

## Compositum and embeddings

Let  $E_1, E_2$  be fields contained in some large field  $E$ . Let  $\sigma$  be an embedding of  $E$  into another field  $L$ .

### Lemma

We have  $\sigma(E_1 E_2) = \sigma(E_1) \sigma(E_2)$ .

To prove the lemma we introduce an explicit generating set for the compositum of two fields  $F$  and  $E$  contained in some large field. The field generated by fractions of the form

$$\frac{a_1 b_1 + \cdots + a_m b_m}{a'_1 b'_1 + \cdots + a'_n b'_n}$$

with  $a_i, a'_j \in E$ ,  $b_i, b'_j \in F$  is  $EF$ .

## Proof

We show that  $\sigma(E_1)\sigma(E_2)$  and  $\sigma(E_1E_2)$  are generated by the same set.  $\sigma(E_1)\sigma(E_2)$  is generated by elements of the form

$$\frac{a_1^\sigma b_1^\sigma + \cdots + a_m^\sigma b_m^\sigma}{a_1'^\sigma b_1'^\sigma + \cdots + a_n'^\sigma b_n'^\sigma}$$

with  $a_i, a'_j \in E$ ,  $b_i, b'_j \in F$ . This generator is equal to

$$\sigma \left( \frac{a_1 b_1 + \cdots + a_m b_m}{a_1' b_1' + \cdots + a_n' b_n'} \right)$$

so it is in the generating set of  $\sigma(E_1E_2)$ .

## Question

Let  $p$  be a prime and  $r, s$  be positive integers. Let  $F, E$  be finite fields with  $p^r$  and  $p^s$  elements, respectively. Find some large field containing both  $F$  and  $E$  and the degree of their compositum.