

Notes on Galois Theory : 200cc

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1 Field Extensions and the Essence of Galois Theory

Definition – Field Morphisms, Isomorphisms, Automorphisms

A *field morphism* $\iota : K \rightarrow L$ between fields is just a ring morphism, that is, a function satisfying the following :

1. (Additive) $\forall x, y \in K, \iota(x + y) = \iota(x) + \iota(y)$.
2. (Multiplicative) $\forall x, y \in K, \iota(xy) = \iota(x)\iota(y)$.
3. (Preserves One) $\iota(1) = 1$.

A bijective field morphism is called an *isomorphism*. In particular, isomorphisms of a field to itself are called *automorphisms*. We denote the set of all field automorphisms of a field L with $\text{Aut } L$.

Theorem – Fields Embed into other Fields

Let $\iota : K \rightarrow L$ be a morphism of fields.

Then ι is injective. In particular, ι is a field isomorphism from K to its image.

Proof. Injectivity of ι is equivalent to $\iota^{-1}(0) = \{0\}$. Let $x \in \iota^{-1}(0)$. If it is non-zero, then there exists $y \in K$ such that $xy = 1$. Then $1 = \iota(1) = \iota(x)\iota(y) = 0$ which is a contradiction, since L is non-trivial. \square

Definition – Extensions of a Field, Extension Embeddings, Isomorphisms, Automorphisms

Let K be a field. Then a K -extension is a pair (L, ι_L) where L is a field and $\iota_L : K \rightarrow L$ is a field morphism. We say L extends K .

A K -embedding between two K -extensions $(L, \iota_L), (N, \iota_N)$ is a field morphism $\iota : L \rightarrow N$ such that $\iota \circ \iota_L = \iota_N$. We say K is preserved in such a map. If a K -embedding is bijective, it is called a K -isomorphism. In particular, K -isomorphisms from a K -extension to itself are called K -automorphisms.

The set of K -embeddings between $(L, \iota_L), (N, \iota_N)$ is denoted with $\text{Emb}_K(\iota_L, \iota_N)$. If the field morphisms ι_L, ι_N are clear, we write $\text{Emb}_K(L, N)$. In a similar manner, we denote the set of K -automorphisms of (L, ι_L) with $\text{Aut}_K(\iota_L)$, or simply $\text{Aut}_K L$ when ι_L is clear.

Definition – Fixed Subfields, Galois Extensions

Let L be a field. Then $\text{Aut } L$ forms a group under function composition. Let G be a finite subgroup of $\text{Aut } L$. We say G acts on L .

Then the subfield fixed by G , denoted L^G , is the field of elements in $a \in L$ such that for all $\sigma \in G$, $\sigma(a) = a$. Its inclusion into L is a field morphism, making L into an L^G -extension.

Let K be a field with (L, ι_L) as a K -extension. Then (L, ι_L) is called a *Galois* when $\iota_L K = L^G$ for some finite subgroup $G \subseteq \text{Aut } L$. In this case, G is called a *Galois group* of (L, ι_L) .

Definition – Antitone Galois Connection

Let $(I, \leq), (J, \leq)$ be partially ordered sets. Then an *antitone Galois connection* between I and J is a pair of maps $F : I \rightarrow J$ and $G : J \rightarrow I$ such that

1. (Antitonicity) For all $i_0 \leq i_1 \in I$ and $j_0 \leq j_1 \in J$, we have $F(i_1) \leq F(i_0)$ and $G(j_1) \leq G(j_0)$.
2. (Adjunction) For all $i \in I, j \in J$, we have $i \leq G(j) \Leftrightarrow j \leq F(i)$.

Theorem – Antitone Galois Connections gives Bijection on Images

Let $(I, \leq), (J, \leq)$ be partially ordered sets and $F : I \rightarrow J, G : J \rightarrow I$ an antitone Galois connection.

Then $G \circ F \circ G = G$ and $F \circ G \circ F = F$, that is to say $F : G(J) \rightarrow F(I)$ and $G : F(I) \rightarrow G(J)$ are bijections.

Proof. Straight forward. □

Corollary – The Antitone Galois Connection of Galois Theory

Let (L, ι_L) be a K -extension. Let I be the set of fields inside L containing $\iota_L K$, i.e. the set of K -extensions inside L . This is partially ordered by inclusion. Let J be the set of subgroups of the group of K -automorphisms of L , $\text{Aut}_K L$. This is also partially ordered by inclusion.

Then the maps

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Aut}_- L : I &\longrightarrow J & L^- : J &\longrightarrow I \\ E &\mapsto \text{Aut}_E L & H &\mapsto L^H \end{aligned}$$

form an antitone Galois connection and are bijective on their images.

Theorem – Fundamental Theorem of Galois Theory

Let (L, ι_L) be a K -extension, I the partially ordered set of K -extensions inside L , and J the partially ordered set of subgroups of $\text{Aut}_K L$. Let (L, ι_L) be Galois.

Then $\text{Aut}_- L : I \rightarrow J$ and $L^- : J \rightarrow I$ are surjections.

Remark. The [full fundamental theorem](#) has more subtleties, but the essence of Galois theory is to characterise Galois extensions in order to exploit the bijection between subextensions and subgroups.

2 Finite Extensions and the Embedding Theorem

Definition – Extension Degree, Finite Extensions

Let (L, ι_L) be a K -extension. Then L has a natural K -vectorspace structure with scalar multiplication as $kl := \iota_L(k)l$ for $k \in K, l \in L$.

The *degree* of (L, ι_L) is the dimension of L as a K -vectorspace. We shall denote it with $[\iota_L : K]$. If the embedding of K into L is clear, then we write $[L : K]$. We the degree of (L, ι_L) is finite, we call (L, ι_L) a *finite* extension.

Theorem – Tower Law of Extension Degree

Let (L, ι_L) be a K -extension and (N, ι_N) a L -extension. $(N, \iota_N \circ \iota_L)$ is then a K -extension.

Then $[\iota_N \circ \iota_L : K] = [\iota_N : L][\iota_L : K]$.

Proof. Let $B_L \subseteq L$ be a ι_L -basis and $B_N \subseteq N$ a ι_N -basis. The claim is that $B_L B_N := \{ab \mid a \in B_L, b \in B_N\}$ is a $(\iota_N \circ \iota_L)$ -basis of N and has cardinality $|B_L| \times |B_N|$.

(Cardinality) Let $(a_1, b_1), (a_2, b_2) \in B_L \times B_N$ such that $a_1 b_1 = a_2 b_2$. This is then a non-trivial L -linear combination of elements in B_N , contradicting linear independence of B_N . The cardinality is thus as desired.

(Linear Independence) Let $\sum_{(a,b) \in B_L \times B_N} \lambda_{a,b} ab = 0$ where $\lambda_{a,b} \in K$ and only finitely many are non-zero. Then we have $\sum_{b \in B_N} (\sum_{a \in B_L} \lambda_{a,b} a) b = 0$, giving $\sum_{a \in B_L} \lambda_{a,b} a = 0$ by linear independence of B_N , which in turn gives $\lambda_{a,b} = 0$ by linear independence of B_L .

(Spanning) Let $x \in N$. Since B_N is spanning, we have $\sum_{b \in B_N} \lambda_b b = x$ for some $\lambda_b \in L$, finitely many non-zero. Then since B_L is spanning, we have $\sum_{a \in B_L} \mu_{a,b} a = \lambda_b$ for each $b \in B_N$, where $\mu_{a,b} \in K$, finitely many non-zero. So $\sum_{(a,b) \in B_L \times B_N} \mu_{a,b} ab = x$ as desired. \square

Definition – Extension generated by a Subset, Evaluation Map, Algebraic Extension

Let (L, ι_L) be a K -extension and $A \subseteq L$. Then the K -subextension generated by A is defined as the intersection of all fields in L that contain $\iota_L K \cup A$. This is denoted with $K(A)$. If $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_{|A|}\}$ is finite, then we just write $K(a_1, \dots, a_{|A|})$. When $L = K(A)$, elements of A are referred to as *generators*. (L, ι_L) is called *finitely generated* when there exists finite $A \subseteq L$ such that $L = K(A)$.

Let $K[X], L[X]$ be the polynomial rings over K and L . Then ι_L induces a ring morphism $K[X] \rightarrow L[X]$ via $\sum_n f_n X^n \mapsto \sum_n \iota_L(f_n) X^n$. We will denote this map using ι_L as well. We can thus evaluate polynomials over K at an element $a \in L$ by the *evaluation map* $ev_a^{\iota_L} : f \mapsto ev_a(\iota_L f)$.

For $a \in L$, $ev_a^{\iota_L}$ is a ring morphism from $K[X]$ to L . Then for f in the kernel of $ev_a^{\iota_L}$, we say a is a *root* of f . If the kernel of $ev_a^{\iota_L}$ contains non-zero polynomials, then we say a is *algebraic over K* . When all elements of L are algebraic over K , (L, ι_L) is called an *algebraic extension*.

Lemma – Characterisation of Finite Simple Extensions

Let (L, ι_L) be a K -extension and $a \in L$. Then the following are equivalent :

1. $(K(a), \iota_L)$ is finite.
2. $(K(a), \iota_L)$ is algebraic.
3. a algebraic over K .

Proof. $(2 \Rightarrow 3)$ clear.

$(3 \Rightarrow 1)$ This follows from showing $K(a) = ev_a^{\iota_L} K[X]$. $K[X]$ is a PID so the kernel of ev_a is generated by one element, call it $\min(a, \iota_L)$. Since the image of $ev_a^{\iota_L}$ is a ring inside L which is an integral domain, it follows that $\min(a, \iota_L)$ is prime. Then since $K[X]$ is a PID, primes are irreducible and quotienting by irreducibles give a field, so $ev_a^{\iota_L} K[X]$ is a field. It is clear that $ev_a K[X] \subseteq K(a)$ and hence it equal to it.

$(1 \Rightarrow 3)$ If $K(a)$ is a finite dimensional K -vectorspace, then the set $\{a^n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ must be linearly dependent. This gives a polynomial $f \in K[X]$ such that $ev_a f = 0$.

$(1 \Rightarrow 2)$ Let $b \in K(a)$. Then by the [Tower Law](#), $[K(b) : K] \leq [K(a) : K]$, which is finite. So by $(1 \Rightarrow 3)$, b is algebraic over K . \square

Theorem – Characterisation of Finite Extensions

Let (L, ι_L) be a K -extension. Then the following are equivalent :

1. (L, ι_L) is finite.
2. (L, ι_L) is finitely generated and algebraic.
3. (L, ι_L) is finitely generated and the generators are algebraic over K .

Proof. $(1 \Rightarrow 2)$ Let $A \subseteq L$ be a finite K -basis of L . Then $L = K(A)$ and all elements of L are algebraic by the [characterisation of finite simple extensions](#).

$(2 \Rightarrow 3)$ clear.

(3 \Leftarrow 1) Let A finite $\subseteq L$ such that $L = K(A)$ and all $a \in A$ are algebraic over K . If A is empty, $[L : K] = 1$. So let $a \in A$. Then by induction on the cardinality of A , $(K(A \setminus \{a\}), \iota_L)$ is a finite K -extension. Since a is algebraic over K , it is certainly algebraic over $K(A \setminus \{a\})$. So by the [characterisation of finite simple extensions](#), $L = K(A \setminus \{a\})(a)$ is a finite $K(A \setminus \{a\})$ -extension. Thus by the [Tower Law](#), $[L : K] = [L : K(A \setminus \{a\})][K(A \setminus \{a\}) : K]$ is finite. \square

Definition – Minimal Polynomial, Galois Conjugates

Let (L, ι_L) be a K -extension and $a \in L$ algebraic over K . We have seen that $\ker ev_a^{\iota_L}$ is generated by one element. It is the one of minimal degree, unique up to units. There is however a unique monic one. It is defined as the *minimal polynomial of a over K* , denoted $\min(a, \iota_L)$. If the embedding of K into L is clear, we write $\min(a, K)$.

Let (M, ι_M) be another K -extensions and $\alpha \in M$ also algebraic over K . Then a, α are called *Galois K -conjugates* when $\min(a, K) = \min(\alpha, K)$. It is not hard to check that being Galois K -conjugates is an equivalence relation the “set of elements in all K -extensions”.^a

^aIn case Bertrand Russell rises from his grave.

Lemma – Embedding Theorem for Finite Simple Extensions

Let (L, ι_L) be K -extensions and $a \in L$ algebraic over K .

Then for all K -extensions (N, ι_N) , the set of Galois K -conjugates of a inside N bijects with $\text{Emb}_K(K(a), N)$. In particular, $|\text{Emb}_K(K(a), N)| \leq \deg \min(a, K) = [K(a) : K]$.

Proof. Let (N, ι_N) be a K -extension. Given a K -embedding $\phi : (K(a), \iota_L) \rightarrow (N, \iota_N)$, we have

$$ev_{\phi(a)}^{\iota_N}(\min(a, K)) = ev_{\phi(a)}^{\phi \circ \iota_L}(\min(a, K)) = \phi(ev_a^{\iota_L} \min(a, K)) = \phi(0) = 0$$

i.e. $\min(a, K)$ has $\phi(a)$ as a root. This shows $\phi(a)$ is not only algebraic, but $\min(\phi(a), K)$ divides $\min(a, K)$ as well. $\min(a, K)$ is irreducible, so $\min(\phi(a), K) = \min(a, K)$. Thus we have a map from $\text{Emb}_K(K(a), N)$ to the set of Galois K -conjugates of a in N by $\phi \mapsto \phi(a)$. Since $K(a)$ is generated by a , the above map is injective.

Now let $\alpha \in N$ be a Galois K -conjugate of a . Then we have a chain of K -isomorphisms

$$K(a) \cong K[X]/(\min(a, K)) = K[X]/(\min(\alpha, K)) \cong K(\alpha)$$

which gives a K -embedding of $\phi_\alpha : (K(a), \iota_L) \rightarrow (N, \iota_N)$. Then $\phi_\alpha(a) = \alpha$ so our map is bijective. \square

Lemma – Subextensions Partition Embeddings

Let (L, ι_L) an K -extension and E a field inside L containing $\iota_L K$. So (E, ι_L) is a K -extension and L is a E -extension. Let (N, ι_N) be another K -extension.

Then we have the following bijection

$$\text{Emb}_K(L, N) \longleftrightarrow \bigsqcup_{\iota \in \text{Emb}_K(E, N)} \text{Emb}_E(L, \iota)$$

by sending $\iota_0 \mapsto (\iota_0, \iota_0)$ and inversely $(\iota, \iota_1) \mapsto \iota_1$. In particular when all these extensions are finite, we obtain : $|\text{Emb}_K(L, N)| = \sum_{\iota \in \text{Emb}_K(E, N)} |\text{Emb}_E(L, \iota)|$.

Proof. Let $\iota_0 : L \rightarrow N$ be a K -embedding. Then ι_0 is naturally a K -embedding of E to N and it is also an E -embedding of L to (N, ι_0) . Conversely, let $\iota : (E, \iota_L) \rightarrow (N, \iota_N)$ be a K -embedding and $\iota_1 : L \rightarrow (N, \iota)$ be a E -embedding. Then since $\iota_1 \circ \iota_L = \iota \circ \iota_L = \iota_N$, ι_1 is a K -embedding of L to N . Thus the forward and inverse maps are well-defined. They are clearly inverses over each other so we have the result. \square

Remark. Despite its simplicity, the above lemma is *essential* for proofs inducting on the degree of extensions.

Theorem – Embedding Theorem for Finite Extensions

Let (L, ι_L) be a finite K -extension. Then by the [characterisation of finite extensions](#), we have a finite $A \subseteq L$ such that $L = K(A)$ and all $a \in A$ are algebraic over K . Let (N, ι_N) be another K -extension, and suppose for all $a \in A$, $\min(a, K)$ has all its roots in N , that is to say $\iota_N \min(a, K)$ factorises into linear polynomials in $N[X]$.

Then $0 < |\text{Emb}_K(L, N)| \leq [L : K]$ and is equal when for all $a \in A$, $\min(a, K)$ has *no repeated* roots in N , i.e. $\iota_N \min(a, K)$ has no repeated factors in $N[X]$.

Proof. If A is empty, then the theorem is true. So let $a \in A$ and let $E = K(A \setminus \{a\})$. Then by induction on the cardinality of A , $0 < |\text{Emb}_K(E, N)| \leq [E : K]$ and is equal when for all $a_1 \in A \setminus \{a\}$, $\iota_N \min(a_1, K)$ has no repeated roots. Let $\iota \in \text{Emb}_K(E, N)$. Now $L = E(a)$. Since a is a root of $\min(a, K)$, it is a root of $\iota_L \min(a, K)$, so $\min(a, E)$ divides $\iota_L \min(a, K)$. Then since $\min(a, K)$ has all its roots in N , $\min(a, E)$ also has all its roots in N . So by the [characterisation of finite simple extensions](#), gives

$$0 < |\text{Emb}_E(L, \iota)| \leq \sum_{\iota \in \text{Emb}_K(E, N)} |\text{Emb}_E(L, \iota)| = |\text{Emb}_K(L, N)|$$

To complete the induction, now suppose for all $a \in A$, $\min(a, K)$ has no repeated roots in N . Then by induction, $|\text{Emb}_K(E, N)| = [E : K]$. Furthermore, by the [embedding theorem for finite simple extensions](#), for all $\iota \in \text{Emb}_K(E, N)$, $\text{Emb}_E(L, \iota)$ bijects with the set of Galois E -conjugates of a in (N, ι) . But since $\iota_N \min(a, K)$ has no repeated factors neither does $\iota \min(a, E)$, so it follows that the number of Galois E -conjugates of a in (N, ι) equals the degree of $\min(a, E)$, which is equal to $[E(a) : E] = [L : E]$. Thus the induction is complete by the tower law

$$|\text{Emb}_K(L, N)| = \sum_{\iota \in \text{Emb}_K(E, N)} |\text{Emb}_E(L, \iota)| = |\text{Emb}_K(E, N)|[L : E] = [E : K][L : E] = [L : K]$$

\square

3 Normal Extensions

Definition – Normal Extension

Let (L, ι_L) be a K -extension and $f \in K[X]$. Then we say ι_L *splits* f when $\iota_L f$ factorises into linear factors in $L[X]$. If the embedding of K into L is clear, we just say L splits f .

Suppose (L, ι_L) is algebraic. Then it is called *normal* when for all $a \in L$, it contains all the Galois

K -conjugates of a , i.e. L splits $\min(a, K)$.

Theorem – Splitting Polynomials

Let K be a field and $f \in K[X] \setminus K$. Then there exists a K -extension (L, ι_L) such that f has a root in L . In particular, there exists a K -extension that splits f .

Proof. Since f is non-constant and $K[X]$ is a UFD, there exists an irreducible f_1 that divides f . Let $L = K[X]/(f_1)$. Then since f_1 is irreducible and $K[X]$ is a PID, L is a field and thus a K -extension. Note that the image of the monomial X in L is a root of f_1 , and hence a root of f . To split f , use the above procedure to inductively construct a desired extension. \square

Theorem – Characterisation of Finite Normal Extensions

Let (L, ι_L) be a finite K -extension. Then the following are equivalent :

1. (Contains all Galois K -Conjugates) (L, ι_L) normal.
2. (Contains all Galois K -Conjugates of Generators) There exists $A \subseteq L$ a finite set of generators of (L, ι_L) such that for all $a \in A$, a is algebraic over K and L splits $\min(a, K)$.
3. (is a Splitting Field) There exists a polynomial $f \in K[X]$ such that L splits f and is generated by the roots of f in L .
4. (Image Invariance) For all K -extensions (N, ι_N) and two $\iota_0, \iota_1 \in \text{Emb}_K(L, N)$, $\iota_0 L = \iota_1 L$.

Proof. $(1 \Rightarrow 2 \Rightarrow 3)$ is clear.

$(3 \Rightarrow 4)$ The key is that roots of f remain roots of f under K -extension morphisms.

Let $\iota_L f(X) = \prod_{k=1}^{\deg f} (X - a_k)$ where $a_k \in L$. Then $(\iota_0 \circ \iota_L)f(X) = \prod_{k=1}^{\deg f} (X - \iota_0(a_k))$. Since $\iota_0 \circ \iota_L = \iota_1 \circ \iota_L$, we have for every a_l that

$$0 = \iota_1(e v_{a_l}^{\iota_L} f) = e v_{\iota_1(a_l)}^{\iota_1 \circ \iota_L} f = e v_{\iota_1(a_l)}^{\iota_0 \circ \iota_L} f = \prod_{k=1}^{\deg f} (\iota_1(a_l) - \iota_0(a_k))$$

Hence for all a_l , there exists a_k such that $\iota_1(a_l) = \iota_0(a_k)$. Since $L = K(a_1, \dots, a_{\deg f})$, this shows that $\iota_1 L \subseteq \iota_0 L$. By symmetrical argument, $\iota_0 L \subseteq \iota_1 L$ as well.

$(4 \Rightarrow 1)$ Let $a \in L$. Since (L, ι_L) is finite, $\min(a, K)$ exists. We do not know if L splits $\min(a, K)$, but there exists an L -extension (M, ι_M) such that M splits $\min(a, K)$. We seek to show that all Galois K -conjugates of a in M are in $\iota_M L$. So let $\alpha \in M$ be a Galois K -conjugate of a . We have the following situation.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} K & \xrightarrow{\iota_L} & K(a) & \xrightarrow{\subseteq} & L \\ & & \searrow \phi_\alpha & & \downarrow \iota_M \\ & & & & M \end{array}$$

By the [embedding theorem for finite simple extensions](#), there exists $\phi_\alpha \in \text{Emb}_K(K(a), M)$ that maps $a \mapsto \alpha$. Suppose we have an $\iota_1 \in \text{Emb}_{K(a)}(L, \phi_\alpha)$. Then certainly $\iota_1 \in \text{Emb}_K(L, \iota_M \circ \iota_L)$. Also, trivially $\iota_M \in \text{Emb}_K(L, \iota_M \circ \iota_L)$. So $\iota_1 L = \iota_M L$ implies $\alpha \in \iota_M L$ as desired. It thus suffices to give an $\iota_1 \in \text{Emb}_{K(a)}(L, \phi_\alpha)$. Well, since (L, ι_L) is finite, it is also a finite $K(a)$ -extension, so it is generated by some finite subset B whose elements are all algebraic over $K(a)$. Then we can extend M so that it splits all $\min(b, K(a))$ for $b \in B$. Thus by the [embedding theorem](#), we have an $\iota_1 \in \text{Emb}_{K(a)}(L, \phi_\alpha)$. \square

4 Separable Extensions

Definition – Characteristic of a Field

Let K be a field. \mathbb{Z} is generated by 1 and ring morphisms must preserve 1, so there is a unique ring morphism $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow K$. Its image is an ID since K is an ID. So by \mathbb{Z} PID, its kernel is generated by either zero or a (positive) prime. This is defined as the *characteristic of K* , denoted $\text{Char}K$.

Remark – Freshmen’s Dream. If $\text{Char}K = 0$, then K is naturally a \mathbb{Q} -extension. On the other hand, if $\text{Char}K = p > 0$, then K is naturally a $\mathbb{Z}/(p)$ -extension.

In the latter case, by the binomial theorem, we have for all $a, b \in K$, $(a+b)^p = a^p + b^p$. This innocent-looking result is known as *Freshmen’s Dream*, and turns out to be very useful.

Definition – Formal Derivative, Separable Polynomial

Let K be a field and $f = \sum_{0 \leq n} f_n X^n \in K[X]$. Then the *formal derivative of f* is defined to be $f' = \sum_{0 < n} n f_n X^{n-1}$.

f is said to be *separable* when for all K -extensions in which f splits, f has no repeated roots. If otherwise, f is called *inseparable*.

Theorem – Characterisation of Inseparable Irreducible Polynomials

Let K be a field and $f \in K[X]$ irreducible. Then the following are equivalent :

1. (Repeated Root) f is inseparable.
2. (Intrinsic Definition) $(f, f') \neq 1$.
3. (Another Intrinsic Definition) $f' = 0$.
4. (Characteristic Non-zero) $\text{Char}K = p \neq 0$ and there exists an irreducible separable $g \in K[X]$ with $n > 0$ such that $f(X) = g(X^{p^n})$.
5. (All Roots Repeated) There exists a K -extension in which f splits and all its roots are repeated.

Proof. $(1 \Rightarrow 2)$ Let (L, ι_L) be a K -extension in which f splits and has repeated roots. Then by the product rule (which is straightforwardly proven by induction), $(\iota_L f, (\iota_L f)') \neq 1$. If $(f, f') = 1$, then there exists polynomials g, h such that $gf + hf' = 1$, which implies $\iota_L(g)\iota_L(f) + \iota_L(h)\iota_L(f') = \iota_L(g)\iota_L(f) + \iota_L(h)(\iota_L f)' = 1$, which contradicts with $(\iota_L f, (\iota_L f)') \neq 1$.

(2 \Rightarrow 3) Since f is irreducible and $K[X]$ is PID, either f divides f' or $(f, f') = 1$. By assumption, we must have the first case. But then if $f' \neq 0$, its degree would be well-defined, and hence we would have $\deg f' < \deg f \leq \deg f'$, which is a contradiction. So $f' = 0$.

(3 \Rightarrow 4) Let $f = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq \deg f} f_k X^k$. Since $f' = 0$, we have its leading coefficient $(\deg f)(f_{\deg f}) = 0$, which implies $\deg f = 0 \in K$. This shows that the kernel of the unique ring morphism $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow K$ is non-trivial, and hence $\text{Char} K = p \neq 0$ for some prime $p \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then for all non-zero coefficients f_k of f , we have $k f_k = 0$, which implies $k = 0 \in K$. Thus $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ is in the kernel of $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow K$, and hence $k = k_p p$ for some $k_p \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. Letting $g_1(X) = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq \deg f} f_k X^{k_p}$, we obtain $f(X) = g_1(X^p)$. Irreducibility of f implies irreducibility of g_1 . So if g_1 is separable, we are done. And if not, then by (1 \Rightarrow 3) we have g_1 satisfying (3). Since $\deg g_1 < \deg f$, by induction there exists a irreducible separable polynomial $g \in K[X]$ with $n > 0$ such that $g_1(X) = g(X^{p^n})$, in which case we are also done.

(4 \Rightarrow 5) Let $f(X) = g(X^{p^n})$ where $g \in K[X]$ is irreducible and separable, and $n > 0$. Then there exists a K -extension (L, ι_L) such that L splits g . Let $A \subseteq L$ be the set of roots of g . Then $\iota_L f = \prod_{a \in A} (X^{p^n} - a)$. Now, there exists a L -extension (M, ι_M) so that M splits all the $X^{p^n} - a$. For $a \in A$, let $t_a \in M$ such that $(t_a)^{p^n} - \iota_M(a) = 0$. Then by [Freshmen's dream](#), we are done.

$$(\iota_M \circ \iota_L)f = \prod_{a \in A} (X^{p^n} - \iota_M(a)) = \prod_{a \in A} (X - t_a)^{p^n}$$

(5 \Rightarrow 1) clear. □

Definition – Separable Closure, Separable Extension, Purely Inseparable

Let (L, ι_L) be an algebraic K -extension. Then the *separable closure of K in (L, ι_L)* is defined to be the set of all $a \in L$ such that $\min(a, K)$ is separable. We shall denote it with $S(\iota_L)$, or simply $S(L)$ when the embedding of K into L is clear.

Clearly, $\iota_L K \subseteq S(\iota_L)$. (L, ι_L) is called *separable* when $S(\iota_L) = L$, and *purely inseparable* when $S(\iota_L) = \iota_L K$.

Remark. The [characterisation of inseparable, irreducible polynomials](#) implies in characteristic zero, purely inseparable if and only if trivial. We thus limit the following to fields with positive characteristic.

Theorem – Characterisation of Finite Purely Inseparable Extensions in Positive Characteristic

Let (L, ι_L) be a finite K -extension where $\text{Char} K = p > 0$. Then the following are equivalent :

1. (L, ι_L) purely inseparable.
2. For all $a \in L$, there exists $n \geq 0$ such that $a^{p^n} \in \iota_L K$. In fact, $\min(a, K)(X) = X^{p^n} - k$ for some $k \in K$.
3. For all K -extensions (N, ι_N) , $|\text{Emb}_K(L, N)| \leq 1$.

Proof. (1 \Rightarrow 2) Let $a \in L$. WLOG $a \notin \iota_L K$, for the other case is clear. Then by the [characterisation of inseparable, irreducible polynomials](#), let $\min(a, K)(X) = g(X^{p^n})$ for some separable, irreducible g and $n > 0$. It suffices to show that g is linear. But since g is irreducible, and in fact monic, $g = \min(a^{p^n}, K)$. Then g separable and L purely inseparable implies $a^{p^n} \in S(L) = \iota_L K$, which implies g is linear.

(2 \Rightarrow 3) Let (N, ι_N) be a K -extension. If $\text{Emb}_K(L, N)$ is empty, we are done, so let $\iota_1, \iota_2 \in \text{Emb}_K(L, N)$ and we will show they are equal. Let $a \in L$. By assumption, $a^{p^n} = \iota_L(k)$ for some $n \geq 0$ and $k \in K$. Then $\iota_1(a)^{p^n} = \iota_N(k) = \iota_2(a)^{p^n}$, which implies $\iota_1(a) = \iota_2(a)$ by [Freshmen's dream](#).

(3 \Rightarrow 1) Let $a \in S(L)$. By the [embedding theorem for finite simple extensions](#), it suffices to give a K -extension (N, ι_N) such that (N, ι_N) splits $\min(a, K)$ and $|\text{Emb}_K(K(a), N)| = 1$. To this end, let A finite $\subseteq L$ with $L = K(A)$. Let (N, ι_N) be a K -extension that splits $\min(a, K)$ and $\min(x, K)$ for all $x \in A$. Then by the [embedding theorem for finite extensions](#) applied twice, $1 \leq |\text{Emb}_K(K(a), N)|$ and any $\iota \in \text{Emb}_K(K(a), N)$ lifts to some $\iota' \in \text{Emb}_K(L, N)$. By assumption, $|\text{Emb}_K(L, N)| = 1$ so $|\text{Emb}_K(K(a), N)| = 1$.

□

Theorem – Separable Decomposition of Finite Extensions

Let (L, ι_L) be a finite K -extension. Then $S(L)$ is a field and thus naturally a separable K -extension. Furthermore, L as a $S(L)$ -extension is purely inseparable.

Proof. ($S(L)$ field) Let $a, b \in S(L)$ with $b \neq 0$. To show $a + b, -a, ab, b^{-1} \in S(L)$, it suffices to show the stronger statement that for all $x \in K(a, b)$, $\min(x, K)$ is separable.

So let $x \in K(a, b)$ and (N, ι_N) be a K -extension that splits $\min(x, K)$. By extending N , WLOG N splits $\min(a, K)$ and $\min(b, K)$, too. Then by separability of $\min(a, K)$, $\min(b, K)$,

$$[K(x) : K] = \frac{[K(a, b) : K]}{[K(a, b) : K(x)]} = \frac{\sum_{\iota \in \text{Emb}_K(K(x), N)} |\text{Emb}_{K(x)}(K(a, b), \iota)|}{[K(a, b) : K(x)]} \leq |\text{Emb}_K(K(x), N)|$$

and hence $[K(x) : K] = |\text{Emb}_K(K(x), N)|$. By the [embedding theorem finite simple extensions](#), $\min(x, K)$ has no repeated roots in N .

(L is a purely inseparable $S(L)$ -extension) The case of $S(L) = L$ is clear, so WLOG $S(L) \subsetneq L$. Then by the [characterisation of inseparable, irreducible polynomials](#), let $0 < p = \text{Char} K = \text{Char} S(L)$. We may now use the second [characterisation of finite purely inseparable extensions](#). Let $a \in L$. WLOG $a \notin S(L)$. Then by the [characterisation of inseparable, irreducible polynomials](#), there exists a separable, irreducible $g \in K[X]$ with $n > 0$ such that $\min(a, K)(X) = g(X^{p^n})$. Irreducibility of g implies $g = \min(a^{p^n}, K)$, which by separability of g , implies $a^{p^n} \in S(L)$ as desired. □

Theorem – Characterisation of Finite Separable Extensions

Let (L, ι_L) be a finite K -extension. Then the following are equivalent :

1. (L, ι_L) separable.
2. There exists finite $A \subseteq L$ such that $L = K(A)$ and for all $a \in A$, $\min(a, K)$ separable.
3. For all K -extensions (N, ι_N) where all $\min(a, K)$ are split for $a \in L$, $0 < |\text{Emb}_K(L, N)| = [L : K]$

Proof. (1 \Rightarrow 2) [Characterisation of finite extensions](#).

(2 \Rightarrow 3) [Embedding theorem](#).

(3 \Rightarrow 1) $[S(L) : K] = |\text{Emb}_K(S(L), N)| = \sum_{\iota \in \text{Emb}_K(S(L), N)} |\text{Emb}_{S(L)}(L, \iota)| = |\text{Emb}_K(L, N)| = [L : K]$. □

5 The Galois Correspondence

Theorem – Characterisation of Galois Extensions

Let (L, ι_L) be a K -extension. Then (L, ι_L) is finite, normal, separable if and only if (L, ι_L) is Galois. Furthermore, the Galois group of (L, ι_L) is always $\text{Aut}_K L$ and $[L : K] = |\text{Aut}_K L|$.

Proof. (\Rightarrow) We must give a finite subgroup $G \subseteq \text{Aut } L$ such that $\iota_L K = L^G$. The claim is that $G = \text{Aut}_K L$ works.

We first show that $\iota_L K = L^G$. It suffices $L^G \subseteq \iota_L K$. Let $a \in L^G$. It suffices that $\min(a, K)$ is linear. Since L is normal, L splits $\min(a, K)$. By separability of $\min(a, K)$, it suffices to show the only Galois K -conjugate of a in L is a . Let $\alpha \in L$ be a Galois K -conjugate of a . It suffices to give $\phi_\alpha^L \in G = \text{Aut}_K L$ such that $\phi_\alpha^L(a) = \alpha$. First by the [characterisation of finite simple extensions](#), there exists $\phi_\alpha \in \text{Emb}_K((K(a), \iota_L), (L, \iota_L))$ such that $\phi_\alpha(a) = \alpha$. Then by normality of (L, ι_L) and the [embedding theorem for finite extensions](#), there exists $\phi_\alpha^L \in \text{Emb}_{K(a)}(L, (L, \phi_\alpha))$. ϕ_α^L is as desired.

Finiteness of G follows from the [embedding theorem for finite extensions](#).

$$|G| = |\text{Aut}_K L| = |\text{Emb}_K(L, L)| \leq [L : K]$$

(\Leftarrow) Let G be a finite subgroup of $\text{Aut } L$ such that $\iota_L K = L^G$. WLOG we replace K with L^G . We first show that L is algebraic, normal and separable over L^G . Let $a \in L$. Ideally, if L is normal over L^G , then it contains all Galois L^G -conjugates of a , which are precisely images of a under L^G -automorphisms by the [embedding theorem for finite simple extensions](#) and [finite extensions](#). From this, we conjecture that

$$\min(a, K)(X) = \prod_{\alpha \in \text{Orb}(a)} (X - \alpha)$$

where $\text{Orb}(a) := \{\sigma(a) \mid \sigma \in G\}$. This suffices since the right exists, and is separable and split by L . For the claim, it suffices that $\prod_{\alpha \in \text{Orb}(a)} (X - \alpha)$ is in $L^G[X]$ and irreducible. The first follows from any $\sigma \in G$ permuting $\text{Orb}(a)$. The latter follows since any $f \in L^G[X]$ that has a as a root must also have all of $\text{Orb}(a)$ as roots via $0 = \sigma(ev_a f) = ev_{\sigma(a)} f = ev_{\sigma(a)} f$ for any $\sigma \in G$.

We now prove that $[L : L^G]$ is finite, and in fact, $[L : L^G] \leq |G|$. This requires one galaxy-brain idea, that $|G| = \dim_L(G \rightarrow L)$, where $G \rightarrow L$ is the L -vectorspace of functions from G to L . It thus suffices to show that for any L^G -linearly independent $X \subseteq L$, there is an L -linearly independent $X_1 \subseteq G \rightarrow L$ with $|X| = |X_1|$. Let $X \subseteq L$ be L^G -linearly independent. Then for each $x \in X$, we have $ev_x : G \rightarrow L, \sigma \mapsto \sigma(x)$. Since $id \in G$, $\{ev_x\}_{x \in X}$ bijects with X . We wish to show $\{ev_x\}_{x \in X}$ is L -linearly independent. This is equivalent to showing for all finite $X_0 \subseteq X$, $\{ev_x\}_{x \in X_0}$ is L -linearly independent.

Let $X_0 \subseteq X$ be finite and $\sum_{x \in X_0} \lambda_x ev_x = 0$ with $\lambda_x \in L$. Suppose there exists $x_0 \in X_0$ such that $\lambda_{x_0} \neq 0$. To get a contradiction, it suffices to show for all $x \in X_0$, $\lambda_x \in L^G$, for then by evaluating at $id \in G$, we have $0 = \sum_{x \in X_0} \lambda_x x$, implying all $\lambda_x = 0$. So let $\sigma \in G$. By rescaling, WLOG $\lambda_{x_0} = 1$. Then for all $\rho \in G$,

$$\sum_{x \in X_0 \setminus \{x_0\}} (\lambda_x - \sigma(\lambda_x)) ev_x(\rho) = \sum_{x \in X_0} \lambda_x ev_x(\rho) - \sigma \left(\sum_{x \in X_0} \lambda_x ev_x(\sigma^{-1} \circ \rho) \right) = 0$$

i.e. we have a L -linear combination of $\{ev_x \mid x \in X_0 \setminus \{x_0\}\}$ yielding zero. By induction on the size of X_0 , $\lambda_x = \sigma(\lambda_x)$ for all $x \in X_0$. Thus for all $x \in X_0$, $\lambda_x \in L^G$ as desired.

The fact that $G = \text{Aut}_{L^G} L$ follows from $|G| \leq |\text{Aut}_{L^G} L| = [L : L^G] \leq |G|$. This concludes the proof. \square

Lemma – Lifting Normality and Separability

Let (L, ι_L) be a K -extension, $E \subseteq L$ a field containing $\iota_L K$ so that (E, ι_L) be naturally a K -extension. Then the following are true.

1. If (L, ι_L) is a normal K -extension, then $(L, \mathbb{1}_E)$ is a normal E -extension.
2. If (L, ι_L) is a separable K -extension, then $(L, \mathbb{1}_E)$ is a separable E -extension.

Proof. (1) Easy via the first [characterisation of finite normal extensions](#).

(2) Let (L, ι_L) be separable and $a \in L$. Then $\min(a, E) \mid \iota_L \min(a, K)$. It suffices to show for all $g, f \in E[X]$, $g \mid f$ and f separable implies g separable. Let $g, f \in E[X]$, $g \mid f$ and f separable. Let (M, ι_M) be an E -extension where g splits. By extending (M, ι_M) , WLOG f splits in M as well. Then f having no repeated roots implies g has no repeated roots. \square

Theorem – Fundamental Theorem of Galois Theory

Let (L, ι_L) be a Galois K -extension, I the partially ordered set of K -extensions inside L , and J the partially ordered set of subgroups of $\text{Aut}_K L$.

Then $\text{Aut}_- L : I \rightarrow J$ and $L^- : J \rightarrow I$ are surjections and hence bijections. Furthermore, we have the following :

1. (Degree equals Index) Let $E \in I$. Then $[E : K] = [\text{Aut}_K L : \text{Aut}_E L]$.
2. (Group Action) Let $E \in I$. Then for all $\sigma \in \text{Aut}_K L$, $\text{Aut}_{\sigma E} L = \sigma \text{Aut}_E L \sigma^{-1}$.
3. (Normality) Let $E \in I$. Then E is a normal K -extension if and only if $\text{Aut}_E L$ is a normal subgroup of $\text{Aut}_K L$. In this case, we have the isomorphism $\text{Aut}_K E \cong \text{Aut}_K L / \text{Aut}_E L$.

Proof. Surjectivity of $\text{Aut}_- L, L^-$ and (1) follows from [lifting normality and separability](#) and the [characterisation of Galois extensions](#). (2) follows from definition.

(3) First, E normal K -extension implies $\text{Aut}_E L$ normal follows from the [characterisation of finite normal extensions](#) and (2).

Now let $E \in I$ such that $\text{Aut}_E L$ is a normal subgroup of $\text{Aut}_K L$. Then by (2), for all $\sigma \in \text{Aut}_K L$, $\sigma E = L^{\text{Aut}_{\sigma E} L} = L^{\sigma \text{Aut}_E L \sigma^{-1}} = L^{\text{Aut}_E L} = E$. We thus have a natural group morphism $\text{Aut}_K L \rightarrow \text{Aut}_E L, \sigma \mapsto \sigma$. Let G be its image. The kernel is clearly $\text{Aut}_E L$, so by the first isomorphism theorem for groups, we have $G \cong \text{Aut}_K L / \text{Aut}_E L$. Then $E^G = E \cap L^{\text{Aut}_K L} = E \cap \iota_L K = \iota_L K$, thus E is a Galois K -extension, in particular normal. We have thus also shown that $\text{Aut}_K E \cong \text{Aut}_K L / \text{Aut}_E L$. \square