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splitting field of a finite set of polynomials

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Lemma 1. (*Cauchy, Kronecker*) Let K be a field. For any irreducible polynomial f in $K[X]$ there is an extension field of K in which f has a root.

Proof. If I is the ideal generated by f in $K[X]$, since f is irreducible, I is a maximal ideal of $K[X]$, and consequently $K[X]/I$ is a field.

We can construct a canonical monomorphism v from K to $K[X]$. By tracking back the field operation on $K[X]/I$, v can be extended to an isomorphism w from an extension field L of K to $K[X]/I$.

We show that $\alpha = w^{-1}(X + I)$ is a root of f .

If we write $f = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i X^i$ then $f + I = 0$ implies:

$$\begin{aligned} w(f(\alpha)) &= w\left(\sum_{i=1}^n f_i \alpha^i\right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n w(f_i) w(\alpha)^i \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n v(f_i) w(\alpha)^i \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (f_i + I)(X + I)^i \\ &= \left(\sum_{i=1}^n f_i X^i\right) + I \\ &= f + I = 0, \end{aligned}$$

which means that $f(\alpha) = 0$. □

Theorem 1. Let K be a field and let M be a finite set of nonconstant polynomials in $K[X]$. Then there exists an extension field L of K such that every polynomial in M splits in $L[X]$

Proof. If L is a field extension of K then the nonconstant polynomials f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n split in $L[X]$ iff the polynomial $\prod_{i=1}^n f_i$ splits in $L[X]$. Now the proof easily follows from the above lemma. □