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Fixed fields under automorphism groups of purely transcendental
field extensions

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Let k be a field with characteristic p . Let G be a finite transitive permutation group of n indeterminates X_1, \dots, X_n over k . Let k_S be the field of all symmetric functions in X over k and let $k(G, n, n)$ denote the intermediate field of k_S and $k(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ corresponding to G in the Galois-correspondence. The first argument n in $k(G, n, n)$ denotes the number of variables that are permuted transitively under G , the second n the transcendence degree of $k(X_1, \dots, X_n)$, k_S and $k(G, n, n)$ over k .

We speak also about fields $k(G, n, n-1)$, defined in precisely the same way as $k(G, n, n)$ except that we require from the X_1, \dots, X_n that they satisfy one linear relation, viz. $X_1 + \dots + X_n = 0$.

The problem is, whether $k(G, n, n)$ (and also $k(G, n, n-1)$) are purely transcendental over k or not. If this is the case then we denote this shortly by putting the letters PT before the field under consideration. So PT $k(G, n, n-1)$ means that $k(G, n, n-1)$ can be generated by $n-1$ algebraically independent elements over k .

Theorem 1. $\text{PT } k(G, n, n-1) \implies \text{PT } k(G, n, n)$

Theorem 2. $(\text{PT } k(F, r, r-1) \ \& \ \text{PT } k(H, s, s-1) \ \& \ p \nmid rs) \implies \text{PT } k(F \rtimes H, rs, rs-1)$.

Theorem 3. $(\text{PT } k(F, r, r-1) \ \& \ \text{PT } k(H, s, s-1) \ \& \ p \nmid rs) \implies \text{PT } k(F \circ H, rs, rs-1)$, where $F \circ H$ denotes the wreath-product of the permutation group F and H .

Theorem 4. Let C be the cyclic permutation group with order n . Let k contain the n -th root of unity, $p \nmid n$. Then PT $k(C, n, n-1)$.

Theorem 5. Let A be an arbitrary abelian group with order n . Let k contain the m -th roots of unity, where m is the exponent of A . Then PT $k(A, n, n-1)$ and PT $k(A, n, n)$, in the case that $p \nmid n$.

Theorem 6. If there exists any field k such that PT $k(G, n, n)$ then all group extensions X of G with an arbitrary finite group F , $X/G \cong F$, can be obtained as a subgroup of $G \circ F$.

[1] W. Kuyk, Over het omkeerprobleem van de Galoistheorie, 1960, Amsterdam.

1) Abstract of the short address held at the I.C.M., Stockholm 1962; some of the theorems are to be found in my dissertation [1].