

Chapter 1: Galois Theory

Author: Meng-Gen Tsai
Email: plover@gmail.com

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. \square

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

- (2) $[K : F] = 1 \implies K = F$. 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 $K = F$.

□

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), $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{7}) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{7})$. □

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 . □

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 $\varphi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow R$ 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.

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

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

(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, $\text{char}(R) = 0$ or else $\text{char}(R) > 0$.

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

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

□

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 $\text{char}(R) = 0$ or $\text{char}(R)$ is prime.

Proof.

(1) 1 has infinite order. $\text{char}(R) = 0$. (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, $a \cdot 1 = 0$ 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 $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Q})$.

- (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, $\sigma = 0 \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Q})$, 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

$$\sigma(a) = \frac{n}{m} = a$$

provided $n \neq 0$, or σ is the identity. \square