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# Galois theory

Notes

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

### **Preface**

The notes correspond to the bachelor course *Galois theory* of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Faculty of Sciences, Department of Mathematics and Data Sciences. The course is divided into thirteen two-hours lectures.

The material is somewhat standard. Basic texts on fields and Galois theory are for example [1]...

As usual, we also mention a set of great expository papers by Keith Conrad available at https://kconrad.math.uconn.edu/blurbs/. The notes are extremely well-written and are useful at at every stage of a mathematical career.

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#### Lecture 1

#### §1. Fields

Recall that a **field** is a commutative ring such that  $1 \neq 0$  and that every non-zero element is invertible. Examples of (infinite) fields are  $\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{C}$ . If p is a prime number, then  $\mathbb{Z}/p$  is a field.

**Example 1.1.** The abelian group  $\mathbb{Z}/2 \times \mathbb{Z}/2$  is a field with multiplication

$$(a,b)(c,d) = (ac+bd,ad+bc+bd).$$

**Example 1.2.**  $\mathbb{Q}(i) = \{a + bi : a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}$  and  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$  are fields.

xca:Q(i)

**Exercise 1.3.** Prove that  $\mathbb{Q}(i)$  and  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$  are not isomorphic as fields.

If R is a ring, there exists a unique ring homomorphism  $\mathbb{Z} \to R$ ,  $m \mapsto m1$ . The image  $\{m1 : m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  of this homomorphism is a subring of R and it is known as the **ring of integers** of R. The kernel is a subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}$  and hence it is generated by some  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ . The integer t is the **characteristic** of the ring R.

**Exercise 1.4.** The characteristic of a field is either zero or a prime number.

Recall that a commutative ring R is an **integral domain** if  $xy = 0 \implies x = 0$  or y = 0. Fields are integral domains.

**Exercise 1.5.** Let *K* be a field. Prove that the following statements are equivalent:

- 1) *K* is of characteristic zero.
- **2**) The additive order of 1 is infinite.
- 3) The additive order of each  $x \neq 0$  is infinite.
- **4)** The ring of integers of K is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

**Exercise 1.6.** Let K be a field. Prove that the following statements are equivalent:

1) K is of characteristic p.

- **2)** The additive order of 1 is p.
- 3) The additive order of each  $x \neq 0$  is p.
- **4)** The ring of integers of *K* is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}/p$ .

The following exercise is important.

Exercise 1.7. Prove that if K is a finite field, then  $|K| = p^m$  for some prime number p and some  $m \ge 1$ .

**Definition 1.8.** A **subfield** of a ring *R* is a subring of *R* that is also a field.

Note that if K is a subfield of E, then the characteristic of K coincides with the chacteristic of E. Moreover, if  $K \to L$  is a field homomorphis, then K and L have the same characteristic.

**Exercise 1.9.** Let K be a field of characteristic p. Prove that  $K \to K$ ,  $x \mapsto x^{p^n}$ , is a field homomorphism for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ .

Note that finite fields are of characteristic p.

Let *K* be a subfield of a field *E*. Then *E* is a *K*-vector space with the usual scalar multiplication  $K \times E \to E$ ,  $(\lambda, x) \mapsto \lambda x$ .

**Definition 1.10.** A field *K* is **prime** if there are no proper subfields of *K*.

Examples of prime fields are  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}/p$  for p a prime number.

**Proposition 1.11.** *Let K be a field. The following statements hold:* 

- 1) K contains a unique prime field, it is known as the **prime subfield** of K.
- 2) The prime subfield of K is either isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Q}$  if the characteristic of K is zero, or it is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}/p$  for some prime number p if the characteristic of K is p.

*Proof.* To prove the first claim let L be the intersection of all the subfields of K. Then L is a subfield of K. If F is a subfield of L, then F is a subfield of K. Thus  $L \subseteq F$  and hence F = L, which proves that L is prime. If  $L_1$  is a subfield of K and  $L_1$  is prime, then  $L \subseteq L_1$  and hence  $L = L_1$ .

Let  $K_0$  be the prime field of K. Suppose that K is of characteristic p > 0. Then the ring  $K_{\mathbb{Z}}$  of integers of K is a field isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}/p$  and hence  $K_0 \simeq K_{\mathbb{Z}}$ . Suppose now that the characteristic of K is zero. Let  $L = \{m1/n1 : m, n \in \mathbb{Z}, n \neq 0\}$ . We claim that  $K_0 = L$ . Since  $K_{\mathbb{Z}} \subseteq K_0$ , it follows that  $L \subseteq K_0$ . Hence  $L = K_0$ , as L is a subfield of K.

**Definition 1.12.** Let E be a field and K be a subfield of E. Then E is an **extension** of K. We will use the notation E/K.

If *E* is an extension of *K*, then *E* is a *K*-vector space.

**Definition 1.13.** The degree of an extension E of K is the integer  $\dim_K E$ . It will be denoted by [E:K].

We say that E is a finite extension of K if [E:K] is finite.

**Example 1.14.** Let K be a field. Then [K : K] = 1. Conversely, if E is an extension of K and [E : K] = 1, then K = E. If not, let  $x \in E \setminus K$ . We claim that  $\{1, x\}$  is linearly independent over K. Indeed, if a1 + bx = 0 for some  $a, b \in K$ , then bx = -a. If  $b \ne 0$ , then  $x = -a/b \in K$ , a contradiction. If b = 0, then a = 0.

We know that  $[\mathbb{C} : \mathbb{R}] = 2$ .

**Example 1.15.** A basis of  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$  is given by  $\{1, \sqrt{2}\}$ . Then  $[\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}) : \mathbb{Q}] = 2$ .

**Example 1.16.** Since  $\mathbb{Q}$  is numerable and  $\mathbb{R}$  is not,  $[\mathbb{R} : \mathbb{Q}] > \aleph_0$ . If  $\{x_i : i \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}\}$  is a numerable basis of  $\mathbb{R}$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , for each n consider the  $\mathbb{Q}$ -vector space  $V_n$  generated by  $\{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}$ . Then

$$\mathbb{R} = \bigcup_{n \ge 1} V_n,$$

is numerable, as each  $V_n$  is numerable, a contradiction.

If E is an extension of K and E is finite, then [E:K] is finite.

**Proposition 1.17.** Let K be a finite field. Then  $|K| = p^m$  for some prime number p and some  $m \ge 1$ .

*Proof.* We know that the prime subfield of K is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}/p$ . In particular,  $|K_0| = p$ . Since K is finite,  $[K:K_0] = m$  for some m. If  $\{x_1, \ldots, x_m\}$  is a basis of K over  $K_0$ , then each element of K can be written uniquely as  $\sum_{i=1}^m a_i x_i$  for some  $a_1, \ldots, a_m \in K_0$ . Then  $K \simeq K_0^m$  and hence  $|K| = |K_0^m| = p^m$ .

**Definition 1.18.** Let *E* be an extension of *K*. A **subextension** *F* of *K* is a subfield *F* of *E* that contains *K*, that is  $K \subseteq F \subseteq E$ .

**Definition 1.19.** Let E and  $E_1$  be extensions over K. An extension **homomorphism**  $E \to E_1$  is a field homomorphism  $\sigma \colon E \to E_1$  such that  $\sigma(x) = x$  for all  $x \in K$ .

To describe the homomorphism  $\sigma: E \to E_1$  of the extensions over K one typically writes the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
K & \longrightarrow & K \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
E & \stackrel{\sigma}{\longrightarrow} & E_1
\end{array}$$

We write  $\operatorname{Hom}(E/K, E_1/K)$  to denote the set of homomorphism  $E \to E_1$  of extensions of K. Note that if  $\sigma \in \operatorname{Hom}(E/K, E_1/K)$ , then  $\sigma$  is a K-linear map, as

$$\sigma(\lambda x) = \sigma(\lambda)\sigma(x) = \lambda\sigma(x)$$

for all  $\lambda \in K$  and  $x \in E$ .

**Example 1.20.** The conjugation map  $\mathbb{C} \to \mathbb{C}$ ,  $z \mapsto \overline{z}$ , is an endomorphism of  $\mathbb{C}$  as an extension over  $\mathbb{R}$ . Let  $\varphi \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R})$ . Then

$$\varphi(x+iy) = \varphi(x) + \varphi(i)\varphi(y) = x + \varphi(i)y$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ . Since  $\varphi(i)^2 = \varphi(i^2) = \varphi(-1) = -1$ , it follows that  $\varphi(i) \in \{-i, i\}$ . Thus either  $\varphi(x+iy) = x+iy$  or  $\varphi(x+iy) = x-iy$ .

**Exercise 1.21.** Prove that if K is a field and  $\sigma: K \to K$  is a field homomorphism, then  $\sigma \in \text{Hom}(K/K_0, K/K_0)$ .

If E/K is an extension, then

$$\operatorname{Aut}(E/K) = \{ \sigma : \sigma : E \to E \text{ is a bijective extension homomorphism} \}$$

is a group with composition.

**Definition 1.22.** Let E/K be an extension. The **Galois group** of E/K is the group Aut(E/K) and it will be denoted by Gal(E/K).

A typicall example:  $Gal(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}) \simeq \mathbb{Z}/2$ .

**Example 1.23.** Let  $\theta = \sqrt[3]{2}$  and let  $E = \{a + b\theta + c\theta^2 : a, b, c \in \mathbb{Q}\}$ . Note that

$$a+b\theta+c\theta^2=0 \iff a=b=c=0.$$

In fact, if  $abc \neq 0$ , then  $aX^2 + bX + c \neq 0$  and thus  $X^3 - 2 = q(X)(aX^2 + bX + c) + r(X)$  for some polynomials  $q(X) \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$  and  $r(X) = eX + f \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$ . Evaluate in  $\theta$  to obtain that  $r(\theta) = 0$  and hence r(X) = 0 in  $\mathbb{Q}[X]$ . This implies that  $aX^2 + bX + c$  divides  $X^3 - 2$ , a contradiction since  $X^3 - 2$  is irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}[X]$ .

Then E is an extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$  such that  $[E:\mathbb{Q}]=3$ . We claim that  $Gal(E/\mathbb{Q})$  is trivial. If  $\sigma \in Gal(E/\mathbb{Q})$  and  $z=a+b\theta+c\theta^2$ , then  $\sigma(z)=a+b\sigma(\theta)+c\sigma^2(\theta)$ . Since  $\sigma(\theta)^3=\sigma(\theta^3)=\sigma(2)=2$ , it follows that  $\sigma(\theta)=\theta$  and therefore  $\sigma=id$ .

If E/K is an extension and S is a subset of E, then there exists a unique smallest subextension F/K of E/K such that  $S \subseteq F$ . In fact,

$$F = \bigcap \{T : T \text{ is a subfield of } E \text{ that contains } K \cup S\}$$

If L/K is a subextension of E/K such that  $S \subseteq L$ , then  $F \subseteq L$  by definition. The extension F is known as the **subextension generated by** S and it will be denoted by K(S). If  $S = \{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}$  is finite, then  $K(S) = K(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$  is said to be of **finite type**.

**Example 1.24.** If  $\{e_1, \ldots, e_n\}$  is a basis of E over K, then  $E = K(e_1, \ldots, e_n)$ .

**Example 1.25.** The field  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$  is precisely the extension of  $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Q}$  generated by  $\sqrt{2}$ .

Let E/K be an extension and S and T be subsets of E. Then

$$K(S \cup T) = K(S)(T) = K(T)(S)$$
.

If, moreover,  $S \subseteq T$ , then  $K(S) \subseteq K(T)$ .

**Definition 1.26.** Let E/K be an extension. An element  $x \in E$  is **algebraic** over K if there exists a non-zero polynomial  $f(X) \in K[X]$  such that f(x) = 0. If x is not algebraic over K, then it is called **trascendent** over K.

If E/K is an extension, then

$$\overline{K}_E = \{x \in E : x \text{ is algebraic over } K\}$$

is the **algebraic closure** of K in E.

**Definition 1.27.** An extension E/K is **algebraic** if every  $x \in E$  is algebraic over K.

If *K* is a field, every  $x \in K$  is algebraic over *K*, as *x* is a root of  $X - x \in K[X]$ . In particular, K/K is an algebraic extension.

**Example 1.28.**  $\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}$  is an algebraic extension. If  $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$ , then z is a root of the polynomial  $X^2 + (z + \overline{z})X + |z|^2 \in \mathbb{R}[X]$ .

If F/K is an algebraic extension and  $x \in E$  is algebraic over K, then x is algebraic over E.

**Example 1.29.**  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})/\mathbb{Q}$  is algebraic, as the number  $a + b\sqrt{2}$  is a root of the polynomial  $X^2 - 2aX + (a^2 - 2b^2) \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$ .

The extension  $\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Q}$  is not algebraic.

If E/K is an extension and  $x \in E$  is algebraic over K, then the evaluation homomorphism  $K[X] \to E$ ,  $f \mapsto f(x)$ , is not injective. In particular, its kernel is a non-zero ideal and hence it is generated by a monic polynomial f.

**Definition 1.30.** Let E/K be an extension and  $x \in E$  be an algebraic element. The monic polynomial that generates the kernel of  $K[X] \to E$ ,  $f \mapsto f(x)$ , is known as the **minimal polynomial** of x over K and it will be denoted by f(x, K). The **degree** of x over K is then deg f(x, K).

Some basic properties of the minimal polynomial of an algebraic element:

**Proposition 1.31.** *Let* E/K *be an extension and*  $x \in E$ .

- 1) If  $g \in K[X]$  is such that g(x) = 0, then f(x, K) divides g.
- 2) If g(x) = 0 and  $g \neq 0$ , then  $\deg g \geq \operatorname{gr} f(x, K)$ .
- 3) f(x, K) is irreducible in K[X].
- **4)** If g(x) = 0 and g(X) is monic and irreducible, then g = f(x, K).
- 5) If F/K is a subextension of E/K, then f(x,F) divides f(x,K).

*Proof.* Write f = f(x, K) to denote the minimal polynomial of x. To prove 1) note that g(x) = 0 implies that g belongs to the kernel of the evaluation map, so g is a multiple of f. Now 2) follows from 1). To prove 3) note that if f = gh for some  $g, h \in K[X]$  such that  $0 < \deg g, \deg h < \deg f$ , then f(x) = 0 implies that either g(x) = 0 or h(x) = 0, a contradiction. 4) is trivial. Finally we prove 5). Since  $f \in K[X] \subseteq F[X]$  and f(x) = 0, it follows from 3) that f(x, F) divides f.

Some easy examples:  $f(i,\mathbb{R}) = X^2 + 1$  and  $f(\sqrt[3]{2},\mathbb{Q}) = X^3 - 2$ .

**Example 1.32.** Let us compute  $f(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3}, \mathbb{Q})$ . Let  $\alpha = \sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3}$ . Then

$$\alpha - \sqrt{2} = \sqrt{3} \implies (\alpha - \sqrt{2})^2 = 3 \implies \alpha^2 - 2\sqrt{2}\alpha + 2 = 3$$
$$\implies \alpha^2 - 1 = 2\sqrt{2}\alpha \implies (\alpha^2 - 1)^2 = 8\alpha^2 \implies \alpha^4 - 10\alpha^2 + 1 = 0.$$

Thus  $\alpha$  is a root of  $g = X^4 - 10X^2 + 1$ . To prove that  $g = f(\alpha, \mathbb{Q})$  it is enough to prove that g is irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}[X]$ . First note that the roots of g are  $\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3}$ ,  $\sqrt{2} - \sqrt{3}$ ,  $-\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3}$  and  $-\sqrt{2} - \sqrt{3}$ . This means that if g is not irreducible, then  $g = hh_1$  for some polynomials  $h, h_1 \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$  such that  $\deg h = \deg h_1 = 2$ . This is not possible, as  $(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3}) + (\sqrt{2} - \sqrt{3}) = 2\sqrt{2} \notin \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3}) + (-\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3}) = 2\sqrt{3} \notin \mathbb{Q}$  and  $(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3})(-\sqrt{2} - \sqrt{3}) = -5 - 2\sqrt{6} \notin \mathbb{Q}$ .

**Proposition 1.33.** Let F/K be a subextension and E/K. Then

$$[E:K] = [E:F][F:K].$$

*Proof.* Let  $\{e_i: i \in I\}$  be a basis of E over K and  $\{f_j: j \in J\}$  be a basis of F over K. If  $x \in E$ , then  $x = \sum_i \lambda_i e_i$  (finite sum) for some  $\lambda_i \in F$ . For each  $i, \lambda_i = \sum_j a_{ij} f_j$  (finite sum) for some  $a_{ij} \in K$ . Then  $x = \sum_i \sum_j a_{ij} (f_j e_i)$ . This means that  $\{f_j e_i: i \in I, j \in J\}$  generates E as a K-vector space. Let us prove that  $\{f_j e_i: i \in I, j \in J\}$  is linearly independent. If  $\sum_i \sum_j a_{ij} (f_j e_i) = 0$  (finite sum) for some  $a_{ij} \in K$ , then

$$0 = \sum_{i} \left( \sum_{j} a_{ij} f_{j} \right) e_{i} \implies \sum_{j} a_{ij} f_{j} = 0 \text{ for all } i \in I$$

$$\implies a_{ij} = 0 \text{ for all } i \in I \text{ and } j \in J.$$

We state a lemma:

**Lemma 1.34.** If A is a finite-dimensional commutative algebra over K and A is an integral domain, then A is a field.

*Proof.* Let  $a \in A \setminus \{0\}$ . We need to prove that there exists  $b \in A$  such that ab = 1. Let  $\theta \colon A \to A$ ,  $x \mapsto ax$ . Clearly  $\theta$  is an algebra homomorphism. It is injective, since A is an integral domain. Since  $\dim_K A < \infty$ , it follows that  $\theta$  is an isomorphism. In particular,  $\theta(A) = A$ , which means that there exists  $b \in A$  such that 1 = ab.

**Theorem 1.35.** Let E/K be an extension and  $x \in E \setminus K$ . The following statements are equivalent:

- 1) x is algebraic over K.
- 2)  $\dim_K K[x] < \infty$ .
- 3) K[x] is a field.
- **4)** K[x] = K(x).

*Proof.* We first prove  $1) \Longrightarrow 2$ ). Let  $z \in K[x]$ , say z = h(x) for some  $h \in K[X]$ . There exists  $g \in K[X]$  such that  $g \neq 0$  and g(x) = 0. Divide h by g to obtain polynomials  $q, r \in K[X]$  such that h = gq + r, where r = 0 or  $\deg r < \deg g$ . This implies that

$$z = h(x) = g(x)q(x) + r(x) = r(x).$$

If deg g = m, then  $r = \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} a_i X^i$  for some  $a_0, \dots, a_{m-1} \in K$ . Thus  $z = \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} a_i x^i$ , so  $K[x] \subseteq \langle 1, x, \dots, x^{m-1} \rangle$ .

The previous lemma proves that  $2) \implies 3$ .

It is trivial that  $3) \implies 4$ .

It remains to prove that 4)  $\Longrightarrow$  1). Let us prove that  $K(x) \subseteq K[x]$ . Since  $x \ne 0$ ,  $1/x \in K[x]$ . There exists  $a_0, \dots, a_n \in K$  such that  $1/x = a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n$ . Thus

$$a_n x^{n+1} + \dots + a_1 x^2 + a_0 x - 1 \neq 0$$

and x is a root of  $a_n X^{n+1} + \cdots + a_0 X - 1 \in K[X]$ .

Note that if x is algebraic over K, then  $K[x] \simeq K[X]/(f(x,K))$ .

**Corollary 1.36.** *If* E/K *is finite, then* E/K *is algebraic.* 

*Proof.* Let n = [E : K] and  $x \in E$ . The set  $\{1, x, ..., x^n\}$  is linearly dependent, so there exist  $a_0, ..., a_n \in K$  not all zero such that  $a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n = 0$ . Thus x is a root of the non-zero polynomial  $a_0 + a_1X + \cdots + a_nX^n \in K[X]$ .

We note that the converse of the previous corollary does not hold.

**Corollary 1.37.** *If* E/K *is an extension and*  $x_1, ..., x_n \in E$  *are algebraic over* K, *then*  $K(x_1, ..., x_n)/K$  *is finite and*  $K(x_1, ..., x_m) = K[x_1, ..., x_n]$ .

*Proof.* We proceed by induction on n. The case n = 1 follows immediately from the theorem. So assume the result holds for some  $n \ge 1 \dots$ 

**Corollary 1.38.** Let E = K(S). Then E/K is algebraic if and only if x is algebraic over K for all  $x \in S$ .

*Proof.* Let us prove the non-trivial implication. Let  $z \in K(S)$ . In particular, there exists a finite subset  $T \subseteq S$  such that  $z \in K(T)$ . The previous corollary implies that K(T)/K is algebraic and hence z is algebraic.

**Corollary 1.39.** If E/K is an extension, then  $\overline{K}_E$  is a subfield of E that contains K. Moreover,  $K(\overline{K}_E)/K$  is algebraic.

Proof.

#### Corollary 1.40.

Algebraic field extensions form a nice class of extensions. The same happens with finite field extensions.

**Proposition 1.41.** Let F/K is a subextension of E/K. Then E/K is algebraic (resp. finite) if and only if E/F and F/K are algebraic (resp. finite).

**Proposition 1.42.** Let E/K and F/K be extensions, where both E and F are subfields of a field E. If E/K is algebraic (resp. finite), then E/E is algebraic (resp. finite).

**Lemma 1.43.** Let  $\sigma: K \to L$  be a field homomorphism. Then there exists an extension E/K and a field isomorphism  $\varphi: E \to L$  such that the diagram

. . .

*commutes, that is*  $\varphi|_K = \sigma$ .

**Theorem 1.44.** Let K be a field and  $f \in K[X]$  be such that  $\deg f > 0$ . Then there exists an extension E/K such that f admits a root in E.

As a corollary, if K is a field and  $f_1, \ldots, f_n \in K[X]$  are polynomials of positive degree, then there exists an extension E/K such that each  $f_i$  admits a root in E. This is proved by induction on n.

**Definition 1.45.** A field K is **algebraically closed** if each  $f \in K[X]$  of positive degree admits a root in K.

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The fundamental theorem of algebra states that  $\mathbb{C}$  is algebraically closed. A typical proof uses complex analysis. Later we will give a proof of this result using Galois theory.

**Proposition 1.46.** The following statements are equivalent:

- 1) K is algebraically closed.
- 2) If  $f \in K[X]$  is irreducible, then deg f = 1.
- 3) If  $f \in K[X]$  is non-zero, then f decomposes linearly in K[X], that is

$$f = a \prod_{i=1}^{n} (X - \alpha_i)^{m_i}$$

for some  $a \in K$  and  $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n \in K$ .

§2 Artin's theorem

4) If E/K is algebraic, then E=K.

*Proof.* 1)  $\Longrightarrow$  2  $\Longrightarrow$  3) are exercises. Let us prove that 3)  $\Longrightarrow$  4). Let  $x \in E$ . Decompose f(x,K) linearly in K[X] as  $f(x,K) = a \prod_{i=1}^{n} (X - \alpha_i)$  and evaluate on x to obtain that  $x = \alpha_j$  for some j. To prove that 4)  $\Longrightarrow$  1) . . .  $\square$ 

**Proposition 1.47.** Let C be algebraically closed and  $\sigma: K \to C$  be a field homomorphism. If E/K is algebraic, then there exists a field homomorphism  $\varphi: E \to C$  such that the diagram

• • •

*commutes, that is*  $\varphi|_K = \sigma$ .

Proof.

**Definition 1.48.** The **algebraic closure** of a field K is an algebraic extension C/K such that C is algebraically closed.

For example,  $\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}$  is an algebraic closure but  $\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Q}$  it is not.

#### §2. Artin's theorem

**Theorem 2.1** (Artin). Let K be a field. Then K admits an algebraic closure C/K. If  $C_1/K$  is an algebraic closure, then the extensions C/K and  $C_1/K$  are isomorphic.

Proof.

## References

1. J. Rotman. Galois theory. Universitext. Springer-Verlag, New York, second edition, 1998.