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ON GALOIS ISOMORPHISMS BETWEEN IDEALS IN EXTENSIONS OF LOCAL FIELDS

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Let L/K be a totally ramified, finite abelian extension of local fields, let \mathfrak{O}_L and \mathfrak{O} be the valuation rings, and let G be the Galois group. We consider the powers \mathfrak{P}_L^r of the maximal ideal of \mathfrak{O}_L as modules over the group ring $\mathfrak{O}G$. We show that, if G has order p^m (with p the residue field characteristic), if G is not cyclic (or if G has order p), and if a certain mild hypothesis on the ramification of L/K holds, then \mathfrak{P}_L^r and $\mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$ are isomorphic iff $r \equiv r' \pmod{p^m}$. We also give a generalisation of this result to certain extensions not of p -power degree, and show that, in the case $p = 2$, the hypotheses that G is abelian and not cyclic can be removed.

1 Introduction and statement of results

Let K be the field of fractions of a complete discrete valuation ring \mathfrak{O} of characteristic 0 and residual characteristic $p > 0$. Throughout this paper we regard \mathfrak{O} and hence K as fixed. We write \mathfrak{P} for the maximal ideal of \mathfrak{O} and e for the absolute ramification index of K (so $p\mathfrak{O} = \mathfrak{P}^e$). L/K will always denote a finite Galois field extension of K , and G its Galois group. We write \mathfrak{O}_L for the valuation ring of L , and \mathfrak{P}_L for the maximal ideal of \mathfrak{O}_L .

\mathfrak{O}_L can be regarded as a (left) module over the group ring $\mathfrak{O}G$, and more generally so can each fractional \mathfrak{O}_L -ideal \mathfrak{P}_L^r . It is well-known that \mathfrak{O}_L is free as an $\mathfrak{O}G$ -module if and only if L/K is at most tamely ramified, and Ullom [16] has shown that every fractional ideal is then free over $\mathfrak{O}G$. In this paper, we assume that L/K is totally and wildly ramified, and investigate when two fractional ideals \mathfrak{P}_L^r and $\mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$ are isomorphic as $\mathfrak{O}G$ -modules. Clearly a sufficient condition for this is that $r \equiv r' \pmod{n}$, where n is the degree of the extension L/K . Our main result is that, if L/K satisfies certain hypotheses, this congruence condition is also necessary.

Recall that the ramification groups G_i of L/K are defined by

$$G_i = \begin{cases} G & \text{if } i = -1 \\ \{\sigma \in G : (\sigma - 1)\mathfrak{O}_L \subseteq \mathfrak{P}_L^{i+1}\} & \text{if } i \geq 0. \end{cases}$$

L/K is totally ramified if and only if $G_0 = G$, and is then wildly ramified if and only if $G_1 \neq \{1\}$. If L/K is wildly ramified, we write $t(L/K)$ for the first positive ramification number, i.e. $t(L/K) = \max\{t : G_t = G_1\}$. If G has order $p^m k$, where $(p, k) = 1$, then $t(L/K) \leq e k p / (p - 1)$ (see Proposition 3(iv) below):- in particular, if G is a p -group then $t(L/K) \leq e p / (p - 1)$.

Our main result is the following:

Theorem 1 *Let L/K be a totally ramified abelian extension of degree p^m with*

$$t(L/K) \leq \frac{ep}{p-1} - 1.$$

If $m \geq 2$, assume that G is not cyclic. Then, for any integers r and r' , the fractional \mathfrak{O}_L -ideals \mathfrak{P}_L^r and $\mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$ are isomorphic as $\mathfrak{O}G$ -modules if and only if $r \equiv r' \pmod{p^m}$.

The proof of this involves an analysis of the case where L/K is cyclic of degree p , using the calculations of Ferton [6], and a reduction of the general case to this special case using the notion of factor equivalence, which has recently been studied extensively by Fröhlich ([9], [10]). We will also use standard ramification theory for local fields, as presented for instance in [14].

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The necessity of the hypothesis on $t(L/K)$ is shown by the following example:- let K contain a primitive p th root of unity, and take $L = K(\sqrt[p]{\omega})$, where ω generates the maximal ideal \mathfrak{p} of \mathfrak{O} . Then $t(L/K) = ep/(p-1)$. It is easily seen that every fractional \mathfrak{O}_L -ideal is a free module over the maximal order in KG , and hence that any two such ideals are isomorphic as $\mathfrak{O}G$ -modules. We shall show that the conclusion of Theorem 1 is in fact false for any cyclic extension of degree p with

$$t(L/K) > \frac{ep}{p-1} - 1,$$

so that, for extensions of degree p , Theorem 1 is best possible.

If we remove the hypothesis that L/K be of p -power degree, our methods can still be applied to give some partial results in certain cases. To illustrate this, we will prove the following generalisation of the non-cyclic case of Theorem 1:

Theorem 2 *Let L/K be a totally ramified abelian extension of degree $p^m k$, where $(p, k) = 1$, and suppose that*

$$t(L/K) \leq \frac{ekp}{p-1} - k,$$

that G is not cyclic, and that

$$k \leq \frac{p^m - 1}{p - 1}.$$

If \mathfrak{P}_L^r and $\mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$ are isomorphic as $\mathfrak{O}G$ -modules, then either $r \equiv r' \pmod{p^m k}$ or, interchanging r and r' if necessary, $r = ap^m$ and $r' \equiv ap^m + 1 \pmod{p^m k}$ for some $a \not\equiv 0 \pmod{k}$.

Factor equivalence yields no information about cyclic extensions, and, at least in the simple formulation given in [9], is only applicable to abelian extensions. One can, however, extend Theorem 1 to non-abelian extensions and to cyclic p -extensions in the case $p = 2$. Indeed, without using factor equivalence, we will prove the following supplementary result to Theorem 1:

Theorem 3 *Let L/K be a totally ramified extension of degree p^m , with*

$$t(L/K) \leq \frac{ep}{p-1} - 1.$$

Then the p^m \mathfrak{D}_L -ideals \mathfrak{P}_L^r ($1 \leq r \leq p^m$) represent at least $2^{m-1}p$ distinct isomorphism classes of $\mathfrak{D}G$ -modules. In particular, if $p = 2$ then \mathfrak{P}_L^r and $\mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$ are isomorphic as $\mathfrak{D}G$ -modules if and only if $r \equiv r' \pmod{2^m}$.

Before commencing the proofs of these results, we indicate how they can be used to investigate the occurrence of extensions L/K with self-dual rings of integers. Given any $\mathfrak{D}G$ -lattice M , the dual lattice M^* is defined to be $\text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{D}}(M, \mathfrak{D})$, with the G -action $(g\theta)(m) = \theta(g^{-1}m)$ for $\theta \in M^*$, $g \in G$, $m \in M$. We say that \mathfrak{D}_L is self-dual if it is isomorphic to \mathfrak{D}_L^* as an $\mathfrak{D}G$ -module. The trace pairing $L \times L \rightarrow K$ identifies \mathfrak{D}_L^* with the inverse different $\mathfrak{D}_{L/K}^{-1}$ of L/K , so \mathfrak{D}_L is self-dual if and only if $\mathfrak{D}_L \cong \mathfrak{D}_{L/K}^{-1}$ as $\mathfrak{D}G$ -modules. Thus Theorem 1 has the following consequence:

Corollary 1 *Let L/K be a totally ramified abelian extension of degree p^m , and let $\mathfrak{P}_L^{-v} = \mathfrak{D}_{L/K}^{-1}$ be its inverse different. If \mathfrak{D}_L is self-dual then*

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{either } v \equiv 0 \pmod{p^m} \\ &\text{or } t(L/K) > \frac{ep}{p-1} - 1 \\ &\text{or } L/K \text{ is cyclic and } m \geq 2. \end{aligned}$$

Note that v is determined by the ramification groups of L/K ([14] IV Proposition 4).

We end this section with some conditions on the associated order $\mathfrak{A}_{L/K}$ of L/K which ensure that \mathfrak{D}_L is self-dual. Recall that

$$\mathfrak{A}_{L/K} = \{\alpha \in KG : \alpha\mathfrak{D}_L \subseteq \mathfrak{D}_L\}$$

(and more generally, the associated order of any fractional ideal \mathfrak{P}_L^r is defined by replacing both occurrences of \mathfrak{D}_L by \mathfrak{P}_L^r in this definition). For any element $\alpha = \sum_{g \in G} a_g g$ of KG , we write $\bar{\alpha} = \sum a_g g^{-1}$.

Proposition 1 *Let L/K be an abelian extension.*

- (i) *If $\mathfrak{A}_{L/K} = \bar{\mathfrak{A}}_{L/K}$ and $\mathfrak{A}_{L/K} \cong (\mathfrak{A}_{L/K})^*$ as $\mathfrak{D}G$ -modules, then \mathfrak{D}_L is self-dual.*
- (ii) *If $\mathfrak{A}_{L/K}$ is a Hopf order in the Hopf algebra KG (cf. [15]), then \mathfrak{D}_L is self-dual.*

Proof. (i) Since $\mathfrak{D}_L^* \cong \mathfrak{D}_{L/K}^{-1}$, the associated order of $\mathfrak{D}_{L/K}^{-1}$ is $\bar{\mathfrak{A}}_{L/K}$, which coincides with $\mathfrak{A}_{L/K}$. Moreover, as $\bar{\mathfrak{A}}_{L/K} \cong (\mathfrak{A}_{L/K})^*$, $\mathfrak{A}_{L/K}$ is a (weakly) self-dual order in the sense of [7] §8. By Theorem 10 of that paper, \mathfrak{D}_L and $\mathfrak{D}_{L/K}^{-1}$ are both free over $\mathfrak{A}_{L/K}$, and so are isomorphic.

(ii) is a special case of (i): if $\mathfrak{A}_{L/K}$ is a Hopf order then by [13] $(\mathfrak{A}_{L/K})^* \cong \mathfrak{A}_{L/K}$, since \mathfrak{D} is a principal ideal domain; and $\bar{\mathfrak{A}}_{L/K} = \mathfrak{A}_{L/K}$ since $\alpha \mapsto \bar{\alpha}$ is the antipode of the Hopf algebra KG .

2 Extensions of degree p

In this section, we will prove Theorem 1 for extensions of degree p , and will also discuss almost maximally ramified extensions of degree p . We make use of the calculations of Ferton [6], and largely follow her notation.

Thus let L/K be a totally ramified cyclic extension of degree p , and let $t = t(L/K)$. Then $1 \leq t \leq ep/(p-1)$, and $(t, p) = 1$ unless $t = ep/(p-1)$ ([14] IV §2 Ex.3). Any such value of t can occur (*loc. cit.* Ex.5).

Let $t = pa_0 + a$ with $0 \leq a \leq p-1$. Note that if $t+1 \geq ep/(p-1)$ then $ep - (p-1) \leq (p-1)t \leq ep$ and $t \equiv a \pmod{p}$, so

$$t = \frac{ep-a}{p-1} \text{ if and only if } t \geq \frac{ep}{p-1} - 1. \tag{1}$$

Now let ω (resp. π) be a generator of \mathfrak{P} (resp. \mathfrak{P}_L), and fix a generator σ of the Galois group G of L/K . Set $f = \sigma - 1 \in \mathfrak{D}G$. Since $(f+1)^p = \sigma^p = 1$, we then have

$$f^p = - \sum_{n=1}^{p-1} \binom{p}{n} f^n. \tag{2}$$

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If $a \neq 0$ then π^a is a normal basis for L/K , i.e. $L = KG\pi^a$ ([3] Proposition 3). For $a + 1 - p \leq r \leq a$ let

$$\mathfrak{u}_r = \{\alpha \in KG : \alpha \pi^a \in \mathfrak{P}_L^r\}.$$

Then \mathfrak{u}_r is a fractional $\mathfrak{O}G$ -ideal containing $\mathfrak{O}G$, and $\mathfrak{u}_r \cong \mathfrak{P}_L^r$ as $\mathfrak{O}G$ -modules. From [6] Proposition 3 we have the following explicit description of the lattices \mathfrak{u}_r :

Proposition 2 *If $a \neq 0$ and $a + 1 - p \leq r \leq a$ then the elements*

$$\frac{f^i}{\omega^{\nu_i(r)}} \quad (0 \leq i \leq p - 1)$$

form an \mathfrak{O} -basis of \mathfrak{u}_r , where

$$\nu_i(r) = \left[\frac{it + a - r}{p} \right].$$

(For any real number y , $[y]$ denotes the largest integer not exceeding y .)

We can now prove Theorem 1 for extensions of degree p :

Lemma 1 *Let L/K be a totally ramified cyclic extension of degree p , such that*

$$t(L/K) \leq \frac{ep}{p-1} - 1.$$

For any integers r and r' , \mathfrak{P}_L^r and $\mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$ are isomorphic as $\mathfrak{O}G$ -modules if and only if $r \equiv r' \pmod{p}$.

Proof. With the above notation, $a \neq 0$ by the hypothesis on t , and if $r \equiv r' \pmod{p}$ then certainly $\mathfrak{P}_L^r \cong \mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$. Thus, adjusting r and r' by multiples of p , and interchanging them if necessary, we may assume that $a + 1 - p \leq r \leq r' \leq a$; it is then sufficient to show that if $\mathfrak{u}_r \cong \mathfrak{u}_{r'}$ then $r = r'$.

To simplify notation, let $\mathfrak{u} = \mathfrak{u}_r$, $\mathfrak{u}' = \mathfrak{u}_{r'}$, $\nu_i = \nu_i(r)$, $\nu'_i = \nu_i(r')$. Then $\nu'_i \leq \nu_i \leq e$ for $0 \leq i \leq p - 1$. Any isomorphism $\theta : \mathfrak{u} \rightarrow \mathfrak{u}'$ of $\mathfrak{O}G$ -modules

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is determined by $\theta(1)$. Setting $\alpha = \theta(1) \in \mathfrak{U}'$ and using Proposition 2, we have

$$\alpha = \sum_{j=0}^{p-1} c_j \frac{f^j}{\omega^{\nu_j}} \text{ for some } c_j \in \mathfrak{D}.$$

The elements

$$\alpha \frac{f^i}{\omega^{\nu_i}} = \sum_{j=0}^{p-1} c_j \frac{f^{i+j}}{\omega^{\nu_i+\nu_j}} \quad (0 \leq i \leq p-1)$$

form an \mathfrak{D} -basis for \mathfrak{U}' . Using (2) to expand f^{i+j} for $i+j \geq p$, comparing coefficients of $1 = f^0$, and noting that $\nu_0 = \nu'_0 = 0$, we see that $c_0 \in \mathfrak{D}^\times$, where \mathfrak{D}^\times denotes the group of units of \mathfrak{D} . Without loss of generality, we suppose $c_0 = 1$. Then \mathfrak{U}' has a basis consisting of the elements

$$\alpha \frac{f^i}{\omega^{\nu_i}} = \omega^{\nu'_i - \nu_i} \frac{f^i}{\omega^{\nu'_i}} + \sum_{j=1}^{p-1-i} c_j \frac{f^{i+j}}{\omega^{\nu_i+\nu'_j}} + \sum_{j=p-i}^{p-1} c_j \frac{f^{i+j}}{\omega^{\nu_i+\nu'_j}}. \quad (3)$$

We will show that

$$\frac{f^{i+j}}{\omega^{\nu_i+\nu'_j}} \in \mathfrak{U}' \text{ whenever } p-i \leq j \leq p-1. \quad (4)$$

Admitting this for the moment, we must have $\nu'_i - \nu_i \geq 0$ for each i , since the elements (3) lie in \mathfrak{U}' . We have already observed, however, that $\nu'_i \leq \nu_i$, so $\nu'_i = \nu_i$ for $0 \leq i \leq p-1$. It then follows from the definitions of ν_i and ν'_i that $r = r'$. Thus it only remains to prove (4).

Writing $i+j = p+k$ and using (2), we have

$$\frac{f^{i+j}}{\omega^{\nu_i+\nu'_j}} = - \sum_{n=1}^{p-1} \binom{p}{n} \frac{f^{k+n}}{\omega^{\nu_i+\nu'_j}}.$$

If $k+n \geq p$ then, using (2) again and noting that the binomial coefficients are divisible by p , we have

$$\binom{p}{n} \frac{f^{k+n}}{\omega^{\nu_i+\nu'_j}} \in \frac{p^2}{\omega^{\nu_i+\nu'_j}} \mathfrak{D}G \subseteq \mathfrak{D}G \subseteq \mathfrak{U}'.$$

On the other hand, if $k + n < p$ then

$$\binom{p}{n} \frac{f^{k+n}}{\omega^{\nu_i + \nu'_j}} = \binom{p}{n} \omega^{\nu'_{k+n} - \nu_i - \nu'_j} \frac{f^{k+n}}{\omega^{\nu'_{k+n}}}$$

and we must show that

$$e + \nu'_{k+n} - \nu_i - \nu'_j \geq 0 \text{ whenever } i + j = p + k \geq p \text{ and } 1 \leq n \leq p - 1. \quad (5)$$

Clearly it is sufficient to take $n = 1$. Now

$$\begin{aligned} & e + \nu'_{k+1} - \nu_i - \nu'_j \\ &= e + \left[\frac{(i + j - p + 1)t + a - r'}{p} \right] - \left[\frac{it + a - r}{p} \right] - \left[\frac{jt + a - r'}{p} \right] \\ &\geq e + \left[\frac{(1 - p)t - a + r}{p} \right] \\ &= e - t + a_0 + \left[\frac{r}{p} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

If $t = \frac{ep}{p-1} - 1$ then $a = p - 1$, $a_0 = \frac{e}{p-1} - 1$ and $0 \leq r \leq p - 1$, so

$$e - t + a_0 + \left[\frac{r}{p} \right] = e - \left(\frac{ep}{p-1} - 1 \right) + \left(\frac{e}{p-1} - 1 \right) + 0 = 0;$$

whereas if $t < \frac{ep}{p-1} - 1$ then $(p-1)t < ep - a$ by (1), and $r \geq a + 1 - p > -p$, so

$$\begin{aligned} e - t + a_0 + \left[\frac{r}{p} \right] &> \frac{(p-1)t + a}{p} - t + a_0 + \left[\frac{r}{p} \right] \\ &= -\frac{t}{p} + \left(a_0 + \frac{a}{p} \right) + \left[\frac{r}{p} \right] \\ &= \left[\frac{r}{p} \right] \\ &\geq -1, \end{aligned}$$

and since the left-hand side is an integer, it follows that

$$e - t + a_0 + \left[\frac{r}{p} \right] \geq 0.$$

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Thus (5) holds in all cases, which completes the proof of (4) and thus of the Lemma.

In [11], Jacobinski defines the notion of an almost maximally ramified extension. In the case of a cyclic extension of degree p , the definition reduces to the following condition:

$$L/K \text{ is almost maximally ramified} \Leftrightarrow t \geq \frac{ep}{p-1} - 1.$$

Although it is unnecessary for the proofs of the three theorems, we will now consider extensions with this property, thereby showing that Theorem 1 is best possible for extensions of degree p :

Lemma 2 *Let L/K be an almost maximally ramified cyclic extension of degree p . Then \mathfrak{D}_L is self-dual as an $\mathfrak{D}G$ -module. In particular, if $t + 1 > ep/(p - 1)$ then the conclusion of Theorem 1 is false for L/K .*

Proof. We first consider the maximally ramified case $t = ep/(p - 1)$. Here, K contains a primitive p th root of 1 ([12] Theorem 3), and $L = K(\sqrt[p]{\omega})$ for some generator ω of \mathfrak{P} . As noted after the statement of Theorem 1, it follows that every fractional \mathfrak{D}_L -ideal is free over the maximal order in KG , and hence is isomorphic to every other fractional \mathfrak{D}_L -ideal.

For any value of t , we have $\mathfrak{D}_{L/K}^{-1} = \mathfrak{P}_L^{-v}$, where, by [14] IV Proposition 4, $v = (p - 1)(t + 1) \equiv -a - 1 \pmod{p}$. If $t + 1 = ep/(p - 1)$ then $v \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$, so certainly $\mathfrak{D}_L \cong \mathfrak{D}_{L/K}^{-1}$; whilst if $t + 1 > ep/(p - 1)$ then by (1), $t = (ep - a)/(p - 1)$ with $0 \leq a \leq p - 2$, so $v \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$.

It remains to show that, if $t = (ep - a)/(p - 1)$ with $1 \leq a \leq p - 2$ then $\mathfrak{D}_L \cong \mathfrak{D}_{L/K}^{-1}$. Now $\mathfrak{D}_L \cong \mathfrak{U}_0$ and $\mathfrak{D}_{L/K}^{-1} \cong \mathfrak{U}_{a+1-p}$, so writing $\mathfrak{U} = \mathfrak{U}_0$ and $\mathfrak{U}' = \mathfrak{U}_{a+1-p}$, it suffices to show that $\mathfrak{U} \cong \mathfrak{U}'$. By Proposition 2, these two lattices have \mathfrak{D} -bases

$$\frac{f^i}{\omega^{\nu_i}} \text{ respectively } \frac{f^i}{\omega^{\nu'_i}} \quad (0 \leq i \leq p - 1),$$

where

$$\nu_i = \left[\frac{it + a}{p} \right] = ia_0 + \left[\frac{(i+1)a}{p} \right]$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \nu'_i &= \left[\frac{it + p - 1}{p} \right] = ia_0 + \left[\frac{ia + p - 1}{p} \right] \\ &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = 0 \\ 1 + a_0 + \nu_{i-1} & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq p - 1. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$\alpha = 1 + \frac{f}{\omega^{\nu'_i}} = 1 + \frac{f}{\omega^{1+a_0}}.$$

We will show that multiplication by the element α of \mathfrak{U}' induces an \mathfrak{D} -linear isomorphism between \mathfrak{U} and \mathfrak{U}' ; this map is then necessarily an isomorphism of $\mathfrak{D}G$ -modules. For $0 \leq i \leq p - 2$ we have

$$\alpha \frac{f^i}{\omega^{\nu_i}} = \omega^{\nu'_i - \nu_i} \frac{f^i}{\omega^{\nu'_i}} + \frac{f^{i+1}}{\omega^{\nu'_{i+1}}} \in \mathfrak{U}'$$

since $\nu_i \leq \nu'_i$. Also, using (2),

$$\alpha \frac{f^{p-1}}{\omega^{\nu_{p-1}}} = \omega^{\nu'_{p-1} - \nu_{p-1}} \frac{f^{p-1}}{\omega^{\nu'_{p-1}}} + \sum_{n=1}^{p-1} b_n \frac{f^n}{\omega^{\nu'_n}},$$

where

$$b_n = - \binom{p}{n} \omega^{\nu'_n - \nu_{p-1} - 1 - a_0}.$$

Since $\nu_{p-1} = e$, b_n has valuation $\nu'_n - 1 - a_0 = \nu_{n-1} \geq 0$, so $b_n \in \mathfrak{D}$ for all n . Thus $\alpha \mathfrak{U} \subseteq \mathfrak{U}'$, and the matrix expressing multiplication by α in terms of the above bases of \mathfrak{U} and \mathfrak{U}' is

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} \omega^{\nu'_0 - \nu_0} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 1 & \omega^{\nu'_1 - \nu_1} & 0 & \dots & b_1 \\ 0 & 1 & \omega^{\nu'_2 - \nu_2} & \dots & b_2 \\ \vdots & 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ & \vdots & & & \\ & & & \omega^{\nu'_{p-2} - \nu_{p-2}} & b_{p-2} \\ 0 & 0 & & 1 & \omega^{\nu'_{p-1} - \nu_{p-1}} + b_{p-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

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To complete the proof, we must show that $\det(B) \in \mathfrak{O}^\times$.

Since $a < p - 1$, there is an integer h with $1 \leq h \leq p - 2$ such that

$$\left(\frac{h-1}{h}\right)p < a < \left(\frac{h}{h+1}\right)p.$$

We then have

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_i &= (a_0 + 1)i && \text{if } i < h \\ \nu_h &= (a_0 + 1)h - 1. \end{aligned}$$

Thus if $2 \leq n \leq h$ then $\nu_{n-1} > 0$ and $b_n \in \mathfrak{P}$, while $b_1 \in \mathfrak{O}^\times$ as $\nu_0 = 0$. Also, $\nu'_h - \nu_h = 1 + a_0 + \nu_{h-1} - \nu_h = 1$. Thus the matrix entries $\omega^{\nu'_h - \nu_h}$ and b_n ($2 \leq n \leq h$) lie in \mathfrak{P} . It follows that $\det(B) \equiv \pm \omega^{\nu'_0 - \nu_0} b_1 = \pm b_1 \pmod{\mathfrak{P}}$, every other term in the expansion of $\det(B)$ lying in \mathfrak{P} . Thus $\det(B) \in \mathfrak{O}^\times$ as required.

We remark that if $t + 1 > ep/(p - 1)$ there may be other isomorphisms between ideals in addition to that given by Lemma 2. For example, in the absolutely unramified case $e = 1$, any ideal \mathfrak{P}_L^r must have as its associated order either the group ring $\mathfrak{O}G$ or the maximal order

$$\mathfrak{M} = \mathfrak{O}G + \frac{1}{p} \sum_{\sigma \in G} \sigma.$$

These are both self-dual orders in the sense of [7], so \mathfrak{P}_L^r is free over its associated order, and hence isomorphic to either $\mathfrak{O}G$ or \mathfrak{M} . Thus there must be many isomorphisms between the ideals $\mathfrak{O}_L, \mathfrak{P}_L, \dots, \mathfrak{P}_L^{p-1}$. (The author is indebted to D. Burns for this observation.)

In the situation of Lemma 2, \mathfrak{O}_L need not be free over its associated order. Indeed, Bertrandias, Bertrandias and Ferton [2] give a criterion for \mathfrak{O}_L to be free when L/K is almost maximally ramified:- writing $t/p = [a_0; a_1, \dots, a_n]$ for the continued fraction expansion of t/p , \mathfrak{O}_L is free over its associated order if and only if $n \leq 4$. (The same is also true for almost maximally ramified cyclic extensions of degree p^m , $m \geq 2$:- see [1]). Thus if L/K is almost maximally ramified and cyclic of degree p , with $n \geq 5$, then \mathfrak{O}_L is self-dual but not free over its associated order. The first example of this is

$p = 13$, $a = 8$. The question of the existence of abelian extensions with this property was raised in [5] (p148). Some elementary abelian examples of degree p^2 are constructed in [4]; these have $t + 1 = ep/(p - 1)$.

3 Factor equivalence

We now recall from [9] the notion of factor equivalence between $\mathfrak{O}G$ -lattices spanning the same KG -module. We will then derive a necessary and sufficient condition for two fractional \mathfrak{O}_L -ideals to be factor equivalent.

Let Γ be a finite abelian group, let Γ^\dagger denote its group of (complex-valued) abelian characters, and let $S(\Gamma^\dagger)$ denote the lattice of subgroups of Γ^\dagger . There is an inclusion-reversing bijection between the lattice of subgroups of Γ and $S(\Gamma^\dagger)$, given by associating to each $\Delta \leq \Gamma$ the subgroup $X_\Delta = \{\chi : \chi(\Delta) = 1\}$ of Γ^\dagger .

A *division* D of Γ^\dagger is an equivalence class of characters, two characters being deemed equivalent if they generate the same cyclic subgroup of Γ^\dagger . We write \bar{D} for the subgroup generated by any element of D . Let I_K denote the group of fractional ideals of \mathfrak{O} (written multiplicatively). We extend any function $f : S(\Gamma^\dagger) \rightarrow I_K$ to the set of divisions D of Γ^\dagger by defining

$$f(D) = \prod_{C \leq \bar{D}} f(C)^{\mu(\bar{D}:C)},$$

where the product is over all subgroups of \bar{D} , and μ denotes the Möbius function. By Möbius inversion, we then have

$$f(X) = \prod_{D \subseteq X} f(D) \tag{6}$$

for every cyclic subgroup X of Γ^\dagger . The function f is said to be *factorisable* if (6) holds for every subgroup X .

Now let M, N be two $\mathfrak{O}\Gamma$ -lattices spanning the same $K\Gamma$ -module V . We define a function $f : S(\Gamma^\dagger) \rightarrow I_K$ by setting

$$f(X_\Delta) = [M^\Delta : N^\Delta]_{\mathfrak{O}} \text{ for each } \Delta \leq \Gamma,$$

where M^Δ, N^Δ denote the lattices of Δ -fixed points of M, N , and $[\ :]_\mathfrak{D}$ is the \mathfrak{D} -module index, defined for two \mathfrak{D} -lattices spanning the same K -space (see e.g. [8] §3). The lattices M, N are said to be *factor equivalent*, written $M \wedge N$, if this function f is factorisable. This gives an equivalence relation on the set of $\mathfrak{D}\Gamma$ -lattices spanning a given $K\Gamma$ -module V , and moreover, it is shown in [9] that $M \wedge N$ whenever M and N are isomorphic as $\mathfrak{D}\Gamma$ -modules.

We remark that factor equivalence is independent of the base field K in the following sense:- if F is a finite extension of K , and M, N are $\mathfrak{D}_F\Gamma$ -lattices, then they are factor equivalent as such (i.e. working with \mathfrak{D}_F -module indices) if and only if they are factor equivalent when considered as $\mathfrak{D}\Gamma$ -lattices by restriction of scalars. We will use this observation in the proof of Theorem 2.

We now take M, N to be \mathfrak{D}_L -ideals, and Γ to be the Galois group G .

Lemma 3 *Let L/K be a totally ramified abelian extension of degree p^m , and assume that its Galois group G is not cyclic. For any integers r, r' , write*

$$\begin{aligned} s &= r - 1 = s_0 + ps_1 + \cdots + p^{m-1}s_{m-1} + p^m x \\ s' &= r' - 1 = s'_0 + ps'_1 + \cdots + p^{m-1}s'_{m-1} + p^m x' \\ &\text{with } 0 \leq s_i, s'_i \leq p - 1 \text{ for } 0 \leq i \leq m - 1. \end{aligned}$$

Then the $\mathfrak{D}G$ -modules $\mathfrak{P}_L^r, \mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$ are factor equivalent if and only if $s'_i = s_i + v$ for $0 \leq i \leq m - 1$, where v is independent of i .

Proof. If $r \equiv r' \pmod{p^m}$ then $\mathfrak{P}_L^r \cong \mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$, so certainly $\mathfrak{P}_L^r \wedge \mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$. Thus we may assume that $x = x' = 0$.

Let $v_i = s'_i - s_i$ for $0 \leq i \leq m - 1$. Also, for $k \geq 0$, set

$$s(k) = \left[\frac{s}{p^k} \right], \quad s'(k) = \left[\frac{s'}{p^k} \right], \quad v(k) = s'(k) - s(k).$$

Thus

$$v(k) = \begin{cases} v_k + pv_{k+1} + \cdots + p^{m-1-k}v_{m-1} & \text{if } k < m \\ 0 & \text{if } k \geq m \end{cases}$$

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Let H be a subgroup of G of order p^k , with fixed field $F = L^H$. Then

$$(\mathfrak{P}_L^r)^H = \mathfrak{P}_L^r \cap F = \mathfrak{P}_F^{1+s(k)}$$

(and similarly for $\mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$) since the smallest integer not less than r/p^k is

$$\left[\frac{r + p^k - 1}{p^k} \right] = 1 + s(k).$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} [(\mathfrak{P}_L^r)^H : (\mathfrak{P}_L^{r'})^H]_{\mathfrak{D}} &= [\mathfrak{P}_F^{1+s(k)} : \mathfrak{P}_F^{1+s'(k)}]_{\mathfrak{D}} \\ &= [\mathfrak{D}_F : \mathfrak{P}_F^{v(k)}]_{\mathfrak{D}} \\ &= \mathfrak{P}^{v(k)}, \end{aligned}$$

since F/K is totally ramified. Hence the assertion $\mathfrak{P}_L^r \wedge \mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$ is equivalent to the factorisability of the map $f : S(G^\dagger) \rightarrow I_K$ given by

$$f(X_H) = \mathfrak{P}^{v(k)} \text{ for any } H \leq G \text{ of order } p^k.$$

For j in the range $1 \leq j \leq m$, consider the following three assertions:-

- (I) $f(X_H) = \prod_{D \subseteq X_H} f(D)$ for every $H \leq G$ of order at least p^{m-j} ;
- (II) $v_{m-i} = v_{m-1}$ for $1 \leq i \leq j$;
- (III) if D is a division of G^\dagger and \bar{D} has order p^d with $d \leq j$ then

$$f(D) = \begin{cases} \mathfrak{D} & \text{if } d = 0 \\ \mathfrak{P}^{p^{d-1}v_{m-1}} & \text{if } d \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

We shall prove by induction on j that (I) \Leftrightarrow (II) \Rightarrow (III) for each j . In the case $j = m$, the equivalence (I) \Leftrightarrow (II) proves the Lemma.

For $j = 1$, (I) holds since X_H is cyclic, being of order 1 or p , and (II) holds trivially. For (III) we must consider divisions D for which \bar{D} has order 1 or p . But $f(\{1\}) = \mathfrak{P}^{v(m)} = \mathfrak{D}$, whilst if \bar{D} has order p then

$$f(D) = f(\bar{D})f(\{1\})^{-1} = \mathfrak{P}^{v(m-1)}\mathfrak{D}^{-1} = \mathfrak{P}^{v_{m-1}}.$$

Thus (III) holds for $j = 1$.

Now let $2 \leq j \leq m$ and suppose that (I), (II), (III) all hold with j replaced by $j - 1$. As G is not cyclic, it has a subgroup H of order p^{m-j} such that G/H is not cyclic. Thus any division $D \subseteq X_H$ generates a group \bar{D} of order p^d for some $d \leq j - 1$. If $d > 0$ then D contains $|D| = p^{d-1}(p-1)$ characters, and by (III) for $j - 1$, $f(D) = \mathfrak{p}^{|D| v_{m-1}/(p-1)}$. For any such H , the condition in (I) therefore becomes

$$\mathfrak{p}^{v(m-j)} = f(\{1\}) \prod_{1 \neq \chi \in X_H} \mathfrak{p}^{v_{m-1}/(p-1)},$$

or equivalently,

$$v(m-j) = \frac{p^j - 1}{p - 1} v_{m-1}.$$

Using (II) for $j - 1$ and the definition of $v(m-j)$, this can be rewritten as

$$v_{m-j} + (p + \dots + p^{j-1})v_{m-1} = \frac{p^j - 1}{p - 1} v_{m-1},$$

i.e. $v_{m-j} = v_{m-1}$. Thus (I) \Rightarrow (II) for j , and conversely if (II) holds for j then (I) holds for j , except possibly when H is of order p^{m-j} and G/H is cyclic. But (I) always holds when G/H is cyclic, so we have shown (I) \Leftrightarrow (II) for j . Finally, if D is a division for which \bar{D} has order p^j then $\bar{D} = X_H$ for some subgroup $H \leq G$ of order p^{m-j} with G/H cyclic. Applying (I) and arguing as above for the divisions $\{1\} \neq D' \neq D$ contained in \bar{D} ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{p}^{v(m-j)} &= f(\{1\}) \left(\prod_{D'} f(D') \right) f(D) \\ &= \mathfrak{p}^{(p^{j-1}-1)v_{m-1}/(p-1)} f(D) \end{aligned}$$

so $f(D) = \mathfrak{p}^y$, where

$$\begin{aligned} y &= v(m-j) - \frac{p^{j-1} - 1}{p - 1} v_{m-1} \\ &= (1 + p + \dots + p^{j-1}) v_{m-1} - \frac{p^{j-1} - 1}{p - 1} v_{m-1} \\ &= p^{j-1} v_{m-1}. \end{aligned}$$

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Thus (III) holds for j , which completes the induction and the proof of the Lemma.

The following corollaries indicate that factor equivalence considerations go a long way towards proving Theorem 1 (in the non-cyclic case), but are not in themselves sufficient.

Corollary 2 *Let L/K be as in the Lemma, and let r be divisible by p , with $0 \leq r \leq p^{m-1}$. If $\mathfrak{P}_L^r \wedge \mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$ then $r \equiv r' \pmod{p^m}$.*

Proof. In the notation of the Lemma, $s_0 = p - 1$ and $s_{m-1} = 0$. Thus $v + (p - 1) = s'_0 \leq p - 1$ and $v + 0 = s'_{m-1} \geq 0$, whence $v = 0$.

Corollary 3 *Let L/K be as in the Lemma. Then $\mathfrak{D}_L \wedge \mathfrak{P}_L$.*

Proof. Taking $r = 0$ and $r' = 1$, we have $s_i = p - 1$ and $s'_i = 0$ for all i , so the condition of the Lemma holds with $v = 1 - p$.

4 Conclusion of the proofs

We begin with some ramification theory.

Proposition 3 *Let L/K be a totally ramified extension of degree $p^m k$, where $(p, k) = 1$ and $m \geq 1$. Let G be its Galois group. Then:-*

(i) G_1 has order p^m , and G is a semidirect product of G_1 by a cyclic group C of order k ;

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(ii) if C is normal in G then, writing $M = L^C$ for the fixed field of C ,

$$t(M/K) = \frac{1}{k} t(L/K);$$

(iii) if $k = 1$ or if G is abelian then G has a normal subgroup H of index p whose fixed field $F = L^H$ satisfies

$$t(F/K) = \frac{1}{k} t(L/K);$$

(iv) if C is normal in G then

$$t(L/K) \leq \frac{ekp}{p-1};$$

(v) if $k = 1$ and $m \geq 2$ then G has a normal subgroup N of order p whose fixed field $E = L^N$ satisfies $t(E/K) = t(L/K)$ and $t(L/E) \equiv t(L/K) \pmod{p}$.

Proof. (i): see [14] IV §2.

(ii) follows from (i) and [14] IV Proposition 14.

(iii): $G_{t+1} \neq G_t = G_1$, where $t = t(L/K)$, so G_{t+1} has order dividing p^{m-1} . If $k = 1$ take for H any subgroup of order p^{m-1} containing G_{t+1} ; then H is normal in G being a subgroup of index p in a finite p -group. If G is abelian, take for H any subgroup of order $p^{m-1}k$ containing G_{t+1} . In either case, H has the required property by [14] IV Proposition 14.

(iv): If L/K has degree p then $t(L/K) \leq ep/(p-1)$ by [14] IV §2 Ex.3. In the case $k = 1$ the result now follows from (iii). Finally, if $k > 1$ and M is as in (ii), then

$$t(L/K) = k t(M/K) \leq \frac{ekp}{p-1}.$$

(v): Let n be the integer such that $G_n \neq G_{n+1} = \{1\}$. Since $G_n \triangleleft G$, G acts on G_n by conjugation, and as G is a p -group, each orbit has p -power cardinality. As at least one orbit, namely $\{1\}$, has cardinality 1, it follows

that some element $g \neq 1$ of G_n is central in G , so there is a subgroup N of G_n of order p , central and hence normal in G . N has the required properties by [14] IV Propositions 2, 11 and 14.

We can now prove the three theorems:

Proof of Theorem 1. By Lemma 1, we may assume that $m \geq 2$, so G is not cyclic. If $r \equiv r' \pmod{p^m}$ then certainly $\mathfrak{P}_L^r \cong \mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$. Writing $s = r - 1$, $s' = r' - 1$, we may therefore assume for the converse that $0 \leq s, s' \leq p^m - 1$. If $\mathfrak{P}_L^r \cong \mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$ then these ideals are factor equivalent, so by Lemma 3, $s'_i = s_i + v$ for some v , where the notation is as in the Lemma. We must show that $v = 0$.

Let H and F be as in Proposition 3(iii), and let $Q = G/H$. Taking H -fixed points in the isomorphism $\mathfrak{P}_L^r \cong \mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$ of $\mathfrak{D}G$ -modules, we obtain an isomorphism $(\mathfrak{P}_L^r)^H \cong (\mathfrak{P}_L^{r'})^H$ of $\mathfrak{D}Q$ -modules. But, arguing as in the proof of Lemma 3,

$$(\mathfrak{P}_L^r)^H = \mathfrak{P}_F^{1+s_{m-1}},$$

and similarly for $\mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$. Since

$$t(F/K) = t(L/K) \leq \frac{ep}{p-1} - 1,$$

we can apply Lemma 1 to the extension F/K of degree p . Hence

$$1 + s_{m-1} \equiv 1 + s'_{m-1} = 1 + s_{m-1} + v \pmod{p},$$

and since $|v| \leq p - 1$, it follows that $v = 0$ as required.

Proof of Theorem 2. Writing $s = r - 1$, $s' = r' - 1$, we can assume that $0 \leq s, s' \leq p^m k - 1$. Interchanging r and r' if necessary, we assume also that $s' \geq s$.

Let C and $M = L^C$ be as in Proposition 3. By hypothesis, $\mathfrak{P}_L^r \cong \mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$ as $\mathfrak{D}G$ -modules, and taking C -fixed points, we obtain an isomorphism of

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$\mathfrak{D}G_1$ -modules

$$\mathfrak{P}_M^{1+[s/k]} = (\mathfrak{P}_L^r)^G \cong (\mathfrak{P}_L^{r'})^G = \mathfrak{P}_M^{1+[s'/k]}.$$

By Proposition 3(ii) and the hypothesis on $t(L/K)$, we can apply Theorem 1 to the non-cyclic extension M/K of degree p^m to deduce that $1 + [s/k] \equiv 1 + [s'/k] \pmod{p^m}$. The assumptions on s and s' ensure that this congruence is an equality, so

$$0 \leq s' - s \leq k - 1. \tag{7}$$

Now let $L_1 = L^{G_1}$. We may regard \mathfrak{P}_L^r and $\mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$ as $\mathfrak{D}G_1$ -modules by restricting the action of G , and they are factor equivalent as such. We may also regard them as $\mathfrak{D}_{L_1}G_1$ -modules, since G_1 acts trivially on L_1 , and, as noted in the previous section, they are then still factor equivalent. Writing

$$s = s_0 + ps_1 + \cdots + p^{m-1}s_{m-1} + bp^m$$

$$s' = s'_0 + ps'_1 + \cdots + p^{m-1}s'_{m-1} + b'p^m$$

$$\text{with } 0 \leq s_i, s'_i \leq p-1 \text{ and } 0 \leq b \leq b' \leq k-1,$$

and applying Lemma 3 to the extension L/L_1 of degree p^m , we have $s'_i = s_i + v$ for $0 \leq i \leq m-1$, where $1-p \leq v \leq p-1$. Thus

$$s' - s = (1 + p + \cdots + p^{m-1})v + (b' - b)p^m,$$

and comparing with (7) we have

$$0 \leq \left(\frac{p^m - 1}{p - 1} \right) v + (b' - b)p^m \leq k - 1. \tag{8}$$

By hypothesis,

$$\frac{p^m - 1}{p - 1} > k - 1. \tag{9}$$

Thus if $b' = b$ we must have $v = 0$, and so $s' = s$, giving $r' = r$. On the other hand, if $b' - b \geq 1$ then, since $v \geq 1 - p$, (8) and (9) can only be satisfied

simultaneously by $b' - b = 1$, $v = 1 - p$. This value of v forces $s_i = p - 1$, $s'_i = 0$ for all i , so $s = p^m - 1 + (b' - 1)p^m$, $s' = b'p^m$. Thus, putting $a = b'$, we have $r = ap^m$, $r' = ap^m + 1$.

It only remains to show that $a \not\equiv 0 \pmod{k}$. Take H and F as in Proposition 3(iii), so F/K is cyclic of degree p with Galois group $Q = G/H$, and

$$t(F/K) \leq \frac{ep}{p-1} - 1.$$

Taking H -fixed points in the original isomorphism of $\mathfrak{D}G$ -modules, we obtain an isomorphism $(\mathfrak{P}_L^r)^H \cong (\mathfrak{P}_L^{r'})^H$ of $\mathfrak{D}Q$ -modules. Applying Lemma 1 to F/K , we deduce

$$1 + \left[\frac{s}{p^{m-1}k} \right] \equiv 1 + \left[\frac{s'}{p^{m-1}k} \right] \pmod{p},$$

i.e. $1 + \left[\frac{ap}{k} - \frac{1}{p^{m-1}k} \right] \equiv 1 + \left[\frac{ap}{k} \right] \pmod{p},$

which fails if $a \equiv 0 \pmod{k}$.

Proof of Theorem 3. Let a be the integer such that $t(L/K) \equiv a \pmod{p}$, $1 \leq a \leq p - 1$. Given r with $1 \leq r \leq p^m$, set

$$s = r - 1 = s_0 + ps_1 + \cdots + p^{m-1}s_{m-1} \quad \text{with } 0 \leq s_i \leq p - 1$$

as before, and define

$$I(r, L/K) = \{i : 0 \leq i \leq m - 2, s_i \geq a\}.$$

It is sufficient to prove the following implication:

$$\mathfrak{P}_L^r \cong \mathfrak{P}_L^{r'} \text{ as } \mathfrak{D}G\text{-modules} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} I(r, L/K) = I(r', L/K) \\ \text{and } s_{m-1} = s'_{m-1}. \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

We will prove (10) by induction on m . If $m = 1$ then $I(r, L/K) = I(r', L/K) = \emptyset$, and (10) holds by Lemma 1. Now assume that $m \geq 2$. Take

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N and E as in Proposition 4(v) and set $J = G/N$. If $\mathfrak{P}_L^r \cong \mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$ as $\mathfrak{D}G$ -modules then taking N -fixed points gives the isomorphism of $\mathfrak{D}J$ -modules

$$\mathfrak{P}_E^{1+[s/p]} \cong \mathfrak{P}_E^{1+[s'/p]}.$$

Since

$$\left(1 + \left[\frac{s}{p}\right]\right) - 1 = s_1 + ps_2 + \cdots + p^{m-2}s_{m-1}$$

and similarly for s' , and since $t(E/K) = t(L/K) \equiv a \pmod{p}$, it follows from the induction hypothesis that

$$\{i : 1 \leq i \leq m-2, s_i \geq a\} = \{i : 1 \leq i \leq m-2, s'_i \geq a\}$$

and

$$s_{m-1} = s'_{m-1}.$$

Thus to complete the induction, it only remains to show that $s_0 \geq a$ if and only if $s'_0 \geq a$. For this we compare the 0th Tate cohomology functor

$$\hat{H}^0(N, -) = \frac{(-)^N}{Tr_{L/E}(-)}$$

([14] VIII §1) on the $\mathfrak{D}N$ -modules \mathfrak{P}_L^r and $\mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$. Here $Tr_{L/E}$ denotes the trace map from L to E . Let $n = t(L/E)$, so $n \equiv a \pmod{p}$ by Proposition 3(v). Then the different of L/E has valuation $v = (p-1)(n+1)$ ([14] IV Proposition 4) and

$$Tr_{L/E}(\mathfrak{P}_L^r) = \mathfrak{P}_E^{[(r+v)/p]}$$

([14] III Proposition 7). Hence

$$\hat{H}^0(N, \mathfrak{P}_L^r) \cong \frac{\mathfrak{P}_E^{[s/p]+1}}{\mathfrak{P}_E^{[(r+v)/p]}} \cong \frac{\mathfrak{D}_E}{\mathfrak{P}_E^{k(s)}},$$

where

$$k(s) = [(1+s+v)/p] - [s/p] - 1.$$

If $\mathfrak{P}_L^r \cong \mathfrak{P}_L^{r'}$ as $\mathfrak{D}G$ -modules then they are isomorphic as $\mathfrak{D}N$ -modules, and we must have $k(s) = k(s')$. Since $v \equiv -1 - a \pmod{p}$, this simplifies to

$$\left[\frac{s_0 - a}{p}\right] = \left[\frac{s'_0 - a}{p}\right].$$

Hence $s_0 \geq a$ if and only if $s'_0 \geq a$, completing the induction.

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