

Pacific Journal of Mathematics

A CHARACTERIZATION OF COMPLETELY REGULAR FIELDS

WILLIAM YSLAS VÉLEZ

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Dedicated to H. B. Mann on the occasion of his Seventieth Birthday

**We prove a theorem on tamely ramified extensions and
 apply this theorem to obtain a characterization of completely
 regular fields.**

Let Q_p denote the p -adic completion of Q , F a finite extension of Q_p , $e(F|Q_p) = a$, the ramification degree of F over Q_p , and ζ_p a primitive p^{th} root of unity.

We say that F is regular if $\zeta_p \notin F$.

When first studying the extension $F(\zeta_p)$ over F , it is a common error to assume that the extension $F(\zeta_p)$ over F is ramified. Or, to put it another way, that if K is an unramified extension of F , then K must also be regular.

On this question, Borevič, [1], has made the following definition:

Let $K \supset F$, $e(K|F) = 1$. If $\zeta_p \notin K$, for all such K , then we say that F is completely regular.

Using class field theoretic techniques, Borevič, [1], has given a characterization of completely regular fields. This characterization is a corollary to the following theorem.

THEOREM. *Let $L \cap F = L'$, where $e(L'|Q_p) = l$, degree $(L|L') = e(L|L') = f$, $(f, p) = 1$ and $d = (a/l, f)$. Then $L = L'(\pi^{1/f})$, where π is some prime element in L' and $e(F(\pi^{1/f})|F) = f/d$. Furthermore, if K is an unramified extension of F , then $e(K(\pi^{1/f})|K) = f/d$.*

Proof. Given $(a/l, f) = d$, we find an x such that $(x, f) = 1$ and $(a/l)x - yf = d$. To find x , set $d = d_1d_2$, where d_2 is the largest divisor of d such that $(f_1, d_2) = 1$, where $f_1 = f/d$. Then $(f_1d_1, d_2) = 1$. Let $(a/l)d \cdot x_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{f_1}$. Since $(f_1d_1, d_2) = 1$, we can solve the system of congruences $x \equiv x_1 \pmod{f_1d_1}$, $x \equiv 1 \pmod{d_2}$.

Since $(f, p) = 1$, we have that $L = L'(\pi^{1/f})$ (Weiss, page 89), where π is some prime element in L' . Then $\pi = \alpha\pi_1^{al}$, where π_1 is some prime element in F and α is a unit. Since $(f, x) = 1$, we have that

$$F(\pi^{1/f}) = F((\pi^x)^{1/f}) = F((\alpha^x\pi_1^d)^{1/f}) = F((\pi_1(\alpha^x)^{1/d})^{1/f_1}).$$

But $F((\alpha^x)^{1/d})$ is unramified over F and $F(\pi_1)$ over $F((\alpha^x)^{1/d})$ is defined by the polynomial $x^{f_1} - (\alpha^x)^{1/d}\pi_1$, which is an Eisenstein polynomial.

Hence $e(F(\pi^{1/f})|F) = f/d$.

Let $e(K|F) = 1$. Then $e(K(\pi^{1/f})|F(\pi^{1/f})) = 1$. So we have that $e(K(\pi^{1/f})|F) = e(K(\pi^{1/f})|K) \cdot e(K|F) = e(K(\pi^{1/f})|K)$. But also $e(K(\pi^{1/f})|F) = e(K(\pi^{1/f})|F(\pi^{1/f})) \cdot e(F(\pi^{1/f})|F) = e(F(\pi^{1/f})|F)$. Hence $e(K(\pi^{1/f})|F) = e(K(\pi^{1/f})|K) = e(F(\pi^{1/f})|F) = f/d$.

COROLLARY. *The field F is completely regular iff $p-1 \nmid e(F|Q_p)$.*

Proof. Let $\text{degree}(F \cap Q_p(\zeta_p)|Q_p) = l < p-1$, with $fl = p-1$, and

$$\text{degree}(Q_p(\zeta_p)|F \cap Q_p(\zeta_p)) = e(Q_p(\zeta_p)|F \cap Q_p(\zeta_p)) = f.$$

Then $(f, p) = 1$. Let $d = (a/l, f)$. Then $d = f$ iff $p-1 \mid a$. If K is an unramified extension of F , then $e(K(\zeta_p)|K) > 1$ iff $p-1 \nmid a$.

COROLLARY. *Let K be an unramified extension of F and $p-1 \mid a$, then $\zeta_p \in K$ iff $(p-1)/l \mid \text{degree}(K|F)$, where $l = \text{degree}(F \cap Q_p(\zeta_p)|Q_p)$.*

Proof. If $p-1 \mid a$, then $d = f = (a/l, f)$. So $e(F(\zeta_p)|F) = 1$ and $\text{degree}(F(\zeta_p)|F) = (p-1)/l$.

If $\zeta_p \in K$, then $K \supset F(\zeta_p) \supset F$. But $\text{degree}(F(\zeta_p)|F) = (p-1)/l$, so $(p-1)/l \mid \text{degree}(K|F)$.

Conversely, if $(p-1)/l \mid \text{degree}(K|F)$, then since K over F has cyclic galois group, we have a field F_1 , $K \supset F_1 \supset F$, where $\text{degree}(F_1|F) = (p-1)/l$ and $e(F_1|F) = 1$. But we have shown that $e(F(\zeta_p)|F) = 1$, and $\text{degree}(F(\zeta_p)|F) = (p-1)/l$. Hence $F_1 = F(\zeta_p)$, since there is exactly one unramified extension for each degree. So $\zeta_p \in K$.

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Pacific Journal of Mathematics

Vol. 63, No. 2

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Joseph Anthony Ball and Arthur R. Lubin, <i>On a class of contractive perturbations of restricted shifts</i>	309
Joseph Becker and William C. Brown, <i>On extending higher derivations generated by cup products to the integral closure</i>	325
Andreas Blass, <i>Exact functors and measurable cardinals</i>	335
Joseph Eugene Collison, <i>A variance property for arithmetic functions</i>	347
Craig McCormack Cordes, <i>Quadratic forms over nonformally real fields with a finite number of quaternion algebras</i>	357
Freddy Delbaen, <i>Weakly compact sets in H^1</i>	367
G. D. Dikshit, <i>Absolute Nörlund summability factors for Fourier series</i>	371
Edward Richard Fadell, <i>Nielsen numbers as a homotopy type invariant</i>	381
Josip Globevnik, <i>Analytic extensions of vector-valued functions</i>	389
Robert Gold, <i>Genera in normal extensions</i>	397
Solomon Wolf Golomb, <i>Formulas for the next prime</i>	401
Robert L. Griess, Jr., <i>The splitting of extensions of $SL(3, 3)$ by the vector space F_3^3</i>	405
Thomas Alan Keagy, <i>Matrix transformations and absolute summability</i>	411
Kazuo Kishi, <i>Analytic maps of the open unit disk onto a Gleason part</i>	417
Kwangil Koh, Jiang Luh and Mohan S. Putcha, <i>On the associativity and commutativity of algebras over commutative rings</i>	423
James C. Lillo, <i>Asymptotic behavior of solutions of retarded differential difference equations</i>	431
John Alan MacBain, <i>Local and global bifurcation from normal eigenvalues</i>	445
Anna Maria Mantero, <i>Sets of uniqueness and multiplicity for L^p</i>	467
J. F. McClendon, <i>Embedding metric families</i>	481
L. Robbiano and Giuseppe Valla, <i>Primary powers of a prime ideal</i>	491
Wolfgang Ruess, <i>Generalized inductive limit topologies and barrelledness properties</i>	499
Judith D. Sally, <i>Bounds for numbers of generators of Cohen-Macaulay ideals</i>	517
Helga Schirmer, <i>Mappings of polyhedra with prescribed fixed points and fixed point indices</i>	521
Cho Wei Sit, <i>Quotients of complete multipartite graphs</i>	531
S. Sznajder and Zbigniew Zielezny, <i>Solvability of convolution equations in \mathfrak{K}'_p, $p > 1$</i>	539
Mitchell Herbert Taibleson, <i>The existence of natural field structures for finite dimensional vector spaces over local fields</i>	545
William Yslas Vélez, <i>A characterization of completely regular fields</i>	553
P. S. Venkatesan, <i>On right unipotent semigroups</i>	555
Kenneth S. Williams, <i>A rational octic reciprocity law</i>	563
Robert Ross Wilson, <i>Lattice orderings on the real field</i>	571
Harvey Eli Wolff, <i>V-localizations and V-monads. II</i>	579