1050-11-140   **Farshid Hajir*** (`hajir@math.umass.edu`), Dept of Mathematics & Statistics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Amherst, MA 01003, and **John Cullinan** (`cullinan@bard.edu`), Dept of Mathematics, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504. *Specializations of finitely ramified towers of self-maps of the projective line.*

For a rational function $\varphi(x)$ over a number field K, we give a formula for the discriminant of the numerator of $\varphi(x) - t$ where t is a parameter and examine how the terms in the formula change under iteration of φ. (Received March 02, 2009)