

# GEOMETRIC REPRESENTATION IN THE THEORY OF PSEUDO-FINITE FIELDS

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**Abstract.** We study the automorphism group of the algebraic closure of a substructure  $A$  of a pseudo-finite field  $F$ , or more generally, of a bounded PAC field  $F$ . This paper answers some of the questions of [1], and in particular that any finite group which is geometrically represented in a pseudo-finite field must be abelian.

**Introduction.** This paper investigates the relationship between model-theoretic definable closure and model-theoretic algebraic closure in certain fields. In other words: if  $F$  is a field, and  $A \subseteq F$  satisfies  $A = \text{dcl}(A)$ , what can one say of the group  $\text{Aut}(\text{acl}(A)/A)$  of restrictions to  $\text{acl}(A)$  of elements of  $\text{Aut}(F/A)$ ? When is it non-trivial? A natural assumption to add is to look at a slightly smaller group, and to impose on  $A$  that it contains an elementary substructure of  $F$ . Indeed, we certainly want to impose that our automorphisms fix  $\text{acl}^{eq}(\emptyset)$ .

This paper extends some of the results of [1], with completely new proofs, and answers some of the questions there. We investigate here the particular case of a pseudo-finite field  $F$ , or more generally, of a bounded pseudo-algebraically closed (PAC) field, i.e., a PAC field which for each integer  $n$ , has only finitely many separable algebraic extensions of degree  $n$ . Here are the main results we obtain:

**THEOREM 1.7.** *Let  $F$  be a bounded field,  $A = \text{dcl}(A)$  a subfield of  $F$  containing an elementary substructure of  $F$ , and let  $p$  be a prime dividing the order of some finite quotients of  $\text{Aut}(\text{acl}(A)/A)$  and of  $G(F)$ . Then  $p \neq \text{char}(F)$ , and the group of all primitive  $p^n$ -th roots of unity  $\mu_{p^\infty}$  is contained in the field  $F$  adjoined a primitive  $p$ -th root of unity  $\zeta_p$ .*

**THEOREM 1.8.** *Let  $F$  be a pseudo-finite field, or more generally a bounded PAC field. Assume that for some subfield  $A = \text{dcl}(A)$  of  $F$  containing an elementary substructure of  $F$ , the group  $H := \text{Aut}(\text{acl}(A)/A)$  is non-trivial. Assume in addition that all primes dividing the order of some finite quotient of  $H$  divide the order of some finite quotient of  $\#G(F)$ .*

*Then  $H$  is abelian, the characteristic of  $F$  does not divide the order of any finite quotient of  $H$ , and  $\mu_{p^\infty} \subset F$ .*

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We give an example (2.4) which shows that the hypotheses on  $F$  cannot be weakened to assume that  $A$  contains a substructure  $F_0$  with  $\text{acl}^{eq}(\emptyset) \subset \text{dcl}^{eq}(F_0)$ . We also give a partial answer to a question of [1] on centralisers.

### §1. The results.

NOTATION 1.1. *Let  $F$  be a field. Throughout the paper,  $\text{dcl}$  and  $\text{acl}$  will denote the model-theoretic definable and algebraic closures, taken within the structure  $F$  or possibly some elementary extension of  $F$ .*

*We let  $F^{\text{alg}}$  denote an algebraic closure of  $F$  (i.e., an algebraically closed field containing  $F$  and minimal such),  $F^s$  its separable closure and  $G(F)$  its absolute Galois group  $\text{Gal}(F^s/F)$ .*

*If  $A \subset B$  are subfields of  $F$ , we denote by  $\text{Aut}(B/A)$  the set of automorphisms of  $B$  which preserve all  $\mathcal{L}(A)$ -formulas true in  $F$ , and by  $\text{Aut}_{\text{field}}(B/A)$  the set of (field) automorphisms of  $B$  which fix the elements of  $A$ . Equivalently, if  $F$  is sufficiently saturated, then  $\text{Aut}(B/A)$  is the group of restrictions to  $B$  of elements of  $\text{Aut}(F/A)$ .*

*If  $p \neq \text{char}(F)$  we let  $\mu_{p^\infty}$  denote the group of all  $p^n$ -th roots of unity, and  $\zeta_p$  a primitive  $p$ -th root of unity.*

*Let  $G_1, G_2$  be profinite groups,  $p$  a prime. We say that  $p$  divides  $\#G_1$  if  $G_1$  has a finite (continuous) quotient with order divisible by  $p$ . We write  $(\#G_1, \#G_2) = 1$  if there is no prime number which divides both  $\#G_1$  and  $\#G_2$ .*

DEFINITION 1.2. Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a language,  $T$  a complete theory.

- (1) We say that the group  $G$  is *geometrically represented in the theory  $T$*  if there exist  $M_0 \prec M \models T$  and  $M_0 \subseteq A \subseteq B \subseteq M$ , such that  $\text{Aut}(B/A) \simeq G$ . We say that a *prime number  $p$  is geometrically represented in  $T$*  if  $p$  divides the order of some finite group  $G$  geometrically represented in  $T$ .
- (2) A field  $F$  is *bounded* if for every integer  $n$ ,  $F$  has only finitely many separable extensions of degree  $n$ . In this case we also say that  $G(F)$  is *bounded*.
- (3) A field  $F$  is *pseudo-algebraically closed*, henceforth abbreviated by *PAC*, if every absolutely irreducible variety defined over  $F$  has an  $F$ -rational point.
- (4) A field is *pseudo-finite* if it is PAC, perfect, and has exactly one extension of degree  $n$  for each integer  $n > 1$ .

REMARK 1.3 (Folklore). Let  $F$  be any field,  $A$  a subfield of  $F$ , and assume that  $A = \text{dcl}(A)$ . Then  $A^s \cap F$  is a Galois extension of  $A$ , equals  $\text{acl}(A)$ , and  $\text{Aut}(\text{acl}(A)/A) = \text{Gal}(A^s \cap F/A)$ . Hence the finite groups  $\text{Aut}(B/A)$  as above correspond to the finite quotients of  $\text{Gal}(A^s \cap F/A)$ .

Furthermore,  $F$  is a separable extension of  $A$ .

Indeed, if  $\alpha \in \text{acl}(A)$ , let  $\alpha = \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$  be the conjugates of  $\alpha$  over  $A$ . Then the symmetric polynomials in  $n$  variables evaluated at  $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$  are in  $\text{dcl}(A) = A$ , i.e.:  $\alpha$  satisfies a monic separable polynomial with its coefficients in  $A$  and  $F$  contains all the roots of this polynomial. This shows the first assertion and the second assertion is immediate.

For the last assertion, assume that  $F$  is not separable over  $A$ . Then there are elements  $a, a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$  which are linearly independent in the  $A^p$ -vector space  $A$ , but for some  $c_1, \dots, c_n \in F$  we have  $a = \sum c_i^p a_i$ . This equation defines uniquely the  $c_i$ 's, which must therefore belong to  $A$ .

**1.4. Properties of pseudo-finite fields and bounded PAC fields.** We list some of the properties of these fields that we will use all the time, often without reference. The language is the ordinary language of rings  $\mathcal{L} = \{+, -, \cdot, 0, 1\}$ , often expanded with parameters. Pseudo-finite fields are the infinite models of the theory of finite fields. They were studied by Ax in the 60's.

An algebraic extension of a PAC field is PAC (Corollary 11.2.5 of [4]). Theorem 20.3.3 of [4] (applied to  $K = A, L = M = A^s \cap F, E = F = F$ ) gives the following:

**FACT 1.** *Let  $F$  be a PAC field,  $A$  a subfield of  $F$  over which  $F$  is separable, and assume that  $A$  has a Galois extension  $C$  such that the restriction map  $G(F) \rightarrow \text{Gal}(C/A)$  is an isomorphism, and  $C \cap F = A$ . Let  $B = A^s \cap F$ ; then  $\text{Aut}_{\text{field}}(B/A) = \text{Aut}(B/A)$ .*

It suffices to notice that  $CF = F^s$ , and therefore also  $CB = B^s$ . So, if  $\varphi_0 \in \text{Aut}_{\text{field}}(B/A)$ , extend  $\varphi_0$  to  $\Phi_0 \in \text{Aut}_{\text{field}}(B^s/CA)$  by imposing  $\Phi_0$  to be the identity on  $C$ . Then  $\Phi_0$  induces the identity on  $\text{Gal}(C/A) \simeq G(B)$ . The result now follows immediately from 20.3.3 in [4]. It also has the following consequence:

**FACT 2.** *If  $F_0 \subset F$  are PAC fields of the same degree of imperfection,  $F$  is separable over  $F_0$ , and the restriction map  $G(F) \rightarrow G(F_0)$  is an isomorphism, then  $F_0 \prec F$ .*

The following remark is folklore, but for want of a good reference we will discuss it.

**FACT 3.** *Let  $F_0 \prec F$  and assume that  $G(F)$  is bounded. Then the restriction map  $G(F) \rightarrow G(F_0)$  is an isomorphism.*

From  $F_0 \prec F$ , it follows immediately that  $F$  is a regular extension of  $F_0$ , so that the restriction map  $G(F) \rightarrow G(F_0)$  is onto. Hence  $G(F_0)$  is bounded. Fix an integer  $n > 1$ , and let  $m(n)$  be the number of distinct separably algebraic extensions of  $F_0$  of degree  $n$ . Then there is an  $\mathcal{L}(F_0)$ -sentence which expresses this fact: that there are  $m(n)$  distinct separably algebraic extensions of  $F_0$  of degree  $n$ , and that each separably algebraic extension of degree  $n$  is contained in one of these. As  $F_0 \prec F$ ,  $F$  satisfies the same sentence, and this implies that  $F^s = F_0^s F$ , and that the restriction map  $G(F) \rightarrow G(F_0)$  is an isomorphism.

Putting all these facts together, and summarising, we obtain:

**FACT 4.** *Let  $F$  be a PAC field, and assume that  $A$  is a subfield of  $F$  over which  $F$  is separable, and such that (\*): whenever  $L$  is a finite Galois extension of  $F$ , then  $L$  has a generator with minimal polynomial over  $F$  in  $A[X]$ . Then*

$$\text{Aut}(\text{acl}(A)/A) = \text{Aut}_{\text{fields}}(A^s \cap F/A).$$

*The hypothesis (\*) is satisfied when  $F$  is bounded and  $A$  contains an elementary substructure of  $F$ .*

**LEMMA 1.5.** *Let  $F$  be a bounded field, and  $A = \text{dcl}(A)$  a subfield of  $F$  containing an elementary substructure  $F_0$  of  $F$ , and let  $B = A^s \cap F$ . Then  $G(A) \simeq G(F_0) \times \text{Gal}(B/A)$ .*

**PROOF.** Because  $G(F_0)$  is bounded and  $F_0 \prec F$ , we know that  $F^s = F_0^s F$  and the fields  $F_0^s$  and  $F$  are linearly disjoint over  $F_0$ . Hence  $B^s = F_0^s B$ , the fields  $B$  and  $A F_0^s$  are linearly disjoint over  $A$ , both are Galois extensions of  $A$ , and therefore  $G(A) = \text{Gal}(B^s/A) \simeq G(F_0) \times \text{Gal}(B/A)$ .  $\dashv$

**THEOREM 1.6** (Koenigsmann, Theorem 3.3 in [6]). *Let  $K$  be a field with  $G(K) \simeq G_1 \times G_2$ . If a prime  $p$  divides  $(\#G_1, \#G_2)$ , then there is a non-trivial Henselian valuation*

$v$  on  $K$ ,  $\text{char}(K) \neq p$ , and  $\mu_{p^\infty} \subset K(\zeta_p)$ . Furthermore, if  $Kv$  denotes the residue field of  $v$  and  $\pi : G(K) \rightarrow G(Kv)$  the canonical epimorphism, then  $G(K)$  is torsion-free and  $(\#\pi(G_1), \#\pi(G_2)) = 1$ .

**THEOREM 1.7.** *Let  $F$  be a field with bounded Galois group. Assume that  $p$  is a prime number geometrically represented in  $\text{Th}(F)$  and that  $p$  divides  $\#G(F)$ . Then  $\text{char}(F) \neq p$ , and  $F(\zeta_p)$  contains  $\mu_{p^\infty}$ .*

**PROOF.** Let  $F_0 \prec F$ , and  $A$  a subfield of  $F$  containing  $F_0$ , with  $A = \text{dcl}(A)$ . Let  $B = A^s \cap F$ , and assume that  $p$  divides  $\#\text{Gal}(B/A)$ , as well as  $\#G(F_0)$ . By Lemma 1.5, we know that  $G(A) \simeq G(F_0) \times \text{Gal}(B/A)$ . The result follows immediately from Theorem 1.6.  $\dashv$

**THEOREM 1.8.** *Let  $F$  be a pseudo-finite field, or more generally a bounded PAC field. Assume that for some subfield  $A = \text{dcl}(A)$  of  $F$  containing an elementary substructure of  $F$ , the group  $H := \text{Aut}(\text{acl}(A)/A)$  is non-trivial. Assume in addition that all primes dividing  $\#H$  divide  $\#G(F)$  (This hypothesis is always satisfied when  $F$  is pseudo-finite).*

*Then  $H$  is abelian, and for any prime  $p$  dividing  $\#H$  we have  $p \neq \text{char}(F)$  and  $\mu_{p^\infty} \subset F$ .*

**PROOF.** Let  $F_0 \prec F$ , and  $A = \text{dcl}(A)$  a subfield of  $F$  containing  $F_0$ , let  $B = A^s \cap F$ , and assume that  $p$  divides  $\#\text{Gal}(B/A)$ . By assumption,  $p$  divides  $\#G(F_0)$ , and by Lemma 1.5,  $G(A) \simeq \text{Gal}(B/A) \times G(F_0)$ , with  $p$  dividing the order of both factors. Let  $v$  be the Henselian valuation on  $A$  given by Theorem 1.6, and  $\pi : G(A) \rightarrow G(Av)$  the corresponding epimorphism of Galois groups. As  $F_0$  is relatively algebraically closed in  $A$ , the valuation  $v$  restricts to a Henselian valuation on  $F_0$ ; but because  $F_0$  is PAC, the only Henselian valuation on  $F_0$  is the trivial valuation ([4], Corollary 11.5.6). Hence  $F_0 \subseteq Av$ , and by Henselianity of  $v$ ,  $F_0^s \cap Av = F_0$ . Hence the map  $\pi$  is an isomorphism between  $G(A)$  and  $G(F_0)$ . It follows that  $\text{Gal}(BF_0^s/AF_0^s)$  is contained in  $\text{Ker}(\pi)$ , the inertia subgroup of  $v$ , and its order is prime to the characteristic. Hence  $A^s$  is the composite of the purely residual extension  $AF_0^s$  of  $A$ , and the totally ramified extension  $B$  of  $A$ . The characteristic of  $F$  does not divide  $\#\text{Gal}(B/A)$ , and this implies that  $\text{Gal}(B/A)$  is abelian: indeed, by Theorem 5.3.3 and Section 5.3 in [3], we have

$$\text{Gal}(B/A) \simeq \text{Gal}(BF_0^s/AF_0^s) \simeq \text{Hom}(\Gamma(A^s)/\Gamma(AF_0^s)), (Aw)^{s^\times},$$

where  $w$  denotes the unique extension of  $v$  to  $A^s$ , and  $\Gamma(A^s)$ ,  $\Gamma(AF_0^s)$  the value groups  $w(A^s)$  and  $w(AF_0^s) = v(A)$ .

We also know that  $\mu_{p^\infty} \subset F(\zeta_p)$ . Assume first that  $G(F)$  is abelian. Then so is  $G(A)$ , and therefore any field between  $A$  and  $A^s$  is a Galois extension of  $A$ . In particular, because  $p$  divide  $\#H$ , some element  $\gamma \in v(A)$  is not divisible by  $p$  in  $v(A)$ . Thus, if  $v(a) = \gamma$ , then  $a^{1/p} \in A^s$ , and generates a Galois extension of  $A$ : this implies that  $\zeta_p \in A$ , and by the above that  $\mu_{p^\infty} \subset F_0$ .

Assume now that  $G(F)$  is arbitrary, and that  $\zeta_p \notin F_0$ . Then there is some  $\sigma \in G(F)$  such that  $\sigma(\zeta_p) \neq \zeta_p$ , and the closed subgroup generated by  $\sigma$  has order divisible by  $p$  (here we use that  $p$  divides  $\#G(F)$ ). Then the restriction of  $\sigma$  to  $A^s$  commutes with all elements of  $\text{Gal}(A^s/F_0^s A)$ , and so we may apply the previous result to the PAC field  $K$ , subfield of  $F^s$  fixed by  $\sigma$ , and its elementary substructure  $K_0$ , subfield of  $F_0^s$  fixed by  $\sigma$ , to deduce that  $\zeta_p \in K_0$ , which contradicts our choice of  $\sigma$ .  $\dashv$

**COROLLARY 1.9.** *Let  $F$  be a pseudo-finite field, or a bounded PAC field with  $\#G(F)$  divisible by every prime number. Then every group geometrically represented in  $\text{Th}(F)$  is abelian. Furthermore, if  $p$  is a prime geometrically represented in  $\text{Th}(F)$ , then  $\mu_{p^\infty} \subset F$  and  $p \neq \text{char}(F)$ .*

**COROLLARY 1.10.** *Let  $F$  be a pseudo-finite field such that if  $p$  is a prime number  $\neq \text{char}(F)$ , then  $\mu_{p^\infty} \not\subset F$ . Then definable closure and algebraic closure agree on subsets of  $F$  containing an elementary substructure of  $F$ .*

**§2. Other comments and remarks.** As was shown in Theorem 7 of [1], if  $F$  is a pseudo-finite field not of characteristic  $p$  and containing  $\mu_{p^\infty}$ , then every abelian  $p$ -group is geometrically represented in  $\text{Th}(F)$ . I.e., a certain statement about the relative algebraic closure of the prime field in  $F$  implies that  $p$  is geometrically represented in  $\text{Th}(F)$ . Our Theorem 1.8 shows that this is an if and only if condition: which primes are geometrically represented in  $\text{Th}(F)$  depends uniquely on the characteristic of  $F$  and which  $\mu_{p^\infty}$  it contains. Moreover, by Remark 12 in [1], the class of groups geometrically represented in  $\text{Th}(F)$  is stable under direct products, and it follows that which groups are geometrically represented in  $\text{Th}(F)$  only depends on the relative algebraic closure of the prime field in  $F$ .

Remark 12 of [1] applies to any perfect PAC field  $F$ , as they do have a notion of amalgamation over models. The construction given in Theorem 7 of [1] does not use the pseudo-finiteness of  $F$ , only the fact that  $F$  is PAC. We give here again this construction, as it will be used in example 2.4.

**2.1. The construction.** Let  $F$  be a perfect field containing all primitive roots of unity, and consider the field  $K$  of generalized power series  $F^s((t^\mathbb{Q}))$  over  $F^s$ . Its members are formal sums  $\sum_\gamma a_\gamma t^\gamma$ , with  $\gamma \in \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $a_\gamma \in F^s$ , satisfying that  $\{\gamma \mid a_\gamma \neq 0\}$  is well-ordered. Then  $K$  is algebraically closed. We define an action of  $G(F)$  on  $K$  by setting

$$\tau\left(\sum_\gamma a_\gamma t^\gamma\right) = \sum_\gamma \tau(a_\gamma) t^\gamma$$

for all  $\tau \in G(F)$ . So, the subfield of  $K$  fixed by  $G(F)$  coincides with  $F((t^\mathbb{Q}))$ . For each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  not divisible by the characteristic of  $F$ , choose a primitive  $n$ -th root of unity  $\zeta_n$ , and choose them in a compatible way, i.e., such that  $\zeta_{nm}^m = \zeta_n$ . Let  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(K)$  be defined by defining  $\sigma(t^{1/n}) = \zeta_n t^{1/n}$  for  $n$  prime to the characteristic, and if  $q$  is a power of the characteristic, then  $\sigma(t^{1/q}) = t^{1/q}$ ; extend  $\sigma$  to the multiplicative group  $t^{1/n}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and then to  $K$  by setting

$$\sigma\left(\sum_\gamma a_\gamma t^\gamma\right) = \sum_\gamma a_\gamma \sigma(t^\gamma).$$

Let  $A$  be the subfield of  $K$  fixed by  $G(F)$  and by  $\sigma$ . Then  $G(A) \simeq G(F) \times \langle \sigma \rangle$ , with  $\langle \sigma \rangle \simeq \hat{\mathbb{Z}}$  if  $\text{char}(F) = 0$ ,  $\langle \sigma \rangle \simeq \prod_{\ell \neq p} \mathbb{Z}_\ell$  if  $\text{char}(F) = p > 1$ .

**2.2. Remark.** Let  $F$  be a perfect PAC field, and let  $A$  be the field constructed above in 2.1. So  $A$  contains a copy of  $F$  and is contained in  $F((t^\mathbb{Q}))$ ; as  $F((t^\mathbb{Q}))$  is a regular extension of  $F$ , it follows that  $F$  has an elementary extension  $F^*$  which contains  $B = A^s \cap F((t^\mathbb{Q}))$ . Then  $\text{Aut}(B/A) = \text{Gal}(B/A) \simeq \langle \sigma \rangle$ . This proof already appears in [1] (Theorem 7).

**2.3. Comment 1.** The proof of Lemma 1.5 works exactly in the same fashion as soon as the field  $A$  contains enough information about  $G(F)$ , more precisely:

*Assume  $A$  contains  $\text{acl}(\emptyset)$ , and that for each finite extension  $L$  of  $F$ , there is  $\alpha$  such that  $L = F(\alpha)$  and the minimal polynomial of  $\alpha$  over  $F$  has its coefficients in  $A = \text{dcl}(A)$ .*

This hypothesis implies that  $A$  has a Galois extension  $C$  which is linearly disjoint from  $F$  over  $A$ , and is such that  $CF = F^s$ . Then again one has  $G(A) \simeq G(F) \times \text{Gal}(A^s \cap F/A)$ . The proof of Theorem 1.7 goes through verbatim and gives:

*If  $p$  is a prime number dividing  $\text{Aut}(A^s \cap F/A)$  and dividing  $\#G(F)$ , then  $\text{char}(F) \neq p$  and  $\mu_{p^\infty} \subset F(\zeta_p)$ .*

We were trying to weaken the hypotheses on  $A$  in Theorem 1.8, and a natural weaker assumption is to assume that  $A$  contains a subfield  $F_0$  such that  $\text{acl}^{eq}(\emptyset) \subseteq \text{dcl}^{eq}(F_0)$  and  $\text{acl}(F_0) = F_0$ . However the proof of Theorem 1.8 used in an essential way the fact that  $F_0$  was PAC. The example below shows that this condition is not sufficient.

**2.4. An example showing that the hypothesis of containing an elementary substructure is necessary.** Let  $A_0$  be a field containing  $\mathbb{Q}^{alg}$ , and consider  $A_0^{alg}((t^{\mathbb{Q}}))$ ; define actions of  $G(A_0)$  and of  $\sigma$  on  $A_0^{alg}((t^{\mathbb{Q}}))$  as in 2.1 above. Then  $G(A_0((t))) \simeq G(A_0) \times \langle \sigma \rangle$ . Let  $F_0 = \mathbb{Q}^{alg}((t))$ , the subfield of  $\mathbb{Q}^{alg}((t^{\mathbb{Q}}))$  fixed by  $\sigma$ , and  $A = A_0((t))$ . Then  $G(F_0) \simeq \hat{\mathbb{Z}}$ , and  $A$  contains  $F_0$ . Furthermore, because  $G(F_0)$  is isomorphic to  $\hat{\mathbb{Z}}$ , there is a pseudo-finite field  $F$  which is a regular extension of  $F_0$  (this follows easily from Theorem 23.1.1 in [4]), so that the restriction map  $G(F) \rightarrow G(F_0)$  is an isomorphism. By Corollary 3.1 in [5], the theory of  $F$  eliminates imaginaries in the language augmented by constants for elements of  $F_0$ . As  $F_0$  also contains  $\text{acl}(\emptyset) = \mathbb{Q}^{alg}$ , it follows that  $\text{acl}^{eq}(\emptyset) \subset \text{dcl}^{eq}(F_0)$ . Furthermore, by standard results on pseudo-finite fields,  $F$  has an elementary extension  $F^*$  which contains  $A$  and is a regular extension of  $B = A^{alg} \cap A_0^{alg}((t))$ . Then  $\text{Gal}(B/A) = \text{Aut}(B/A) \simeq G(A_0)$ , even though  $G(A_0)$  may be nonabelian. This shows that the hypothesis of  $A$  containing an elementary substructure of  $F^*$  cannot be weakened to  $A$  containing a substructure  $F_0$  with  $\text{acl}^{eq}(\emptyset) \subset \text{dcl}^{eq}(\emptyset)$  and  $F_0 = \text{acl}(F_0)$ .

**2.5. Comment 2.** One can wonder what happens for a bounded PAC field  $F$  with  $G(F)$  not divisible by all primes. If  $S$  is the set of prime numbers  $\neq \text{char}(F)$  and which do not divide  $\#G(F)$ , and if  $H$  is a projective  $S$ -group (i.e., the order of the finite quotients of  $S$  are products of members of  $S$ ), then  $G(F) \times H$  is a projective profinite group. Hence  $F$  has a regular extension  $K$  which is PAC and with  $G(K) \simeq G(F) \times H$  (Theorem 23.1.1 in [4]). We may also impose, if the characteristic is positive, that  $K$  and  $F$  have the same degree of imperfection. As  $K$  is a regular extension of  $F$ , the restriction map  $G(K) \rightarrow G(F)$  restricts to an isomorphism on  $G(F) \times (1)$ , and sends  $(1) \times H$  to 1. Let  $K_1$  be the subfield of  $K^s$  fixed by  $G(F) \times (1)$ . Then  $K_1$  is PAC, and because the restriction map  $G(K_1) \rightarrow G(F)$  is an isomorphism, we have  $F \prec K_1$ . If  $A$  is the subfield of  $K^s$  fixed by  $G(F) \times H$ , then  $A \subset F_1$ , and  $\text{Gal}(F_1/A) = \text{Aut}(F_1/A) \simeq H$ .

**2.6. Comment 3.** Let  $K$  be a field,  $H := \text{Aut}(K(t)^{alg}/K(t))$ , and  $\sigma \in H$ . Consider  $H(\sigma)$ , the centralizer of  $\sigma$  in  $H$ . Let  $B$  be the subfield of  $K(t)^{alg}$  fixed by  $\sigma$ ,  $F_0 = K^{alg} \cap B$ , and assume that  $F_0$  is pseudo-finite, and that the centraliser of

$G(F_0)$  in  $G(K)$  is  $G(F_0)$ . Because  $G(B) = \langle \sigma \rangle$  projects onto  $G(F_0) \simeq \hat{\mathbb{Z}}$ , we have  $G(B) \simeq \hat{\mathbb{Z}}$ , and  $F_0$  has an elementary extension  $F$  which is a regular extension of  $B$ . We work inside  $F$ , and are interested in  $\text{Aut}(B/F_0(t))$  and in  $\text{Aut}_{\text{field}}(B/F_0(t))$ ; as  $B \cap F_0^{\text{alg}} = F_0$ ,  $B$  is linearly disjoint from  $F_0^{\text{alg}}(t)$  over  $F_0(t)$ , and therefore  $\text{Aut}_{\text{field}}(B/F_0(t)) = \text{Aut}(B/F_0(t))$ , and its elements commute with  $\sigma$ .

Let  $U$  be a closed subgroup of  $H(\sigma)$  such that  $U \cap \langle \sigma \rangle = 1$ . Then Theorem 1.8 tells us that  $U$  is abelian, and that the subfield  $A$  of  $B$  fixed by  $U$  has a nontrivial Henselian valuation  $v$ , which is trivial on  $F_0$ . Furthermore, if  $p$  divides  $\#U$ , then  $p \neq \text{char}(F_0)$  and  $\mu_{p^\infty} \subset F_0$ . We take the unique extension of  $v$  to  $A^s$  (and also call it  $v$ ); then the residue fields  $Av$  and  $Bv$  equal  $F_0$ , and  $(Av)^s = F_0^s$ . Furthermore  $U$  is procyclic, because  $\Gamma(A) \simeq \mathbb{Z}$ , and  $U \simeq \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}, F_0^{s \times})$ . The restriction of  $v$  to  $F_0(t)$  corresponds to a point of  $\mathbb{P}^1(F_0)$  (because  $Av = F_0$ ), i.e., either  $v(t - a) = 1$  for some  $a \in F_0$ , or  $v(t) = -1$ . On the other hand, the field  $B$  can carry at most one Henselian valuation (see Theorem 4.4.1 of [3]). It follows that  $\text{Aut}_{\text{field}}(B/F_0(t))$  is abelian, procyclic. Hence  $H(\sigma)$  splits as  $\langle \sigma \rangle \times \langle \tau \rangle$  for some  $\tau \in \text{Aut}_{\text{field}}(B/F_0(t))$ . The result generalises to any bounded PAC subfield  $F_0$  of  $K$  with  $G(F_0)$  containing its centraliser in  $G(K)$ , with exactly the same reasoning.

This gives a partial answer to Questions 15 and 16 of [1].

Consider  $K = \mathbb{Q}$ , and endow  $G(\mathbb{Q}(t))$  with the Haar measure. Then the set

$$\{\tau \in G(\mathbb{Q}) \mid \mathbb{Q}^{\text{alg}}(\tau) \text{ is pseudo-finite and } C_{G(\mathbb{Q})}(\tau) = \langle \tau \rangle\}$$

has measure 1, see Theorem 18.6.1 in [4] and Corollary 2.3 in [2]. Here  $\mathbb{Q}^{\text{alg}}(\tau)$  denotes the subfield of  $\mathbb{Q}^{\text{alg}}$  fixed by  $\tau$ . Moreover, it is easy to see that with probability 1,  $\mathbb{Q}^{\text{alg}}(\tau)$  does not contain  $\mu_{p^\infty}$  for any prime  $p$ . Hence, with probability 1 for  $\tau \in G(\mathbb{Q})$ , if  $\sigma$  extends  $\tau$  to  $\mathbb{Q}(t)^{\text{alg}}$ , if  $B = \mathbb{Q}(t)^{\text{alg}}(\sigma)$  and  $F_0 = B \cap \mathbb{Q}^{\text{alg}}$ , then  $\text{Aut}(B/F_0(t)) = 1$ , the centraliser of  $\langle \sigma \rangle$  in  $G(\mathbb{Q}(t))$  is  $\langle \sigma \rangle$ , and the theory of the pseudo-finite field  $F_0$  does not geometrically represent any prime.

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