

Non-commutative torsors

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Introduction

- Report on **joint work** with **Pierre Guillot** (Strasbourg)
about the classification of **non-commutative torsors** over a **finite group** G

Reference: P. Guillot, C. Kassel,
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Internat. Math. Res. Notices 2010 no. 10, 1894–1939; arXiv:0903.2807

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We obtain a **new (quantum) invariant** for finite groups

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Plan

I. Torsors and bitorsors

II. Non-commutative torsors

III. Main results

IV. A proof using quantum group theory

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Classical G -torsors

- **Recall:** Let G be an algebraic group defined over a field k . A right G -torsor is a right G -variety T (over k) such that the map

$$\begin{aligned} T \times G &\longrightarrow T \times T \\ (t, g) &\longmapsto (t, tg) \end{aligned}$$

is an isomorphism

This means that for any $t, t' \in T$ there is a unique $g \in G$ such that $t' = tg$

- If $k = \bar{k}$ is algebraically closed, then any torsor is isomorphic to $T = G$ with G acting by right translations

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Galois cohomology

- When $k \neq \bar{k}$, torsors are classified by Serre's **non-abelian Galois cohomology** set:

$$\{G\text{-torsors}\} / (\text{isomorphism}) \cong H^1(\text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k), G)$$

This is a **pointed set**, not a group (unless G is abelian)

- If G is a **finite** group, then $H^1(\text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k), G)$

$$\cong \{\text{continuous homomorphisms } \varphi : \text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k) \rightarrow G\} / (\text{conjugacy})$$

Recall: a homomorphism $\text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k) \rightarrow G$ is **continuous** if it factors through $\text{Gal}(k'/k)$ for some **finite** Galois extension k' of k

Remark. The set $H^1(\text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k), G)$ is an arithmetical analogue of the topologists' classifying set for **flat G -connections**

$$\text{Hom}(\pi_1(S), G) / (\text{conjugacy})$$

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Bitorsors

- A **G -bitorsor** is both a left and right G -torsor such the left and right actions commute

- Bitorsors can be **multiplied**: if T, T' are bitorsors, then so is

$$T * T' = T \times_G T' = (T \times T') / \langle (tg, t') = (t, gt') \rangle$$

- Under this product, the set of isomorphism classes of bitorsors becomes a **group**, which is isomorphic to the **Galois cohomology group**

$$\{G\text{-bitorsors}\} / (\text{isomorphism}) \cong H^1(\text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k), Z(G))$$

where $Z(G)$ is the **center** of G

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Non-commutative geometry

- In the spirit of **non-commutative geometry**, replace

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| k -variety | \longleftrightarrow | k -algebra |
| group G | \longleftrightarrow | Hopf algebra |
| group action G | \longleftrightarrow | Hopf algebra coaction |
| torsor condition G | \longleftrightarrow | Galois condition |
| left and right action G | \longleftrightarrow | left and right coaction |

- Using this dictionary, one can define **non-commutative bitorsors** for any Hopf algebra
- As in the classical case, the set of isomorphism classes of non-commutative bitorsors forms a **group**

Non-commutative H -torsors

- Given a Hopf algebra H , a **right non-commutative H -torsor** (also called a right H -Galois object) is an **associative unital algebra** A together with an algebra morphism

$$\delta : A \rightarrow A \otimes H \quad \text{(coaction)}$$

satisfying the coassociativity and the counitarity conditions:

$$(\delta \otimes \text{id}_H) \circ \delta = (\text{id}_H \otimes \Delta) \circ \delta \quad \text{and} \quad (\text{id}_H \otimes \varepsilon) \circ \delta = \text{id}_H$$

and the **Galois condition**: the map

$$A \otimes A \rightarrow A \otimes H; \quad a \otimes a' \mapsto (a \otimes 1_H) \delta(a')$$

is an **isomorphism**

- Why it is called “Galois condition”:**

If K/k is a **Galois extension of fields** with finite Galois group G , then K is a non-commutative H -torsor for $H = (kG)^*$

- Similarly one defines **left non-commutative H -torsors** (with left coaction $\delta : A \rightarrow H \otimes A$) and **non-commutative H -bitorsors**

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Let G be a **finite group**

- By definition, a **non-commutative G -bitorsor** is a non-commutative H -bitorsor for the Hopf algebra $(kG)^*$ of k -valued **functions on G**
- The set of isomorphism classes of non-commutative G -bitorsors forms a **group** we denote by

$$\mathcal{H}^2(G/k)$$

- **Our aim:** To **compute** the group $\mathcal{H}^2(G/k)$ of non-commutative G -bitorsors and to **compare** it with the group $H^1(\text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k), Z(G))$ of classical G -bitorsors

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Invariant Drinfeld twists

The following facts can be proved.

- **Fact 1.** Any non-commutative G -bitorsor is an algebra A_F indexed by an **invariant Drinfeld twist** F on the group algebra kG (the definition of A_F is given in the Appendix)

Definition. (a) A **Drinfeld twist** on kG is an invertible element $F \in kG \otimes kG$ satisfying the condition

$$(F \otimes 1)(\Delta \otimes \text{id})(F) = (1 \otimes F)(\text{id} \otimes \Delta)(F) \in kG \otimes kG \otimes kG$$

(b) An element $F \in kG \otimes kG$ is **invariant** if

$$\Delta(a)F = F\Delta(a) \quad (a \in kG)$$

Recall that the coproduct Δ of kG is defined by $\Delta(g) = g \otimes g$ for all $g \in G$

- **Fact 2.** Two non-commutative bitorsors $A_F, A_{F'}$ are **isomorphic** as bitorsors if and only if there exists a **central** invertible element $a \in kG$ such that

$$F' = F(a \otimes a)\Delta(a)^{-1} = (a \otimes a)\Delta(a)^{-1}F$$

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A description of $\mathcal{H}^2(G/k)$

- Consequently,

the group $\mathcal{H}^2(G/k)$ of isomorphism classes of **non-commutative G -bitorsors** is **isomorphic** to the group of **invariant Drinfeld twists** on kG modulo the **trivial twists**, i.e., those of the form $(a \otimes a)\Delta(a)^{-1}$, where $a \in kG$ is central and invertible

$$\mathcal{H}^2(G/k) \cong \{\text{invariant Drinfeld twists on } kG\} / \{\text{trivial twists}\}$$

- Using this interpretation in terms of Drinfeld twists, the group $\mathcal{H}^2(G/k)$ can be **defined for any group** G , not only finite groups

S. Neshveyev and L. Tuset (Oslo) computed $\mathcal{H}^2(G/k)$ for any **connected compact group** G and $k = \mathbb{C}$

- We next show how to compute $\mathcal{H}^2(G/k)$ for any **finite group** G

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The rationality exact sequence

Assume that k is of **characteristic zero** with **algebraic closure** \bar{k}

Theorem 1. *Let G be a finite group. If all irreducible \bar{k} -representations of G can be realized over k , then there is an **exact sequence** of groups*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & \longrightarrow & H^1(\mathrm{Gal}(\bar{k}/k), Z(G)) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{H}^2(G/k) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{H}^2(G/\bar{k}) \longrightarrow 1 \\ & & \text{(classical bitorsors)} & & \text{(non-comm. bitorsors)} & & \\ & & \text{(ARITHMETIC)} & & & & \text{(GEOMETRIC)} \end{array}$$

In particular, if G is **centerless**, then $\mathcal{H}^2(G/k) \cong \mathcal{H}^2(G/\bar{k})$

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On the proof of Theorem 1

- $\mathcal{H}^2(G/k)$ appears as a “cohomology group” in the short cochain complex:

$$1 \rightarrow [(kG)^\times]^G \xrightarrow{\delta^1} [(kG \otimes kG)^\times]^G \xrightarrow{\delta_L^2, \delta_R^2} [(kG \otimes kG \otimes kG)^\times]^G$$

where $\delta^1(a) = (a \otimes a) \Delta(a^{-1})$ and

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Then

$$\mathcal{H}^2(G/k) \cong \text{Equalizer}(\delta_L^2, \delta_R^2) / \text{Im}(\delta^1)$$

- The groups in the cochain complex are algebraic groups:

$$[(\bar{k}G)^\times]^G \cong \prod_{\rho \in \text{Irrep}(G)} \text{Aut}_G(V_\rho) \cong \prod_{\rho \in \text{Irrep}(G)} \bar{k}^\times \quad (\text{split torus})$$

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- Apply the functor $H^0(\text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k), -)$ and use Hilbert's Theorem 90

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The algebraically closed case

- We are now **reduced** to computing $\mathcal{H}^2(G/k)$ over an **algebraically closed** ground field k
- We need **two ingredients** :
 - * a set $\mathcal{B}(G)$ obtained as a colimit over **normal abelian subgroups** of G
 - * a group $\text{Out}_c(G)$ of **outer automorphisms** of G

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First ingredient: the pointed set $\mathcal{B}(G)$

- **Definition.** Let \mathcal{A} be the category whose objects are the *normal abelian subgroups* A of G and whose arrows are the *inclusions*. Define

$$\mathcal{B}(G) = \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{A}} H^2(\hat{A}, k^\times)^G \quad (\text{a colimit of pointed sets})$$

Here $\hat{A} = \text{Hom}(A, k^\times)$ is the group of *characters* of A and $H^2(\hat{A}, k^\times)$ is the second *cohomology group* of \hat{A}

- The set $\mathcal{B}(G)$ is
 - * *non-empty*: it is pointed by the zero element 0 lying in all $H^2(\hat{A}, k^\times)^G$
 - * it is *finite*
- If G has a *unique* maximal normal abelian subgroup A , then

$$\mathcal{B}(G) = H^2(\hat{A}, k^\times)^G$$

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Here $\hat{A} = \text{Hom}(A, k^\times)$ is the group of *characters* of A and $H^2(\hat{A}, k^\times)$ is the second *cohomology group* of \hat{A}

- The set $\mathcal{B}(G)$ is
 - * *non-empty*: it is pointed by the zero element 0 lying in all $H^2(\hat{A}, k^\times)^G$
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First ingredient: the pointed set $\mathcal{B}(G)$

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- Let $\text{Aut}_c(G)$ be the group of **automorphisms** φ of G such that for all $g \in G$

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$$\text{Out}_c(G) = \text{Aut}_c(G) / \text{Inn}(G)$$

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- * $G = S_n$ (symmetric group)
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- * G is **simple** (Feit-Seitz, 1989)

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Determining $\mathcal{H}^2(G/k)$

Now our **main result** in the algebraically closed case

Assume that the field k is **algebraically closed** of characteristic prime to $|G|$

Theorem 2. *There is a set-theoretic map $\Theta : \mathcal{H}^2(G/k) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(G)$ such that*

(a) $\mathcal{H}_0 = \Theta^{-1}(\{0\})$ is a **subgroup** of $\mathcal{H}^2(G/k)$ with

$$\mathcal{H}_0 \cong \text{Out}_c(G)$$

(b) All fibers of Θ are in **bijection with \mathcal{H}_0** ; more precisely,

$$\Theta(\alpha) = \Theta(\beta) \iff \beta \in \alpha \mathcal{H}_0 \quad (\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{H}^2(G/k))$$

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An example with non-trivial $\mathcal{H}^2(G/k)$

- Let p be an **odd prime** and let G be the **wreath product**

$$G = \mathbb{Z}/p \wr \mathbb{Z}/p = A \rtimes \mathbb{Z}/p$$

with \mathbb{Z}/p acting cyclically on $A = (\mathbb{Z}/p)^p$

The subgroup A is the **unique** maximal normal abelian subgroup of G

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To be or not to be surjective in the even case

If $|G|$ is **even**, then Θ may or may not be surjective

- **Example 1.** For $p = 2$ the wreath product $G = \mathbb{Z}/p \wr \mathbb{Z}/p$ is the **dihedral group** of order 8: it has **two** maximal normal abelian subgroups. In this case,

$$\mathcal{H}^2(G/k) = 1 \quad \text{although} \quad |\mathcal{B}(G)| = 3$$

and the map $\Theta : \mathcal{H}^2(G/k) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(G)$ is **not surjective**

- **Example 2.** If $G = A_4$ is the **alternating group**, then $\text{Out}_c(A_4) = 1$ so that the map $\Theta : \mathcal{H}^2(A_4/k) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}(A_4)$ is injective

Proposition. The map Θ is **bijective** and $\mathcal{H}^2(A_4/k) \cong \mathcal{B}(A_4) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2$

To prove the **surjectivity** of Θ , we exhibit an element $\alpha \in \mathcal{H}^2(A_4/k)$ such that $\Theta(\alpha)$ is the non-trivial element of $\mathcal{B}(A_4)$

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Plan

I. Torsors and bitorsors

II. Non-commutative torsors

III. Main results

IV. A proof using quantum group theory

On the proof of Theorem 2

- **Theorem 2 (Extract).** *There is a set-theoretic map*

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- The proof uses **quantum group theory**

Let us first explain the construction of the map Θ

The universal R -matrix attached to a Drinfeld twist

- Represent an element of $\mathcal{H}^2(G/k)$ by an **invariant Drinfeld twist**

$$F \in kG \otimes kG$$

- Consider

$$R_F = F_{21} F^{-1} \in kG \otimes kG$$

This is a **universal R -matrix** for kG , i.e., an invertible element satisfying

$$\Delta(a) R_F = R_F \Delta(a) \quad \text{for all } a \in kG$$

and

$$(\Delta \otimes \text{id})(R_F) = (R_F)_{13} (R_F)_{23} \quad \text{and} \quad (\text{id} \otimes \Delta)(R_F) = (R_F)_{13} (R_F)_{12}$$

- The universal R -matrix R_F induces a **braiding** γ on the tensor category of G -modules

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_{V,W} : V \otimes W &\xrightarrow{\cong} W \otimes V \\ v \otimes w &\longmapsto (R_F(v \otimes w))_{21} \end{aligned}$$

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Constructing the map Θ : Part 1

- By work of Radford, there is a **minimal** Hopf subalgebra $H \subset kG$ such that

$$R_F \in H \otimes H$$

This Hopf algebra is **self-dual**: $H^* \cong H$

- Since kG is **cocommutative**, so is H . From self-duality, H is **bicommutative**

One deduces that $H = kA$ for the **abelian** subgroup A of G given by

$$A = \{a \in H \mid \Delta(a) = a \otimes a \text{ and } \varepsilon(a) = 1\}$$

- Since F is G -invariant, so is R_F , and A is **normal** in G

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- Now the discrete Fourier transform induces a Hopf algebra isomorphism

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(where $\hat{A} = \text{Hom}(A, k^\times)$) so that we obtain a bilinear form $k\hat{A} \times k\hat{A} \rightarrow k$

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$$\Theta(F) = [b_F] \in \mathcal{B}(G) = \bigcup_{A \in \mathcal{A}} H^2(\hat{A}, k^\times)^G$$

One checks that $\Theta(F)$ **depends only on the class of F in $\mathcal{H}^2(G/k)$**

Constructing the map Θ : Part 2

- By duality, $R_F \in kA \otimes kA$ corresponds to a bilinear form

$$(kA)^* \times (kA)^* \rightarrow k$$

- Now the **discrete Fourier transform** induces a Hopf algebra isomorphism

$$(kA)^* \cong k\widehat{A}$$

(where $\widehat{A} = \text{Hom}(A, k^\times)$) so that we obtain a bilinear form $k\widehat{A} \times k\widehat{A} \rightarrow k$

- Restricting to $\widehat{A} \times \widehat{A}$, we obtain a G -invariant 2-**cocycle**

$$b_F : \widehat{A} \times \widehat{A} \rightarrow k^\times$$

which represents an element $[b_F] \in H^2(\widehat{A}, k^\times)^G$

- We define

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One checks that $\Theta(F)$ **depends only on the class of F** in $\mathcal{H}^2(G/k)$

The “kernel” of Θ

To determine $\mathcal{H}_0 = \Theta^{-1}((\{1\}, b_0)) \cong \text{Out}_c(G)$, we use the following results:

- **Etingof and Gelaki (2000):** If F is a *Drinfeld twist* such that $R_F = 1 \otimes 1$, or equivalently F is *symmetric*: $F = F_{21}$, then

$$F = (a \otimes a) \Delta(a^{-1})$$

for some invertible element $a \in kG$

Their result follows from classical *Tannakian theory*:

Deligne and Milne (1982): Any exact and fully faithful symmetric tensor functor from the category of kG -modules to the category of k -vector spaces is *isomorphic to the forgetful functor*

A symmetric Drinfeld twist gives rise to a symmetric tensor functor, to which Etingof and Gelaki apply Deligne and Milne's result

- A symmetric Drinfeld twist $F = (a \otimes a) \Delta(a^{-1})$ is *invariant* if and only if the automorphism $x \mapsto axa^{-1}$ preserves G and is an element of $\text{Aut}_c(G)$

From these remarks it is easy to deduce that $\mathcal{H}_0 \cong \text{Out}_c(G)$

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Appendix. The definition of A_F

- The Hopf algebra $(kG)^*$, **dual of the group algebra** kG , has a basis $(e_g)_{g \in G}$ of **orthogonal idempotents** defined by $\langle e_g, h \rangle = \delta_{g,h}$ ($g, h \in G$)
- The **non-commutative G -bitor** A_F associated to an invariant Drinfeld twist $F \in kG \otimes kG$ is a deformation of $(kG)^*$: it has a basis $(u_g)_{g \in G}$ in which the **product** of A_F is given by

$$u_g u_h = \sum_{s \in G} \alpha(g s^{-1}, h s^{-1}) u_s$$

where the scalars $\alpha(g, h)$ are the coefficients of F :

$$F = \sum_{g, h \in G} \alpha(g, h) g \otimes h$$

- The **coaction** $\delta : A_F \rightarrow A_F \otimes (kG)^*$ is given by

$$\delta(u_g) = \sum_{s \in G} u_{gs^{-1}} \otimes e_s$$

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Takk for oppmerksomheten!

Thank you for your attention!