This paper consists of two more or less disjoint notes, the first on integral formal power series in several variables and the second concerning the generalized Puiseux expansion of a certain algebraic function of one variable over a modular field.

1. Analytically independent formal (integral) power series. Let \( k \) be an arbitrary field and let \( L_n \) be the ring of formal series \( k[[x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n]] \) in \( n \) variables \( x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n \) with coefficients in \( k \). We recall that given \( m \) elements \( f_1(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n), f_2(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n), \cdots, f_m(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n) \) of \( L_n \) one says that \( f_1, f_2, \cdots, f_m \) are analytically dependent if there exists \( 0 \neq H(Z_1, Z_2, \cdots, Z_m) \in k[[Z_1, Z_2, \cdots, Z_m]] \) such that \( H(f_1(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n), \cdots, f_m(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n)) = 0 \). If \( f_1, f_2, \cdots, f_m \) are not analytically dependent then they are said to be analytically independent. Given an infinite number \( f_1, f_2, \cdots \) of elements of \( L_n \), these elements are said to be analytically independent if every finite number of them are analytically independent. Professor Samuel asked me whether \( L_2 \) contains three analytically independent elements. The answer is given in the following

Proposition. If \( n > 1 \) then \( L_n \) contains an infinite number of analytically independent elements.

Proof. It is known that there exists an infinite number \( g_1(y), g_2(y), \cdots \) of formal power series in one variable \( y \) with coefficients in \( k \) which are algebraically independent over \( k \) (Lemma 1 of [4]). Let \( f_i(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n) = x_2 g_i(x_1) \) for \( i = 1, 2, \cdots \). Let \( H(Z_1, Z_2, \cdots, Z_m) \) be an element of \( k[[Z_1, Z_2, \cdots, Z_m]] \) for which \( H(f_1(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n), f_2(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n), \cdots, f_m(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n)) = 0 \). Let \( H(Z_1, Z_2, \cdots, Z_m) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} H_j(Z_1, Z_2, \cdots, Z_m) \) where \( H_j(Z_1, Z_2, \cdots, Z_m) \) is a form of degree \( j \) in \( k[Z_1, Z_2, \cdots, Z_m] \). Then

\[
0 = H(f_1(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n), \cdots, f_m(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n)) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} x_2^j H_j(g_1(x_1), g_2(x_1), \cdots, g_m(x_1)).
\]

Therefore

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\[ H_j(g_1(x_1), g_2(x_1), \ldots, g_m(x_1)) = \text{the coefficient of } x_j^j \text{ in } H(f_1, \ldots, f_m) = 0 \quad \text{for } j = 1, 2, \ldots. \]

Since \( g_1(x_1), g_2(x_1), \ldots, g_m(x_1) \) are algebraically independent over \( k \), we must have \( H_j(Z_1, Z_2, \ldots, Z_m) = 0 \) for \( j = 1, 2, \ldots \), i.e., \( H(Z_1, Z_2, \ldots, Z_m) = 0 \). Therefore \( f_1(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n), f_2(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n), \ldots \) are analytically independent.

Let us remark that any two elements \( f(x_1) \) and \( g(x_1) \) of \( L_1 \) are analytically dependent. If either \( f \) or \( g \) is zero then there is nothing to prove and hence we may suppose that \( f(x_1) \neq 0 \neq g(x_1) \). First assume that at least one of the two elements \( f(x_1) \) and \( g(x_1) \) is a non-unit; say \( f(x_1) \) is a non-unit. Then by Proposition 3.5 of Chevalley [2], \( L_1 \) is a finite module over \( k[[f(x_1)]] \) and hence \( g(x_1) \) is integral over \( k[[f(x_1)]] \). Therefore there exists \( 0 \neq H(X, Y) \in k[[X]][[Y]] \) with \( H(f(x_1), g(x_1)) = 0 \). Now assume that \( f(x_1) \) and \( g(x_1) \) are both units. Then \( f^*(x_1) = f(x_1) - ag(x_1) \) is a non-unit, where \( a = f(0)/g(0) \). Hence by the previous case, there exists \( 0 \neq H(X, Y) \in k[[X, Y]] \) with \( H(f^*(x_1), g(x_1)) = 0 \). Let \( H^*(X, Y) = H(X - aY, Y) \). Then \( H^*(f(x_1), g(x_1)) = 0 \). Also \( H^*(X, Y) \neq 0 \) since \( X \to X - aY, Y \to Y \) is an automorphism of \( L_1 \).

2. A fractional power series. Let \( k \) be an algebraically closed field of characteristic \( p \). If \( p = 0 \) then the theorem of Puiseux expansion is valid, i.e., any polynomial \( F(Y) = y^n + f_1(X) Y^{n-1} + \cdots + f_n(X) \) with \( f_i(X) \in k(X) \) can be factored in the form

\[ F(Y) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \left( Y - g_i(X^{1/m}) \right), \]

where \( m \) is some positive integer and where \( g_1(X), g_2(X), \ldots, g_n(X) \) are in the quotient field of \( k[[X]] \), i.e., in the integral formal power series field \( k((X)) \). If \( p \neq 0 \) then such a factorization is not always possible. A typical example of this is given by Chevalley on p. 64 of [3], namely:

\[ F(Z) = Z^p - Z - X^{-1}. \]

If we force a factorization, we get the following generalized Puiseux expansion (where the denominators of the indices of \( X \) are unbounded):

\[ F(Z) = \prod_{i=0}^{p-1} \left( Z + i - \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} X^{-1/p^i} \right). \]

Or getting rid of the poles, we get alternatively:
\[ Z^p - X^{p-1}Z - 1 = \prod_{i=0}^{p-1} \left( Z + iX - \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} X^{i-p} \right). \]

These factorizations can be verified directly. They were used in discovering some of the examples discussed in [1].

**Bibliography**


**Harvard University**

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**ON THE COMPOSITUM OF ALGEBRAICALLY CLOSED SUBFIELDS**

**Shreeram Abhyankar**

Professor Igusa asked me the following question: Given a field \( K \), is the compositum of all the (absolutely) algebraically closed subfields of \( K \) itself algebraically closed (of course, we are assuming that this compositum is not empty, i.e., that \( K \) contains the algebraic closure of its prime field)? We shall show in §1 that the answer to this question is in the negative in general. In §2, we shall give a special case in which the answer is in the affirmative.

1. **The algebraic closures of \( k(x) \), \( k(y) \) and \( k(x, y) \).** Let \( k \) be an arbitrary algebraically closed field, \( L = k(x, y) \) where \( x \) and \( y \) are algebraically independent over \( k \), \( L^* \) = an algebraic closure of \( L \), \( M = k(x) \), \( N = k(y) \), \( M^* \) = the algebraic closure of \( M \) in \( L^* \), \( N^* \) = the algebraic closure of \( N \) in \( L^* \), and \( K \) = the compositum of \( L^* \) and \( M^* \). Let \( T \) be the compositum of all the algebraically closed subfields of \( K \). Then \( M^* \subset T \) and \( N^* \subset T \) and hence \( T = K \). *We shall prove below that \( K \) cannot be algebraically closed.* In fact we shall show that in some sense \( K \) is much nearer to \( L \) than it is to \( L^* \) and hence that \( K \) is far from being algebraically closed.

Embed \( L = k(x, y) \) canonically into the formal power series field

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