

# *Mathematical Journal of Okayama University*

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*Volume 31, Issue 1*

1989

*Article 5*

JANUARY 1989

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## On Primitive Elements of Galois Extensions of Commutative Semi-Local Rings II

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## ON PRIMITIVE ELEMENTS OF GALOIS EXTENSIONS OF COMMUTATIVE SEMI-LOCAL RINGS II

Dedicated to Professor Takasi Nagahara on his 60th birthday

ISAO KIKUMASA

Throughout this paper, all rings will be assumed to be commutative and to have identities, and a subring of a ring will mean one containing the same identity. Moreover, all Galois extensions will mean ones in the sense of [1]. A ring extension  $R/S$  will be called to be simple if  $R$  is generated by a single element over  $S$ , that is,  $R/S$  has a primitive element. Further, a Galois extension  $R/S$  will be called to be trivial if  $R$  is  $S$ -algebra isomorphic to the direct sum  $S \oplus S \oplus \dots \oplus S$  of  $S$ . For a  $G$ -Galois extension  $R/S$ , if  $G$  is a cyclic group then  $R/S$  will be called to be a cyclic extension.

In § 1, we present some preliminary results for our study in the subsequent sections. In § 2, we first consider the simplicity of Galois extensions which are the tensor products of Galois extensions over a field. We later study the simplicity of Galois extensions of a semi-local ring by using the results in the preceding part of this section. In § 3, we treat Galois extensions with no primitive elements. We give a condition that a Galois extension of a finite field is generated by  $m$  elements in this section. Furthermore, we also give a condition in case of a Galois extension of a semi-local ring.

In what follows,  $q$  will mean a power of a prime number and  $\text{GF}(q)$  will denote the finite field consisting of  $q$  elements. Moreover, "given a set  $S$ , a field  $K$ , a  $K$ -module  $M$ , a ring  $R$ , a group  $G$  of automorphisms of  $R$ , a subset  $H$  of  $G$ , and positive integers  $m_1, \dots, m_n$ ", we will use the following conventions :

$|S|$  = the cardinal number of  $S$ .

$[M : K]$  = the dimension of  ${}_K M$ .

$\langle \sigma \rangle$  = the group generated by  $\sigma$ .

$R(H) = \{a \in R; \sigma(a) = a \text{ for all } \sigma \in H\}$ .

$\ell(R)$  = the length of the composition series of  ${}_R R$ .

$(m_1, m_2)$  = the greatest common divisor of  $m_1$  and  $m_2$ .

$\text{Max}_i(m_i)$  = the maximum of  $m_1, \dots, m_n$ .

As to other notations and terminologies used in this paper we follow [4].

**1. Preliminary Lemmas.** In this section, we prepare some lemmas for our study in the subsequent sections.

We first recall the following lemma which is basic but important to study Galois extensions over fields.

**Lemma 1.1** ([4, Lemma 1.1 and Lemma 1.2]). *Let  $K$  be a field and  $R/K$  a  $G$ -Galois extension. Then, there exists an  $H$ -Galois extension  $R_1/K$  such that*

- (i)  $R_1$  is a field,
- (ii)  $|G| = |H| \ell(R)$ , and
- (iii)  $R$  is  $K$ -algebra isomorphic to  $R_0 = R_1 \oplus \dots \oplus R_r$  where  $r = \ell(R)$ ,  $R_i = R_1$  ( $1 \leq i \leq r$ ), and  $R_0$  is a  $K$ -algebra with  $K = \{(a, \dots, a) ; a \in K\}$ .

*When this is the case,  $R_1$  is isomorphic to any maximal subfield of  $R$ .*

**Remark 1.1.** Let  $K$  be a finite field. If  $R/K$  is a Galois extension then, as in [4, Remark 1.1(3)], we can choose a cyclic group as a Galois group of  $R/K$ . Moreover, for any field extension  $L/K$  with  $[L : K] < \infty$ ,  $L^r$  is a cyclic extension of  $K = \{(a, \dots, a) ; a \in K\}$  where  $r$  is an arbitrary natural number and  $L^r$  is the direct sum of  $r$  copies of  $L$  (cf. [10, Lemma 1.1]). Hence, we may always regard a Galois extension over a finite field as a cyclic extension when we concern with the study of simplicity. Throughout, by  $CG(R/K)$ , we denote a cyclic Galois group of  $R/K$ .

Now we set

$$N_q(n) = (1/n) \sum_{d|n} \mu(d) q^{n/d}$$

where  $\mu$  is the Moebius function. If  $K = GF(q)$  then  $N_q(n)$  denotes the number of the monic irreducible polynomials in  $K[X]$  of degree  $n$  (cf. [6, p. 93]). We shall present a lemma about some properties of this  $N_q(n)$ .

**Lemma 1.2.** *Let  $d, m, n$  and  $t$  be positive integers.*

- (1) *There holds the inequality*

$$q^{t-1}/t \leq N_q(t) \leq q^t/t \leq N_q(1).$$

- (2) *If  $m \geq 3$  and  $n \geq 2$  then*

$$N_q(md)N_q(nd)d \leq N_q(mnd).$$

(3) In case  $m \geq 2$  and  $n \geq 2$ ,

$$N_q(m)N_q(n) \leq N_q(mn).$$

*Proof.* (1) It is obvious that the last inequality of (1) holds. Hence we shall show the first and second inequalities to hold.

If  $t = 1$  then clearly  $N_q(t) = q = q^t/t > q^{t-1}/t$ . Moreover, in case  $t$  is a prime number,

$$\begin{aligned} q^{t-1}/t &\leq (q-1)q^{t-1}/t = (q^t - q^{t-1})/t \\ &\leq (q^t - q)/t = N_q(t) < q^t/t. \end{aligned}$$

Hence we may assume that  $t = ps$  for some integer  $s \geq 2$  where  $p$  is the least prime divisor of  $t$ . We note here that, for any integer  $k \geq 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} N_q(t) &\geq (q^t - (q^s + q^{s-1} + \dots + q))/t > (q^t - q^{s+1})/t \\ &\geq (q^{t-1} + q^{t-1} - q^{s+1})/t \geq q^{t-1}/t \end{aligned}$$

since  $t-1-(s+1) = s(p-1)-2 \geq 0$ , and further,

$$\begin{aligned} N_q(t) &\leq (q^t - q^s + q^{s-1} + \dots + q)/t \\ &\leq (q^t - q^s + q^s)/t = q^t/t. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have (1).

(2) By (1),  $q^{mnd-1}/(mnd) \leq N_q(mnd)$ . On the other hand, also by (1),  $N_q(md) \leq q^{md}/(md)$  and  $N_q(nd) \leq q^{nd}/(nd)$ , and so we see that

$$N_q(md)N_q(nd)d \leq q^{m d + n d}/(mnd).$$

Since  $mnd-1-(md+nd) \geq 0$ , we have the inequality of (2).

(3) If  $m \geq 3$  and  $n \geq 2$  then, putting  $d = 1$  in (2), we have immediately the inequality of (3). Moreover, if  $m \geq 2$  and  $n \geq 3$  then it suffices to exchange  $m$  for  $n$ . In case  $m = n = 2$ , by a direct computation, we obtain

$$N_q(mn) = (q^4 - q^2)/4 > (q^2 - q)^2/4 = N_q(m)N_q(n).$$

Hence we get (3).

**Lemma 1.3.** Let  $K = \text{GF}(q)$  and  $R/K$  a Galois extension of rank  $n$ . Moreover, let  $t = n/\ell(R)$  and

$$f = \prod_{a|t} (X^{q^a} - X)^{\mu; t/a} = \prod_{a|t} (X^{q^{t/a}} - X)^{\mu; a}.$$

Then the following conditions are equivalent.

- (i)  $R/K$  is simple.
- (ii)  $\ell(R) \leq N_q(t)$ .
- (iii)  $R \cong K[X]/(g)$  for a factor  $g$  of degree  $n$  of  $f$ .

In particular,  $R/K$  is simple and  $\ell(R) = N_q(t)$  if and only if  $R \cong K[X]/(f)$ .

*Proof.* The equivalence (i)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (ii) is shown in [4, Theorem 1.6].

(i)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (iii): As in [4, Theorem 1.4] and its proof,  $R/K$  is simple if and only if  $R \cong K[X]/(g)$  for the product  $g$  of  $\ell(R)$  distinct monic irreducible polynomials in  $K[X]$  of degree  $t$ . On the other hand, by [6, Theorem 3.29], the polynomial  $f$  in the lemma is the product of all the monic irreducible polynomials in  $K[X]$  of degree  $t$ . Hence our assertion is obtained.

**Example 1.1.** Let  $K = \text{GF}(3)$  and  $R_i/K$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ) Galois extensions such that  $\ell(R_i) = i+1$  and  $[R_i : K] = 2(i+1)$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . Note that such Galois extensions surely exist (Remark 1.1). Now, we set

$$f = \prod_{a|2} (X^{3^{2/a}} - X)^{u^a}.$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} f &= (X^{3^2} - X)^1 \cdot (X^3 - X)^{-1} = (X^9 - X)/(X^3 - X) \\ &= (X^2 + 1)(X^4 + 1) = X^6 + X^4 + X^2 + 1. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 1.3, we see that  $R_1/K$  and  $R_2/K$  are simple, and moreover,

$$R_1 \cong K[X]/(X^4 + 1) \text{ and } R_2 \cong K[X]/(X^6 + X^4 + X^2 + 1).$$

However, since  $f$  cannot be divided by any polynomial of degree 8,  $R_3/K$  is not simple.

**2. Simplicity of Galois extensions of semi-local rings.** A tensor product of two (and more than two) Galois extensions over a field is also a Galois extension. In this section, we first discuss whether a Galois extension made by such a way is simple or not, and then, we study the simplicity of Galois extensions of a semi-local ring.

We begin our study in this section with the following lemma which is fundamental on simplicity of Galois extensions obtained as tensor products of Galois extensions over a field.

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $K$  be a finite field, and  $R/K$  and  $S/K$  Galois*

extensions. Moreover, let  $R_1$  and  $S_1$  be maximal subfields of  $R$  and  $S$  containing  $K$ , respectively.

(1) Assume that  $[R_1 : K] \nmid [S_1 : K]$  and  $[S_1 : K] \nmid [R_1 : K]$ . If  $R/K$  and  $S/K$  are simple then  $(R \otimes_K S)/K$  is so and non-trivial.

(2) In case that  $[R_1 : K] \mid [S_1 : K]$  or  $[S_1 : K] \mid [R_1 : K]$ , if neither  $R/K$  nor  $S/K$  is simple then  $(R \otimes_K S)/K$  is not simple.

*Proof.* Let  $K = \text{GF}(q)$ . By Lemma 1.1, we have

$$R \cong R_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus R_r \text{ and } S \cong S_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus S_s$$

where  $r = \ell(R)$ ,  $s = \ell(S)$ ,  $R_i = R_1$  ( $1 \leq i \leq r$ ),  $S_j = S_1$  ( $1 \leq j \leq s$ ), and  $R_1$  and  $S_1$  are fields. Then, we have

$$R \otimes_K S \cong \sum_{i,j} (R_i \otimes_K S_j).$$

Now we put  $d = ([R_1 : K], [S_1 : K])$ . Then,  $[R_1 : K] = md$  and  $[S_1 : K] = nd$  for some integers  $m$  and  $n$  with  $m \geq 1$ ,  $n \geq 1$  and  $(m, n) = 1$ . Further, there exist subfields  $E_1$  and  $F_1$  of  $R_1$  and  $S_1$ , respectively, such that  $E_1 \cong F_1$  and  $[E_1 : K] = [F_1 : K] = d$ . We may assume that  $E := E_1 = F_1$ . Since  $E/K$  is a Galois extension of rank  $d$ ,  $E \otimes_K S_1$  is  $K$ -algebra isomorphic to the direct sum of  $d$  copies of  $S_1$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} R_1 \otimes_K S_1 &\cong R_1 \otimes_E E \otimes_K S_1 \cong R_1 \otimes_E (S_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus S_1) \\ &\cong (R_1 \otimes_E S_1) \oplus \cdots \oplus (R_1 \otimes_E S_1) \quad (d \text{ times}) \end{aligned}$$

and so,

$$R \otimes_K S \cong (R_1 \otimes_E S_1) \oplus \cdots \oplus (R_1 \otimes_E S_1) \quad (rsd \text{ times}).$$

Since  $[R_1 : E] = m$  and  $[S_1 : E] = n$  are relatively prime,  $R_1 \otimes_E S_1$  is a field with  $[(R_1 \otimes_E S_1) : K] = mnd$ .

(1) Let  $R/K$  and  $S/K$  be simple. Then, using Lemma 1.3, we get  $r \leq N_q(md)$  and  $s \leq N_q(nd)$ . Moreover, let  $[R_1 : K] \nmid [S_1 : K]$  and  $[S_1 : K] \nmid [R_1 : K]$ . Then we may assume, without loss of generality, that  $m \geq 3$  and  $n \geq 2$ . Hence, by Lemma 1.2(2),

$$\ell(R \otimes_K S) = rsd \leq N_q(md)N_q(nd)d \leq N_q(mnd).$$

This implies that  $(R \otimes_K S)/K$  is simple. Further, it is obvious that  $(R \otimes_K S)/K$  is non-trivial.

(2) Assume that  $[R_1 : K] \mid [S_1 : K]$  or  $[S_1 : K] \mid [R_1 : K]$ . Then  $m = 1$  or  $n = 1$ . Hence it suffices to prove the assertion in case  $m = 1$ . If

$R/K$  and  $S/K$  are not simple then  $r > N_q(d)$  and  $s > N_q(nd)$ . Hence we obtain

$$\ell(R \otimes_K S) = rsd > N_q(d)N_q(nd)d \geq N_q(nd).$$

Combining this with Lemma 1.3, we have the assertion (2).

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let  $K = \text{GF}(q)$  and  $S_i/K$  a Galois extension such that  $[S_i : K] = p^{\alpha_i}$  where  $p$  is a prime number and  $\alpha_i \geq 1$  for each  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ). Let  $t := \text{Max}_i([S_i : K]/\ell(S_i)) = [S_1 : K]/\ell(S_1)$ . Then  $(S_1 \otimes_K S_2 \otimes_K \cdots \otimes_K S_n)/K$  is simple if and only if  $\ell(S_1) \prod_{i=2}^n [S_i : K] \leq N_q(t)$ . When this is the case,  $S_1/K$  is simple.*

*Proof.* Let  $L_i$  be a maximal subfield of  $S_i$  containing  $K$  for every  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ). Then, we have  $L_1 \otimes_K L_i = L_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus L_i$  ( $[L_i : K]$  times). From this, one will easily see that  $L_1$  is a maximal subfield of  $R := S_1 \otimes_K S_2 \otimes_K \cdots \otimes_K S_n$  and  $\ell(R) = \ell(S_1) \prod_{i=2}^n [S_i : K]$ . Hence, it follows from Lemma 1.3 that  $R/K$  is simple if and only if

$$\ell(S_1) \prod_{i=2}^n [S_i : K] \leq N_q(t).$$

When this is the case, we have  $\ell(S_1) \leq N_q(t)$ , and whence  $S_1/K$  is simple.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $K$  be a field and  $S_i/K$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) Galois extensions such that  $[S_i : K]$  and  $[S_j : K]$  are relatively prime for each  $i \neq j$ . If all the  $S_i/K$  are simple and non-trivial then so is  $(S_1 \otimes_K S_2 \otimes_K \cdots \otimes_K S_n)/K$ .*

*Proof.* It is enough to verify our assertion in case  $n = 2$ . For we have the lemma by induction if  $n \geq 3$ .

Let  $R = S_1$  and  $S = S_2$ . Then, by Lemma 1.1, we may write

$$R = E_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus E_r \text{ and } S = F_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus F_s,$$

$E_i = E_1, F_j = F_1$  ( $1 \leq i \leq r, 1 \leq j \leq s$ ), and  $E_1$  and  $F_1$  are fields. Since  $([R : K], [S : K]) = 1, ([E_1 : K], [F_1 : K]) = 1$ . Moreover, since  $R/K$  and  $S/K$  are non-trivial, we have  $[E_1 : K] \not\chi [F_1 : K]$  and  $[F_1 : K] \not\chi [E_1 : K]$ . Therefore it follows from Lemma 2.1 that  $(R \otimes_K S)/K$  is simple and non-trivial if  $K$  is a finite field. Assume that  $|K| = \infty$ . Then, it suffices to show that  $(R \otimes_K S)/K$  is non-trivial. However, it is clear by the argument in the above.

We have already noted that, for a  $G$ -Galois extension  $R$  over a finite

field  $K$ , we may replace  $G$  with a cyclic group  $\text{CG}(R/K)$ . Using this fact we obtain the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.4.** *Let  $K = \text{GF}(q)$  and  $R/K$  a Galois extension with  $[R:K] = p_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots p_n^{\alpha_n}$  where the  $p_i$  are distinct prime numbers and each  $\alpha_i \geq 1$ . Moreover, put  $\langle \sigma \rangle = \text{CG}(R/K)$  and  $S_i = R(\langle \sigma^{p_i^{\alpha_i}} \rangle)$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ).*

(1) *If  $S_i/K$  is simple and non-trivial for each  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) then so is  $R/K$ .*

(2) *Let  $t_i = p_i^{\alpha_i} / \ell(S_i)$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ). If  $t_i \neq 1$  and  $p_i^{\alpha_i} \leq q^{t_i} - q^{t_i/p_i}$  for all  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) then  $R/K$  is simple and non-trivial.*

*Proof.* Since each  $S_i/K$  is a cyclic extension of rank  $p_i^{\alpha_i}$  and  $R = S_1 \otimes_K S_2 \otimes_K \cdots \otimes_K S_n$ , we have (1) immediately from Lemma 2.3. Moreover, (2) is obtained as a direct consequence of (1) and Lemma 1.3.

**Remark 2.1.** Let  $K$  be a field and  $R/K$  a  $G$ -Galois extension. If  $G$  is a nilpotent group then we can write  $G = P_1 \times \cdots \times P_n$  where the  $P_i$  are the Sylow subgroups of  $G$ . Hence, though  $K$  is infinite, if  $G$  is nilpotent then the above corollary (1) holds by using the given  $G$  and the fixing  $R(P_1 \cdots P_{i-1} P_{i+1} \cdots P_n)$  in  $R$  instead of  $\text{CG}(R/K)$  and  $S_i$ , respectively.

We here present some examples.

**Example 2.1.** (1) Let  $K = \text{GF}(4)$ . We consider  $R = K \oplus K$  and  $S = K \oplus K \oplus K$ . Then  $R/K$  and  $S/K$  are Galois extensions whose ranks are relatively prime. Moreover, they are trivial and simple by Lemma 1.3. However, since  $\ell(R \otimes_K S) = 6 > 4 = N_4(1)$ ,  $(R \otimes_K S)/K$  is not simple by the lemma.

(2) Let  $K = \text{GF}(2)$ ,  $R = \text{GF}(4) \oplus \text{GF}(4)$  and  $S = \text{GF}(8)$ . Then  $R/K$  and  $S/K$  are Galois extensions such that  $[R:K]$  and  $[S:K]$  are relatively prime. We here consider

$$R \otimes_K S \cong (\text{GF}(4) \otimes_K \text{GF}(8)) \oplus (\text{GF}(4) \otimes_K \text{GF}(8)).$$

Since  $\text{GF}(4) \otimes_K \text{GF}(8)$  is a field, we have  $\ell(R \otimes_K S) = 2 < 9 = N_2(6)$  (cf. [6, p. 553]). Hence  $(R \otimes_K S)/K$  is simple because of Lemma 1.3. Further, this is non-trivial. However,  $R/K$  is not simple since  $\ell(R) = 2 > 1 = N_2(2)$ .

(3) Let  $K = \text{GF}(2)$ ,  $R = \text{GF}(4) \oplus \text{GF}(4)$  and  $S = \text{GF}(8) \oplus \text{GF}(8) \oplus \text{GF}(8)$ . Then,  $R/K$  and  $S/K$  are not simple, and their ranks are

relatively prime. In this case,  $(R \otimes_K S)/K$  is simple. Indeed,  $\ell(R \otimes_K S) = 6 < 9 = N_2(6)$ .

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $K = \text{GF}(q)$  and  $R/K$  a  $\langle \sigma \rangle$ -Galois extension with  $[R : K] = p^\alpha u$  where  $p$  is a prime number,  $\alpha \geq 1$  and  $(p, u) = 1$ . Assume that there is a subfield  $M$  of  $R$  properly containing  $K$  such that, for  $t := [M : K]$ ,  $t$  is a power of  $p$  and*

$$p^\alpha \leq q^t - q^{t/p}.$$

*Then,  $R(\langle \sigma^{p^\alpha} \rangle)$  is simple and non-trivial over  $K$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $L$  be a maximal subfield of  $R$  containing  $M$ . Moreover, set  $S_1 = R(\langle \sigma^{p^\alpha} \rangle)$  and  $S_2 = R(\langle \sigma^u \rangle)$ . Then,  $R = S_1 \otimes_K S_2$ . Let  $L_i$  be a maximal subfield of  $S_i$  containing  $K$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ). Then, by [4, Lemma 1.1 and Lemma 1.2], we see that  $S_i \cong L_i \oplus \dots \oplus L_i$  ( $\ell(S_i)$  times) for  $i = 1, 2$ , and  $R \cong L \oplus \dots \oplus L$  ( $\ell(S_1)\ell(S_2)$  times) for  $L := L_1 \otimes_K L_2$ . Since  $L$  is a field, it follows that  $L \cong L$ . Hence, since  $t \mid [L : K]$  and  $(p, [L_2 : K]) = 1$ , we have  $t \mid [L_1 : K]$ . This implies that  $S_1/K$  is non-trivial. Noting  $[S_1 : K] = p^\alpha$ , we obtain from our assumption and Lemma 1.2(3) that, for  $k := [L_1 : K]$ ,

$$\ell(S_1) = p^\alpha/k \leq p^\alpha/t \leq (1/t)(q^t - q^{t/p}) = N_q(t) \leq N_q(k).$$

Thus  $S_1/K$  is simple by Lemma 1.3.

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $K = \text{GF}(q)$  and  $R/K$  a Galois extension with  $[R : K] = p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_n^{\alpha_n}$  where  $p_1, \dots, p_n$  are distinct primes and each  $\alpha_i \geq 1$ . Assume that, for every  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ), there is a subfield  $M_i$  of  $R$  properly containing  $K$  such that  $t_i := [M_i : K]$  is a power of  $p_i$  and*

$$p_i^{\alpha_i} \leq q^{t_i} - q^{t_i/p_i}.$$

*Then  $R/K$  is simple and non-trivial.*

*Proof.* Let  $S_i$  be as in Corollary 2.4. Then  $R = S_1 \otimes_K \dots \otimes_K S_n$  and, by Lemma 2.5, each  $S_i$  is simple and non-trivial over  $K$ . Therefore  $R/K$  is simple by Lemma 2.3.

**Corollary 2.7.** *Let  $K = \text{GF}(q)$  and  $R/K$  a Galois extension with  $[R : K] = p_1^{\alpha_1} \dots p_n^{\alpha_n}$  where  $p_1, \dots, p_n$  are distinct primes and  $\alpha_i \geq 1$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Let  $L$  be a maximal subfield of  $R$  and  $[L : K] = p_1^{\beta_1} \dots p_n^{\beta_n}$ . Then*

$R/K$  is simple and non-trivial if one of the following conditions is satisfied :

(a)  $\beta_i \geq 1$  and  $p_i^{\alpha_i} \leq q^{t_i} - q^{t_i/p_i}$  with  $t_i = p_i^{\beta_i}$  for all  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ).

(b)  $\beta_i \geq 1$  and  $(p_i - 1)/\log_2 p_i \geq \alpha_i$  for all  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ).

When this is the case, the condition of  $\beta_i \geq 1$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) is equivalent to that  $p_i \mid ([R : K]/\ell(R))$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ).

*Proof.* Case (a) : Since  $L$  is a finite field,  $L$  contains subfields  $M_i$  with  $[M_i : K] = p_i^{\beta_i}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ). Hence the assertion is immediate from Theorem 2.6.

Case (b) : From the condition of (b), it follows that

$$p_i^{\alpha_i} \leq 2^{p_i-1} \leq q^{p_i-1} \leq q^{p_i-1}(q^{t_i-p_i+1} - q^{t_i/p_i-p_i+1}) \leq q^{t_i} - q^{t_i/p_i}$$

where  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Hence  $R/K$  is simple and non-trivial by (a).

The other assertion follows immediately from that  $[R : K] = [L : K] \cdot \ell(R)$  (Lemma 1.1).

**Remark 2.2.** (1) In the statement of Theorem 2.6, the condition "properly" is necessary. For example, consider the case that  $K = \text{GF}(5)$  and  $R = \text{GF}(5^2) \oplus \dots \oplus \text{GF}(5^2)$  the direct sum of 12 copies of  $\text{GF}(5^2)$ . Then  $R/K$  is a Galois extension of rank  $2^3 \cdot 3$ . Choose  $\text{GF}(5^2) = \langle a, \dots, a \rangle$ ;  $a \in \text{GF}(5^2) \setminus K$  and  $K$  as  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  respectively. Then, the condition  $p_i^{\alpha_i} \leq q^{t_i} - q^{t_i/p_i}$  is fulfilled for each  $i$ . But, since  $\ell(R) = 12 > 10 = N_q([R : K]/\ell(R))$ ,  $R/K$  is not simple because of Lemma 1.3.

(2) Let  $K = \text{GF}(2)$  and  $R = \text{GF}(2^6) \oplus \text{GF}(2^6)$ . Then,  $R/K$  is a simple Galois extension of rank  $2^2 \cdot 3$ . Moreover, by [4, Lemma 1.2], every maximal subfield of  $R$  containing  $K$  is isomorphic to  $\text{GF}(2^6)$ . Hence, if  $M_1$  is a subfield of  $R$  properly containing  $K$  such that  $t_1 = [M_1 : K]$  is a power of  $p_1 = 2$  then  $M_1 \cong \text{GF}(2^2)$ . In this case,

$$p_1^{\alpha_1} = 2^2 > 2^2 - 2 = q^{t_1} - q^{t_1/p_1}.$$

This shows that the converse of Theorem 2.6 does not hold.

(3) In Corollary 2.7, the condition  $(p_i - 1)/\log_2 p_i \geq \alpha_i$  is independent of  $|K|$  and  $\ell(S_i)$ . Moreover, since the function  $y = (x - 1)/\log_2 x$  is monotone increasing on the interval  $x \geq 2$ , this inequality holds if  $p_i$  is large enough. For example, for a  $G$ -Galois extension  $R$  over a finite field  $K$ , if  $|G| = 7^2 \cdot 13^3$  then

$$(7 - 1)/\log_2 7 > 6/3 = 2 \text{ and } (13 - 1)/\log_2 13 > 12/4 = 3.$$

Hence if  $\ell(R) \leq 7 \cdot 13^2$  then the Galois extension  $R/K$  is simple.

Now, in the rest of this section, we study the simplicity of Galois extensions of a semi-local ring. For this purpose, let  $A$  denote a semi-local ring and  $\{M_1, \dots, M_m\}$  the set of maximal ideals of  $A$ .

First we shall prove the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.8.** *Let  $S_1, \dots, S_n$  be Galois extensions of  $A$  whose ranks are relatively prime. If the extensions  $(S_i/MS_i)/(A/M)$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) are simple and non-trivial for each maximal ideal  $M$  of  $A$  then so is  $(S_1 \otimes_A S_2 \otimes_A \dots \otimes_A S_n)/A$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $M$  be an arbitrary maximal ideal of  $A$ . Moreover, we set  $R = S_1 \otimes_A \dots \otimes_A S_n$ . Then

$$R/MR = S_1/MS_1 \otimes_{A/M} \dots \otimes_{A/M} S_n/MS_n.$$

It is well-known that  $[S_i/MS_i : A/M] = \text{rank}_A S_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Since the  $\text{rank}_A S_i$  are relatively prime, it follows from Lemma 2.3 that  $R/MR$  is simple over  $A/M$ . Therefore, in virtue of [4, Proposition 2.1], we obtain that  $R/A$  is simple.

**Corollary 2.9.** *Let  $S_1, \dots, S_n$  be Galois extensions of  $A$  with  $\text{rank}_A S_i = n_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) such that the  $n_i$  are relatively prime. If all  $S_i/A$  are simple and  $\ell(S_i) < n_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  then  $(S_1 \otimes_A S_2 \otimes_A \dots \otimes_A S_n)/A$  is simple.*

*Proof.* Let  $M$  be an arbitrary maximal ideal of  $A$ . Since  $S_i/A$  is simple, so is  $(S_i/MS_i)/(A/M)$  for each  $i$ . Moreover, the extensions  $(S_i/MS_i)/(A/M)$  are non-trivial for all  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ). Otherwise, for some  $i$ ,

$$\ell(S_i) \geq \ell(S_i/MS_i) = [S_i/MS_i : A/M] = n_i > \ell(S_i)$$

which is a contradiction. It follows therefore from Theorem 2.8 that  $(S_1 \otimes_A \dots \otimes_A S_n)/A$  is simple.

**Corollary 2.10.** *Let  $R/A$  be a  $G$ -Galois extension such that  $G$  is nilpotent and  $G = P_1 \times P_2 \times \dots \times P_n$  where the  $P_i$  are Sylow subgroups of  $G$ . For each  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ), let  $S_i$  be the fixing of  $P_1 \dots P_{i-1} P_{i+1} \dots P_n$  in  $R$ . If the  $(S_i/MS_i)/(A/M)$  are simple and non-trivial for all maximal ideals  $M$  of  $A$  then so is  $R/A$ .*

*Proof.* We see that  $R = S_1 \otimes_A \dots \otimes_A S_n$  and the  $\text{rank}_A S_i$  are relatively prime. Hence the assertion is a direct consequence of Theorem 2.8.

Now, let  $T/K$  be a  $G$ -Galois extension. Let  $K$  be a field and  $L$  an arbitrary maximal subfield of  $T$  containing  $K$ . Then, by [4, Lemma 1.2], any maximal subfield of  $T$  containing  $K$  is  $K$ -isomorphic to  $L$ . Given a prime number  $p$ ,  $p(T/K)$  denotes a power  $p^\alpha$  such that  $\alpha \geq 0$ ,  $p^\alpha | [L : K]$  and  $p^{\alpha+1} \nmid [L : K]$ . Clearly, if  $p(T/K) \neq 1$  then  $p | [L : K]$  and  $p$  is a divisor of  $[T : K]$ . Next, let  $K = \text{GF}(q)$ .  $[T : K] = p_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots p_n^{\alpha_n}$  and  $[L : K] = p_1^{\beta_1} \cdots p_n^{\beta_n}$ . Then  $p_i(T/K) = p_i^{\beta_i}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ). Therefore, it follows from Corollary 2.7 that  $T/K$  is simple and non-trivial if one of the following conditions is satisfied:

- (a)  $p_i(T/K) \neq 1$  and  $p_i^{\alpha_i} \leq q^{\rho_i(T/K)} - q^{\rho_i(T/K)/p_i}$  for all  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ).
- (b)  $p_i(T/K) \neq 1$  and  $(p_i - 1) / \log_2 p_i \geq \alpha_i$  for all  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ).

Let  $A$  be a semi-local ring with the maximal ideals  $M_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ ), and  $R/A$  a  $G$ -Galois extension with  $|G| = p_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots p_n^{\alpha_n}$  where the  $p_i$  are distinct primes. We set here

$$\Omega = \{j; |A/M_j| < \infty, 1 \leq j \leq m\}.$$

If  $\Omega$  is empty then  $R/A$  is simple by [4, Corollary 1.5 and Proposition 2.1]. Combining this and the above facts with the result of [4, Proposition 2.1], we obtain the following theorem under the above situation.

**Theorem 2.11.** *Let  $R/A$  be a  $G$ -Galois extension.*

- (1) *If  $\Omega$  is empty then  $R/A$  is simple.*
- (2) *Assume that  $\Omega$  is non-empty. Set  $q_j = |A/M_j|$  and  $t_{ij} = p_i((R/M_j R)/(A/M_j))$  ( $j \in \Omega, i = 1, \dots, n$ ). Then,  $R/A$  is simple and non-trivial if one of the following conditions is satisfied:*

- (a)  *$t_{ij} \neq 1$  and  $p_i^{\alpha_i} \leq q_j^{t_{ij}} - q_j^{t_{ij}/p_i}$  for all  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) and all  $j \in \Omega$ .*
- (b)  *$t_{ij} \neq 1$  and  $(p_i - 1) / \log_2 p_i \geq \alpha_i$  for all  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) and all  $j \in \Omega$ .*

**3. Generating elements of Galois extensions of finite fields.** The main objects of our study in this section are Galois extensions of finite fields with no primitive elements. We study conditions that a Galois extension of a finite field can be generated by  $m$  elements for a positive integer  $m$ .

We first give a lemma in case of a trivial Galois extension.

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $K = \text{GF}(q)$  and  $R/K$  a trivial Galois extension. Then,  $R$  is generated by  $m$  elements over  $K$  if and only if  $\ell(R) \leq q^m$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $m$  be an integer such that  $\ell(R) \leq q^m$ , and put  $s = q^m$ . Moreover, let  $S = K_1 \oplus \dots \oplus K_s$  where  $K_i = K$  ( $1 \leq i \leq s$ ). Since  $R$  is a direct summand of  $S$ , if  $S$  is generated by  $m$  elements over  $K$  then so does  $R$ . Hence, in order to show the "if" part of the lemma, it is enough to prove that for  $S/K$ . As is noted in Remark 1.1,  $S/K$  is a cyclic  $\langle \sigma \rangle$ -extension where  $K = |(a, \dots, a) : a \in K|$ . We set  $T_i = S(\sigma^{q^i})$  for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, m$ . Let  $1 \leq i \leq m$  and  $M$  an arbitrary maximal ideal of  $T_{i-1}$ . Since  $S/T_{i-1}$  is Galois and  $S$  is semi-local,  $T_{i-1}$  is semi-local and there exists a maximal ideal  $M'$  of  $S$  with  $M' \cap T_{i-1} = M$ . Noting  $S \equiv K \pmod{M'}$  and  $T_{i-1} \supset K$ , we obtain  $T_{i-1} \equiv K \pmod{M}$ . Hence  $|T_{i-1}/M| = |K| = q$  for all maximal ideals  $M$  of  $T_{i-1}$ . Since  $T_i/T_{i-1}$  is a Galois extension of rank  $q$ ,  $T_i/T_{i-1}$  is simple by [4, Corollary 2.2]. Noting  $T_m = S$  and  $T_0 = K$ , we see that  $S/K$  has a generating system consisting of  $m$  elements.

To see the converse, we set  $r = \ell(R)$  and  $R = K^r := K \oplus \dots \oplus K$  ( $r$  times). Let  $R$  be generated by  $m$  elements  $z_1, \dots, z_m$  over  $K$ . We first consider  $K[z_k]$  ( $1 \leq k \leq m$ ). Put  $z_k = (c_1, \dots, c_r)$  ( $c_i \in K$ ) and let  $\{c'_1, \dots, c'_s\}$  be the maximal subset of  $\{c_1, \dots, c_r\}$  such that  $c'_i \neq c'_j$  if  $i \neq j$ . It is obvious that  $s_k := s \leq q$ . Then,  $z'_k = (c'_1, \dots, c'_s)$  is an element of  $K^s$  and  $K[z_k] \cong K[z'_k] = K^s$  (cf. [4, Theorem 1.4]). From this, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \ell(R) &\leq [K[z_1, \dots, z_m] : K] \leq [(K[z_1] \otimes_K \dots \otimes_K K[z_m]) : K] \\ &= s_1 s_2 \dots s_m \leq q^m. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof.

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $K = \text{GF}(q)$  and  $R/K$  a Galois extension and  $t = [R : K] / \ell(R)$ .*

(1) *Let  $m$  be a positive integer satisfying the following inequality:*

$$\ell(R) \leq N_q(t) \cdot q^{t(m-1)}.$$

*Then,  $R$  is generated by  $m$  elements over  $K$ .*

(2) *Assume that  $R$  is generated by  $m$  elements over  $K$ . Then,*

$$\ell(R) \leq q^{tm}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $L = \text{GF}(q^t)$  and  $L^n$  denote the direct sum of  $n$  copies of  $L$  for  $n \geq 1$ . By Lemma 1.1, we may consider  $R = L^{t(m)}$ .

(1) Let  $m$  be a positive integer such that  $\ell(R) \leq N_q(t) \cdot q^{t(m-1)}$ .

Further, put  $u = N_q(t)$  and  $v = q^{t(m-1)}$ . Then, by Lemma 1.3,  $L^u$  is generated by an element over  $K$ . Moreover,  $L^v$  is generated by  $m-1$  elements

over  $L$  because of Lemma 3.1. Since  $R$  is a direct summand of  $L^{uv} \cong L^u \otimes_L L^v$ ,  $R/K$  has a generating system consisting of  $m$  elements.

(2) Assume that  $R$  is generated by  $m$  elements over  $K$ , and so, over  $L$ . Then, since  $R/L$  is a trivial Galois extension, our assertion is obtained from Lemma 3.1.

We here study Galois extensions generated by 2 elements in particular.

Let  $p$  be a prime number,  $K = \text{GF}(q)$ ,  $R/K$  a Galois extension of rank  $p^m$  ( $m \geq 1$ ) and  $t = p^m/\ell(R)$ . Moreover, let  $L$  be a maximal subfield of  $R$  containing  $K$ . Then, as a direct consequence of Lemma 1.3, we obtain the following (a)–(c).

- (a) If  $t \neq 1$  and  $\ell(R) > (1/t)(q^t - q^{t/p})$  then  $R/K$  is not simple.
- (b) Assume that  $t = 1$  and  $\ell(R) > q$ . Then  $R/K$  is not simple.
- (c) If  $\ell(R) \leq (1/t)(q^t - q^{t/p})$  then  $R/K$  is simple. In case  $t = 1$ , if  $\ell(R) \leq q$  then  $R/K$  is simple.

Even if  $R/K$  has no primitive elements as in (a) and (b), if  $\ell(R) \leq N_q(t)q^t$  then  $R/K$  has a generating system consisting of 2 elements. In this case, more in detail the following proposition holds.

**Proposition 3.3.** *In the notation of the above, the following (1) and (2) hold.*

(1) *If  $E$  is an intermediate field of  $L/K$  with  $E \subseteq L$  then,  $R/E$  is simple if and only if  $\ell(R) \leq (k/t)(q^t - q^{t/p})$  for  $k = [E:K]$ .*

(2)  *$R/L$  is simple if and only if  $\ell(R) \leq q^t$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $E$  be an intermediate field of  $L/K$  and  $k = [E:K]$ . We first note that  $L \cong \text{GF}(q^t)$  by Lemma 1.1. Further, as is seen in Remark 1.1, a ring extension  $R/E$  is a Galois extension of rank  $\ell(R)t/k$ . Hence,  $R/E$  is simple if and only if  $\ell(R) \leq N_{q^k}(t/k)$  because of Lemma 1.3. Noting that if  $E=L$  then  $t/k = 1$ , we obtain the assertion from the definition of  $N_q(t/k)$ .

**Remark 3.1.** Under the hypotheses of Proposition 3.3, we see that if  $\ell(R) \leq q^t$  then  $R/K$  has a generating system consisting of 2 elements in which one is in  $L$ . At the same time, the proposition shows that if  $q^t < \ell(R) \leq (1/t)(q^t - q^{t/p})q^t$  then both generating elements of  $R/K$  must be contained in  $R \setminus L$ .

Finally, we present a theorem concerned with generating elements of

Galois extensions of a semi-local ring. Let  $A$  be a semi-local ring and  $\{M_1, \dots, M_m\}$  the set of maximal ideals of  $A$ . Moreover, let  $R/A$  be a  $G$ -Galois extension and, as in § 2, set  $\Omega = \{j; |A/M_j| < \infty, 1 \leq j \leq m\}$ . Then, by Theorem 2.11, if  $\Omega$  is empty then  $R/A$  is simple. Hence we assume that  $\Omega$  is non-empty. Then we have the following theorem as a direct consequence of Theorem 3.2 and [4, Proposition 2.1].

**Theorem 3.4.** Put  $q_j = |A/M_j|$  and  $t_j = |G|/\ell(R/M_jR)$  ( $j \in \Omega$ ).

(1) Let  $m_j$  be a positive integer such that

$$\ell(R/M_jR) \leq N_{q_j}(t_j) \cdot q_j^{t_j(m_j-1)}$$

for each  $j \in \Omega$ . Then,  $R$  is generated by  $\text{Max}_{j \in \Omega}(m_j)$  elements over  $A$ .

(2) If  $R$  is generated by  $m$  elements over  $A$  then, for any  $j \in \Omega$ ,

$$\ell(R/M_jR) \leq q_j^{t_j m}.$$

**Corollary 3.5.** Under the hypotheses of Theorem 3.4, assume that  $|G| = p^\alpha$  with  $p$  a prime and  $\alpha \geq 1$ . Let  $m_j$  be a positive integer such that

$$p^\alpha \leq q_j^{t_j m_j} - q_j^{t_j(m_j-1-1/p)}$$

for each  $j \in \Omega$ . Then  $R$  is generated by  $\text{Max}_{j \in \Omega}(m_j)$  elements over  $A$ .

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*(Received August 10, 1988)*

**Added in Proof:** The results of [4, Theorem 1.6] and Lemma 1.3 have been sharpened in “On primitive elements of Galois extensions of commutative rings, ” Proc. 21st Symp. Ring Theory (Hirosaki Univ., Hirosaki, 1988), 14–20 (with T. Nagahara). The details and other assertions will appear lately.