

## Embeddings of fields

Let  $E/F$  be an extension of fields. If

$$\sigma: F \hookrightarrow L$$

is an embedding, then denote by

$$F^\sigma$$

the image of  $F$  in  $L$ . Sometimes we use  $\sigma F$  instead of  $F^\sigma$ . Then, an embedding

$$\tau: E \rightarrow L$$

is over  $\sigma$  if  $\tau|_F = \sigma$ . We also say that  $\tau$  extends  $\sigma$ .

If  $\sigma$  is identity on  $F$ , then we simply say that  $\tau$  is an embedding over  $F$ .

### Lemma

*Let  $E/k$  be an algebraic extension. If  $\sigma: E \rightarrow E$  is an embedding of  $E$  into itself over  $k$ . Then,  $\sigma$  is an automorphism.*

## Proof

Since any homomorphism between fields is injective, it suffices to show that  $\sigma$  is surjective. Let  $\alpha \in E$  be an arbitrary element. We will show that  $\alpha$  is in the image of  $\sigma$ .

Let  $P(X)$  be the minimal polynomial of  $\alpha$  over  $k$ . Consider  $F = k(\alpha: \alpha \in E, P(\alpha) = 0)$ , the field generated by all roots of  $P(X)$  in  $E$ . Note that  $P(\alpha) = 0$  implies that  $P(\sigma(\alpha)) = 0$  because  $\sigma$  is identity on  $k$ . This means that  $F^\sigma \subset F$ . Note that  $P(X)$  has a finite number of roots in  $E$ , so  $F/k$  is finite. Since  $F \rightarrow F^\sigma$  is an injective  $k$ -linear map between finite dimensional vector spaces of an equal dimension,  $F \simeq F^\sigma$  and  $\alpha$  is in the image of  $\sigma$ .

## Question

Find a counter-example to the lemma when  $E/k$  is not algebraic.