

ON THE FIELD OF ORIGIN OF AN IDEAL

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IN this paper we shall consider integral ideals in finite algebraic extensions ($\mathfrak{F}, \mathfrak{F}_1, \dots$) of the field of rational numbers.

Two ideals $\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{b}$ in the same field \mathfrak{F} are said to be equal if and only if they contain the same numbers.

Let $\mathfrak{F}_1 \supset \mathfrak{F}_2$ and let \mathfrak{A} be an ideal in \mathfrak{F}_2 . The numbers of \mathfrak{A} generate an ideal \mathfrak{a} in \mathfrak{F}_1 and it is known that the intersection $\mathfrak{a} \cap \mathfrak{F}_2 = \mathfrak{A}$. (See for instance Hecke, *Theorie der algebraischen Zahlen*, § 37). Also if $\mathfrak{a} \subset \mathfrak{F}_1$ and $\mathfrak{b} \subset \mathfrak{F}_2$ generate the same ideal in a field containing \mathfrak{F}_1 and \mathfrak{F}_2 then they must generate the same ideal in $\mathfrak{F}_1 \cup \mathfrak{F}_2$ and thus in every field containing \mathfrak{F}_1 and \mathfrak{F}_2 .

We shall therefore call two ideals \mathfrak{a} and \mathfrak{b} equal if they generate the same ideal in a field containing all the numbers of \mathfrak{a} and of \mathfrak{b} . Two such ideals may therefore be denoted by the same symbol and we shall speak of an ideal \mathfrak{a} without regard to a particular field. An ideal \mathfrak{a} will be said to be contained in a field \mathfrak{F} if it may be generated by numbers in \mathfrak{F} ; in other words, if it has a basis in \mathfrak{F} .

It seems natural to try to characterize those fields which contain a given ideal \mathfrak{a} , and in this paper we shall find such a characterization at least in the case that a power of \mathfrak{a} is a prime ideal in some extension of \mathfrak{F} .

A necessary and sufficient condition for an ideal \mathfrak{a} to be contained in a given field \mathfrak{F} will be derived in the case that \mathfrak{a} is an ideal of order 1, as defined in this paper. For prime ideals of order greater than 1 a necessary and sufficient condition will also be given.

From now on we shall consider finite algebraic extensions (\mathfrak{F}_1, \dots) over a field \mathfrak{F}_1 itself a finite algebraic extension over the field of rational numbers. Admissible subfields of \mathfrak{F}_1 are those containing \mathfrak{F} . Throughout the paper only fields containing \mathfrak{F} will be considered.

Consider an ideal $\mathfrak{a} \subset \mathfrak{F}_1$. Either \mathfrak{a} is not contained in any admissible subfield of \mathfrak{F}_1 or \mathfrak{F}_1 must contain an admissible subfield \mathfrak{F}_2 which has the property that \mathfrak{a} is in \mathfrak{F}_2 but not in any admissible subfield of \mathfrak{F}_2 . We therefore define:

DEFINITION 1. *If \mathfrak{a} is in \mathfrak{F}_1 but not in any proper admissible subfield of \mathfrak{F}_1 then \mathfrak{a} is said to originate in \mathfrak{F}_1 over \mathfrak{F} .*

Consider $\mathfrak{F}_1 \supset \mathfrak{F}_2$ and let \mathfrak{a} be an ideal in \mathfrak{F}_1 . The numbers of \mathfrak{a} which lie in \mathfrak{F}_2 form an ideal \mathfrak{A} in \mathfrak{F}_2 . This ideal \mathfrak{A} is said to correspond in \mathfrak{F}_2 to the ideal \mathfrak{a} . The ideal \mathfrak{A} depends only on \mathfrak{a} but not on \mathfrak{F}_1 .

DEFINITION 2. *If $\mathfrak{A} \subset \mathfrak{F}$ corresponds to \mathfrak{a} in \mathfrak{F}_1 and*

$$(1) \quad \mathfrak{A} = \mathfrak{a}^e c, \quad (\mathfrak{a}, c) = 1$$

then \mathfrak{a} is said to be of order e with respect to \mathfrak{F} .

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REMARK. Not every ideal has an order with respect to \mathfrak{F} ; however, every ideal which is a prime ideal in some extension of \mathfrak{F} does.

THEOREM 1. *If \mathfrak{a} is an ideal of order 1 with respect to \mathfrak{F} then \mathfrak{a} originates in a unique subfield \mathfrak{F}_1 over \mathfrak{F} . An extension $\mathfrak{F}' \supset \mathfrak{F}$ contains \mathfrak{a} if and only if it contains \mathfrak{F}_1 .*

Proof. If \mathfrak{a} does not originate in \mathfrak{F}' , then it must originate in some subfield of \mathfrak{F}' . Hence \mathfrak{a} originates in at least one field.

Suppose then that \mathfrak{a} originates in \mathfrak{F}_1 and also in \mathfrak{F}_2 . Let \mathfrak{F}_n be a normal extension of \mathfrak{F} containing \mathfrak{F}_1 and \mathfrak{F}_2 and \mathfrak{G} the Galois group of \mathfrak{F}_n over \mathfrak{F} . Let \mathfrak{H}_1 and \mathfrak{H}_2 be the subgroups of \mathfrak{G} leaving \mathfrak{F}_1 and \mathfrak{F}_2 respectively fixed. Since \mathfrak{a} has a basis in \mathfrak{F}_1 and in \mathfrak{F}_2 it follows that \mathfrak{a} is transformed into itself by the union $\mathfrak{H}_1 \cup \mathfrak{H}_2 = \overline{\mathfrak{H}}$. To $\overline{\mathfrak{H}}$ corresponds the field $\overline{\mathfrak{F}} = \mathfrak{F}_1 \cap \mathfrak{F}_2$ which certainly contains \mathfrak{F} . Let $\overline{\mathfrak{a}} \subset \overline{\mathfrak{F}}$ and $\mathfrak{A} \subset \mathfrak{F}$ correspond to $\mathfrak{a} \subset \mathfrak{F}_1$ then

$$(2) \quad \begin{aligned} \overline{\mathfrak{a}} &= \mathfrak{a}c' \\ \mathfrak{A} &= \overline{\mathfrak{a}}b = \mathfrak{a}c'b. \end{aligned}$$

Since $c'b = c$ by (1) and since $(c, \mathfrak{a}) = 1$ by hypothesis we must have

$$(3) \quad (c', \mathfrak{a}) = 1.$$

If

$$(4) \quad \overline{\mathfrak{F}} = \mathfrak{H}_1 + \mathfrak{H}_1A_2 + \dots + \mathfrak{H}_1A_g$$

then all relative conjugate fields of \mathfrak{F}_1 over $\overline{\mathfrak{F}}$ are obtained each once by applying $1, A_2, \dots, A_g$ to \mathfrak{F}_1 . Hence since A_i transforms \mathfrak{a} into itself

$$(5) \quad \mathfrak{a} = \mathfrak{a}^{A_2} = \dots = \mathfrak{a}^{A_g}.$$

Thus

$$(6) \quad \begin{aligned} \overline{\mathfrak{a}} &= \mathfrak{a}'^{A_i} && (i = 1, \dots, g), \\ c'^{A_i} &= c'. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$(7) \quad \mathfrak{a}^g \subset \overline{\mathfrak{F}}, \quad c'^g \subset \overline{\mathfrak{F}}.$$

Since $\mathfrak{a}^g \subset \overline{\mathfrak{F}}$, we must have $\mathfrak{a}^g \subset \overline{\mathfrak{a}}$ and

$$(8) \quad \mathfrak{a}^g = \overline{\mathfrak{a}}b' = \mathfrak{a}c'b'.$$

Hence $c' = 1$ since otherwise $(\mathfrak{a}, c') \neq 1$ contradicting (3). Thus by (2) $\mathfrak{a} = \overline{\mathfrak{a}}$ and since by hypothesis \mathfrak{a} originates in \mathfrak{F}_1 and \mathfrak{F}_2 it follows that $\overline{\mathfrak{F}} = \mathfrak{F}_1 = \mathfrak{F}_2$.

If now \mathfrak{a} is in \mathfrak{F}' then \mathfrak{F}' must contain a field in which \mathfrak{a} originates. Hence \mathfrak{F}' must contain \mathfrak{F}_1 . Conversely if $\mathfrak{F}' \supset \mathfrak{F}_1$ then $\mathfrak{F}' \supset \mathfrak{a}$ since $\mathfrak{a} \subset \mathfrak{F}_1$.

THEOREM 2. *If \mathfrak{p} is an ideal in any field over \mathfrak{F} and g is the largest integer for which \mathfrak{p}^g is a prime ideal in some extension of \mathfrak{F} then \mathfrak{p}^g originates in a unique extension $\mathfrak{F}' \supset \mathfrak{F}$ and is a prime ideal in \mathfrak{F}' . Moreover every field that contains a power of \mathfrak{p} contains \mathfrak{F}' .*

Proof. Let \mathfrak{P} in \mathfrak{F} correspond to \mathfrak{p} . Since \mathfrak{p}^g is a prime ideal in some field over \mathfrak{F} , \mathfrak{P} must be a prime ideal. That is to say

$$(9) \quad \mathfrak{P} = \mathfrak{p}^g\mathfrak{a}, \quad (\mathfrak{p}, \mathfrak{a}) = 1.$$

Thus \mathfrak{p}^e satisfies the conditions of Theorem 1. Let \mathfrak{F}' be the unique field in which \mathfrak{p}^e originates. Let \mathfrak{p}^g be a prime ideal in \mathfrak{F}'' . To \mathfrak{p}^g corresponds a prime ideal in \mathfrak{F} and since this prime ideal has a common factor with \mathfrak{P} it must be equal to \mathfrak{P} . Thus since $(\mathfrak{p}, \alpha) = 1$

$$(10) \quad \mathfrak{P} = (\mathfrak{p}^g)^t \alpha, \quad e \equiv 0(g), \quad (\mathfrak{p}^g, \alpha) = 1.$$

Thus \mathfrak{F}'' contains \mathfrak{p}^e hence must also contain \mathfrak{F}' . Moreover \mathfrak{p}^g is a prime ideal in \mathfrak{F}' since it is prime in \mathfrak{F}'' and since g is the largest power of \mathfrak{p} which is prime in any field. Every field that contains a power of \mathfrak{p} must contain \mathfrak{p}^e hence must contain \mathfrak{F}' . In particular \mathfrak{p}^g cannot be contained in any subfield of \mathfrak{F}' and therefore originates in \mathfrak{F}' .

COROLLARY. *If \mathfrak{p} is an ideal in some extension \mathfrak{F}' of \mathfrak{F} and \mathfrak{p}^g is the highest power of \mathfrak{p} which is a prime ideal in an admissible subfield of \mathfrak{F}' then \mathfrak{p}^g is the highest power of \mathfrak{p} which is a prime ideal in any extension of \mathfrak{F} . (We may take $g = 0$ if no power of \mathfrak{p} is a prime ideal in any admissible subfield of \mathfrak{F}' .)*

A simple example is the ideal $(\sqrt{2})$, when f is the field of rational numbers. Here $g = e = 2, f = f'$.

THEOREM 3. *If \mathfrak{p} is a prime ideal in some extension of \mathfrak{F} and \mathfrak{p}^g is the largest power of \mathfrak{p} which is a prime ideal of any extension of \mathfrak{F} and if \mathfrak{p}^h is a prime ideal in some extension \mathfrak{F}_1 of \mathfrak{F} then*

$$(11) \quad g \equiv 0(h).$$

Let \mathfrak{F}' be the unique field in which \mathfrak{p}^g originates by Theorem 2. By the same theorem we have

$$(12) \quad \mathfrak{F}' \subset \mathfrak{F}_1.$$

To \mathfrak{p}^h corresponds a prime ideal in \mathfrak{F}' which has a common factor with \mathfrak{p}^g and therefore must equal \mathfrak{p}^g since \mathfrak{p}^g is a prime ideal in \mathfrak{F}' . Thus

$$(13) \quad \mathfrak{p}^g = (\mathfrak{p}^h)^t, \quad g = ht.$$

If \mathfrak{p} is a prime ideal in some extension of \mathfrak{F} but no power of \mathfrak{p} is a prime ideal in any extension of \mathfrak{F} then by Theorem 2 there is a unique extension of \mathfrak{F} in which \mathfrak{p} originates over \mathfrak{F} . Quite in contrast to this we shall show that if \mathfrak{p}^g ($g > 1$) is a prime ideal in some extension of \mathfrak{F} then there are infinitely many extensions of \mathfrak{F} in which \mathfrak{p} originates and is a prime ideal. We show this by proving

THEOREM 4. *If \mathfrak{p} is a prime ideal in \mathfrak{F} then for every $g > 1$ there exists an ideal \mathfrak{P} such that $\mathfrak{P}^g = \mathfrak{p}$. The ideal \mathfrak{P} originates as a prime ideal in infinitely many fields over \mathfrak{F} .*

Proof. Let $\mathfrak{p} = (\mathfrak{a}_1, \mathfrak{a}_2)$, $\mathfrak{a}_1, \mathfrak{a}_2 \subset \mathfrak{F}$. We may choose

$$(14) \quad (\mathfrak{a}_2) = \mathfrak{p}c, \quad (\mathfrak{p}, c) = 1.$$

Choose q prime to a_1, a_2, \mathfrak{p} and to the absolute differente of $\mathfrak{F}(\zeta)$, where ζ is a primitive g th root of unity, and square free. In $\mathfrak{F}(\sqrt[g]{qa_2})$ the ideal \mathfrak{p} is the g th power of the ideal $\mathfrak{P} = (a_1, \sqrt[g]{qa_2})$, for a_1 and $\sqrt[g]{qa_2}$ can have only a divisor $\overline{\mathfrak{P}}$ of \mathfrak{p} in common. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &= \mathfrak{p}\mathfrak{A} \\ \sqrt[g]{qa_2} &= \overline{\mathfrak{P}}\mathfrak{B} & (\mathfrak{p}, \mathfrak{B}) &= 1 \\ qa_2 &= \overline{\mathfrak{P}}^g\mathfrak{B}^g = \mathfrak{p}c\mathfrak{q}, & (\mathfrak{p}, c) &= 1, & \overline{\mathfrak{P}}^g &= \mathfrak{p}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $\mathfrak{P}^g = (a_1, \sqrt[g]{qa_2})^g = \overline{\mathfrak{P}}^g = \mathfrak{p}$.

We shall show now that $\mathfrak{F}(\sqrt[g]{qa_2}) \neq \mathfrak{F}(\sqrt[g]{q'a_2})$ if $(q) \neq (q')$. The numbers qa_2 and $q'a_2$ are square free in $\mathfrak{F}(\zeta)$ by assumption. Hence the polynomials $x^g - qa_2, x^g - q'a_2$ are irreducible in $\mathfrak{F}(\zeta)$ by Eisenstein's criterion. Thus $1, \sqrt[g]{qa_2}, \dots, (\sqrt[g]{qa_2})^{g-1}$ are independent over $\mathfrak{F}(\zeta)$. If $\sqrt[g]{q'a_2} \in \mathfrak{F}(\sqrt[g]{qa_2})$ then

$$\sqrt[g]{q'a_2} = a_0 + a_1\sqrt[g]{qa_2} + \dots + a_{g-1}(\sqrt[g]{qa_2})^{g-1}$$

applying the automorphism $\sqrt[g]{qa_2} \leftrightarrow \zeta\sqrt[g]{qa_2}$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta^i\sqrt[g]{q'a_2} &= a_0 + a_1\zeta^i\sqrt[g]{qa_2} + \dots + a_{g-1}\zeta^{i(g-1)}(\sqrt[g]{qa_2})^{g-1} \\ &= \zeta^i(a_0 + a_1\sqrt[g]{qa_2} + \dots + a_{g-1}(\sqrt[g]{qa_2})^{g-1}). \end{aligned}$$

Because of the independence of $1, \sqrt[g]{qa_2}, \dots, (\sqrt[g]{qa_2})^{g-1}$ over $\mathfrak{F}(\zeta)$ we must have

$$\zeta^i a_j = \zeta^j a_j, a_j = 0 \text{ for } j \neq i.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt[g]{q'a_2} &= a_i(\sqrt[g]{qa_2})^i \\ q'a_2 &= a_i^g(qa_2)^i. \end{aligned}$$

Our choice of q and q' , together with equation 14, imply that $i = 1$ and a_i must be a unit. Hence $(q) = (q')$.

Clearly we can choose infinitely many (q) which are square free and prime to a_1, a_2, \mathfrak{p} and the absolute differente of $\mathfrak{F}(\zeta)$. For instance all but a finite number of rational primes fulfill this condition.

The ideal $(a_1, \sqrt[g]{qa_2})$ is moreover a prime ideal since it lies in a field of degree g over \mathfrak{F} and its g th power is a prime ideal in \mathfrak{F} . For the same reason it also originates in \mathfrak{F} since it cannot lie in any field of degree less than g over \mathfrak{F} .

Theorem 4 shows among other things: If $\mathfrak{p}^h, h > 1$, is a prime ideal in \mathfrak{F}' over \mathfrak{F} then \mathfrak{p} originates in infinitely many fields over \mathfrak{F} . For let \mathfrak{p}^g be the highest power of \mathfrak{p} which is a prime ideal in some extension of \mathfrak{F} . Let \mathfrak{F}'' be the unique field over \mathfrak{F} in which \mathfrak{p}^g originates and let \mathfrak{p} originate in some field \mathfrak{F}_1 over \mathfrak{F}'' . By Theorem 4 there are infinitely many such fields. We must show that \mathfrak{p} originates in \mathfrak{F}_1 over \mathfrak{F} . If \mathfrak{p} lies in \mathfrak{F}_2 over \mathfrak{F} where $\mathfrak{F}_1 \supseteq \mathfrak{F}_2$, then $\mathfrak{F}_2 \supseteq \mathfrak{F}''$ by Theorem 2 and hence $\mathfrak{F}_1 = \mathfrak{F}_2$ since \mathfrak{p} originates in \mathfrak{F}_1 over \mathfrak{F}'' . Thus \mathfrak{p} also originates in \mathfrak{F}_1 over \mathfrak{F} .

Theorem 2 characterizes completely the fields over \mathfrak{F} which contain a given prime ideal \mathfrak{p} if no power of \mathfrak{p} is a prime ideal in a field over \mathfrak{F} . However in the case that some \mathfrak{p}^h ($h > 1$) is a prime ideal in a field over \mathfrak{F} we obtain only the necessary condition that every field containing \mathfrak{p} must contain the field in which \mathfrak{p}^g originates where \mathfrak{p}^g is defined in Theorem 2. A stronger necessary but still not sufficient condition is as follows:

THEOREM 5. *If \mathfrak{p} originates in \mathfrak{F}' over \mathfrak{F} , $\mathfrak{p}^g = \mathfrak{P}$ is the highest power of \mathfrak{p} which is a prime ideal in some subfield of \mathfrak{F}' and if \mathfrak{p}^g originates in \mathfrak{F}'' then $\mathfrak{F}' = \mathfrak{F}''(a)$, where a satisfies an irreducible equation*

$$(13) \quad x^m + a_1x^{m-1} + \dots + a_m = 0$$

of degree $m = gr$ (r integral) with coefficients in \mathfrak{F}'' such that

$$(14) \quad \begin{aligned} a_{lg+k} &\equiv 0(\mathfrak{P}^{l+1}), \quad k > 0, \\ a_{rg} &\not\equiv 0(\mathfrak{P}^{r+1}). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. From Theorem 2 we have $\mathfrak{F}'' \subset \mathfrak{F}'$. Let $a \in \mathfrak{p}$, $a \not\in \mathfrak{p}^2$, $a \in \mathfrak{F}'$. Since \mathfrak{p} originates in \mathfrak{F}' and since in every field between \mathfrak{F}'' and \mathfrak{F}' the ideal \mathfrak{p} corresponds to a power of \mathfrak{p} we must have $\mathfrak{F}' = \mathfrak{F}''(a)$. Let $(\mathfrak{F}'/\mathfrak{F}'') = m$ and observe that the conjugates of a over \mathfrak{F}'' are all exactly divisible by \mathfrak{p} . Hence the $(lg + k)$ th, ($k > 0$), symmetric function of these conjugates is divisible by \mathfrak{p}^{lg+k} and since it is in \mathfrak{F}'' it must be divisible by \mathfrak{P}^{l+1} . Moreover the last coefficient is exactly divisible by \mathfrak{p}^m . If $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{p}_1^{e_1} \dots \mathfrak{p}_s^{e_s}$ is the prime decomposition of \mathfrak{p} in \mathfrak{F}' and f_i the degree of \mathfrak{p}_i then \mathfrak{p}_i is of multiplicity ge_i with respect to \mathfrak{P} and hence

$$(15) \quad m = ge_1f_1 + \dots + ge_sf_s = gr \quad (r \text{ integral}).$$

This proves Theorem 5.

THEOREM 6. *Let $\mathfrak{p}^g = \mathfrak{P}$ and let g and \mathfrak{F}'' be defined as in Theorem 5. The ideal \mathfrak{p} lies in \mathfrak{F}' over \mathfrak{F} if and only if $\mathfrak{F}' \supset a$ where $a^g = \beta$ satisfies an irreducible equation*

$$(16) \quad \beta^r + a_1\beta^{r-1} + \dots + a_r = 0, \quad a_i \equiv 0(\mathfrak{P}^i), \quad a_r \not\equiv 0(\mathfrak{P}^{r+1}), \quad \text{over } \mathfrak{F}''.$$

First let \mathfrak{p} lie in \mathfrak{F}' , then there exists in \mathfrak{F}' an a such that $a \equiv 0(\mathfrak{p})$, $a \not\equiv 0(\mathfrak{p}^2)$. By Theorem 2 we have $a \in \mathfrak{F}' \subset \mathfrak{F}''$. Clearly $a^g = \beta$ and all its conjugates over \mathfrak{F}'' are exactly divisible by \mathfrak{P} and the necessity of the condition 16 follows.

On the other hand consider $\mathfrak{F}''(a)$ where $a^g = \beta$ satisfies an irreducible equation 16. Let γ be a number with ideal denominator \mathfrak{P} . Then $\gamma\beta$ satisfies an equation

$$(17) \quad (\gamma\beta)^r + \gamma a_1(\gamma\beta)^{r-1} + \dots + \gamma^r a_r = 0$$

with integral coefficients. Hence $\beta \equiv 0(\mathfrak{P})$. Moreover since $a_r \not\equiv 0(\mathfrak{P}^{r+1})$ it follows that $\beta = \mathfrak{P}b$, $(\mathfrak{P}, b) = 1$. Consider the ideal (a, \mathfrak{P}) . If

$$(18) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathfrak{P} &= \mathfrak{P}_1^{e_1} \dots \mathfrak{P}_s^{e_s} \\ a &= \mathfrak{P}_1^{h_1} \dots \mathfrak{P}_s^{h_s} c, \quad (p_1, c) = 1 \end{aligned}$$

it follows that $e_i = gh_i$. Hence $(a, \mathfrak{P})^g = \mathfrak{P}$.

Thus $\mathfrak{F}''(\alpha)$ contains \mathfrak{p} and so does every field over $\mathfrak{F}''(\alpha)$.

Suppose an ideal \mathfrak{p} a power of which is a prime ideal in some field over \mathfrak{F} is given in any field \mathfrak{F}_1 over \mathfrak{F} and we are required to find all extensions of \mathfrak{F} which contain \mathfrak{p} . We proceed as follows. We first find the largest power say $\mathfrak{p}^g = \mathfrak{P}$ of \mathfrak{p} which is a prime ideal in any admissible subfield of \mathfrak{F}_1 . Next we determine the smallest admissible subfield containing \mathfrak{P} . Let this field be \mathfrak{F}'' . We then obtain all fields which contain \mathfrak{p} as all extensions of all $\mathfrak{F}''(\alpha)$ where α^g satisfies an equation of the form 16.

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