $H_0 = <r^{n/m}>$ is of order m, where m and n are powers of 2. Since $H_0 \neq H$, we may assume $n > m$. We may also assume without loss of generality that $H_0 \neq \{1\}$, i.e., $m \geq 2$.

Consider the tower of extensions $K \subset L^H \subset L^{H_0} \subset L$. By our assumption, $\zeta_n \in K$; hence, we can write $L = L^H(\sqrt[n]{a})$ for some $a \in L^H$. Then $L^{H_0} = L^H(\sqrt[m]{a})$, and thus by Lemma 2.2, $q_{L/L^H} = <n, na>$ and $q_{L^{H_0}/L^H} = <m, ma>$ in $W(L^H)$. In other words,

$$q_{L/L^H} = <n, na> \oplus \frac{n-2}{2}<1, -1>$$

and

$$q_{L^{H_0}/L^H} = <m, ma> \oplus \frac{m-2}{2}<1, -1>.$$

By Lemma 2.1(d),

$$q_{L/K} = q^n_{L^H/K} \oplus q^{na}_{L^H/K} \oplus \frac{n-2}{2}(q_{L^H/K} \oplus q^{-1}_{L^H/K}).$$

Since $q_{L^H/K} \oplus q^{-1}_{L^H/K} = <1, -1> \otimes q_{L^H/K} = 0$ in $W(K)$, we conclude that

$$q_{L/K} = <n> \otimes (q_{L^H/K} \oplus q^a_{L^H/K}) \text{ in } W(K).$$

Similarly,

$$q_{L^{H_0}/K} = <m> \otimes (q_{L^H/K} \oplus q^a_{L^H/K}) \text{ in } W(K).$$

Since the exponent of G/H_0 is $\leq d$, and G/H_0 has property (*), we know that $q_{L^{H_0}/K} = 0$ in $W(K)$. Then $q_{L/K} = <\frac{n}{m}> \otimes q_{L^{H_0}/K} = 0$ as well, thus proving (b). □

4. Barely non-abelian groups

Definition 4.1. We shall call a finite group G *barely non-abelian* if satisfies the following conditions:

(a) G is not abelian,

(b) every proper subgroup of G is abelian,

(c) if H is a cyclic subgroup, H_0 is a non-trivial proper subgroup of H, and H_0 is normal in G then G/H_0 is abelian.

Remark 4.2. In view of Proposition 3.5, a counterexample to Theorem 3.4 of minimal order is a barely non-abelian 2-group. Our strategy in proving Theorem 3.4 will thus be to

(i) obtain a complete list of barely non-abelian 2-groups,

(ii) prove property (*) for each group on this list.

In this section we will carry out step (i).

Example 4.3. Q_8 and D_8 are barely non-abelian, since all of their proper subgroups and quotients have order ≤ 4.

We will now introduce a more sophisticated example. Let $n \geq 4$ be a power of 2 and let

$$M(2n) = \{r, s \mid r^n = s^2 = 1, sr = r^{n/2+1}s\}. \tag{4.1}$$

It is easy to see that $M(2n)$ is isomorphic to the semidirect product of $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ and $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, where the nontrivial element of $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ acts on $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ by sending 1 to $\frac{n}{2}+1$. Note that $M(8)$ is the dihedral group D_8.

Lemma 4.4. *(a) Every proper subgroup of $M(2n)$ is abelian.*

(b) Every proper quotient of $M(2n)$ is abelian.

(c) $M(2n)$ is barely non-abelian for any $n \geq 4$.

Proof. (a) Let S be a proper subgroup of $M(2n)$. If S contains the index 2 subgroup $<r>$ then $S = <r>$ and thus S is abelian. If not, set $S_0 = S \cap <r>$. Then, on the one hand, $S_0 \subset <r^2>$, is central in $M(2n)$ and, on the other hand, $S/S_0 \subset M(2n)/<r> \simeq \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ is cyclic. This proves that S is abelian (see, e.g., [10, 3.2.8]).

(b) Assume the contrary: $M(2n)/N$ is not abelian for some non-trivial normal subgroup N of $M(2n)$. Then N cannot contain $r^{n/2}$; otherwise r and s will commute in the quotient. Consequently,

$$N \cap <r> = \{1\}. \tag{4.2}$$

Since $<r>$ has index 2 in $M(2n)$, (4.2) implies $|N| = 2$. Moreover, N and $<r>$ are complementary normal subgroups in $M(2n)$. Consequently, $M(2n) \simeq N \times <r>$ is abelian, a contradiction.

(c) Immediate from (a) and (b). □

We now proceed to give a complete list of barely non-abelian 2-groups. Our starting point is the following classification, due to Rédei, of 2-groups satisfying conditions (a) and (b) of Definition 4.1 (but not necessarily condition (c)).

Lemma 4.5. *(Rédei* [9]*, see also* [5, p. 309]*) Let G be a finite non-abelian 2-group all of whose proper subgroups are abelian. Then G is isomorphic to one of the following groups:*

(i) The quaternion group Q_8 of order 8.

(ii) $A(n,m) = <r,s \,|\, r^n = s^m = 1, sr = r^{\frac{n}{2}+1}s>$ *of order* mn. *Here* $n \geq 4$ *and* $m \geq 2$ *are powers of* 2.

(iii) $B(n,m) = <r,s \,|\, r^n = s^m = t^2 = 1, sr = trs>$ *of order* $2mn$. *Here* $n, m \geq 2$ *are powers of* 2. □

We are now ready to prove the main result of this section.

Proposition 4.6. *A 2-group G is barely non-abelian if and only if G is isomorphic to the quaternion group Q_8 or to $M(2n)$, where $n \geq 4$ is a power of 2.*

Proof. The groups Q_8 and $M(2n)$ are barely non-abelian; see Example 4.3 and Lemma 4.4(c).

To prove the converse, suppose G is barely non-abelian. Then G is isomorphic to one of the groups listed in Lemma 4.5. Observe that $A(n,2) = M(2n)$ and $B(2,2) = D_8 = M(8)$. (Indeed, D_8 is the only non-abelian group of order 8 that has at least 3 elements of order 2.) It remains to show that $A(n,m)$ and $B(n,m)$ are not barely non-abelian for all other values of n and m.

First assume $m \geq 4$ and consider the group $A(n,m)$. Since $|A(n,m)| = mn$, the elements $r^i s^j$ are all distinct for $i = 0, 1, \ldots, m-1$ and $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n-1$. (This is also easy to see directly by identifying $A(n,m)$ with a semidirect product of $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ and $\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$.) Let $H = <s> \subset A(n,m)$ and $H_0 = <s^2>$. Then H_0 is central (and, hence, normal) in $A(n,m)$. Since $r^{n/2+1} \notin H_0$, we conclude that r and s do not commute in $A(n,m)/H_0$. This shows that $A(n,m)$ does not satisfy condition (c) of Definition 4.1 for any $m \geq 4$.

A similar argument shows that $B(m,n)$ is not barely non-abelian for $(n,m) \neq (2,2)$. Indeed, since $|B| = 2mn$, the elements $t^i r^j s^k$ are all distinct for $i = 0, 1$, $j = 0, 1, \ldots, n-1$ and $k = 0, 1, \ldots, m-1$. If $n \geq 4$, let $H = <r>$ and $H_0 = <r^2>$. Then the same argument as above shows that H_0 is central and $B(m,n)/H_0$ is not abelian. Similarly if $m \geq 4$, then $B(m,n)/H_0$ is not abelian for $H = <s>$ and $H_0 = <s^2>$. □

5. Proof of Theorem 1.1

By Reduction 3.3 it is sufficient to prove Theorem 3.4. We now follow the strategy outlined in Remark 4.2. We have shown that if G is a minimal counterexample to Theorem 3.4 then $G \simeq Q_8$ or $M(2n)$ for some $n \geq 4$. It remains to prove that these groups have property (*). For $G = Q_8$ and $G = M(8) \simeq D_8$ this is known; see, e.g., [2, Section 6, Exemple] or [4, Corollary 6, p. 227]. Thus it remains to prove the following:

Proposition 5.1. *Let $n \geq 8$ be a power of 2 and $G = M(2n)$. Suppose L/K be an G-Galois extension, where K contains a primitive nth root of unity ζ. Then the trace form $q_{L/K}$ is hyperbolic.*

Proof. Let k be the field generated by the prime subfield of K and ζ and let V be the 2-dimensional k-representation of $M(2n)$ given by

$$r\colon (x,y) \longrightarrow (\zeta x, \zeta^{\frac{n}{2}+1} y) \text{ and}$$
$$s\colon (x,y) \longrightarrow (y,x)\,.$$

By Proposition 2.5 we may assume without loss of generality that $L = k(V)$ and $K = k(V)^{M(2n)}$. Since $n \geq 8$, k contains primitive 8th root of unity; hence,

$$\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{-2} \in K\,. \tag{5.1}$$

Note that $a = x^n$ lies in $L^{<r>}$, and

$$\begin{aligned} A &= x^n + y^n\,,\\ B &= (x^n - y^n)^2\,,\\ C &= x^{\frac{n}{2}} y^{\frac{n}{2}}\,,\\ D &= x^{\frac{n}{4}} y^{\frac{n}{4}} (\tfrac{x}{y} + \tfrac{y}{x})\,,\\ E_m &= (\tfrac{x}{y})^m + (\tfrac{y}{x})^m \quad (m \text{ even}) \end{aligned} \tag{5.2}$$

lie in $L^{<r,s>} = L^{M(2n)} = K$. Since $L = L^{<r>}(x) = L^{<r>}(\sqrt[n]{a})$, Lemma 2.2 tells us that

$$q_{L/L^{<r>}} = <n> \otimes <1,a> = <1,a>\,,$$

where the last equality follows from (5.1). Thus by Lemma 2.1(a)

$$q_{L/K} = q_{L^{<r>}/K} \oplus q^a_{L^{<r>}/K}\,. \tag{5.3}$$

Note that $[L^{<r>} : K] = [M(2n) : <r>] = 2$; moreover, $q_{L^{<r>}/K} = K(x^n - y^n) = K(\sqrt{B})$. Thus Lemma 2.3 tells us that

$$q_{L^{<r>}/K} = <2> \otimes <1,B> = <1,B>\,,$$

where once again, the factor of 2 can be dropped because of (5.1), and

$$q^a_{L^{<r>}/K} = <\mathrm{tr}_{L^{<r>}/K}(a)> \otimes <1, n_{L^{<r>}/K}(a) B>\,.$$

Since $\mathrm{tr}_{L^{<r>}/K}(a) = x^n + y^n = A$ and $n_{L^{<r>}/K}(a) = x^n y^n = C^2$ is a complete square in K, (5.3) can be rewritten as

$$q_{L/K} = <1,B> \oplus <A, AB> = <<A,B>>\,.$$

It remains to show that $<<A,B>>$ is hyperbolic over K. We shall need the following simple relations among the elements of K defined in (5.2).

Lemma 5.2. *If $m \geq 2$ a power of 2 then $E_m^2 - 4 \equiv E_2^2 - 4 \pmod{(K^*)^2}$.*

Proof. Induction on m, starting from $m = 2$. The induction step is given by $E_m^2 - 4 = (E_{m/2}^2 - 2)^2 = E_{m/2}^2 (E_{m/2}^2 - 4)$. □

Now $A = CE_{n/2} = C(E_{n/4}^2 - 2)$ and $B = C^2(E_{n/2}^2 - 4)$. By Lemma 5.2,

$$q = <<A,B>> = <<C(E_{n/4}^2 - 2), E_{n/4}^2 - 4>> = <<C, E_{n/4}^2 - 4>>\,,$$

where we removed the factor of $E_{n/4}^2 - 2$ in the first position because it is of the form $(E_{n/4}^2 - 4)v^2 + w^2$, with $v = 1$ and $w = \sqrt{2}$; cf. [6, Proposition X.1.3(1)]. (Note that we are using the assumption that $n \geq 8$ here, so that $n/4$ is even and thus $E_{n/4}$ lies in K.)

Using Lemma 5.2 again, $q = <<C, E_2^2 - 4>>$. Finally, $E_2^2 - 4 = (D/C)^2(D^2 - 4C^2)$ so that $q = <<C, D^2 - 4C>> = <<C, 1>>$, where we removed a the factor of $D^2 - 4C$ in the second position because it is of the form $Cv^2 + w^2$, where $v = \sqrt{-2}$ and and $w = D$. The form $<<C, 1>>$ is clearly hyperbolic over K. This completes the proof of Proposition 5.1, and thus of Theorem 1.1. □

6. An example

We conclude this paper with an example, communicated to us by J.-P. Serre, showing that for $G = M(2n)$ condition (b) of Theorem 1.1 cannot be relaxed.

Example 6.1. Let $n \geq 4$ be a power of 2. Suppose that a field k contains a primitive root of unity $\zeta_{n/2}$ of degree $n/2$ but does not contain a primitive root of unity ζ_n of degree n. Set $k' = k(\zeta_n)$, $L = k'((t))$ and $K = k((a))$, where $a = t^n$. Then

(a) L/K is an $M(2n)$-Galois extension,

(b) $q_{L/K} = <2n> \otimes <<\zeta_{n/2}, a>>$, and

(c) $q_{L/K}$ is anisotropic (and hence, not hyperbolic) over K.

Proof. (a) Let $r, s \in \mathrm{Gal}(L/K)$ be given by

$$r\colon \begin{array}{ccc} t & \mapsto & \zeta_n t \\ \zeta_n & \mapsto & \zeta_n \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad s\colon \begin{array}{ccc} t & \mapsto & t \\ \zeta_n & \mapsto & -\zeta_n \end{array}.$$

It is easy to see that $r^n = s^2 = 1$ and $sr = r^{n/2+1}s$ in $\mathrm{Gal}(L/K)$. Thus we have a homomorphism $f\colon M(2n) \longrightarrow \mathrm{Gal}(L/K)$; cf. (4.1). By Lemma 4.4(b), f is injective. Since $\mathrm{Gal}(L/K) \leq [L : K] = 2n = M(2n)$, f is an isomorphism. This proves (a).

(b) Note that $L^{<r>} = k'((a))$. Since $L = L^{<r>}(\sqrt[n]{a})$ and $L^{<r>}(\sqrt{\zeta_{n/2}})$, Lemma 2.2 tells us that

$$q_{L/k'((a))} = <n> \otimes <1, a>,$$

and

$$q_{k'((a))/K} = <2, 2\zeta_{n/2}>,$$

The desired formula now follows from Lemma 2.1(b).

(c) Since $\zeta_{n/2}$ is not a square in k, i.e., $<1, \zeta_{n/2}>$ is anisotropic over k, the desired conclusion follows from [6, Proposition VI.1.9]. □

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