

Formal groups and Tate cohomology in local fields

In 2004 K ock has shown that in a Galois extension L/K of local fields with group G the ideals \mathfrak{P}_L^n of L , where \mathfrak{P}_L is the maximal ideal of L , are cohomologically trivial if and only if the extension is weakly ramified and $n \equiv 1 \pmod{|G_1|}$ where G_1 is the first ramification group.

In the case of local number fields the ideals are (at least for large n) isomorphic to the higher unit groups $U_L^n = 1 + \mathfrak{P}_L^n$. So this characterization of cohomological triviality is also true for those higher unit groups.

We show that it remains valid for small n (other than $n = 1$) and also for local function fields. We further give in the local number field case a generalization to any formal group over the integers of the lower field. Finally we give application to elliptic curves and ray class groups.