



planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

## example of normal extension

Canonical name	ExampleOfNormalExtension
Date of creation	2013-03-22 14:30:46
Last modified on	2013-03-22 14:30:46
Owner	alozano (2414)
Last modified by	alozano (2414)
Numerical id	4
Author	alozano (2414)
Entry type	Example
Classification	msc 12F10
Related topic	GaloisExtension
Related topic	CompositumOfAGaloisExtensionAndAnotherExtensionIsGalois
Related topic	NormalIsNotTransitive
Related topic	GaloisIsNotTransitive

Let  $F = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$ . Then the extension  $F/\mathbb{Q}$  is normal because  $F$  is clearly the splitting field of the polynomial  $f(x) = x^2 - 2$ . Furthermore  $F/\mathbb{Q}$  is a Galois extension with  $\text{Gal}(F/\mathbb{Q}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ .

Now, let  $2^{1/4}$  denote the positive real fourth root of 2 and define  $K = F(2^{1/4})$ . Then the extension  $K/F$  is normal because  $K$  is the splitting field of  $k(x) = x^2 - \sqrt{2}$ , and as before  $K/F$  is a Galois extension with  $\text{Gal}(K/F) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ .

However, the extension  $K/\mathbb{Q}$  is neither normal nor Galois. Indeed, the polynomial  $g(x) = x^4 - 2$  has one root in  $K$  (actually two), namely  $2^{1/4}$ , and yet  $g(x)$  does not split in  $K$  into linear factors.

$$g(x) = x^4 - 2 = (x^2 - \sqrt{2}) \cdot (x^2 + \sqrt{2}) = (x - 2^{1/4}) \cdot (x + 2^{1/4}) \cdot (x^2 + \sqrt{2})$$

The Galois closure of  $K$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$  is  $L = \mathbb{Q}(2^{1/4}, i)$ .