

Abstract Algebra

: Lecture 21

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Theorem 1. (Galois Thm) Let $\text{Char } F = 0$. Then $f(x) \in F[x]$ is soluble by radicals if and only if $\text{Gal}(f)$ is a soluble group.

Example 2. Let $f(x) = x^5 - 8x + 2 \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$, you can check that f is irreducible. $\text{Gal}(f) \simeq S_5$, S_5 is not a soluble group, so f is not soluble by radicals.

Lemma 3. Let G be transitive permutation group on Ω . Assume that G contains a transposition. And $|\Omega| = p$ is a prime. Then $G \simeq \text{Sym}(\Omega) \simeq S_p$.

证明. Since G is transitive on Ω , by Orbit-Stabilizer Theorem, $|\Omega| \mid |G|$, so $p \mid |G|$, and by Lagrange theorem, G contains an element of order p , i.e. $g = (12 \dots p)$ without loss of generality. Let $(ij) \in G$, then $\langle (12 \dots p), (ij) \rangle = S_p$. i.e. $G \geq S_p$. Since $G \leq \text{Sym}(\Omega) \simeq S_p$. Therefore, $G \simeq S_p$. \square

Proposition 4. Let $f(x) \in F[x]$ with $F = \mathbb{Q}$. Assume that $f(x)$ is irreducible of degree p where p is a prime. Assume further that $f(x)$ has exactly two complex roots. Then $\text{Gal}(f) \simeq S_p$.

证明. The complex conjugation is a transposition of $\text{Gal}(f)$ acting on $\Omega = \{\text{roots of } f(x)\}$. And since $f(x)$ is irreducible, $\text{Gal}(f)$ acts on Ω transitively (check it by yourself!). By the lemma, $\text{Gal}(f) \simeq S_p$. \square

Example 5. $f(x) = x^p - a \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$. Where $\sqrt[p]{a} \notin \mathbb{Q}$. $\text{Gal}(f) \simeq Z_p : Z_{p-1} = \text{Hol}(Z_p) \simeq \text{Aut}(D_{2p})$ (when $p \neq 2$).

Let $\omega = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{p}}$, root of $x^{p-1} + \dots + x + 1$, $\alpha = a^{\frac{1}{p}} \notin \mathbb{Q}$. Then $\alpha, \alpha\omega, \dots, \alpha\omega^{p-1}$ are the p roots of $x^p - a$.

Let $E = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha, \alpha\omega, \dots, \alpha\omega^{p-1})$. Then E is a splitting field of $x^p - a$. Thus a normal extension of \mathbb{Q} .

Let $L = \mathbb{Q}(\omega) \subset E$, then $\mathbb{Q} \subset L \subset E$. And L is a normal extension of \mathbb{Q} , since it is a splitting field of $x^p - 1$ over \mathbb{Q} .

Thus $\text{Gal}(E/L) \triangleleft \text{Gal}(E/\mathbb{Q})$, and $\text{Gal}(E/\mathbb{Q})/\text{Gal}(E/L) \simeq \text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q})$.

Consider $\text{Gal}(E/L)$ and $\text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q})$.

Notice that if f is irreducible, $\text{Gal}(f)$ acts transitively on the roots of f . Furthermore, since $f(x) = x^p - a$ consider that $\text{Gal}(f)$, you can check the action of $\text{Gal}(f)$ has no non-trivial blocks, i.e. this action is primitive.

Now $\text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q})$ is a splitting field of irreducible polynomial $x^{p-1} + \dots x + 1$, so $\text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q})$ is transitive on the $p-1$ roots: $\omega, \omega^2, \dots, \omega^{p-1}$.

The group $\text{Gal}(E/L)$, where $E = L(\alpha)$, contains an element $\rho : \alpha \rightarrow \alpha\omega \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \alpha\omega^{p-1}$. And $\langle \rho \rangle \simeq Z_p$.

Claim: $\text{Gal}(E/\mathbb{Q}) = \text{Gal}(E/L) \cdot \text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q}) = Z_p : Z_{p-1}$.

证明. 1. Claim $\text{Gal}(E/L) = \langle \rho \rangle$.

Otherwise, $\exists \tau \in \text{Gal}(E/L)$ s.t. $\alpha^\tau = \alpha$, $(\alpha\omega^i)^\tau = \alpha\omega^j$ with $i \neq j$. $\tau : \omega^i \mapsto \omega^j$. But $\tau \in \text{Gal}(E/L)$ i.e. τ fixes L pointwise, contradiction.

2. Claim $\text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q}) = \langle \sigma \rangle$, where $\sigma : \omega \mapsto \omega^r$ with r is a primitive root of p . i.e. $\text{Ord}_p(r) = p-1$.

Now $Z_{p-1} \simeq \langle \sigma \rangle \leq \text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q}) = G$. As $\langle \sigma \rangle$ is a transitive subgroup of G we can write $G = \langle \sigma \rangle G_\omega$. And it's obvious $G_\omega = e$.

Therefore, $\text{Gal}(E/\mathbb{Q}) = \text{Gal}(E/L) \cdot \text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q}) = \langle \rho \rangle \cdot \langle \sigma \rangle \simeq Z_p \cdot Z_{p-1}$. Since $|Z_p|$ and $|Z_{p-1}|$ coprime, this is a splitting extension of groups. so $\text{Gal}(E/\mathbb{Q}) = \text{Gal}(E/L) \cdot \text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q}) = \langle \rho \rangle \cdot \langle \sigma \rangle \simeq Z_p : Z_{p-1}$.

Actually, this splitting extension is faithful. i.e. this group is exact $\text{AGL}(1, p)$.

Recall, if $G = N : H$, where N is abelian and regular. Let $C_G(N) = \{g \in G \mid [g, N] = 1\}$. Then $N \leq C$. And a transitive abelian group is regular (prove it !). So $N = C$.

By this fact, this extension $Z_p : Z_{p-1}$ is faithful. □

Exercise 6. Prove that $f = x^5 - 6x + 3$, or $x^5 - 4x + 2$ are not soluble by radicals, i.e. $\text{Gal}(f)$ is insoluble.