

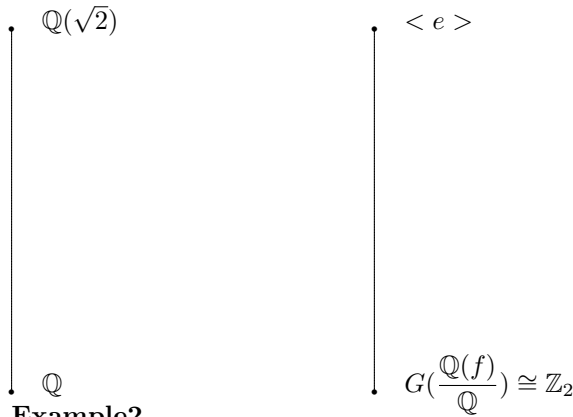
## 5.4 The Galois Group of a polynomial

**Definition 1.** Let  $f(x) \in K[x]$  have roots of  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k$  with  $k = \deg f$ .

Then  $K(f) := K(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k)$  and  $G\left(\frac{K(f)}{K}\right)$  is the Galois Group of  $f(x)$  over  $K$ .

**Example1**

$$f(x) = x^2 - 2 \in \mathbb{Q}[x], \mathbb{Q}(f) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$$



**Example2**

$$f(x) = x^4 + 4x^2 + 2 \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$$

$$f(x) = 0, x^2 = \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{8}}{2} = -2 \pm \sqrt{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \pm \sqrt{-2 \pm \sqrt{2}}$$

$$\mathbb{Q}(f) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-2 + \sqrt{2}}), \text{ where } \sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-2 + \sqrt{2}})$$

$$\sigma \in G\left(\frac{\mathbb{Q}(f)}{\mathbb{Q}}\right) \Rightarrow \sigma(\sqrt{-2 + \sqrt{2}}) = \pm \sqrt{-2 \pm \sqrt{2}}$$

$$\text{Say } \sigma(\sqrt{-2 + \sqrt{2}}) = \sqrt{-2 - \sqrt{2}}$$

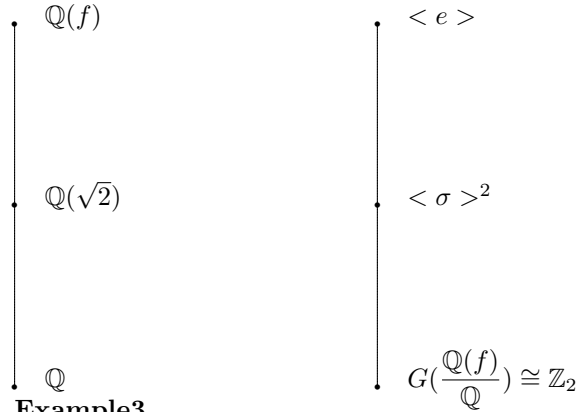
$$\text{Then } \sigma(\sqrt{(-2 + \sqrt{2})^2}) = \sigma(-2 + \sqrt{2}) = -2 + \sigma(\sqrt{2}) = -2 - \sqrt{2}$$

$$\sigma(\sqrt{-2 - \sqrt{2}}) = \frac{\sigma(\sqrt{2})}{\sigma(\sqrt{-2 + \sqrt{2}})} = \frac{-\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{-2 - \sqrt{2}}} = -\sqrt{-2 + \sqrt{2}}$$

$$\text{Hence, } \sigma^2(\sqrt{-2 + \sqrt{2}}) = -\sqrt{-2 + \sqrt{2}}$$

$$\text{Then, } \sigma^4 = 1$$

$$\text{Hence, } G\left(\frac{\mathbb{Q}(f)}{\mathbb{Q}}\right) = \langle \sigma \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}_4$$



**Example 3**

$$f(x) = x^2 - 10x^2 + 4$$

$$f(x) = 0 \Rightarrow x^2 = \frac{10 \pm \sqrt{84}}{2} = 5 \pm \sqrt{21}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \pm \sqrt{5 \pm \sqrt{21}}$$

Then  $\mathbb{Q}(f) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5 + \sqrt{21}})$ , where  $\frac{2}{\sqrt{5 + \sqrt{21}}} = \sqrt{5 - \sqrt{21}} \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5 + \sqrt{21}})$

$$\sigma \in G\left(\frac{\mathbb{Q}(f)}{\mathbb{Q}}\right) \Rightarrow \sigma(\sqrt{5 + \sqrt{21}}) = \sqrt{5 - \sqrt{21}}$$

$$\text{Say } \sigma(\sqrt{5 + \sqrt{21}}) = \pm \sqrt{5 - \sqrt{21}}$$

$$\sigma(\sqrt{5 - \sqrt{21}}) = \frac{\sigma(2)}{\sigma(\sqrt{5 + \sqrt{21}})} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{5 - \sqrt{21}}} = \sqrt{5 + \sqrt{21}}$$

Then  $\sigma^2 = e$

$$\text{Say } \sigma'(\sqrt{5 + \sqrt{21}}) = -\sqrt{5 + \sqrt{21}}$$

Then  $\sigma'^2 = e$

Hence,  $G\left(\frac{\mathbb{Q}(f)}{\mathbb{Q}}\right) = \{1, \sigma, \sigma', \sigma\sigma'\} \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$

