# **Title**

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# 1 Sunday, August 30

## 1.1 Base Extension

Given some object A/k and  $k \hookrightarrow \ell$  is a field extension, we would like some extended object  $A/\ell$ .

### Example 1.1.

An affine variety V/k is given by finitely many polynomials in  $p_i \in k[t_1, \dots, t_n]$ , and base extension comes from the map  $k[t_1, \dots, t_n] \hookrightarrow \ell[t_1, \dots, t_n]$ .

More algebraically, we have the affine coordinate ring over k given by  $k[V] = k[t_1, \dots, t_n]/\langle p_i \rangle$ , the ring of polynomial functions on the zero locus corresponding to this variety. We can similarly replace k be  $\ell$  in this definition. Here we can observe that  $\ell[V] \cong k[V] \otimes_k \ell$ .

In general we have a map

$$\begin{array}{c} \cdot \otimes_k \ell \\ \{k\text{-vector space}\} \longrightarrow \{\ell\text{-vector spaces}\} \\ \{k\text{-algebras}\} \longrightarrow \{\ell\text{-algebras}\} \,. \end{array}$$

Note that this will be an exact functor on the category k-Vect, i.e.  $\ell$  is a flat module. Here everything is free, and free  $\implies$  flat, so things work out nicely.

What about for function fields?

Since k is a k-algebra, we can consider  $k \otimes_k \ell$ , however this need not be a field.

Note: tensor products of fields come up very often, but don't seem to be explicitly covered in classes! We'll broach this subject here.

#### Exercise 1.1.

If  $\ell/k$  is algebraic and  $\ell \otimes_k \ell$  is a domain, the  $\ell = k$ .

I.e. this is rarely a domain. Hint: start with the monogenic case, and also reduce to the case where the extension is not just algebraic but finite.

Tensor products of field extensions are still interesting: if  $\ell/k$  is finite, it is galois  $\iff \ell \otimes_k \ell \cong \ell^{[\ell:k]}$ . So its dimension as an  $\ell$ -algebra is equal to the degree of  $\ell/k$ , so it splits as a product of copies of  $\ell$ .

#### Remark 1.

We'd like the tensor product of a field to be a field, or at least a domain where we can take the fraction field and get a field. This hints that we should not be tensoring algebraic extensions, but rather transcendental ones.

### Exercise 1.2.

For  $\ell/k$  a field extension,

- a. Show  $k(t) \otimes_k \ell$  is a domain with fraction field  $\ell(t)$ .
- b. Show it is a field  $\iff \ell/k$  is algebraic.

## Proposition 1.1(FT 12.7, 12.8).

Let  $k_1, k_2/k$  are field extensions, and suppose  $k_1 \otimes_k k_2$  is a domain. Then this is a field  $\iff$  at least one of  $k_1/k$  or  $k_2/k$  is algebraic.

Reminder: for  $\ell/k$  and  $\alpha \in \ell$  algebraic over k, then  $k(\alpha) = k[\alpha]$ .

So we'll concentrate on when  $K \otimes_k \ell$  is a domain. What's the condition on a function field K/k that guarantees this, i.e. when extending scalars from k to  $\ell$  still yields a domain? If this remains a domain, we'll take the fraction field and call it the *base change*.

### Exercise 1.3.

If K/k is finitely generated (i.e. a function field) and  $K \otimes_k \ell$  is a domain, then  $ff(K \otimes_k \ell)/\ell$  is finitely generated.

The point: if taking a function field and extending scalars still results in a domain, we'll call the result a function field as well.

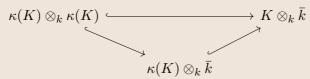
Most of all, we want to base change to the algebraic closure. We'll have issues if the constant field is not just k itself:

#### Lemma 1.2.

If  $K \otimes_k \bar{k}$  is a domain, then the constant field  $\kappa(K) = k$ .

#### Proof.

Use the fact that  $\cdot \otimes_k V$  is exact. We then get an injection



Here we use the injections  $\kappa(K) \hookrightarrow \bar{k}$  and  $\kappa(K) \hookrightarrow K$ .

We now have an injection of k-algebras, and subrings of domains are domains. So apply the first exercise: the only way this can happen is if  $\kappa(K) = k$ .

#### Exercise 1.4.

The simplest possible case: describe  $\mathbb{C}(t) \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C}$ , tensored as  $\mathbb{R}$ -algebras.

Won't be a domain by the lemma, some  $\mathbb{C}(t)$ -algebra of dimension 2.

In order to have a good base change for our function fields, we want to constant extension to be trivial, i.e.  $\kappa(K) = k$ . This requires that the ground field be algebraically closed.

In this case, you might expect that extending scalars to the algebraic closure would yield a field again. This is true in characteristic zero, but false in positive characteristic.

A more precise question: if  $\kappa(K) = k$ , must  $K \otimes_K \bar{k}$  be a field? If that's true and we're in positive characteristic, recalling the for an algebraic extension this being a field is equivalent to it being a domain. But if that's a domain, the tensor product of every algebraic extension must be a domain, which is why this is an important case.

If so, then  $K \otimes_k k^{\frac{1}{p}}$  is a field, where  $k^{\frac{1}{p}} := k(\left\{x^{\frac{1}{p}} \mid x \in k\right\})$  is obtained by adjoining all pth roots of all elements. This is a purely inseparable extension. The latter condition (this tensor product being a field) is one of several equivalent conditions for a field to be separable.

Note that frobenius maps  $k^{\frac{1}{p}} \rightarrow k$ , so this is sort of like inverting this map.

Remember that K/k is transcendental, and there is an extended notion of separability for non-algebraic extensions. Another equivalent condition is that every finitely generated subextension is separably generated, i.e. it admits a transcendence basis  $\{x_i\}$  such that  $k \hookrightarrow k(\{x_i\}) \hookrightarrow F$  where  $F/k(\{x_i\})$  is algebraic and separable. Such a transcendence basis is called a *separating transcendence basis*. Since we're only looking at finitely generated extensions, we wont' have to worry much about the difference between separable and separably generated.