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Meng-Gen Tsai plover@gmail.com

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# Chapter I: Galois Theory

# §I.1: Field Extensions

#### Problem I.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,

$$(\alpha\beta) \cdot a = \alpha\beta a \in K,$$
  
$$\alpha \cdot (\beta \cdot a) = \alpha\beta a \in K.$$

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

$$(\alpha + \beta) \cdot a = (\alpha + \beta)a$$
$$= \alpha a + \beta a \in K,$$
$$\alpha \cdot a + \beta \cdot a = \alpha a + \beta a \in K.$$

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

$$\alpha \cdot (a+b) = \alpha(a+b)$$

$$= \alpha a + \alpha b \in K,$$

$$\alpha \cdot a + \alpha \cdot b = \alpha a + \alpha b \in K.$$

(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 I.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)  $[K:F] = 1 \Longrightarrow K = F$ . 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.

#### Problem I.1.3.

Let K be a field extension of F, and let  $a \in K$ . Show that the evaluation map  $ev_a : F[x] \to K$  given by  $ev_a(f(x)) = f(a)$  is a ring and and F-vector space homomorphism. (Such a map is called an F-algebra homomorphism.)

Proof.

- (1)  $ev_a$  is a ring homomorphism.
  - (a)  $ev_a(f(x) + g(x)) = f(a) + g(a) = ev_a(f(x)) + ev_a(g(x)).$
  - (b)  $\operatorname{ev}_a(f(x)g(x)) = g(a)g(b) = \operatorname{ev}_a(f(x))\operatorname{ev}_a(g(x)).$
  - (c)  $ev_a(1) = 1$ .
- (2) ev<sub>a</sub> is an F-vector space homomorphism.
  - (a)  $ev_a(f(x) + g(x)) = f(a) + g(a) = ev_a(f(x)) + ev_a(g(x)).$
  - (b) Given  $c \in F$ ,  $\operatorname{ev}_a(cf(x)) = cf(a) = c\operatorname{ev}_a(f(x))$ .

# Problem I.1.4.

Prove Proposition 1.9: Let K be a field extension of F and let  $a_1, \ldots, a_n \in K$ . Then

$$F[a_1, \dots, a_n] = \{ f(a_1, \dots, a_n) : f \in F[x_1, \dots, x_n] \}$$

and

$$F(a_1, \dots, a_n) = \left\{ \frac{f(a_1, \dots, a_n)}{g(a_1, \dots, a_n)} : f, g \in F[x_1, \dots, x_n], g(a_1, \dots, a_n) \neq 0 \right\},\,$$

so  $F(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$  is the quotient field of  $F[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$ .

Proof (Proposition 1.8).

(1) The evaluation map  $\operatorname{ev}_{(a_1,\ldots,a_n)}:F[x_1,\ldots,x_n]\to K$  has image

$$\{f(a_1,\ldots,a_n): f\in F[x_1,\ldots,x_n]\},\$$

so this set is a subring of K.

(2) If R is a subring of K that contains F and  $a_1, \ldots, a_n$ , then

$$f(a_1,\ldots,a_n)\in R$$

for any  $f(x_1, ..., x_n) \in F[x_1, ..., x_n]$  by closure of addition and multiplication.

(3) So  $\{f(a_1,\ldots,a_n): f\in F[x_1,\ldots,x_n]\}$  is contained in all subrings of K that contains F and  $a_1,\ldots,a_n$ . Hence

$$F[a_1, \dots, a_n] = \{ f(a_1, \dots, a_n) : f \in F[x_1, \dots, x_n] \}.$$

(4) The quotient field of  $F[a_1, \ldots, a_n]$  is then the set

$$\left\{\frac{f(a_1,\ldots,a_n)}{g(a_1,\ldots,a_n)}: f,g\in F[x_1,\ldots,x_n], g(a_1,\ldots,a_n)\neq 0\right\}.$$

It is clearly is contained in any subfield of K that contains  $F[a_1, \ldots, a_n]$ ; hence, it is equal to  $F(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$ .

## Problem I.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)

$$(\sqrt{7} + \sqrt{5})^{-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{7} + \sqrt{5}}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{7} - \sqrt{5}}{(\sqrt{7} + \sqrt{5})(\sqrt{7} - \sqrt{5})}$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{7} - \sqrt{5}}{2} \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{7}),$$

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

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

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 I.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 I.1.2, L=K or L=F, or there are no intermediate fields between K and F.  $\square$ 

# Problem I.1.11.

If K is an algebraic extension of F and if R is a subring of K with  $F \subseteq R \subseteq K$ , show that R is a field.

Proof.

- (1) R is a domain since R is contained in a field K. To show R is a field, it suffices to show that every nonzero element  $\alpha \in R$  has an inverse in R.
- (2) Since  $\alpha \in R \subseteq K$  is algebraic over F, there is a minimal polynomial

$$f(x) = b_n x^n + b_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + b_0$$

such that  $f(\alpha) = 0$ , where each  $b_i \in F$  and  $b_0 \neq 0$  by the minimality of f.

(3) Note that

$$f(\alpha) = 0 \iff b_n \alpha^n + b_{n-1} \alpha^{n-1} + \dots + b_0 = 0 \iff b_n \alpha^n + b_{n-1} \alpha^{n-1} + \dots + b_1 \alpha = -b_0 \iff \alpha (b_n \alpha^{n-1} + b_{n-1} \alpha^{n-2} + \dots + b_1) = -b_0 \iff \alpha (\underbrace{(-b_0)^{-1} b_n \alpha^{n-1} + (-b_0)^{-1} b_{n-1} \alpha^{n-2} + \dots + (-b_0)^{-1} b_1}_{:=\alpha'}) = 1.$$

Hence  $\alpha' \in F[\alpha] \subseteq R$ . Therefore  $\alpha'$  is the inverse of  $\alpha$  in R.

# Problem I.1.12.

Show that  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$  and  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})$  are not isomorphic as fields but are isomorphic as vector spaces over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

Proof.

(1) Show that  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$  and  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})$  are not isomorphic as fields. (Reductio ad absurdum) If  $\varphi : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}) \to \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})$  were an isomorphism as fields, then  $\varphi$  is an identity map on  $\mathbb{Q}$ , and

$$\varphi(\sqrt{2}) = a + b\sqrt{3} \text{ for some } a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$$

$$\Longrightarrow \varphi(\sqrt{2})\varphi(\sqrt{2}) = (a + b\sqrt{3})^2$$

$$\Longrightarrow \varphi(\sqrt{2}\sqrt{2}) = (a + b\sqrt{3})^2$$

$$\Longrightarrow \varphi(2) = a^2 + 3b^2 + 2ab\sqrt{3}$$

$$\Longrightarrow 2 = a^2 + 3b^2 + 2ab\sqrt{3}.$$

If  $2ab \neq 0$ , then  $\sqrt{3} = \frac{2-a^2-3b^2}{2ab} \in \mathbb{Q}$ , which is absurd. Hence 2ab = 0.

(a) a = 0. Write  $b = \frac{m}{n} \in \mathbb{Q}$  where  $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and (m, n) = 1. Hence

$$2n^2 = 3m^2.$$

So  $2 \mid 3m^2$ ,  $2 \mid m^2$ ,  $2 \mid m$ . So  $4 \mid 2n^2$ ,  $2 \mid n^2$ ,  $2 \mid n$ . Hence  $2 \mid (m, n)$ , contrary to the assumption that (m, n) = 1.

(b) b=0.  $2=a^2$ . Write  $a=\frac{m}{n}\in\mathbb{Q}$  where  $m,n\in\mathbb{Z}$  and (m,n)=1. Similar to the argument in (a), we will reach a contradiction.

By (a)(b), no such isomorphism  $\varphi$ , that is,  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$  and  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})$  are not isomorphic as fields.

(2) Show that  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$  and  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})$  are isomorphic as  $\mathbb{Q}$ -vector spaces.  $[\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}):\mathbb{Q}]=[\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3}):\mathbb{Q}]=2$ . There is a natural map  $\varphi:\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})\to\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})$  defined by  $\varphi(a+b\sqrt{2})=a+b\sqrt{3}$ . Clearly  $\varphi$  is well-defined, linear, injective and surjective.

# Problem I.1.16.

Let  $\mathbb{A}$  be the algebraic closure of  $\mathbb{Q}$  in  $\mathbb{C}$ . Prove that  $[\mathbb{A}:\mathbb{Q}]=\infty$ .

*Proof (Example 1.16).* By Example 1.16,  $[\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[n]{2}):\mathbb{Q}]=n$ . Therefore,

$$[\mathbb{A}:\mathbb{Q}] = [\mathbb{A}:\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[n]{2})][\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[n]{2}):\mathbb{Q}] = [\mathbb{A}:\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[n]{2})]n$$

for arbitrary  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . Hence  $[\mathbb{A} : \mathbb{Q}] = \infty$ .  $\square$ 

Proof (Example 1.16). Given a prime number p. By Example 1.16,  $[\mathbb{Q}(\rho):\mathbb{Q}] = p-1$  where  $\rho = \exp(2\pi i/p)$ . Therefore,

$$[\mathbb{A}:\mathbb{Q}] = [\mathbb{A}:\mathbb{Q}(\rho)][\mathbb{Q}(\rho):\mathbb{Q}] = [\mathbb{A}:\mathbb{Q}(\rho)](p-1)$$

for arbitrary prime p. Hence  $[\mathbb{A} : \mathbb{Q}] = \infty$ .  $\square$ 

## Problem I.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  $\varphi$  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)  $\varphi$  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, char(R) = 0 or else char(R) > 0.
  - (a) char(R) = 0.  $ker(\varphi) = 0$ . Thus m = 0 = 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 = char(R).

## Problem I.1.24.

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

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

# Problem I.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. 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,  $a \cdot 1 = \text{or } b \cdot 1 = 0$ . By the minimality of n,  $a \ge n$  or  $b \ge n$ . a = n or b = n. That is, n is prime.

# §I.2: Automorphisms

# Problem I.2.1.

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

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

- (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,  $\sigma = 0 \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathbb{Q})$ , 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  $\sigma$ , we have

$$\sigma(n) = \sigma(1) + \sigma(1) + \dots + \sigma(1) = 1 + 1 + \dots + 1 = n.$$

(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  $\sigma$ ,  $\sigma(-n) = -\sigma(n) = -n$  for  $n \ge 0$ . 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  $\sigma$  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  $\sigma$  is the identity.  $\square$ 

#### Problem I.2.2.

Show that the only automorphism of  $\mathbb{R}$  is the identity. (Hint: If  $\sigma$  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  $\sigma \in Aut(\mathbb{R})$ .

- (1) Apply the same argument in Problem I.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  $\sigma$  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  $\sigma$  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  $\sigma$  on the inequality,  $\sigma(p_n) < \sigma(x) < \sigma(q_n)$ . So  $p_n < \sigma(x) < q_n$  since  $\sigma|_{\mathbb{Q}} = \mathrm{id}$ . Let  $n \to \infty$ , we get  $x \le \sigma(x) \le x$ , or  $\sigma(x) = x$ .

**Supplement.** Automorphisms of the Complex Numbers. by Paul B. Yale (Pomona College) [Link].

#### Problem I.2.4.

Let B be an integral domain with quotient field F. If  $\sigma: B \to B$  is a ring automorphism, show that  $\sigma$  induces a ring automorphism  $\sigma': F \to F$  defined by  $\sigma'(a/b) = \sigma(a)/\sigma(b)$  if  $a, b \in B$  with  $b \neq 0$ .

Proof.

- (1) Show that  $\sigma'$  is well-defined.
  - (a)  $\sigma': F \to F$  is defined.  $\sigma(a), \sigma(b) \in B$  since  $\sigma$  is a homomorphism.  $\sigma(b) \neq 0$  since  $b \neq 0$  and  $\sigma$  is a one-on-one homomorphism.
  - (b)  $\sigma'$  is independent of the representation of  $a/b \in F$ . Suppose a/b = c/d where  $a, b, c, d \in B$  and  $b, d \neq 0$ . Hence,

$$a/b = c/d \iff ad = bc$$

$$\iff \sigma(ad) = \sigma(bc)$$

$$\iff \sigma(a)\sigma(d) = \sigma(b)\sigma(c) \qquad (\sigma: \text{ homomorphism})$$

$$\iff \sigma(a)/\sigma(d) = \sigma(c)/\sigma(d) \qquad (\sigma(b), \sigma(d) \neq 0)$$

$$\iff \sigma'(a/b) = \sigma'(c/d).$$

- (2) Show that  $\sigma'$  is a ring homomorphism.
  - (a) Show that  $\sigma'(a/b + c/d) = \sigma'(a/b) + \sigma'(c/d)$ .  $\sigma'(a/b + c/d) = \sigma'((ad + bc)/(bd))$   $= \sigma(ad + bc)/\sigma(bd)$   $= (\sigma(a)\sigma(d) + \sigma(b)\sigma(c))/(\sigma(b)\sigma(d)) \quad (\sigma: \text{ homomorphism})$   $= \sigma(a)/\sigma(b) + \sigma(c)/\sigma(d)$

$$= \sigma'(a/b) + \sigma'(c/d).$$

(b) Show that  $\sigma'(a/b \cdot c/d) = \sigma'(a/b) \cdot \sigma'(c/d)$ .

$$\begin{split} \sigma'(a/b \cdot c/d) &= \sigma'((ac)/(bd)) \\ &= \sigma(ac)/\sigma(bd) \\ &= (\sigma(a)\sigma(c))/(\sigma(b)\sigma(d)) \qquad (\sigma\colon \text{homomorphism}) \\ &= \sigma(a)/\sigma(b) \cdot \sigma(c)/\sigma(d) \\ &= \sigma'(a/b) \cdot \sigma'(c/d). \end{split}$$

(3) Show that  $\sigma'$  is injective.

$$\sigma'(a/b) = 0 \iff \sigma(a)/\sigma(b) = 0$$

$$\iff \sigma(a) = 0$$

$$\iff a = 0 \qquad (\sigma: injective)$$

$$\iff a/b = 0/b = 0 \in F$$

(4) Show that  $\sigma'$  is a surjective. Given any  $c/d \in F$ , want to show there is  $a/b \in F$  such that  $\sigma'(a/b) = c/d$ .

$$c/d \in F \Longrightarrow c, d \in B$$
  
 $\Longrightarrow \exists a, b \in B \text{ such that } \sigma(a) = c, \sigma(b) = d \quad (\sigma: \text{ surjective})$   
 $\Longrightarrow \exists a, b \in B \text{ such that } \sigma(a)/\sigma(b) = c/d$   
 $\Longrightarrow \exists a, b \in B \text{ such that } \sigma'(a/b) = c/d.$