Chapter 1: Galois Theory

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Section 1.1: Field Extensions

Problem 1.1.1. *Let K be a field extension of F. By defining scalar multiplication for $\alpha \in F$ and $a \in K$ by $\alpha \cdot a = \alpha a$, the multiplication in K, show that K is an F-vector space.*

Proof.

(1) K is an additive group.

(2) *Show that $(\alpha\beta) \cdot a = \alpha \cdot (\beta \cdot a)$ for $\alpha, \beta \in F$ and $a \in K$.* In fact,

$$\begin{aligned}(\alpha\beta) \cdot a &= \alpha\beta a \in K, \\ \alpha \cdot (\beta \cdot a) &= \alpha\beta a \in K.\end{aligned}$$

(3) *Show that $(\alpha + \beta) \cdot a = \alpha \cdot a + \beta \cdot a$ for $\alpha, \beta \in F$ and $a \in K$.*

$$\begin{aligned}(\alpha + \beta) \cdot a &= (\alpha + \beta)a \\ &= \alpha a + \beta a \in K, \\ \alpha \cdot a + \beta \cdot a &= \alpha a + \beta a \in K.\end{aligned}$$

(4) *Show that $\alpha \cdot (a + b) = \alpha \cdot a + \alpha \cdot b$ for $\alpha \in F$ and $a, b \in K$.*

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha \cdot (a + b) &= \alpha(a + b) \\ &= \alpha a + \alpha b \in K, \\ \alpha \cdot a + \alpha \cdot b &= \alpha a + \alpha b \in K.\end{aligned}$$

(5) *Show that $1 \cdot a = a$ for $a \in K$.* $1 \cdot a = 1a = a \in K$.

By (1) to (5), K is an F-vector space. □

Problem 1.1.2. *If K is a field extension of F, prove that $[K : F] = 1$ if and only if $K = F$.*

Proof.

(1) $[K : F] = 1 \Longleftarrow K = F$. Take a basis $\{1\}$ for K as an F-vector space.

(2) $[K:F]=1 \Longrightarrow K=F$. Take a basis $\{a\}$ for K as an F-vector space where $a \in K$. Since $1 \in K$ as an F-vector space, there exists $\alpha \in F$ such that $1 = \alpha a$. $a = \alpha^{-1} \in F$, or $K \subseteq F$, or $K = F$.

$\square$

Problem 1.1.5. *Show that* $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{7}) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}+\sqrt{7})$.

Proof.

(1) $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{7}) \supseteq \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}+\sqrt{7})$ since $\sqrt{5}+\sqrt{7} \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{7})$.

(2)

$$\begin{aligned}(\sqrt{7}+\sqrt{5})^{-1} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{7}+\sqrt{5}} \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{7}-\sqrt{5}}{(\sqrt{7}+\sqrt{5})(\sqrt{7}-\sqrt{5})} \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{7}-\sqrt{5}}{2} \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}+\sqrt{7}),\end{aligned}$$

Or $\sqrt{7}-\sqrt{5} \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}+\sqrt{7})$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{7} &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot ((\sqrt{7}+\sqrt{5}) + (\sqrt{7}-\sqrt{5})) \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}+\sqrt{7}), \\ \sqrt{5} &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot ((\sqrt{7}+\sqrt{5}) - (\sqrt{7}-\sqrt{5})) \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}+\sqrt{7}).\end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{7}) \subseteq \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}+\sqrt{7})$.

By (1)(2), $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{7}) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}+\sqrt{7})$. $\square$

Problem 1.1.9. *If K is an extension of F such that $[K:F]$ is prime, show that there are no intermediate fields between K and F.*

Proof. Let L be any field such that $F \subseteq L \subseteq K$. By Proposition 1.20,

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

Since $[K:F]$ is prime, $[K:L]=1$ or $[L:F]=1$. By Problem 1.1.2, $L=K$ or $L=F$, or there are no intermediate fields between K and F. $\square$

Problem 1.1.23. *Recall that the characteristic of a ring R with identity is the smallest positive integer n for which $n \cdot 1 = 0$, if such an n exists, or else the characteristic is 0. Let R be a ring with identity. Define $\varphi : \mathbb{Z} \to R$ by*

$\varphi(n) = n \cdot 1$, where 1 is the identity of R. Show that φ is a ring homomorphism and that $\ker(\varphi) = m\mathbb{Z}$ for a unique nonnegative integer m, and show that m is the characteristic of R.

Proof.

(1) *φ is a ring homomorphism.*

 (a) *$\varphi(a+b) = \varphi(a)+\varphi(b)$.* $\varphi(a+b) = (a+b)\cdot 1 = a\cdot 1+b\cdot 1 = \varphi(a)+\varphi(b)$.

 (b) *$\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$.* $\varphi(ab) = (ab) \cdot 1 = (a \cdot 1)(b \cdot 1) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$ since $1 \times 1 = 1$. (Here $\times$ is the multiplication operator of R.)

(2) $\ker(\varphi) = m\mathbb{Z}$ *for a unique nonnegative integer m.* Since $\ker(\varphi)$ is an ideal of a PID $\mathbb{Z}$, there is a unique nonnegative integer m such that $\ker(\varphi) = m\mathbb{Z}$.

(3) *m is the characteristic of R.* There are only two possible cases, $\mathrm{char}(R) = 0$ or else $\mathrm{char}(R) > 0$.

 (a) *char$(R) = 0$.* $\ker(\varphi) = 0$. Thus $m = 0 = \mathrm{char}(R)$.

 (b) *char$(R) = n > 0$.* $n \in \ker(\varphi)$, so $m > 0$ and $m \mid n$. By the minimality of n, $m = n = \mathrm{char}(R)$.

□

Problem 1.1.24. *For any positive integer n, give an example of a ring of characteristic n.*

Proof. The ring $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$. □

Problem 1.1.25. *If R is an integral domain, show that either char$(R) = 0$ or char(R) is prime.*

Proof.

(1) 1 has infinite order. $\mathrm{char}(R) = 0$. (Nothing to do.)

(2) 1 has finite order n. Want to show n is prime. If $n = ab$ where $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, then

$$0 = n \cdot 1 = (a \cdot 1)(b \cdot 1).$$

 Since R is an integral domain, $a \cdot 1 =$ or $b \cdot 1 = 0$. By the minimality of n, $a \geq n$ or $b \geq n$. $a = n$ or $b = n$. That is, n is prime.

□

Section 1.2: Automorphisms

Problem 1.2.1. *Show that the only automorphism of $\mathbb{Q}$ is the identity.*

Proof. Given any $\sigma \in \mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{Q})$.

(1) *Show that* $\sigma(1) = 1$. Since $1^2 = 1$, $\sigma(1)\sigma(1) = \sigma(1)$. $\sigma(1) = 0$ or 1. There are only two possible cases.

   (a) Assume that $\sigma(1) = 0$. So
   $$\sigma(a) = \sigma(a \cdot 1) = \sigma(a) \cdot \sigma(1) = \sigma(a) \cdot 0 = 0$$
   for any $a \in \mathbb{Q}$. That is, $\sigma = 0 \in \mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{Q})$, which is absurd.

   (b) Therefore, $\sigma(1) = 1$.

(2) *Show that* $\sigma(n) = n$ *for all* $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. Write $n = 1 + 1 + \cdots + 1$ (n times 1). Applying the additivity of σ, we have
$$\sigma(n) = \sigma(1) + \sigma(1) + \cdots + \sigma(1) = 1 + 1 + \cdots + 1 = n.$$
(Might use induction on n to eliminate $\cdots$ symbols.)

(3) *Show that* $\sigma(n) = n$ *for all* $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. By the additivity of σ, $\sigma(-n) = -\sigma(n) = -n$ for $n \geq 0$. The result is established.

For any $a = \frac{n}{m} \in \mathbb{Q}$ ($m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $n \neq 0$), applying the multiplication of σ on $am = n$, that is, $\sigma(a)\sigma(m) = \sigma(n)$. By (3), we have $\sigma(a)m = n$, or
$$\sigma(a) = \frac{m}{n} = a$$
provided $n \neq 0$, or σ is the identity. $\square$

Problem 1.2.2. *Show that the only automorphism of $\mathbb{R}$ is the identity. (Hint: If σ is an automorphism, show that $\sigma|_{\mathbb{Q}} = id$, and if $a > 0$, then $\sigma(a) > 0$. It is an interesting fact that there are infinitely many automorphisms of $\mathbb{C}$, even thought $[\mathbb{C} : \mathbb{R}] = 2$. Why is this fact not a contradiction to this problem?)*

Proof (Hint). Given any $\sigma \in \mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{R})$.

(1) Apply the same argument in Problem 1.2.1, we have $\sigma|_{\mathbb{Q}} = \mathrm{id}$. Notice that $\sigma(a) \neq 0$ for any $a \neq 0$.

(2) *Show that* $\sigma(a) > 0$ *if* $a > 0$. Given any $a > 0$. Write $a = \sqrt{a}\sqrt{a}$ (well-defined) and then apply σ on the both sides,
$$\sigma(a) = \sigma(\sqrt{a})\sigma(\sqrt{a}) = \sigma(\sqrt{a})^2 > 0$$
(since $\sqrt{a} \neq 0$ and thus $\sigma(\sqrt{a})$ cannot be zero).

(3) *Show that* $\sigma(a) > \sigma(b)$ *if* $a > b$. It is a corollary to (2) by applying σ on $a - b > 0$. ($\sigma(a-b) > 0$, or $\sigma(a) - \sigma(b) > 0$, or $\sigma(a) > \sigma(b)$.)

(4) For any real number $x \in \mathbb{R}$, choose two sequences $\{p_n\}, \{q_n\}$ of rational numbers such that $p_n < x < q_n$ and $p_n, q_n \to x$ as $n \to \infty$. Take σ on the inequality, $\sigma(p_n) < \sigma(x) < \sigma(q_n)$. So $p_n < \sigma(x) < q_n$ since $\sigma|_{\mathbb{Q}} = \text{id}$. Let $n \to \infty$, we get $x \leq \sigma(x) \leq x$, or $\sigma(x) = x$.

□