
LECTURE 5

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1 Degree of polynomials in fields

$K[x]/f(x)$ where $f(x)$ is irreducible. What is $[L : K]$? where $d = \deg f(x)$

$1, \bar{x}, \bar{x}^2, \dots, \bar{x}^{d-1}$ basis for L

$\bar{1} = 1 + \langle f \rangle$

$\bar{x} = x + \langle f \rangle$ spn L over K

$k(x)/\langle f \rangle$ is isomorphic to L

$\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 x + \dots + \alpha_{d-1} x^{d-1} \in L$ where $\alpha_i \in K$

$\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 x + \dots + \alpha_{d-1} x^{d-1} \in \langle f \rangle$ which is a contradiction the only way this can happen

$\rightarrow \alpha_0 = \alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_{d-1} = 0$

so $1, \bar{x}, \dots, \bar{x}^{d-1}$ are linearly independent

so $\dim_K L = d$ so $[L : K] = d$

we take L/K where $\alpha \in L$ smallest field containing K and L .

$K[\alpha]$ = polynomials in α with coefficients in K

$c_0 + c_1 \alpha + c_2 \alpha^2 + \dots + c_{d-1} \alpha^{d-1}$ where $c_i \in K$

$K[\alpha] \subseteq L$ subring of L

$K(\alpha) =$ rationals functions in $\alpha = \left\{ \frac{p(\alpha)}{q(\alpha)} : q(\alpha) \neq 0, p, q \in K[x] \right\}$

$K(\alpha)$ is the smallest subfield of L

Smallest subfield of L containing K and α

Theorem 1.1. $L/K, \alpha \in L$ then

1. If there is no polynomial in $K[x]$ s.t. $p(\alpha) = 0$ then $K(\alpha) \cong K(x)$.
2. if there is a polynomial in $K[x]$ such that $p(\alpha) = 0$ then $K(\alpha) = K[\alpha] \equiv \langle m(x) \rangle$

where $m(x)$ is m-irreducible polyonimla $m(d) = 0$.

In case (1) α is called transcendental over K .

$\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Q}, \pi, e$ is trascendental. what about $\pi + e, \pi \cdot e$? it is not easy to show that a number is transcendental In Case(2) we say that α is algebraic over K . for example \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Q} algebraic number are countable. \mathbb{R} is uncountable

$L/K, d \in L$

$I(\alpha) = \{p \in K(x) : p(\alpha) = 0\},$

$p \in I(\alpha), p \cdot r, r \in K(x)$

$p \cdot r(\alpha) = p(\alpha) \cdot r(\alpha) = 0$

case 1: $I(\alpha) = 0$

case 2: $I(\alpha) \neq 0$

I is principale $I = \langle f \rangle$

f makes it monic – $m = \frac{f}{\text{lead coeff of } f}$
 this makes uniquely defined $I(\alpha) = \langle m \rangle$
 m - minimal polynomial of α .

Proof. 1. case 1: $I(\alpha) = 0$

then $K(\alpha) = K(x)$

$K(\alpha) \cong K(x)$

$\phi : K(x) \rightarrow K(\alpha)$

$\frac{p(x)}{q(x)} \rightarrow \frac{p(\alpha)}{q(\alpha)}$

ϕ is an onto isomorphism.

$\ker \phi = 0$? $\frac{p(x)}{q(x)} \in \ker \phi$ since $p(\alpha) = 0$

2. case 2: $I(\alpha) = \langle m \rangle$

$K(\alpha) = K[\alpha] = \langle m \rangle$

$K(\alpha) \cong K[x]/\langle m \rangle$

$\phi : K[x] \rightarrow K(\alpha)$

$p(x) \rightarrow p(\alpha)$

ϕ is onto

$\ker \phi = \langle m \rangle$

$p(x) \in \ker \phi \implies p(\alpha) = 0 \implies p(x) = m(x) \cdot q(x)$

$p(x) \in \langle m \rangle$

$K[x]/\langle m \rangle \cong K(\alpha)$

□

$K(x)/\langle f(x) \rangle \cong K(\alpha)$

where $f(x)$ is irreducible.

$x^3 - 2$ is irreducible using Eisenstein $p = 2$

the roots are $\sqrt[3]{2}, \omega \sqrt[3]{2}, \omega^2 \sqrt[3]{2}$ where $\omega = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}$

$\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt[3]{2}] \cong \mathbb{Q}(x)/\langle x^3 - 2 \rangle \cong \mathbb{Q}[\omega \sqrt[3]{2}] \cong \mathbb{Q}[\omega^2 \sqrt[3]{2}]$

Smallest field obtaining all roots of f is called splitting field of f .