
Algebra II



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Information

Time & Room	MWF 13:30-14:20, Lockett 232
Exam	Monday May 5, 10:00-12:00
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Here's what we're going to cover:

- Chapter 13-14, Field and Galois theory;
- Chapter 15, Commutative algebra and algebras over a field;
- Chapter 10, Basics for modules and their tensor products;
- Chapter 18, Wedderburn's theorem, Maschke's theorem and linear representations of finite groups;
- POSSIBLY Chapter 17, homological algebra.

Grade Distribution

Homework	60%
Midterm	20%
Final	20%

Chapter 13

Field Theory

13.1 Extensions

Definition 13.1.1 (Field). *A field is a commutative ring in which every nonzero element is invertible.*

We denote by $F^\times = F \setminus \{0\}$ the set of all invertible elements of the field F .

In general, we denote R^\times as the set of all units of the ring R .

Definition 13.1.2 (Characteristic). *Let F be a field with identity 1. The characteristic of F is the order of 1 in the group $(F, +)$. If the order of 1 is not finite, we define the characteristic of F to be 0.*

We denote the characteristic as $\text{ch}(F)$.


We know that $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ is a field of order p if p is a prime.

Because \mathbb{Q} has $n \cdot 1 \neq 0$ for $n \neq 0$, $\text{ch}(\mathbb{Q}) = 0$. Some other fields with characteristic zero are $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C}(x) \dots$

We denote by $\mathbb{Z}_p(x)$ as the field of rational functions over \mathbb{Z}_p . That is, we're adjoining the element x . It is an infinite field with finite characteristic.

Let's say that G is an abelian group. If we write it multiplicatively, $g^n = g \cdots g$ n -many times. If we write it additively, we write $g = ng$.

Proposition 13.1.3 (Characteristic of a Field). *The characteristic of a field is 0 or a prime number.*

Proof. Towards a contradiction, let F be a field with $\text{ch}(F) \neq 0$. Then $\text{ch}(F) = nm$ for $1 < n, m < \text{ch}(F)$. Because $n \cdot 1_F := n, m \cdot 1_F := m \in F$, we have that $n \cdot m = nm \cdot 1_F = 0$. 

Definition 13.1.4 (Prime Subfield). *Let F be a field. The prime subfield of F is the subfield generated by 1.*

We follow with examples.


(a) $\mathbb{Z}_p(x) \geq \mathbb{Z}_p$.

(b) $\mathbb{R} > \mathbb{Q} \geq \mathbb{Q}$.

Proposition 13.1.5 (Prime Subfield). *Let F be a field and K the prime subfield of F . If $\text{ch}(F) = p \neq 0$, then $K \cong \mathbb{Z}_p$. If $\text{ch}(F) = 0$, $K \cong \mathbb{Q}$.*

Proof. Define $\varphi : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow F$; $\varphi(n) = n1$. We know that φ is a ring homomorphism; I omit the proof for being rather repetitive. Such a proof is necessary to remember, however.

The kernel of φ is an ideal. In particular, because \mathbb{Z} is a principal ideal domain, $\ker(\varphi) = (a)$ for some nonnegative integer a . If $a = 1$, φ is the zero map. If $a = 0$, φ is injective. In this case, $\mathbb{Z} \cong \varphi(\mathbb{Z}) \subset F$. Hence, $\mathbb{Q} \xrightarrow{\tilde{\varphi}} F$ (this is to be read \mathbb{Q} extends to F), so $K \cong \mathbb{Q}$.

In the case that $a \neq 0$, then $a1 = 0$. This implies that $\text{ch}(F) = p|a$. Hence $(p) \subset \ker(\varphi) = (a) \subset (p)$; Thus $(p) = (a)$. Thus, $a = p$. Hence $\varphi(\mathbb{Z}) \cong \mathbb{Z}/(p) = \mathbb{Z}_p$ by the first isomorphism theorem, so $K \cong \mathbb{Z}_p$. 

Definition 13.1.6 (Extension). *If F contains a subfield K , we call F an extension of K , written as F/K .*

In this case, we have the diagram

$$\begin{array}{c} F \\ | \\ K \end{array}$$

Additionally, F is a K -vector space.

We denote the dimension or index of the extension $\dim_K F = [F : K]$.

For example, $\mathbb{C} \geq \mathbb{Q}$, so \mathbb{C} is a \mathbb{Q} -linear space of uncountably infinite dimension: $[\mathbb{C} : \mathbb{Q}] = \infty$.

In a particularly obvious case, we have $[\mathbb{C} : \mathbb{R}] = 2$ for the extension \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R} .


Let's take $\mathbb{Q}(i) = \{a + bi | a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}$; $\mathbb{Q}(i)/\mathbb{Q}$ is an extension of degree 2.

Theorem 13.1.7 (Extension Index). *Let $L/K, K/F$ be finite extensions. Then L/F is finite and $[L : F] = [L : K][K : F]$.*

$$\begin{array}{c}
 L \\
 \Big|_{[L:K] < \infty} \\
 K \\
 \Big|_{[K:F] < \infty} \\
 F
 \end{array}$$

In time, we learn these are tensor products.

Proof. Let $A = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\}$ be a basis for K over F and $B = \{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m\}$ be a basis for L over K . Let $C = \{\alpha_i \beta_j \mid i \in [n], j \in [m]\}$. Naturally, $|C| = mn$. We seek to show that C is a basis. Let $x \in L$; then $x = \sum_{i=1}^n k_i \beta_i$ for some $k_i \in K$. But each k_i can be written as $k_i = \sum_{j=1}^m f_{ij} \alpha_j$. Hence, $x = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m f_{ij} \alpha_j \beta_i$. Hence, C spans L over F .

Suppose now that $\sum f_{ij} \alpha_j \beta_i = 0$. Then $\sum_i \left(\sum_j f_{ij} \alpha_j \right) \beta_i = 0$. By the independence of B over K , and A over F , $f_{ij} = 0$. Thus C is independent and C is a basis. 


Theorem 13.1.8 (Finite Subextension). *If L/F is finite and K/F is a subextension, that is,*

$$\begin{array}{c}
 L \\
 \Big| \\
 K \\
 \Big| \\
 F
 \end{array}$$

then K/F is finite and $[K:F][L:F]$.

A neat consequence of this is: If L/F is finite and $[L:F]$ is prime, L/F has no nontrivial subextensions.

Proposition 13.1.9 (Field to Ring Homomorphism). *If $\varphi: F \rightarrow R$ is a ring homomorphism with $\varphi(1_F) \rightarrow 1_R$ where F is a field and R is a ring. Then φ is injective.*


Proof. The only ideals of F are (0) and F . As $\varphi(1) = 1$, $\ker(\varphi) \neq F$ so $\ker \varphi = 0$ and φ is injective. 

Let F be a field and $F[x]$ be a polynomial ring over F . Then, $F[x]^\times = F^\times$. Let p be irreducible in $F[x]$ and let $K = \frac{F[x]}{(p(x))}$, a field as $(p(x))$ is maximal.

Then, every element is of the form $\overline{f(x)} = f(x) + (p(x))$. Now, define $\varphi : F \rightarrow K$ via $\varphi(\alpha) = \alpha + (p(x))$. Naturally, $\varphi(1) = 1 + (p(x))$, $\varphi(\alpha + \beta) = \varphi(\alpha) + \varphi(\beta)$, and $\varphi(\alpha\beta) = \varphi(\alpha)\varphi(\beta)$ so it is a ring homomorphism. Therefore, φ is an embedding and $F \cong \varphi(F)$. Identify $F \equiv \overline{F} \subset K$.

Theorem 13.1.10 (Polynomial Extension). *Let $p(x) \in F[x]$ be an irreducible polynomial. Then $p(x)$ has a root $\theta = x + (p(x)) \in K$ and $[K : F] = \deg p(x)$. Moreover, the set $\{1, \theta, \dots, \theta^{\deg p(x)-1}\}$ is a basis of K over F .*

Proof. $p(\theta) = p(x) + (p(x)) = (p(x)) = 0$ in K . We want to show that $\{1, \theta, \dots, \theta^{\deg p(x)-1}\}$ is a basis. For any $\overline{f(x)} \in K$, $\overline{f(x)} = f(x) + (p(x))$. By the division algorithm, $f(x)/p(x) = r(x)$ where $\deg r(x) < \deg p(x)$ or $r(x) = 0$. Let $r(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} a_i x^i$ for some $a_i \in F$. Moreover, $\overline{f(x)} = \overline{r(x)} = a_0 \overline{1} + a_1 \overline{x} + \dots + a_{n-1} \overline{x^{n-1}} = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} a_i \theta^i$ and hence $\{1, \theta, \dots, \theta^{\deg p(x)-1}\}$ spans.

Linear independence is left to the reader. 

We were working on field extensions $K = \frac{F[x]}{(p(x))}$ where p is irreducible over F .

If $\theta = x + (p(x)) \in K$, then $p(\theta) = 0$. Moreover, $\{1, \theta, \dots, \theta^{n-1}\}$ spans K over F where $n = \deg p(x)$.


We want to show that $\{1, \theta, \dots, \theta^{n-1}\}$ is linearly independent over F .

Suppose $a_0 + a_1 \theta + \dots + a_{n-1} \theta^{n-1} = 0$ in K .

Consider the polynomial $g(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + \dots + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} \in F[x]$. This implies that $g(\theta) = 0$ in K . This means that $g(x) + (p(x)) = 0$. Hence $g(x) \in (p(x))$, so $p(x) | g(x)$. This is a contradiction as $\deg p > \deg g$, unless $g \equiv 0$ and $a_0, \dots, a_{n-1} = 0$.


Therefore, $K = F[x]/(p(x))$ is an extension in which $p(x)$ has a root.

Theorem 13.1.11 (Existence of Root Extensions). *Let $f(x) \in F[x]$ be a nonconstant polynomial. There exists a field extension in which $f(x)$ has a root.*

Proof. Because $F[x]$ is a PID, we have the unique factorization $f(x) = p_1(x) \cdots p_n(x)$ for some irreducible p_i . By the preceding theorem, there exists a field K in which p_1 has a root. Therefore, $f(x)$ shares this root in K . 

Theorem 13.1.12 (Existence of Root Extensions (again)). *Let $f(x) \in F[x]$ be a nonconstant polynomial. There exists a field extension in which $f(x)$ splits.*

Proof. Because $F[x]$ is a PID, we have the unique factorization $f(x) = p_1(x) \cdots p_n(x)$ for some irreducible p_i . By the preceding theorem, there

exists a field K in which each p_i has a root. Iterate this process for all i to obtain the field. 

For example, take the polynomial $x^2 + x + 1$ over \mathbb{Q} . If θ is a root, then it naturally has degree 2 so the extension field K has $[K : \mathbb{Q}] = 2$.

Let's do something concrete. We know that $\mathbb{C} \geq \mathbb{Q}$, so if we compute the roots of $p(x) = x^2 + x + 1$, we have the roots of unity of degree 3;

$$\theta = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{-3}}{2} = e^{\pm 2\pi i/3}.$$

It turns out that extending by either root induces isomorphic fields.


Definition 13.1.13 (Subfield Generation). *Let K/F be an extension and let $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots \in K$. $F(\alpha_1, \dots)$ denotes the smallest subfield of K containing F and each α_i . We call this construction the subfield of K generated by F and α_1, \dots*

We call $F(\alpha)$ a simple extension when we only extend via one element. Moreover, note that $F(\alpha_1, \alpha_2) = F(\alpha_1)(\alpha_2)$.

However, we can very bad simple extensions. Take $\mathbb{Q} \leq \mathbb{Q}(x)$, rational functions over \mathbb{Q} .

Let's say that α is a root of $x^2 + x + 1$ in \mathbb{C} . Then $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha) = \{a + b\alpha \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}$.

Proposition 13.1.14 (Polynomial Extension Isomorphism). *Let K be an extension of F and $\alpha \in K$ is a root of an irreducible polynomial $p(x) \in F[x]$. Then, as a field, $F[\alpha] \cong F[x]/(p(x))$.*

Proof. Define $\phi : F[x] \rightarrow K$, where $f(x) \mapsto f(\alpha)$. This is naturally a ring homomorphism; we omit the verification. Then, $\ker \phi = (g(x))$ for some $g(x) \in F[x]$. Because $p(\alpha) = 0$, $p(x) \in g(x)$. Hence, $g(x) \mid p(x)$. Because p is irreducible, $g(x), p(x)$ are associates and $(g(x)) = (p(x))$. Therefore, by the first isomorphism theorem, $F[x]/(p(x)) \cong \text{im } \phi = F(\alpha)$ (If we were to do every single detail, we'd have to show two-way containment). Moreover, $x + (p(x)) \mapsto \alpha$. 

This demonstrates that $F(\alpha)/F$ is a finite extension.

Theorem 13.1.15 (Polynomial Root Extension Isomorphism). *Let K/F be an extension and $p(x)$ be irreducible in $F[x]$. If α_1, α_2 are two roots of $p(x)$ in K , $F(\alpha_1) \cong F(\alpha_2)$ via $\alpha_1 \mapsto \alpha_2$.*

13.2 Algebraic Extensions

Definition 13.2.1 (Algebraic Extension). *K/F is called an algebraic extension if α is a root of a polynomial $f(x)$ for every $\alpha \in K$.*

If α is not algebraic, we say that α is transcendental.


For example, $\pi \in \mathbb{C}$ is transcendental over \mathbb{Q} , but $\sqrt{2}$ is algebraic.

A few criteria for extensions to be algebraic:

Lemma 13.2.2 (Finite Extension is Algebraic). *If K/F is finite, then K/F is algebraic.*


Proof. Interpret K as a finite dimensional vector space over F . Let $n = \deg_F K$. Let $\alpha \in K$. The set $1, \alpha, \dots, \alpha^n$ is dependent, so there are coefficients a_k , not all 0, so that

$$a_0 + a_1\alpha + \dots + a_k\alpha^n = 0.$$


Then α is a root of $a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_kx^n$. 

Proposition 13.2.3 (Minimal Polynomial). *Let $\alpha \in K$ be algebraic over F . Then there exists a unique monic irreducible polynomial $m_{\alpha,F}(x)$ such that α is a root.*

Moreover, for any polynomial $f(x) \in F[x]$ such that $f(\alpha) = 0$, $m_{\alpha,F} | f(x)$ in $F[x]$.


Proof. Consider the ring homomorphism $\varphi : F[x] \rightarrow K$ defined by $\varphi(f(x)) = f(\alpha)$. The kernel is a principal ideal and hence uniquely generated by a monic polynomial $m_{\alpha,F}$. Clearly, the second statement follows as $f \in (m_{\alpha,F})$. By the first isomorphism theorem, $F[x]/(m_{\alpha,F}) \cong \varphi(F[x] \subset K)$ so it is an integral domain and hence $(m_{\alpha,F})$ is prime. Hence, $m_{\alpha,F}$ is irreducible and we are done. 

Theorem 13.2.4 (Intermediate Extension Polynomial Divisibility). *Let L/F be an extension and $\alpha \in K$ be algebraic over F . Then $m_{\alpha,L}(x) | m_{\alpha,F}(x)$ in $L[x]$.*

Proof. Whence $m_{\alpha,F}(\alpha) \in L[x]$, so $m_{\alpha,L} | m_{\alpha,F}$. 

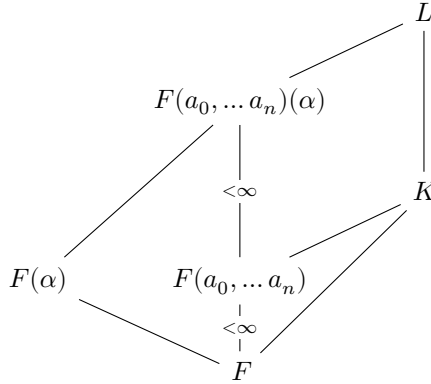
Theorem 13.2.5 (Isomorphism of Extensions). *Let $\alpha \in K$ be algebraic over F . Then $F(\alpha) \cong F[x]/(m_{\alpha,F})$ and $\{1, \alpha, \dots, \alpha^{n-1}\}$ is a basis of $F(\alpha)$ over F , where $n = \deg(m_{\alpha,F})$.*

Theorem 13.2.6 (Algebraic Subfield). *An element $\alpha \in K/F$ is algebraic over F if and only if $F(\alpha)/F$ is finite. The set \bar{F} of all algebraic elements in K/F is a subfield of K .*

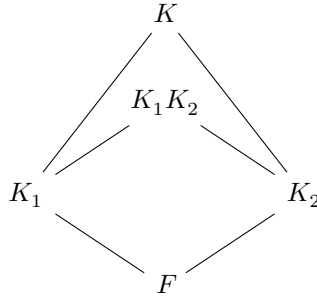
Proof. The first statement follows immediately. Let $\alpha, \beta \in K$ be algebraic over F . Then $F(\alpha, \beta)$ is finite. Thus, the sum and product of α, β are in $F(\alpha, \beta)$ and $\alpha^{-1} \in F(\alpha, \beta)$. Thus, \bar{F} is a subfield. 

Proposition 13.2.7 (Transitivity of Extensions). *If $L/K, K/F$ are algebraic, then L/F is algebraic.*

Proof. Let $\alpha \in L$. Then α is algebraic over K , so α is a root of $a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n \in K[x]$. Since $[F(a_0, \dots, a_n)(\alpha) : F(a_0, \dots, a_n)] < \infty$, and each a_k is algebraic over F , $[F(a_0, \dots, a_n, \alpha) : F] < \infty$ implying that α is algebraic over F .




Definition 13.2.8 (Product Field). *Let K_1, K_2 be subfields of K . We denote by K_1K_2 the subfield of K generated by K_1 and K_2 .*



Proposition 13.2.9 (Product Field Properties). *Let K_1, K_2 be subfields of K . Suppose K_1, K_2 are finite extensions over F .*

- (a) K_1K_2/F is finite.
- (b) $[K_1K_2 : F] \leq [K_1 : F][K_2 : F]$.
- (c) $\text{lcm}([K_1, F], [K_2 : F]) \mid [K_1K_2 : F]$.

Proof. Let $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\}$ be a basis of K_1 over F and $\{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m\}$ be a basis of K_2 over F . Then $K_1 K_2 = F(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n, \beta_1, \beta_m)$ and $K_1 K_2 = K_1(\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m)$ implies $[K_1 K_2 : K_1] \leq m$ so $[K_1 K_2 : F] = [K_1 K_2 : K_1][K_1 : F] \leq mn$. Moreover, this final relationship implies that $[K_i : F] \mid [K_1 K_2 : F]$ for each i , proving the final statement. 

13.3 Constructibility

Definition 13.3.1 (Constructibility). An $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ is called *constructible* if $|\alpha|$ can be constructed by straightedge and compass. We call the set of all constructible numbers \mathbb{F} and assume that $\mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{F}$.

Proposition 13.3.2 (Subfield of Constructible Numbers). Let $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}$. Sums and differences are easy to construct by using a straight line through the origin, a segment of length β , and a compass of length α .

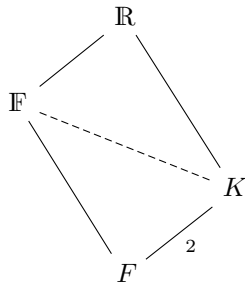
To construct products, take a triangle with one side β and foot 1, and construct a similar triangle with foot α . The corresponding side of β will have length $\alpha\beta$.


To show inverses, take a triangle of one side α and foot 1. Construct a similar triangle where the one side has length 1. The foot will have length α^{-1} .

Because $\text{ch } \mathbb{F} = 0$, the prime subfield of \mathbb{F} is \mathbb{Q} . However, as $\sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{F}$, $\mathbb{F} \supset \mathbb{Q}$.

Take $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$. Draw a circle from $-\alpha$, 1, with centre on the x -axis. Construct a triangle to i by $-\alpha i 1$. Then, $x/1 = \alpha/x$ so $x^2 = \alpha$ and $\sqrt{\alpha} \in \mathbb{F}$.

Theorem 13.3.3 (Degree 2 Extension Closure). Let $F \subset \mathbb{F}$ and $K \subset \mathbb{R}$ with $[K : F] = 2$. Then, $K \subset \mathbb{F}$.



Proof. Let $\alpha \in K \setminus F$. Then α is a root of a degree 2 polynomial $p(x) = x^2 + bx + c$. Therefore, $p(x) = m_{\alpha, F}(x)$. Whence $\alpha = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4c}}{2}$ we have $F(\alpha) = F(\sqrt{b^2 - 4c})$. Because $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, $b^2 - 4c > 0$. However, we know already that $\sqrt{b^2 - 4c} \in \mathbb{F}$! Thus $K \subset \mathbb{F}$. 

Definition 13.3.4 (Constructible Points (\mathbb{F}^2) in \mathbb{R}^2). We call $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ constructible if $x, y \in \mathbb{F}$. Moreover, we could switch out for $x + iy \in \mathbb{C}$ if $x, y \in \mathbb{F}$. The constructible points of \mathbb{C} make a field.


We construct these points via intersections of the following objects.

- (a) Straight lines through two points in \mathbb{F}^2 ;
- (b) If $(h, k) \in \mathbb{F}^2$ and $r \in \mathbb{F}$, $(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$.


We call $ax + by + c = 0$ an F -line if $a, b, c \in F \subset \mathbb{F}$; similarly, we infer the notion of an \mathbb{F} circle.

Intersecting two F -lines cannot “escape” F . A circle and line give quadratic extensions, and two circles, surprisingly, intersect on an \mathbb{F} -line and give also a quadratic extension. The proof requires solving the system and seeing that all of the quadratic terms cancel.


Theorem 13.3.5 (Power Two Necessity). If $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ is constructible, there exists an extension $\mathbb{Q} \subset K \subset \mathbb{R}$ such that $K = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$ $[K : \mathbb{Q}] = 2^k$ for some k .

Proof. If α is constructible, there exists a finite sequence of constructible points (x_n, y_n) so that $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}(x_1, y_1, \dots, x_n, y_n)$ and $[\mathbb{Q}(x_1, \dots, x_\ell) : \mathbb{Q}(\dots, y_{\ell-1})] \leq 2$. Therefore $[K : \mathbb{Q}]$ is a two-power. 


Theorem 13.3.6 (Trisecting the Angle). Angles, in general, cannot be trisected by compass and straightedge.

Proof. We consider the angle $60 \deg = 3\theta$. Then $(x, y) = e^{3\theta i} = \sqrt[3]{\cos \theta + i \sin \theta}^3$ is constructible. $\cos 3\theta$ is constructible, so we have that $(4 \cos \theta)^3 - 3 \cos \theta = 1$. Let $\alpha = \cos 3\theta$, yielding the equation $1 = 4\alpha^3 - 3\alpha$. Let $\beta = 2\alpha$. Then $0 = \beta^3 - 3\beta - 1$, an irreducible monic polynomial. Then $\mathbb{Q}(\beta) = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$ would be a cubic extension, a contradiction by the previous, so the angle cannot be trisected. 

Theorem 13.3.7 (Doubling the Cube). A cube may not be doubled.

Proof. If it were so, doubling the unit cube would yield sides of length $\sqrt[3]{2}$, a root of a degree three irreducible polynomial. As three divides no power of two, such a cube is not constructible. 

Theorem 13.3.8 (Square with Area π). A square with area π cannot be constructed.

Proof. This would mean that $\sqrt{\pi}$ would be constructible. However, $[\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{\pi}) : \mathbb{Q}(\pi)] = [\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{\pi}) : \mathbb{Q}(\pi)][\mathbb{Q}(\pi) : \mathbb{Q}] = 2\infty = \infty$ divides no power of two. 

13.4 Splitting Fields


Definition 13.4.1 (Splitting Field). *Let $f(x) \in F[x]$ be a nonconstant polynomial. We call E/F a splitting field for f if f factors over E and f splits in no subfield of E .*

Theorem 13.4.2 (Roots to Splitting Field). *Let $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ be the roots of $f(x) \in E$. Then, $F(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \subset E$ and so we have equality.*

Example. Take $f(x) = x^3 + x + 1$ in $\mathbb{F}_2[x]$. Let α be a root of $f(x)$ in some extension K/\mathbb{Z}_2 . Then, $f(\alpha) = 0$ and $f(\alpha^2) = (\alpha^2)^3 + \alpha^2 + 1 = (\alpha^3)^2 + \alpha^2 + 1 = (\alpha + 1)^2 + \alpha^2 + 1 = 0$, so α^2 is also a root. The other root is $\alpha^2 + \alpha$.

Splitting fields for degree n polynomials have, in general, degree $n!$.


Theorem 13.4.3 (Splitting Degree). *Every polynomial $f(x) \in F[x]$ of positive degree n splits in a field of degree at most $n!$.*

Proof. It suffices to show that there is an extension K/F such that $[K/F] \leq n!$ where $f(x)$ splits. Induction. Let degree $f(x) = 1$. Then $f(x)$ splits in F . Assume that the statement holds up to some $n - 1$. Let α be a root of f in some field E . We know α has degree at most n , so $f(x)/(x - \alpha)$ has degree $n - 1$ in $F(\alpha)$ where $[F(\alpha) : F] \leq n$. Then, f splits in $K/F(\alpha)$, so $[K : F] = [K : F(\alpha)][F(\alpha) : F] \leq (n - 1)!n = n!$. 

13.4.1 Friday

Reminder: If we have a positive degree $f(x) \in F[x]$, we can always find a splitting field E/F of $f(x)$ such that $[E : F] \leq (\deg f)!$.

Lemma 13.4.4 (Isomorphism Extension). *If $\alpha \in E/F$ a root of an irreducible $f(x) \in F[x]$, then there is an isomorphism ϕ from $F \rightarrow \bar{F}$. We define $\bar{f} = \phi(f)$. Then, we may extend to an isomorphism $\tilde{\phi} : F(\alpha) \rightarrow K$ such that $\tilde{\phi}|_F = \phi$; there are exactly k such extensions, where k is the number of distinct roots of \bar{f} in \bar{E} .*

Proof. Let $\bar{\alpha} \in \bar{E}$ be a root of $\bar{f}(x)$. Then, because $\bar{F}(\bar{\alpha}) \cong \bar{F}[x]/((\bar{f})) \cong F[x]/(f(x)) \cong F(\alpha)$ 

Chapter 14

Second Chapter

14.1 First Section

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