

splitting fields

Let k be a field and $f \in k[X]$ be a non-constant polynomial.

Definition

A splitting field L of f means a field extension L/k such that f splits into linear factors in $L[X]$, and that L is generated by the roots of f over k .

Theorem

Let L be a splitting field of a non-constant polynomial f . If E is another splitting field of f , then there exists an isomorphism $E \simeq L$. Moreover, if k^a is an algebraic closure of k and $k \subset L \subset k^a$, then any embedding

$$E \rightarrow k^a$$

over k induces an isomorphism $E \simeq L$.

proof

Suppose that E/k is another splitting field. Let L^a be an algebraic closure of L . Then, it is an algebraic closure of k as well. Then, there exists an embedding

$$\sigma: E \rightarrow L^a$$

over k . If β_1, \dots, β_r are the roots of f in E with multiplicity, then, $\sigma(\beta_1), \dots, \sigma(\beta_r)$ are the roots of f in L^a with multiplicity. It follows that $\sigma(E)$ is generated by the roots of f . Since L is a splitting field, $\sigma(E) = L$ and σ induces $E \simeq L$.

More generally, a splitting field for a family $(f_i)_{i \in I}$ of polynomials is an extension L/k such that each f_i splits into linear factors in L and that L is generated by all the roots of f_i . Here, the set I is allowed to be infinite.

Question

Show that the theorem holds for splitting fields for a family $(f_i)_{i \in I}$ of polynomials. Namely, if E, K are two splitting fields for the same family, then any embedding $E \rightarrow K^a$ over k induces an isomorphism $E \simeq K$.