

The Norm-Preserving Linear Maps in Abelian Algebras

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Introduction

$f: A \rightarrow A$ is a K -algebra automorphism, then f preserves norms. Where A is a r -dimensional associative K -algebra with unity. In this paper we shall consider the inverse problem in the case when A is a finite-dimensional *semisimple abelian* K -algebra. Throughout this paper K is an *infinite* field of an arbitrary characteristic.

Main Theorems

mma 1. Let F_i be purely inseparable finite extensions of K , $i=1, \dots, r$. Put $F = F_1 \dot{+} F_2 \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} F_r$. Suppose that $f: A \rightarrow A$ is a K -linear norm-preserving map such that $f(1) = 1$. Then f is a K -algebra automorphism of A .

roof. Put $[F_i: K] = n_i$. Then $N_{A/K}(X_1, \dots, X_r) = X_1^{n_1} \dots X_r^{n_r}$. Hence the routine degree argument shows that $f(X_1, \dots, X_r)$ is only the permutation of (X_1, \dots, X_r) . Hence f is a K -algebra automorphism of A . This completes the proof.

mark. The above proof also shows that $\text{Aut}_K(A)$ is a finite group.

mma 2. Let F/K be a finite extension and let E' be a separable closure of K in F . Let $f(X) \in E'[X]$ be irreducible over E' . Then $f(X)$ is also irreducible over F if E'/K is separable.

roof. We may assume $\text{char}(K) = p = \text{prime number}$. Put $[F: E'] = p^m$. Suppose $f(X) \in E'[X]$ is irreducible in $F[X]$. Then $f(X) = g(X)h(X)$, $\deg(g), \deg(h) \geq 1$, $g(X), h(X) \in F[X]$.

Since $(f(X))^{p^m} = (g(X))^{p^m} (h(X))^{p^m}$, $g(X)^{p^m}, h(X)^{p^m} \in E'[X]$.

Since $f(X) \mid g(X)^{p^m}$ and $f(X) \mid h(X)^{p^m}$. Let α be a zero of $f(X)$.

Then $g(\alpha) = h(\alpha) = 0$. Hence $f(X)$ is not a separable polynomial. This is a contradiction. This completes the proof.

mma 3. Let F/K be a finite extension and let E' be a separable closure of K in F . Let E/E' be a finite extension such that E/K is a Galois extension. Then $E = E_1 \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} E_r$ (E -algebra isomorphism). Where E_i/E is a purely inseparable extension and $r = [E': K]$.

roof. Since E/K is a separable extension there exists $a \in E$ such that $E = K(a)$. Put $p(X) = \text{Irr}(a, K, X)$. Then $p(X) = p_1(X) \dots p_s(X)$, where $p_i(X)$ is a distinct irreducible polynomial in $E'[X]$ because $p(X)$ is a separable polynomial. $p_i(X)$ is also irreducible

over F by Lemma 2.

Now we have the commutative diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E' \otimes_K E & \xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad} & F \otimes_K E \\
 \left. \begin{array}{l} (E' \text{-algebra} \\ \text{isomorphism}) \end{array} \right\} \parallel & & \parallel \left. \begin{array}{l} (F \text{-algebra} \\ \text{isomorphism}) \end{array} \right\} \\
 E'[X]/(\rho(X)) & \xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad} & F[X]/(\rho(X)) \\
 \left. \begin{array}{l} (E' \text{-algebra} \\ \text{isomorphism}) \end{array} \right\} \parallel & & \parallel \left. \begin{array}{l} (F \text{-algebra} \\ \text{isomorphism}) \end{array} \right\} \\
 \frac{E'[X]}{(\rho_1(X))} \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} \frac{E'[X]}{(\rho_s(X))} & \xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad} & \frac{F[X]}{(\rho_1(X))} \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} \frac{F[X]}{(\rho_s(X))}
 \end{array}$$

The above diagram shows that every idempotent in $F \otimes_K E$ belongs to $E' \otimes_K E$ and $F \otimes_K E$ has no nilpotent elements except zero. Therefore $F \otimes_K E \cong E_1 \dot{+} E_2 \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} E_r$, E_i finite extension by the Wedderburn Structure Theorem. Since every idempotent in $F \otimes_K E$ belongs to $E' \otimes_K E$ we can conclude $r \leq \dim_E(E' \otimes_K E) = [E' : K]$.

On the other hand $E' = K(b)$ since E' is a separable extension of K . Put $f(X) = \text{Irr}(b, K, X)$. Then $f(X)$ splits over E since E is a normal extension of K . Therefore $E' \otimes_K E \cong E[X]/(f(X)) \cong E \dot{+} E \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} E$ (E -algebra isomorphism).

$$r' = [E' : K]\text{-times}$$

Therefore there exists a E -basis $\{b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{r'}\}$ of $E' \otimes_K E$ such that $b_i^2 = b_i$ and $b_i b_j = 0$ for $i \neq j$.

Now consider the isomorphism $\phi: F \otimes_K E = E_1 \dot{+} E_2 \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} E_r$.

Then $(\phi(b_i))^2 = \phi(b_i)$ and $\phi(b_i) \cdot \phi(b_j) = 0$ for $i \neq j$.

Therefore we conclude that $r' = r$ and $\phi(E' \otimes_K E) = E \dot{+} E \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} E$.

r -times

Now $x^{[E':E]} \in E' \otimes_K E$ for all $x \in F \otimes_K E$. Hence E_i/E is a purely inseparable extension. This completes the proof.

Theorem 1. *Let A be a finite-dimensional semi-simple abelian K -algebra and let $f: A \rightarrow A$ be a norm-preserving K -linear map such that $f(1) = 1$. Then f is a K -algebra automorphism of A .*

Proof. By the Wedderburn Structure Theorem we have the K -algebra isomorphism $A \cong F_1 \dot{+} F_2 \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} F_n$, F_i/K is a finite extension. We may assume that F_i contains some fixed algebraic closure of K . Let $E_i = K(b_i)$ be a separable closure of K in F_i and let E be the normal closure of $K(b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n)$. Then $A \otimes_K E \cong (F_1 \otimes_K E) \dot{+} (F_2 \otimes_K E) \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} (F_n \otimes_K E) \cong E_1 \dot{+} E_2 \dot{+} \dots \dot{+} E_r$ (E -algebra isomorphism) where E_i/E is a purely inseparable extension by Lemma 3.

Since K is an infinite field $f \otimes_K \text{id}: A \otimes_K E \rightarrow A \otimes_K E$ is a E -linear norm-preserving map such that $(f \otimes_K \text{id})(1) = 1$. Therefore $f \otimes_K \text{id}: A \otimes_K E \rightarrow A \otimes_K E$ is an E -algebra automorphism of $A \otimes_K E$ by Lemma 3. Hence $f: A \rightarrow A$ is a K -algebra automorphism. This completes the proof.

Remark. The above proof also shows that $\text{Aut}_K(A)$ is a finite group.

Counterexample to Theorem 1. Let $K = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$, $A = GF(2^n)$. Then every invertible K -linear map $f: A \rightarrow A$ such that $f(1) = 1$ preserves norms. Put $G = \{f: A \rightarrow A \mid f \text{ is } K\text{-linear and invertible and } f(1) = 1\}$. Then $\#G \geq (n-1)! \geq n = \#\text{Aut}_K(A)$ for $n \geq 4$. Therefore Theorem 1. does not hold in this case.

References

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- Richard S. Pierce, 1980, *Associative Algebras*, New York-Heidelberg-Berlin: Springer-Verlag.