

# Solutions: Galois Theory by Tom Leinster

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## Chapter 1. Overview of Galois Theory

### Exercise 1.1.3

Both proofs of ‘if’ contain little gaps: ‘It follows by induction’ in the first proof, and ‘it’s easy to see’ in the second. Fill them.

**Solution:** We show both both parts (i) and (ii) separately

(i) Follows from induction that for any polynomial  $p$  over  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\overline{p(w)} = p(\overline{w})$ :

Let  $p(w) = c_0 + c_1w^1 + c_2w^2 + \dots + c_nw^n$  where  $w^n \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $c_n \in \mathbb{C}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\overline{p(w)} &= \overline{c_0 + c_1w^1 + c_2w^2 + \dots + c_nw^n} \\ &= \overline{c_0} + \overline{c_1w^1} + \overline{c_2w^2} + \dots + \overline{c_nw^n} \\ &= c_0 + c_1\overline{w^1} + c_2\overline{w^2} + \dots + c_n\overline{w^n} \\ &= p(\overline{w})\end{aligned}$$

(ii) Checking that  $r$  is the zero polynomial:

**Lemma.** If  $r(x) = a_0 + a_1x^1 + \dots + a_nx^n$  and  $r(x) = 0, \forall x \neq 0$ , then  $a_0 = 0$ . Since  $\mathbb{Q}$  is a field, and must contain a zero.

By this lemma we have that  $\forall x, r(x) = 0$  and therefore  $r(x) = 0 = x(a_1 + a_2x + \dots + a_nx^{n-1}) = a_1 + a_2x + \dots + a_nx^{n-1}$  and  $\forall x \neq 0, a_1 = 0$ . Hence, we repeat the Lemma and show that all  $a_1, \dots, a_n = 0$ . Therefore  $r(x)$  is the zero polynomial.

### Exercise 1.1.6

Let  $z \in \mathbb{Q}$ . Show that  $z$  is not conjugate to  $z'$  for any complex number  $z' \neq z$ .

**Solution:**

### Exercise 1.1.10

Suppose that  $(z_1, \dots, z_k)$  and  $(z'_1, \dots, z'_k)$  are conjugate. Show that  $z_i$  and  $z'_i$  are conjugate, for each  $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$

**Solution:** By **Definition 1.1.9** have that:

$$p(z_1, \dots, z_k) = 0 \iff p(z'_1, \dots, z'_k) = 0$$

When  $k = 1$  we have that:

$$p(z_1) = 0 \iff p(z'_1) = 0 \implies z_1 \text{ and } z'_1 \text{ are conjugate}$$

Similarly, for any  $k$ :

$$p(z_i) = 0 \iff p(z'_i) = 0 \implies z_i \text{ and } z'_i \text{ are conjugate}$$

### Exercise 1.2.2

Show that  $Gal(f)$  is a subgroup of  $S_k$ .

## Chapter 2. Group actions, rings and fields

### Exercise 2.1.3

Check that  $\bar{g}$  is a bijection for each  $g \in G$ . Also check that  $\Sigma$  is a homomorphism.

**Solution:** We show injectivity (i), surjectivity (ii) and homomorphism (iii) :

(i) Injectivity:

Let  $x, y \in X$  and  $\bar{g}$  be our bijection

If we have  $\bar{g}(x) = \bar{g}(y)$

$$\rightsquigarrow gx = gy \rightsquigarrow g^{-1}(gx) = g^{-1}(gy) \rightsquigarrow (g^{-1}g)x = (g^{-1}g)y \rightsquigarrow ex = ey \rightsquigarrow x = y \quad \square$$

(ii) Surjectivity:

We know that  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is surjective iff  $\forall y \in Y \exists x \in X : f(x) = y$

We let  $x \in X$  and  $e$  be the identity in  $G$  then,

$$x = ex = (gg^{-1})x = g(g^{-1}x) = gy = \bar{g}(y) \text{ where } y = g^{-1}x \in X \quad \square$$

Therefore  $\bar{g}$  is both injective and surjective, hence bijective.

(i)  $\Sigma$  is Homomorphism:

We have the map:

$$\begin{aligned}\Sigma : G &\rightarrow \text{Sym}(X) \\ g &\mapsto \bar{g}\end{aligned}$$

We know that  $\bar{g}$  is well defined

Then we take  $g, h \in G, x \in X$ , then by **Definition 2.1.1**.

$$\begin{aligned}\Sigma(gh)(x) &= gh(x) = g(hx) \\ &= \Sigma(g)(\Sigma(h)(x)) = \Sigma(g) \circ \Sigma(h)(x) \quad \square\end{aligned}$$

### Exercise 2.1.10

Example **2.1.9(iii)** shows that the action of the isometry cube  $G$  of the cube on the set  $X$  of long diagonals is not faithful. By **Lemma 2.1.8**, there must be some non-identity isometry of the cube that fixes all four long diagonals. In fact, there is exactly one. What is it?

**Solution:** We show both both parts (i) and (ii) separately

### Exercise 2.2.6

Prove that the only subring of a ring  $R$  that is also an ideal is  $R$  itself.

**Solution:** We know that  $I$  is an ideal of  $R$  if:

$$\begin{aligned}(I, +) &\leq (R, +) \quad [\text{I is additive subgroup of } R] \\ &\& \forall r \in R, x \in I : \\ (1) \quad &r \cdot x \in I \\ (2) \quad &x \cdot r \in I\end{aligned}$$

We know that a subring  $S$  of  $R$  is a subset  $S \subseteq R$  containing 0 and 1.

Therefore if we take  $S$  to be an ideal as well then:

$$\begin{aligned}(S, +) &\leq (R, +) \\ &\& \forall r \in R, s \in S : \\ (1) \quad &r \cdot s \in S \\ (2) \quad &s \cdot r \in S\end{aligned}$$

But we know that  $1 \in S$ . Therefore,  $\forall r \in R$ , (1)  $1 \cdot r = r \in S$  and (2)  $r \cdot 1 = r \in S$   
Therefore  $\forall r \in R, r \in S \implies S = R \quad \square$

### Exercise 2.2.8

The trivial ring or zero ring is the one-element set with its only possible ring structure. Show that the only ring in which  $0 = 1$  is the trivial ring.

**Solution:** Let  $(R, +, \cdot)$  be our commutative, unital ring. If  $1 = 0$  in  $R$ , then  $\forall r \in R$  we have  $r = 1r = 0r = 0$   $\square$

### Exercise 2.2.8

Fill in the details of Example 2.2.13.

**Solution:** We suppose that  $I \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$  is an ideal and we take  $n \in I$  to be the least positive integer in  $I$ . We have obviously that  $\langle n \rangle \subseteq I$ . Then we assume that  $m \in I$ , by the division algorithm we know that:

$$\begin{aligned} m &= qn + r & (0 \leq r < n) \\ r &= m - qn & \in I \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $r = 0 \rightsquigarrow m = qn$ . Therefore  $m \in \langle n \rangle$  and we have that  $I \subseteq \langle n \rangle$ . Hence we have equality,  $I = \langle n \rangle$   $\square$

### Exercise 2.2.15

Let  $r$  and  $s$  be elements of an integral domain. Show that  $r|s|r \iff \langle r \rangle = \langle s \rangle \iff s = ur$  for some unit  $u$ .

**Solution:** If we have that  $r|s|r$  then  $\exists a \in R : s = ar$  and  $\exists b \in R : r = bs$  then:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{s}{a} &= bs \\ b &= \frac{1}{a} \rightsquigarrow ab = 1 \rightsquigarrow b = a^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Then we have that  $s = ar$ , and we have just shown that  $a$  is a unit, hence  $s = ur$ . Therefore  $r|s|r \implies s = ur$

If we have  $\langle r \rangle = \langle s \rangle$ , then  $r = s$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} r &= 1s & \& & s &= 1r \\ r &= as & \& & s &= ar \quad (\text{where } a = 1) \\ \implies & s|r & \& & r|s \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $\langle r \rangle = \langle s \rangle \implies r|s|r$

If we have that  $s = ur$  for some unit  $u$ , then also we have that

$$\begin{aligned} u^{-1}s &= u^{-1}ur \rightsquigarrow r = u^{-1}s \\ \text{Therefore } s \in \langle r \rangle \text{ \& } r \in \langle s \rangle, \langle s \rangle &\subseteq \langle r \rangle \text{ \& } \langle r \rangle \subseteq \langle s \rangle \\ \implies \langle r \rangle &= \langle s \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $s = ur \implies \langle r \rangle = \langle s \rangle$

### Exercise 2.3.1

Write down all the examples of fields that you know.

**Solution:**  $\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Q}$

### Exercise 2.3.5

Let  $\phi : K \rightarrow L$  be a homomorphism of fields and let  $0 \neq a \in K$ . Prove that  $\phi(a^{-1}) = \phi(a)^{-1}$ . Why is  $\phi(a)^{-1}$  defined?

**Solution:** Since  $K$  is a field, and the fact that  $0 \neq a \in K$ , we have that  $a$  is a unit,  $aa^{-1} = 1$ , and  $a^{-1} \in K$ . By **Lemma 2.3.3**, we have that  $\phi : K \rightarrow L$  is injective. Hence,  $\phi(a)\phi(a^{-1}) = \phi(a \circ a^{-1}) = \phi(1) = 1$ , and  $\phi(a^{-1})\phi(a) = \phi(a^{-1} \circ a) = \phi(1) = 1$ . Therefore we have that  $\phi(a^{-1})$  is both a left and right inverse of  $\phi(a)$  and hence it is the only inverse of  $\phi(a)$ . Therefore, by injectivity  $\phi(a^{-1}) = \phi(a)^{-1}$ .

### Exercise 2.3.13

This proof of Lemma 2.3.12 is quite abstract. Find a more concrete proof, taking equation (2.2) as your definition of characteristic. (You will still need the fact that  $\phi$  is injective.)

**Solution:** By (2.2) we have:

$$\text{char} R = \begin{cases} \text{least } n > 0 : n * 1_R = 0_R & , \text{ if such an } n \text{ exists} \\ 0 & , \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

We know that  $\phi(1_K) = 1_L$  and  $\phi(0_K) = 0_L$ , since  $\phi$  is injective, then also  $\phi(n \cdot 1_K) = n \cdot 1_L \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We have two possible cases for the characteristic  $c$  of  $K$  ( $\text{char} K$ ),  $c = 0$  or  $c > 0$ .

If  $c = 0$ , then  $\phi(0_K) = 0_L = 0$ . Therefore  $\text{char} L = c = \text{char} K$ .

If  $c > 0$ , then  $\phi(c \cdot 1_K) = c \cdot 1_L = 0$ . Therefore  $\text{char} L = c = \text{char} K$ .

### Exercise 2.3.15

What is the prime subfield of  $\mathbb{R}$ ? Of  $\mathbb{C}$ ?

**Solution:** For  $\mathbb{R}$  it is  $\mathbb{Q}$ . For  $\mathbb{C}$  it is also  $\mathbb{Q}$ . See **Lemma 2.3.16**.

### Exercise 2.3.25

What are the irreducible elements of a field?

**Solution:** We know that for a ring  $R$ ,  $r$  is irreducible if  $r$  is not 0 or a unit and if for  $a, b \in R$ , then  $r = ab \implies a$  or  $b$  is a unit. However, we know that every element of a field  $K$  is either a unit or 0. Therefore, there are no irreducible elements in a field.

## Chapter 3. Polynomials

### Exercise 3.1.4

Show that whenever  $R$  is a finite nontrivial ring, it is possible to find distinct polynomials over  $R$  that induce the same function  $R \rightarrow R$ . (Hint: are there finitely or infinitely many polynomials over  $R$ ? Functions  $R \rightarrow R$ ?)

**Solution:**

### Exercise 3.1.8

What happens to everything in the previous paragraph if we substitute  $t = u^2 + c$  instead?

**Solution:**

### Exercise 3.1.13

Let  $p$  be a prime and consider the field  $\mathbb{F}_p(t)$  of rational expressions over  $\mathbb{F}_p$ . Show that  $t$  has no  $p$ th root in  $\mathbb{F}_p(t)$ . (Hint: consider degrees of polynomials.)

**Solution:** A rational expression over  $K$  is  $\frac{f(t)}{g(t)}$  where  $f(t), g(t) \in K[t]$  with  $g \neq 0$ . For any  $\frac{f(t)}{g(t)} \in \mathbb{F}_p(t)$  where  $f(t), g(t) \in \mathbb{F}_p[t]$ , suppose we have that  $\left(\frac{f(t)}{g(t)}\right)^p = t$ . We then have that  $f^p = tg^p$ . Then  $\deg(f^p) = np$  where  $n = \deg(f)$  and  $\deg(tg^p) = \deg(t) + \deg(g^p) = 1 + mp$  where  $m = \deg(g)$ , hence we have  $np = mp + 1 \rightsquigarrow p = \frac{1}{n-m}$ . But this is impossible since  $p$  is prime, hence a contradiction, hence  $t$  has no  $p$ th root in  $\mathbb{F}_p(t)$ .

### Exercise 3.2.4

Prove that the ideals in Warning 3.2.3 are indeed not principal.

**Solution:**

### Exercise 3.3.5

If I gave you a quadratic over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , how would you decide whether it was reducible or irreducible?

**Solution:** By **Lemma 3.3.1 (ii)**, if the quadratic has a root in  $\mathbb{Q}$ , then it is reducible. By the same lemma **(iii)**, if the quadratic has no root in  $\mathbb{Q}$ , then it is irreducible.

### Exercise 3.3.13

The last step in (3.9) was ' $\deg(\bar{h}) \leq \deg(h)'$ '. Why is that true? And when does equality hold?

**Solution:**  $\bar{h} = h \bmod p$ . Therefore if  $p|a_{n_h}$  then  $a_{n_{\bar{h}}} = 0$  and  $\deg(\bar{h}) < \deg(h)$ . If  $p \nmid a_{n_h}$  then  $a_{n_h} = a_{n_{\bar{h}}}$  and  $\deg(\bar{h}) = \deg(h)$ . Therefore  $\deg(\bar{h}) \leq \deg(h)$ . Equality holds on the preceding condition.

### Exercise 3.3.15

Use Eisenstein's criterion to show that for every  $n \geq 1$ , there is an irreducible polynomial over  $\mathbb{Q}$  of degree  $n$ .

**Solution:** Let  $f(t) = a_0 + \dots + a_n t^n \in \mathbb{Q}[t]$  with  $n \geq 1$ . For  $n \geq 1$ , we can always choose an  $f \in \mathbb{Q}[t]$  such that  $f(t) = a_n t^n + a_0$ , and we can further always choose an  $a_n, a_0$  and  $p$  such that  $p \nmid a_n$ ,  $p|a_0$ ,  $p^2 \nmid a_0$ . Hence, we have  $f(t) = a_n t^n + a_0$  fulfilling the Eisenstein criterion, and hence  $f(t)$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . As an example, we can always choose  $f(t) = t^n + 2$  and  $p = 2$ .

## Chapter 4. Field extensions

### Exercise 4.1.3

Find two examples of fields  $K$  such that  $\mathbb{Q} \subsetneq K \subsetneq \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, i)$

**Solution:**  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}) = \{a + b\sqrt{2} : a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}$  and  $K = \mathbb{Q}(i) = \{a + bi : a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}$

### Exercise 4.1.5

Check the truth of all the statements in the previous paragraph.

**Solution:** Follow trivially from definitions of intersection and subfields. See **Lemma 2.2.3** for showing intersection of subfields still remains a subfield.

### Exercise 4.1.7

What is the subfield of  $\mathbb{C}$  generated by  $\{7/8\}$ ? By  $\{2 + 3i\}$ ? By  $\mathbb{R} \cup \{i\}$ ?

**Solution:** Since  $\mathbb{C}$  is of characteristic 0, by **Lemma 2.3.16** the prime subfield of  $\mathbb{C}$  is  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Since  $\mathbb{Q}$  contains  $\{7/8\}$  and by definition of prime subfield, it is the intersection of all the subfields of  $\mathbb{C}$  containing  $\{7/8\}$ , hence  $\mathbb{Q}$  is generated by  $\{7/8\}$ .

Let  $L$  be the subfield of  $\mathbb{C}$  generated by  $\{2 + 3i\}$ . Then  $L = \{2a + 3bi : a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}$  by similar argument as **Example 4.1.6 (ii)**.

Similarly, let  $L$  be the subfield of  $\mathbb{C}$  generated by  $\mathbb{R} \cup \{i\}$ . Then  $L = \mathbb{R} \cup \{a + bi : a, b \in \mathbb{Q}\} \stackrel{?}{=} \{a + bi : a \in \mathbb{R}, b \in \mathbb{Q}\}$ .

### Exercise 4.1.11

Let  $M : K$  be a field extension. Show that  $K(Y \cup Z) = (K(Y))(Z)$  whenever  $Y, Z \subseteq M$ .

**Solution:**

### Exercise 4.2.2

Show that every element of  $K$  is algebraic over  $K$ .

**Solution:** Since  $K$  is a field,  $\forall k \in K : \exists -k \in K : k + (-k) = (-k) + k = 0$ . Therefore,  $\forall k \in K$ , we can choose  $f(t) = t - k \in K[t]$ . Hence we have that  $f \neq 0$  and  $f(k) = k - k = 0$ . Therefore  $\forall k \in K, k$  is algebraic over  $K$ .

### Exercise 4.2.9

What is the minimal polynomial of an element of  $K$ ?

**Solution:** We can refer back to **Exercise 4.2.2**. If we let  $m(t) = t - k$ , then we see that it is indeed monic and unique  $\forall k \in K$  satisfying condition (4.2).



### Exercise 4.3.5

Let  $M : K$  and  $L : K$  be field extensions, and let  $\phi : M \rightarrow L$  be a homomorphism over  $K$ . Show that if  $\alpha \in M$  has minimal polynomial  $m$  over  $K$  then  $\phi(\alpha) \in L$  also has minimal polynomial  $m$  over  $K$ .

**Solution:**

### Exercise 4.3.9

Fill in the details of the last paragraph of that proof.

**Solution:** We show that there is at most one homomorphism  $\phi : K(t) \rightarrow L$  over  $K$  such that  $\phi(t) = \beta$ . We let  $\phi$  and  $\phi'$  be two such homomorphisms. Then we have that  $\phi(t) = \beta = \phi'(t)$ . By **Lemma 4.3.1 (ii)** we have that  $t$  generates  $K(t)$  over  $K$ , and hence by **Lemma 4.3.6**  $\phi = \phi'$   $\square$

### Exercise 4.3.15

Prove that  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3})$ .

**Solution:** We know that  $\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3} \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3})$  and hence  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3}) \subseteq \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3})$ . Now we show the inclusion the other way. We use the hint and get that  $(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3})^3 = 11\sqrt{2} + 9\sqrt{3} \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3})$ . Then we have that:  $11\sqrt{2} + 9\sqrt{3} - 9(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3}) = 2\sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3})$ , hence  $\sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3})$ . Similarly, we get that  $\sqrt{3} \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3})$ . Therefore,  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}) \subseteq \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3})$   $\square$

### Exercise 4.3.18

How many elements does the field  $\mathbb{F}_3(\sqrt{2})$  have? What about  $\mathbb{F}_2(\alpha)$ , where  $\alpha$  is a root of  $1 + t + t^2$ ?

**Solution:** We know that  $\mathbb{F}_3(\sqrt{2})$  can be constructed as  $\mathbb{F}_3[t]/\langle t^2 - 2 \rangle$ . Hence, any element of the field has the form  $a_0 + a_1t + \langle t^2 - 2 \rangle$  with  $a_i \in \mathbb{F}_3$ . Hence, there are  $3^2 = 9$  elements.

In a similar manner, we know that  $\mathbb{F}_2(\alpha)$  can be constructed as  $\mathbb{F}_2[t]/\langle t^2 + t + 1 \rangle$ . Hence any element of the field has the form  $a_0 + a_1t + \langle t^2 + t + 1 \rangle$  with  $a_i \in \mathbb{F}_2$ . Hence there are  $2^2 = 4$  elements.

## Chapter 5. Degree

### Exercise 5.1.9

Write out the addition and multiplication tables of  $\mathbb{F}_2(\alpha)$ .

**Solution:** The tables are straightforward, using modulo arithmetic and the irreducible polynomial evaluated at  $\alpha$ .

+	0	1	$\alpha$	$1 + \alpha$
0	0	1	$\alpha$	$1 + \alpha$
1	1	0	$1 + \alpha$	$\alpha$
$\alpha$	$\alpha$	$1 + \alpha$	0	1
$1 + \alpha$	$1 + \alpha$	$\alpha$	1	0

$\times$	0	1	$\alpha$	$1 + \alpha$
0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	$\alpha$	$1 + \alpha$
$\alpha$	0	$\alpha$	$1 + \alpha$	1
$1 + \alpha$	0	$1 + \alpha$	1	$\alpha$

### Exercise 5.1.13

Give an example of to show that the inequality in Corollary 5.1.12 can be strict. Your example can be as trivial as you like.

**Solution:** We choose our fields and hence extensions to be  $\mathbb{C} : \mathbb{R} : \mathbb{Q}$ . We also choose  $\beta = \sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{C}$ . The minimal polynomial of  $\sqrt{2}$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$  is  $m = t^2 - 2$ , then  $\deg_{\mathbb{Q}}(\beta) = [\mathbb{Q}(\beta) : \mathbb{Q}] = 2$ .

Similarly, the minimal polynomial of  $\sqrt{2}$  over  $\mathbb{R}$  is  $m = t - \sqrt{2}$ , then  $\deg_{\mathbb{R}}(\beta) = [\mathbb{R}(\beta) : \mathbb{R}] = 1$ .

Hence we have that  $[\mathbb{R}(\beta) : \mathbb{R}] < [\mathbb{Q}(\beta) : \mathbb{Q}] \quad \square$

### Exercise 5.1.16

Let  $M : K$  be a field extension and  $\alpha$  a transcendental element of  $M$ . Can every element of  $K(\alpha)$  be represented as a polynomial in  $\alpha$  over  $K$ ?

**Solution:** We have that  $K(\alpha) = \left\{ \frac{f(\alpha)}{g(\alpha)} : f, g \in F[t] \right\}$ , which is just  $K(t)$ , the field rational expressions. Therefore it is not polynomial in  $\alpha$  over  $K$ .

### Exercise 5.1.20

Show that a field extension whose degree is a prime number must be simple.

**Solution:** Let  $M : K(\alpha) : K$  be field extensions where  $M$  and  $K$  are arbitrary fields,  $\alpha \in M$ , and  $[M : K] = p$ , where  $p$  is prime. By **Theorem 5.1.17 (iii)** we have  $[M : K] = [M : K(\alpha)][K(\alpha) : K]$ . Hence, we must have that  $[K(\alpha) : K] = 1$  or  $p$ , however, we also know that  $K(\alpha) \neq K$ , hence  $[K(\alpha) : K] = p$ , and therefore,  $[M : K(\alpha)] = 1$ , which by **Example 5.1.3** tells us  $M = K(\alpha)$ . Hence  $M : K$  is a simple.

### Exercise 5.1.23

Generalize Example 5.1.22. In other words, what general result does the argument of Example 5.1.22 prove, not involving the particular numbers chosen there?

**Solution:** Let  $M : K$  be a field extension and  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in M$ . If  $\gcd(\deg_K(\alpha_1), \dots, \deg_K(\alpha_n)) = 1$  (i.e., coprime), then we have that,  $[K(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) : K] = [K(\alpha_1) : K] \dots [K(\alpha_n) : K]$

### Exercise 5.2.5

Let  $M : K$  be a field extension and  $K \subseteq L \subseteq M$ . In the proof of Proposition 5.2.4, I said that if  $L$  is a subfield of  $M$  then  $L$  is a  $K$ -linear subspace of  $M$ . Why is that true? And is the converse also true? Give proof or a counterexample.

**Solution:** We know that  $M$  acts as a vector space over  $K$ . If  $L$  is a subfield of  $M$ , then we can similarly conclude that  $L$  acts as a vector space over  $K$ . Since we have that  $L$  is a subset of  $M$  (a subfield) we can conclude that  $L$  is a linear ( $K$ -linear) subspace of  $M$  (by definition of a linear subspace).

The converse is not true.

### Exercise 5.2.8

Let  $M : K$  be a field extension and write  $L$  for the set of elements of  $M$  algebraic over  $K$ . By imitating the proof of Proposition 5.2.7, prove that  $L$  is a subfield of  $M$ .

**Solution:** We have that  $L = \{\alpha \in M : [K(\alpha) : K] < \infty\}$ .  
Then  $\forall \alpha, \beta \in L$ ,  $[K(\alpha, \beta) : K] \leq [K(\alpha) : K][K(\beta) : K] < \infty$   
Now  $\alpha + \beta \in K(\alpha, \beta)$ , so  $K(\alpha + \beta) \subseteq K(\alpha, \beta)$ , hence  
 $[K(\alpha + \beta) : K] \leq [K(\alpha, \beta) : K] < \infty$ , giving  $\alpha + \beta \in L$ . Similarly,  $\alpha \cdot \beta \in L$ .  
Then  $\forall \alpha \in L$ ,  $[K(-\alpha) : K] = [K(\alpha) : K] < \infty$ , giving  $-\alpha \in L$ . Similarly,  
 $1/\alpha \in L$  (if  $\alpha \neq 0$ ), and clearly  $0, 1 \in L$   $\square$

### Exercise 5.3.7

Find an example of Lemma 5.3.6 where  $[LL' : L] = 2$ , and another where  $[LL' : L] = 1$ .

**Solution:** If we let  $L = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$  and  $L' = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})$ , we then get  $LL' = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3})$ . Then  $[\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}) : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})] = 2$ .

If we let  $L = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{4})$  and  $L' = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})$ , we then get  $LL' = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{4}, \sqrt{3})$ . Then  $[\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{4}, \sqrt{3}) : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})] = 1$ .

## Chapter 6. Splitting fields

### Exercise 6.1.5

Show that if a ring homomorphism  $\psi$  is injective then so is  $\psi_*$ , and if  $\psi$  is an isomorphism then so is  $\psi_*$ .

**Solution:** We have that  $\psi : R \rightarrow S$  and  $\psi_* : R[t] \rightarrow S[t]$ . Since  $\psi$  is injective we have that  $\forall x, y \in R$  if  $\psi(x) = \psi(y) \implies x = y$ . Then we choose  $f, f' \in R[t]$  and assume that  $\psi_* f = \psi_* f'$ . From **Definition 3.1.7** we then have that:

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_* f &= \psi_* f' \\ \psi_* \left( \sum_i a_i t^i \right) &= \psi_* \left( \sum_i b_i t^i \right) \\ \sum_i \psi(a_i) t^i &= \sum_i \psi(b_i) t^i \\ \psi(a_i) &= \psi(b_i) \\ \implies a_i &= b_i \end{aligned}$$

Hence we have that  $f = \sum_i a_i t^i = f'$ . Hence  $\psi_*$  is injective.

If  $\psi$  is an isomorphism then  $\psi$  is both surjective and injective. We have just shown that  $\psi_*$  is injective, so we show that it is also surjective to prove it is an isomorphism. We know that  $\phi_*$  is surjective  $\iff \forall s \in S[t] \exists r \in R[t] : \psi_* r = s$ .

We choose  $s \in S[t]$  and let  $e$  be the identity homomorphism. Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
s &= es \\
&= (\psi_* \psi_*^{-1})s \\
&= \psi_*(\psi_*^{-1}s) \\
&= \psi_* \left( \psi_*^{-1} \left( \sum_i a_i t^i \right) \right) \\
&= \psi_* \left( \sum_i \psi_*^{-1}(a_i) t^i \right) \\
&= \psi_* r
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\psi_*^{-1}(a_i) \in R$  exists since  $\psi$  is an isomorphism, and  $r = \sum_i \psi_*^{-1}(a_i) t^i \in R[t]$ . Hence  $\psi_*$  is also surjective, hence it is an isomorphism.

### Exercise 6.1.5

Show that (ii) can equivalently be replaced by: ‘if  $L$  is a subfield of  $M$  containing  $K$ , and  $f$  splits in  $L$ , then  $L = M$ ’.

**Solution:** We first show ( $\implies$ ). By (ii) we have that  $f(t) = (t - \alpha_1) \dots (t - \alpha_n) = 0$

We then show ( $\impliedby$ ). We have that  $K \subseteq L = M$ , and  $f(t) = \beta(t - \alpha_1) \dots (t - \alpha_n)$  for some  $n \geq 0$  and  $\beta, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in M$ .

### Exercise 6.2.9

In Example 6.2.8(iii), I said that  $\mathbb{Q}(\xi, \omega\xi, \omega^2\xi) = \mathbb{Q}(\xi, \omega)$ . Why is that true?

**Solution:** We know that  $\mathbb{Q}(\xi) = \{a + b\xi + c\xi^2 : a, b, c \in \mathbb{Q}\}$ , and hence  $\{1, \xi, \xi^2\}$  forms a basis for  $\mathbb{Q}(\xi) : \mathbb{Q}$ . Similarly,  $\{1, \omega\}$  forms a basis for  $\mathbb{Q}(\xi, \omega) : \mathbb{Q}(\xi)$ . By **Theorem 5.1.17 (Tower Law)(i)** we then have that  $\{1, \xi, \xi^2, \omega, \xi\omega, \xi^2\omega\}$  forms a basis for  $\mathbb{Q}(\xi, \omega) : \mathbb{Q}$ .