

Composita of symmetric extensions of \mathbb{Q}

W.D. Geyer M. Jarden A. Razon



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Outline

- 1 Group Theory
 - What and why
 - The formation \mathcal{F} of subdirect products of symmetric groups
 - The embedding property: Realization of $G \in \mathcal{F}$ as a Galois group
 - Free pro- \mathcal{F} -groups: A theorem of Iwasawa (group theory)

- 2 Application to Arithmetical Field Theory
 - Galois groups
 - Theorem of Iwasawa (number theory)
 - The field \mathbb{Q}_{symm}

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Motivation

The focus of our work is the study of the field K_{symm} , the compositum of all finite Galois extensions of a field K with Galois group a symmetric group.

For $K = \mathbb{Q}$ we can describe explicitly the groups $\text{Gal}(\tilde{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}})$ and $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}}/\mathbb{Q})$.

Moreover, the theory $\text{Th}(\mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}})$ of \mathbb{Q}_{symm} in the first order language of rings is primitive recursively decidable.

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Properties of the base field

Remark 1

We need only the following properties of \mathbb{Q} :

\mathbb{Q} is **Hilbertian**, i.e. the following holds: If $f \in \mathbb{Q}[X, Y]$ is an irreducible polynomial, separable, monic, and of degree at least 2 in Y , then there is $x \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that $f(x, Y) \in \mathbb{Q}[Y]$ is irreducible [FrJ08, Prop. 13.2.2].

\mathbb{Q} is countable.

$\text{char } \mathbb{Q} \neq 2$.

All infinite fields (of characteristic $\neq 2$) which are finitely generated over their prime fields have these properties.

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Subdirect product of symmetric groups

Remark 2

Let K be a field and L_i/K be Galois extensions with $\text{Gal}(L_i/K) = \mathfrak{S}_{n_i}$. Let $L = L_1 \cdots L_r$. Then

$$\text{Gal}(L/K) \hookrightarrow \prod_{i=1}^r \text{Gal}(L_i/K)$$

is a subdirect product of symmetric groups.

Subdirect product of symmetric groups

Definition (Birkhoff 1944)

A finite group G is a **subdirect product of symmetric groups** ($G \in \mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_{\text{symm}}$), if there is an embedding

$$(1) \quad G \hookrightarrow S = \prod_{i=1}^r \mathfrak{S}_{n_i} \quad \text{with} \quad \text{pr}_i(G) = \mathfrak{S}_{n_i}$$

We call such a presentation **minimal**, if r is minimal and $|S|$ is minimal. Such a minimal presentation is (up to reordering the factors) unique.

Minimal normal subgroup of \mathfrak{S}_n

Proposition

Let $1 \neq G \in \mathcal{F}$ and (1) minimal. Then $G_i = G \cap \mathfrak{S}_{n_i}$ is $\neq 1$ and normal in G and \mathfrak{S}_{n_i} . So

$$G_i \geq \mathfrak{A}_{(n_i)} = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \mathfrak{S}_2 & \text{if } n_i = 2 \\ \mathfrak{A}_4 & \text{if } n_i = 4 \\ \mathfrak{A}_{n_i} & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right\} = \text{minimal normal subgroup of } \mathfrak{S}_{n_i}$$

Here $\mathfrak{A}_4 = \{(1), (12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23)\}$ is the **Klein four-group**.

Hence $S \geq G \geq A = \prod_{i=1}^r \mathfrak{A}_{(n_i)}$ with $S/A = \mathfrak{S}_2^u \times \mathfrak{S}_3^v$.

Structure of $G \in \mathcal{F}$

Corollary

$$G = H \rtimes A, \quad H = H_2 \rtimes H_3$$

where H_2 and H_3 are the elementary abelian p -Sylow subgroups of H for $p = 2$ and $p = 3$, respectively.

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Formation

Definition

A non empty class \mathcal{F} of finite groups is called a **formation** if the following holds:

$$N \trianglelefteq G \in \mathcal{F} \implies G/N \in \mathcal{F}$$

$$G/N_1, G/N_2 \in \mathcal{F} \implies G/(N_1 \cap N_2) \in \mathcal{F}$$

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$\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_{\text{symm}}$ is a formation, the smallest formation containing all symmetric groups.

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Proof

Step 1

\mathcal{F} is closed under fiber products:

$$G/N_1 \hookrightarrow \prod_i \mathfrak{S}_{n_i}, \quad G/N_2 \hookrightarrow \prod_j \mathfrak{S}_{m_j}$$

$$\Rightarrow G/(N_1 \cap N_2) \hookrightarrow \prod_i \mathfrak{S}_{n_i} \times \prod_j \mathfrak{S}_{m_j}$$

Step 2

\mathcal{F} is closed under taking quotients.

Sketch of proof: It is enough to assume N is minimal.

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Let $G \in \mathcal{F}$, say $G \leq \prod_{i \in I} \mathfrak{S}_{n_i}$. Then a minimal normal subgroup N of G is of the following form:

- (i) $\exists i_0 \in I: N = \mathfrak{A}_{(n_{i_0})}$, or
- (ii) $\exists J \subseteq I$ with $|J| = s > 1$, and $\exists m: 2 \leq m \leq 4$ such that $n_j = m$ for $j \in J$ and

$$N = \{(\alpha, \dots, \alpha) \in \mathfrak{A}_{(m)}^s \mid \alpha \in \mathfrak{A}_{(m)}\}$$

up to an automorphism of S .

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N minimal, so $N_i := \text{pr}_i(N) = 1$ or $= \mathfrak{A}_{(n_i)}$.

Let $J = \{i \in I \mid N_i \neq 1\}$. $|J| = 1$ is case (i).

Let $|J| > 1$. For $j \in J$ we have $\text{pr}_j: N \xrightarrow{\cong} N_j$ since $N \cap \text{Ker}(\text{pr}_j) = 1$. So all $n_j = m$ and N has the above form, up to an automorphism of S .

If $m > 4$, then \mathfrak{A}_m is not abelian, so N is not normal in A , so not in G . □

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Use of the lemma

Proof that G/N is a subdirect product of symmetric groups

In case (i) we have $G/N \hookrightarrow \prod_{i \neq i_0} \mathfrak{S}_{n_i} \times (\mathfrak{S}_{n_{i_0}}/\mathfrak{A}_{(n_{i_0})})$ and

$$\text{Sgn}: \mathfrak{S}_n \rightarrow \mathfrak{S}_n/\mathfrak{A}_{(n)} = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \mathfrak{S}_3 & \text{if } n = 4 \\ \mathfrak{S}_1 & \text{if } n = 2 \\ \mathfrak{S}_2 & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right\}$$

Moreover, $\mathfrak{S}_m/\mathfrak{A}_{(m)} = \text{Aut } \mathfrak{A}_{(m)}$ for $m \leq 4$.

In case (ii) we assume $J = I$. The normalizer of N in S is

$$\{(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s) \in \mathfrak{S}_m^s \mid \text{Sgn } \alpha_1 = \dots = \text{Sgn } \alpha_s\} = G.$$

Then $G = M \rtimes N$ with $M = \{\alpha \in G \mid \alpha_1 \in \mathfrak{S}_{m-1}\}$, so
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A stronger result

Proposition (Geyer, Jarden, R. 2019) [GJR19, Prop. 4.4]

*If N is a normal subgroup of some $G \in \mathcal{F}_{\text{symm}}$, then N has a **complement** M in G , i.e. $M \cap N = \mathbf{1}$ and $MN = G$. Moreover, $G/N \cong M \in \mathcal{F}_{\text{symm}}$.*

Roots of polynomials in \mathbb{Q}_{symm}

Corollary (Geyer, Jarden, R. 2019) [GJR19, Lemma 8.1]

We can effectively check whether a polynomial f in $\mathbb{Q}[X]$ has a root in \mathbb{Q}_{symm} . Thus, the set of monic polynomials in $\mathbb{Q}[X]$ that have a root in \mathbb{Q}_{symm} is primitive recursive.

Proof

We can effectively decompose f over \mathbb{Q} into a product of irreducible polynomials. Thus, we can assume that f is irreducible in $\mathbb{Q}[X]$ and effectively construct the splitting field N of f over \mathbb{Q} . Moreover, we can effectively find all symmetric extensions L_1, \dots, L_r of \mathbb{Q} in N and check whether $N = \prod_{i=1}^r L_i$ which is equivalent to $N \subset \mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}}$ since then $\text{Gal}(N/\mathbb{Q})$ is a quotient of some $G \in \mathcal{F}_{\text{symm}}$, hence in $\mathcal{F}_{\text{symm}}$.

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The embedding property

Definition

Let K be a field with absolute Galois group $\text{Gal}(K) = \text{Gal}(K_{\text{sep}}/K)$ and \mathcal{F} be a formation of finite groups. We say: K has the **embedding property** with respect to \mathcal{F} , if every embedding problem

$$(2) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} & \text{Gal}(K) & \\ & \downarrow \beta & \\ G & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & \bar{G} \end{array}$$

with epimorphisms α and β and $G \in \mathcal{F}$ has a proper solution, i.e. there is an epimorphism $\gamma: \text{Gal}(K) \rightarrow G$ with $\beta = \alpha \circ \gamma$.

\mathbb{Q} has the embedding property with respect to $\mathcal{F}_{\text{symm}}$

Theorem

The field \mathbb{Q} (or any Hilbertian field with $\text{char} \neq 2$) has the embedding property with respect to $\mathcal{F}_{\text{symm}}$.

Example instead of proof

Put $G = \{(\sigma, \tau) \in \mathfrak{S}_5 \times \mathfrak{S}_6 \mid \text{sgn } \sigma = \text{sgn } \tau\}$ and $\bar{G} = \mathfrak{S}_6$ and let $\alpha: G \rightarrow \bar{G}$ be the second projection. So $\text{Ker } \alpha = \mathfrak{A}_5$. There are many realizations $\beta: \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow \bar{G}$ of \mathfrak{S}_6 as $\text{Gal}(N/\mathbb{Q})$. Let $L = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$ be the fixed field of \mathfrak{A}_6 in N . Now we use a theorem of Brink.

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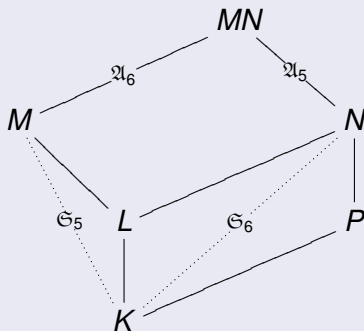
A theorem of Brink

Lemma [Brink 2004]

Let $n \geq 3$ be an integer, let K be a Hilbertian field with $\text{char } K \neq 2$, let L/K be a quadratic extension and P/K be an algebraic extension with $L \not\subseteq P$. Then there are extensions M/L with $\text{Gal}(M/K) = \mathfrak{S}_n$ and $M \cap P = K$.

Solving the embedding problem of the example

Diagram



which gives $\text{Gal}(MN/K) = G$ and solves the embedding problem (2). □

Corollary

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Any $G \in \mathcal{F}_{\text{symm}}$ is a Galois group over \mathbb{Q} .

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Definition of a free pro- \mathcal{F} -group

Definition

Let \mathcal{F} be a formation of finite groups.

(a) A **pro- \mathcal{F} -group** G is a projective limit of groups in \mathcal{F} , i.e. a profinite group whose finite quotient groups are in \mathcal{F} :

$$\text{Im}(G) \subseteq \mathcal{F}.$$

(b) The **free pro- \mathcal{F} -group $\hat{F}_n(\mathcal{F})$ on n generators** x_1, \dots, x_n is a pro- \mathcal{F} -group, (topol.) generated by $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ with the following universal property:

Let G be a pro- \mathcal{F} -group and $\varphi: X \rightarrow G$ be a map with $G = \langle \varphi(X) \rangle$. Then φ has a unique extension $\hat{\varphi}: \hat{F}_n(\mathcal{F}) \rightarrow G$ which is an epimorphism.

(c) “Similarly” one defines the free pro- \mathcal{F} -group $\hat{F}_\omega(\mathcal{F})$ with countably many generators.

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(b) The **free pro- \mathcal{F} -group** $\hat{F}_n(\mathcal{F})$ on n generators x_1, \dots, x_n is a pro- \mathcal{F} -group, (topol.) generated by $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ with the following universal property:

Let G be a pro- \mathcal{F} -group and $\varphi: X \rightarrow G$ be a map with $G = \langle \varphi(X) \rangle$. Then φ has a unique extension $\hat{\varphi}: \hat{F}_n(\mathcal{F}) \rightarrow G$ which is an epimorphism.

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Definition of a free pro- \mathcal{F} -group

Definition

Let \mathcal{F} be a formation of finite groups.

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Small profinite groups

Definition

A profinite group G is **small** if for any n there are only finitely many normal subgroups of index n .

Example: Every finitely generated profinite group is small.

Facts

1. Let H, G be profinite groups with $\text{Im}(H) = \text{Im}(G)$. If H is small we have $H \cong G$.
2. $G \cong \hat{F}_n(\mathcal{F}) \iff \text{Im}(G) = \{A \in \mathcal{F} \mid A \text{ has } n \text{ generators}\}$
3. $\text{Im}(\hat{F}_\omega(\mathcal{F})) = \mathcal{F}$. But for $\mathcal{F} = \{\text{abelian } p\text{-groups}\}$ we have
$$G = \prod_n C_{p^n} \not\cong \hat{F}_\omega(\mathcal{F}) = \prod_n \hat{\mathbb{Z}}_p \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Im}(G) = \mathcal{F}.$$

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The embedding property of a pro- \mathcal{F} group

Definition

A profinite group G has the **embedding property**, if to epimorphisms $\alpha: H \rightarrow \bar{H}$ and $\beta: G \rightarrow \bar{H}$ with $H \in \text{Im}(G)$ there is an epimorphism $\gamma: G \rightarrow H$ with $\beta = \alpha \circ \gamma$.

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The groups $\hat{F}_n(\mathcal{F})$ and $\hat{F}_\omega(\mathcal{F})$ have the embedding property, the Galois group $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}}/\mathbb{Q})$ too.

The embedding property of a pro- \mathcal{F} group

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A theorem of Iwasawa

Proposition (Iwasawa) [FrJ08, Lemma 24.4.7]

Let H, G be profinite groups with countably many generators and the embedding property. Then

$$\text{Im}(G) = \text{Im}(H) \implies G \cong H.$$

Corollary 1 [FrJ08, Thm. 24.8.1]

If G is an ω -generated pro- \mathcal{F} -group, then $G \cong \hat{F}_\omega(\mathcal{F})$ iff $\text{Im}(G) = \mathcal{F}$ and G has the embedding property.

Corollary 2 (Geyer, Jarden, R. 2019) [GJR19, Thm. 7.5]

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Determination of fields by Galois groups

Theorem [Neukirch 1970]

Let K and L be finite extensions of \mathbb{Q} . Then

$$G(K) \cong G(L) \implies K \cong L$$

Remark 1

The maximal solvable quotient groups $\text{Gal}(K_{\text{solv}}/K)$ determine the number field K up to conjugation.

Remark 2 [Uchida 1977]

The same holds for global fields in all characteristics.

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Twaddling

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By van der Waerden [1933] asymptotically 100% of all $f \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$ of degree n have Galois group \mathfrak{S}_n over \mathbb{Q} . They form the plebs, the common folk, the lower class of polynomials, compared to the polynomials with solvable Galois group which are full of arithmetical significance, the aristocratic upper class. But the highest class with the most arithmetical properties are the polynomials with abelian Galois group as class field theory and the following theorem indicate.

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The formation of all finite solvable groups

Theorem [Iwasawa 1953]

Let $\mathcal{F}_{\text{solv}}$ be the formation of all finite solvable groups. Then $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}_{\text{solv}}/\mathbb{Q}_{\text{ab}}) \cong \hat{F}_{\omega}(\mathcal{F}_{\text{solv}})$.

Idea of proof

Let $G = \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}_{\text{solv}}/\mathbb{Q}_{\text{ab}})$. The absolute Galois group $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}_{\text{ab}})$ of $\mathbb{Q}_{\text{ab}} = \mathbb{Q}(\mu_{\infty})$ has cohomological dimension 1 by class field theory. Therefore every embedding problem over \mathbb{Q}_{ab} has a weak solution. Moreover \mathbb{Q}_{ab} is Hilbertian. Therefore every minimal split $\mathcal{F}_{\text{solv}}$ -embedding problem (where the kernel is elementary abelian) is solvable. This implies by group-theoretical considerations that every $\mathcal{F}_{\text{solv}}$ -embedding problem is solvable. Therefore $\text{Im}(G) = \mathcal{F}_{\text{solv}}$ and G has the embedding property. This implies $G \cong \hat{F}_{\omega}(\mathcal{F}_{\text{solv}})$. □

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A conjecture of Shafarevich

Remark

This holds for any number field instead of K . If K is a global field of prime characteristic, e.g. $K = \mathbb{F}_p(t)$, then [Pop 1995] showed more: $\text{Gal}(K_{\text{ab}}) \cong \hat{F}_\omega$.

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Properties of the field K_{symm}

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Let K be a countable Hilbertian field, e.g. $K = \mathbb{Q}$.

(a) K_{symm} is Hilbertian.

Follows from Haran's diamond theorem [1999]. As a consequence we get an infinite sequence

$$\mathbb{Q} \subset \mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}} \subset (\mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}})_{\text{symm}} \subset \dots$$

(b) K_{symm} is **PAC**, i.e. every geometrically integral variety over K_{symm} has a K_{symm} -rational point.

By [Fried-Jarden, 1978] using the stability of fields.

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Primitive recursive decidability lemma

Definition

A field K has **elimination theory** if every finitely generated presented extension L of K has an effective algorithm for factoring each polynomial in $L[X]$ of positive degree into a product of irreducible factors.

Lemma (Jarden-Shlapentokh, 2017) [JaS17]

Let K be a presented field with elimination theory. Let M be a perfect algebraic extension of K such that M is PAC, $\text{Gal}(M)$ has the embedding property, and $\text{Im}(\text{Gal}(M))$ is a primitive recursive subset of the set of all finite groups. Further, suppose the set $\text{Root}(M/K)$ of monic polynomials in $K[X]$ that have a root in M is primitive recursive. Then, $\text{Th}(M)$ is primitive recursive.

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Proposition (Geyer, Jarden, R. 2019) [[GJR19](#), Thm. 8.5(b)]

There is a primitively recursive procedure to decide which sentences in the first-order language of rings are true in \mathbb{Q}_{sym} and which not.

Remark

This is true for all countable Hilbertian fields K , even if we add names of the elements of K to the language, as long as $\text{char } K = 0$.

If $\text{char } K \neq 0$, then all is true if we replace K_{sym} by its perfect hull $K_{\text{sym},\text{ins}}$.

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Undecidability of $\mathbb{Q}^{(2)}$

Theorem (Martinez-Ranero, Utreras, Videla 2020) [MUV20]

The first order theory of $\mathbb{Q}^{(2)}$, the compositum of all quadratic extensions of \mathbb{Q} , is undecidable.

Remark

For a positive integer m , let $\mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}}^{(m)}$ be the compositum of all Galois extensions of \mathbb{Q} with Galois groups \mathfrak{S}_n for some $n \geq m$. In particular, $\mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}} = \mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}}^{(2)}$. Also, $\mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}}^{(m+1)} \subseteq \mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}}^{(m)}$.

$\text{Th}(\mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}}^{(m)})$ is primitive recursively decidable [GJR19, Example 9.1].

$\bigcap_m \mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}}^{(m)} = \mathbb{Q}^{(2)}$ [GJR19, Prop. 9.3].

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For a positive integer m , let $\mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}}^{(m)}$ be the compositum of all Galois extensions of \mathbb{Q} with Galois groups \mathfrak{S}_n for some $n \geq m$. In particular, $\mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}} = \mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}}^{(2)}$. Also, $\mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}}^{(m+1)} \subseteq \mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}}^{(m)}$.

$\text{Th}(\mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}}^{(m)})$ is primitive recursively decidable [GJR19, Example 9.1].

$\bigcap_m \mathbb{Q}_{\text{symm}}^{(m)} = \mathbb{Q}^{(2)}$ [GJR19, Prop. 9.3].

Undecidability of $\mathbb{Q}^{(2)}$

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The ring of integers of \mathbb{Q}_{symm} and of $\mathbb{F}_p(t)_{\text{symm}}$

Theorem (Jarden and R. 2018) [JaR18, Cor. 2.5]

Let K be either \mathbb{Q} or $\mathbb{F}_p(t)$ and let \mathcal{O} be either \mathbb{Z} or $\mathbb{F}_p[t]$, respectively. Let $\mathcal{O}_{\text{symm}}$ (resp., $\mathcal{O}_{\text{symm,ins}}$) be the integral closure of \mathcal{O} in K_{symm} (resp. $K_{\text{symm,ins}}$). Then, K_{symm} is **PAC over** $\mathcal{O}_{\text{symm}}$, i.e. for each absolutely irreducible polynomial $f \in K_{\text{symm}}[T, X]$ s.t. $\frac{\partial f}{\partial X} \neq 0$ there are infinitely many $(a, b) \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{symm}} \times K_{\text{symm}}$ with $f(a, b) = 0$. Also, $K_{\text{symm,ins}}$ is PAC over $\mathcal{O}_{\text{symm,ins}}$.

Ingredients of the proof

[GJR17a] applies Konrad Neumann's theorem on the "symmetric stabilization of function fields over K " [Neu98].

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Primitive recursive decidability of $\mathcal{O}_{\text{symm,ins}}$

Lemma (Jarden-R., 2020) [JaR20, Lemma 4.2]

Let M be a perfect algebraic extension of K s.t. M is PAC over its ring of integers \mathcal{O}_M , $\text{Gal}(M)$ has the embedding property, $\text{Im}(\text{Gal}(M))$ is primitive recursive, and $\text{Root}(M/K)$ is primitive recursive. Then, $\text{Th}(\mathcal{O}_M)$ is primitive recursively decidable.

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[Raz19] that uses v.d. Dries elimination of quantifiers procedure for the ring of all algebraic integers [Dri88] combined with a generalization of the Galois stratification of [FrJ08, §30].

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