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Number Theory, Homological Algebra / *Théorie des nombres, Algèbre homologique*

# A note on Gersten's conjecture for étale cohomology over two-dimensional henselian regular local rings

*Une note sur la conjecture de Gersten pour la cohomologie étale sur des anneaux locaux réguliers henséliens à deux dimensions*

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**Abstract.** We prove Gersten's conjecture for étale cohomology over two dimensional henselian regular local rings without assuming equi-characteristic. As an application, we obtain the local-global principle for Galois cohomology over mixed characteristic two-dimensional henselian local rings.

**Résumé.** Nous montrons la conjecture de Gersten pour la cohomologie étale sur des anneaux locaux réguliers henséliens sans supposer de caractère équicaractéristique. En application, nous obtenons le principe local-global pour la cohomologie de Galois sur des anneaux locaux henséliens à deux dimensions de caractéristique mixte.

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $R$  be an equi-characteristic regular local ring,  $k(R)$  the field of fractions of  $R$ ,  $l$  a positive integer which is invertible in  $R$  and  $\mu_l$  the étale sheaf of  $l$ -th roots of unity. Then the sequence of étale cohomology groups

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^{n+1}(R, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) &\longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^{n+1}(k(R), \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \\ &\longrightarrow \bigoplus_{\substack{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec } R \\ \text{ht}(\mathfrak{p})=1}} H_{\text{ét}}^n(\kappa(\mathfrak{p}), \mu_l^{\otimes(n-1)}) \\ &\longrightarrow \bigoplus_{\substack{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec } R \\ \text{ht}(\mathfrak{p})=2}} H_{\text{ét}}^{n-1}(\kappa(\mathfrak{p}), \mu_l^{\otimes(n-2)}) \longrightarrow \dots \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

is exact by Bloch–Ogus ([2]) and Panin ([10]). Here  $\kappa(\mathfrak{p})$  is the residue field of  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec } R$ .

By using the exactness of the complex (1) at the first two terms, Harbater–Hartmann–Krashen ([7]) and Hu ([8]) proved the local-global principle as follows.

Let  $K$  be a field of one of the following types:

- (semi-global case) The function field of a connected regular projective curve over the field of fractions of a henselian excellent discrete valuation ring  $A$ .
- (local case) The function field of a two-dimensional henselian excellent normal local domain  $A$ .

Then the following question was raised by Colliot-Thélène ([3]):

Let  $n \geq 1$  be an integer and  $l$  a positive integer which is invertible in  $R$ . Is the natural map

$$H_{\text{ét}}^{n+1}(K, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow \prod_{v \in \Omega_K} H_{\text{ét}}^{n+1}(K_v, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \quad (2)$$

injective?

Here  $\Omega_K$  is the set of normalized discrete valuations on  $K$  and  $K_v$  is the corresponding henselization of  $K$  for each  $v \in \Omega_K$ .

Suppose that  $A$  is equi-characteristic. Harbater–Hartmann–Krashen ([7, Theorem 3.3.6]) proved that the local-global map (2) is injective in the semi-global case. Later, Hu ([8, Theorem 2.5]) proved that the local-global map (2) is injective in both the semi-global case and the local case by an alternative method.

If the sequence (1) is exact (at the first two terms) in the case where  $R$  is a mixed characteristic two-dimensional excellent henselian local ring, then the local-global map (2) is injective even without assuming equi-characteristic (cf. [7, Remark 3.3.7] and [8, Remark 2.6(2)]).

In the case where  $R$  is a local ring of a smooth algebra over a (mixed characteristic) discrete valuation ring, the sequence (1) is exact (cf. [6, Theorem 1.2 and Theorem 3.2b)]).

In this paper, we show the following result:

**Theorem 1 (Theorem 9).** *Let  $R$  be a mixed characteristic two-dimensional excellent henselian local ring and  $l$  a positive integer which is invertible in  $R$ . Then Gersten's conjecture for étale cohomology with  $\mu_l^{\otimes n}$  coefficients holds over  $\text{Spec } R$ . That is, the sequence (1) is exact.*

See Remark 8(iii) for the reason why we assume  $\dim(R) = 2$  in Theorem 1. We obtain the following result as an application of Theorem 1:

**Theorem 2.** *With notations as above, assume that  $A$  is mixed characteristic and  $l$  is a positive integer which is invertible in  $A$ .*

*In both the semi-global case and the local case, the local-global principle for the Galois cohomology group  $H^{n+1}(K, \mu_l^{\otimes n})$  holds for  $n \geq 1$ . That is, the local-global map (2) is injective for  $n \geq 1$ .*

V. Suresh also proved Theorem 2 by an alternative method (cf. [8, Remark in Theorem 1.2]).

1.1. *Notations*

For a scheme  $X$ ,  $X^{(i)}$  is the set of points of codimension  $i$ ,  $k(X)$  is the ring of rational functions on  $X$  and  $\kappa(\mathfrak{p})$  is the residue field of  $\mathfrak{p} \in X$ . If  $X = \text{Spec } R$ ,  $k(\text{Spec } R)$  is abbreviated as  $k(R)$ . The symbol  $\mu_l$  denotes the étale sheaf of  $l$ -th roots of unity.

2. **Proof of the main result (Theorem 1)**

In this section, we use the following results (Theorem 3 and Theorem 4) repeatedly:

**Theorem 3** (cf. [4, Theorem B.2.1 and Examples B.1.1.(2)]). *Let  $A$  be a discrete valuation ring,  $K$  the function field of  $A$  and  $l$  a positive integer which is invertible in  $A$ . Then the homomorphism*

$$H_{\text{ét}}^i(A, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^i(K, \mu_l^{\otimes n})$$

is injective for any  $i \geq 0$ .

**Theorem 4 (The absolute purity theorem** [5, p. 159, Theorem 2.1.1]). *Let  $Y \xrightarrow{i} X$  be a closed immersion of noetherian regular schemes of pure codimension  $c$ . Let  $n$  be an integer which is invertible on  $X$ , and let  $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}/n$ . Then the cycle class (cf. [5, 1.1]) give an isomorphism*

$$\Lambda_Y \xrightarrow{\sim} Ri^! \Lambda(c)[2c]$$

in  $D^+(Y_{\text{ét}}, \Lambda)$ . Here  $D^+(Y_{\text{ét}}, \Lambda)$  is the derived category of complexes bounded below of étale sheaves of  $\Lambda$ -modules on  $Y$ .

In this section, we use Theorem 4 in the case where  $\dim X \leq 2$ . In this case, Theorem 4 was proved much earlier by Gabber in 1976. See also [11, §5, Remark 5.6] for a published proof.

**Proposition 5.** *Let  $R$  be a henselian regular local ring,  $\mathfrak{m}$  the maximal ideal of  $R$  and  $K$  the function field of  $R$ . Let  $l$  be a positive integer such that  $l \notin \mathfrak{m}$ . Then the homomorphism*

$$H_{\text{ét}}^i(\text{Spec } R, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^i(\text{Spec } K, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \tag{3}$$

is injective for any  $i \geq 0$ .

**Proof.** We prove the statement by induction on  $\dim(R)$ . Let  $R$  be a discrete valuation ring (which does not need to be henselian). Then the homomorphism (3) is injective by Theorem 3.

Assume that the statement is true for a henselian regular local ring of dimension  $d$ .

Let  $R$  be a henselian regular local ring of dimension  $d + 1$ ,  $a \in \mathfrak{m} \setminus \mathfrak{m}^2$  and  $\mathfrak{p} = (a)$ . Then  $R/\mathfrak{p}$  is a henselian regular local ring of dimension  $d$  and

$$k(R/\mathfrak{p}) = R_{\mathfrak{p}}/\mathfrak{p}R_{\mathfrak{p}}$$

where  $k(R/\mathfrak{p})$  is the function field of  $R/\mathfrak{p}$ .

Therefore the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_{\text{ét}}^i(\text{Spec } R, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) & \longrightarrow & H_{\text{ét}}^i(\text{Spec } R_{\mathfrak{p}}, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H_{\text{ét}}^i(\text{Spec } R/\mathfrak{p}, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) & \longrightarrow & H_{\text{ét}}^i(\text{Spec } k(R/\mathfrak{p}), \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \end{array} \tag{4}$$

is commutative. Then the left vertical map in the diagram (4) is an isomorphism by [1, p. 93, Theorem (4.9)] and the bottom horizontal map in the diagram (4) is injective by the induction hypothesis. Hence the homomorphism

$$H_{\text{ét}}^i(\text{Spec } R, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^i(\text{Spec } R_{\mathfrak{p}}, \mu_l^{\otimes n})$$

is injective. Moreover the homomorphism

$$H_{\text{ét}}^i(\text{Spec } R_{\mathfrak{p}}, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^i(\text{Spec } K, \mu_l^{\otimes n})$$

is injective by Theorem 3. Therefore the statement follows.  $\square$

**Proposition 6 (cf. [12, Proposition 4.7]).** *Let  $R$  be a regular local ring and  $l$  a positive integer which is invertible in  $R$ . Suppose that  $\dim(R) = 2$ . Then the sequence*

$$H_{\text{ét}}^i(R, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^i(k(R), \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \xrightarrow{(*)} \bigoplus_{\mathfrak{p} \in (\text{Spec } R)^{(1)}} H_{\text{ét}}^{i-1}(\kappa(\mathfrak{p}), \mu_l^{\otimes(n-1)})$$

is exact for any  $i \geq 0$ .

**Proof.** Let  $A$  be a Dedekind ring,  $\mathfrak{q}$  a maximal ideal of  $A$ . Then

$$H_{\mathfrak{q}}^{i+1}((\text{Spec } A)_{\text{ét}}, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) = H_{\text{ét}}^{i-1}(\kappa(\mathfrak{q}), \mu_l^{\otimes(n-1)})$$

by Theorem 4. Hence the sequence

$$H_{\text{ét}}^i(A, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^i(U, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{\mathfrak{q} \in Z^{(1)}} H_{\text{ét}}^{i-1}(\kappa(\mathfrak{q}), \mu_l^{\otimes(n-1)})$$

is exact where  $Z$  is a closed subscheme of  $\text{Spec } A$  and  $U = \text{Spec } R \setminus Z$ . Since

$$\varinjlim_U H_{\text{ét}}^i(U, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) = H_{\text{ét}}^i(k(A), \mu_l^{\otimes n})$$

by [9, pp. 88–89, III, Lemma 1.16], the sequence

$$H_{\text{ét}}^i(A, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^i(k(A), \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{\mathfrak{q} \in (\text{Spec } A)^{(1)}} H_{\text{ét}}^{i-1}(\kappa(\mathfrak{q}), \mu_l^{\otimes(n-1)}) \tag{5}$$

is exact.

Let  $\mathfrak{m}$  be the maximal ideal of  $R$ . Let  $g \in \mathfrak{m} \setminus \mathfrak{m}^2$ ,  $\mathfrak{p} = (g)$  and  $Z = \text{Spec } R/\mathfrak{p}$ . Then  $R/\mathfrak{p}$  is a regular local ring and we have

$$H_Z^{i+1}((\text{Spec } R)_{\text{ét}}, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) = H_{\text{ét}}^{i-1}(R/\mathfrak{p}, \mu_l^{\otimes(n-1)})$$

by Theorem 4.

We consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} H_{\text{ét}}^i(R, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) & \longrightarrow & H_{\text{ét}}^i(R_g, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) & \longrightarrow & H_{\text{ét}}^{i-1}(R/\mathfrak{p}, \mu_l^{\otimes(n-1)})' & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Ker}(*) & \longrightarrow & H_{\text{ét}}^i(R_g, \mu_l^{\otimes n})' & \longrightarrow & H_{\text{ét}}^{i-1}(k(R/\mathfrak{p}), \mu_l^{\otimes(n-1)}) \end{array} \tag{6}$$

where

$$H_{\text{ét}}^{i-1}(R/\mathfrak{p}, \mu_l^{\otimes(n-1)})' = \text{Im} \left( H_{\text{ét}}^i(R_g, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^{i-1}(R/\mathfrak{p}, \mu_l^{\otimes(n-1)}) \right)$$

and

$$H_{\text{ét}}^i(R_g, \mu_l^{\otimes n})' = \text{Ker} \left( H_{\text{ét}}^i(k(R_g), \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{\mathfrak{q} \in (\text{Spec } R_g)^{(1)}} H_{\text{ét}}^{i-1}(\kappa(\mathfrak{q}), \mu_l^{\otimes(n-1)}) \right).$$

Then the rows in the diagram (6) are exact by Theorem 4. Since  $R_g$  is a Dedekind domain, the middle map in the diagram (6) is surjective by (5). Moreover, since

$$H_{\text{ét}}^{i-1}(R/\mathfrak{p}, \mu_l^{\otimes(n-1)})' \subset H_{\text{ét}}^{i-1}(R/\mathfrak{p}, \mu_l^{\otimes(n-1)})$$

and  $R/\mathfrak{p}$  is a discrete valuation ring, the right map in the diagram (6) is injective by Theorem 3. Therefore the statement follows from the snake lemma.  $\square$

**Corollary 7.** *Let  $R$  be the henselization of a regular local ring which is essentially of finite type over a mixed characteristic discrete valuation ring. Suppose that  $\dim(R) = 2$ . Then*

$$H_{\text{Zar}}^{n+1}(R, \mathbb{Z}/l(n)) = 0$$

for a positive integer  $l$  which is invertible in  $R$ . Here  $\mathbb{Z}(n)$  is Bloch's cycle complex and  $\mathbb{Z}/l(n) = \mathbb{Z}(n) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/l$  (cf. [6, p. 779]).

**Proof.** Let  $\mathfrak{m}$  be the maximal ideal of  $R$ . Let  $g \in \mathfrak{m} \setminus \mathfrak{m}^2$  and  $\mathfrak{p} = (g)$ . Then the homomorphism

$$H_{\text{ét}}^{n+1}(R, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^{n+1}(R_g, \mu_l^{\otimes n})$$

is injective by Proposition 5. Hence the homomorphism

$$H_{\text{ét}}^n(R_g, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^{n-1}(R/\mathfrak{p}, \mu_l^{\otimes n-1})$$

is surjective by Theorem 4. Therefore the homomorphism

$$H_{\text{Zar}}^n(R_g, \mathbb{Z}/l(n)) \longrightarrow H_{\text{Zar}}^{n-1}(R/\mathfrak{p}, \mathbb{Z}/l(n-1))$$

is surjective by [6, p. 774, Theorem 1.2] and [14]. Moreover the homomorphism

$$H_{\text{Zar}}^{n+1}(R, \mathbb{Z}/l(n)) \longrightarrow H_{\text{Zar}}^{n+1}(R_g, \mathbb{Z}/l(n))$$

is injective by the localization theorem [6, p. 779, Theorem 3.2]. We consider the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_{\text{Zar}}^{n+1}(R_g, \mathbb{Z}/l(n)) & \longrightarrow & H_{\text{ét}}^{n+1}(R_g, \mathbb{Z}/l(n)) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H_{\text{Zar}}^{n+1}(k(R_g), \mathbb{Z}/l(n)) & \longrightarrow & H_{\text{ét}}^{n+1}(k(R_g), \mathbb{Z}/l(n)). \end{array} \tag{7}$$

Then the upper map in the commutative diagram (7) is injective by the Beilinson–Lichtenbaum conjecture ([6, p. 774, Theorem 1.2], [14]) and the right map in the commutative diagram (7) is injective by the commutative diagram (6) in the proof of Proposition 6. Hence the homomorphism

$$H_{\text{Zar}}^{n+1}(R_g, \mathbb{Z}/l(n)) \longrightarrow H_{\text{Zar}}^{n+1}(k(R_g), \mathbb{Z}/l(n))$$

is injective and the homomorphism

$$H_{\text{Zar}}^{n+1}(R, \mathbb{Z}/l(n)) \longrightarrow H_{\text{Zar}}^{n+1}(k(R_g), \mathbb{Z}/l(n))$$

is also injective. Since

$$H_{\text{Zar}}^{n+1}(k(R_g), \mathbb{Z}/l(n)) = 0,$$

we have

$$H_{\text{Zar}}^{n+1}(R, \mathbb{Z}/l(n)) = 0.$$

This completes the proof. □

**Remark 8.**

(i) If  $R$  is a local ring of a smooth algebra over a discrete valuation ring, then

$$H_{\text{Zar}}^i(R, \mathbb{Z}/m(n)) = 0$$

for  $i > n$  and any positive integer  $m$  (cf. [6, p. 786, Corollary 4.4]).

(ii) If we have

$$H_{\text{Zar}}^{n+1}(R, \mathbb{Z}/l(n)) = 0$$

for any regular local ring  $R$  which is finite type over a discrete valuation ring and a positive integer  $l$  which is invertible in  $R$ , we can show that the homomorphism

$$H_{\text{ét}}^{n+1}(R, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^{n+1}(k(R), \mu_l^{\otimes n})$$

is injective by a similar argument as in the proof of [13, Theorem 4.2].

(iii) The reason why we assume  $\dim(R) = 2$  in Proposition 6 and Theorem 9 is that we have to show that the middle map in the diagram (6), i.e., the homomorphism

$$H_{\text{ét}}^{n+1}(R_g, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^{n+1}(R_g, \mu_l^{\otimes n})'$$

is surjective for an element  $g$  of  $\mathfrak{m} \setminus \mathfrak{m}^2$ . Here  $\mathfrak{m}$  is the maximal ideal of  $R$  and

$$H_{\text{ét}}^{n+1}(R_g, \mu_l^{\otimes n})' = \text{Ker} \left( H_{\text{ét}}^{n+1}(k(R), \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{q \in (\text{Spec } R_g)^{(1)}} H_{\text{ét}}^n(\kappa(q), \mu_l^{\otimes(n-1)}) \right).$$

If we have

$$H_{\text{Zar}}^{n+1}(R, \mathbb{Z}/l(n)) = H_{\text{Zar}}^{n+2}(R, \mathbb{Z}/l(n)) = 0$$

for any regular local ring  $R$  which is finite type over a discrete valuation ring and a positive integer  $l$  which is invertible in  $R$ , then

$$H_{\text{Zar}}^{n+1}(R_g, \mathbb{Z}/l(n)) = H_{\text{Zar}}^{n+2}(R_g, \mathbb{Z}/l(n)) = 0$$

by the localization theorem ([6, p. 779, Theorem 3.2]) and we can show that

$$H_{\text{ét}}^{n+1}(R_g, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) = \Gamma(\text{Spec } R_g, R^{n+1} \epsilon_* (\mu_l^{\otimes n})) = H_{\text{ét}}^{n+1}(R_g, \mu_l^{\otimes n})'$$

and Proposition 6 holds. Here  $\epsilon : (\text{Spec } R_g)_{\text{ét}} \rightarrow (\text{Spec } R_g)_{\text{Zar}}$  is the change of site maps.

**Theorem 9.** *Let  $R$  be a henselian regular local ring with  $\dim(R) = 2$  and  $l$  a positive integer which is invertible in  $R$ . Then the sequence*

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^i(R, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^i(k(R), \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{p \in (\text{Spec } R)^{(1)}} H_{\text{ét}}^{i-1}(\kappa(p), \mu_l^{\otimes(n-1)}) \\ \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{p \in (\text{Spec } R)^{(2)}} H_{\text{ét}}^{i-2}(\kappa(p), \mu_l^{\otimes(n-2)}) \longrightarrow 0 \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

is exact for any  $i \geq 0$ .

**Proof.** The exactness of the complex (8) at the first two terms follows from Proposition 5 and Proposition 6.

We consider the coniveau spectral sequence

$$H_1^{p,q} = \prod_{x \in (\text{Spec } R)^{(p)}} H_x^{p+q}(\text{Spec } R, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) \Rightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^{p+q}(R, \mu_l^{\otimes n}) = H^{p+q}$$

(cf. [4, §1]). Then we have a filtration

$$0 \subset H_{p+q}^{p+q} \subset \dots \subset H_1^{p+q} \subset H_0^{p+q} = H^{p+q},$$

such that

$$H_p^{p+q} / H_{p+1}^{p+q} \simeq H_{\infty}^{p,q}.$$

By Theorem 4, it suffices to show that

$$H_2^{1,i-1} = H_2^{2,i-2} = 0.$$

By Proposition 5, the morphism

$$H^i \longrightarrow H_{\infty}^{0,i}$$

is injective and

$$H_1^i = H_2^i = 0.$$

Hence we have

$$H_{\infty}^{1,i-1} = H_{\infty}^{2,i-2} = 0.$$

Since

$$H_r^{p,i-p+1} = 0$$

for  $p \geq 3$  and

$$H_r^{1-r, i+r-2} = 0$$

for  $r \geq 2$ , we have

$$H_2^{1, i-1} = H_\infty^{1, i-1} = 0.$$

By the exactness of the complex (8) at the second term, we have

$$H_2^{0, i-1} = H_\infty^{0, i-1} = H^{i-1}$$

and

$$\operatorname{Im} \left( H_2^{0, i-1} \xrightarrow{d_2^{0, i-1}} H_2^{2, i-2} \right) = 0.$$

Hence we have

$$H_2^{2, i-2} = H_3^{2, i-2}.$$

Moreover, since

$$H_r^{2-r, i+r-3} = 0$$

for  $r \geq 3$ , we have

$$H_{r+1}^{2, i-2} = \frac{\operatorname{Ker}(d_r^{2, i-2})}{\operatorname{Im}(d_r^{2-r, i+r-3})} = H_r^{2, i-2}$$

for  $r \geq 3$ . Therefore

$$H_2^{2, i-2} = H_3^{2, i-2} = H_\infty^{2, i-2} = 0.$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

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