On the algebra structure of Hopf algebras occurring in Hopf-Galois theory

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Simple special case: the classical Hopf-Galois structure, H = K[N]. Then $H^* = K^{|N|} = K \times \cdots \times K$ (indexed by N), and any N-Galois extension M/K is a form of the "trivial N-Galois extension" $K^{|N|}$.

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 $\operatorname{Forms}_{L/K}(A) \to \operatorname{H}^1(G,\operatorname{Aut}_L(L \otimes_K A)).$

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This agrees with Childs' decription, where the semilinear automorphisms are extracted from an action of the entire endomorphism ring $End_{K}(L)$.

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This confirms our observation: In the category of finite-dimensional vector spaces, all forms are trivial.

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The are reminiscent of cosine and sine. Indeed they satisfy $c^2 + s^2 = 1$, and one can check B = K[c, s].
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This Hopf algebra *B* does show up in a Hopf-Galois situation: M = K(w) with $w^4 = u \in K^{\times}$. (We assume [M : K] = 4.)

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Then there is an action, making *M* into a *B*-Hopf Galois extension. We have for example: cw = 0, sw = w, $cw^2 = -w^2$, $sw^2 = 0$.

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We put L = M; G := N acts on N and hence on L[N] by inner automorphisms: $\vartheta_g(\nu) = g\nu g^{-1}$. This defines the form B. As soon as N is not abelian, this form is nontrivial as we will see. We call it the anti-classical Hopf form.

Underwood's observation (at a conference in 2016):

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We elaborate a little. From representation theory we easily get that

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Underwood's observation (proved by direct calculation) is then: *B* is also isomorphic to $\mathbb{Q} \times \mathbb{Q} \times M_2(\mathbb{Q})$. In the rest of this talk we try to explain the reason why this isomorphism happens in many other situations, and generalize things still further.

We recall a few things and make some general remarks.

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Our main result, to be stated below (we will even sketch a proof) will imply:

For every finite group N and every N-extension L/K, the anti-classical Hopf form $B = B_N(L/K)$ of A = K[N] is isomorphic to A as a K-algebra.

Recall: An automorphism ν of a group N is inner, if it is given as conjugation $C(\sigma)$ by some element $\sigma \in N$. The inner automorphisms form a group Inn(N);

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Definition: (1) ϑ is inner, if all ϑ_g are in Inn(N).

(2) ϑ is liftable, if there is a homomorphism $\Theta : G \to N$ with $\vartheta_g = C(\Theta(g))$, all $g \in G$.

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We remark in passing: If N is centerless, then Inn(N) identifies with N (via C), and then "inner" and "liftable" are the same.

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In a way, the anticlassical cocycle is the "universal liftable" cocycle!

The proof will use a bit of cohomology (this will be explained, cheating just a little ...), plus a straightforward generalization of Hilbert 90, which will be stated but not proved.

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So we will pretend that A is already a simple algebra (which is never literally true!) It will suffice that the form B defined by the given cocycle is isomorphic as an algebra to A.

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So Θ is equivalent to the trivial cocycle $G \to A_L^{\times}$; applying c gives that ϑ is equivalent to the trivial cocycle $G \to \operatorname{Aut}_L(A_L)$. Looks like cheating, but it works! — q.e.d.

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So the conclusion of the main theorem does not hold; of course $\boldsymbol{\vartheta}$ is not inner.

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 D_4 has two generators s and t, of order 4 and 2 respectively, and we have the rule

 $tst = s^3 (= s^{-1}).$

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So what really matters is what happens to the non-abelian part $M_2(K)$; the corresponding factor B' of B will also be a central simple K-algebra of dimension 4, and the question is whether it is a matrix algebra or a skew field.

Recall: $B = B^{ab} \times B'$; and B^{ab} is not interesting.

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$$Q_8 = \langle \sigma, \tau | \sigma^4 = 1, \tau^2 = \sigma^2, \tau \sigma \tau^{-1} = \sigma^3 \rangle.$$

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Then Q_8 and D_4 are in a way similar enough for ϑ to be a group homomorphism but not similar enough for ϑ to be liftable through $C: N \to \text{Inn}(N)$.

To describe the final result, we take a closer look at the Q_8 -extension L/K.

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The L-form B' of $M_2(K)$ given by the cocycle ϑ described above is the quaternion algebra

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