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## Galois Structure of de Rham Cohomology.

par TED CHINBURG\*

### 1. Introduction.

This article has two purposes. The first is to summarize (without proofs) the results in [C] concerning the Galois module structure of the de Rham cohomology of tame covers of schemes. The second purpose is to prove an alternate interpretation of [C] for irreducible smooth curves over finite fields. The object of [C] is to generalize to schemes the theory of the Galois module structure of tamely ramified rings of integers.

In classical Galois structure theory one considers finite tame Galois extensions  $L/K$  of number fields. To generalize this, we recall in §2 Grothendieck and Murre's concept of a tamely ramified  $G$ -cover  $f : X \mapsto Y$  of schemes over a Noetherian ring  $A$ , where  $G$  is a finite group. We then discuss the results of [C] concerning Euler characteristics in Grothendieck groups of  $A[G]$ -modules of suitable complexes of sheaves of  $G$ -modules on  $X$ . In §3 we define via de Rham complexes an invariant  $\Psi(X/Y)$  which generalizes the stable isomorphism class of the ring of integers of  $L$  in the classical case. We then discuss a conjectural generalization of Martinet's Conjecture when the ground ring  $A$  is a finitely generated  $\mathbf{Z}[1/m]$ -module for some integer  $m$  prime to the order of  $G$ . The main result of [C], which is summarized in §4, is a precise counterpart for smooth projective varieties over a finite field of Fröhlich's conjecture concerning rings of integers. One consequence of this result is that the generalization of Martinet's Conjecture discussed in §3 holds if  $A$  is a finite field.

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## 2. Tame covers and Euler characteristics.

We will begin by recalling from [GM] the definition of a tamely ramified cover of schemes.

**DEFINITION 2.1.** Let  $Y$  be a normal scheme which is of finite type over a Noetherian ring  $A$ . Let  $D$  be a Zariski closed subset of  $Y$  which is of codimension at least one. A morphism of schemes  $f : X \mapsto Y$  is a tamely ramified covering of  $Y$  relative to  $D$  if the following conditions hold:

- (a)  $f$  is finite.
- (b)  $f$  is étale over  $Y - D$ .
- (c) Every irreducible component of  $X$  dominates an irreducible component of  $Y$ .
- (d)  $X$  is normal.
- (e) Let  $y \in D$  have codimension 1 in  $Y$  and let  $x$  be a point of  $X$  over  $y$ . Then  $O_{X,x}/O_{Y,y}$  is a tamely ramified extension of D.V.R.'s, i.e. the associated residue field extension is separable and the ramification degree is prime to the residue characteristic if this characteristic is positive.

**DEFINITION 2.2.** Let  $f : X \mapsto Y$  and  $D$  be as in Definition 2.1, and suppose  $G$  is a finite group. We will say  $f : X \mapsto Y$  is a tame  $G$ -cover relative to  $D$  if  $X \times_Y (Y - D) \mapsto Y - D$  is a  $G$ -torsor when  $G$  is regarded as a constant group scheme over  $Y - D$  (c.f. [M, §III.4]). This is equivalent to the requirement that  $X \times_Y (Y - D) \mapsto Y - D$  is Galois with group  $G$  in the sense of [M, p. 43 - 44].

**Example 2.3.** Suppose  $L/K$  is a finite Galois extension of global fields which is at most tamely ramified in the usual sense. Let  $G = Gal(L/K)$ . If  $L$  and  $K$  are number fields, let  $O_L$  and  $O_K$  be their rings of integers. The natural morphism  $f : X = Spec(O_L) \mapsto Y = Spec(O_K)$  is then a tame  $G$ -cover relative to the closed subset  $D$  of  $Y$  consisting of the finitely many closed points over which  $f$  ramifies. If  $L$  and  $K$  are global function fields, then they are the function fields of smooth projective curves  $X$  and  $Y$ . The corresponding morphism  $f : X \mapsto Y$  is a tame  $G$ -cover relative to the closed subset  $D$  of  $Y$  over which  $f$  ramifies.

*Remark 2.4.* We let groups act on rings and modules on the left and on schemes on the right. Suppose  $f : X \mapsto Y$  is a tame  $G$ -cover as in Definition

2.2. Let  $R(X)$  be the function ring of  $X$  (c.f. [EGA I, 7.1.2]). Since  $X$  is normal and Noetherian, the finitely many irreducible components of  $X$  are disjoint, and  $R(X)$  is the direct sum of the function fields of the generic points of these components. Definition 2.2 implies  $R(X)$  is a Galois extension of  $R(Y)$  with Galois group  $G$  in the sense of [M, p. 43-44]. Because  $X$  is the normalization of  $Y$  in  $R(X)$ , the action of  $G$  on  $R(X)$  gives an action of  $G$  on  $O_X$ . Furthermore,  $f$  is affine since  $f$  is finite, and [L, Prop. I.9] implies  $f$  is surjective.

**DEFINITION 2.5.** Let  $f : X \mapsto Y$  be a tame  $G$ -cover as in Definition 2.2. A sheaf of  $O_Y[G]$ -Modules is a sheaf of  $O_Y$ -modules having a  $G$ -action which commutes with the action of  $O_Y$ . A quasi-coherent  $O_X$ - $G$ -Module  $T$  is a quasi-coherent sheaf  $T$  of  $O_X$ -modules on  $X$  having an action of  $G$  which is compatible with the action of  $G$  on  $O_X$  in the following sense. Suppose  $V$  is an open subset of  $Y$ ,  $\tau \in G$ ,  $a \in \Gamma(f^{-1}(V), O_X)$  and  $m \in \Gamma(f^{-1}(V), T)$ . Then  $\tau(am) = \tau(a) \cdot \tau(m)$ . We will always assume that morphisms between sheaves of  $O_Y[G]$ -Modules (resp.  $O_X$ - $G$ -Modules) respect both the actions of  $G$  and of  $O_Y$  (resp. of  $G$  and of  $O_X$ ).

In Definition 2.5 we have used the terminology  $O_X$ - $G$ -Module rather than  $O_X[G]$ -Module to signal the fact that the left action of  $O_X$  on the underlying sheaf of an  $O_X$ - $G$ -Module is twisted in the indicated way by the action of  $G$ .

**DEFINITION 2.6.** A  $G$ -module  $M$  is cohomologically trivial for  $G$  if the Tate cohomology group  $\hat{H}^i(H, M)$  vanishes for all subgroups  $H$  of  $G$  and all integers  $i$ .

The following result underlies the Galois structure invariants we will consider.

**THEOREM 2.7.** *Suppose  $f : X \mapsto Y$  is a tame  $G$ -cover relative to a divisor  $D$  on  $Y$  having normal crossings. Let  $T$  be a quasi-coherent sheaf of  $O_X$ - $G$ -Modules. Then all of the stalks of the sheaf  $f_*T$  of  $O_Y[G]$ -Modules on  $Y$  are cohomologically trivial for  $G$ .*

The proof of Theorem 2.7 relies on Abhyankhar's Theorem, which states that locally in the étale topology on  $Y$ ,  $f : X \mapsto Y$  is induced from a Kummer covering relative to a subgroup of  $G$ . In [C, Theorem 3.7] a slightly stronger result is proved, in which  $f : X \mapsto Y$  is replaced by an arbitrary subquotient cover of  $f$ .

**Example 2.8.** Suppose  $L/K$  is a finite Galois extension of number fields which is at most tamely ramified in the usual sense. Let  $I$  be a  $Gal(L/K)$ -

stable integral ideal of  $L$ . Theorem 2.7 implies Noether's Theorem that  $I$  is cohomologically trivial for  $G$ . To see this, let  $f$  be the natural morphism  $X = \text{Spec}(O_L) \mapsto Y = \text{Spec}(O_K)$  and let  $T$  be the sheaf  $\tilde{I}$  associated to  $I$ . The  $O_K[G]$ -module  $I$  is cohomologically trivial for  $G$  if and only if all of its localizations at primes of  $O_K$  are, and these localizations are the stalks of  $f_*\tilde{I}$ .

We now consider Euler characteristics of complexes of sheaves of  $G$ -modules. To do this, we assume for the rest of §1 that  $Y$  is proper over  $A$ .

Let  $K^+(Y, G)$  (resp.  $K^+(A, G)$ ) be the category of complexes of quasi-coherent  $O_Y[G]$ -Modules (resp.  $A[G]$ -modules) which are bounded below and which have coherent (resp. finitely generated) cohomology. Morphisms in these categories are homotopy classes of morphisms of complexes. A morphism is a quasi-isomorphism if it induces isomorphisms in cohomology.

Let  $D^+(Y, G)$  and  $D^+(A, G)$  be the localizations of  $K^+(Y, G)$  and  $K^+(A, G)$ , respectively, with respect to the multiplicative systems of quasi-isomorphisms in these categories. Thus  $D^+(Y, G)$  has the same objects as  $K^+(Y, G)$ , and the morphisms of  $D^+(Y, G)$  are obtained by formally inverting all quasi-isomorphisms in  $K^+(Y, G)$ ; see [H2] for details.

By [H2, p. 87 - 89], the global section functor  $\Gamma$  has a right derived functor  $\underline{R}\Gamma^+ : D^+(Y, G) \mapsto D^+(A, G)$ . Let  $F^\bullet$  be a complex in  $Ob(K^+(Y, G)) = Ob(D^+(Y, G))$ . By [EGA III, Cor. 0.12.4.7] the Čech hypercohomology complex  $\mathbf{H}(\mathcal{U}, F^\bullet)$  of  $F^\bullet$  with respect to a finite open affine cover  $\mathcal{U} = \{U_i\}_{i \in I}$  of  $Y$  is isomorphic to  $\underline{R}\Gamma^+(F^\bullet)$  in  $D^+(A, G)$ . We now recall the definition of  $\mathbf{H}(\mathcal{U}, F^\bullet)$ , since the Euler characteristics we will define can be most readily understood in terms of Čech hypercohomology.

For each integer  $i \geq 0$  and  $i+1$ -tuple  $(k_0, \dots, k_i)$  of elements of the index set  $I$  let  $U_{k_0, \dots, k_i} = U_{k_0} \cap \dots \cap U_{k_i}$ . Fix an ordering of the (finite) set  $I$ . The group of alternating  $i$ -cochains with coefficients in the sheaf  $F^j$  is defined to be

$$C^i(\mathcal{U}, F^j) = \prod_{k_0 < \dots < k_i} F^j(U_{k_0, \dots, k_i})$$

where the product is over all  $i+1$ -tuples of elements of  $I$  which are in increasing order. Let  $C^\bullet(\mathcal{U}, F^\bullet)$  be the bicomplex whose  $(i, j)^{\text{th}}$  term is  $C^i(\mathcal{U}, F^j)$ . The horizontal boundary map  $d''$  of  $C^\bullet(\mathcal{U}, F^\bullet)$  results from the boundary map of  $F^\bullet$ , while the vertical boundary map  $d'$  is given by the usual Čech coboundary formula (c.f. [H1, §III.4]). The Čech hypercohomology complex  $\mathbf{H}(\mathcal{U}, F^\bullet)$  of  $F^\bullet$  is the total complex  $\text{Tot}(C^\bullet(\mathcal{U}, F^\bullet))$  of

$C^\bullet(\mathcal{U}, F^\bullet)$ . Recall that  $\text{Tot}(C^\bullet(\mathcal{U}, F^\bullet))$  has  $n^{\text{th}}$  term

$$\bigoplus_{i+j=n} C^i(\mathcal{U}, F^j)$$

and the boundary map  $d$  of  $\text{Tot}(C^\bullet(\mathcal{U}, F^\bullet))$  is defined by  $d(x) = d'(x) + (-1)^i d''(x)$  for  $x \in C^i(\mathcal{U}, F^j)$ . Thus if the only non-zero term of  $F^\bullet$  is the sheaf  $F^0$  in degree 0,  $\mathbf{H}(\mathcal{U}, F^\bullet)$  is the usual Čech cohomology complex  $\mathbf{H}(\mathcal{U}, F^0)$ .

In the following result we do not need to assume  $Y$  is normal.

**THEOREM 2.9.** *Suppose  $Y$  is proper over  $A$ . Let  $F^\bullet$  be a bounded complex in  $K^+(Y, G)$  such that the stalks of each term of  $F^\bullet$  are cohomologically trivial for  $G$ . Then  $\underline{R}\Gamma^+(F^\bullet)$  is isomorphic in  $D^+(A, G)$  to a bounded complex  $M^\bullet$  of finitely generated  $A[G]$ -modules which are cohomologically trivial for  $G$ . Let  $CT(A[G])$  be the Grothendieck group of all finitely generated  $A[G]$ -modules which are cohomologically trivial for  $G$ . The Euler characteristic  $\chi(M^\bullet) = \sum (-1)^i (M^i)$  in  $CT(A[G])$  depends only on  $F^\bullet$ , and will be denoted  $\chi \underline{R}\Gamma^+(F^\bullet)$ . If  $F^\bullet$  consists of a single non-zero term  $F$  in degree 0, then  $\chi \underline{R}\Gamma^+(F^\bullet)$  will also be denoted by  $\chi \underline{R}\Gamma^+(F)$ .*

A complex  $M^\bullet$  with the above properties can be constructed in the following way. Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be a finite open affine cover of  $Y$ . By the inductive procedure of [H1, Lemma III.12.3] (see also [EGA III, Prop. 0.II.9.1]) we can construct a complex  $N^\bullet$  of free finitely generated  $A[G]$ -modules which is bounded above (but not necessarily below) together with a quasi-isomorphism of complexes  $N^\bullet \mapsto \mathbf{H}(\mathcal{U}, F^\bullet)$ . Suppose  $F^j = 0$  for  $j < n$ , so that the  $j^{\text{th}}$  term of  $\mathbf{H}(\mathcal{U}, F^\bullet)$  is also trivial for  $j < n$ . Let  $M^\bullet$  be the complex which results from  $N^\bullet$  by letting  $M^j$  equal  $N^j$  ( resp.  $N^n/\delta(N^{n-1})$ , resp.  $\{0\}$ ) if  $j > n$  ( resp.  $j = n$ , resp.  $j < n$ ). The resulting morphism  $M^\bullet \mapsto \mathbf{H}(\mathcal{U}, F^\bullet)$  is then a quasi-isomorphism. It is shown in the proof of [C, Theorem 2.1] that  $M^\bullet$  and  $\chi(M^\bullet)$  have all the properties stated in Theorem 2.9.

*Remark 2.10.* Theorem 2.7 provides many examples of complexes of sheaves  $F^\bullet$  satisfying the hypotheses of Theorem 2.9. Explicitly, suppose  $T^\bullet$  is a bounded complex of quasi-coherent  $O_X$ - $G$ -Modules on  $X$  and that the cohomology sheaves of  $T^\bullet$  are coherent. Then  $F^\bullet = f_* T^\bullet$  is a bounded complex of quasi-coherent  $O_Y[G]$ -Modules having coherent cohomology sheaves, and the stalks of each term of  $F^\bullet$  are cohomologically trivial for  $G$ . If the underlying ring  $A$  is a field, the existence of a complex  $M^\bullet$  as in Theorem 2.9 when  $F^\bullet = f_* T^\bullet$  was proved by Nakajima in [N1, Theorem 1].

**Example 2.11.** Let  $A = \mathbf{Z}$ . With the notations of Example 2.8,  $\chi_{\underline{R}}\Gamma^+(f_*\tilde{I})$  is the stable isomorphism class ( $I$ ) in  $CT(\mathbf{Z}[G])$  of the  $Gal(L/K)$ -stable  $O_L$ -ideal  $I$ . This is because the Čech cohomology complex  $\mathbf{H}(\mathcal{U}, f_*\tilde{I})$  of  $\tilde{I}$  relative to  $\mathcal{U} = \{Spec(O_K)\}$  consists of  $I$  in degree 0 and is trivial in all other dimensions. Since  $I$  is cohomologically trivial for  $G$  by the remarks of Example 2.8, we can let  $M^\bullet = \mathbf{H}(\mathcal{U}, f_*\tilde{I})$  in Theorem 2.9.

It is not difficult to use the Čech construction of  $M^\bullet$  to verify that the following properties of  $\chi_{\underline{R}}\Gamma^+$  (c.f. [C, Remarks 2.6 and 2.7]).

**PROPOSITION 2.12.** *Let  $F^\bullet = (F^i)$  be a bounded complex of coherent  $O_Y[G]$ -Modules whose stalks are cohomologically trivial for  $G$ . Then*

$$\chi_{\underline{R}}\Gamma^+(F^\bullet) = \sum_j (-1)^j \chi_{\underline{R}}\Gamma^+(F^j).$$

**PROPOSITION 2.13.** *Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . Suppose  $F^\bullet$  (resp.  $T^\bullet$ ) is a bounded complex in  $K^+(Y, G)$  (resp.  $K^+(Y, H)$ ), and that the stalks of the terms of  $F^\bullet$  (resp.  $T^\bullet$ ) are cohomologically trivial for  $G$  (resp. for  $H$ ). Then*

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_{\underline{R}}\Gamma^+(res_{G \rightarrow H}(F^\bullet)) &= res_{G \rightarrow H}(\chi_{\underline{R}}\Gamma^+(F^\bullet)) \quad , \text{ and} \\ \chi_{\underline{R}}\Gamma^+(ind_{H \rightarrow G}(T^\bullet)) &= ind_{H \rightarrow G}(\chi_{\underline{R}}\Gamma^+(T^\bullet)) \end{aligned}$$

where  $res_{G \rightarrow H}$  (resp.  $ind_{H \rightarrow G}$ ) is the map induced by restriction of operators from  $G$  to  $H$  (resp. by applying the functor  $M \mapsto Ind_H^G M = \mathbf{Z}[G] \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}[H]} M$  which induces  $H$ -modules to  $G$ ). If  $H$  is normal in  $G$  then

$$\chi_{\underline{R}}\Gamma^+(inv_{G \rightarrow G/H}(F^\bullet)) = inv_{G \rightarrow G/H}(\chi_{\underline{R}}\Gamma^+(F^\bullet))$$

where  $inv_{G \rightarrow G/H}$  is the map resulting from the functor  $M \mapsto M^H$  from  $G$ -modules to  $G/H$  modules.

The following result is Proposition 2.4 of [C].

**PROPOSITION 2.14.** *Suppose  $F^\bullet$  is as in Theorem 2.9. Let  $H^q(F^\bullet)$  be the  $q^{th}$  (coherent) cohomology sheaf of  $F^\bullet$ . Let  $\nu : CT(A[G]) \mapsto G_0(A[G])$  be the natural forgetful map to the Grothendieck group  $G_0(A[G])$  of all finitely generated  $A[G]$ -modules. Then*

$$\nu(\chi_{\underline{R}}\Gamma^+(F^\bullet)) = \sum_{p,q} (-1)^{p+q} \cdot (H^p(Y, H^q(F^\bullet)))'$$

where  $(M)'$  is the class in  $G_0(A[G])$  of the module  $M$ . If each of the sheaves  $F^q$  appearing in  $F^\bullet$  are coherent, then

$$\nu(\chi \underline{R}\Gamma^+(F^\bullet)) = \sum_{p,q} (-1)^{p+q} (H^p(Y, F^q))'$$

**Example 2.15.** Suppose that  $F^\bullet$  in Proposition 2.14 consists of a single coherent sheaf  $F^0$  in dimension 0. Proposition 2.14 shows that  $\chi \underline{R}\Gamma^+(F^0) = \chi \underline{R}\Gamma^+(F^\bullet)$  is a canonical lift to  $CT(A[G])$  of the usual coherent Euler characteristic  $\sum_p (-1)^p \cdot (H^p(Y, F^0))'$  of  $F^0$  in  $G_0(A[G])$ .

*Remark 2.16.* If the order of  $G$  is prime to the residue characteristic of every prime ideal of  $A$ , then every  $A[G]$ -module is cohomologically trivial for  $G$  and  $\nu$  is an isomorphism. Thus Proposition 2.14 gives a way to compute  $\chi \underline{R}\Gamma^+(F^\bullet)$  for such  $A$ .

**Example 2.17.** Let us show that if  $A$  is a field then

$$(2.1) \quad \chi \underline{R}\Gamma^+(O_Y[G]) = \chi(O_Y) \cdot (A[G])$$

in  $CT(A[G])$ , where  $\chi(O_Y) = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} (-1)^p \cdot \dim_A H^p(Y, O_Y)$  is the Euler characteristic of  $O_Y$  over  $A$ . (If  $A$  is a field, (2.1) is contained in Proposition 2.3 of [EL]; see also [N2, Theorem 1].) If  $G$  is the trivial group, (2.1) follows from Remark 2.16 and Example 2.15. For arbitrary  $G$  one then obtains (2.1) by induction from the trivial subgroup of  $G$  using Proposition 2.13.

We end this section by discussing the counterpart of Example 2.11 for global function fields.

**THEOREM 2.18.** *Let  $A = \mathbf{F}_q$  be the finite field with  $q$  elements. Suppose  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a tame  $G$ -cover of smooth projective irreducible curves over  $A$  and that  $A$  is the field of constants of  $Y$ . Suppose  $E$  is a  $G$ -stable Weil divisor on  $X$ , so that  $O_X(E)$  is an  $O_X$ - $G$ -Module in the sense of Definition 2.5. By viewing  $E$  as a Cartier divisor on  $X$  we may regard  $f_* O_X(E)$  as a subsheaf of the constant sheaf on  $Y$  whose generic fibre is the function field  $L$  of  $X$ . Let  $U$  be a non-empty affine open subset of  $Y$  and let  $S_\infty = Y - U$ . We can find an element  $\beta \in L$  with the following properties.*

- (a)  $\Gamma(U, O_Y)[G] \cdot \beta$  has finite index in  $\Gamma(U, f_* O_X(E))$ ;
- (b) If  $y \in S_\infty$ , the stalk  $(f_* O_X(E))_y$  of  $f_* O_X(E)$  at  $y$  has finite index in  $O_{Y,y}[G] \cdot \beta$ .
- (c) All of the  $G$ -modules appearing in (a) and (b) are cohomologically trivial for  $G$ .

For all such  $\beta$  we have

$$(2.2) \quad \chi_{\underline{R}}\Gamma^+(f_*O_X(E)) = (1 - g(Y)) \cdot (A[G]) \\ + \left( \frac{\Gamma(U, f_*O_X(E))}{\Gamma(U, O_Y)[G] \cdot \beta} \right) - \sum_{y \in S_\infty} \left( \frac{O_{Y,y}[G] \cdot \beta}{(f_*O_X(E))_y} \right)$$

in  $CT(A[G])$ , where  $g(Y) = \dim_A H^1(Y, O_Y)$  is the genus of  $Y$ .

**Proof.** Let  $K$  be the function field of  $Y$ . Then  $L/K$  is a Galois extension with group  $G$ , and by the normal basis Theorem we can find an element  $\gamma \in L$  such that  $K[G] \cdot \gamma = L$ . Let  $O_Y[G] \cdot \gamma$  be the sheaf of  $O_Y[G]$ -Modules on  $Y$  defined by  $\Gamma(V, O_Y[G] \cdot \gamma) = \Gamma(V, O_Y)[G] \cdot \gamma \subset L$  for all open subsets  $V$  of  $Y$ . Over a dense open subset of  $Y$  the stalks of  $O_Y[G] \cdot \gamma$  and  $f_*O_X(E)$  are equal; at all other  $y \in Y$ , these stalks are rank one  $O_{Y,y}[G]$ -submodules of  $L$  which are taken into one another by multiplication by a sufficiently high power of a uniformizing parameter at  $y$ . Hence by multiplying  $\gamma$  by a non-zero element of  $K$  having poles of high order at each point of  $S_\infty$  and zeros of large order at enough points of  $U = Y - S_\infty$  we arrive at an element  $\beta \in L$  which satisfies conditions (a) and (b).

Since  $\beta$  is a normal basis generator for  $L$  over  $K$ ,  $\Gamma(U, O_Y)[G] \cdot \beta$  and  $O_{Y,y}[G] \cdot \beta$  are cohomologically trivial for  $G$ . By Theorem 2.7, the stalks of  $f_*O_X(E)$  are cohomologically trivial for  $G$ . The localizations of the  $\Gamma(U, O_Y)[G]$ -module  $\hat{\Gamma}(U, f_*O_X(E))$  at prime ideals of  $\Gamma(U, O_Y)$  are the stalks of  $f_*O_X(E)$  at the points of  $U$ . It follows that  $\Gamma(U, f_*O_X(E))$  is also cohomologically trivial for  $G$ , proving (c).

We now prove (2.2). We can find an open affine subset  $V$  of  $Y$  which contains  $S_\infty$  such that  $f_*O_X(E)$  and  $O_Y[G] \cdot \beta$  have equal stalks over  $V - S_\infty$ . Since  $U \cap V \subset V - S_\infty$  this implies

$$(2.3) \quad \Gamma(U \cap V, f_*O_X(E)) = \Gamma(U \cap V, O_Y)[G] \cdot \beta.$$

We may also conclude using property (b) of Theorem 2.18 that  $\Gamma(V, f_*O_X(E)) \subseteq \Gamma(V, O_Y[G] \cdot \beta)$  and

$$(2.4) \quad \frac{\Gamma(V, O_Y[G] \cdot \beta)}{\Gamma(V, f_*O_X(E))} = \bigoplus_{y \in S_\infty} \left( \frac{O_{Y,y}[G] \cdot \beta}{(f_*O_X(E))_y} \right).$$

In view of Theorem 2.18(a) we now have a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\Gamma(U, \mathcal{O}_Y[G] \cdot \beta) \oplus \Gamma(V, \mathcal{O}_Y[G] \cdot \beta) & \longrightarrow & \Gamma(U \cap V, \mathcal{O}_Y[G] \cdot \beta) \\
\downarrow & & \parallel \\
(2.5) \quad \Gamma(U, f_* \mathcal{O}_X(E)) \oplus \Gamma(V, \mathcal{O}_Y[G] \cdot \beta) & \longrightarrow & \Gamma(U \cap V, f_* \mathcal{O}_X(E)) \\
\uparrow & & \parallel \\
\Gamma(U, f_* \mathcal{O}_X(E)) \oplus \Gamma(V, f_* \mathcal{O}_X(E)) & \longrightarrow & \Gamma(U \cap V, f_* \mathcal{O}_X(E))
\end{array}$$

in which the first and third rows are the Čech cohomology complexes  $\mathbf{H}(U, \mathcal{O}_Y[G] \cdot \beta)$  and  $\mathbf{H}(U, f_* \mathcal{O}_X(E))$  with respect to  $\mathcal{U} = \{U, V\}$ . The vertical arrows, either up or down, in the first column of this diagram are injective.

We now compute  $\chi_{\underline{R}} \Gamma^+(O_Y[G] \cdot \beta)$  and  $\chi_{\underline{R}} \Gamma^+(f_* \mathcal{O}_X(E))$  using  $\mathbf{H}(U, \mathcal{O}_Y[G] \cdot \beta)$  and  $\mathbf{H}(U, f_* \mathcal{O}_X(E))$  in the way described after just after Theorem 2.9. By comparing the Euler characteristic in  $CT(A[G])$  (in the sense of Theorem 2.9) of the middle row of (2.5) with the Euler characteristics of the top and bottom rows we find

$$\begin{aligned}
(2.6) \quad \chi_{\underline{R}} \Gamma^+(O_Y[G] \cdot \beta) + \left( \frac{\Gamma(U, f_* \mathcal{O}_X(E))}{\Gamma(U, \mathcal{O}_Y[G] \cdot \beta)} \right) = \\
\chi_{\underline{R}} \Gamma^+(f_* \mathcal{O}_X(E)) + \left( \frac{\Gamma(V, \mathcal{O}_Y[G] \cdot \beta)}{\Gamma(V, f_* \mathcal{O}_X(E))} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

Since  $O_Y[G] \cdot \beta$  is isomorphic to  $O_Y[G]$  we have

$$(2.7) \quad \chi_{\underline{R}} \Gamma^+(O_Y[G] \cdot \beta) = (1 - g(Y)) \cdot (A[G]).$$

from Example 2.17. Combining (2.6), (2.4) and (2.7) proves (2.2).

Specializing Theorem 2.18 and rewriting the last term on the right side of (2.2) gives the following result.

**COROLLARY 2.19.** *With the notation of Theorem 2.18, suppose  $E$  is the zero divisor, so  $O_X(E) = O_X$ . Let  $O_L = \Gamma(U, f_* \mathcal{O}_X)$  and  $O_K = \Gamma(U, \mathcal{O}_Y)$ . Then  $O_L$  (resp.  $O_K$ ) is the ring of elements of the function field  $L$  of  $X$  (resp.  $K$  of  $Y$ ) which are regular off of  $S_\infty$ . Let  $O_{L,\infty}$  (resp.  $O_{K,\infty}$ ) be ring of elements of  $L$  (resp.  $K$ ) which are regular above  $S_\infty$ . Then for  $\beta \in L$  as in Theorem 2.18,*

$$(2.8) \quad \chi_{\underline{R}} \Gamma^+(f_* \mathcal{O}_X) = (1 - g(Y)) \cdot (A[G]) + \left( \frac{O_L}{O_K[G]\beta} \right) - \left( \frac{O_{K,\infty}[G]\beta}{O_{L,\infty}} \right)$$

in  $CT(A[G])$ .

### 3. de Rham Galois structure invariants.

For the rest of this paper we assume  $Y$  be a normal scheme which is proper and of finite type over a Noetherian ring  $A$ . The connected components of  $Y$  are then irreducible; we assume that all of these components have a fixed dimension  $d$ . We suppose  $f : X \mapsto Y$  is a tame  $G$ -cover relative to a divisor  $D$  on  $Y$  in the sense of Definitions 2.2 and 2.1. For simplicity, we assume  $D$  has strictly normal crossings; a weaker hypothesis is used in §4 of [C].

Since  $f$  is finite,  $X$  is normal, proper and of finite type over  $A$ , and all of the connected components of  $X$  are irreducible and of dimension  $d$ . We will write the sheaf  $\Omega_{X/\text{Spec}(A)}$  of differentials on  $X$  as  $\Omega_X$ . Let  $\Omega_X^i = \wedge^i \Omega_X$  be the  $i^{\text{th}}$  exterior power of  $\Omega_X$  for  $i \geq 0$ . The action of  $G$  on  $\Omega_X$  described in Remark 2.4 gives rise to an action of  $G$  on  $\Omega_X^i$  which makes  $\Omega_X^i$  into a coherent sheaf of  $O_X$ - $G$ -Modules in the sense of Definition 2.5.

From Remark 2.10 we have the following result.

**PROPOSITION 3.1.** *The direct image  $f_*\Omega_X^i$  is a coherent sheaf of  $O_Y[G]$ -Modules whose stalks are cohomologically trivial for  $G$ .*

Hence by Theorem 2.9 we can make

**DEFINITION 3.2.** Let

$$\Psi(X/Y) = \sum_{i=0}^d (-1)^i \cdot (d-i) \cdot \chi \underline{R}\Gamma^+(f_*\Omega_X^i)$$

in  $CT(A[G])$ , where  $d = \dim(X)$ .

**Example 3.3.** If  $X$  has dimension  $d = 1$ , then  $\Psi(X/Y) = \chi \underline{R}\Gamma^+(f_*O_X)$ . In particular, if we let  $A = \mathbf{Z}$  in Example 2.8 then  $\Psi(X/Y)$  is the stable isomorphism class in  $CT(\mathbf{Z}[G])$  of the ring of integers of  $L$ .

The  $\Omega_X^i$  are coherent, and  $H^j(Y, f_*\Omega_X^i) = H^j(X, \Omega_X^i)$  because  $f$  is finite. Hence Proposition 2.14 gives

**PROPOSITION 3.4.** *Let  $\nu : CT(A[G]) \mapsto G_0(A[G])$  be the natural forgetful homomorphism to the Grothendieck group of all finitely generated  $A[G]$ -modules. Then*

$$\nu(\Psi(X/Y)) = \sum_{\substack{0 \leq i < d \\ 0 \leq j}} (-1)^{i+j} \cdot (d-i) \cdot (H^j(X, \Omega_X^i))'$$

where  $(M)'$  is the class in  $G_0(A[G])$  of the  $A[G]$ -module  $M$ .

We now develop a generalization to schemes of the statement of Martinet's Conjecture about tame rings of integers.

**DEFINITION 3.5.** Let  $CT(A[G])^{red} = CT(A[G]) / \{ \text{free } A[G]\text{-modules} \}$ . Suppose  $B \mapsto A$  is a homomorphism of Noetherian rings such that  $A$  is a finitely generated module over the image of  $B$ . Restriction of operators from  $A[G]$  to  $B[G]$  then induces a homomorphism  $res_{A \mapsto B}^{stab} : CT(A[G]) \mapsto CT(B[G])^{red}$ .

*Remark 3.6.* Suppose  $B = \mathbf{Z}[1/m]$  for some integer  $m$  prime to the order of  $G$ . The natural map from locally free finitely generated  $B[G]$ -modules to  $B[G]$ -modules which are cohomologically trivial for  $G$  identifies the locally free classgroup  $Cl(B[G])$  of  $B[G]$  with  $CT(B[G])^{red}$ . Suppose  $\mathcal{M}$  is any maximal  $B$ -order in  $\mathbf{Q}[G]$  containing  $B[G]$ . The kernel subgroup  $D(B[G])$  of  $Cl(B[G]) = CT(B[G])^{red}$  may be defined to be the kernel of the homomorphism  $Cl(B[G]) \mapsto Cl(\mathcal{M})$  induced by tensoring modules with  $\mathcal{M}$  over  $B[G]$ .

**CONJECTURE 3.7.** (Kernel Conjecture) Suppose  $B = \mathbf{Z}[1/m]$  for some integer  $m$  prime to the order of  $G$ , and that there is a ring homomorphism  $B \mapsto A$  making  $A$  a finitely generated  $B$ -module. Suppose  $X$  and  $Y$  are projective over  $A$  and that  $X$  and  $Spec(A)$  are regular. Then  $res_{A \mapsto B}^{stab}(\Psi(X/Y)) \in CT(B[G])^{red} = Cl(B[G])$  lies in  $D(B[G])$ .

It is a natural question to what extent this Conjecture is true under weaker hypotheses.

**Example 3.8.** Suppose  $X, Y$  and  $A = B = \mathbf{Z}$  are as in Example 3.3, so that  $res_{A \mapsto \mathbf{Z}}^{stab}(\Psi(X/Y)) = (O_I)$  in  $Cl(\mathbf{Z}[G])$ . The assertion that  $(O_I)$  lies in  $D(\mathbf{Z}[G])$  is Martinet's Conjecture and was proved by Fröhlich (see [F, §1]).

The following Theorem is deduced in [C, Theorem 4.11] from a sharper result, which is recalled in Theorem 4.6 below.

**THEOREM 3.9.** *The Kernel Conjecture is true if  $A$  is a finite field.*

**Remark 3.10.** If  $A$  is a finite field then  $res_{A \mapsto \mathbf{Z}}(\Psi(X/Y))$  does not change when  $A$  is replaced by a subfield of  $A$ . In particular, to prove Theorem 3.9, one can reduce to the case  $A = \mathbf{F}_p$  and  $B = \mathbf{Z}$ .

In Example 4.13 of [C] it is shown that the Kernel Conjecture for tame covers of integral models of modular curves concerns the Galois module

structure of weight two cusp forms. We end this section with a result about  $\text{res}_{A \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}}^{\text{stab}}(\Psi(X/Y))$  when  $f : X \mapsto Y$  is a tame  $G$ -cover of smooth projective irreducible curves over a finite field  $A$  as in Theorem 2.18 and Corollary 2.19.

**PROPOSITION 3.11.** *With the notations of Corollary 2.19,*

$$(3.1) \quad \text{res}_{A \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}}^{\text{stab}}(\Psi(X/Y)) = \left( \frac{O_L}{O_K[G]\beta} \right) - \left( \frac{O_{K,\infty}[G]\beta}{O_{L,\infty}} \right)$$

in  $Cl(\mathbf{Z}[G]) = CT(\mathbf{Z}[G])^{\text{red}}$ . There is an integer  $n$  depending only on  $G$  with the following property. Suppose that the degree over  $\mathbf{F}_p$  of the residue field of each point of  $S_\infty$  is divisible by  $n$ . Then

$$(3.2) \quad \text{res}_{A \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}}^{\text{stab}}(\Psi(X/Y)) = \left( \frac{O_L}{O_K[G]\beta} \right).$$

To prove Proposition 3.11, note that if  $A$  is a finite field of characteristic  $p$ , then  $\text{res}_{A \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}}^{\text{stab}}(A[G]) = 0$ . Hence (3.1) follows immediately from Corollary 2.19. One now deduces (3.2) from (3.1) by applying the following Lemma with  $R = O_{K,\infty}$  to the  $R[G]$ -module  $M = \left( \frac{O_{K,\infty}[G]\beta}{O_{L,\infty}} \right)$ .

**LEMMA 3.12.** *Suppose  $R$  is a ring of characteristic  $p > 0$  which is either a finite field or an excellent Dedekind ring having finite residue fields. Suppose  $A$  is a finite subfield of  $R$ , and let  $G$  be a finite group. There is an integer  $n$  depending only on  $G$  with the following property. Suppose  $M$  is a finite  $R[G]$ -module which is cohomologically trivial for  $G$ . Then*

- (a)  $M$  is a projective  $A[G]$ -module, and
- (b) If the degree of each residue field of  $R$  over  $\mathbf{F}_p$  is divisible by  $n$  then  $\text{res}_{A \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}}^{\text{stab}}(M) = 0$  in  $Cl(\mathbf{Z}[G])$ .

**Proof.** To prove part (a), it will suffice to show  $\text{Ext}_{A[G]}^1(M, M') = 0$  for all  $A[G]$ -modules  $M'$ . The spectral sequence  $H^i(G, \text{Ext}_A^j(M, M')) \implies \text{Ext}_{A[G]}^{i+j}(M, M')$  degenerates to give  $H^1(G, \text{Hom}_A(M, M')) = \text{Ext}_{A[G]}^1(M, M')$ . Since  $p \cdot \text{Hom}_A(M, M') = 0$ , it will now suffice by [S1, Chap. IX, Cor. to Thm. 4] to show  $H^1(G_p, \text{Hom}_A(M, M')) = 0$  if  $G_p$  is a  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of  $G$ . The argument of [S1, Thm. IX.5] shows  $M$  is a free  $A[G_p]$ -module. It follows that  $\text{Hom}_A(M, M')$  is also a free  $A[G_p]$ -module, so  $H^1(G_p, \text{Hom}_A(M, M')) = 0$  and (a) is proved.

To prove (b), note that since  $M$  is finite,  $M$  is supported on a finite set of prime ideals of  $R$ . Hence we can reduce to the case in which  $R$  is a discrete valuation ring. A power of the maximal ideal of  $R$  annihilates  $M$ . Hence  $M$  is a module for the completion of  $R$ , and we can reduce to the case in which  $R$  is complete. Since  $R$  has characteristic  $p$  and finite residue field, the Teichmüller lift of the multiplicative group of the residue field of  $R$  gives rise to an embedding of the residue field of  $R$  into  $R$ . Thus we can reduce to the case in which  $R$  is a finite field. In view of (a), it will suffice to show there is an integer  $n$  depending only on  $G$  such that if  $n$  divides the relative degree  $[R : \mathbf{F}_p]$  then  $\text{res}_{R \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}}^{\text{stab}}(M) = 0$  for all finite projective  $R[G]$ -modules  $M$ .

Let  $\bar{R}$  be an algebraic closure of  $R$ . By [S2, Chap. 14], there are up to isomorphism only finitely many projective indecomposable  $\bar{R}[G]$ -modules, and each finitely generated projective  $\bar{R}[G]$ -module is a direct sum of projective indecomposables. Furthermore, two projective  $R[G]$ -modules are isomorphic if and only if they become isomorphic on tensoring with  $\bar{R}$  over  $R$ . Finally, each projective indecomposable  $\bar{R}[G]$ -module is defined over the subfield  $T$  of  $\bar{R}$  obtained by adjoining to  $\mathbf{F}_p$  all roots of unity of order dividing that of  $G$ . There is an  $n$  depending only on  $G$  such that if  $n$  divides  $[R : \mathbf{F}_p]$  then  $R$  contains  $T$  and  $[R : T]$  is divisible by the (finite) order of  $Cl(\mathbf{Z}[G])$ . Hence each projective  $R[G]$ -module  $M$  has the form  $M = R \otimes_T M'$  for some projective  $T[G]$ -module  $M'$ . Then  $\text{res}_{R \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}}^{\text{stab}}(M) = [R : T] \cdot \text{res}_{T \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}}^{\text{stab}}(M') = 0$  in  $Cl(\mathbf{Z}[G])$ , which completes the proof.

#### 4. Root numbers and Galois structure over finite fields.

In this section we assume  $X$  and  $Y$  are projective schemes over  $A = \mathbf{F}_p$  and that  $X$  is regular. Since  $A$  is perfect, this implies  $X$  is smooth over  $A$ . As in §3 we assume  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a tame  $G$  cover over divisor  $D$  on  $Y$  which has strictly normal crossings.

By Remark 2.4,  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is finite and surjective. Hence for each element  $y$  of the set  $Y^0$  of closed points of  $Y$  there is an  $x(y) \in X^0$  lying over  $y$ . Define  $G_{x(y)}$  ( resp.  $I_{x(y)}$ ) to be the decomposition group ( resp. the inertia group) of  $x(y)$  in  $G$ . The Frobenius  $Frob(x(y))$  of  $x(y)$  over  $y$  is the unique element of  $G_{x(y)}/I_{x(y)}$  which induces the automorphism  $\alpha \mapsto \alpha^{p^{\deg(y)}}$  of the residue field  $k(x(y))$  of  $x(y)$ , where  $\deg(y)$  is the degree of the residue field  $k(y)$  over  $\mathbf{F}_p$ .

Let  $V$  be a finite dimensional complex representation of  $G$ , and let  $Y'$  be a Zariski open or closed subset of  $Y$ . The Artin  $L$ -function of  $V$  with

respect to  $Y'$  is

$$(4.1) \quad L(Y', V, t) = \prod_{y \in Y' \cap Y^0} \det(1 - \text{Frob}(x(y)) t^{\deg(y)} | V^{I_{x(y)}})^{-1}.$$

Since  $Y'$  is open or closed in  $Y$ , it follows from Grothendieck's Theorem on the rationality of L-series [M, Thm. VI.13.3] that  $L(Y', V, t)$  is a finite product

$$(4.2) \quad L(Y', V, t) = \prod_{i,k} (1 - a_{i,k} t)^{(-1)^{i+1}}$$

for some  $a_{i,k} \in \overline{\mathbf{Q}}$ . Define

$$(4.3) \quad \epsilon(Y', V) = \prod_{i,k} (-a_{i,k})^{(-1)^{i+1}}.$$

Using work of Milne and Illusie, it is shown in [C, Theorem 6.2] that the class  $\Psi(X/Y)$  in  $CT(\mathbf{F}_p[G])$  both determines and is determined by the  $p$ -adic absolute values of the  $\epsilon(Y, V)$  as  $V$  varies over all of the complex irreducible representations of  $G$ . We will not state this result precisely here, but we will recall its consequences to  $\text{res}_{A \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}}^{stab}(\Psi(X/Y)) \in Cl(\mathbf{Z}[G])$ .

For  $F$  a perfect field let  $\overline{F}$  be an algebraic closure of  $F$  and let  $\Omega_F = Gal(\overline{F}/F)$ . Let  $J(E)$  denote the group of ideles of a number field  $E$ . Define  $J(\overline{\mathbf{Q}})$  to be the direct limit over all number fields  $E$  of  $J(E)$ . Let  $R_G$  be the additive group of virtual characters over  $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}$  of the finite group  $G$ . Let  $U(\mathbf{Z}[G])$  be the unit ideles of the idele group  $J(\mathbf{Q}[G])$  of  $\mathbf{Q}[G]$ . As in [F] we have a determinant map  $Det : J(\mathbf{Q}[G]) \mapsto Hom_{\Omega_{\mathbf{Q}}}(R_G, J(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}))$ . Fröhlich's Hom-description of the classgroup  $Cl(\mathbf{Z}[G])$  states that there is an isomorphism

$$(4.4) \quad \frac{Hom_{\Omega_{\mathbf{Q}}}(R_G, J(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}))}{Hom_{\Omega_{\mathbf{Q}}}(R_G, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}^*) \cdot Det(U(\mathbf{Z}[G]))} \xrightarrow{\mu} Cl(\mathbf{Z}[G])$$

normalized in the following way. Suppose  $\alpha = (\alpha_v) \in J(\mathbf{Q}[G])$  is an idele of  $\mathbf{Q}[G]$  such that  $\alpha_\infty = 1$  if  $\infty$  is the infinite place of  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Then  $M_\alpha = \bigcap_{v \text{ finite}} \mathbf{Z}_v[G] \alpha_v$  is a locally free rank one  $\mathbf{Z}[G]$ -module. The homomorphism  $\mu$  is the unique one sending the class of  $Det(\alpha) \in Hom_{\Omega_{\mathbf{Q}}}(R_G, J(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}))$  to the class of  $M_\alpha$  for all  $\alpha$  as above.

**DEFINITION 4.1.** For each place  $v$  of  $\mathbf{Q}$  let  $i_v : (\overline{\mathbf{Q}})_v^* = (\overline{\mathbf{Q}} \otimes_{\mathbf{Q}} \mathbf{Q}_v)^* \hookrightarrow J(\overline{\mathbf{Q}})$  be the natural inclusion. Let  $| \cdot |_v$  be the unique extension to  $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_v$  of the usual

$v$ -adic absolute value on  $\mathbf{Q}_v$ . We will also use  $|\cdot|_v$  to denote the unique function  $|\cdot|_v : (\overline{\mathbf{Q}})_v \rightarrow (\overline{\mathbf{Q}})_v$  such that  $|\cdot|_v \circ t = t \circ |\cdot|_v$  for all embeddings  $t : \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_v \hookrightarrow (\overline{\mathbf{Q}})_v$  over  $\mathbf{Q}_v$ . We can write each element  $\alpha$  of  $J(\overline{\mathbf{Q}})$  as  $\alpha = (\alpha_v)_v$  with  $\alpha_v \in (\overline{\mathbf{Q}})_v^*$ . Let  $|\cdot|_{tot} : J(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}) \rightarrow J(\overline{\mathbf{Q}})$  be the homomorphism for which  $|(\alpha_v)_v|_{tot} = (|\alpha_v|_v)_v$ .

**DEFINITION 4.2.** For each complex representation  $V$  of  $G$  let  $\overline{V}$  be the dual of  $V$  and let  $\chi_V$  be the character of  $V$ . Suppose  $Y'$  is a Zariski open or closed subset of  $Y$  and that  $v$  is a place of  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Define  $\epsilon(Y')$  (resp.  $\epsilon_v(Y')$ , resp.  $|\epsilon_v(Y')|_{tot}$ ) to be the function in  $Hom(R_G, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}^*)$  (resp.  $Hom(R_G, J(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}))$ , resp.  $Hom(R_G, J(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}))$ ) which sends the character  $\chi_V \in R_G$  to  $\epsilon(Y', \overline{V})$  (resp.  $i_v \epsilon(Y', \overline{V})$ , resp.  $|i_v \epsilon(Y', \overline{V})|_{tot}$ ). Let  $\infty$  be the infinite place of  $\mathbf{Q}$ . The finite place of  $\mathbf{Q}$  determined by a rational prime  $l$  will also be denoted by  $l$ .

From the Euler product (4.1) one sees that  $L(Y', V^\lambda, t) = L(Y', V, t)^\lambda$  for  $\lambda \in Aut(\mathbf{C}/\mathbf{Q})$ . This together with (4.2) and (4.3) show

**LEMMA 4.3.**  $\epsilon(Y')$  and  $\epsilon_v(Y')$  are  $\Omega_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}}$ -equivariant for all places  $v$  of  $\mathbf{Q}$ .

Recall that a representation  $V$  of  $G$  is symplectic if there is a non-degenerate alternative bilinear form on  $V$  which is  $G$ -invariant. We now define a counterpart of the root number class defined by Cassou-Noguès for tame finite Galois extensions of number fields.

**LEMMA 4.4.** *If  $V$  is symplectic then  $\chi_V$  is real valued and  $\epsilon(Y, V) = \epsilon(Y, \overline{V})$  is totally real. There is a function  $h_\infty \in Hom_{\Omega_{\mathbf{Q}}}(R_G, J(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}))$  defined by*

$$h_\infty(\chi_V) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \frac{\epsilon_\infty(Y)(\chi_V)}{|\epsilon_\infty(Y)|_{tot}(\chi_V)} & \text{if } V \text{ is symplectic} \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right\}$$

Hence the root number class  $W_{X/Y} = \mu(h_\infty)$  is a well defined element of  $Cl(\mathbf{Z}[G])$ .

**Proof.** This follows directly from Lemma 4.3. Note that for symplectic  $V$ ,  $h_\infty(\chi_V)$  is the idele with trivial finite components and component in  $\overline{\mathbf{Q}} \otimes_{\mathbf{Q}} \mathbf{R}$  given by the signs ( $= \pm 1$ ) of  $\epsilon(Y, \overline{V})$  at infinity.

**DEFINITION 4.5.** (c.f. [M, Remark I.3.7]) The different  $\delta_{X/Y}$  of  $X$  over  $Y$  is the annihilator of  $\Omega_{X/Y}^1$  in  $\mathcal{O}_X$ . The closed subscheme  $B_{X/Y}$  of  $X$  defined

by  $\delta_{X/Y}$  is the branch locus of  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  in  $X$ . The set  $b = b_{X/Y} = f(B_{X/Y})$  is a closed subset of  $Y$  because  $f$  is finite, and will be called the branch locus of  $f$  in  $Y$ . Let  $U = U_{X/Y}$  be the open subset  $Y - b_{X/Y}$  of  $Y$ .

We can now state the main result of [C].

**THEOREM 4.6.** *Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a tame  $G$ -cover of projective schemes over  $A = \mathbf{F}_p$  relative to a divisor  $D$  on  $Y$  which has strictly normal crossings. Suppose  $X$  is regular. Then*

$$\text{res}_{\mathbf{F}_p \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}}^{\text{stab}}(\Psi(X/Y)) = W_{X/Y} + R_{X/Y}$$

where the root number class  $W_{X/Y}$  is defined in Lemma 4.4, and the ramification class  $R_{X/Y}$  is defined as follows. Let  $b = b_{X/Y}$  be the branch locus of  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  in  $Y$ . Then  $|\epsilon_p(b)|_{\text{tot}}^{-1} \cdot \epsilon_\infty(b)$  lies in  $\text{Hom}_{\Omega_{\mathbf{Q}}}(\mathcal{R}_G, J(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}))$ , so we may define

$$R_{X/Y} = \mu(|\epsilon_p(b)|_{\text{tot}}^{-1} \cdot \epsilon_\infty(b))$$

in  $Cl(\mathbf{Z}[G])$ .

The following result is Theorem 6.9 of [C].

**THEOREM 4.7.** *The classes  $W_{X/Y}$  and  $R_{X/Y}$  lie in the Kernel group  $D(\mathbf{Z}[G])$ . The order of  $W_{X/Y}$  is one or two, and  $W_{X/Y}$  is trivial if  $G$  has no symplectic representations. The class  $R_{X/Y}$  is trivial if  $X \rightarrow Y$  is étale or if  $\dim(X) = 1$ .*

In view of Remark 3.10, Theorems 4.6 and 4.7 establish Theorem 3.9 (the Kernel Conjecture over finite fields).

**Example 4.8** Suppose  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a tame  $G$ -cover of smooth projective irreducible curves over  $A = \mathbf{F}_p$ . Then  $b \subset Y$  consists of the finitely many closed points of  $Y$  over which  $f$  is ramified. Let  $V$  be a complex representation of  $G$ . By equations (4.3), (4.2) and (4.1),

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon(b, \overline{V}) &= \prod_{y \in b} \det(-\text{Frob}(x(y)) | \overline{V}^{I_{x(y)}})^{-1} \\ (4.5) \quad &= \prod_{y \in b} \det(-\text{Frob}(x(y)) | V^{I_{x(y)}}) \end{aligned}$$

where  $x(y)$  is a closed point of  $X$  over  $y$  and  $I_{x(y)}$  is the inertia group of  $x(y)$ . Thus  $\epsilon(b)(\chi_V) = \epsilon(b, \overline{V})$  is the product over  $y \in b$  of the local non-ramified characteristic of  $V$  at  $y$  defined by Fröhlich in [F, eq. (1.1), p. 149].

In particular, since  $\epsilon(b, \bar{V})$  is a root of unity,  $|\epsilon_p(b)|_{tot}$  is trivial. The results of [F] on non-ramified characteristics imply  $\epsilon_\infty(b)$  lies in  $Det(\mathbf{Z}_\infty[G]^*) \subset Det(U(\mathbf{Z}[G]))$ . Thus (4.4) shows

$$R_{X/Y} = \mu(|\epsilon_p(b)|_{tot}^{-1} \cdot \epsilon_\infty(b)) = 0$$

as stated in Theorem 4.7.

*Remark 4.9* In dimensions greater than 1,  $R_{X/Y}$  can be non-trivial. For example, in [C, Example 6.13] it is shown that if  $n > 2$  is prime, there is a tame Kummer  $G$ -cover  $X \mapsto Y$  of projective spaces over a finite field of characteristic  $p$  such that  $res_{\mathbf{F}_p \mapsto \mathbf{Z}}^{st, ab}(\Psi(X/Y)) = R_{X/Y}$  and  $R_{X/Y}$  has exact order  $n$ .

We conclude by restating Theorems 4.6 and 4.7 for irreducible  $X$  of dimension 1 in a way that parallels Taylor's Theorem concerning Fröhlich's conjecture for tame rings of integers.

**COROLLARY 4.10.** *Let  $f : X \mapsto Y$  be a tame  $G$ -cover of smooth projective irreducible curves over  $A = \mathbf{F}_p$ . Let  $S_\infty$  be a finite non-empty set of closed points of  $Y$ . Let  $O_I$  ( resp.  $O_K$  ) be the ring of elements of the function field  $L$  of  $X$  ( resp.  $K$  of  $Y$  ) which are regular off of  $S_\infty$ . Let  $O_{I, \infty}$  ( resp.  $O_{K, \infty}$  ) be ring of elements of  $L$  ( resp.  $K$  ) which are regular above  $S_\infty$ . There is a normal basis generator  $\beta$  of  $L$  over  $K$  such that  $O_I$  contains  $O_K[G] \cdot \beta$  with finite index and  $O_{K, \infty}[G] \cdot \beta$  contains  $O_{I, \infty}$  with finite index, where all of these  $G$ -modules are cohomologically trivial for  $G$ . For all such  $\beta$  one has*

$$(4.6) \quad \left( \frac{O_I}{O_K[G]\beta} \right) - \left( \frac{O_{K, \infty}[G]\beta}{O_{I, \infty}} \right) = W_{X/Y}$$

in  $Cl(\mathbf{Z}[G])$ , where  $W_{X/Y}$  is as in Lemma 4.4. There is an integer  $n$  depending only on  $G$  with the following property. Suppose that the degree over  $\mathbf{F}_p$  of the residue field of each point of  $S_\infty$  is divisible by  $n$ . Then (4.6) can be simplified to

$$(4.7) \quad \left( \frac{O_I}{O_K[G]\beta} \right) = W_{X/Y}$$

in  $Cl(\mathbf{Z}[G])$ .

**Proof.** Combine Proposition 3.11 with Theorems 4.6 and 4.7.

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