

ON THE NUMBER OF GALOIS p -EXTENSIONS OF A LOCAL FIELD

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ABSTRACT. Let p be a prime, k a finite extension of the p -adic field \mathbb{Q}_p , and G a finite p -group. Let $\nu(k, G)$ denote the number of non-isomorphic Galois extensions of k whose Galois groups are isomorphic to G . When k does not contain a primitive p -th root of unity, I. R. Šafarevič gave an explicit formula for $\nu(k, G)$. In this note, we treat the case when k contains a primitive p -th root of unity. After giving a general formula for $\nu(k, G)$ (Theorem 1), we calculate $\nu(k, G)$ explicitly for some special p -groups (Theorem 2.2).

INTRODUCTION

As is well known, a p -adic field k has only a finite number of non-isomorphic algebraic extensions with given degree (cf. [Kr]). Therefore the number of Galois extensions of k with prescribed finite Galois group G is also finite; we denote this number by $\nu(k, G)$. In this note, we are interested in giving $\nu(k, G)$ explicitly.

Suppose in the following that G is a p -group (p a prime). Let k be of residue characteristic p , and n be the degree of k over the p -adic field \mathbb{Q}_p . Let μ_p denote the set of p -th roots of unity. I. R. Šafarevič [Ša] proved that if $k \not\supset \mu_p$, then the Galois group of the maximal pro- p -extension of k is a free pro- p -group with exactly $n+1$ generators. And he gave an explicit formula for $\nu(k, G)$ in this case:

$$\nu(k, G) = \frac{1}{|\text{Aut}(G)|} \left(\frac{|G|}{p^d} \right)^{n+1} \prod_{i=0}^{d-1} (p^{n+1} - p^i),$$

where d is the minimal number of generators of G . An analogous formula had already been obtained by E. Witt [Wi], but in a different context.

If $k \supset \mu_p$, then the Galois group of the maximal pro- p -extension of k is a one-relator group called Demuškin group, and the relation is completely determined by S. P. Demuškin, J.-P. Serre, and J. Labute (cf. [La]). Our first aim

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is to give a general formula for $\nu(k, G)$ in this case, by using the classification theorem of Demuškin groups and a well-known enumeration argument.

Theorem 1. *Let p be a prime, k a finite extension of \mathbb{Q}_p containing μ_p , and G a finite p -group. Then we have*

$$\nu(k, G) = \frac{1}{|\text{Aut}(G)|} \sum_{H \leq G} \mu_G(H) \alpha(H),$$

where $\mu_G(\cdot)$ is the Möbius function on the partially ordered set consisting of all subgroups of G (see Lemma 1.3 for the precise formula), and $\alpha(H)$ will be given in Lemma 1.8. In particular, for $p \geq 3$,

$$\alpha(H) = |H|^n \sum_{\chi} \frac{1}{\chi(1)^n} \sum_{h \in H} \chi(h^{q-1}) \chi(h),$$

where $n = [k : \mathbb{Q}_p]$, q is the maximal power of p such that $k \supset \mu_q$, and χ runs over all irreducible complex characters of H .

We shall prove this theorem in §1.

Our second aim is to calculate $\nu(k, G)$ explicitly for some special p -groups (Theorem 2.2):

- (1) the two non-abelian groups of order p^3 ($p \geq 3$),
- (2) the dihedral and the generalized quaternion groups of 2-power orders ($p = 2$).

In the case $|G| = p^3$, our result is not new; the formula is originally due to R. Massy and T. Nguyen-Quang-Do [Ma-Ng] when $p \geq 3$, and to C. Jensen and N. Yui [Je-Yu] when $p = 2$ (cf. Remark 3.1). But our method of proof is different from theirs. Indeed, our proof of Theorem 1 (or, directly, Lemma 1.8) is significantly inspired by a work of Y. Ihara [Ih]. See Remark 1.6 below.

The following notation will be used throughout this note:

- $\text{Gal}(L/k)$: the Galois group of a Galois extension L/k ,
- $\text{Aut}(G)$: the automorphism group of a group G ,
- $H \leq G$ means that H is a subgroup of a group G ,
- $[a, b] := a^{-1}b^{-1}ab$,
- μ_N : the group of N -th roots of unity,
- $|\cdot|$: the cardinality of a set.

1. PROOF OF THEOREM 1

1.1. Let k be a field and G a finite group. A G -extension of k is, by definition, a Galois extension of k whose Galois group is isomorphic to G . There is a one-to-one correspondence between the set of G -extensions of k in a fixed separable closure \bar{k} of k and the set of surjective homomorphisms $\text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k) \rightarrow G$ modulo automorphisms of G . Let $\nu(k, G)$ denote the cardinality of any one of these two sets. We thus have

$$\nu(k, G) = \frac{|\{\text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k) \rightarrow G : \text{surjective homomorphism}\}|}{|\text{Aut}(G)|},$$

assuming the finiteness of each factor. If G is a p -group (p a prime), then we may replace \bar{k} by the maximal pro- p -extension $k(p)$ of k .

1.2. Let \mathcal{G} be a fixed group. For any finite group G , let us denote

$$\alpha(G) = \alpha_{\mathcal{G}}(G) := |\{\mathcal{G} \rightarrow G : \text{homomorphism}\}|,$$

$$\beta(G) = \beta_{\mathcal{G}}(G) := |\{\mathcal{G} \rightarrow G : \text{surjective homomorphism}\}|.$$

Assume that $\alpha(H)$ (hence also $\beta(H)$) is finite for any subgroup H of a group G . Then it is clear that

$$\alpha(G) = \sum_{H \leq G} \beta(H),$$

and by the Möbius inversion formula, it follows that

$$\beta(G) = \sum_{H \leq G} \mu_G(H)\alpha(H).$$

Here $\mu_G(\)$ is the Möbius function on the partially ordered set consisting of all subgroups of G , and is uniquely determined by the following two properties:

$$\mu_G(G) = 1,$$

$$\sum_{H \leq K \leq G} \mu_G(K) = 0, \text{ for any } H \leq G.$$

Lemma 1.3. *If G is a p -group and $H \leq G$ with $[G : H] = p^i$, then we have*

$$\mu_G(H) = \begin{cases} (-1)^i p^{\frac{1}{2}i(i-1)} & \text{if } H \geq G^p[G, G], \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Proof. See [Ha, p.142]. \square

1.4. Suppose that \mathcal{G} is finitely presented (in the category of abstract, profinite, or pro- p -groups) as:

$$\mathcal{G} = \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; R_1 = R_2 = \dots = R_m = 1 \rangle,$$

where each $R_i = R_i(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ is a finite word in symbols x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n . Then for any finite group G (we assume that G is a p -group if \mathcal{G} is a pro- p -group), we have

$$\alpha(G) = |\{(g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n) \in G^n; R_i(g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n) = 1, i = 1, 2, \dots, m\}|.$$

In particular, both $\alpha(G)$ and $\beta(G)$ are finite. By the second orthogonality relation of irreducible characters [Cu-Re, 31.13], we have

$$R_i(g_1, \dots, g_n) = 1 \iff \sum_{\chi} \chi(1)\chi(R_i(g_1, \dots, g_n)) = |G|,$$

$$R_i(g_1, \dots, g_n) \neq 1 \iff \sum_{\chi} \chi(1)\chi(R_i(g_1, \dots, g_n)) = 0,$$

where χ runs over all irreducible complex characters of G . Thus we obtain

$$(1.4.1) \quad \alpha(G) = \frac{1}{|G|^m} \sum_{(g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n) \in G^n} \prod_{i=1}^m \sum_{\chi} \chi(1)\chi(R_i(g_1, \dots, g_n)).$$

1.5. As an important example, here we refer to the case of compact Riemann surfaces. Let $\mathcal{G} = \pi_1(X)$ be the fundamental group of a compact Riemann surface X with genus g . It is well known that \mathcal{G} has the following presentation

as an abstract group:

$$\mathcal{G} = \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{2g}; [x_1, x_2][x_3, x_4] \cdots [x_{2g-1}, x_{2g}] = 1 \rangle.$$

For this group \mathcal{G} , the expression (1.4.1) becomes

$$(1.5.1) \quad \alpha(G) = |G|^{2g-1} \sum_{\chi} \frac{1}{\chi(1)^{2g-2}}.$$

See [Se, 7.2], [Jo, Theorem 1] for the proof. As is mentioned in [Jo], this formula seems to be classically known.

Remark 1.6. Y. Ihara [Ih] used (1.5.1) to give an explicit formula for the number of $SL_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$ -étale coverings of X , calculating $\mu_G(H)$ explicitly for all subgroups H of $G = SL_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$.

1.7. We shall generalize (1.5.1) to the case of Demuškin groups. Let k be a finite extension of the p -adic field \mathbb{Q}_p with degree n , and let $\mathcal{G} = \text{Gal}(k(p)/k)$, where $k(p)$ is the maximal pro- p -extension of k . Assume $k \supset \mu_p$. Then \mathcal{G} is a Demuškin group. Let q be the maximal power of p such that $k \supset \mu_q$. By the classification theorem of Demuškin groups (cf. [La]), there exist generators x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n+2} of \mathcal{G} such that the unique relation R takes the following form: if $q \neq 2$ (n is even in this case), then

$$(1.7.1) \quad R = x_1^q [x_1, x_2][x_3, x_4] \cdots [x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}];$$

if $q = 2$ and n is odd, then

$$(1.7.2) \quad R = x_1^2 x_2^4 [x_2, x_3][x_4, x_5] \cdots [x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}];$$

if $q = 2$ and n is even, then either

$$(1.7.3) \quad R = x_1^{2+2^f} [x_1, x_2][x_3, x_4] \cdots [x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}], \quad \text{or}$$

$$(1.7.4) \quad R = x_1^2 [x_1, x_2] x_3^{2^f} [x_3, x_4] \cdots [x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}].$$

Here, under the canonical isomorphism

$$\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}_2(\mu_{2^\infty})/\mathbb{Q}_2) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2^\times$$

induced by the Galois action on $\mu_{2^\infty} := \bigcup_i \mu_{2^i}$, the invariant $f \geq 2$ is defined by

$$\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}_2(\mu_{2^\infty})/k \cap \mathbb{Q}_2(\mu_{2^\infty})) \cong \begin{cases} \langle -1 + 2^f \rangle & \text{(Case 1.7.3),} \\ \{\pm 1\} \times (1 + 2^f \mathbb{Z}_2) & \text{(Case 1.7.4).} \end{cases}$$

Lemma 1.8. Let $\mathcal{G} = \text{Gal}(k(p)/k)$ be as in 1.7 and G a p -group. We have

$$\alpha(G) = \begin{cases} |G|^n \sum_{\chi} \frac{1}{\chi(1)^n} \sum_{g \in G} \chi(g^{q-1}) \chi(g) & \text{(Case 1.7.1),} \\ |G|^{n-1} \sum_{\chi} \frac{1}{\chi(1)^{n-1}} \sum_{g, h \in G} \chi(g^2 h^3) \chi(h) & \text{(Case 1.7.2),} \\ |G|^n \sum_{\chi} \frac{1}{\chi(1)^n} \sum_{g \in G} \chi(g^{2^f+1}) \chi(g) & \text{(Case 1.7.3),} \\ |G|^{n-1} \sum_{\chi} \frac{1}{\chi(1)^{n-1}} \sum_{g, h \in G} \chi(g) \chi(gh^{2^f-1}) \chi(h) & \text{(Case 1.7.4),} \end{cases}$$

where χ runs over all irreducible complex characters of G .

Proof. Substitute the explicit forms of R into (1.4.1), and use the following identity:

$$\sum_{b, c \in G} \chi(a[b, c]) = \left(\frac{|G|}{\chi(1)} \right)^2 \chi(a), \text{ for all } a \in G,$$

which is a consequence of Schur's lemma (cf. [Se, 7.2]). \square

1.9. Putting all together, we obtain Theorem 1. \square

Remark 1.10. Let \mathcal{G} be a free pro- p -group with $n+1$ generators. Then $\alpha(H) = |H|^{n+1}$ for any p -group H . If we substitute this (in place of Lemma 1.8) into Theorem 1, we obtain Šafarevič's formula cited in Introduction.

2. SOME SPECIAL CASES

2.1. **Notations on groups.** For each prime $p \geq 3$, there exist exactly two non-abelian groups of order p^3 up to isomorphism (cf. [Hu, Kapitel I, Satz 14.10]). After [Ma-Ng], we denote them by

$$\begin{aligned} E_1 &:= \langle x, y; x^p = y^p = [x, y]^p = 1, [x, [x, y]] = [y, [x, y]] = 1 \rangle, \\ E_2 &:= \langle x, y; x^{p^2} = y^p = 1, yxy^{-1} = x^{p+1} \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

For each integer $N \geq 2$, let D_{2N} denote the dihedral group of order $2N$ and Q_{4N} the generalized quaternion group of order $4N$:

$$\begin{aligned} D_{2N} &:= \langle x, y; x^N = y^2 = 1, yxy^{-1} = x^{-1} \rangle, \\ Q_{4N} &:= \langle x, y; x^{2N} = 1, y^2 = x^N, yxy^{-1} = x^{-1} \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

D_8 and Q_8 are the two non-abelian groups of order 8.

Theorem 2.2. *Let the situation and the notation p, k, n, q , and f be the same as in 1.7.*

(1) (cf. [Ma-Ng]) For $p \geq 3$,

$$\begin{aligned} \nu(k, E_1) &= \frac{p^n(p^{n+2} - 1)(p^n - 1)}{(p^2 - 1)(p - 1)}, \\ \nu(k, E_2) &= \begin{cases} \frac{p^n(p^{2n+2} - p^{n+1} - p^{n+1})}{p-1} & \text{if } k \not\supset \mu_{p^2}, \\ \frac{p^n(p^{n+2} - 1)(p^n - 1)}{p-1} & \text{if } k \supset \mu_{p^2}. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

(2) Let $p = 2$ and $m \geq 3$. (a) If $k \supset \mu_4$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \nu(k, D_{2m}) &= 2^{m(n-1)-2n+3}(2^n - 1)(2^{n+2} - 1), \\ \nu(k, Q_{2m}) &= \begin{cases} 2^{m(n-1)-2n+3}(2^n - 1)(2^{n+2} - 1) & \text{if } m \geq 4, \\ \frac{1}{3} 2^{m(n-1)-2n+3}(2^n - 1)(2^{n+2} - 1) & \text{if } m = 3. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

(b) If $k \not\supset \mu_4$ and n is odd, then

$$\begin{aligned} \nu(k, D_{2m}) &= \begin{cases} 2^{m(n-1)-n+5}(2^n - 1) & \text{if } m \geq 4, \\ 2^n(2^{n+1} - 1)^2 & \text{if } m = 3, \end{cases} \\ \nu(k, Q_{2m}) &= \begin{cases} 2^{m(n-1)-n+5}(2^n - 1) & \text{if } m \geq 5, \\ 2^{2n}(2^{2n+1} - 2^{n+1} + 1) & \text{if } m = 4, \\ \frac{1}{3} 2^n(2^{n+1} - 1)^2 & \text{if } m = 3. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

(c) If $k \not\equiv \mu_4$ and n is even, then

$$\nu(k, D_{2^m}) = \begin{cases} 2^{m(n-1)-2n+1}(2^n - 1)\{2^{f+1} + 8(2^{n+1} - 1)\} & \text{if } m \geq f + 2, \\ 2^{m(n-1)-2n+1}(2^{n+1} - 1)\{2^{m-1} + 8(2^n - 1)\} & \text{if } m \leq f + 1, \end{cases}$$

$$\nu(k, Q_{2^m}) = \begin{cases} 2^{m(n-1)-2n+1}(2^n - 1)\{2^{f+1} + 8(2^{n+1} - 1)\} & \text{if } m \geq f + 2, \\ 2^{m(n-1)-2n+1}(2^{n+1} - 1)\{2^{m-1} + 8(2^n - 1)\} & \text{if } 4 \leq m \leq f + 1, \\ \frac{1}{3}2^n(2^{2n+2} - 2^{n+1} + 1) & \text{if } m = 3. \end{cases}$$

Proof. We shall give an explicit expression of $\alpha(\cdot)$. First note that, if H is abelian, then we have

$$\alpha(H) = |H|^{n+1} \times |\{h \in H; h^q = 1\}|.$$

In fact, one has only to consider the abelianization of \mathcal{G} ;

$$\mathcal{G}/[\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{G}] \cong \mathbb{Z}_p^{n+2}/q\mathbb{Z}_p.$$

It is therefore enough to consider the cases $H = E_1, E_2, D_M$, and Q_M , where $M \geq 8$ is a power of 2. We apply Lemma 1.8. But since it is an exercise in group theory to make the character tables of such groups (for D_M and Q_M , see [Cu-Re, §47]), we shall omit the details and just state the results of calculation.

(1) We are in Case 1.7.1. We have

$$\alpha(E_1) = \alpha(E_2) = p^{3n+5} + (p - 1)p^{2n+3}.$$

(2) (a) We are in Case 1.7.1. We have

$$\alpha(D_M) = \alpha(Q_M) = \begin{cases} M^{n+1} \left\{ 4 + \frac{1}{2^n} \left(\frac{M}{4} - 1 \right) \right\} & \text{if } M \leq 2q, \\ M^{n+1} \left\{ 4 + \frac{1}{2^n} \left(\frac{q}{2} - 1 \right) \right\} & \text{if } M \geq 2q. \end{cases}$$

(b) We are in Case 1.7.2. We have

$$\alpha(D_M) = \alpha(Q_M) = M^{n+1} \left(4 + \frac{1}{2^n} \right),$$

with the only exception that

$$\alpha(Q_8) = 8^{n+1} \left(4 - \frac{1}{2^n} \right).$$

(c) We are in Case 1.7.3 or Case 1.7.4. In either case, we have

$$\alpha(D_M) = \alpha(Q_M) = \begin{cases} M^{n+1} \left\{ 4 + \frac{1}{2^n} \left(\frac{M}{4} - 1 \right) \right\} & \text{if } M \leq 2^{f+1}, \\ M^{n+1} \left\{ 4 + \frac{1}{2^n} (2^{f-1} - 1) \right\} & \text{if } M \geq 2^{f+1}. \quad \square \end{cases}$$

Example 2.3.

$$\nu(Q_2, D_{2^m}) = \begin{cases} 16 & \text{if } m \geq 4, \\ 18 & \text{if } m = 3, \end{cases}$$

$$\nu(Q_2, Q_{2^m}) = \begin{cases} 16 & \text{if } m \geq 5, \\ 20 & \text{if } m = 4, \\ 6 & \text{if } m = 3. \end{cases}$$

Remark 2.4. G. Fujisaki [Fu] determined all the six Q_8 -extensions of Q_2 , and H. Naito [Na] recently determined all the eighteen D_8 -extensions of Q_2 .

3. REMARKS

3.1. We mention here two related works by other authors.

(1) R. Massy and T. Nguyen-Quang-Do [Ma-Ng] investigated when and how an abelian extension of type (p, p) of k is embeddable into a Galois extension of degree p^3 , by using Kummer theory. As an application they gave a formula for $\nu(k, G)$ when G is non-abelian of order p^3 . Their result for $p = 2$ seems to be incorrect, as is pointed out in [Je-Yu, Remark (II.3.9)].

(2) C. Jensen and N. Yui [Je-Yu] investigated quaternion extensions of general fields, using Witt's theorem [Wi] and the theory of quadratic forms. Among others they gave a formula for $\nu(k, G)$ when $G = Q_8, D_8$.

3.2. If $|G|$ is prime to the residue characteristic of k , then a G -extension of k is tamely ramified. The structure of the Galois group \mathcal{G} of the maximal tamely ramified extension of k is well known (cf. [Iw]): as a profinite group,

$$\mathcal{G} = \langle x, y; yxy^{-1} = x^q \rangle,$$

where q is the cardinality of the residue field of k . We can apply our method to this \mathcal{G} . For example, we can prove the following:

(1) If q is odd, $N \geq 2$, and $(q, N) = 1$, then we have

$$\nu(k, D_{2N}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } q \equiv -1 \pmod{N}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

$$\nu(k, Q_{4N}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } q \equiv -1 \pmod{2N}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

(2) For p odd, let E_1, E_2 be as in §2. If $(p, q) = 1$, then we have

$$\nu(k, E_1) = 0,$$

$$\nu(k, E_2) = \begin{cases} p & \text{if } q \equiv p + 1 \pmod{p^2}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

However, it is easier to show these directly, and it is also easy to determine all desired extensions:

(i) if $q \equiv -1 \pmod{N}$, then $k(\zeta_N, \sqrt[N]{\pi})/k$ is the only D_{2N} -extension of k ,
(ii) if $q \equiv -1 \pmod{2N}$, then $k(\zeta_{2N}, \xi \sqrt[2N]{\pi})/k$ is the only Q_{4N} -extension of k , where π is a uniformizer in k , ζ_N (resp. ζ_{2N}) is a primitive N -th (resp. $2N$ -th) root of unity, and ξ is a root of unity such that $k(\xi)/k$ is the quartic unramified extension of k . A similar description is possible for E_2 -extensions.

See also [Fe].

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