

PROBLEM 2
EMBEDDING OF \mathbb{R} IN \mathbb{C} .

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It is known that we have the following relations

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{R} &\subset \mathbb{C}, \\ \mathbb{R} &\neq \mathbb{C}, \\ \mathbb{R}[i] &= \mathbb{C}.\end{aligned}$$

Problem 1. *Is \mathbb{R} the unique subfield of \mathbb{C} having the above properties?*

Answer. No.

This answer was found during the Hanoi Conference in collaboration with Furter and M. Koras.

An explicit example.

Consider the splitting field $K \subset \mathbb{C}$ of the polynomial $x^3 - 2$ defined over \mathbb{Q} (it is $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2}, e^{2\pi i/3})$). Since $x^3 - 2$ is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} there exists an automorphism A of K over \mathbb{Q} which sends the root $\sqrt[3]{2}$ of $x^3 - 2$ into another $\sqrt[3]{2}e^{2\pi i/3}$ i.e. $A(\sqrt[3]{2}) = \sqrt[3]{2}e^{2\pi i/3}$. Next we extend the automorphism A to an automorphism \mathbb{A} of the whole field \mathbb{C} . We define

$$\tilde{\mathbb{R}} := \mathbb{A}(\mathbb{R}).$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\mathbb{R}} &\neq \mathbb{R}, \\ \tilde{\mathbb{R}} &\subset \mathbb{C}, \\ \tilde{\mathbb{R}} &\neq \mathbb{C}, \\ \tilde{\mathbb{R}}[i] &= \mathbb{C}.\end{aligned}$$

Remark 1. *Notice the following Artin Theorem, which explains the structure of finite extensions $\mathbb{C} : K$*

Theorem 1. *If \mathbb{K} is algebraically closed field and $K \subset \mathbb{K}$ is a finite extension (i.e. $[\mathbb{K} : K] < \infty$) then $\text{char } \mathbb{K} = 0$ and $\mathbb{K} = K[i]$ (i is a root of $x^2 + 1 = 0$ in \mathbb{K}).*

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