Field and Galois Theory

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Abstract

This is meant to be a rapid introduction to Galois Theory. We shall not provide intuition or comment far too much on any specific result. The main reference followed while making these notes is [Lan02]

Contents

Chapter 1

Algebraic Extensions

Definition 1.1 (Extension, Degree). Let F be a field. If F is a subfield of another field E, then E is said to be an *extension* field of F. The dimension of E when viewed as a vector space over F is said to be the *degree of the extension* E/F and is denoted by $[E : F]$.

Definition 1.2 (Algebraic Element).

Definition 1.3 (Distinguished Class). Let $\mathscr{C}$ be a class of extension fields $F \subseteq E$. We say that $\mathscr{C}$ is distinguished if it satisfies the following conditions:

1. Let $k \subseteq F \subseteq E$ be a tower of fields. The extension $K \subseteq E$ is in $\mathscr{C}$ if and only if $k \subseteq F$ is in $\mathscr{C}$ and $F \subseteq E$ is in $\mathscr{C}$.
2. If $k \subseteq E$ is in $\mathscr{C}$, if F is any extension of k, and E, F are both contained in some field, then $F \subseteq EF$ is in $\mathscr{C}$.
3. If $k \subseteq F$ and $k \subseteq E$ are in $\mathscr{C}$ and F, E are subfields of a common field, then $k \subseteq FE$ is in $\mathscr{C}$.

Lemma 1.4. *Let E/k be algebraic and let $\sigma : E \to E$ be an embedding of E over k. Then σ is an automorphism.*

Proof. Since σ is known to be injective, it suffices to show that it is surjective. Pick some $\alpha \in E$ and let $p(x) \in k[x]$ be its minimal polynomial over k. Let K be the subfield of E generated by all the roots of p in E. Obviously, $[K : k]$ is finite. Since p remains unchanged under σ, it is not hard to see that σ maps a root of p in E to another root of p in E. Therefore, $\sigma(K) \subseteq K$. But since $[\sigma(K) : k] = [K : k]$ due to obvious reasons, we must have that $\sigma(K) = K$, consequently, $\alpha \in K = \sigma(K)$. This shows surjectivity. ■

Chapter 2

Algebraic Closure

Theorem 2.1. *Let k be a field. Then there is an algebraicaly closed field containing k.*

Proof due to Artin. ■

Corollary 2.2. Let k be a field. Then there exists an extension k^a which is algebraic over k and algebraically closed.

Proof. ■

Lemma 2.3. *Let k be a field and L and algebraically closed field with $\sigma : k \to L$ an embedding. Let α be algebraic over k in some extension of k. Then, the number of extensions of σ to an embedding $k(\alpha) \to L$ is precisely equal to the number of distinct roots of the minimal polynomial of α over k.*

Lemma 2.4. *Suppose E and L are algebraically closed fields with $E \subseteq L$. If L/E is algebraic, then $E = L$.*

Proof. Let $\alpha \in L$. Let $p(x) \in E[x]$ be the minimal polynomial of α over E. Since E is algebraically closed, p splits into linear factors over E, one of them being $(x - \alpha)$, implying that $\alpha \in E$. This completes the proof. ■

Theorem 2.5 (Extension Theorem). *Let E/k be algebraic, L an algebraically closed field and $\sigma : k \to L$ be an embedding of k. Then there exists an extension of σ to an embedding of E in L. If E is algebraically closed and L is algebraic over σk, then any such extension of σ is an isomorphism of E onto L.*

Proof. Let $\mathscr{S}$ be the set of all pairs (F, τ) where $F \subseteq E$ and F/k is algebraic and $\tau : F \to L$ is an extension of σ. Define a partial order $\leqq$ on $\mathscr{S}$ by $(F_1, \tau_1) \leqq (F_2, \tau_2)$ if and only if $F_1 \subseteq F_2$ and $\tau_2 \mid_{F_1} \equiv \tau_1$. Note that $\mathscr{S}$ is nonempty since it contains (k, σ). Let $\mathscr{C} = \{(F_\alpha, \tau_\alpha)\}$ be a chain in $\mathscr{S}$. Define $F = \bigcup_\alpha F_\alpha$. Now, for any $t \in F$, there is β such that $t \in F_\beta$; using this, define $\tau(t) = \tau_\beta(t)$. It is not hard to see that this is a valid embedding.

Now, invoking Zorn's Lemma, there is a maximal element, say (K, τ). We claim that $K = E$, for if not, then we may choose some $\alpha \in E$ and invoke Lemma 2.3.

Finally, if E is algebraically closed, so is σE, consequently, we are done due to the preceeding lemma. ■

Corollary 2.6. Let k be a field and E, E' be algebraic extensions of k. Assume that E, E' are algebraically closed. Then there exists an isomorphism $\tau : E \to E'$ inducing the identity on k.

Proof. Consider the extension of $\sigma : k \to E'$ where $\sigma \mid_k = \mathbf{id}_k$ whence the conclusion immediately follows. ■

Since an algebraically closed and algebraic extension of k is determined upto an isomorphism, we call such an extension an *algebraic closure* of k and is denoted by k^a.

Definition 2.7 (Conjugates). Let E/k be an algebraic extension contained in an algebraic closure k^a. Then, the distinct roots of the minimal polynomial of α over k are called the *conjugates* of α. In particular, two roots of the same minimal polynomial over k are said to be *conjugate* to one another.

Here's a nice exercise from [DF04].

Example 2.8. A field is said to be *formally real* if -1 cannot be expressed as a sum of squares in it. Let k be a formally real field with k^a its algebraic closure. If $\alpha \in k^a$ with odd degree over k, then $k[\alpha]$ is also formally real.

Proof. Suppose not. Let $\alpha \in k^a$ be such that $k[\alpha]$ is not formally real and $[k[\alpha] : k]$ is minimum, greater than 1. Then, there are elements $\gamma_1, \ldots, \gamma_m \in k[\alpha]$ such that $\sum_{i=1}^m \gamma_i^2 = -1$. We may choose polynomials $p_i(x) \in k[x]$ such that $p_i(\alpha) = \gamma_i$ with $\deg p_i(\alpha) < [k[\alpha] : k]$.

Let $f(x) \in k[x]$ be the irreducible polynomial of α over k. We have

$$p_1(\alpha)^2 + \cdots + p_m(\alpha)^2 = -1$$

and thus, α is a root of the polynomial $p_1(x)^2 + \cdots + p_m(x)^2 + 1$. Thus, there is a polynomial $g(x) \in k[x]$ such that

$$p_1(x)^2 + \cdots + p_m(x)^2 + 1 = f(x)g(x).$$

Notice that the degree of the left hand side is even and less than $2 \deg f$ whence $\deg g < \deg f$ and is odd.

Further, note that $g(x)$ may not have a root in k lest -1 be written as a sum of squares in k. Consider now the factorization of $g(x)$ as a product of irreducibles:

$$g(x) = h_1(x) \cdots h_n(x).$$

Equating degrees, we see that there is an index j such that $\deg h_j$ is odd. Let β be a root of h_j in k^a. Then, $[k[\beta] : k] = \deg h_j \leq \deg g < \deg f$ and

$$p_1(\beta)^2 + \cdots + p_m(\beta)^2 + 1 = f(\beta)g(\beta) = 0$$

whence $k[\beta]$ is not formally real and contradicts the choice of α. ■

The proof of the next theorem requires some tools from later chapters.

Theorem 2.9. *Let K/k be an algebraic extension such that every non-constant polynomial in $k[x]$ has a root in K. Then, K is algebraically closed.*

Proof. Let $\alpha \in k^a$. We shall show that $\alpha \in K$ which would imply the desired conclusion. Let $f(x) \in k[x]$ be the minimal polynomial of α over k and $F \subseteq k^a$ be the splitting field of $f(x)$ over k, which is obviously a finite extension.

Due to Lemma 5.8, there are subfields F_0 and E of F such that $F = F_0 E$, E/k is purely inseparable and F_0 is the separable closure of k in F. Since F_0/k is a finite separable extension, due to Theorem 4.18, there is some $\beta \in F_0$ such that $F_0 = k(\beta)$.

Let $g(x)$ be the minimal polynomial of β over k and $\beta' \in K$ be a root of $g(x)$. Since $g(x)$ is the minimal polynomial of β' and is separable since β is separable over k, we have that $\beta' \in F_0 = k(\beta)$ and thus

$$F_0 = \underbrace{k(\beta) = k(\beta')}_{\text{due to a dimension argument}} \subseteq K.$$

E/k is finite, it has a basis, say $\gamma_1, \ldots, \gamma_n$. The minimal polynomial of γ_i is of the form $(x - \gamma_i)^{p^{r_i}}$ and thus has a single root, whence, $\gamma_i \in K$. Thus $E \subseteq K$. As a result,

$$F = F_0 E \subseteq K$$

and thus $\alpha \in K$ thereby completing the proof. ■

Chapter 3

Normal Extensions

Definition 3.1 (Splitting Field). Let k be a field and $\{f_i\}_{i \in I}$ be a family of polynomials in $k[x]$. By a *splitting field* for this family, we shall mean an extension K of k such that every f_i splits in linear factors in $K[x]$ and K is generated by all the roots of all the polynomials f_i for $i \in I$ in some algebraic closure $\overline{k}$.

In particular, if $f \in k[x]$ is a polynomial, then the splitting field of f over k is an extension K/k such that f splits into linear factors in K and K is generated by all the roots of f.

Definition 3.2 (Normal Extension). An algebraic extension K/k is said to be *normal* if whenever an irreducible polynomial $f(x) \in k[x]$ has a root in K, it splits into linear factors over K.

Theorem 3.3 (Uniqueness of Splitting Fields). *Let K be a splitting field of the polynomial $f(x) \in k[x]$. If E is another splitting field of f, then there exists an isomorphism $\sigma : E \to K$ inducing the identity on k. If $k \subseteq K \subseteq \overline{k}$, where $\overline{k}$ is an algebraic closure of k, then any embedding of E in $\overline{k}$ inducing the identity on k must be an isomorphism of E on K.*

Proof. We prove both assertions together. Due to Theorem 2.5, there is an embedding $\sigma : E \to \overline{k}$ such that $\sigma |_k = \mathbf{id}_k$. Therefore, it suffices to prove the second half of the theorem.

We have two factorizations

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= c(x - \alpha_1) \cdots (x - \alpha_n) \qquad \text{over } E \\ &= c(x - \beta_1) \cdots (x - \beta_n) \qquad \text{over } K \end{aligned}$$

Since σ induces the identity map on k, f must remain invariant under σ. Further, we have

$$\sigma f(x) = c(x - \sigma\beta_1) \cdots (x - \sigma\beta_n)$$

Due to unique factorization, we must have that $(\sigma\beta_1, \ldots, \sigma\beta_n)$ differs from $(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)$ by a permutation. Since $\sigma E = k(\sigma\beta_1, \ldots, \sigma\beta_n)$, we immediately have the desired conclusion. ■

Theorem 3.4. *Let K/k be algebraic in some algebraic closure $\overline{k}$ of k. Then, the following are equivalent:*

1. *Every embedding σ of K in $\overline{k}$ over k is an automorphism of K*
2. *K is the splitting field of a family of polynomials in $k[x]$*

3. *K/k is normal*

Proof.
$(1) \implies (2) \wedge (3)$: For each $\alpha \in K$, let $m_\alpha(x)$ denote the minimal polynomial for α over k. We shall show that K is the splitting field for $\{m_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in K}$. Obviously, K is generated by $\{\alpha\}_{\alpha \in K}$, hence, it suffices to show that m_α splits into linear factors over K. Let β be a root of m_α in $\overline{k}$. Then, there is an isomorphism $\sigma : k(\alpha) \to k(\beta)$. One may extend this to an embedding $\sigma : K \to \overline{k}$, which by our hypothesis, is an automorphism of K, implying that $\beta \in K$ and giving us the desired conclusion.
$(2) \implies (1)$: Let K be the splitting field for the family of polynomials $\{f_i\}_{i \in I}$. Let $\alpha \in K$ and α be the root of some polynomial f_i and $\sigma : K \to k^a$ be an embedding of fields. Since f_i remains invariant under σ, it must map a root of f_i to another toot of f_i, that is, $\sigma\alpha$ is a root of f_i. Consequently, σ maps K into K. Now, due to Lemma 1.4, σ is an automorphism and K/k is normal.
$(3) \implies (1)$: Let $\sigma : K \to \overline{k}$ be an embedding of fields. Let $\alpha \in K$ and $p(x) \in k[x]$ be its irreducible polynomial over k. Since p remains invariant under σ, it must map α to a root β of p in $\overline{k}$. But since p splits into linear factors over K, $\beta \in K$ and thus $\sigma(K) \subseteq K$, consequently, $\sigma(K) = K$ due to Lemma 1.4, therefore completing the proof. ■

Corollary 3.5. The splitting field of a polynomial is a normal extension.

Theorem 3.6. *Normal extensions remain normal under lifting. If $k \subseteq E \subseteq K$, and K is normal over k, then K is normal over E. If K_1, K_2 are normal over k and are contained in some field L, then K_1K_2 is normal over k and so is $K_1 \cap K_2$.*

Proof. Let K/k be normal and F/k be any extension with K and F contained in some larger extension. Let σ be an embedding of KF over F in $\overline{F}$. The restriction of σ to K is an embedding of K over k and therefore, is an automorphism of K. As a result, $\sigma(KF) = (\sigma K)(\sigma F) = KF$ and thus KF/F is normal.

Now, suppose $k \subseteq E \subseteq K$ with K/k normal. Let σ be an embedding of K in $\overline{k}$ over E. Then, σ induces the identity on k and is therefore an automorphism of K. This shows that K/E is normal.

Next, if K_1 and K_2 are normal over k and σ is an embedding of K_1K_2 over k, then its restriction to K_1 and K_2 respectively are also embeddings over k and consequently are automorphisms. This gives us

$$\sigma(K_1K_2) = (\sigma K_1)(\sigma K_2) = K_1K_2$$

Finally, since any embedding of $K_1 \cap K_2$ can be extended to that of K_1K_2, we have, due to a similar argument, that $K_1 \cap K_2$ is normal over k. ■

Chapter 4

Separable Extensions

Let E/k be a finite extension, and therefore, algebraic. Let L be an algebraically closed field along with an embedding $\sigma : k \to L$. Define S_σ to be the set of extensions of σ to $\sigma^* : E \to L$.

Definition 4.1 (Separable Degree). Given the above setup, the *separable degree* of the finite extension E/k, denoted by $[E:k]_s$ is defined to be the cardinality of S_σ.

Proposition 4.2. *The separable degree is well defined. That is, if L' is an algebraically closed field and $\tau : k \to L'$ be an embedding, then the cardinality of S_τ is equal to that of S_σ*

Definition 4.3 (Separable Extension). Let E/k be a finite extension. Then it is said to be *separable* if $[E:k]_s = [E:k]$. Similarly, let $\alpha \in \bar{k}$. Then α is said to be separable over k if $k(\alpha)/k$ is separable.

Proposition 4.4. *Let E/F and F/k be finite extensions. Then*

$$[E:k]_s = [E:F]_s[F:k]_s$$

Proof. Let L be an algebraically closed field and $\sigma : k \to L$ be an embedding. Let $\{\sigma_i\}_{i\in I}$ be the extensions of σ to an embedding $F \to L$ and $\{\tau_{ij}\}$ be the extensions of σ to an embedding $E \to L$. We have indexed τ in such a way that the restriction $\tau_i \mid_E = \sigma_i$. Using the definition of the separable degree, we have that for each i there are precisely $[E:F]_s$ j's such that τ_{ij} is a valid extension. This immediately implies the desired conclusion. ■

Corollary 4.5. Let E/k be finite. Then, $[E:k]_s \leq [E:k]$.

Proof. Due to finitness, we have a tower of extensions

$$k \subsetneq k(\alpha_1) \subsetneq \cdots \subsetneq k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)$$

We may now finish using Lemma 2.3. ■

Theorem 4.6. *Let E/k be finite and* $\operatorname{char} k = 0$*. Then E/k is separable.*

Proof. Since E/k is finite, there is a tower of extensions as follows:

$$k \subsetneq k(\alpha_1) \subsetneq \cdots \subsetneq k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)$$

We shall show that the extension $k(\alpha)/k$ is separable for some $\alpha \in \bar{k}$. Let $p(x) = m_\alpha(x)$ be the minimal polynomial over $k[x]$. We contend that $p(x)$ does not have any multiple roots. Suppose not, then $p(x)$ and $p'(x)$ share a root, say β. But since $p(x)$ is the minimal polynomial for β over k, it must divide $p'(x)$ which is impossible over a field of characteristic 0. Finally, due to Lemma 2.3, we must have $k(\alpha)/k$ is separable.

This immediately implies the desired conclusion, since

$$[E:k]_s = [k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n) : k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_{n-1}] \cdots [k(\alpha_1) : k] = [E:k]$$

■

Theorem 4.7. *Let E/k be finite and* $\operatorname{char} k = p > 0$*. Then, there is $m \in \mathbb{N}_0$ such that*

$$[E:k] = p^m [E:k]_s$$

Proof. ■

Remark 4.0.1. *From the above proof we obtain that if $\alpha \in E$, then $\alpha^{[E:k]_i}$ is separable over k.*

Corollary 4.8. Let E/k be a finite extension. Then, $[E:k]_s$ divides $[E:k]$.

Proof. Follows from Theorem 4.6 and Theorem 4.7. ■

Definition 4.9 (Inseparable Degree). Let E/k be finite. Then, we denote

$$[E:k]_i = \frac{[E:k]}{[E:k]_s}$$

as the *inseparable degree*.

Lemma 4.10. *Let K/k be algebraic and $\alpha \in K$ is separable over k. Let $k \subseteq F \subseteq K$. Then, α is separable over F.*

Proof. Let $p(x) \in k[x]$ and $f(x) \in F[x]$ be the minimal polynomial of α over k and F respectively. By definition, $f(x) \mid p(x)$ and therefore has distinct roots in the algebraic closure of k. Consequently, α is separable over F. ■

Proposition 4.11. *Let E/k be finite. Then, it is separable if and only if each element of E is separable over k.*

Proof. Suppose E/k is separable and $\alpha \in E \backslash k$. Then, there is a tower of extensions

$$k \subsetneq k(\alpha_1) \subsetneq \cdots \subsetneq k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n) = E$$

with $\alpha_1 = \alpha$. Recall that $[E : k]_s \leq [E : k]$ with equality if and only if there is an equality at each step in the tower. This implies the desired conclusion.

Conversely, suppose each element of E is separable over k. Then, each α_i is separable over $k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_{i-1})$ due to Lemma 4.10. Consequently, for each step in the tower,

$$[k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_i) : k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_{i-1})]_s = [k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_i) : k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_{i-1})]$$

implying the desired conclusion. ■

Definition 4.12 (Infinite Separable Extensions). An algebraic extension E/k is said to be *separable* if each finitely generated sub-extension is separable.

Theorem 4.13. *Let E/k be algebraic and generated by a family $\{\alpha_i\}_{i \in I}$. If each α_i is separable over k, then E is separable over k.*

Proof. Let $k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)/k$ be a finitely generated sub-extension of E/k. From our proof of Proposition 4.11, we know that α_i is separable over $k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_{i-1})$, and therefore, $k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)$ is separable over k and we have the desired conclusion. ■

Theorem 4.14. *Let E/k be algebraic. Then, E/k is separable if and only if each element of E is separable over k.*

Proof. Suppose E/k is separable, then for each $\alpha \in E$, $k(\alpha)$ is a finitely generated sub-extension of E, which is separable by definition. This implies that α is separable over k, again by definition.

Conversely, suppose each element is separable over k. Let $k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)$ be a finitely generated sub-extension of E. Then, we have the following tower

$$k \subsetneq k(\alpha_1) \subsetneq \cdots \subsetneq k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)$$

From our proof of Proposition 4.11, we know that α_i is separable over $k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_{i-1})$, this immediately implies that $k(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)/k$ is separable. ■

Theorem 4.15. *Separable extensions (not necessarily finite) form a distinguished class of extensions.*

Proof. Suppose E/k is separable and F is an intermediate field. Since each element of F is an element of E, we have that F must be separable over K, due to Theorem 4.14. Conversely, suppose both E/F and F/k are separable. Now, if E/k is finite, so is F/k and we are done due to Proposition 4.4.

Now, suppose E/k is not finite. It suffices to show that for all $\alpha \in E$, α is separable over k. Let $p(x) = a_n x^n + \cdots + a_0$ be the unique monic irreducible polynomial of α over F. Then, $p(x)$ is also the monic irreducible polynomial of α over $k(a_0, \ldots, a_n)$. Since α is separable over F, $p(x)$ has no repeated roots and therefore α is also separable over $k(a_0, \ldots, a_n)$. We now have a finite tower

$$k \subsetneq k(a_0, \ldots, a_n) \subsetneq k(a_0, \ldots, a_n)(\alpha)$$

Furthermore, since each a_i is separable over k for $0 \leq i \leq n$, it must be the case that $k(a_0, \ldots, a_n)$ is separable over k and finally so must α.

Next, suppose E/k is separable and F/k is an extension, where both E and F are contained in some algebraically closed field L. Since every element of E is separable over k, it must be separable over F, through a similar argument involving the minimal polynomial as carried out above. Since EF is generated by all the elements of E, we may finish using Theorem 4.13. This completes the proof. ■

Definition 4.16 (Separable Closure). Let k be a field and k^a be an algebrai closure. We define the separable closure k^{sep} as

$$k^{\text{sep}} = \{a \in k^a \mid a \text{ is separable over } k\}$$

If $\alpha, \beta \in k^{\text{sep}}$, then $\alpha, \beta \in k(\alpha, \beta)$, which by choice of α, β is separable over k. Therefore, $\alpha\beta, \alpha/\beta, \alpha + \beta, \alpha - \beta \in k(\alpha, \beta)$ are separable over k, and lie in k^{sep}, from which it follows that k^{sep} is a field extension of k.

Primitive Element Theorem

Definition 4.17 (Primitive Element). Let E/k be a finite extension. Then $\alpha \in E$ is said to be *primitive* if $E = k(\alpha)$. In this case, the extension E/k is said to be simple.

Theorem 4.18 (Steinitz, 1910). *Let E/k be a finite extension. Then, there exists a primitive element $\alpha \in E$ if and only if there exist only a finite number of fields F such that $k \subseteq F \subseteq E$. If E/k is separable, then there exists a primitive element.*

Proof. If k is finite, then so is E and it is known that the multiplicative group of finite fields are cyclic, therefore generated by a single element, immediately implying the desired conclusion. Henceforth, we shall suppose that k is infinite.

Suppose there are only a finite number of fields intermediate between k and E. Let $\alpha, \beta \in E$. We shall show that $k(\alpha, \beta)/k$ has a primitive element. Indeed, consider the intermediate fields $k(\alpha + c\beta)$ for $c \in k$, which are infinite in number. Therefore, there are distinct elements $c_1, c_2 \in k$ such that $k(\alpha + c_1\beta) = k(\alpha + c_2\beta)$. Consequently, $(c_1 - c_2)\beta \in k(\alpha + c_1\beta)$, therefore, $\beta \in k(\alpha + c_1\beta)$ and thus $\alpha \in k(\alpha + c_1\beta)$. This implies that $\alpha + c_1\beta$ is a primitive element for $k(\alpha, \beta)/k$. Now, since E/k is finite, it must be finitely generated. We may now use induction to finish.

Conversely, suppose E/k has a primitive element, say $\alpha \in E$. Let $f(x)$ be the monic irreducible polynomial for α over k. Now, for each intermediate field $k \subseteq F \subseteq E$, let g_F denote the monic irreducible polynomial for α over F. Using the unique factorization over $\overline{k}[x]$, $g_F \mid f$ for each intermediate field F, therefore, there may be only finitely many such g_F and thus, only finitely many intermediate fields F.

Finally, suppose E/k is separable and therefore, finitely generated. Hence, it suffices to prove the statement for $k(\alpha, \beta)/k$. Say $n = [k(\alpha, \beta) : k]$ and let $\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_n$ be distinct embeddings of $k(\alpha, \beta)$ into $\overline{k}$ over k

$$f(x) = \prod_{1 \le i \ne j \le n} \Big(x(\sigma_i\beta - \sigma_j\beta) + (\sigma_i\alpha - \sigma_j\beta) \Big)$$

Since f is not identically zero, there is $c \in k$ (due to the infiniteness of k), such that $f(c) \neq 0$ and thus, the elements $\sigma_i(\alpha + c\beta)$ are distinct for $1 \le i \le n$, and thus

$$n \le [k(\alpha + c\beta) : k]_s \le [k(\alpha + c\beta) : k] \le [k(\alpha, \beta) : k] = n$$

Thus, $\alpha + c\beta$ is primitive for $k(\alpha, \beta)/k$ which completes the proof. ■

Note that there are finite extension with infinitely many subfields. For example, consider the extension $\mathbb{F}_p(x, y)/\mathbb{F}_p(x^p, y^p)$ which has degree p^2. Let $z \in k = \mathbb{F}_p(x^p, y^p)$ and $w = x + zy \in \mathbb{F}_p(x, y)$. We have $w^p = x^p + z^p y^p \in \mathbb{F}_p(x^p, y^p)$ and thus, $k(w)/k$ has degree p. Furthermore, for $z \neq z'$ and $w' = x + z'y$, it is not hard to see that $k(w, w')$ contains both x and y, and is equal to $\mathbb{F}_p(x, y)$, from which it follows that $w \neq w'$. Since we have infinitely many choices of z, there are infinitely many subfields of the extension $\mathbb{F}_p(x, y)/\mathbb{F}_p(x^p, y^p)$.

Lemma 4.19. *Let E/k be an algebraic separable extension. Further, suppose that there is an integer $n \geq 1$ such that for every element $\alpha \in E$, $[k(\alpha) : k] \leq n$. Then E/k is finite and $[E : k] \leq n$.*

Proof. Let $\alpha \in E$ such that $[k(\alpha) : k]$ is maximal. We claim that $E = k(\alpha)$, for if not, there would be $\beta \in E \backslash k(\alpha)$. Now, since $k(\alpha, \beta)$ is a separable extension and is finite, it must be primitve. Thus, there is $\gamma \in E$ such that $k(\alpha, \beta) = k(\gamma)$ and $[k(\gamma) : k] = [k(\alpha, \beta) : k] > [k(\alpha) : k]$, contradicting the assumed maximality. This completes the proof. ■

Chapter 5

Inseparable Extensions

Proposition 5.1. *Let $\alpha \in k^a$ and $f(x) \in k[x]$ be the minimal polynomial of α over k. If $\operatorname{char} k = 0$, then all the roots of f have multiplicity 1. If $\operatorname{char} k = p > 0$, then there is a non-negative integer m such that every root of f has multiplicity p^m. Consequently, we have*

$$[k(\alpha) : k] = p^m [k(\alpha) : k]_s$$

and α^{p^m} is separable over k.

Proof. $\blacksquare$

Definition 5.2. Let $\operatorname{char} k = p > 0$. An element $\alpha \in k^a$ is said to be *purely inseparable* over k if there is a non-negative integer $n \geq 0$ such that $\alpha^{p^n} \in k$.

Theorem 5.3. *Let $\operatorname{char} k = p > 0$ and E/k be an algebraic extension. Then the following are equivalent:*

(a) $[E : k]_s = 1$.

(b) Every element $\alpha \in E$ is purely inseparable over k.

(c) For every $\alpha \in E$, the irreducible equation of α over k is of type $X^{p^n} - a = 0$ for some $n \geq 0$ and $a \in k$.

(d) There is a set of generators $\{\alpha_i\}_{i \in I}$ of E over k such that each α_i is purely inseparable over k.

Proof. $(a) \implies (b)$. Let $\alpha \in E$. From the multiplicativity of the separable degree, we must have $[k(\alpha) : k]_s = 1$. Let $f(x) \in k[x]$ be the minimal polynomial of α over k. Since $[k(\alpha) : k]_s$ is equal to the number of distinct roots of f, we see that $f(x) = (x - \alpha)^m$ for some positive integer m. Let $m = p^n r$ such that $p \nmid r$. Then, we have

$$f(x) = (x - \alpha)^{p^n r} = \left(x^{p^n} - \alpha^{p^n}\right)^r = x^{p^n r} - r\alpha^{p^n} x^{p^n(r-1)} + \cdots$$

Since the coefficients of f lie in k, we have $r\alpha^{p^n} \in k$ whence $\alpha^{p^n} \in k$.

$(b) \implies (c)$. There is a minimal non-negative integer n such that $\alpha^{p^n} \in k$. Consider the polynomial $g(x) = x^{p^n} - \alpha^{p^n} \in k[x]$. Note that $g(x) = (x - \alpha)^{p^n}$, whence the minimal polynomial for α over k divides g and is thus of the form $(x - \alpha)^m$ for some positive integer $m \leq p^n$. Using a similar argument as in the previous paragraph, we see that there is a non-negative integer r such that $\alpha^{p^r} \in k$. Due to the minimality of n, we must have $m = p^n$ and g the minimal polynomial of α over k.

$(c) \implies (d)$. Trivial.

$(d) \implies (a)$. Any embedding of E in k^a must be the identity on the α_i's whence the embedding must be the identity on all of E which completes the proof. ■

Definition 5.4. An algebraic extension E/k is said to be *purely inseparable* if it satisfies the equivalent conditions of Theorem 5.3.

Proposition 5.5. *Purely inseparable extensions form a distinguished class of extensions.*

Proof. Let $\operatorname{char} k = p > 0$. The assertion about the tower of fields follows from the multiplicativity of separable degree. Now, let E/k be purely inseparable. Then there is a set of generators $\{\alpha_i\}_{i\in I}$ generating E over k. Then, $\{\alpha_i\}_{i\in I}$ generates EF over F. Since the minimal polynomial of α_i over F must divide the minimal polynomial of α_i over k, which is of the form $(x-\alpha_i)^{p^{n_i}}$ for some non-negative integer n, we see that α_i is purely inseparable over F whence EF is purely inseparable over F.

Finally, let E/k and F/k be purely inseparable extensions. If $\{\alpha_i\}_{i\in I}$ and $\{\beta_j\}_{j\in J}$ generate E and F over k respectively such that each α_i and β_j is purely inseparable over k, then EF is generated by $\{\alpha_i\}_{i\in I} \cup \{\beta_j\}_{j\in J}$ over k whence is purely inseparable over k. ■

Proposition 5.6. *Let E/k be an algebraic extension and E_0 the separable closure of k in E. Then, E/E_0 is purely inseparable.*

Proof. If $\operatorname{char} k = 0$, then E/k is separable and $E_0 = E$ and the conclusion is obvious. On the other hand, if $\operatorname{char} k = p > 0$, then for every $\alpha \in E$, there is a non-negative integer m such that α^{p^m} is separable over k whence an element of E_0. Thus, E/E_0 is purely inseparable. ■

Proposition 5.7. *Let K/k be normal and K_0 the separable closure of k in K. Then K_0/k is normal.*

Proof. Let $\sigma : K_0 \to k^a$ be an embedding of fields. This extends to an embedding of K and is thus an automorphism of K. Note that $\sigma(K_0)$ is separable over k and is thus contained in k_0 whence $\sigma(K_0) = K_0$ and σ is an automorphism. This completes the proof. ■

Lemma 5.8. *Let K/k be normal, $G = \operatorname{Aut}(K/k)$ and K^G the fixed field of G. Then K^G/k is purely inseparable and K/K^G is separable. If K_0 is the separable closure of k in K, then $K = K^G K_0$ and $K^G \cap K_0 = 0$.*

Proof. Let $\alpha \in K^G$ and $\sigma : k(\alpha) \to k^a$ be an embedding over k. This can be extended to an embedding $\widetilde{\sigma} : K \to k^a$. Since K is normal, this is an automorphism $\widetilde{\sigma} : K \to K$ and thus an element of G. This must leave α fixed whence σ is the identity map, consequently, α is purely inseparable over k and the conclusion follows.

We shall now show that K/K^G is separable. Pick some $\alpha \in K$ and let $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n \in G$ such that the elements $\sigma_1(\alpha), \dots, \sigma_n(\alpha)$ form a maximal set of pairwise distinct elements. Consider the polynomial $f(x)$ in $K[x]$ given by

$$f(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{n}(x - \sigma_i(\alpha))$$

It is not hard to see that for any $\sigma \in G$, $\sigma(f) = f$, whence $f \in K^G[x]$ and α is separable over K^G.

Note that any element of $K^G \cap K_0$ is both separable and purely inseparable over k whence an element of k. Thus $K^G \cap K_0 = k$.

Finally, since both purely inseparable and separable extensions form a distinguished class, we have K/K_0K^G is both separable and purely inseparable whence $K = K_0K^G$. This completes the proof. ■

Chapter 6

Finite Fields

It is well known that every finite field must have prime characteristic. In fact, any integral domain with nonzero characteristic must have prime characteristic.

Theorem 6.1. *Let F be a finite field with characteristic $p > 0$. Then there is a positive integer n such that F has cardinality p^n. Further, there is a unique field upto isomorphism of cardinality p^n.*

Proof. The prime subfield of F is the subfield generated by 1 and is isomorphic to $\mathbb{F}_p$. Then $[F : \mathbb{F}_p] = n$, whence the conclusion follows. Now, we show that there is a field with cardinality p^n. Consider the polynomial $f(x) = x^{p^n} - x \in \mathbb{F}_p[x]$. First, note that $Df(x) = -1$, and thus $f(x)$ has distinct roots in $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$. It is not hard to see that if α, β are roots of $f(x)$ in $\overline{F}_p$, then $\alpha - \beta$ and $\alpha\beta$ are roots of $f(x)$ in $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$. Therefore, the collection of roots of $f(x)$ in $\overline{F}_p$ form a field. The cardinality of this field is the number of distinct roots of $f(x)$ in $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$, which is precisely p^n.

As for uniqueness, note that if F is a field of cardinality p^n, then every element of F is a root of $f(x) = x^{p^n} - x \in \mathbb{F}_p[x]$ (this is because F contains a copy of $\mathbb{F}_p$ in it). Therefore, F is the splitting field for $f(x)$ over $\mathbb{F}_p[x]$ in some algebraic closure. But since all splitting fields are isomorphic, we have the desired conclusion. ■

Theorem 6.2 (Frobenius). *The group of automorphisms of $\mathbb{F}_q$ where $q = p^n$ is cyclic of degree n, generated by the Frobenius mapping, $\varphi : \mathbb{F}_q \to \mathbb{F}_q$ given by $\varphi(x) = x^p$.*

Proof. We first verify that φ is an automorphism. That φ is a ring homomorphism is easy to show, from which it would follow that φ is injective. Surjectivity follows from here since $\mathbb{F}_q$ is finite. Next, note that φ leaves $\mathbb{F}_p$ fixed, thus, $G = \mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{F}_q) = \mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p)$. Furthermore, $|\mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p)| = [\mathbb{F}_q : \mathbb{F}_p]_s \leq [\mathbb{F}_q : \mathbb{F}_p] = n$.

We now show that the order of φ in G is precisely n, for if d were the order of φ, then $\varphi^d(x) = x$ for all $x \in \mathbb{F}_q$ and thus, $x^{p^d} - x = 0$ for all $x \in \mathbb{F}_q$, from which it follows that $p^d \geq q$ and $d \geq n$ and the conclusion follows. ■

Theorem 6.3. *Let $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then in an algebraic closure $\overline{\mathbb{F}_p}$ of $\mathbb{F}_p$, the subfield $\mathbb{F}_{p^n}$ is contained in $\mathbb{F}_{p^m}$ if and only if $n \mid m$.*

Proof. If $\mathbb{F}_{p^n}$ is contained in $\mathbb{F}_{p^m}$, then $p^m = (p^n)^d$ where $d = [\mathbb{F}_{p^m} : \mathbb{F}_{p^n}]$. The converse follows from noting that $x^{p^n} - x \mid x^{p^m} - x$. ■

Theorem 6.4. *Let $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $n \mid m$. Then the extension $\mathbb{F}_{p^m}/\mathbb{F}_{p^n}$ is finite Galois.*

Proof. We have $[\mathbb{F}_{p^m} : \mathbb{F}_p] = m$ and $[\mathbb{F}_{p^n} : \mathbb{F}_p] = n$, consequently, $[\mathbb{F}_{p^m} : \mathbb{F}_{p^n}]_s = m/n = [\mathbb{F}_{p^m} : \mathbb{F}_{p^n}]$ and thus the extension is separable. To show that the extension $\mathbb{F}_{p^m}/\mathbb{F}_{p^n}$ is normal, it suffices to show that the extension $\mathbb{F}_{p^m}/\mathbb{F}_p$ is normal but this trivially follows from the fact that $\mathbb{F}_{p^m}$ is the splitting field of $x^{p^m} - x \in \mathbb{F}_p[x]$. This completes the proof. ■

Chapter 7

Galois Extensions

Definition 7.1 (Fixed Field). Let K be a field and G be a group of automorphisms of K. The *fixed field* of K under G, denoted by K^G is the set of all elements $x \in K$ such that $\sigma x = x$ for all $\sigma \in G$.

That the aforementioned set forms a field is trivial.

Definition 7.2 (Galois Extension, Group). An extension K/k is said to be *Galois* if it is normal and separable. The group of automorphisms of K over k is known as the *Galois Group* of K/k and is denoted by $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$.

Theorem 7.3. *Let K be a Galois extension of k and $G = \mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$. Then $k = K^G$. If F is an intermediate field, $k \subseteq F \subseteq K$, then K is Galois over F and the map*

$$F \mapsto \mathrm{Gal}(K/F)$$

from the intermediate fields to subgroups of G is injective. Finiteness is not required in this case.

Proof. Let $\alpha \in K^G$ and $\sigma : k(\alpha) \to \overline{K}$ be an embedding over k. Due to Theorem 2.5, σ may be extended to an embedding of K over k in $\overline{K}$. Since K/k is normal, this is an automorphism and therefore, an element of G. As a result, σ sends α to itself, therefore, any embedding of $k(\alpha)$ over k is the identity map, implying that $[k(\alpha) : k]_s = 1$, or equivalently, $k(\alpha) = k$ whence $\alpha \in k$.

Let F be an intermediate field. Due to Theorem 3.6 and Theorem 4.15, we have that K/F is normal and separable, therefore Galois.

Finally, if F and F' map to the same subgroup H of G, then due to the first part, of this theorem, we must have $F = K^H = F'$, establishing injectivity. ■

Lemma 7.4. *Let E/k be algebraic and separable, further suppose that there is an integer $n \geq 1$ such that every element $\alpha \in E$ is of degree at most n over k. Then $[E : k] \leq n$.*

Proof. Let $\alpha \in E$ such that $[k(\alpha) : k]$ is maximized. We shall show that $k(\alpha) = E$. Suppose not, then there is $\beta \in E \backslash k(\alpha)$ and thus, we have a tower $k \subseteq k(\alpha) \subsetneq k(\alpha, \beta)$. Due to Theorem 4.18, there is $\gamma \in E$ such that $k(\alpha, \beta) = k(\gamma)$. But then,

$$[k(\gamma) : k] = [k(\alpha, \beta) : k] > [k(\alpha) : k]$$

a contradiction to the maximality of α. Therefore, $E = k(\alpha)$ and we have the desired conclusion. ■

Theorem 7.5 (Artin). *Let K be a field and let G be a finite group of automorphisms of K, of order n. Let $k = K^G$. Then K is a finite Galois extension of k, and its Galois group is G. Further, $[K : k] = n$.*

Proof. Let $\alpha \in K$. We shall show that K is the splitting field of the family $\{m_\alpha(x)\}_{\alpha \in K}$ and that α is separable over k.

Let $\{\sigma_1\alpha, \ldots, \sigma_m\alpha\}$ be a maximal set of images of α under the elements of G. Define the polynomial:

$$f(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{m}(x - \sigma_i\alpha)$$

For any $\tau \in G$, we note that $\{\tau\sigma_1\alpha, \ldots, \tau\sigma_m\alpha\}$ must be a permutation of $\{\sigma_1\alpha, \ldots, \sigma_m\alpha\}$, lest we contradict maximality. As a result, α is a root of f^τ for all $\tau \in G$ and therefore, the coefficients of f lie in $K^G = k$, i.e. $f(x) \in k[x]$.

Since the $\sigma_i\alpha$'s are distinct, the minimal polynomial of α over k must be separable, and thus K/k is separable. Next, we see that the minimal polynomial for α also splits in K and thus, K is the splitting field for the family $\{m_\alpha(x)\}_{\alpha \in K}$. Consequently, K/k is normal and hence, Galois.

Finally, since the minimal polynomial for α divides f, we must have $[k(\alpha) : k] \leq \deg f \leq n$ whence due to Lemma 7.4, $[K : k] \leq n$. Now, recall that $n = |G| \leq [K : k]_s \leq [K : k]$ and we have the desired conclusion. ∎

Corollary 7.6. Let K/k be a finite Galois extension and $G = \mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$. Then, every subgroup of G belongs to some subfield F such that $k \subseteq F \subseteq K$.

Lemma 7.7. *Let K/k be Galois and F an intermediate field, $k \subseteq F \subseteq K$, and let $\lambda : F \to \overline{k}$ be an embedding. Then,*

$$\mathrm{Gal}(K/\lambda F) = \lambda \,\mathrm{Gal}(K/F)\lambda^{-1}$$

Proof. The embedding λ can be extended to an embedding of K due to Theorem 2.5 and since K/k is normal, λ is an automorphism. As a result, $\lambda F \subseteq K$ and thus, $K/\lambda F$ is Galois. Let $\sigma \in \mathrm{Gal}(K/F)$. It is not hard to see that $\lambda\sigma\lambda^{-1} \in \mathrm{Gal}(K/\lambda F)$ and conversely, for $\tau \in \mathrm{Gal}(K/\lambda F)$, $\lambda^{-1}\tau\lambda \in \mathrm{Gal}(K/F)$. This implies the desired conclusion. ∎

Theorem 7.8. *Let K/k be Galois with $G = \mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$. Let F be an intermediate field, $k \subseteq F \subseteq K$, and let $H = \mathrm{Gal}(K/F)$. Then F is normal over k if and only if H is normal in G. If F/k is normal, then the restriction map $\sigma \mapsto \sigma |_F$ is a homomorphism of G onto $\mathrm{Gal}(F/k)$ whose kernel is H. This gives us $\mathrm{Gal}(F/k) \cong G/H$.*

Proof. Suppose F/k is normal. To see that the map $\sigma \to \sigma |_F$ is surjective, simply recall Theorem 2.5. The kernel of said mapping is obviously H and we have that $H \trianglelefteq G$ and due to the First Isomorphism Theorem, $G/H \cong \mathrm{Gal}(F/k)$.

On the other hand, if F/k is not normal, then there is an embedding $\lambda : F \to \overline{k}$ such that $F \neq \lambda F$. Note that due to Theorem 2.5, $\lambda F \subseteq K$. Then, we have $\mathrm{Gal}(K/F) \neq \mathrm{Gal}(K/\lambda F) = \lambda \,\mathrm{Gal}(K/F)\lambda^{-1}$, and equivalently, $\mathrm{Gal}(K/F)$ is not normal in G. This completes the proof of the theorem. ∎

Note that in the proof of the above theorem, while showing H is normal in G, we did not use that the Galois extension is finite. We can now put together all the above results into one all-powerful theorem.

Theorem 7.9 (Fundamental Theorem of Galois Theory). *Let K/k be a finite Galois extension with $G = \mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$. There is a bijection between the set of subfields E of K containing k and the set of subgroups H of G given by $E = K^H$. The field E is Galois over k if and only if H is normal in G, and if that is the case, then the* *restriction map $\sigma \mapsto \sigma\mid_E$ induces an isomorphism of G/H onto* $\mathrm{Gal}(E/k)$.

Definition 7.10. A Galois extension K/k is said to be *abelian (resp. cyclic)* if its Galois group is *abelian (resp. cyclic)*.

Theorem 7.11. *Let K/k be finite Galois and F/k an arbitrary extension. Suppose K, F are subfields of some larger field. Then KF is Galois over F, and K is Galois over $K \cap F$. Let $H = \mathrm{Gal}(KF/F)$ and $G = \mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$. For all $\sigma \in H$, the restriction of σ to K is in G and the restriction map $\sigma \mapsto \sigma\mid_K$ gives an isomorphism of H on* $\mathrm{Gal}(K/K \cap F)$.

Proof. That KF/F and $K/K \cap F$ are Galois follow from Theorem 3.6 and Theorem 4.15. Let $\chi : H \to G$ denote the restriction map. Note that $\ker \chi$ contains all $\sigma \in H$ such that σ fixes K. But since σ implicitly fixes F, it must also fix KF and is therefore the unique identity automorphism. As a result, $\ker \chi$ is trivial and χ is injective. Let $H' = \chi(H) \subseteq G$. We shall show that $K^{H'} = K \cap F$. Indeed, if $\alpha \in K^{H'}$, then α is also fixed by all elements of H, since χ is only the restriction map. As a result, $\alpha \in F$, consequently $\alpha \in K \cap F$. We are now done due to Theorem 7.9. ■

7.1 Normal Basis Theorem

Definition 7.12 (Normal Element). Let K/k be a finite Galois extension with $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k) = \{\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_n\}$. An element $\alpha \in K$ is said to be a *normal element* if $\{\sigma_1(\alpha), \ldots, \sigma_n(\alpha)\}$ forms a k-basis of K.

Theorem 7.13 (Normal Basis Theorem). *If K/k is a finite Galois extension, then it has a normal element.*

Proof. Let $G = \mathrm{Gal}(K/k) = \{\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_n\}$. We shall divide the proof into two cases.

Case 1. G is cyclic.

Let $G = \langle \sigma \rangle$ for some $\sigma \in G$. Let $m_\sigma(x) \in k[x]$ denote the minimal polynomial of σ. Since σ is a root of $x^n - 1 \in k[x]$, we must have $m_\sigma(x) \mid x^n - 1$. If $\deg(m_\sigma) = m < n$, then there are $a_0, \ldots, a_m \in k$ such that

$$m_\sigma(x) = a_m x^m + \cdots + a_0.$$

In particular, $a_m \sigma^m + \cdots + a_0 \mathbf{id} = 0$, but this is a contradiction to Dedekind's Lemma on the independence of characters. Therefore, $m_\sigma(x) = x^n - 1$, consequently, $m_\sigma(x)$ must also be the characteristic polynomial of σ due to a degree argument. Since the minimal polynomial and the characteristic polynomial are the same, there is a σ-cyclic vector for the extension K/k, which is the desired normal element.

Case 2. k is infinite. Note that the previous case subsumes the case with k finite.

Due to Theorem 4.18, $K = k(\alpha)$ for some $\alpha \in K$. Suppose without loss of generality that $\sigma_1 = \mathbf{id}$. Let $\alpha_i = \sigma_i(\alpha)$, which are all pairwise distinct, and define

$$g_i(x) = \frac{\prod_{j \neq i}(x - \alpha_j)}{\prod_{j \neq i}(\alpha_i - \alpha_j)}.$$

Denote g_1 by simply g, then, $g_i = \sigma_i(g)$.

The polynomial

$$g_1(x) + \cdots + g_n(x)$$

attains the value 1 for $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n$ but since it has degree at most $n-1$, it must be identically equal to 1. Further, for $i \neq j$, $f \mid g_i g_j$ and $g_i^2 - g_i$ vanishes at $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n$ whence $f \mid g_i^2 - g_i$.

Define the matrix

$$A(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1\sigma_1(g) & \sigma_1\sigma_2(g) & \ldots & \sigma_1\sigma_n(g) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \sigma_n\sigma_1(g) & \sigma_n\sigma_2(g) & \ldots & \sigma_n\sigma_n(g) \end{bmatrix}.$$

We contend that $\det A(x)$ is a nonzero polynomial. Suppose not. Consider $M(x) = A(x)^T A(x)$. The (i,j)-th entry is given by

$$\sum_{\sigma \in G} \sigma\sigma_i(g)\sigma\sigma_j(g) = \sum_{\sigma \in G} \sigma(g_i g_j).$$

If $i \neq j$, note that $f \mid \sigma(g_i g_j)$ for all $\sigma \in G$. Therefore, f divides all non-diagonal entries of $M(x)$ while the diagonal entries of $M(x)$ are given by

$$\sum_{\sigma \in G} \sigma(g_i)^2 \equiv \sum_{\sigma \in G} \sigma(g_i) \pmod f \equiv \sum_{i=1}^n g_i \pmod f \equiv 1 \pmod f.$$

Hence, $\det M(x) = 1$ in $K[x]/(f(x))$, in particular, it is nonzero in $K[x]$, therefore, $\det A(x) \neq 0$ in $K[x]$.

Since K is infinite, there is some $\theta \in K$ such that $\det A(\theta) \neq 0$. Let $\beta = g(\theta)$. We claim that β is the desired normal element. To do so, it suffices to show that $\{\sigma_1(\beta), \ldots, \sigma_n(\beta)\}$ is linearly independent over k.

Indeed, suppose there is a linear combination

$$c_1\sigma_1(\beta) + \cdots + c_n\sigma_n(\beta) = 0 \iff c_1\sigma_1(g(\theta)) + \cdots + c_n\sigma_n(g(\theta)) = 0.$$

Applying σ_i to the above equation for $1 \leq i \leq n$, we obtain a system of linear equations given by

$$A(\theta)\begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{pmatrix} = 0,$$

whence $c_1 = \cdots = c_n = 0$, since $A(\theta)$ is invertible. This completes the proof. ■

Once we have a normal element, we can easily find the primitive (and sometimes normal) elements of all intermediate fields.

Theorem 7.14. *Let K/k be a finite Galois extension with $G = \mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$ and $\alpha \in K$ be a normal element.*

(a) If $H \leq G$, then $\beta_H := \mathrm{Tr}_{K^H}^K(\alpha)$ is a primitive element of K^H/k.

(b) If $H \trianglelefteq G$, then β_H is a normal element of K^H/k.

Proof. (a) Obviously, $\beta_H \in K^H$. We shall show that $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k(\beta_H)) \subseteq H$, which would imply $K^H \subseteq k(\beta_H)$ and the conclusion would follow.

Let $\tau \in G \backslash H$. Then,

$$\tau(\beta_H) = \sum_{\sigma \in \tau H} \sigma(\alpha).$$

Since τH is a coset distinct from H, they are disjoint and since the collection $\{\sigma(\alpha) \mid \sigma \in G\}$ is a linearly independent set, we cannot have $\tau(\beta_H) = \beta_H$, consequently, $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k(\beta_H)) \subseteq H$.

(b) Let $\tau_1, \ldots, \tau_m$ be elements of G whose images under the canonical projection $G \twoheadrightarrow G/H$ are all the elements of G/H. Note that this projection map is simply the restriction map from $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$ to $\mathrm{Gal}(k(\beta_H)/k)$. Suppose

$$c_1\tau_1(\beta_H) + \cdots + c_m\tau_m(\beta_H) = 0,$$

then,

$$0 = \sum_{i=1}^{m} c_i \left(\sum_{\sigma \in \tau_i H} \sigma(\alpha) \right).$$

By our choice of τ_i's, the cosets $\tau_i H$ and $\tau_j H$ are pairwise distinct, consequently, the sum written above is essentially of linearly independent elements, $\sigma(\alpha)$ where σ ranges over G. Therefore, $c_1 = \cdots = c_m = 0$. This completes the proof. ■

Chapter 8

Cyclotomic Extensions

Definition 8.1 (Root of Unity). Let k be a field. A *root of unity* over k is an element $\zeta \in k^a$ such that $\zeta^n = 1$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Consider the polynomial $x^n - 1$ with $\gcd(\operatorname{char} k, n) = 1$. In this case, the polynomial is separable over k and thus has distinct roots. Let $Z_n = \{z_1, \ldots, z_n\}$ denote the distinct roots. It is not hard to see that $Z_n \subseteq k^\times$ forms a multiplicative group. Since every finite multiplicative subgroup of a field is cyclic, so is Z_n. A generator for the group Z_n is called a **primitive n-th root of unity**. Obviously, there are $\varphi(n)$ such primitive n-th roots of unity.

Consider now the case $\gcd(\operatorname{char} k, n) \neq 1$. Let $\operatorname{char} k = p > 0$. Then, there is a positive integer r such that $n = p^r m$ with $p \nmid m$. Then,

$$x^n - 1 = \left(x^m - 1\right)^{p^r}$$

and thus every n-th root of unity is an m-th root of unity, whence it suffices to study polynomials of the form $(x^n - 1)$ with $\gcd(\operatorname{char} k, n) = 1$.

Proposition 8.2. *Every root of unity is a primitive n-th root of unity for some positive integer n.*

Proof. Let ζ be a root of unity and let n be the smallest positive integer such that $\zeta^n = 1$. Consider the subgroup $\langle \zeta \rangle \leq Z_n$. If the order of this subgroup is m, then $\zeta^m = 1$ whence $m \geq n$ and thus $m = n$ and the conclusion follows. ■

As a result, need only concern ourselves with primitive n-th roots of unity with $\gcd(\operatorname{char} k, n) = 1$.

Proposition 8.3. *Let k be a field and $\zeta_n \in k^a$ a primitive n-th root of unity such that $\gcd(n, \operatorname{char} k) = 1$. Then, $k(\zeta_n)/k$ is a Galois extension.*

Proof. Since ζ_n is a generator for Z_n, $k(\zeta_n)$ is the splitting field of $x^n - 1$ over k and thus a normal extension of k. Further, since $x^n - 1$ is a separable polynomial over k, so is the extension $k(\zeta_n)/k$ whence it is Galois. ■

Proposition 8.4. *Let $\gcd(\operatorname{char} k, n) = 1$. If ζ is a primitive n-th root of unity, then $k(\zeta)/k$ is an abelian extension.*

Proof. Define the map $\psi : \operatorname{Gal}(k(\zeta)/k) \to \operatorname{Aut}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_n)$ by $\sigma \mapsto \sigma|_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_n}$. Note that $\operatorname{Aut}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_n) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times$, further, it is not hard to see that ψ is injective and the conclusion follows. ■

Note that although we have shown $\mathrm{Gal}(k(\zeta)/k)$ to be embeddable into $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times$, the map may not be a surjection take for example $k = \mathbb{R}$ and $\zeta = \exp(2\pi i/5)$. Then, $k(\zeta) = \mathbb{C}$, and $\mathrm{Gal}(k(\zeta)/k) \cong \{\pm 1\}$.

Proposition 8.5. *Let ζ be a primitive n-th root of unity over $\mathbb{Q}$. Then,*

$$[\mathbb{Q}(\zeta) : \mathbb{Q}] = \varphi(n)$$

and consequently, the map $\psi : \mathrm{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)/\mathbb{Q}) \to (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times$ is an isomorphism.

Proof. ■

Chapter 9

Norm and Trace

Definition 9.1. Let E/k be a finite extension and $[E:k]_s = r$ and let $\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_r$ be distinct embeddings of E in an algebraic closure k^a of k. We define the *norm* and *trace* of $\alpha \in E$ as

$$N_{E/k}(\alpha) = N_k^E(\alpha) = \left(\prod_{j=1}^{r} \sigma_j \alpha\right)^{[E:k]_i}$$

$$\mathrm{Tr}_{E/k}(\alpha) = \mathrm{Tr}_k^E(\alpha) = [E:k]_i \sum_{j=1}^{r} \sigma_j \alpha$$

Notice that if E/k were not separable, then $\operatorname{char} k > 0$ and would be a prime, say p. Further, $[E:k]_i = p^\nu$ for some $\nu \geq 1$, consequently, $\mathrm{Tr}_k^E(\alpha) = 0$ (since $\operatorname{char} E = \operatorname{char} k = p$).

Proposition 9.2. *Let E/k be a finit extension such that $E = k(\alpha)$ for some $\alpha \in E$. If*

$$p(x) = x^n + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_0$$

is the minimal polynomial of α over k, then

$$N_k^E(\alpha) = (-1)^n a_0 \qquad \mathrm{Tr}_k^E(\alpha) = -a_{n-1}$$

Proof. This follows from the fact that the minimal polynomial splits as

$$p(x) = \big((x-\alpha_1)\cdots(x-\alpha_r)\big)^{[E:k]_i}$$

whence the conclusion follows. ■

Proposition 9.3. *Let E/k be a finite extension. Then the norm $N_k^E : E^\times \to k^\times$ is a multiplicative homomorphism and the trace $\mathrm{Tr}_k^E : E \to k$ is an additive homomorphism. Further, if we have a tower of finit extensions $k \subseteq F \subseteq E$, then*

$$N_k^E = N_k^F \circ N_F^E \qquad \mathrm{Tr}_k^E = \mathrm{Tr}_k^F \circ \mathrm{Tr}_F^E$$

Proof. First, we must show that N_k^E is a map $E^\times \to k^\times$ and Tr_k^E is a map $E \to k$. Recall that for $\alpha \in E$, $\beta = \alpha^{[E:k]_i}$ is separable over k and thus N_k^E, which is the product of all the conjugates of β is also separable since all conjugates lie in k^{sep}. Now, let $\sigma : k^a \to k^a$ be a homomorphism fixing k. Then, it is not hard to see that $\sigma(\beta) = \beta$ and thus $[k(\beta) : k]_s = 1$ but since β is separable, we have $[k(\beta) : k] = 1$ and $\beta \in k$. A similar argument can be applied to the trace.

Let $\{\sigma_i\}$ be the set of distinct embeddings of E into k^a fixing F and $\{\tau_j\}$ be the set of distinct embeddings of F into k^a fixing k. Extend each τ_j to a homomorphism $k^a \to k^a$.

We contend that the set of all distinct embeddings of E into k^a fixing k is precisely $\{\tau_j \circ \sigma_i\}$. Obviously, every element of the aforementioned family is distinct and is an embedding of E into k^a fixing k. Now, let $\sigma : E \to k^a$ be an embedding of E into k^a. Then, the restriction $\sigma|_F$ is equal to (the restriction of) some τ_j, whereby $\tau_j^{-1}\sigma$ fixes F whereby it is equal to some σ_i. Thus every embedding of E into k^a over k is of the form $\tau_j \circ \sigma_i$.

Finally, we have

$$\left(\prod_{i,j}(\tau_j \circ \sigma_i)(\alpha)\right)^{[E:F]_i[F:k]_i} = \left(\prod_j \tau_j \left(\prod_i \sigma_i(\alpha)\right)^{[E:F]_i}\right)^{[F:k]_i} = N_k^F \circ N_F^E(\alpha)$$

$$[E : F]_i[F : k]_i \sum_{i,j} \tau_j \circ \sigma_i(\alpha) = [F : k]_i \sum_j \tau_j \left([E : F]_i \sum_i \sigma_i(\alpha)\right)$$

and the conclusion follows. ■

Theorem 9.4. *Let E/k be a finite extension and $\alpha \in E$. Let $m_\alpha : E \to E$ be the linear transformation given by $m_\alpha(x) = \alpha x$. Then,*

$$N_k^E(\alpha) = \det(m_\alpha) \qquad \mathrm{Tr}_k^E(\alpha) = \mathrm{tr}(m_\alpha)$$

Note that we may unambiguously write $\det(m_\alpha)$ and $\mathrm{tr}(m_\alpha)$ since both these quantities do not depend on the choice of a basis, since similar matrices have the same determinant and trace.

Proof. ■

Chapter 10

Cyclic Extensions

Definition 10.1. A Galois extension K/k is said to be *cyclic* if $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$ is a cyclic group. Similarly, it is said to be *abelian* if $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$ is abelian.

Theorem 10.2 (Linear Independence of Characters). *Let G be a group (monoid) and K a field. If $\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_n : G \to K^\times$ are distinct group homomorphisms. Then,*

$$c_1\sigma_1 + \cdots + c_n\sigma_n = 0 \iff c_1 = \cdots = c_n = 0$$

Corollary 10.3. Let K/k be a Galois extension. Then, there is $\alpha \in K$ such that $\mathrm{Tr}_k^K(\alpha) \neq 0$.

Proof. Suppose not. If $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k) = \{\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_n\}$, then

$$\sigma_1 + \cdots + \sigma_n = 0$$

on K, a contradiction to Theorem 10.2. ■

Theorem 10.4 (Hilbert's Theorem 90). *Let K/k be a cyclic degree n extension with galois group G. Let $\sigma \in G$ be a generator and $\beta \in K$. The norm $N_k^K(\beta) = 1$ if and only if there is $\alpha \in K^\times$ such that $\beta = \alpha/\sigma(\alpha)$*

Proof. $\implies$ Suppose $N_k^K(\beta) = 1$. We have a set of distinct characters $\{\mathbf{id}, \sigma, \ldots, \sigma^{n-1}\}$ from $K^\times \to K^\times$. Then, due to Theorem 10.2, the set map

$$\tau = \mathbf{id} + \beta\sigma + (\beta\sigma(\beta))\sigma^2 + \cdots + (\beta\sigma(\beta)\cdots\sigma^{n-2}(\beta))\sigma^{n-1}$$

is nonzero, whereby, there is $\theta \in K^\times$ such that $\alpha = \tau(\theta) \neq 0$. Notice that

$$\sigma(\alpha) = \sigma(\theta) + (\sigma(\beta))\sigma^2(\theta) + \cdots + (\sigma(\beta)\sigma^2(\beta)\cdots\sigma^{n-1}(\beta))\sigma^n(\theta)$$

Since $N_k^K(\beta) = 1$, we have

$$\beta\sigma(\beta)\cdots\sigma^{n-1}(\beta) = 1$$

whence, we have $\sigma(\alpha) = \alpha/\beta$ and the conclusion follows.

$\impliedby$ This is trivial enough. ■

Example 10.5. Find all rational points on the curve $x^2 + y^2 = 1$.

Proof. This reduces to finding all elements $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}[i]$ with $N_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{Q}[i]}(\alpha) = 1$. Any element α of $\mathbb{Q}[i]$ may be written as $(a + bi)/c$. Due to Theorem 10.4, there is an element $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}[i]$, such that $N_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{Q}[i]}(\alpha) = 1$. Using the general form of elements in $\mathbb{Q}[i]$, we have

$$\alpha = \frac{a+bi}{a-bi} = \frac{(a^2-b^2)+2abi}{a^2+b^2}$$

this completes the proof. ■

Theorem 10.6 (Additive Hilbert's Theorem 90). *Let K/k be a cyclic Galois extension with $\operatorname{Gal}(K/k) = \langle\sigma\rangle$ and $\beta \in K$. Then $\operatorname{Tr}_k^K(\beta) = 0$ iff there is $\alpha \in K$ such that $\beta = \alpha - \sigma(\alpha)$.*

Proof. Due to Corollary 10.3, there is some $\theta \in K$ with $\operatorname{Tr}_k^K(\theta) \neq 0$. Consider $\alpha \in K$ given by

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{\operatorname{Tr}_k^K(\theta)}\left(\beta\sigma(\theta) + (\beta + \sigma(\beta))\sigma^2(\theta) + \cdots + (\beta + \cdots + \sigma^{n-2}(\beta))\sigma^{n-1}(\theta)\right).$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma(\alpha) &= \frac{1}{\operatorname{Tr}_k^K(\theta)}\left(\sigma(\beta)\sigma^2(\theta) + (\sigma(\beta) + \sigma^2(\beta))\sigma^3(\theta) + \cdots + (\sigma(\beta) + \cdots + \sigma^{n-1}(\beta))\sigma^n(\theta)\right)\\ &= \alpha - \beta\frac{1}{\operatorname{Tr}_k^K(\theta)}\left(\sigma(\theta) + \cdots + \sigma^n(\theta)\right)\\ &= \alpha - \beta\end{aligned}$$

The converse is trivial. ■

Theorem 10.7 (Artin-Schreier). *Let k be a field of characteristic $p > 0$.*

(a) Let K/k be a cyclic extension of degree p. Then there is $\alpha \in K$ such that $K = k(\alpha)$ and α is a root of $f(x) = x^p - x - a$ for some $a \in k$. Further, K is the splitting field of $f(x)$ over k.

(b)

Proof. (a) Let $\operatorname{Gal}(K/k) = \langle\sigma\rangle$, since it is a group of prime order. We have $\operatorname{Tr}_k^K(-1) = p \cdot (-1) = 0$ whence there is $\alpha \in K$ such that $-1 = \alpha - \sigma(\alpha)$, equivalently, $\sigma(\alpha) = \alpha + 1$. Let $a = \alpha^p - \alpha$. Then,

$$\sigma(a) = \sigma(\alpha^p - \alpha) = \sigma(\alpha)^p - (\alpha + 1) = \alpha^p + 1 - (\alpha + 1) = a.$$

Thus, $\sigma^n(a) = a$ for $1 \leq n \leq p$, consequently, $a \in K^{\operatorname{Gal}(K/k)} = k$.

Note that for $1 \leq m \neq n \leq p$, we have

$$\sigma^m(\alpha) = \alpha + m \neq \alpha + n = \sigma^n(\alpha).$$

Thus, $p \leq [k(\alpha) : k]_s \leq [k(\alpha) : k] \leq [K : k] = p$ whence $[k(\alpha) : k] = p$ and $K = k(\alpha)$.

(b) ■

Chapter 11

Infinite Galois Theory

In the infinite case, a Galois extension is defined as usual, that is, an extension which is normal and separable. The Galois group is again defined to be the group of automorphisms that fix a base field. Since our definitions of normal and separable extensions do not assume finiteness, we are in the clear. As we have seen earlier, finite-degree Galois extensions have finite Galois groups. The following proposition establishes the converse.

Proposition 11.1. *If K/k is an infinite-degree Galois extension, then $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$ is an infinite group.*

Proof. We shall prove the contrapositive. If $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$ is a finite group with cardinality M, then for each $\alpha \in K$, $[k(\alpha) : k] \leq M$, and it follows from Lemma 7.4 that $[K : k] \leq M$. ■

Definition 11.2. Let K/k be a Galois extension. For $\sigma \in \mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$, a *basic open set* around σ is a coset $\sigma \,\mathrm{Gal}(K/F)$ where F/k is a **finite** extension.

Proposition 11.3. *The collection of basic open sets as defined above form a basis for a topology on $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$.*

Proof. Since $\mathrm{Gal}(K/F)$ contains the identity element for each F/k finite, the union of all the basic open sets is equal to $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$. Consider two basic open sets $\sigma_1 \mathrm{Gal}(K/F_1)$ and $\sigma_2 \mathrm{Gal}(K/F_2)$ having a nonempty intersection. Let σ be an automorphism in that intersection. We shall show that $\sigma \,\mathrm{Gal}(K/F_1F_2)$ is contained in the intersection. Since $\sigma \in \sigma_1 \mathrm{Gal}(K/F_1)$, there is $\alpha \in \mathrm{Gal}(K/F_1)$ such that $\sigma = \sigma_1\alpha$. Let $\tau \in \sigma \,\mathrm{Gal}(K/F_1F_2)$, then there is $\beta \in \mathrm{Gal}(K/F_1F_2)$ such that $\tau = \sigma\beta$. Now, $\sigma_1^{-1}\tau = \alpha\beta \in \mathrm{Gal}(K/F_1)$, whence $\tau \in \sigma_1 \mathrm{Gal}(K/F_1)$. This completes the proof. ■

The topology defined above is known as the **Krull Topology**.

Theorem 11.4. *The Krull Topology on $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$ makes it a topological group.*

Proof. We must show that the multiplication map and the inversion map are continuous. Let $G = \mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$ and $\varphi : G \times G \to G$ be given by $(x, y) \mapsto xy$. Let U be an open set in G and $(\sigma, \tau) \in \varphi^{-1}(U)$. Then there is a basic open set of the form $\sigma\tau \,\mathrm{Gal}(K/F)$ for some finite extension F/k. Since the larger F is, the smaller $\mathrm{Gal}(K/F)$ gets, we may suppose that F/k is Galois. Consider the basic open set $\sigma \,\mathrm{Gal}(K/F) \times \tau \,\mathrm{Gal}(K/F)$ that contains (σ, τ). I claim that the image of this basic open set lies inside $\sigma\tau \,\mathrm{Gal}(K/F)$. Indeed, for $(\sigma\alpha, \tau\beta)$ in the basic open set, its image is $\sigma\alpha\tau\beta = \sigma\tau\alpha'\beta = \sigma\tau\gamma$ for some $\gamma \in \mathrm{Gal}(K/F)$. Where we used the normality of $\mathrm{Gal}(K/F)$ in G since the extension is normal. Thus φ is continuous.

Let $\psi : G \to G$ be the inversion map, that is, $x \mapsto x^{-1}$. We use a similar strategy as above. Let U be an open set containing σ^{-1} for some $\sigma \in G$. Then, there is a basic open set $\sigma^{-1}\operatorname{Gal}(K/F)$ that is contained in U. We may make F larger to make it a Galois extension of k. Thus, $\operatorname{Gal}(K/F)$ is normal in G. As a result, under ψ, $\sigma\operatorname{Gal}(K/F)$ maps to $\sigma^{-1}\operatorname{Gal}(K/F)$. This completes the proof. ■

Proposition 11.5. $\operatorname{Gal}(K/k)$ *under the Krull Topology is Hausdorff.*

Proof. Let $\sigma, \tau \in \operatorname{Gal}(K/k)$ be distinct elements. Then, there is $\alpha \in K$ such that $\sigma(\alpha) \neq \tau(\alpha)$. Let $F = k(\alpha)$, and note that $\sigma\operatorname{Gal}(K/F) \neq \tau\operatorname{Gal}(K/F)$ and thus must be disjiont (since they are cosets). ■

We state the main theorem of this chapter below. We shall prove it in parts and not all at once. It would seem less daunting that way.

Theorem 11.6 (Krull). *Let K/k be Galois and equip $G = \operatorname{Gal}(K/k)$ with the Krull topology. Then*

(a) For all intermediate fields E, $\operatorname{Gal}(K/E)$ is a closed subgroup of G.

(b) For all $H \leq G$, $\operatorname{Gal}(K/K^H)$ is the closure of H in G.

(c) (The Galois Correspondence) There is an inclusion reversing bijection between the intermediate fields of K/k an closed subgroups of $\operatorname{Gal}(K/k)$.

(d) For an arbitrary subgroup H of G, $K^H = K^{\overline{H}}$.

Proposition 11.7. *Let K/k be a Galois extension and E an intermediate field. Then $\operatorname{Gal}(K/E)$ is a closed subgroup of $\operatorname{Gal}(K/k)$.*

Proof. Let $\sigma \in G \backslash \operatorname{Gal}(K/E)$. Then $\sigma\operatorname{Gal}(K/E)$ is a basic open set containing σ and disjiont from $\operatorname{Gal}(K/E)$ (since it is a coset). This implies the desired conclusion. ■

Proposition 11.8. *Let $H \leq G = \operatorname{Gal}(K/k)$. Then $\operatorname{Gal}(K/K^H)$ is the closure of H in G.*

Proof. Obviously, $H \subseteq \operatorname{Gal}(K/K^H)$. Further, since the latter is closed, $\overline{H} \subseteq \operatorname{Gal}(K/K^H)$. We shall show the reverse inclusion. Let $\sigma \in G \backslash \overline{H}$. As we have seen earlier, there is a finite Galois extension F/k such that the basic open set $\sigma\operatorname{Gal}(F/k)$ is disjoint from $\overline{H}$. We claim that there is $\alpha \in F$ such that α is fixed under H but not under σ. Suppose there is no such α. Then, $\sigma|_F$ fixes $F^{H|_F}$ where $H|_F = \{h|_F : h \in H\}$. From finite Galois theory, we know that $\sigma|_F \in H|_F$. And thus, there is some $h \in H$ such that $\sigma|_F = h|_F$, consequently, $\sigma\operatorname{Gal}(K/F) = h\operatorname{Gal}(K/F)$, a contradiction.

Since there is some $\alpha \in F$ that is not fixed by σ but fixed under H, we must have that $\sigma \notin \operatorname{Gal}(K/K^H)$. This completes the proof. ■

11.1 Galois Groups as Inverse Limits

Let K/k be a Galois extension, not necessarily finite. Let

$$\Sigma = \left\{\operatorname{Gal}(F/k) \mid F/k \text{ is finite Galois}\right\}$$

be a poset with restriction maps

$$\pi_F^E : \operatorname{Gal}(E/k) \twoheadrightarrow \operatorname{Gal}(F/k).$$

which are continuous maps between topological groups where $\mathrm{Gal}(E/k)$ and $\mathrm{Gal}(F/k)$ have the discrete topology.

This gives Σ the implicit structure of a categorical *diagram*. We contend that $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$ is the inverse limit[1] over this diagram in the category of topological groups, **TopGrp**.

First, we shall show that there is a cone $(\mathrm{Gal}(K/k), \varphi)$ on the diagram Σ. Indeed, for every finite Galois subextension, define

$$\varphi_F : \mathrm{Gal}(K/k) \twoheadrightarrow \mathrm{Gal}(F/k)$$

as the restriction map $\sigma \mapsto \sigma|_F$. Recall that $\mathrm{Gal}(F/k)$ has the discrete topology, whereby the preimage of $\sigma \in \mathrm{Gal}(F/k)$ is $\sigma\,\mathrm{Gal}(K/F)$ which is a basic open set in $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$ whence the restriction map is continuous and thus a morphism in **TopGrp**.

It is not hard to see that the diagram

$$\begin{tikzcd}
\mathrm{Gal}(E/k) \arrow[rr, two heads, "\pi_F^E"] & & \mathrm{Gal}(F/k) \\
& \mathrm{Gal}(K/k) \arrow[ul, two heads, "\varphi_E"] \arrow[ur, two heads, "\varphi_F"'] &
\end{tikzcd}$$

commutes.

Now let (G, ψ) be another cone on the diagram Σ where G is a topological group we shall show that there is a unique morphism of cones $\Phi : (G, \psi) \to (\mathrm{Gal}(K/k), \phi)$. That is, a unique continuous group homomorphism that makes

$$\begin{tikzcd}
\mathrm{Gal}(E/k) \arrow[rr, two heads, "\pi_F^E"] & & \mathrm{Gal}(F/k) \\
& G \arrow[ul, "\psi_E"] \arrow[ur, "\psi_F"'] \arrow[d, dotted] & \\
& \mathrm{Gal}(K/k) \arrow[uul, two heads, "\varphi_E"] \arrow[uur, two heads, "\varphi_F"'] &
\end{tikzcd}$$

commute.

Pick some $g \in G$. Let $\alpha \in K$ and $L \subseteq K$ be the normal closure of $k(\alpha)$ in K. Then, L/k is finite Galois. Now, define

$$\sigma(\alpha) = \psi_L(g)(\alpha).$$

We shall show that σ is indeed an automorphism. Let $\alpha, \beta \in K$ and L be the normal closure of $k(\alpha, \beta)$ in K. This is a finite Galois extension of k that contains the normal closures of $k(\alpha)$, $k(\beta)$ and $k(\alpha\beta)$, say M, N, P respectively. Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
\sigma(\alpha\beta) &= \psi_P(g)(\alpha\beta) \\
&= \psi_L(g)(\alpha\beta) \\
&= \psi_L(g)(\alpha)\psi_L(g)(\beta) \\
&= \psi_M(\alpha)\psi_N(\beta) \\
&= \sigma(\alpha)\sigma(\beta).
\end{aligned}$$

and similarly, one may show that $\sigma(\alpha + \beta) = \sigma(\alpha) + \sigma(\beta)$ thus $\sigma \in \mathrm{Hom}(K, K)$ which fixes k.

Lastly, we must show that σ is surjective. Let $\beta \in K$ and N the normal closure of $k(\beta)$ in K. Then, there is some $\alpha \in N$ such that $\psi_N(g)(\alpha) = \beta$. Let M be the normal closure of $k(\alpha)$ in K. Then $M \subseteq N$, whence

$$\sigma(\alpha) = \psi_M(g)(\alpha) = \psi_N(g)(\alpha) = \beta.$$

[1] This is the categorical limit

Thus, $\sigma \in \mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$ and set $\Phi(g) = \sigma$.

Let $g, h \in G$, $\Phi(g) = \sigma$, $\Phi(h) = \tau$ and $\alpha \in K$. Let M be the normal closure of $k(\alpha)$ in K. Then

$$\Phi(gh)(\alpha) = \psi_M(gh)(\alpha) = \psi_M(g) \circ \psi_M(h)(\alpha) = \sigma \circ \tau(\alpha)$$

and thus $\Phi(gh) = \sigma \circ \tau$ and Φ is a group homomorphism.

Finally, we must show that Φ is continuous, for which it suffices to show that the preimage of a basic open set in $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$ is open in G.

Let $\sigma \in \mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$ and F/k an intermediate finite Galois extension of k. We have

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi^{-1}(\sigma\,\mathrm{Gal}(K/F)) &= \{g \in G \mid \Phi(g) \in \sigma\,\mathrm{Gal}(K/F)\}\\ &= \{g \in G \mid \Phi(g)|_F = \sigma|_F\}\\ &= \{g \in G \mid \psi_F(g) = \sigma|_F\}\\ &= \psi_F^{-1}(\sigma|_F)\end{aligned}$$

which is open in G since $\mathrm{Gal}(F/k)$ has the discrete topology whence Φ is continuous.

This finishes the proof and shows that $\mathrm{Gal}(K/k)$ is the inverse limit $\varprojlim \mathrm{Gal}(F/k)$, and is a profinite group since every topological group in the inverse limit is a finite group with the discrete topology.

Corollary 11.9. $\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p/\mathbb{F}_p) = \widehat{\mathbb{Z}}$.

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