

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 σF instead of F^σ . Then, an embedding

$$\tau: E \rightarrow L$$

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

If σ is identity on F , then we simply say that τ 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, σ is an automorphism.

Proof

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

Let $P(X)$ be the minimal polynomial of α 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 σ 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 vectors spaces of an equal dimension, $F \simeq F^\sigma$ and α is in the image of σ .

Question

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