

Abstract Algebra

Corollary (Factor theorem) Let K be an extension of a field F and $\alpha \in K$ be a root of a polynomial $f(x) \in F[x]$, then in $K[x]$, $f(x) = (x - \alpha)q(x)$, where $q(\alpha) \neq 0$.

Proof :- Since $\alpha \in K$ is a root of a polynomial $f(x) \in F[x]$, then $f(\alpha) = 0$.
By Remainder theorem, corresponding to an element $\alpha \in K$ and $f(x) \in F[x]$, there exists a polynomial $q(x) \in K[x]$, such that

$$f(x) = (x - \alpha)q(x) + f(\alpha) \Rightarrow f(x) = (x - \alpha)q(x) \quad [f(\alpha) = 0]$$

Hence the Corollary.

Notes :-

(i) A polynomial of degree n over a field F has at most n roots in any extension field.

(ii) Kroncker's theorem . Let $f(x)$ be an irreducible polynomial of positive degree in $F[x]$. Then there exists an extension K of F in which $f(x)$ has a root and also $[K : F] = \deg f(x)$.

Proof :- Let $\deg f(x) = n$. Since $f(x)$ is irreducible in $F[x]$, then $(f(x))$ is a maximal ideal of $F[x]$, therefore $F[x]/(f(x))$ is a field which is an extension of F .

Let $K = F[x]/(f(x))$ and let $K' = \{(f(x)) + a : a \in F\}$ a subset of K .

First we show that K' is a subfield of K .

Let $(f(x)) + a$ and $(f(x)) + b$ be any two elements of K' such that $(f(x)) + b \neq (f(x))$.
 Since $K' \subseteq K$ and $(f(x)) + b \in K$, then
 $((f(x)) + b)^{-1} \in K$

$$\Rightarrow ((f(x)) + b)^{-1} \in K \Rightarrow b^{-1} \in F \text{ as } b \neq 0$$

$$\text{so } ((f(x)) + a) ((f(x)) + b)^{-1} = ((f(x)) + a) ((f(x)) + b^{-1}) \\ = (f(x)) + ab^{-1} \in K' \\ [\because ab^{-1} \in F]$$

Thus K' is a subfield of K .

Now define a mapping $\phi: F \rightarrow K'$

$$\text{By } \phi(a) = (f(x)) + a \quad \forall a \in F.$$

Then we show that ϕ is one-one onto homomorphism.

ϕ is one-one. Let $a, b \in F$ and assume that

$$\phi(a) = \phi(b) \Rightarrow (f(x)) + a = (f(x)) + b \\ \Rightarrow a - b \in (f(x))$$

$$\Rightarrow a - b = f(x)g(x) \text{ for some } g(x) \in F[x]$$

since $f(x)$ being irreducible polynomial. So its product with any other non-zero polynomial cannot be equal to a constant polynomial.

$$\therefore g(x) = 0 \Rightarrow a - b = 0 \Rightarrow a = b$$

Thus ϕ is one-one.

ϕ is onto. Let $(f(x)) + a \in K'$ such that $a \in F$, then

$$\phi(a) = (f(x)) + a \quad \forall a \in F$$

clearly ϕ is onto.