Introductory Galois Theory Cheat Sheet

Definition of a Field

A field F is a set with two binary operators $(+, \times)$ satisfying the following axioms,

- (F,+) is an abelian group with identity 0.
- The non zero elements of F form an abelian group under multiplication with identity $1 \neq 0$.
- Left and right distributivity

Characteristic of Fields

A characteristic of a field F, denoted by ch(F) is defined as is the smallest integer p such that $\underbrace{1+1+\cdots+1}_{p \text{ times}} = 0$. If such a p does not, exist ch(F) = 0.

K-algebra

A K-algebra (or algebra over a field) is a ring A which is a module over field K with multiplication being K-bilinear, (i.e., $k_1a_1 \cdot k_2a_2 = k_1k_2a_1a_2$).

Field Extensions

For fields K, L. We say L is a field extension of K if K is a subfield of L. Alternatively, L is a field extension of K, if L is a K-algebra.

Algebraic elements and Algebraic extensions

For a field extension $K \subset L$.

Algebraic element: $\alpha \in L$ is called algebraic if $\exists P \in K[x]$ s.t. $P(\alpha) = 0$. **Transcendental element:** If such a P does not exist then α is transcendental elements.

Transcendental element: If such a P does not exist then α is transcendental. Consider the following definitions,

- Denote the smallest subfield of L containing K and α to be $K(\alpha)$.
- Denote the smallest sub ring of L containing K and α to be $K[\alpha]$.

The following statements are equivalent,

- α is algebraic over K.
- $K[\alpha]$ is finite dimensional algebra over K.
- $K[\alpha] = K(\alpha)$.

Algebraic extension: L is called algebraic over K if all $\alpha \in L$ are algebraic over K.

- If *L* is algebraic over *K* then any *K*-subalgebra of *L* is a field.
- Consider $K \subset L \subset M$. If $\alpha \in M$ is algebraic over K, then it is algebraic over L, also its minimal polynomial over L divides its minimal polynomial over K.
- If $K \subset L \subset M$ then M is an algebraic extension over $K \iff M$ is algebraic over L and L is algebraic over K.

Algebraic closure: A subfield L' of L s.t. $L' = \{ \alpha \in L \mid \alpha \text{ is algebraic over } K \}$

Minimal Polynomial

If α is an algebraic element then $\exists!$ monic polynomial P of minimal degree such that $P(\alpha) = 0$ such a polynomial is called the **minimal polynomial**.

- The minimal polynomial is irreducible
- Any other polynomial Q s.t. $Q(\alpha) = 0$ will be divisible by P.

Pritmitive polynomials and Gauss' lemma

Primitive polynomial: A polynomial $P \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$ is called primitive if if has a positive degree and the gcd of its coefficients is 1.

Gauss' lemma: A polynomial $P \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$ is irreducible over $\mathbb{Z}[X] \iff$ it is primitive and irreducible over $\mathbb{Q}[x]$

Eisenstein criterion for irreducibility

A polynomial $f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + a_0 \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ is irreducible if $\exists p$ prime s.t. p divides all coefficients except a_n and p^2 does not divide a_0 .

Finite extensions

For a field extension $K \subset L$. L is called a **finite extension** of K if the vector space of L over K has a finite dimension.

Degree of finite extension: Denoted as $[L:K] = \dim_K L$

- $K \subset L \subset M$. Then M is finite over $K \iff M$ is finite over L and L is finite over K. Also in this case, [M:K] = [M:L][L:K].
- Let $K(\alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n) \subset L$ denote the smallest subfield of L containing K and $\alpha_i \in L$. This $K(\alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n)$ is generated by $\alpha_1, ..., \alpha_n$.
- L is finite over $K \iff L$ is generated by a finite number of algebraic elements over K .
- $[K(\alpha):K] = \deg P_{\min}(\alpha,K)$

Stem field

Let $P \in K[X]$ be an irreducible monic polynomial. A field extension E is called a stem field of P if $\exists \alpha \in E$, s.t. α is a root of P and $E = K[\alpha]$

- If E, E' are two stem fields for $P \in K[x]$, s.t. $E = K[\alpha], E' = K[\alpha']$ where α, α' are roots of P. Then $\exists!$ isomorphism $E \cong E'$ of K-algebras which maps α to α' .
- If a stem field contains two roots of P, then $\exists!$ automorphism that maps one root to another.
- If *E* is a stem field, $[E:K] = \deg P$
- If $[E:K] = \deg P$ and E contains a root of P then E is a stem field. Some irreducibility criteria,
 - $P \in K[X]$ is irreducible over $K \iff$ it does not have roots in L/K of degree $\leq \deg P/2$.
 - $P \in K[X]$ is irreducible over K with $\deg P = n$. If L/K with [L:K] = m if $\gcd(m,n) = 1$ then P is irreducible over L.

Splitting field

Let $P \in K[X]$. The splitting field of P over K is an extension of L where P is split into linear factors and the roots of P generate L (alternatively if P cannot be factored into any intermediate field).

• Splitting field L exists and its degree is $\leq d!$, where $d = \deg P$. And it is unique up to isomorphism.

Algebraic closure

- A field K is algebraically closed if any non-constant polynomial $P \in K[X]$ has a root in K.
- *L* is called an **algebraic closure** of *K* if it is algebraically closed and a field extension over *K*.
- Every field has an algebraic closure.
- Algebraic closures of K are unique up to isomorphism as K –algebras.

Properties of finite fields

Let p be a prime integer and let $q = p^r$ for some positive integer r. Then the following statements hold.

- There exists a field of order *q*.
- Any two fields of order q are isomorphic.
- Let K be a field of order q. The multiplicative group K^{\times} of non-zero elements of K is a cyclic group of order q-1.
- Let K be a field of order q. The elements of K are the roots of $x^q x \in \mathbb{F}_p[x]$.
- A field of order p^r contains a field of order $p^k \iff k|r$
- The irreducible factors of $x^q x$ over \mathbb{F}_p are the irreducible polynomials in $\mathbb{F}_p[x]$ whose degree divides r.
- The splitting field of $x^q x$ has q elements.
- \mathbb{F}_q is a stem field and a splitting field of any irreducible polynomial $P \in \mathbb{F}_p$ of degree n.

Frobenius homomorphism

Let K be a field, $\mathrm{ch}(K)=p>0$. There exists a homomorphism $\varphi:K\to K$, s.t. $\varphi(x)=x^p$. This is Frobenius homomorphism.

• The group of automorphisms over \mathbb{F}_{p^r} over \mathbb{F}_p is cyclic and is generated by the Frobenius map.

Separability

- Separable polynomial: A irreducible polynomial $P \in K[X]$ is called separable if gcd(P, P') = 1.
- Degree of separability: $\deg_{\text{sep}} P = \deg Q$ for some $P(X) = Q(X^p)$
- Degree of inseparability: $\deg_i P = \frac{\deg P}{\deg Q}$
- **Purely inseparable polynomial:** P is purely inseparable if $\deg_i P = \deg P$. Also if P is purely inseparable $P = X^{p^r} a$
- Separable element: If L/K is an algebraic extension, then $\alpha \in L$ is called separable if its minimal polynomial over K is separable. And vice versa.
- If $\alpha \in K$ is separable then $|\text{Hom}(K(\alpha), \overline{K})| = \deg P_{\min}(\alpha, K))$
- Separable degree: For L/K, we have $[L:K]_{\text{sep}} = |\text{Hom}_K(K(\alpha), \overline{K})|$. Inseparable degree is degree of extension divided by separable degree.
- **Separable extension:** L is separable over K if $[L:K]_{\text{sep}} = [L:K]$.
 - If ch(K) = 0 then any extension of K is separable.
 - If $\mathrm{ch}(K)=p$ then pure inseparable extension has degree p^r with degree of inseparability p^r
- Separable degrees obey the multiplicative property.
- TFAE
 - $\,L\,$ is separable over $\,K\,$
 - Any element of L is separable over K
 - $L = K(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n)$, where each α_i is separable over K.
 - $L = K(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n)$, then α_i is separable over $K(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{i-1})$.
- Separable closure: $L^{\text{sep}} = \{x \mid x \text{ separable over } K\}$

Multilinear map

For a module M over ring A. A function L from $M^r = M \times M \times \cdots \times M$ into

r times

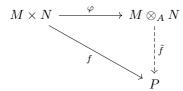
A is called multilinear if $L(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_r)$ is linear as a function of each α_i when the other α_i are fixed.

Tensor product

Consider a ring A and two A-modules, M, N. The tensor product is denoted as $M \otimes_A N$ is an A-module along with a A-bilinear map, $\varphi: M \times N \to M \otimes_A N$ which a "universal property".

Universal property of tensor product:

For a A-module P, if for an A-bilinear map, $f: M \times N \to P$, then $\exists !$ homomorphism \tilde{f} of A-modules s.t. $f = \tilde{f} \circ \varphi$



- Commutativity of tensor product $M \otimes_A N \cong N \otimes_A M$
- $A \otimes_A M \cong M$
- The basis for the tensor product of free modules is the tensor product of their individual basis elements.
- The tensor product is associative.

Base change theorem: For a ring A, B an A-algebra, M an A-module and N a B-module. Then we have the following bijection

$$\operatorname{Hom}_A(M,N) \leftrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}_B(B \otimes_A M,N)$$

• For I an ideal of a ring A and M an A-module we have, $A/I \otimes_A M \cong M/IM$

Chinese remainder theorem

Comaximal ideals: Two ideals of a ring are called comaximal (or coprime) if their sum gives the ring itself.

- If I, J are comaximal then $IJ = I \cap J$
- If I_1, \ldots, I_k comaximal w.r.t J then $\prod_{i=1}^k I_i$ is also relatively prime with J.
- If I, J are comaximal then so are I^m, J^n for any m, n.

Chinese remainder theorem: For a ring A, consider two comaximal ideals I, J, then $\forall a, b \in R, \exists x \in A \text{ s.t. } x \equiv a \pmod{I}$ and $x \equiv b \pmod{J}$

Generalized Chinese remainder theorem: For a ring A, let I_1, \ldots, I_n be ideals of the ring A. Consider the map $\pi: A \to A/I_1 \times \cdots \times A/I_n$ defined as $\pi(a) = (a \mod I_1, \ldots, a \mod I_n)$. Then $\ker \pi = I_1 \cap \cdots \cap I_n$, i.e. it is surjective iff $I_1, \cdots I_n$ are pairwise comaximal. If π is a surjection we have,

$$A/\bigcap I_k \cong A/\prod I_k \cong \prod (A/I_k)$$

Structure of finite algebras

Let A be a finite K-algebra then,

- There are only finitely many maximal ideals in *A*.
- For finitely many maximal ideals m_i . Let $J=m_1\cap\cdots\cap m_r$. Then $J^n=0$ for some n.
- $A \cong A/m_1^{n_1} \times \cdots \times A/m_r^{n_r}$ for some (not necessarily unique) n_1, \dots, n_r .

Reduced *K***-Algebra:** If it has no nilpotent elements.

Local ring: If it has only one maximal ideal. A non zero ring in which every element is either a unit or nilpotent is local.

Further results on separability

Let *L* be a finite extension over *K* then the following hold,

- *L* is separable $\iff L \otimes_K \overline{K}$ is reduced.
- L is purely inseparable $\iff L \otimes_K \overline{K}$ is local.
- L is separable $\iff \forall$ algebraic extensions $\Omega, L \otimes_K \Omega$ is reduced.
- L is purely separable $\iff \forall$ algebraic extensions $\Omega, L \otimes_K \Omega$ is local.
- If L is separable then the map $\varphi: L \otimes_K \overline{K} \to \overline{K}^n$ defined as $\varphi(l \otimes k) = (k\varphi_1(l), \dots, k\varphi_n(l))$ (where φ_i are distinct homomorphisms from L to \overline{K}), is an isomorphism.
- Let *L* be a finite separable extension of *K* then it has only finitely many sub extensions.

Primitive element theorem

There exists $\alpha \in L$ s.t. $L = K(\alpha)$ whenever L is finite and separable.

Normal extensions

A normal extension of K is a splitting field of a family of polynomials in K[X]. TFAE for an extension L of K,

- $\forall x \in L, P_{\min}(x, K)$ splits in L.
- *L* is a normal extension.
- All homomorphisms from L to \overline{K} have the same image.
- \bullet The group of automorphisms, $\operatorname{Aut}(L/K)$ acts transitively on $\operatorname{Hom}_K(L,\overline{K}).$

Some properties of normal extensions,

- $K \subset L \subset M$, if M is normal over K then it is normal over L, but L need not be normal over K.
- Extensions with degree 2 are normal.

Galois extensions

A field extension that is both normal and separable is called a Galois extension

• For a finite extension L over K the number of automorphisms $|\mathrm{Aut}(L/K)| \leq [L:K]$. Equality holds iff L is a Galois' extension.

If *L* is normal over *K* then,

- Isomorphism of sub extensions extend to automorphisms of *L*.
- Aut(L/K) acts transitively on the roots of any irreducible polynomial in K[X].
- If Aut(L/K) fixes $x \notin K$. Then x is purely inseparable.

Galois groups

If L is a Galois extension, $G=\mathrm{Gal}(L/K)=\mathrm{Aut}(L/K)$ is called the Galois group of the extension.

- $L^{Gal(L/K)} = K$, (i.e. the set of invariants in L with the action of the Galois group is equal to K).
- $\bullet \ \, \mbox{Let}\, L \mbox{ be a field and } G \mbox{ a subgroup of } \mbox{Aut}(L) \mbox{, then}$
 - If all orbits of G are finite, then L is a Galois extension of L^G .
 - If order of G is finite then, $[L, L^G] = n$ and G is a Galois group.

The Fundamental theorem of Galois theory

Let L/K be a Galois extension, and $\operatorname{Aut}(L/K) = \operatorname{Gal}(L/K)$ is its Galois group.

- If L is finite over K, then for a intermediate field F and a subgroup $H \subset \operatorname{Gal}(L/K)$ we have the following correspondence,
 - $F \rightarrow Gal(L/F)$
 - $H \rightarrow L^H$
- F is Galois over $K \iff g(F) = F, \ \forall g \in \operatorname{Gal}(L/K) \iff \operatorname{Gal}(L/F) \unlhd \operatorname{Gal}(L/K)$

Discriminant

For a polynomial with roots x_i , the discriminant is $\Delta = \prod_{i < j} (x_i - x_j)^2$. For $Gal(P) \subset S_n$,

- Δ is preserved by any permutation.
- $\sqrt{\Delta}$ is preserved only by even permutations
- $G \subset A_n \iff \sqrt{\Delta} \in K$

Cyclotomic polynomials and extensions

Let $P_n = X^n - 1$ where n is coprime to the characteristic of a finite field K.

 P_n has n distinct roots which form a cyclic multiplicative subgroup $\mu_n \subset \overline{K}^{\times}$. Let $\mu_n *$ denote the set of **primitive roots of unity** (no roots of degree < n).

• $|\mu_n *| = \varphi(n)$

Cyclotomic polynomials: $\Phi_n = \prod_{\alpha \in \mu_n *} (X - \alpha) \in \overline{K}[X].$

- $P_n = \prod_{d|n} \Phi_d$.
- Φ_n has coefficients in prime fields.
- If ch(K) = 0 then $\Phi_n \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$, else if ch(K) = p, we have Φ_n is the reduction mod p of the n^{th} cyclotomic polynomial over \mathbb{Z} .
- If ch(K) = 0, then Φ_n is irreducible over $\mathbb{Z}[X]$.

Consider L, splitting field of K

- The splitting field of P_n over K is $K(\zeta)$ where ζ is a root of Φ_n .
- All $g \in \operatorname{Gal}(L/K)$ acts as $\zeta \to \zeta^{a^g}$, $(a^g, n) = 1$.
- $\operatorname{Gal}(L/K)$ injects into $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}^{\times}$ and this is an isomorphism when Φ_n is irreducible over K.

Kummer extensions

A field extension L/K is called a Kummer extension if for some integer n>1

- K contains n distinct n^{th} roots of unity.
- Gal(L/K) is abelian group with lcm of the orders of group elements (exponent) equal to n.

Consider K s.t. for some $n, (\operatorname{ch}(K), n) = 1$ and $X^n - 1$ splits in K, for any $a \in K$ take $d = \min\{i \mid a^{i/n} \in K\}$ then we have,

- $d \mid n \text{ and } P_{\min}(a^{1/n}) = X^{d} a^{d/n}$
- $K(a^{1/n})$ is Galois extension with cyclic Galois group of order d.

The converse is also true.

Artin-Schreier extensions

Let L/K be a field extension s.t. $\mathrm{ch}(K)=p$ for prime p. It is called Artin-Schreier if degree of extension L is p.

Artin-Schreier theorem: Let $\operatorname{ch}(K) - p$ and let $P = X^p - X - a \in K[X]$. Then P is either irreducible or splits in K. Let α be a root of P.

- If P is irreducible, then $K(\alpha)$ is a cyclic extension (i.e. Galois group is cyclic) of K of degree p.
- Any cyclic extension of degree *p* is obtained in the same way.

The theorem shows that Artin-Schreier extensions are cyclic and also Kummer extensions.

Composite extensions

Let L_1, L_2 be two intermediate extensions of K and some L/K that contains them both. Then $L_1L_2 = L_2L_1 = K(L_1 \bigcup L_2)$ the smallest extension that contains both L_1, L_2 is called composite extension.

• If L_1 is separable/purely inseparable/normal/finite over K then its composite field also possess that property.

Linearly disjoint extensions

TFAE for algebraic extensions,

- $L_1 \otimes_K L_2$ is a field.
- $L_1 \otimes_K L_2 \to L$ is an injection.
- A linearly independent set in L_1 is also linearly independent in L_2 .
- For linearly independent sets (over K) $A \in L_1$, $B \in L_2$ we have $A \times B$ is linearly independent over K

 L_1, L_2 satisfying these properties are called linearly disjoint extensions.

- If deg L_1 is finite then $[L_1L_2:L_2]=[L_1:K]$ equivalently $[L_1L_2:K]=[L_1:K][L_2:K]$
- Extensions which are relatively prime degrees are linearly disjoint.

For \overline{K} the algebraic closure of K,

• Let $L_1, L_2 \subset \overline{K}$, if L_1 is Galois over K and let $K' = L_1 \cap L_2$. Then L_1L_2 is Galois over L_2 . The map $\phi : g \to g|_{L_1}$ of $\operatorname{Gal}(L_1L_2/L_2) \to \operatorname{Gal}(L_1/K)$ is injective with image $\operatorname{Gal}(L_1, K')$ and L_1, L_2 linearly disjoint over K'.

Solvable extensions and polynomials

Solvable extension: A finite extension E of K is solvable by radicals if $\exists \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r$ generating E such that $\alpha_i^{n_i} \in K(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{i-1})$ for some n_i .

Solvable polynomials: $P \in K[X]$ is solvable by radicals if \exists a solvable extension E containing its roots.

- A composite extension of solvable extensions is solvable.
- For finite L/K solvable $\implies \exists$ finite Galois extension also solvable.

Solvable groups

A group G is called solvable if it has a finite sequence of normal subgroups, $(I = G_0 \leq G_1 \leq \cdots \leq G_r = G)$ and also G_{i+1}/G_i is abelian.

- Subgroups of solvable groups are solvable.
- If G is solvable and $H \triangleleft G$ then G/H is solvable.
- If *G* if a finite abelian group then *G* is solvable
- S_n is not solvable for $n \geq 5$.

Solvability by radicals

Let $P \in K[X]$. P is a polynomial solvable by radicals if and only if Gal(P) is solvable. Here Gal(P) = Gal(F/K), where F is a splitting field of P over K.

Abel-Ruffini theorem

General polynomials of degree $n \ge 5$ are not solvable by radicals since S_n for n > 5 is not solvable.

Group representations

For vector space V,, a representation of a finite group G is a homomorphism $\varphi: G \to GL(V)$. Where GL(V) is the group of automorphisms of V.

Regular representation: For vector space V generated by elements of group G. A homomorphism involving permuting this basis is called regular.

• For L/K as a vector space over K we have a representation of the Galois group $\varphi: \operatorname{Gal}(L/K) \to GL_K(L)$. This is a regular representation.

Normal basis theorem

There exist $x \in L/K$ s.t. $\{gx \mid g \in G\}$ is a K-basis of L.