

Concluded the proof of Proposition 2.7, in Milne:

Proposition 2.7(b) *Let \mathbf{F} be a field, let $f \in \mathbf{F}[x]$ be a polynomial. If \mathbf{K} and \mathbf{K}' are splitting fields of f over \mathbf{F} , then there exists a field \mathbf{F} -isomorphism $\phi: \mathbf{K} \rightarrow \mathbf{K}'$.*

Definition. Let \mathbf{F} be a field. A polynomial $f \in \mathbf{F}[x]$ is called separable if in a splitting field of f the zeroes of f are distinct.

Examples:

(a) $f(x) = x(x - 1) \in \mathbf{Q}[x]$ is separable;

(b) $f(x) = (x - 1)^2 \in \mathbf{Q}[x]$ is not separable;

(c) $f(x) = x^2 + 1 \in \mathbf{R}[x]$ is separable: the splitting field of f is $\mathbf{R}_f = \mathbf{C}$ and there f has distinct zeros $\pm i$.

(d) $f(x) = x^2 + 1 = (x + 1)^2 \in \mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z}[x]$ is not separable.

Definition. Let \mathbf{F} be a field. The derivative of a polynomial $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^d a_n x^n$ in $\mathbf{F}[x]$ is defined as follows

$$f'(x) = \sum_{n=1}^d n a_n x^{n-1}.$$

(here $n = 1 + \dots + 1$, where $1 \in \mathbf{F}$ and $nx = x + \dots + x$).

Excercise. The derivative defined above is linear and satisfies the Leibnitz rule.

Proposition. (Prop.2.13, Milne) *Let \mathbf{F} be a field. A polynomial $f \in \mathbf{F}[x]$ is separable if and only if $\gcd(f, f') = 1$.*