The Brauer group of Kummer surfaces and torsion of elliptic curves

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Introduction

In this paper we are interested in computing the Brauer group of K3 surfaces. To an element of the Brauer–Grothendieck group $\text{Br}(X)$ of a smooth projective variety $X$ over a number field $k$, class field theory associates the corresponding Brauer–Manin obstruction, which is a closed condition satisfied by $k$-points inside the topological space of adelic points of $X$, see [20, Ch. 5.2]. If such a condition is non-trivial, $X$ is a counterexample to weak approximation, and if no adelic point satisfies this condition, $X$ is a counterexample to the Hasse principle. The computation of $\text{Br}(X)$ is thus a first step in the computation of the Brauer–Manin obstruction on $X$.

Let $k$ be an arbitrary field with a separable closure $\overline{k}$, $\Gamma = \text{Gal}(\overline{k}/k)$. Recall that for a variety $X$ over $k$ the subgroup $\text{Br}_0(X) \subset \text{Br}(X)$ denotes the image of $\text{Br}(k)$ in $\text{Br}(X)$, and $\text{Br}_1(X) \subset \text{Br}(X)$ denotes the kernel of the natural map $\text{Br}(X) \to \text{Br}(\overline{X})$, where $\overline{X} = X \times_k \overline{k}$. In [22] we showed that if $X$ is a K3 surface over a field $k$ finitely generated over $\mathbb{Q}$, then $\text{Br}(X)/\text{Br}_0(X)$ is finite. No general approach to the computation of $\text{Br}(X)/\text{Br}_0(X)$ seems to be known; in fact until recently there was not a single K3 surface over a number field for which $\text{Br}(X)/\text{Br}_0(X)$ was known. One of the aims of this paper is to give examples of K3 surfaces $X$ over $\mathbb{Q}$ such that $\text{Br}(X) = \text{Br}(\mathbb{Q})$.

We study a particular kind of K3 surfaces, namely Kummer surfaces $X = \text{Kum}(A)$ constructed from abelian surfaces $A$. Let $\text{Br}(X)_n$ denote the $n$-torsion subgroup of $\text{Br}(X)$. Section 1 is devoted to the geometry of Kummer surfaces. We show that there is a natural isomorphism of $\Gamma$-modules $\text{Br}(\overline{X}) \iso \text{Br}(\overline{A})$ (Proposition 1.3). When $A$ is a product of two elliptic curves, the algebraic Brauer group $\text{Br}_1(X)$ often coincides with $\text{Br}(k)$, see Proposition 1.4.

Section 2 starts with a general remark on the étale cohomology of abelian varieties which may be of independent interest (Proposition 2.2). It implies that if $n$ is an odd integer, then for any abelian variety $A$ the group $\text{Br}(A)_n/\text{Br}_1(A)_n$ is canonically isomorphic to the quotient of $H^2_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n)^\Gamma$ by $(\text{NS}(A)/n)^\Gamma$, where $\text{NS}(A)$ is the Néron–Severi group (Corollary 2.3). For any $n \geq 1$ we prove that $\text{Br}(X)_n/\text{Br}_1(X)_n$ is a subgroup of $\text{Br}(A)_n/\text{Br}_1(A)_n$, and this inclusion is an equality for odd $n$, see
Theorem 2.4. We deduce that the subgroups of elements of odd order of the transcendental Brauer groups $\text{Br}(X)/\text{Br}_1(X)$ and $\text{Br}(A)/\text{Br}_1(A)$ are naturally isomorphic.

More precise results are obtained in Section 3 in the case when $A = E \times E'$ is a product of two elliptic curves. In this case for any $n \geq 1$ we have

$$\text{Br}(A)_n/\text{Br}_1(A)_n = \text{Hom}_\Gamma(E_n, E'_n)/(\text{Hom}(E, E')/n)^\Gamma$$

(Proposition 3.3). This gives a convenient formula for $\text{Br}(X)_n/\text{Br}_1(X)_n$ when $n$ is odd. See Proposition 3.7 for the case $n = 2$.

In Section 4 we find many pairs of elliptic curves $E, E'$ over $\mathbb{Q}$ such that for $A = E \times E'$ the group $\text{Br}(A)/\text{Br}_1(A)$ is zero or a finite abelian 2-group. For example, if $E$ is an elliptic curve over $\mathbb{Q}$ such that for all primes $\ell$ the representation $\Gamma \to \text{Aut}(E_\ell) \simeq \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_\ell)$ is surjective, then for $A = E \times E$ we have $\text{Br}(A) = \text{Br}_1(A)$, whereas $\text{Br}(\overline{A})^\Gamma \simeq \mathbb{Z}/2^m$ for some $m \geq 1$ (Proposition 4.3). This shows, in particular, that the Hochschild–Serre spectral sequence $H^p(k, \mathbb{Z}/\ell^q(-\overline{A}, G_m)) \Rightarrow H^p_{\text{et}}(A, G_m)$ does not degenerate. For this $A$ the corresponding Kummer surface $X = \text{Kum}(A)$ has trivial Brauer group $\text{Br}(X) = \text{Br}(\mathbb{Q})$ (whereas $\text{Br}(\overline{X})^\Gamma \simeq \mathbb{Z}/2^m$ for some $m \geq 1$). Note that by a theorem of W. Duke [2] most elliptic curves over $\mathbb{Q}$ have this property, see the remark after Proposition 4.3.

In Section 5 we discuss the resulting infinitely many Kummer surfaces $X$ over $\mathbb{Q}$ such that $\text{Br}(X) = \text{Br}(\mathbb{Q})$, see (25-29) and Examples 3 and 4. In fact most Kummer surfaces $\text{Kum}(E \times E')$ over $\mathbb{Q}$ have trivial Brauer group, see Example A2 in Section 4. We also exhibit Kummer surfaces $X$ with an element of prime order $\ell \leq 13$ in $\text{Br}(X)$ which is not in $\text{Br}_1(X)$. Finally, we discuss the Brauer group of Kummer surfaces that do not necessarily have rational points.

In the follow up paper [6] with Evis Ieronymou we give an upper bound on the size of $\text{Br}(X)/\text{Br}_0(X)$, where $X$ is a smooth diagonal quartic surface in $\mathbb{P}^3_{\mathbb{Q}}$, and give examples when $\text{Br}(X) = \text{Br}(\mathbb{Q})$. The importance of K3 surfaces over $\mathbb{Q}$ such that $\text{Br}(X) = \text{Br}(\mathbb{Q})$ is that there is no Brauer–Manin obstruction, and so the Hasse principle and weak approximation for $\mathbb{Q}$-points can be tested by numerical experiments. It would be even more interesting to get theoretical evidence for or against the Hasse principle and weak approximation on such surfaces.

1 Picard and Brauer groups of Kummer surfaces over an algebraically closed field

Let $k$ be a field of characteristic zero with an algebraic closure $\overline{k}$, and the absolute Galois group $\Gamma = \text{Gal}(\overline{k}/k)$. Let $X$ be a smooth and geometrically integral variety over $k$, and let $\overline{X} = X \times_k \overline{k}$. Let $\text{Br}(X) = H^2_{\text{et}}(X, G_m)$ be the Brauer group of $X$, and let $\text{Br}(\overline{X}) = H^2_{\text{et}}(\overline{X}, G_m)$ be the Brauer group of $\overline{X}$. For any prime number $\ell$
the Kummer sequence
\[ 1 \rightarrow \mu_\ell^n \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_m \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_m \rightarrow 1 \]
gives rise to the exact sequence of abelian groups
\[ 0 \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n \rightarrow H^2_{\text{ét}}(X, \mu_\ell^n) \rightarrow \text{Br}(X)_\ell^n \rightarrow 0, \]
and an exact sequence of Γ-modules
\[ 0 \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n \rightarrow H^2_{\text{ét}}(X, \mu_\ell^n) \rightarrow \text{Br}(X)_\ell^n \rightarrow 0. \] (1)

If $X$ is projective, then $\text{Pic}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n = \text{NS}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n$, where $\text{NS}(X)$ is the Néron–Severi group of $X$. So in this case we have an exact sequence of Γ-modules
\[ 0 \rightarrow \text{NS}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n \rightarrow H^2_{\text{ét}}(X, \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n) \rightarrow \text{Br}(X)_\ell^n \rightarrow 0. \] (2)

Passing to the projective limit in (2) we obtain an embedding of Γ-modules
\[ \text{NS}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Z}/\ell \hookrightarrow H^2_{\text{ét}}(X, \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n). \]
The Néron–Severi group of an abelian variety or a K3 surface is torsion free, so in these cases $\text{NS}(X)$ is a submodule of $H^2_{\text{ét}}(X, \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n)$.

**Remark.** Let $\rho$ be the rank of $\text{NS}(X)$, and let $b_2$ be the second Betti number of $X$. It is known ([3], Cor. 3.4, p. 82; [11], Ch. 5, Remark 3.29, pp. 216–217) that the $\ell$-primary component $\text{Br}(X)(\ell) \subset \text{Br}(X)$ is an extension of $H^3_{\text{ét}}(X, \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n)_{\text{tors}}$ by $(\mathbb{Q}_\ell/\mathbb{Z}_\ell)^{b_2-\rho}$. By Poincaré duality, if $X$ is a surface such that $\text{NS}(X)$ has no $\ell$-torsion, then $\text{Br}(X)(\ell) \simeq (\mathbb{Q}_\ell/\mathbb{Z}_\ell)^{b_2-\rho}$. It follows that if $X$ is an abelian variety or a K3 surface we have $\text{Br}(X) \simeq (\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})^{b_2-\rho}$.

We write $k[X]$ for the $k$-algebra of regular functions on $X$, and $k[X]^*$ for the group of invertible regular functions. We state the following well known fact for future reference.

**Lemma 1.1** Let $X$ be a smooth and geometrically integral variety over $k$, and let $U \subset X$ be an open subset whose complement in $X$ has codimension at least 2. Then the natural restriction maps
\[ k[X] \rightarrow k[U], \quad \text{Pic}(X) \rightarrow \text{Pic}(U), \quad \text{Br}(X) \rightarrow \text{Br}(U) \]
are isomorphisms.

**Proof** The first two statements are clear, and the last one follows from Grothendieck’s purity theorem, see [3], Cor. 6.2, p. 136. QED

For an abelian variety $A$ we denote by $A_n$ the kernel of the multiplication by $n$ map $[n] : A \rightarrow A$. Let $\iota$ be the antipodal involution on $A$, $\iota(x) = -x$. The set of fixed points of $\iota$ is $A_2$. 
Assume now that $A$ is an abelian surface. Let $A_0 = A \setminus A_2$ be the complement to $A_2$, and let $X_0 = A_0/\iota$. The surface $X_0$ is smooth and the morphism $A_0 \to X_0$ is a torsor under $\mathbb{Z}/2$. Let $X$ be the surface obtained by blowing-up the singular points of $A/\iota$. Then $X$ can be viewed as a smooth compactification of $X_0$; the complement to $X_0$ in $X$ is a closed subvariety of dimension 1 which splits over $\overline{k}$ into a disjoint union of 16 smooth rational curves with self-intersection $-2$. We shall call $X$ the Kummer surface attached to $A$, and write $X = \text{Kum}(A)$.

Let $A'$ be the surface obtained by blowing-up the subscheme $A_2$ in $A$, and let $\sigma : A' \to A$ be the resulting birational morphism. Let $\pi : A' \to X$ be the natural finite morphism of degree 2 ramified at $X \setminus X_0$ (cf. [14]). The set $A_2(\overline{k})$ is the disjoint union of $\Gamma$-orbits $\Lambda_1, \ldots, \Lambda_r$. One may view each $\Lambda_i$ as a closed point of $A$ with residue field $K_i$. Then $M_i = \sigma^{-1}(\Lambda_i)$ in $A'$ is the projective line $\mathbb{P}^1_{K_i}$ (cf. [9], Ch. III, Thm. 2.4 and Remark 2.5). It follows that $L_i = \pi(M_i)$ is also isomorphic to $\mathbb{P}^1_{K_i}$.

Since $\sigma : A' \to A$ is a monoidal transformation with smooth centre, the induced maps $\sigma^* : \text{Br}(A) \to \text{Br}(A')$ and $\sigma^* : \text{Br}(\overline{A}) \to \text{Br}(\overline{A}')$ are isomorphisms by [3], Cor. 7.2, p. 138. Let $Y \subset A'$ be an open subset containing $A_0$. The composition of injective maps

$$\text{Br}(A) \xrightarrow{\sigma^*} \text{Br}(A') \to \text{Br}(Y) \to \text{Br}(A_0)$$

is an isomorphism by Lemma 1.1, and the same is true after the base change from $k$ to $\overline{k}$. It follows that the following restriction maps are isomorphisms:

$$
\text{Br}(A') \xrightarrow{\sigma^*} \text{Br}(Y), \quad \text{Br}(\overline{A}') \xrightarrow{\sigma^*} \text{Br}(\overline{Y}).
$$

This easily implies that the natural homomorphisms $\text{Br}_1(A) \to \text{Br}_1(A') \to \text{Br}_1(Y)$ are isomorphisms. We also obtain isomorphisms

$$
\text{Br}(A)_n/\text{Br}_1(A)_n \xrightarrow{\sigma^*} \text{Br}(A')_n/\text{Br}_1(A')_n \xrightarrow{\sigma^*} \text{Br}(Y)_n/\text{Br}_1(Y)_n.
$$

Throughout the paper, we will freely use these isomorphisms, identifying the corresponding groups.

**Proposition 1.2** Let $X_1 \subset X$ be the complement to the union of some of the irreducible components of $X \setminus X_0$ (that is, some of the lines $L_i$). Then there is an exact sequence

$$0 \to \text{Br}(X) \to \text{Br}(X_1) \to \bigoplus_i K_i^*/K_i^{*2},$$

where the sum is over $i$ such that $L_i \subset X \setminus X_1$. In particular, the restriction map $\text{Br}(X) \to \text{Br}(X_1)$ induces an isomorphism of the subgroups of elements of odd order. The restriction map $\text{Br}(X) \xrightarrow{\sigma^*} \text{Br}(X_1)$ is an isomorphism of $\Gamma$-modules.

**Proof** Let $Y = \pi^{-1}(X_1)$. From Grothendieck’s exact sequence ([3], Cor. 6.2, p. 137) we obtain the following commutative diagram with exact rows:

$$
\begin{array}{cccccc}
0 & \to & \text{Br}(X) & \to & \text{Br}(X_1) & \to & \bigoplus_i H^1(L_i, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
0 & \to & \text{Br}(A') & \to & \text{Br}(Y) & \to & \bigoplus_i H^1(M_i, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z})
\end{array}
$$

(6)
where both sums are over \( i \) such that \( L_i \subset X \setminus X_1 \). Recall that the restriction map \( \text{Br}(A') \to \text{Br}(Y) \) is an isomorphism by (3), hence the right bottom arrow is zero. Let \( \text{res}_{L_1} : \text{Br}(X_1) \to H^1(L_1, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}) \) and \( \text{res}_M : \text{Br}(Y) \to H^1(M, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}) \) be the residue maps from (6). The double covering \( \pi : A' \to X \) is ramified at \( L_i \), thus \( \text{res}_M(\pi^* \alpha) = 2\text{res}_{L_1}(\alpha) \). But this is zero, so that \( \text{res}_{L_1}(\alpha) \) belongs to the injective image of \( H^1_{\text{et}}(\mathbb{P}^1_{K_1}, \mathbb{Z}/2) \) in \( H^1_{\text{et}}(\mathbb{P}^1_{K_1}, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}) \). Since \( H^1_{\text{et}}(\mathbb{P}^1_\mathbb{F}_2, \mathbb{Z}/2) = 0 \) we deduce from the Hochschild–Serre spectral sequence

\[
H^0(K_1, H^0_{\text{et}}(\mathbb{P}^1_\mathbb{F}, \mathbb{Z}/2)) \Rightarrow H^p_{\text{et}}(\mathbb{P}^1_{K_1}, \mathbb{Z}/2)
\]

that \( H^1(\mathbb{P}^1_{K_1}, \mathbb{Z}/2) = K^*_1/K_1^{*2} \). This establishes the exact sequence (5).

The same theorem of Grothendieck [3, Cor. 6.2] gives an exact sequence

\[
0 \to \text{Br}(\mathcal{X}) \to \text{Br}(\mathcal{X}_1) \to \bigoplus_i H^1(L_i \times_k \bar{k}, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}) = 0.
\]

Since \( L_i \times_k \bar{k} \) is a disjoint union of finitely many copies of \( \mathbb{P}^1_{\mathbb{F}} \), and \( H^1_{\text{et}}(\mathbb{P}^1_{\mathbb{F}}, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}) = 0 \), this implies the last statement of the proposition. QED

**Proposition 1.3** The natural map \( \pi^* : \text{Br}(\mathcal{X}_0) \to \text{Br}(\mathcal{A}_0) \) is an isomorphism, so that the composed map \((\sigma^*)^{-1}\pi^* : \text{Br}(\mathcal{X}) \to \text{Br}(\mathcal{A}) \) is an isomorphism of \( \Gamma \)-modules.

**Proof** Since \( \pi : A_0 \to X_0 \) is a torsor under \( \mathbb{Z}/2 \) we have the Hochschild–Serre spectral sequence [11, Thm. 3.2.20]

\[
H^p(\mathbb{Z}/2, H^q_{\text{et}}(\mathcal{A}_0, G_m)) \Rightarrow H^p_{\text{et}}(\mathcal{X}_0, G_m).
\]

Let us compute a first few terms of this sequence. By Lemma 1.1 we have

\[
\bar{k}[A_0]^* = \bar{k}^*, \quad \text{Pic}(\mathcal{A}_0) = \text{Pic}(\mathcal{A}), \quad \text{Br}(\mathcal{A}_0) = \text{Br}(\mathcal{A}).
\]

Since \( k \) has characteristic 0, and \( \mathbb{Z}/2 \) acts trivially on \( \bar{k}^* \), the Tate cohomology group \( H^0(\mathbb{Z}/2, \bar{k}^*) \) is trivial. We have \( H^1(\mathbb{Z}/2, \bar{k}^*) = \mathbb{Z}/2 \). By the periodicity of group cohomology of cyclic groups we obtain \( H^2(\mathbb{Z}/2, \bar{k}^*) = 0 \).

We have an exact sequence of \( \Gamma \)-modules

\[
0 \to A^t(\bar{k}) \to \text{Pic}(\bar{k}) \to \text{NS}(\bar{k}) \to 0,
\]

where \( A^t \) is the dual abelian surface. The torsion-free abelian group \( \text{NS}(\mathcal{A}) \) embeds into \( H^2_{\text{et}}(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{Z}_t(1)) \), and since the antipodal involution \( \iota \) acts trivially on \( H^2_{\text{et}}(\mathcal{A}, \mathbb{Z}_t(1)) \), it acts trivially on \( \text{NS}(\mathcal{A}) \), too. Thus \( H^1(\mathbb{Z}/2, \text{NS}(\mathcal{A})) = 0 \), so that \( H^1(\mathbb{Z}/2, \text{Pic}(\mathcal{A})) \) is the image of \( H^1(\mathbb{Z}/2, A^t(\bar{k})) \). Since \( \iota \) acts on \( A^t \) as multiplication by \(-1\), we have

\[
H^1(\mathbb{Z}/2, A^t(\bar{k})) = A^t(\bar{k})/(1-\iota)A^t(\bar{k}) = 0.
\]

Putting all this into the spectral sequence and using Proposition 1.2 with \( X_1 = X_0 \) we obtain an embedding \( \text{Br}(\mathcal{X}) \hookrightarrow \text{Br}(\mathcal{A}) \). In order to prove that this is an
isomorphism, it suffices to check that the corresponding embeddings \( \text{Br}(X)_{\ell^n} \hookrightarrow \text{Br}(A)_{\ell^n} \) are isomorphisms for all primes \( \ell \) and all positive integers \( n \). It is well known that \( b_2(X) = 22, b_2(A) = 6 \) and \( \rho(X) = \rho(A) + 16 \), see, e.g., [15] or [14]. From this and the remark before Lemma 1.1 it follows that the orders of \( \text{Br}(X)_{\ell^n} \) and \( \text{Br}(A)_{\ell^n} \) are the same. This finishes the proof. QED

**Remark 1** The same spectral sequence gives an exact sequence of \( \Gamma \)-modules

\[
0 \to \mathbb{Z}/2 \to \text{Pic}(X_0) \to \text{Pic}(\overline{A})^\iota \to 0,
\]

where \( \text{Pic}(\overline{A})^\iota \) is the \( \iota \)-invariant subgroup of \( \text{Pic}(\overline{A}) \). From (7) we deduce the exact sequence

\[
0 \to \mathbb{Z}/2 \to \text{Pic}(X_0)_{\text{tors}} \to A_2^\iota \to 0.
\]

Let \( \mathbb{Z}^{16} \subset \text{Pic}(X) = \text{NS}(X) \) be the lattice generated by the classes of the 16 lines. Its saturation \( \Pi \) in \( \text{NS}(X) \) is called the Kummer lattice. In other words, \( \Pi \) is the subgroup of \( \text{NS}(X) \) consisting of linear combinations of the classes of the 16 lines with coefficients in \( \mathbb{Q} \). Since \( \text{NS}(X)/\mathbb{Z}^{16} = \text{Pic}(X_0) \), we have \( \Pi/\mathbb{Z}^{16} = \text{Pic}(X_0)_{\text{tors}} \). It follows from (8) that \( [\Pi : \mathbb{Z}^{16}] = 2^6 \). Since the 16 lines are disjoint, and each of them has self-intersection \( -2 \), the discriminant of \( \mathbb{Z}^{16} \) is \( 2^{16} \). Thus the discriminant of \( \Pi \) is \( 2^6 \), as was first observed in [15], Lemma 4 on p. 555, see also [14].

**Remark 2** Considering (7) modulo torsion and taking into account that \( \text{NS}(A)^\iota = \text{NS}(\overline{A}) \) and \( \text{H}^1(\mathbb{Z}/2, A^\iota(\overline{k})) = 0 \), we obtain an isomorphism

\[
\text{NS}(X)/\Pi = \text{Pic}(X_0)/\text{Pic}(X_0)_{\text{tors}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{NS}(\overline{A}).
\]

In other words, we have an exact sequence of \( \Gamma \)-modules

\[
0 \to \Pi \to \text{NS}(X) \xrightarrow{\sigma_* \pi^*} \text{NS}(\overline{A}) \to 0.
\]

**Remark 3** Recall that \( A_2 \) acts on \( X \) and \( X_0 \) compatibly with its action on \( A \) by translations, moreover, the morphisms \( \pi \) and \( \sigma \) are \( A_2 \)-equivariant. Thus the isomorphism \( (\sigma^*)^{-1} \pi^* : \text{Br}(X) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Br}(\overline{A}) \) is also \( A_2 \)-equivariant. Since translations of an abelian variety act trivially on its cohomology, the exact sequence (2) shows that the induced action of \( A_2 \) on \( \text{Br}(X) \) is trivial. We conclude that the induced action of \( A_2 \) on \( \text{Br}(X) \) is also trivial.

Let us now assume that \( X \) is the Kummer surface constructed from the abelian surface \( A = E \times E' \), where \( E \) and \( E' \) are elliptic curves. For a divisor \( D \) we write \([D]\) for the class of \( D \) in the Picard group.

Let \( C \subset \overline{A} \) be a curve, and let \( p : C \to E, p' : C \to E' \) be the natural projections. Then \( p_* p^* : \text{Pic}^0(E) \to \text{Pic}^0(E') \) defines a homomorphism \( E \to E' \). This gives a well known isomorphism of Galois modules

\[
\text{NS}(\overline{A}) = \mathbb{Z}[e] \oplus \mathbb{Z}[e'] \oplus \text{Hom}(E, E'),
\]
where $e = E \times \{0\}$ and $e' = \{0\} \times E'$, and the $\Gamma$-module $\text{Hom}(\overline{E}, \overline{E'})$ is realised inside $\text{NS}(\overline{A})$ as the orthogonal complement to $\mathbb{Z}[e] \oplus \mathbb{Z}[e']$ with respect to the intersection pairing.

For a curve $C \subset A$ we denote by $\sigma^{-1}C \subset A'$ (i.e. the Zariski closure of $C \cap A_0$ in $A'$). In particular, if $C$ does not contain a point of order 2 in $A$, then $\sigma^{-1}C$ does not meet the corresponding line in $A'$, and hence $\pi(\sigma^{-1}C)$ does not meet the corresponding line in $X$.

We write the $\overline{k}$-points in $E_2$ as $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ with the convention that 0 is the origin of the group law, and similarly for $E'_2$. The divisors $\{i\} \times E'$, $E \times \{j\}$, where $i \in E_2$, $j \in E'_2$, are $\iota$-invariant, thus there are rational curves $s_j$ and $l_i$ in $\overline{X}$ such that $\pi$ induces double coverings

$$\sigma^{-1}(E \times \{j\}) \longrightarrow s_j, \quad \sigma^{-1}([i] \times E') \longrightarrow l_i.$$ 

Let $l_{ij}$ be the line in $\overline{X}$ corresponding to the 2-division point $(i, j) \in A_2$. Note that $\sigma_\ast \pi^\ast$ sends $[s_j]$, $[l_i]$, $[l_{ij}]$ to $[e]$, $[e']$, 0, respectively. Finally, let

$$f_1 = 2l_o + l_{oo} + l_{o1} + l_{o2} + l_{o3}, \quad f_2 = 2s_o + l_{oo} + l_{1o} + l_{2o} + l_{3o}.$$ 

Consider the following 9-element Galois-invariant subsets of $\text{NS}(\overline{X})$:

$$\Lambda = \{[l_{ij}]\}, \quad \Sigma = \{[f_1], [f_2], [l_o], [l_i], [s_j]\},$$

where $i$ and $j$ take all values in $\{1, 2, 3\}$. Let $N_\Lambda$ (resp. $N_\Sigma$) be the subgroup of $\text{NS}(\overline{X})$ generated by $\Lambda$ (resp. by $\Sigma$).

**Proposition 1.4** Let $A = E \times E'$, where $E$ and $E'$ are elliptic curves, and let $X = \text{Kum}(A)$.

(i) The set $\Lambda$ (resp. $\Sigma$) is a $\Gamma$-invariant basis of $N_\Lambda$ (resp. of $N_\Sigma$). There is an exact sequence of $\Gamma$-modules

$$0 \rightarrow N_\Lambda \oplus N_\Sigma \rightarrow \text{NS}(\overline{X}) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\overline{E}, \overline{E'}) \rightarrow 0. \quad (11)$$

(ii) We have $\text{Br}_1(X) = \text{Br}(k)$ in each of the following cases:

- $E$ and $E'$ are not isogenous over $\overline{k}$,
- $E = E'$ is an elliptic curve without complex multiplication over $\overline{k}$,
- $E = E'$ is an elliptic curve which, over $\overline{k}$, has complex multiplication by an order $\mathcal{O}$ of an imaginary quadratic field $K$, that is, $\text{End}(\overline{E}) = \mathcal{O}$, and, moreover, $H^1(k, \mathcal{O}) = 0$ (for example, $K \subset k$).

**Proof** (i) Relations (3.8) on p. 3217 of [5] easily imply that all 16 classes $[l_{ij}]$ are in $N_\Lambda + N_\Sigma$. Then relation (3.9) of loc. cit. shows that $[s_o]$ also belongs to $N_\Lambda + N_\Sigma$. Recall that $[\Pi : \mathbb{Z}^{16}] = 2^5$, see Remark 1 above. It is easy to deduce that the
Kummer lattice $\Pi$ is generated by the 16 classes $[l_{ij}]$, together with the differences $[s_i] - [s_j]$ and $[l_i] - [l_j]$ for all possible pairs $(i, j)$. Thus $\Pi \subset N_\Lambda + N_\Sigma$.

A straightforward computation of the intersection pairing shows that the lattice generated by $[f_1]$, $[f_2]$ and the classes of 16 lines is freely generated by these elements, and so is of rank 18. This lattice is contained in $N_\Lambda + N_\Sigma$, hence $N_\Lambda + N_\Sigma$ is also of rank 18 and is freely generated by $\Lambda \cup \Sigma$, so that $N_\Lambda + N_\Sigma = N_\Lambda \oplus N_\Sigma$. We have $\sigma_* \pi^*(s_j) = [e]$ and $\sigma_* \pi^*(l_i) = [e']$ for any $i$ and $j$. It follows from the exact sequence (9) that $(N_\Lambda \oplus N_\Sigma)/\Pi$ is a $\Gamma$-submodule of $\text{NS}(\overline{A})$ generated by $[e]$ and $[e']$. We now obtain (11) from (10).

(ii) If $E$ and $E'$ are not isogenous, then $\text{Hom}(E, E') = 0$. If $E = E'$ is an elliptic curve without complex multiplication, then $\text{Hom}(E, E') = \mathbb{Z}$ is a trivial $\Gamma$-module. In the last case $\text{Hom}(E, E') = \mathcal{O}$, so in all cases we have $H^1(k, \text{Hom}(E, E')) = 0$. By Shapiro’s lemma $H^1(k, N_\Lambda) = H^1(k, N_\Sigma) = 0$, thus $H^1(k, \text{NS}(\overline{X})) = 0$ follows from the long exact sequence of Galois cohomology attached to (11).

The surface $X$ has $k$-points, for example, on $\mathbb{P}^1_k$. This implies that the natural map $\text{Br}(k) \to \text{Br}(X)$ has a retraction, and hence is injective. The same holds for the natural map $H^1_{\text{ét}}(k, G_m) \to H^1_{\text{ét}}(X, G_m)$. Now from the Hochschild–Serre spectral sequence $H^n(k, H^1_{\text{ét}}(X, G_m)) \Rightarrow H^{n+1}_{\text{ét}}(X, G_m))$ we obtain a split exact sequence

$$0 \to \text{Br}(k) \to \text{Br}_1(X) \to H^1(k, \text{Pic}(X)) \to 0.$$ 

Since $\text{Pic}(\overline{X}) = \text{NS}(\overline{X})$, this finishes the proof. QED

2 On étale cohomology of abelian varieties and Kummer surfaces

We refer to [20, Ch. 2] for a general introduction to torsors.

Let $A$ be an abelian variety over $k$, and let $n \geq 1$. Let $\mathcal{T}$ be the $A$-torsor with structure group $A_n$ defined by the multiplication by $n$ map $[n] : A \to A$. Let $[\mathcal{T}]$ be the class of $\mathcal{T}$ in $H^1_{\text{ét}}(A, A_n)$, and let $[\overline{\mathcal{T}}]$ be the image of $[\mathcal{T}]$ under the natural map $H^1_{\text{ét}}(A, A_n) \to H^1_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, A_n)^\Gamma$. The cup-product defines a Galois-equivariant bilinear pairing

$$H^1_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, A_n) \times \text{Hom}(A_n, \mathbb{Z}/n) \to H^1_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, \mathbb{Z}/n).$$

Pairing with $[\overline{\mathcal{T}}]$ gives a homomorphism of $\Gamma$-modules

$$\tau_A : \text{Hom}(A_n, \mathbb{Z}/n) \to H^1_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, \mathbb{Z}/n).$$

The following lemma is certainly well known, and is proved here for the convenience of the reader.

Lemma 2.1 $\tau_A$ is an isomorphism of $\Gamma$-modules.
Proof The two groups have the same number of elements, hence it is enough to prove the injectivity. A non-zero homomorphism \( \alpha : A_n \to \mathbb{Z}/n \) can be written as the composition of a surjection \( \beta : A_n \to \mathbb{Z}/m \) where \( m|n, m \neq 1 \), followed by the injection \( \mathbb{Z}/m \hookrightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n \). The induced map \( H^1_{\text{ét}}(A, \mathbb{Z}/m) \to H^1_{\text{ét}}(A, \mathbb{Z}/n) \) is injective, hence if \( [\mathcal{T}] \cup \alpha = [\alpha_* \mathcal{T}] = 0 \), then the \( A \)-torsor \( \beta_* \mathcal{T} \) under \( \mathbb{Z}/m \) is trivial. This contradiction shows that sending \( \alpha \) to \( [\alpha_* \mathcal{T}] \) defines an injective homomorphism of abelian groups \( \text{Hom}(A_n, \mathbb{Z}/n) \xrightarrow[\sim]{\cong} H^1_{\text{ét}}(A, \mathbb{Z}/n) \). The lemma is proved. QED

Proposition 2.2 Let \( A \) be an abelian variety over \( k \), and let \( m, n \geq 1 \) and \( q \geq 0 \) be integers such that \( (n, q!) = 1 \). Then the natural group homomorphism

\[ H^q_{\text{ét}}(A, \mu^\otimes_m) \to H^q_{\text{ét}}(A, \mu^\otimes_m)^\Gamma \]

has a section, and hence is surjective.

Proof We break the proof into three steps.

Step 1. Let \( M \) be a free \( \mathbb{Z}/n \)-module of rank \( d \) with a basis \( \{e_i\}_{i=1}^d \), and let \( M^* \) be the dual \( \mathbb{Z}/n \)-module with the dual basis \( \{f_i\}_{i=1}^d \). For each \( q \geq 1 \) we have the identity map

\[ \text{Id}_{\wedge^q M} \in \text{End}_{\mathbb{Z}/n}(\wedge^q M) = \wedge^q M \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}/n} \wedge^q M^*, \quad \text{Id}_{\wedge^q M} = \sum (e_{i_1} \wedge \ldots \wedge e_{i_q}) \otimes (f_{i_1} \wedge \ldots \wedge f_{i_q}), \]

where \( i_1 < \ldots < i_q \). The multiplication law \( (a \otimes b) \cdot (a' \otimes b') = (a \wedge a') \otimes (b \wedge b') \) turns the ring

\[ \bigoplus_{q \geq 0} \wedge^q M \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}/n} \wedge^q M^* \]

into a commutative \( \mathbb{Z}/n \)-algebra. A straightforward calculation shows that

\[ (\text{Id}_M)^q = q! \text{Id}_{\wedge^q M}. \quad (12) \]

Step 2. Recall that the cup-product defines a canonical isomorphism

\[ \wedge^q H^1_{\text{ét}}(A, \mathbb{Z}/n) \xrightarrow[\sim]{\cong} H^q_{\text{ét}}(A, \mathbb{Z}/n). \]

We have a natural homomorphism of \( \mathbb{Z}/n \)-modules

\[ H^q_{\text{ét}}(A, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}/n} \wedge^q (A_n) \to H^q_{\text{ét}}(A, \wedge^q (A_n)), \]

and since the abelian group \( \wedge^q (A_n) \) is a product of copies of \( \mathbb{Z}/n \), this is clearly an isomorphism.
Write \( M = H^1_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \mathbb{Z}/n) \) and use Lemma 2.1 to identify \( A_n \) with \( M^* \). We obtain an isomorphism of \( \mathbb{Z}/n \)-modules
\[
H^q_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \wedge^q(A_n)) = H^q_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}/n} \wedge^q(A_n) = \wedge^q M \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}/n} \wedge^q M^*. \tag{13}
\]
The cup-product in étale cohomology gives rise to the map
\[
H^1_{\text{et}}(A, A_n)^{\otimes q} \to H^q_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, A_n^{\otimes q}) \to H^q_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \wedge^q(A_n)),
\]
and we denote by \( \wedge^q[\overline{T}] \in H^q_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \wedge^q(A_n))^\Gamma \) the image of the product of \( q \) copies of \( \overline{T} \). Now (12) says that the isomorphism (13) identifies \( \wedge^q[\overline{T}] \) with \( q! \text{Id}_{\wedge^q M} \).

We have an obvious commutative diagram of \( \Gamma \)-equivariant pairings, where the vertical arrows are isomorphisms:
\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\wedge^q M \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}/n} \wedge^q M^* & \times & \text{Hom}(\wedge^q M^*, \mathbb{Z}/n) \\
\downarrow & \text{Id} & \downarrow \\
H^q_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}/n} \wedge^q M^* & \times & \text{Hom}(\wedge^q M^*, \mathbb{Z}/n) \\
\downarrow & \text{Id} & \downarrow \\
H^q_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \wedge^q(A_n)) & \times & \text{Hom}(\wedge^q(A_n), \mathbb{Z}/n)
\end{array}
\]
The pairing with the \( \Gamma \)-invariant element \( \wedge^q[\overline{T}] \) gives a homomorphism of \( \Gamma \)-modules
\[
\text{Hom}(\wedge^q(A_n), \mathbb{Z}/n) \to H^q_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \mathbb{Z}/n),
\]
which is \( q! \) times the identity of \( \wedge^q M = \text{Hom}(\wedge^q M^*, \mathbb{Z}/n) \). By assumption \( q! \) is invertible in \( \mathbb{Z}/n \), so this is an isomorphism of \( \Gamma \)-modules. Tensoring with the \( \Gamma \)-module \( \mu_n^{\otimes m} \) we obtain an isomorphism of \( \Gamma \)-modules
\[
\text{Hom}(\wedge^q(A_n), \mu_n^{\otimes m}) \to H^q_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n^{\otimes m}).
\]
Therefore, pairing with \( \wedge^q[\overline{T}] \) gives rise to an isomorphism of abelian groups
\[
\text{Hom}_\Gamma(\wedge^q(A_n), \mu_n^{\otimes m}) \to H^q_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n^{\otimes m})^\Gamma. \tag{14}
\]

Step 3. The cup-product in étale cohomology gives rise to the map
\[
H^1_{\text{et}}(A, A_n)^{\otimes q} \to H^q_{\text{et}}(A, A_n^{\otimes q}) \to H^q_{\text{et}}(A, \wedge^q(A_n)),
\]
and we denote by \( \wedge^q[\overline{T}] \in H^q_{\text{et}}(A, \wedge^q(A_n)) \) the image of the product of \( q \) copies of \( \overline{T} \). There is a natural pairing of abelian groups
\[
H^q_{\text{et}}(A, \wedge^q(A_n)) \times \text{Hom}(\wedge^q(A_n), \mu_n^{\otimes m}) \to H^q_{\text{et}}(A, \mu_n^{\otimes m}).
\]
Pairing with \( \wedge^q[\overline{T}] \) induces a map \( \text{Hom}_\Gamma(\wedge^q(A_n), \mu_n^{\otimes m}) \to H^q_{\text{et}}(A, \mu_n^{\otimes m}) \) such that the composition
\[
\text{Hom}_\Gamma(\wedge^q(A_n), \mu_n^{\otimes m}) \to H^q_{\text{et}}(A, \mu_n^{\otimes m}) \to H^q_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n^{\otimes m})^\Gamma
\]
is the isomorphism (14). This proves the proposition. QED

In some cases the condition \( (n, q!) = 1 \) can be dropped, see Corollary 3.2 below.
Corollary 2.3 Let \( n \) be an odd integer. Then the images of the groups \( \text{Br}(A)_n \) and \( H^2_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n)^{\Gamma} \) in \( \text{Br}(\overline{A})^\Gamma_n \) coincide, so that we have an isomorphism
\[
\text{Br}(A)_n/\text{Br}_1(A)_n \simeq H^2_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n)^{\Gamma}/(\text{NS}(\overline{A})/n)^{\Gamma}.
\]

Proof. The Kummer sequences for \( A \) and \( \overline{A} \) give rise to the following obvious commutative diagram with exact rows, cf. (2):
\[
0 \rightarrow (\text{NS}(\overline{A})/n)^{\Gamma} \rightarrow H^2_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n)^{\Gamma} \rightarrow \text{Br}(\overline{A})^{\Gamma}_n \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow
\]
\[
H^2_{\text{et}}(A, \mu_n) \rightarrow \text{Br}(A)_n \rightarrow 0
\]
The downward arrow is the section of Proposition 2.2. Both statements follow from this diagram. QED

Theorem 2.4 Let \( A \) be an abelian surface, and let \( X = \text{Kum}(A) \). Then \( \pi^* \) defines an embedding
\[
\text{Br}(X)_n/\text{Br}_1(X)_n \hookrightarrow \text{Br}(A)_n/\text{Br}_1(A)_n,
\]
which is an isomorphism if \( n \) is odd. The subgroups of elements of odd order of the transcendental Brauer groups \( \text{Br}(X)/\text{Br}_1(X) \) and \( \text{Br}(A)/\text{Br}_1(A) \) are isomorphic.

Proof By Proposition 1.3 we have the commutative diagram
\[
\text{Br}(X)_n \rightarrow \text{Br}(A)_n \\
\downarrow \downarrow \\
\text{Br}(X)_n \rightarrow \text{Br}(A)_n
\]
which implies the desired embedding. Now assume that \( n \) is odd. We can write
\[
\text{Br}(A)_n = \text{Br}(A)^+_n \oplus \text{Br}(A)^-_n,
\]
where \( \text{Br}(A)^+_n \) (resp. \( \text{Br}(A)^-_n \)) is the \( \iota \)-invariant (resp. \( \iota \)-antiinvariant) subgroup of \( \text{Br}(A)_n \). The involution \( \iota \) acts trivially on \( H^2_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \mu_{\ell^m}) \) for any \( \ell \) and \( m \), hence by (2) it also acts trivially on \( \text{Br}(\overline{A}) \). It follows that for odd \( n \) the image of \( \text{Br}(A)^-_n \) in \( \text{Br}(\overline{A}) \) is zero. This gives an isomorphism
\[
\text{Br}(A)_n/\text{Br}_1(A)_n = \text{Br}(A)^+_n/\text{Br}_1(A)^+_n.
\]
Thm. 1.4 of [6] states that if \( Y \rightarrow X \) is a finite flat Galois covering of smooth geometrically irreducible varieties with Galois group \( G \), and \( n \) is coprime to \( |G| \), then the natural map \( \text{Br}(X)_n \rightarrow \text{Br}(Y)^G_n \) is an isomorphism. We apply this to the double covering \( \pi : A' \rightarrow X \). Taking into account the isomorphism \( \text{Br}(A) = \text{Br}(A') \) we obtain the following commutative diagram
\[
\text{Br}(X)_n \rightarrow \text{Br}(A)^+_n \\
\downarrow \downarrow \\
\text{Br}(X)_n \rightarrow \text{Br}(A)^+_n
\]
Our first statement follows. The second statement follows from the first one once we note that an element of odd order in \( \text{Br}(X)/\text{Br}_1(X) \) comes from \( \text{Br}(X)_n \) for some odd \( n \). QED
3 The case of product of two elliptic curves

We now assume that $A = E \times E'$ is the product of two elliptic curves. In this case we can prove the same statement as in Corollary 2.3 but without the assumption on $n$.

The Künneth formula (see [11], Cor. VI.8.13) gives a direct sum decomposition of $\Gamma$-modules

$$H^2_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, \mathbb{Z}/n) = H^2_{\text{ét}}(\overline{E}, \mathbb{Z}/n) \oplus H^2_{\text{ét}}(\overline{E}', \mathbb{Z}/n) \oplus H^2_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, \mathbb{Z}/n)_{\text{prim}},$$

where

$$H^2_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, \mathbb{Z}/n)_{\text{prim}} = H^1_{\text{ét}}(\overline{E}, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes H^1_{\text{ét}}(\overline{E}', \mathbb{Z}/n)$$

is the \textit{primitive} subgroup of $H^2_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, \mathbb{Z}/n)$. On twisting with $\mu_n$ we obtain the decomposition of $\Gamma$-modules

$$H^2_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n) = \mathbb{Z}/n \oplus \mathbb{Z}/n \oplus H^2_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n)_{\text{prim}},$$

where

$$H^2_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n)_{\text{prim}} = H^1_{\text{ét}}(\overline{E}, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes H^1_{\text{ét}}(\overline{E}', \mu_n).$$

The canonical isomorphism $\tau_E : \text{Hom}(E_n, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow H^1_{\text{ét}}(\overline{E}, \mathbb{Z}/n)$ from Lemma 2.1 gives an isomorphism of $\Gamma$-modules

$$H^2_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n)_{\text{prim}} = \text{Hom}(E_n \otimes E'_n, \mu_n).$$

Using the Weil pairing we obtain a canonical isomorphism

$$H^1_{\text{ét}}(\overline{E}', \mu_n) = \text{Hom}(E'_n, \mu_n) = E'_n.$$

Combining all this gives canonical isomorphisms of $\Gamma$-modules

$$H^2_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n) = \mathbb{Z}/n \oplus \mathbb{Z}/n \oplus H^2_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n)_{\text{prim}} = \mathbb{Z}/n \oplus \mathbb{Z}/n \oplus \text{Hom}(E_n, E'_n). \quad (17)$$

Let $p : A \rightarrow E$ and $p' : A \rightarrow E'$ be the natural projections. The multiplication by $n$ map $E \rightarrow E$ defines an $E$-torsor $\mathcal{T}$ with structure group $E_n$. We define the $E'$-torsor $\mathcal{T}'$ similarly. The pullbacks $p^* \mathcal{T}$ and $p'^* \mathcal{T}'$ are $A$-torsors with structure groups $E_n$ and $E'_n$, respectively. Let $[\mathcal{T}] \boxtimes [\mathcal{T}']$ be the product of $p^* [\mathcal{T}]$ and $p'^* [\mathcal{T}']$ under the pairing

$$H^1_{\text{ét}}(A, E_n) \times H^1_{\text{ét}}(A, E'_n) \rightarrow H^2_{\text{ét}}(A, E_n \otimes E'_n).$$

Consider the natural pairing

$$H^2_{\text{ét}}(A, E_n \otimes E'_n) \times \text{Hom}_\Gamma(E_n \otimes E'_n, \mu_n) \rightarrow H^2_{\text{ét}}(A, \mu_n).$$
Let
\[ \xi : \text{Hom}_\Gamma(E_n \otimes E'_n, \mu_n) \rightarrow H^2_{\text{ét}}(A, \mu_n) \]
be the map defined by pairing with \( [T] \otimes [T'] \).

The following map is defined by the base change from \( k \) to \( \bar{k} \) followed by the K"unneth projector to the primitive subgroup:
\[ \eta : H^2_{\text{ét}}(A, \mu_n) \rightarrow H^2_{\text{ét}}(\bar{A}, \mu_n)^\Gamma \rightarrow H^2_{\text{ét}}(\bar{A}, \mu_n)^{\text{prim}} = \text{Hom}_\Gamma(E_n \otimes E'_n, \mu_n). \]

**Lemma 3.1** We have \( \eta \circ \xi = \text{Id} \). In particular, \( \eta \) has a section, and hence is surjective.

**Proof** We must check that the composed map
\[ \text{Hom}(E_n \otimes E'_n, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow H^2_{\text{ét}}(\bar{A}, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow H^1_{\text{ét}}(\bar{E}, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes H^1_{\text{ét}}(\bar{E}', \mathbb{Z}/n) \] (18)
defined by pairing with the image of \([T] \otimes [T']\) in \( H^2_{\text{ét}}(\bar{A}, E_n \otimes E'_n) \) followed by the K"unneth projector to the primitive subgroup, is the isomorphism
\[ \tau_E \otimes \tau_{E'} : \text{Hom}(E_n \otimes E'_n, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow H^1_{\text{ét}}(\bar{E}, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes H^1_{\text{ét}}(\bar{E}', \mathbb{Z}/n) \]
(cf. Lemma 2.1). Note that the first arrow in (18) is \( \tau_E \otimes \tau_{E'} \) followed by the composed map
\[ H^1_{\text{ét}}(\bar{E}, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes H^1_{\text{ét}}(\bar{E}', \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow H^1_{\text{ét}}(\bar{A}, \mathbb{Z}/n) \otimes H^1_{\text{ét}}(\bar{A}, \mathbb{Z}/n) \rightarrow H^2_{\text{ét}}(\bar{A}, \mathbb{Z}/n), \] (19)
where the first arrow is \( p^* \otimes p'^* \), and the second one is the cup-product. By [11, Cor. VI.8.13] the composition of (19) with the K"unneth projector is the identity, hence the composed map in (18) is \( \tau_E \otimes \tau_{E'} \). QED

**Corollary 3.2** For \( A = E \times E' \) and any \( n \geq 1 \) the natural map
\[ H^2_{\text{ét}}(A, \mu_n) \rightarrow H^2_{\text{ét}}(\bar{A}, \mu_n)^\Gamma \]
has a section, and hence is surjective.

**Proof** We have a canonical map \( p^* : H^2_{\text{ét}}(E, \mu_n) \rightarrow H^2_{\text{ét}}(A, \mu_n) \). By K"unneth decomposition and Lemma 3.1 it is enough to check that
\[ H^2_{\text{ét}}(E, \mu_n) \rightarrow H^2_{\text{ét}}(\bar{E}, \mu_n)^\Gamma \]
has a section (and similarly for \( E' \)). The Kummer sequences for \( E \) and \( \bar{E} \) give a commutative diagram
\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
0 & \rightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/n \\
\uparrow & & \uparrow \\
0 & \rightarrow & \text{Pic}(E)/n \\
\end{array}
\]
\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
& & H^2_{\text{ét}}(\bar{E}, \mu_n) \\
\end{array}
\]
\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
& & H^2_{\text{ét}}(E, \mu_n) \\
\end{array}
\]
The left vertical arrow is given by the degree map \( \text{Pic}(E) \to \mathbb{Z} \). It has a section that sends \( 1 \in \mathbb{Z}/n \) to the class of the neutral element of \( E \) in \( \text{Pic}(E)/n \). QED

**Remark.** This shows that if an abelian variety \( A \) is a product of elliptic curves, then the condition on \( n \) in Proposition 2.2 is superfluous.

Recall that the natural map \( \text{Hom}(\overline{E}, \overline{E}')/n \to \text{Hom}(E_n, E'_n) \) is injective [12, p. 124]. Write \( \text{Hom}(E, E') = \text{Hom}_\Gamma(\overline{E}, \overline{E}') \) for the group of homomorphisms \( E \to E' \).

**Proposition 3.3** For \( A = E \times E' \) we have a canonical isomorphism of \( \Gamma \)-modules

\[
\text{Br}(A)_n = \text{Hom}(E_n, E'_n)/(\text{Hom}(\overline{E}, \overline{E}')/n),
\]

and a canonical isomorphism of abelian groups

\[
\text{Br}(A)_n/\text{Br}_1(A)_n = \text{Hom}_\Gamma(E_n, E'_n)/(\text{Hom}(\overline{E}, \overline{E}')/n)^\Gamma.
\]

**Proof** The Kummer sequences for \( A \) and \( \overline{A} \) give rise to the commutative diagram

\[
0 \to \text{NS}(\overline{A})/n \to H^2_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n) \to \text{Br}(\overline{A})_n \to 0
\]

\[
H^2_{\text{et}}(A, \mu_n) \to \text{Br}(A)_n \to 0
\]

Using (10) and (17) we rewrite this diagram as follows:

\[
0 \to \text{Hom}(\overline{E}, \overline{E}')/n \to \text{Hom}(E_n, E'_n) \to \text{Br}(\overline{A})_n \to 0
\]

\[
H^2_{\text{et}}(A, \mu_n) \to \text{Br}(A)_n \to 0
\]

The upper row here is the first isomorphism of the proposition. From Lemma 3.1 we deduce the commutative diagram

\[
0 \to (\text{Hom}(\overline{E}, \overline{E}')/n)^\Gamma \to \text{Hom}_\Gamma(E_n, E'_n) \to \text{Br}(\overline{A})_n^\Gamma
\]

\[
H^2_{\text{et}}(A, \mu_n) \to \text{Br}(A)_n \to 0
\]

where the left upward arrow is \( \eta \), and the downward arrow is \( \xi \). The second isomorphism of the proposition is a consequence of the commutativity of this diagram. QED

Until the end of this section we assume that \( n = 2 \) and the points of order 2 of \( E \) and \( E' \) are defined over \( k \), i.e. \( E_2 \subseteq E(k) \) and \( E'_2 \subseteq E'(k) \). The above considerations can then be made more explicit. (This construction was previously used in [21], Appendix A.2, see also [5], Sect. 3.2). In this case

\[
\text{Br}(A)_2 = \text{Br}(\overline{A})_2^\Gamma = \text{Br}(A)_2/\text{Br}_1(A)_2.
\]
Using the Weil pairing the map $\xi$ gives rise to the map $E_2 \otimes E'_2 \to \text{Br}(A)_2$ whose image maps surjectively onto $\text{Br}(A)_2$. The elements of $\text{Br}(A)_2$ obtained in this way can be given by symbols as follows. The curves $E$ and $E'$ can be given by their respective equations

$$y^2 = x(x - a)(x - b), \quad v^2 = u(u - a')(u - b'),$$

where $a$ and $b$ are distinct non-zero elements of $k$, and similarly for $a'$ and $b'$. The multiplication by $2$ torsor $E \otimes E'$ of the neutral element, is contained in $A$.

We have the class of a quaternion algebra, we have $A$ which defines a group homomorphism $\omega: E_2 \otimes E'_2 \to \text{Br}(A)_2$. The four resulting Azumaya algebras on $A$ are written as follows:

$$(x - \mu)(x - b), (u - \nu)(u - b'), \quad \mu \in \{0, a\}, \quad \nu \in \{0, a'\}. \quad (20)$$

We note that the specialisation of any of these algebras at the neutral element of $A$ is $0 \in \text{Br}(k)$. By the above, the classes of the algebras $(20)$ in $\text{Br}(A)$ generate $\text{Br}(A)_2$.

The antipodal involution $\iota$ sends $(x, y)$ to $(x, -y)$, and $(u, v)$ to $(u, -v)$, hence the Kummer surface $X = \text{Kum}(A)$ is given by the affine equation

$$z^2 = x(x - a)(x - b)y(y - a')(y - b'). \quad (21)$$

We denote by $A_{\mu, \nu}$ the class in $\text{Br}(k(X))$ given by the corresponding symbol $(20)$.

For $A = E \times E'$ it is convenient to replace $X_0 \subset X$ by a larger open subset. Let us denote by $E'_2$ the set of $k$-points of $E$ of exact order $2$; in other words, $E_2$ is the disjoint union of $\{0\}$ and $E'_2$. Define $W \subset X$ as the complement to the $9$ lines that correspond to the points of $E'_2 \times E'_2$. The line $l_{oo} = \pi(\sigma^{-1}(0))$, where $0 \in A(k)$ is the neutral element, is contained in $W$. Choose a $k$-point $Q$ on $l_{oo}$, and denote by $\text{Br}(W)^0$ the subgroup of $\text{Br}(W)$ consisting of the elements that specialise to $0$ at $Q$. Since $\text{Br}(\mathbb{P}^1_k) = \text{Br}(k)$, we see that $\text{Br}(W)^0$ is the kernel of the restriction map $\text{Br}(W) \to \text{Br}(l_{oo})$, hence $\text{Br}(W)^0$ does not depend on the choice of $Q$.

**Lemma 3.4** We have $A_{\mu, \nu} \in \text{Br}(W)^0_2$ for any $\mu \in \{0, a\}$ and $\nu \in \{0, a'\}$.

**Proof** We have $A_{\mu, \nu} \in \text{Br}(W)$ by [21], Lemma A.2. Every $A_{\mu, \nu}$ lifts to an element of $\text{Br}(A)$ with value $0$ at the neutral element of $A$, hence $A_{\mu, \nu} \in \text{Br}(W)^0$. Since $A_{\mu, \nu}$ is the class of a quaternion algebra, we have $A_{\mu, \nu} \in \text{Br}(W)_2^0$. QED

The map $(\mu, \nu) \mapsto A_{\mu, \nu}$ defines a group homomorphism $\omega: E_2 \otimes E'_2 \to \text{Br}(W)^0_2$.

**Proposition 3.5** Assume one of the conditions of Proposition 1.4 (ii). Then we have

(i) $\text{Br}_1(W) = \text{Br}(k)$;
(ii) $\text{Im}(\omega) = \text{Br}(W)^0_2$;
(iii) $\text{Ker}(\omega) = \text{Hom}(E, E')/2$. 

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Proof (Cf. [21], App. A2.) (i) We have $k[W]^* = k^*$, as it follows from $k[A_0]^* = k^*$. We also have $Br_0(W) = Br(k)$ since $W$ has a $k$-point. Then the Hochschild–Serre spectral sequence $H^p(k, H^q(W, G_m)) \Rightarrow H^{p+q}_I(W, G_m)$ shows that it is enough to prove $H^1(k, Pic(W)) = 0$. In the notation of Proposition 1.4 we have $Pic(W) = Pic(X)/N_A$, hence there is an exact sequence of $\Gamma$-modules analogous to (11):

$$0 \to N_\Sigma \to Pic(W) \to \text{Hom}(\overline{E}, E^0) \to 0.$$ 

By Shapiro’s lemma $H^1(k, N_\Sigma) = 0$, thus, under the assumptions of Proposition 1.4 (ii), $H^1(k, Pic(W)) = 0$ follows from the long exact sequence of Galois cohomology.

(ii) Let $A \subset Br(W)$ be the four-element set $\{A_{\mu,\nu}\}$, and let $\overline{A}$ be the image of $A$ in $Br(W)$. By Proposition 1.2 we have $Br(W) = Br(X)$, thus we can think of $\overline{A}$ as a subset of $Br(X)$. The image of $\overline{A}$ under the isomorphism $(\sigma^*)^{-1} \pi^* : Br(X) \to Br(A)$ from Proposition 1.3 generates $Br(A)_2$, hence $\overline{A}$ generates $Br(W)_2$. Therefore, any $\alpha \in Br(W)_2$ can be written as

$$\alpha = \beta + \sum \delta_{\mu,\nu} A_{\mu,\nu},$$

where $\delta_{\mu,\nu} \in \{0, 1\}$, and $\beta \in Br_1(W)$ has value zero at $Q$. It remains to apply (i).

(iii) By part (i) the natural map $Br(W)^0 \to Br(W)$ is injective, and we have just seen that the latter group is naturally isomorphic to $Br(A)$. Now our statement follows from the first formula of Proposition 3.3. QED

We now calculate the residues of the $A_{\mu,\nu}$ at the 9 lines of $X \setminus W$ (cf. Proposition 1.2 and its proof).

**Lemma 3.6** The residues of $A_{a,a'}, A_{a,0}$, $A_{0,a'}$; $A_{00}$, at the lines $l_{00}$, $l_{0,a'}$, $l_{a,0}$, $l_{a,a'}$, written in this order, are the classes in $k^*/k^{*2}$ represented by the entries of the following matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix}
    1 & ab & a'b' & -aa' \\
    ab & 1 & aa' & a'(a' - b') \\
    a'b' & aa' & 1 & a(a - b) \\
    -aa' & a'(a' - b') & a(a - b) & 1
\end{pmatrix}$$

(22)

For any $\mu \in \{0, a\}$ and $\nu \in \{0, a'\}$ the product of residues of $A_{\mu,\nu}$ at the three lines $l_{ij}$, $i \neq 0$, $j \neq 0$, with fixed first or second index, is $1 \in k^*/k^{*2}$.

**Proof** We write $\text{res}_{ij}$ for the residue at $l_{ij}$. The local ring $O \subset k(X)$ of $l_{ij}$ is a discrete valuation ring with valuation $\text{val} : k(X)^* \to \mathbb{Z}$. For $f, g \in O \setminus \{0\}$ the residue of $(f, g)$ at $l_{ij}$ is computed by the following rule: if $\text{val}(f) = \text{val}(g) = 0$, then $\text{res}_{ij}((f, g))$ is trivial, and if $\text{val}(f) = 0$, $\text{val}(g) = 1$, then $\text{res}_{ij}((f, g))$ is the class in $k(l_{ij})^*/k(l_{ij})^{*2}$ of the reduction of $f$ modulo the maximal ideal of $O$. In our case this class will automatically be in $k^*/k^{*2}$.  

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Let us calculate the residues of $A_{00} = (x(x - b), x(y - b'))$. Using the above rule we obtain

$$ \text{res}_{0,a'}(A_{00}) = a'(a' - b'), \quad \text{res}_{a,0}(A_{00}) = a(a - b), \quad \text{res}_{a,a'}(A_{00}) = 1. $$

Using equation (21) and the relation $(r, -r) = 0$ for any $r \in k(X)^*$ we can write

$$ A_{00} = (x(x - b), -(x - a)(y - a')). $$

The residue of $A_{00}$ at $l_{00}$ is then the value of $-(x - a)(y - a')$ at $x = y = 0$, that is, $-aa'$. We thus checked the last row of (22). The residue of $A_{00}$ at $l_{0,a'}$ is the class of $a(b' - a')$, which shows that the product of residues of $A_{00}$ at $l_{00}$, $l_{0,a'}$ and $l_{0,b'}$ is 1. The calculations in all other cases are quite similar. QED

**Question.** Is there a conceptual explanation of the symmetry of (22)?

Let $r$ be the rank of $\text{Hom}(E, E')$, and let $d$ be the dimension of the kernel of the homomorphism

$$ \text{Hom}(E_2, E'_2) = E_2 \otimes E'_2 \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2) \rightarrow (k^*/k^*2)^4 $$

given by the matrix (22).

**Proposition 3.7** Let $X = \text{Kum}(E \times E')$, where $E$ and $E'$ are elliptic curves with rational 2-torsion points. Assume one of the conditions of Proposition 1.4 (ii). Then

$$ \dim_2 \text{Br}(X)_2 / \text{Br}(k)_2 = d - r. $$

In particular, if $E = E'$ and $d = 1$, then $\text{Br}(X)_2 = \text{Br}(k)_2$.

**Proof** This follows from Proposition 3.5 (ii) and (iii), and Lemma 3.6. QED

## 4 Brauer groups of abelian surfaces

In the rest of this paper we discuss abelian surfaces of the following types:

(A) $A = E \times E'$, where the elliptic curves $E$ and $E'$ are not isogenous over $\overline{k}$.

(B) $A = E \times E$, where $E$ has no complex multiplication over $\overline{k}$.

(C) $A = E \times E$, where $E$ has complex multiplication over $\overline{k}$.

**Case A.** In case A the Néron–Severi group $\text{NS}(\overline{A})$ is freely generated by the classes $E \times \{0\}$ and $\{0\} \times E'$, hence $H^2_{\text{et}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n)$ is the direct sum of $\Gamma$-modules $\text{NS}(\overline{A})/n \oplus \text{Br}(\overline{A})_n$, and we have

$$ \text{Br}(\overline{A})_n = \text{Hom}(E_n, E'_n). \quad (23) $$
Proposition 4.1 Let $E$ be an elliptic curve such that the representation of $\Gamma$ in $E_\ell$ is a surjection $\Gamma \to \text{GL}(E_\ell)$ for every prime $\ell$. Let $E'$ be an elliptic curve with complex multiplication over $\bar{k}$, which has a $k$-point of order 6. Then for $A = E \times E'$ we have $\text{Br}(\bar{A})^{\Gamma} = 0$.

Proof Since $\text{Br}(\bar{A})$ is a torsion group it is enough to prove that for every prime $\ell$ we have $\text{Br}(\bar{A})^{\ell}_i = \text{Hom}_F(E_\ell, E'_\ell) = 0$.

By assumption $E'$ has complex multiplication by some imaginary quadratic field $K$. Thus there exists an extension $k'/k$ of degree at most 2 such that the image of $\text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k')$ in $\text{Aut}(E'_\ell)$ is abelian. Thus the image of $\Gamma$ in $\text{Aut}(E'_\ell)$ is a solvable group. We note that for $\ell \geq 5$ the group $\text{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_\ell)$ is not solvable. This implies that $E$ has no complex multiplication over $\bar{k}$. It follows that $E$ and $E'$ are not isogenous over $\bar{k}$.

The $\Gamma$-module $E_\ell$ is simple, hence any non-zero homomorphism of $\Gamma$-modules $E_\ell 	o E'_\ell$ must be an isomorphism. This gives a contradiction for $\ell \geq 5$. If $\ell = 2$ or $\ell = 3$, the curve $E'$ has a $k$-point of order $\ell$, so that $E'_\ell$ is not a simple $\Gamma$-module, which is again a contradiction. QED

Example A1 Let $k = \mathbb{Q}$, let $E$ be the curve $y^2 = x^3 + 6x - 2$ of conductor $2^63^3$, and let $E'$ be the curve $y^2 = x^3 + 1$ with the point $(2, 3)$ of order 6. It follows from [18], 5.9.2, p. 318, that the conditions of Proposition 4.1 are satisfied.

Example A2 Here is a somewhat different construction for case A, again over $k = \mathbb{Q}$. Let us call a pair of elliptic curves $(E, E')$ non-exceptional if for all primes $\ell$ the image of the Galois group $\Gamma = \text{Gal}(\bar{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ in $\text{Aut}(E_\ell) \times \text{Aut}(E'_\ell)$ is as large as it can possibly be, that is, it is the subgroup of $\text{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_\ell) \times \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_\ell)$ given by the condition $\det(x) = \det(x')$. This implies $\text{Hom}_F(E_\ell, E'_\ell) = 0$, so that $\text{Br}(\bar{A})^{\ell} = 0$, where $A = E \times E'$. For example, let $E$ be the curve $y^2 + y = x^3 - x$ of conductor 37, and let $E'$ be the curve $y^2 + y = x^3 + x^2$ of conductor 43. The curve $E$ has multiplicative reduction at 37, whereas $E'$ has good reduction, therefore $E$ and $E'$ are not isogenous over $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}$. By the remark on page 329 of [18] the pair $(E, E')$ is non-exceptional. In fact, most pairs $(E, E')$ are non-exceptional in a similar sense to the remark after Proposition 4.3 (Nathan Jones, see [7]).

We now explore some other constructions providing an infinite series of examples when $\text{Br}(\bar{A})^{\ell}$ has no elements of odd order. Later we shall show that for such abelian surfaces $A$ we often have $\text{Br}(\text{Kum}(A)) = \text{Br}(\mathbb{Q})$, see Example 3 in Section 5.

Proposition 4.2 Let $E$ be an elliptic curve over $\mathbb{Q}$ such that $\text{val}_5(j(E)) = -2^m$ and $\text{val}_7(j(E)) = -2^n$, where $m$ and $n$ are non-negative integers. Let $E'$ be an elliptic curve over $\mathbb{Q}$ with good reduction at 5 and 7, and with rational 2-torsion, i.e. $E'_2 \subset E'(\mathbb{Q})$. Then $E$ and $E'$ are not isogenous over $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}$, and $\text{Hom}_F(E_\ell, E'_\ell) = 0$ for any prime $\ell \neq 2$. If $A = E \times E'$, then $\text{Br}(\bar{A})^{\ell}$ is a finite abelian 2-group.
Proof} Since \( j(E) \) is not a 5-adic integer, \( E \) has potential multiplicative reduction at 5. But \( E' \) has good reduction at 5, so \( E \) and \( E' \) are not isogenous over \( \overline{\mathbb{Q}} \).

Let \( p = 5 \). Our assumption implies that there exists a Tate curve \( \tilde{E} \) over \( \mathbb{Q}_p \) such that \( E \times_Q \mathbb{Q}_p \) is the twist of \( \tilde{E} \) by a quadratic or trivial character

\[
\chi : \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}/\mathbb{Q}_p) \to \{ \pm 1 \}.
\]

Consider the case when \( \ell \neq 5 \). Let \( K \) be the extension of \( \mathbb{Q}_p \) defined as follows: if \( \chi \) is trivial or unramified, then \( K = \mathbb{Q}_p \), and if \( \chi \) is ramified, then \( K \subset \overline{\mathbb{Q}_p} \) is the invariant subfield of \( \text{Ker}(\chi) \). Let \( \mathfrak{p} \) be the maximal ideal of the ring of integers of \( K \). We note that in both cases the residue field of \( K \) is \( \overline{\mathbb{F}_p} \).

Since \( \tilde{E} \) is a Tate curve, the \( \ell \)-torsion \( \tilde{E}_\ell \) contains a Galois submodule isomorphic to \( \mu_\ell \). Then the quotient \( \tilde{E}_\ell / \mu_\ell \) is isomorphic to the trivial Galois module \( \mathbb{Z}/\ell \). Hence there is a basis of \( \tilde{E}_\ell \) such that the image of \( \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}/K) \) in \( \text{Aut}(\tilde{E}_\ell) \simeq \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_\ell) \) is contained in the subgroup of upper-triangular matrices. Let \( q_E \) be the multiplicative period of \( \tilde{E} \). Since \( \text{val}_p(q_E) = -\text{val}_p(j(E)) \) is not divisible by the odd prime \( \ell \), the image of the inertia group \( I(\mathfrak{p}) \) in \( \text{Aut}(\tilde{E}_\ell) \) contains \( \text{Id} + N \) for some nilpotent \( N \neq 0 \), see [17], Ch. IV, Section 3.2, Lemma 1. Thus \( E_\ell \) has exactly one non-zero \( \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}/K) \)-invariant subgroup \( C \neq E_\ell \). As a \( \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}/K) \)-module, \( C \) is isomorphic to \( \mu_\ell \) if \( K = \mathbb{Q}_p \), and to \( \mu_\ell \) twisted by the unramified character \( \chi \) if \( K = \mathbb{Q}_p \). The \( \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}/K) \)-module \( E_\ell/C \) is isomorphic to \( \mathbb{Z}/\ell \) if \( K = \mathbb{Q}_p \), and to \( \mathbb{Z}/\ell \) twisted by \( \chi \) if \( K = \mathbb{Q}_p \). In particular, the \( \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}/K) \)-modules \( C \) and \( E_\ell/C \) are isomorphic if and only if \( K \) contains a primitive \( \ell \)-th root of unity.

Suppose that there exists a non-zero homomorphism of \( \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}/K) \)-modules \( \phi : E_\ell \to E'_\ell \). Since \( E' \) has good reduction at \( \mathfrak{p} \), the inertia \( I(\mathfrak{p}) \) acts trivially on \( E'_\ell \); in particular \( \phi \) is not an isomorphism. Then \( \text{Ker}(\phi) = C \), and \( E'_\ell \) contains a \( \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}/K) \)-submodule isomorphic to \( \mathbb{Z}/\ell \) (when \( \chi \) is ramified) or \( \mathbb{Z}/\ell \) twisted by \( \chi \) (when \( \chi \) is unramified or trivial). In the first case let \( E'' = E' \), and in the second case let \( E'' \) be the quadratic twist of \( E' \) by \( \chi \). Then \( E''(K) \) contains a point of order \( \ell \), so that \( E''(K) \) contains a finite subgroup of order \( 4\ell \). Since \( E' \) has good reduction at \( \mathfrak{p} \), the curve \( E'' \) also has good reduction at \( \mathfrak{p} \). Then the group of \( \mathbb{F}_\ell \)-points on the reduction has at least 12 elements, which contradicts the Hasse bound, according to which an elliptic curve over \( \mathbb{F}_p \) cannot have more than \( p + 2\sqrt{p} + 1 \) points, see [8].

It remains to consider the case \( \ell = 5 \). The above arguments work equally well with \( p = 7 \). We obtain a contradiction with the Hasse bound since no elliptic curve over \( \mathbb{F}_7 \) can contain as many as \( 4\ell = 20 \) rational points.

The last statement of (i) follows from formula (23). QED

**Example A3** As a curve \( E \) in this proposition one can take any curve with equation \( y^2 = x(x-a)(x-b) \), where \( a \) and \( b \) are distinct non-zero integers such that exactly one of the numbers \( a, b, a-b \) is divisible by 5, exactly one is divisible by 7, and none are divisible by 25 or 49. (Then a standard computation shows that \( \text{val}_5(j(E)) = \)
Lemma 4.4

Let \( j(E) \) be \(-2\). For example, \( a = 5 + 35m, \ b = 7 + 35n, \) where \( m \neq 2 + 5k \) and \( n \neq 4 + 7k\). The curve \( E' \) can be any curve with equation \( y^2 = x(x - a')(x - b') \), where \( a' \) and \( b' \) are distinct non-zero integers such that \( a', b', a' - b' \) are coprime to 35, e.g., \( a' = 35m' + 1, \ b' = 35n' + 2 \) for any \( m', n' \in \mathbb{Z} \).

Case B. In case B the group \( \text{NS}(\mathbb{A}) \) is freely generated by the classes of the curves \( E \times \{0\}, \{0\} \times E \) and the diagonal. The image of the class of the diagonal under the map \( \text{NS}(\mathbb{A}) \to \text{End}(E) \to \text{End}(E_n) \) is the identity, hence Proposition 3.3 gives an isomorphism of Galois modules

\[
\text{Br}(\mathbb{A})_n = \text{End}(E_n)/\mathbb{Z}/n,
\]

where \( \mathbb{Z}/n \) is the subring of scalars in \( \text{End}(E_n) \).

Remark Let \( A = E \times E \), where \( E \) is an elliptic curve without complex multiplication over \( \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p \), such that the image of \( \Gamma \) in \( \text{Aut}(E_2) \) is \( \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_2) \). It is easy to check that \( \text{Br}(\mathbb{A})^\Gamma = (\text{End}(E_2)/\mathbb{Z}/2)^\Gamma \) has order 2; in fact, the non-zero element of this group can be represented by a symmetric \( 2 \times 2 \)-matrix \( S \) over \( \mathbb{F}_2 \) such that \( S^3 = \text{Id.} \) Thus the 2-primary component of \( \text{Br}(\mathbb{A})^\Gamma \) is finite cyclic. In this example the map \( H^2_0(\mathbb{A}, \mathbb{Z}/2)^\Gamma \to \text{Br}(\mathbb{A})^\Gamma_2 \) is zero. By the second formula of Proposition 3.3 the map \( \text{Br}(A)_2 \to \text{Br}(\mathbb{A})^\Gamma_2 \) is not surjective. The following proposition shows that the non-zero element of \( \text{Br}(\mathbb{A})^\Gamma_2 \) does not belong to the image of the map \( \text{Br}(A) \to \text{Br}(\mathbb{A})^\Gamma \).

Proposition 4.3 Let \( A = E \times E \), where \( E \) is an elliptic curve such that for every prime \( \ell \) the image of \( \Gamma \) in \( \text{Aut}(E_\ell) \) is \( \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_\ell) \). Then we have

\( \text{(i) Br}(A) = \text{Br}_1(A); \)
\( \text{(ii) Br}(\mathbb{A})^\Gamma \simeq \mathbb{Z}/2^m \) for some \( m \geq 1 \).

Proof (i) We note that the argument in the proof of Proposition 4.1 shows that the curve \( E \) has no complex multiplication. In view of the second formula of Proposition 3.3 it is enough to prove the following lemma:

Lemma 4.4 Let \( G \subset \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{Z}_\ell) \) be a subgroup that maps surjectively onto \( \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_\ell) \). Let \( \text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n) \) be the abelian group of \( 2 \times 2 \)-matrices with entries in \( \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n \), and let \( \text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n)^G \) be the subgroup of matrices commuting with the image of \( G \) in \( \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n) \). Then for any positive integer \( n \) we have \( \text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n)^G = \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n \cdot \text{Id.} \)

Proof We proceed by induction starting with the obvious case \( n = 1 \). Suppose we know the statement for \( n \), and need to prove it for \( n+1 \). Consider the exact sequence of \( G \)-modules

\[ 0 \to \text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell) \to \text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^{n+1}) \to \text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n) \to 0, \]

where the second arrow comes from the injection \( \mathbb{Z}/\ell = \ell^n \mathbb{Z}/\ell^{n+1} \to \mathbb{Z}/\ell^{n+1} \), and the third one is the reduction modulo \( \ell^n \). By induction assumption \( \text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n)^G = \)
\[ \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n \cdot \text{Id}. \] Thus, the map \( \text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^{n+1})^G \to \text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n)^G \) is surjective, and every element in \( \text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^{n+1})^G \) is the sum of a scalar multiple of \( \text{Id} \) and an element of \( \text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell)^G \). But \( \text{Mat}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell)^G = \mathbb{Z}/\ell \cdot \text{Id} \), and so the lemma, and hence also part (i) of the proposition, are proved.

(ii) For an odd prime \( \ell \) we have a direct sum decomposition of \( \Gamma \)-modules \( \text{End}(E_\ell) = \mathbb{Z}/\ell \oplus \text{Br}(A)_\ell \), where \( \text{Br}(A)_\ell \) is identified with the group of endomorphisms of trace zero. Our assumption implies that \( \text{Br}(A)_\ell^\Gamma = 0 \). The remark before the proposition shows that \( \text{Br}(A)^\Gamma \) is a finite cyclic 2-group. QED

**Remark.** By a theorem of W. Duke [2] ‘almost all’ elliptic curves over \( \mathbb{Q} \) satisfy the assumption of Proposition 4.3. More precisely, if \( y^2 = x^3 + ax + b \) is the unique equation for \( E \) such that \( a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \) and gcd\((a^3, b^2)\) does not contain twelfth powers, the height \( H(E) \) of \( E \) is defined to be \( \max(|a|^3, |b|^2) \). For \( x > 0 \) write \( C(x) \) for the set of elliptic curves \( E \) over \( \mathbb{Q} \) (up to isomorphism) such that \( H(E) \leq x^6 \), and \( E(x) \) for the set of curves in \( C(x) \) for which there exists a prime \( \ell \) such that the image of \( \Gamma \) in \( \text{Aut}(E_\ell) \) is not equal to \( \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{F}_\ell) \). Then \( \lim_{x \to +\infty} |E(x)|/|C(x)| = 0 \). By Proposition 1.4 and Theorem 2.4 this implies that for most Kummer surfaces

\[ z^2 = (x^3 + ax + b)(y^3 + ay + b) \]

we have \( \text{Br}(X) = \text{Br}(\mathbb{Q}) \). In particular, there are infinitely many such surfaces.

**Proposition 4.5** Let \( E \) be an elliptic curve over \( \mathbb{Q} \) satisfying the assumptions of Proposition 4.2. Then \( E \) has no complex multiplication, and \( \text{End}_\Gamma(E_\ell) \) is the subring of scalars \( \mathbb{F}_\ell \cdot \text{Id} \subset \text{End}(E_\ell) \) for any prime \( \ell \neq 2 \). If \( A = E \times E \), then \( \text{Br}(A)^\Gamma \) is a finite abelian 2-group.

**Proof** The curve \( E \) has no complex multiplication because \( j(E) \) is not an algebraic integer. Let \( \ell \) be an odd prime, \( \ell \neq p = 5 \), and let \( \phi \) be a non-zero endomorphism of the \( \Gamma \)-module \( E_\ell \) such that \( \text{Tr}(\phi) = 0 \). From the proof of Proposition 4.2 we know that there exists a nilpotent \( N \neq 0 \) in \( \text{End}(E_\ell) \) such that the image of \( \text{I}(p) \) in \( \text{Aut}(E_\ell) \) contains \( \text{Id} + N \). Since \( \phi \) is an endomorphism of the \( \text{I}(p) \)-module \( E_\ell \), it commutes with \( N \), and it follows from \( \text{Tr}(\phi) = 0 \) that \( \phi \) is also nilpotent. As was explained in the proof of Proposition 4.2, the existence of such an endomorphism \( \phi \) implies that \( \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}_p/K) \)-modules \( \mathbb{Z}/\ell \) and \( \mu_\ell \) are isomorphic. However, \( K \) does not contain non-trivial roots of 1 of order \( \ell \) when \( p = 5 \) and \( \ell \neq 5 \) is odd, because the residue field of \( K \) is \( \mathbb{F}_5 \). This contradiction shows that \( \text{End}_\Gamma(E_\ell) \) is the subring of scalars \( \mathbb{Z}/\ell \subset \text{End}(E_\ell) \). If \( \ell = 5 \) we repeat these arguments with \( p = 7 \) taking into account that \( \mathbb{Q}_7 \), and hence \( K \), does not contain non-trivial 5-th roots of 1. QED

**Example B1** Let \( A = E \times E \), where \( E/\mathbb{Q} \) is an elliptic curve such that the representation of \( \Gamma \) in \( E_\ell \) is a surjection \( \Gamma \to \text{GL}(E_\ell) \) for every odd prime \( \ell \). Then \( E \) has no complex multiplication over \( \overline{\mathbb{Q}} \) (see the proof of Proposition 4.1). Then
Let $\ell$ be an odd prime such that $E$ has no rational isogeny of degree $\ell$, i.e., $E_\ell$ does not contain a Galois-invariant subgroup of order $\ell$. Let $G_\ell$ be the image of $\Gamma = \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ in $\text{Aut}(E_\ell)$. Then $G_\ell$ is nonabelian, the order $|G_\ell|$ is not divisible by $\ell$, and the centralizer of $G_\ell$ in $\text{End}(E_\ell)$ is $\mathbb{F}_\ell = \mathbb{Z}/\ell\mathbb{Z}$.

The theorem remains true if one replaces $\mathbb{Q}$ by any real number field (with the same proof).

**Proof of Theorem** Suppose that $E$ has complex multiplication by an order $\mathcal{O}$ of an imaginary quadratic field $K$, that is, $\text{End}(\overline{E}) = \mathcal{O}$. We start with the observation that $\ell$ is unramified in $\mathcal{O}$, or, equivalently, the 2-dimensional $\mathbb{F}_\ell$-algebra $\mathcal{O}/\ell \subset \text{End}(E_\ell)$ has no nilpotents. Indeed, if the radical of $\mathcal{O}/\ell$ is non-zero, it is an $\mathbb{F}_\ell$-vector space of dimension 1, and so is spanned by one element. Its kernel in $E_\ell$ is a Galois-invariant cyclic subgroup of order $\ell$. We assumed that such subgroups do not exist, so this is a contradiction.

Therefore, $\mathcal{O}/\ell$ is either $\mathbb{F}_\ell \oplus \mathbb{F}_\ell^2$ or the field $\mathbb{F}_{\ell^2}$. In the first case $(\mathcal{O}/\ell)^*$ is a split Cartan subgroup of order $(\ell - 1)^2$, whereas in the second case it is a non-split Cartan subgroup of order $\ell^2 - 1$, so that $\ell$ does not divide $|(\mathcal{O}/\ell)^*|$. On the other hand, the image of $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/K)$ in $\text{Aut}(E_\ell)$ commutes with the Cartan subgroup $(\mathcal{O}/\ell)^*$, and so belongs to $(\mathcal{O}/\ell)^*$. Since $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/K)$ is a subgroup of $\Gamma$ of index 2, we conclude that the order of $G_\ell$ divides $2|(\mathcal{O}/\ell)^*|$ and so is not divisible by $\ell$.

The group $G_\ell$ contains an element $c$ corresponding to the complex conjugation. Any $z \in \mathcal{O} \setminus \ell\mathcal{O}$ such that $\text{Tr}(z) = 0$ anticommutes with complex conjugation. Since $\ell$ is odd, the non-zero image of $z$ in $\mathcal{O}/\ell$ anticommutes with $c$. Thus $c$ is not a scalar; in particular, $c$ has exact order 2. If $G_\ell$ is abelian, then both eigenspaces of $c$ in $E_\ell$ are Galois-invariant cyclic subgroups of order $\ell$, but these do not exist. This implies that $G_\ell$ is nonabelian.

Finally, the absence of Galois-invariant order $\ell$ subgroups in $E_\ell$ implies that the $G_\ell$-module $E_\ell$ is simple, so the centralizer of $G_\ell$ in $\text{End}(E_\ell)$ is $\mathbb{F}_\ell$. QED

**Corollary 4.7** Let $A = E \times E$, where $E$ is an elliptic curve over $\mathbb{Q}$ with complex multiplication, and let $\ell$ be an odd prime such that $E$ has no rational isogeny of degree $\ell$. Then $\text{Br}(\mathbb{A})^\ell_\ell = 0$. 

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Proof It follows from Theorem 4.6 that the $\Gamma$-module $\text{End}(E_\ell)$ is semisimple, hence $H^2_{\text{et}}(\mathbb{A}, \mu_\ell) = (\mathbb{Z}/\ell)^2 \oplus \text{End}(E_\ell)$ is also semisimple. Thus $H^2_{\text{et}}(\mathbb{A}, \mu_\ell) = \text{NS} \left( \mathbb{A} / \ell \right) \oplus \text{Br}(\mathbb{A})_\ell$ is a direct sum of $\Gamma$-modules. Since the identity in $\text{End}(E_\ell)$ corresponds to the diagonal in $E \times E$, it is contained in $\text{NS} \left( \mathbb{A} / \ell \right)$. By Theorem 4.6 we have $H^2_{\text{et}}(\mathbb{A}, \mu_\ell) \Gamma \subset \text{NS} \left( \mathbb{A} / \ell \right)$, so that $\text{Br}(\mathbb{A})_\ell = 0$. QED

Example C1 Let $A = E \times E$, where $E$ is the curve $y^2 = x^3 - x$ with complex multiplication by $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-1}]$. An application of sage [23] gives that every isogeny of prime degree $E \to E'$ defined over $\mathbb{Q}$ is the factorization by a subgroup of $E(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tors}} = E_2$. Hence $\text{Br}(\mathbb{A})_\ell = 0$ for every odd prime $\ell$.

Example C2 Let $A = E \times E$, where $E$ is the curve $y^2 = x^3 - 1$ with complex multiplication by $\mathbb{Z}[\frac{1 + \sqrt{-3}}{2}]$. An application of sage gives that every isogeny of prime degree $E \to E'$ over $\mathbb{Q}$ is the factorization by a subgroup of $E(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tors}} \cong \mathbb{Z}/6$. Hence $\text{Br}(\mathbb{A})_\ell = 0$ for every prime $\ell \geq 5$.

5 Brauer groups of Kummer surfaces

Example 1 Let $k = \mathbb{Q}$. Examples A1 and A2 show that the Kummer surfaces $X$ given by the following affine equations have trivial Brauer group $\text{Br}(X) = \text{Br}(\mathbb{Q})$:

\[ z^2 = (x^3 + 6x - 2)(y^3 + 1), \]  
\[ z^2 = (4x^3 - 4x + 1)(4y^3 + 4y^2 + 1). \]

In both examples we have $\text{Br}(\mathbb{A})_\ell = 0$.

Example 2 Other examples can be obtained using Proposition 4.3 in conjunction with Theorem 2.4. For example, for the following Kummer surface $X$ we also have $\text{Br}(X) = \text{Br}(\mathbb{Q})$, whereas $\text{Br}(\mathbb{A})_\ell \cong \mathbb{Z}/2^m$ for some $m \geq 1$:

\[ z^2 = (x^3 + 6x - 2)(y^3 + 6y - 2). \]

The interest of the following series of examples is that for them the image of $\text{Br}(A)$ in $\text{Br}(\mathbb{A})$ contains $\text{Br}(\mathbb{A})_2$, so in order to prove the triviality of $\text{Br}(X)$ we need to compute the residues at the nine lines in $X \setminus W$.

Example 3 Let $X$ be the Kummer surface over $\mathbb{Q}$ with affine equation

\[ z^2 = x(x - a)(x - b)y(y - a')(y - b'), \]
such that $a = 5 + 35m$, $b = 7 + 35n$, where $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $m$ is not congruent to 2 modulo 5, $n$ is not congruent to 4 modulo 7, and $a' = 35m' + 1$, $b' = 35n' + 2$ for any $m', n' \in \mathbb{Z}$. We have $X = \text{Kum}(E \times E')$, where the elliptic curves $E$ and $E'$ are as in Example A3. Since $X(\mathbb{Q}) \neq \emptyset$ we see that $\text{Br}(\mathbb{Q})$ is a direct factor of $\text{Br}(X)$. 23
By Propositions 4.2 and 1.4 (ii) to show that Br(X) = Br(Q) it is enough to prove that every element of Br(X) of order 2 is algebraic. By Proposition 3.7 we need to compute the dimension d of the kernel of the matrix (22). Considering the first two entries in each row, and taking their valuations at 5 and 7 immediately shows that no product of some of the rows of (22) is trivial. Thus d = 0, hence Br(X) = Br(Q).

**Example 4** Let X = Kum(E × E), where E is as in Example 3, or the elliptic curve with conductor 24 or 40 mentioned in Example B1. In the latter case X is given by one of the following equations:

\[ z^2 = (x - 1)(x - 2)(x + 2)(y - 1)(y - 2)(y + 2), \quad (28) \]
\[ z^2 = (x + 1)(x + 2)(x - 3)(y + 1)(y + 2)(y - 3). \quad (29) \]

One checks that the dimension of the kernel of (22) is 1, so that Br(X) = Br(Q) by Proposition 3.7.

**Kummer surfaces without rational points.** There is a more general construction of Kummer surfaces than the one previously considered. Let \( c \) be a 1-cocycle of \( \Gamma \) with coefficients in \( A_2 \) so that \([c] \in H^1(k, A_2)\). All quasi-projective varieties and Galois modules acted on by the \( k \)-group scheme \( A_2 \) can be twisted by \( c \). The twist of \( A \) is a principal homogeneous space \( A^c \), also called a 2-covering of \( A \). The action of \( A_2 \) on \( A \) by translations descends to an action of \( A_2 \) on \( X = Kum(A) \), so we obtain a twisted Kummer surface \( X^c \) together with morphisms \( A^c \leftarrow A^c \to X^c \). For example, if \( A = E \times E' \), a 2-covering \( C \) of \( E \) is given by \( y^2 = f(x) \), where \( f(x) \) is a separable polynomial of degree 4, and a 2-covering \( C' \) of \( E' \) is given by a similar equation \( y^2 = g(x) \), then the twisted Kummer surface \( X^c \) is given by the affine equation

\[ z^2 = f(x)g(y). \]

The Hasse principle on such surfaces over number fields was studied in [21].

**Proposition 5.1** Suppose that for every integer \( n > 1 \) we have \( H^2_{\text{ét}}(A, \mu_n)^{\Gamma} = (\text{NS}(A)/n)^{\Gamma} \) (this condition is satisfied when \( Br(\overline{A})^{\Gamma} = 0 \)). Then \( Br(X^c) = Br_1(X^c) \) for any \([c] \in H^1(k, A_2)\).

**Proof** By Remark 3 after Proposition 1.3, \( A_2(\overline{k}) \) acts trivially on \( Br(\overline{A}) \) and on \( Br(\overline{X}) \), thus we have the following isomorphisms of \( \Gamma \)-modules:

\[ Br(X^c) \simeq Br(\overline{X}) \simeq Br(\overline{A}) \simeq Br(\overline{A}). \]

Translations act trivially on étale cohomology groups of \( A \), hence we have a canonical isomorphism of \( \Gamma \)-modules \( H^2_{\text{ét}}(A, \mu_n) \simeq H^2_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n) \). In the commutative diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
H^2_{\text{ét}}(A, \mu_n)^{\Gamma} & \to & Br(A^c)^{\Gamma} \\
\uparrow & & \uparrow \\
H^2_{\text{ét}}(\overline{A}, \mu_n) & \to & Br(\overline{A})_n
\end{array}
\]

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the bottom arrow is surjective, and the top arrow is zero by assumption. It follows that $\text{Br}(A^c) = \text{Br}_1(A^c)$. We conclude by Theorem 2.4. QED

This proposition in conjunction with Proposition 4.1 gives many examples of twisted Kummer surfaces $X^c$ such that $\text{Br}(X^c) = \text{Br}_1(X^c)$.

**Kummer surfaces with non-trivial transcendental Brauer group.** Let $E$ be an elliptic curve over $\mathbb{Q}$. As pointed out by Mazur [10, p. 133] the elliptic curves $E'$ such that the Galois modules $E_\ell$ and $E'_\ell$ are symplectically isomorphic correspond to $\mathbb{Q}$-points on the modular curve $X(\ell)$ twisted by $E_\ell$. Thus for $\ell \leq 5$ there are infinitely many possibilities for $E'$ due to the fact that the genus of $X(\ell)$ is zero, see [19], [16]. Examples of pairs of non-isogenous elliptic curves with isomorphic Galois modules $E_\ell \simeq E'_\ell$ for $\ell = 7$, 11 and 13 can be found in [4] and [1]. Let $X = \text{Kum}(E \times E')$. For $\ell > 2$ our results imply that $\text{Br}(X)$ contains an element of order $\ell$ whose image in $\text{Br}(\overline{X})$ is non-zero.

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