

## Tschirnhausen transformation of a cubic generic polynomial and a 2-dimensional involutive Cremona transformation

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*To the memory of Professor Shokichi Iyanaga*

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**Abstract:** We study the field isomorphism problem for a cubic generic polynomial  $X^3 + sX + s$  via Tschirnhausen transformation. Through this process, there naturally appears a 2-dimensional involutive Cremona transformation. We show that the fixed field under the action of the transformation is purely transcendental over an arbitrary base field.

**Key words:** Tschirnhausen transformation; cubic generic polynomial; field isomorphism problem; involutive Cremona transformation; general Noether problem.

**1. Introduction.** Let  $k$  be a field whose characteristic  $\text{ch}(k)$  is different from 3 and which may not be algebraically closed. Let  $k(s)$  be the rational function field over  $k$  with an indeterminate  $s$ . In this paper, we study the cubic polynomial  $R(s; X) := X^3 + sX + s \in k(s)[X]$ . We denote by  $\text{Spl}_k f(X)$  the splitting field of a polynomial  $f(X) \in k[X]$  over a field  $k$ . The polynomial  $R(s; X)$  is well-known as a  $k$ -generic  $S_3$ -polynomial (cf. e.g. [6, 9, 15]). Namely the Galois group of  $R(s; X)$  over  $k(s)$  is isomorphic to the symmetric group  $S_3$  of degree 3 and every  $S_3$ -Galois extension  $L/K \supset k$  can be obtained as  $L = \text{Spl}_K R(c; X)$  for some  $c \in K$  (see [7]). Note that from Kemper's Theorem [8] every  $C_2$ - or  $C_3$ -Galois extension  $L'/K$  which includes a base field  $k$  also can be realized as  $L' = \text{Spl}_K R(d; X)$  for some  $d \in K$ . Conversely, in the case of  $k = \mathbf{Q}$ , there exist one-parameter  $\mathbf{Q}$ -generic polynomials only for the groups  $C_2, C_3$  and  $S_3$  (cf. [7, 12]).

We shall treat the field isomorphism problem for  $R(s; X)$  via general Tschirnhausen transformation. Indeed in Section 2, we show that

**Theorem** (Theorem 1). *Let  $M \supseteq K \supseteq k(s)$  be a tower of fields, and  $R(s; X) = X^3 + sX + s \in K[X]$ . For  $s' \in K, (s' \neq s)$ , the following two statements are equivalent:*

(i)  $\text{Spl}_M R(s'; X) = \text{Spl}_M R(s; X)$ ;

(ii) *there exists an element  $u \in M$  such that*

$$s' = \frac{s(u^2 + 9u - 3s)^3}{(u^3 - 2su^2 - 9su - 2s^2 - 27s)^2}.$$

As a consequence of Theorem 1, we give a necessary and sufficient condition of  $\text{Spl}_k R(c; X) = \text{Spl}_k R(d; X)$  for  $c, d \in k$ .

Under the condition of the theorem, there also exists  $u' \in M$  such that

$$s = \frac{s'(u'^2 + 9u' - 3s')^3}{(u'^3 - 2s'u'^2 - 9s'u' - 2s'^2 - 27s')^2}.$$

Then by these formulas for  $s$  and  $s'$ , we are able to determine  $u$  and  $u'$  as

$$u = -\frac{(u'^2 + 3s')(u'^2 + 9u' - 3s')}{u'^3 - 2s'u'^2 - 9s'u' - 2s'^2 - 27s'},$$

$$u' = -\frac{(u^2 + 3s)(u^2 + 9u - 3s)}{u^3 - 2su^2 - 9su - 2s^2 - 27s}.$$

Hence we obtain a 2-dimensional involutive Cremona transformation  $\sigma$  over an arbitrary field  $k'$ . Indeed, let  $S$  and  $U$  be two independent variables over a field  $k'$  of any characteristic, and define  $\sigma \in \text{Cr}_2(k') = \text{Aut}_{k'}(k'(S, U))$  by

$$\sigma : (S, U) \mapsto \left( \frac{S(U^2 + 9U - 3S)^3}{(U^3 - 2SU^2 - 9SU - 2S^2 - 27S)^2}, \right. \\ \left. - \frac{(U^2 + 3S)(U^2 + 9U - 3S)}{U^3 - 2SU^2 - 9SU - 2S^2 - 27S} \right).$$

Involutive Cremona birational transformations were classically studied by geometers in the so-called Italian school, for examples, E. Bertini [1] and G. Castelnuovo and F. Enriques [5]. Recently, L. Bayle and A. Beauville [2] gave a complete classification

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of conjugacy classes of the 2-dimensional involutions over an algebraically closed field with characteristic not equal 2; their method is based on investigation of biregular involutions of rational surfaces under the Mori theory.

In our present work, we encountered the above involutive Cremona transformation  $\sigma$  which is definable over an arbitrary base field even with characteristic 2.

We solve the rationality problem for  $k'(S, U)^{(\sigma)}$  and obtain Zariski-Castelnuovo's theorem (cf. [17]) by constructing a minimal basis for  $k'(S, U)^{(\sigma)}$ .

**Theorem** (Theorem 10). *Let  $k'$  be a field. The fixed field  $k'(S, U)^{(\sigma)}$  of  $k'(S, U)$  under the action of  $\sigma$  is purely transcendental over  $k'$ . If  $\text{ch}(k') \neq 2$  then a minimal basis of  $k'(S, U)^{(\sigma)}$  is given as*

$$k'(S, U)^{(\sigma)} = k' \left( \frac{2SU^3 + 9U^3 + 9SU^2 + 2S^2U + 54SU - 9S^2}{U^3 - 2SU^2 - 9SU - 2S^2 - 27S}, \frac{S(4S + 27)(U^2 + 9U + S + 27)}{(2U + 9)(U^3 - 2SU^2 - 9SU - 2S^2 - 27S)} \right).$$

If  $\text{ch}(k') = 2$  then

$$k'(S, U)^{(\sigma)} = k' \left( \frac{U^3 + SU^2 + S^2}{U^3 + SU + S}, \frac{S}{U^3 + SU + S} \right).$$

**2. Tschirnhausen transformation.** Generally speaking, let  $f(X), g(X) \in k[X]$  be monic polynomials of degree  $n$  over a field  $k$ , and let  $\{\alpha_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq n}$  and  $\{\beta_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq n}$  be the roots of  $f(X)$  and  $g(X)$  in a fixed algebraic closure of  $k$ , respectively. A polynomial  $g(X)$  is called Tschirnhausen transformation of  $f(X)$  over  $k$ , if there exist  $c_0, \dots, c_{n-1} \in k$  such that

$$g(X) = \prod_{i=1}^n \left( X - \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} c_j \alpha_i^j \right).$$

Two polynomials  $f(X)$  and  $g(X)$  in  $k[X]$  are Tschirnhausen equivalent over  $k$ , which is denoted  $f(X) \sim_k g(X)$ , if they are Tschirnhausen transformations over  $k$  of each other. The following three conditions are equivalent: (i)  $f(X) \sim_k g(X)$ , (ii)  $k[X]/(f(X))$  and  $k[X]/(g(X))$  are  $k$ -isomorphic, (iii)  $k(\alpha_i) = k(\beta_j)$  for some  $i, j, 1 \leq i, j \leq n$ . Hence if we have  $f(X) \sim_k g(X)$  then  $\text{Spl}_k f(X) = \text{Spl}_k g(X)$ . However the converse does not hold in general (e.g.  $\text{Gal}(f(X)) \cong D_4, \text{PSL}_2(\mathbf{F}_7)$ ). In the case of  $n = 3$ , we see that  $f(X) \sim_k g(X)$  if and only if  $\text{Spl}_k f(X) = \text{Spl}_k g(X)$  because all subgroups of  $S_3$  with index 3

are conjugate in  $S_3$ . Furthermore, the following fact is known (cf. [3]): Let  $f(X), g(X) \in k[X]$  be irreducible polynomials of prime degree with solvable Galois groups. Then  $f(X) \sim_k g(X)$  if and only if  $\text{Spl}_k f(X) = \text{Spl}_k g(X)$ .

Now let  $M \supseteq K \supseteq k(s)$  be a tower of fields. We define a  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $\Xi$  over  $K$  as in [14, 15] by

$$\Xi := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -s & -s & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in M_3(K).$$

The cubic polynomial  $R(s; X) := X^3 + sX + s \in K[X]$  is the characteristic polynomial of  $\Xi$ , and its discriminant is  $-s^2(4s + 27)$ . For  $x, y, z \in M$ , we put  $\Xi' := xI_3 + y\Xi + z\Xi^2$ , namely,

$$\Xi' := \begin{pmatrix} x & y & z \\ -sz & x - sz & y \\ -sy & -sy - sz & x - sz \end{pmatrix} \in M_3(M).$$

The characteristic polynomial  $R'(x, y, z, s; X)$  of  $\Xi'$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} (1) \quad R'(x, y, z, s; X) &= X^3 - (3x - 2zs)X^2 + (3x^2 + y^2s - 4xzs \\ &\quad + 3yzs + z^2s^2)X - x^3 - xy^2s + y^3s \\ &\quad + 2x^2zs - 3xyzs - xz^2s^2 + yz^2s^2 - z^3s^2. \end{aligned}$$

The polynomial  $R'(x, y, z, s; X) \in M[X]$  is a general form of Tschirnhausen transformations of  $R(s; X)$  over  $M$ . We can also obtain it as

$$\begin{aligned} R'(x, y, z, s; X) &= \text{Resultant}_Y(R(s; Y), X - (x + yY + zY^2)). \end{aligned}$$

Let  $f_3(X)$  be a cubic polynomial in  $K[X]$ , and suppose that

$$\text{Spl}_M f_3(X) = \text{Spl}_M R(s; X) \quad \text{for } M \supseteq K.$$

Then there exist  $x, y, z \in M$  such that  $f_3(X) = R'(x, y, z, s; X)$ . From now on, we consider the special case where  $f_3(X) = R(s'; X) = X^3 + s'X + s', s' \in K$ . From (1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} 3x - 2zs &= 0, \\ 3x^2 + y^2s - 4xzs + 3yzs + z^2s^2 &= -x^3 - xy^2s \\ &\quad + y^3s + 2x^2zs - 3xyzs - xz^2s^2 + yz^2s^2 - z^3s^2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence we obtain

$$(2) \quad x = \frac{2zs}{3},$$

$$27y^2 - 27y^3 + 81yz + 18y^2zs - 9z^2s + 27yz^2s + 27z^3s + 2z^3s^2 = 0.$$

If  $z = 0$  then we must have  $(x, y) = (0, 1)$  and  $R'(0, 1, 0, s; X) = R(s; X)$ . Thus we assume  $z \neq 0$ , and put  $u := 3y/z$ ; then from (2) we see

$$z^2(-9s + 27u + 3u^2 + 27zs + 2zs^2 + 9uzs + 2u^2zs - u^3z) = 0.$$

Hence we have

$$z = \frac{3(u^2 + 9u - 3s)}{u^3 - 2su^2 - 9su - 2s^2 - 27s}.$$

This means that, if  $R'(x, y, z, s; X) = R(s'; X)$ , ( $s' \neq s$ ), then there exists  $u \in M$  such that

$$(3) \quad (x, y, z) = \left( \frac{2sZ}{3}, \frac{uZ}{3}, Z \right), \text{ where}$$

$$Z = \frac{3(u^2 + 9u - 3s)}{u^3 - 2su^2 - 9su - 2s^2 - 27s}.$$

By a direct calculation, we have

$$R' \left( \frac{2sZ}{3}, \frac{uZ}{3}, Z, s; X \right) = X^3 + \frac{s(u^2 + 9u - 3s)^3}{(u^3 - 2su^2 - 9su - 2s^2 - 27s)^2} (X + 1).$$

Hence we have obtained the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $M \supseteq K \supseteq k(s)$  be a tower of fields. For  $s' \in K$ , ( $s' \neq s$ ), the following two statements are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\text{Spl}_M R(s'; X) = \text{Spl}_M R(s; X)$ ;
- (ii) *there exists an element  $u \in M$  such that*

$$s' = \frac{s(u^2 + 9u - 3s)^3}{(u^3 - 2su^2 - 9su - 2s^2 - 27s)^2}.$$

### 3. Generic sextic polynomial.

In this Section, we consider the case of the rational function field  $K = k(s, t)$  with two variables  $s, t$  over  $k$ . We assume that

$$\text{Spl}_M R(s; X) = \text{Spl}_M R(t; X) \quad \text{for } M \supseteq K$$

as in Theorem 1. With the equation of (ii) of Theorem 1 in mind, we define a sextic polynomial  $F(s, t; X) \in K[X]$  by

$$F(s, t; X) := (s - t)X^6 + (4t + 27)sX^5 - (4st + 9s - 18t - 243)sX^4 - (32st + 162s - 54t - 729)sX^3$$

$$- (8st - 27s + 189t + 729)s^2X^2 - 9(4st - 27s + 54t)s^2X - (4s^2t + 27s^2 + 108st + 729t)s^2.$$

If  $X = u$  is a root of  $F(s, t; X) = 0$ , then  $t$  coincides with  $s'$  given in the above (ii). Let  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_6$  be the roots of  $F(s, t; X)$  in a fixed algebraic closure of  $K$ . From Theorem 1, it follows that  $\text{Spl}_M R(t; X) = \text{Spl}_M R(s; X)$  if and only if  $F(s, t; X)$  has a root in  $M$ . The discriminant of  $F(s, t; X) \in K[X]$  with respect to  $X$  is  $(4s + 27)^{15}(4t + 27)^3 s^{10} t^4$ . We put

$$L_s := \text{Spl}_K R(s; X), \quad L_t := \text{Spl}_K R(t; X).$$

Then we have  $L_s \cap L_t = K$  and  $\text{Gal}(L_s L_t / K) \cong S_3 \times S_3$ .

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $f(X) \in K[X]$  be a sextic polynomial with roots  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_6$ . The following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i)  $L_s L_t = L_s(\beta_i) = L_t(\beta_i)$  for every  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 6$ ;
- (ii)  $f(X)$  is irreducible,  $K(\beta_i) \subset L_s L_t$  and  $L_s \cap K(\beta_i) = L_t \cap K(\beta_i) = K$  for every  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 6$ .

*Proof.* If  $L_s L_t = L_s(\beta_i)$  then  $K(\beta_i) \subset L_s L_t$ ,  $[K(\beta_i) : K] = 6$  and  $K(\beta_i) \cap L_s = K$ . Similarly, we have  $K(\beta_i) \cap L_t = K$ . Conversely if the condition (ii) holds, then  $[L_s(\beta_i) : L_s] = 6$  and  $L_s L_t = L_s(\beta_i)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, 6$ . By the same way we have  $L_s L_t = L_t(\beta_i)$ .  $\square$

As for our  $F(s, t; X)$ , we have  $\text{Spl}_{K(\alpha_i)} R(s; X) = \text{Spl}_{K(\alpha_i)} R(t; X)$ , that is  $L_s(\alpha_i) = L_t(\alpha_i)$ , and hence  $L_s(\alpha_i) \supset L_s L_t$ . Since  $6 \geq [L_s(\alpha_i) : L_s] \geq [L_s L_t : L_s] = 6$ , we have  $L_s(\alpha_i) = L_s L_t$ . Thus

**Proposition 3.** *The above defined sextic polynomial  $F(s, t; X)$  and its roots  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_6$  satisfy the conditions (i) and (ii) of Lemma 2.*

Moreover we have

$$\text{Proposition 4. } L_s L_t = K(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_6).$$

*Proof.* It follows from the previous proposition that

$$\text{Spl}_K F(s, t; X) = K(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_6) \subseteq L_s L_t = \text{Spl}_K R(s; X) \cdot \text{Spl}_K R(t; X),$$

and  $K(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_6) \not\subseteq L_s, K(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_6) \not\subseteq L_t$ . However a normal subgroup  $N$  of  $S_3 \times S_3$  which satisfies  $N \not\subseteq 1 \times S_3$  and  $N \not\subseteq S_3 \times 1$  must contain  $C_3 \times C_3$  (for example, see [13]). Thus  $[S_3 \times S_3 : N] \leq 4$ . Hence  $K(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_6)$  contains all of the cubic subextensions of  $L_s / K$  and  $L_t / K$  which generate  $L_s L_t$ . This shows the proposition.  $\square$

The Galois group of the sextic polynomial  $F(s, t; X)$  over  $K$  is isomorphic to  ${}_6T_9$  ( $\cong S_3 \times S_3$ ), the ninth transitive subgroup of  $S_6$  (cf. [4]).

**Theorem 5.** *The sextic polynomial  $F(s, t; X)$  ( $\in k(s, t)[X]$ ) is a  $k$ -generic  $(S_3 \times S_3)$ -polynomial.*

*Proof.* The assertion follows from Proposition 4 and  $S_3$ -genericness of  $R(s; X)$ .  $\square$

**Remark 6.** T. Komatsu [11] also obtained a sextic polynomial  $P(s, t; X)$  satisfying the condition  $\text{Spl}_K P(s, t; X) = \text{Spl}_K R(s; X) \cdot \text{Spl}_K R(t; X)$  as in Proposition 4 via descent Kummer theory (see also [10]). His paper [11] treats the subfield problem for  $R(s; X)$  by using his  $P(s, t; X)$ .

**4. Specialization of parameters.** We consider the field isomorphism problem for  $R(s; X)$ . Put

$$L_c := \text{Spl}_k R(c; X), \quad L_d := \text{Spl}_k R(d; X),$$

for  $c, d \in k$ . Suppose  $c, d \in k \setminus \{0, -27/4\}$ . (Then the discriminant,  $-s^2(4s+27)$ , of  $R(s; X)$  with respect to  $X$  does not vanish.) By specializing the parameters  $(s, s') \mapsto (c, d) \in k^2$  in Theorem 1, we obtain an answer of the field isomorphism problem for  $R(s; X)$  via Tschirnhausen transformation.

**Theorem 7.** *If  $F(c, d; X)$  has an irreducible factor  $f_n(X)$  of degree  $n$  over  $k$ , then a root field  $M$  of  $f_n(X)$  satisfies  $\text{Spl}_M R(c; X) = \text{Spl}_M R(d; X)$ . Conversely, if there exists such an extension  $M$  of  $k$  with  $[M : k] = n$ , then  $F(c, d; X)$  has an irreducible factor  $f_m(X)$  of degree  $m$  with  $m \mid n$  over  $k$  a root of which is contained in  $M$ .*

**Corollary 8.** *Two splitting fields  $L_c$  and  $L_d$  coincide if and only if  $F(c, d; X)$  has a root in  $k$ .*

**Example 9.** We give some numerical examples for Theorem 7 over  $k = \mathbf{Q}$ . We put  $G_c := \text{Gal}(L_c/\mathbf{Q})$  for  $c \in \mathbf{Q}$ .

(i)  $L_1 = L_{67^3}$ ,  $G_1 \cong G_{67^3} \cong S_3$ .

$$F(1, 67^3; X) = -31f_1(X)f_2(X)f_3(X),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(X) &= X - 5, \\ f_2(X) &= 98X^2 + 293X + 574, \\ f_3(X) &= 99X^3 - 197X^2 - 882X - 2843. \end{aligned}$$

We choose  $u = 5$ . It follows from (3) that  $(x, y, z) = (134, 335, 201)$  and then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Resultant}_X(X^3 + X + 1, \\ Y - (134 + 335X + 201X^2)) &= Y^3 + 67^3(Y + 1). \end{aligned}$$

Root fields of  $f_2(X)$  and  $f_3(X)$  give subfields of  $L_1$ .

(ii)  $L_1 \neq L_{63}$ ,  $[L_1 \cap L_{63} : \mathbf{Q}] = 2$ ,  $G_1 \cong G_{63} \cong S_3$ .

There exists a cubic field  $M$  for which we have  $\text{Spl}_M R(1; X) = \text{Spl}_M R(63; X)$ . Indeed, in this case,

$$F(1, 63; X) = -31f_3^{(1)}(X)f_3^{(2)}(X)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_3^{(1)}(X) &= X^3 - 3X^2 - 18X - 57, \\ f_3^{(2)}(X) &= 2X^3 - 3X^2 - 9X - 30. \end{aligned}$$

For each root field  $M$  of  $f_3^{(1)}(X)$  or of  $f_3^{(2)}(X)$  over  $\mathbf{Q}$  we have  $\text{Spl}_M R(1; X) = \text{Spl}_M R(63; X)$ .

(iii)  $L_1 \neq L_2$ ,  $L_1 \cap L_2 = \mathbf{Q}$ ,  $G_1 \cong G_2 \cong S_3$ .

$$\begin{aligned} F(1, 2; X) &= -X^6 + 35X^5 + 262X^4 \\ &\quad + 611X^3 - 1096X^2 - 801X - 1709 \end{aligned}$$

is irreducible over  $\mathbf{Q}$ .

(iv)  $L_{-7} = L_{-49}$ ,  $G_{-7} \cong G_{-49} \cong C_3$ .

In this case, we have

$$F(-7, -49; X) = 7f_1^{(1)}(X)f_1^{(2)}(X)f_1^{(3)}(X)f_3(X)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_1^{(1)}(X) &= X + 7, \\ f_1^{(2)}(X) &= 2X + 7, \\ f_1^{(3)}(X) &= 3X + 14, \\ f_3(X) &= X^3 + 13X^2 + 54X + 71. \end{aligned}$$

Take  $u = -7, -7/2, -14/3$ . Then we get  $(x, y, z) = (14, 7, -3), (28, 7, -6), (-42, -14, 9)$ , respectively, from (3). Using these  $(x, y, z)$ , we see

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Resultant}_X(X^3 - 7X - 7, Y - (x + yX + zX^2)) \\ = Y^3 - 49(Y + 1). \end{aligned}$$

(v)  $L_{-7} \neq L_{-9}$ ,  $G_{-7} \cong G_{-9} \cong C_3$ .

$$F(-7, -9; X) = f_3^{(1)}(X)f_3^{(2)}(X),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_3^{(1)}(X) &= X^3 + 21X^2 + 126X + 231, \\ f_3^{(2)}(X) &= 2X^3 + 21X^2 + 63X + 42. \end{aligned}$$

The splitting fields of  $f_3^{(1)}(X)$  and of  $f_3^{(2)}(X)$  give different cyclic cubic subfields of  $L_{-7}L_{-9}$  which are also different from  $L_{-7}$  and  $L_{-9}$ .

### 5. Involutive Cremona transformation.

Let  $K = k(s, t)$  be the rational function field in two variables  $s$  and  $t$ , and suppose that  $\text{Spl}_M R(s; X) = \text{Spl}_M R(t; X)$  for an extension  $M$  of  $K$ . It follows from Theorem 1 that there exist  $u, v \in M$  for which we have

$$t = \frac{s(u^2 + 9u - 3s)^3}{(u^3 - 2su^2 - 9su - 2s^2 - 27s)^2},$$

$$s = \frac{t(v^2 + 9v - 3t)^3}{(v^3 - 2tv^2 - 9tv - 2t^2 - 27t)^2}.$$

From this we also have

$$v = -\frac{(u^2 + 3s)(u^2 + 9u - 3s)}{u^3 - 2su^2 - 9su - 2s^2 - 27s}.$$

The correspondence  $(s, u) \leftrightarrow (t, v)$  gives an involutive Cremona transformation  $\sigma$  over the field  $k$ . Let  $S$  and  $U$  be two independent variables over  $k$ ; then  $\sigma \in \text{Cr}_2(k) = \text{Aut}_k(k(S, U))$  is given by

$$\sigma : (S, U) \mapsto \left( \frac{S(U^2 + 9U - 3S)^3}{(U^3 - 2SU^2 - 9SU - 2S^2 - 27S)^2}, \right. \\ \left. -\frac{(U^2 + 3S)(U^2 + 9U - 3S)}{U^3 - 2SU^2 - 9SU - 2S^2 - 27S} \right).$$

In contrast to the construction  $\sigma$  via Tschirnhausen transformation over  $k$  with  $\text{ch}(k) \neq 3$ ,  $\sigma$  is defined over an arbitrary field  $k'$ . Indeed, over a field  $k'$  with  $\text{ch}(k') = 3$ , we have

$$\sigma : (S, U) \mapsto \left( \frac{SU^6}{(U^3 + SU^2 + S^2)^2}, \frac{2U^4}{U^3 + SU^2 + S^2} \right)$$

and  $\sigma^2(S, U) = (S, U)$ . Hence we regard  $S$  and  $U$  as independent variables over an arbitrary base field  $k'$ .

We study the rationality problem or the general Noether problem (cf. [7]) for  $k'(S, U)^{(\sigma)}$  over  $k'$ . It is known as Zariski-Castelnuovo's theorem (cf. [17]) that if  $k(S, U) \supset M \supseteq k$  with  $k$  algebraically closed of any characteristic and  $k(S, U)$  is separable over  $M$ , then  $M$  is purely transcendental over  $k$ . However, this is not true for a general field. We show the rationality of  $k'(S, U)^{(\sigma)}$  over an arbitrary field  $k'$  by constructing a minimal basis of  $k'(S, U)^{(\sigma)}$ .

**Theorem 10.** *Let  $k'$  be a field. The fixed field  $k'(S, U)^{(\sigma)}$  of  $k'(S, U)$  under the action of  $\sigma$  is purely transcendental over  $k'$ . If  $\text{ch}(k') \neq 2$  then a minimal basis of  $k'(S, U)^{(\sigma)}$  over  $k'$  is given by*

$$k'(S, U)^{(\sigma)} = k' \left( \frac{2SU^3 + 9U^3 + 9SU^2 + 2S^2U + 54SU - 9S^2}{U^3 - 2SU^2 - 9SU - 2S^2 - 27S} \right),$$

$$\frac{S(4S + 27)(U^2 + 9U + S + 27)}{(2U + 9)(U^3 - 2SU^2 - 9SU - 2S^2 - 27S)}.$$

If  $\text{ch}(k') = 2$  then

$$k'(S, U)^{(\sigma)} = k' \left( \frac{U^3 + SU^2 + S^2}{U^3 + SU + S}, \frac{S}{U^3 + SU + S} \right).$$

*Proof.* Put  $L := k'(S, U)$  and  $\sigma = \sigma_1 \sigma_2$ , where

$$\sigma_1 : (S, U) \mapsto \left( \frac{S(U^2 + 9U - 3S)^3}{(U^3 - 2U^2S - 9SU - 2S^2 - 27S)^2}, U \right),$$

$$\sigma_2 : (S, U) \mapsto \left( S, -\frac{(U^2 + 3S)(U^2 + 9U - 3S)}{U^3 - 2SU^2 - 9SU - 2S^2 - 27S} \right).$$

We define

$$(4) \quad (x, y) := (\text{Tr}_\sigma(S), \text{Tr}_\sigma(U)) \\ = (S + \sigma_1(S), U + \sigma_2(U)).$$

First we assume  $\text{ch}(k') \neq 2$ . Then we can show

$$(5) \quad L^{\langle \sigma_1 \rangle \times \langle \sigma_2 \rangle} = k'(x, y).$$

Indeed, it follows from the definition of  $(x, y)$  that  $L^{\langle \sigma_1 \rangle \times \langle \sigma_2 \rangle} \supset k'(x, y)$ . Then by using computer manipulation we obtain the following equations:

$$486S - 36S^2 - 243x + 54xS + 729y + 270yS \\ - 54xy + 4xyS + 243y^2 + 54y^2S + 18y^3 \\ + 4y^3S - 2U(729 + 54S + 4S^2 + 54x - 2xS \\ + 243y + 18yS + 9xy + 27y^2 + 2y^2S + y^3) = 0,$$

$$16S^4 - 32xS^3 + 4S(S - x)(1458 + 135x + 5x^2 \\ + 729y + 36xy + 162y^2 + 2xy^2 + 20y^3 + y^4) \\ + 16x^3S - (3x - 9y - y^2)^3 = 0.$$

From the first equation we have  $U \in k'(x, y)(S)$  because it is linear in  $U$  and  $\text{ch}(k') \neq 2$ . By the second equation, we have  $k'(S, U) = k'(x, y)(S)$  and  $[k'(S, U) : k'(x, y)] = 4$ . Hence we conclude the equality of (5). Now we have  $L^{(\sigma)} \supset k'(x, y)$  and  $[L^{(\sigma)} : k'(x, y)] = 2$ . Next we put

$$(6) \quad z := \frac{S - \sigma_1(S)}{U - \sigma_2(U)}.$$

Then we see  $x, y, z$  satisfy

$$81 + 9x + 18y + xy + y^2 \\ + xz - 9yz - y^2z - 9z^2 - yz^2 = 0.$$

Hence, we conclude  $L^{(\sigma)} = k'(y, z)$  because we have  $L^{(\sigma)} \supset k'(x, y)(z)$ ,  $[k'(x, y)(z) : k'(x, y)] = 2$  and

$k'(x, y, z) = k'(y, z)$ . Finally we can compute  $y, z$  directly from the definition as

$$y = -\frac{2SU^3 + 9U^3 + 9SU^2 + 2S^2U + 54SU - 9S^2}{U^3 - 2SU^2 - 9SU - 2S^2 - 27S},$$

$$z = -\frac{S(4S + 27)(U^2 + 9U + S + 27)}{(2U + 9)(U^3 - 2SU^2 - 9SU - 2S^2 - 27S)}.$$

Next we assume  $\text{ch}(k') = 2$ . In this case,  $\sigma$  is described as

$$\sigma : (S, U) \mapsto \left( \frac{S(U^2 + U + S)(U^4 + U^2 + S^2)}{U^6 + S^2U^2 + S^2}, \frac{U^4 + U^3 + SU + S^2}{U^3 + SU + S} \right).$$

From a similar way as above we see that

$$x + y + y^2 = 0, \quad z = \frac{x}{y},$$

where  $x, y, z$  are defined as in (4) and (6). Thus we have  $k'(x, y, z) = k'(y)$  and

$$y = U + \sigma(U) = \frac{U^3 + SU^2 + S^2}{U^3 + SU + S}$$

in the case of  $\text{ch}(k') = 2$ . Now we put

$$w := \frac{S}{U} + \frac{\sigma(S)}{\sigma(U)} = \frac{S(U^3 + SU^2 + S^2)}{U(U^5 + SU^2 + S^2U + S^2)}.$$

Then we obtain  $k'(S, U)^{(\sigma)} = k'(y, w)$  as follows: From the definition of  $y$  and  $w$ , we have  $k'(S, U)^{(\sigma)} \supset k'(y, w)$ . We put

$$W := \frac{w}{y + w} = \frac{S}{U^3 + SU + S}.$$

Then  $k'(y, w) = k'(y, W)$  and we see that  $y, W, S, U$  satisfy

$$S + yU + U + W + y + 1 = 0,$$

$$WU^2 + yWU + W^2 + yW + y + 1 = 0.$$

Hence the equality  $k'(S, U)^{(\sigma)} = k'(y, W) = k'(y, w)$  follows from  $k'(S, U) = k'(y, W)(U)$  and  $[k'(S, U) : k'(y, W)] = 2$ .  $\square$

The calculations in this paper were carried out with Mathematica [16].

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