# EXTERIOR POWERS OF FIELDS AND SUBFIELDS 

DAVID J. SALTMAN*<br>Dedicated to Professor Goro Azumaya on the occasion of his 60th birthday

## Introduction

Let $D$ be a division algebra of finite dimension $n^{2}$ over it's center $F$. Suppose $D$ has an involution, $\tau$, of the first kind, of symplectic type (e.g. [1], p. 169). By the theory of the pfaffian, $\tau$ symmetric elements have degree less than $n / 2$ over $F$. On the other hand, Tamagawa has shown (unpublished) that involutions like $\tau$ are closely related to minimal symmetric idempotents in $D \otimes_{F} D$. This author began by examining and trying to generalize these relationships. But before any theory seemed possible for division algebras, a theory relating subfields and symmetric idempotents was required. This investigation gave rise to the results presented here, especially the main theorem in Section Two.

We begin by considering a finite separable field extension $L / F$ and it's tensor power $T_{m}(L / F)=L \otimes_{F} \cdots \otimes_{F} L$ ( $m$ times). Already from Tamagawa's work, it is clear that not all minimal symmetric idempotents are of interest to us, but only those corresponding to symplectic involutions. It turns out that what we are actually interested in is an $F$ algebra $E_{m}(L / F)$ closely related to the exterior power $\Lambda^{m} L$. This is the exterior power of the title. In Section Two we prove a correspondence theorem relating idempotents of $E_{m}(L / F)$ and subfields of $L$. Specifically, there is a one to one correspondence between subfields $L^{\prime} \subseteq L$ of codimension $m$ and certain minimallike idempotents of $E_{m}(L / F)$. This correspondence theorem generalizes the facts concerning the pfaffian mentioned above.

Assuming $L / F$ is a separable field extension is unnaturally restrictive. It better serves our purpose to assume that $L$ is a separable commutative algebra over $F$, and that $F$ is a finite direct sum of fields. We do so assume in all of this paper. An $F$ module $V$ may not be a free $F$ module,

[^0]but it is free if the dimension of $V$ is the same when viewed over any of the components of $F$. Calling this dimension $n$, we say $V$ has constant dimension $n$ over $F$.

## § 1.

This first section will contain the fundamental properties of the exterior power $F$ algebra $E_{m}(L / F)$. As mentioned above, $F$ will always be a finite direct sum of fields and $L$ a commutative separable $F$ algebra of constant dimension $n$. We may write $F=F_{1} \oplus \cdots \oplus F_{r}$ where the $F_{i}$ 's are fields, and then $L=L_{1} \oplus \cdots \oplus L_{r}$ where $L_{i}$ is an algebra over $F_{i}$. Our assumptions are exactly that for all $i, L_{i}$ is a separable commutative $F_{i}$ algebra of dimension $n$.

Denote by $T_{m}(L)$ or $T_{m}(L / F)$ the tensor power $L \otimes_{F} \cdots \otimes_{F} L$ ( $m$ times). $T=T_{m}(L)$ is, of course, a separable commutative $F$ algebra. The symmetric group, $S_{m}$, acts on $T$ in a natural way. Denote by $\Sigma_{m}(L)$ or $\Sigma_{m}(L / F)$ those elements of $T$ fixed by $S_{m}$ (i.e. the symmetric elements). $\Sigma_{m}(L)$ is easily seen to be a commutative separable $F$ algebra of constant dimension. Set $V=\Lambda^{m} L$ to be the $m^{\text {th }}$ exterior power of $L$ over $F$. $\quad V$ is just a module over $F$. There is a canonical surjection $\Phi: T \rightarrow V$ such that the kernel of $\Phi$ is spanned by all elements of the form $\left\{a_{1} \otimes a_{2} \otimes \cdots \otimes a_{m} \mid a_{i}=a_{j}\right.$ for some $i \neq j\}$. The following lemma shows that $V$ is a module over $\Sigma_{m}(L)$.

Lemma 1.1. Let $W$ be the kernel of $\Phi$.
a) $\Sigma_{m}(L) W \subset W$
b) $V$ is naturally a $\Sigma_{m}(L)$ module.

Proof. Of course, part a) implies b). To prove a), note that $\Sigma_{m}(L)$ is spanned by elements of the form $t=\sum_{\sigma \in S_{m}} a_{\sigma(1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes a_{\sigma(m)}$ where the $a_{i} \in L$. So without loss of generality, it suffices to show that $t\left(b \otimes b \otimes b_{3}\right.$ $\left.\otimes \cdots \otimes b_{m}\right) \in W$ for any $b, b_{3}, \cdots, b_{m} \in L$. But $t\left(b \otimes b \otimes b_{3} \otimes \cdots \otimes b_{m}\right)$ is a sum of terms of the form

$$
\left(a_{i} b \otimes a_{j} b+a_{j} b \otimes a_{i} b\right) \otimes a_{k} b_{3} \otimes \cdots \otimes a_{r} b_{m}
$$

and the above expression is in $W$.
Q.E.D.

Denote by $E_{m}(L)$, or $E_{m}(L / F)$, the image of $\Sigma_{m}(L)$ in $\operatorname{End}_{F}(V) . \quad E_{m}(L)$ is our "exterior power" of the algebra $L$. It is, of course, a commutative separable $F$ algebra. Denote by $\Psi: \Sigma_{m}(L) \rightarrow E_{m}(L)$ the natural map used to define $E_{m}(L)$. Since $\Sigma_{m}(L)$ is commutative and separable over $F$, there
is a unique idempotent we call $e \in \Sigma_{m}(V)$ such that $\Psi$ induces an isomorphism $e \Sigma_{m}(L) \cong E_{m}(L)$. In this way we will view $E_{m}(L)$ as a subset of $\Sigma_{m}(L)$ and $T_{m}(L)$.

We observe in the next lemma that the algebra $E_{m}(L)$ behaves well with respect to direct sums and base change. We will omit the proof as it is quite direct.

Lemma 1.2. a) Suppose $F=F_{1} \oplus F_{2}$. If $E_{m}(L)=E_{m}(L)_{1} \oplus E_{m}(L)_{2}$ and $L=L_{1} \oplus L_{2}$ are the corresponding decompositions of $E_{m}(L)$ and $L$, then $E_{m}\left(L_{i} / F_{i}\right) \cong E_{m}(L)_{i}$ in a natural way.
b) Suppose $F^{\prime} \supseteq F$ is an extension of $F$ and also a finite direct sum of fields. Set $L^{\prime}=L \otimes_{F} F^{\prime}$. Then $E_{m}\left(L^{\prime} \mid F^{\prime}\right)$ is well defined and $E_{m}(L / F)$ $\otimes_{F} F^{\prime} \cong E_{m}\left(L^{\prime} \mid F^{\prime}\right)$.

An important special case of the above construction occurs when $F$ is an algebraically closed field. Assuming this, $L=F \oplus \cdots \oplus F$ ( $n$ times). Denote by $e(1), \cdots, e(n)$ the full set of minimal idempotents of $L . \quad T_{m}(L)$ has, as minimal idempotents, all the elements $e\left(i_{1}, \cdots, i_{m}\right)=e\left(i_{1}\right) \otimes \cdots \otimes$ $e\left(i_{m}\right)$. Set $e\left[i_{1}, \cdots, i_{m}\right]$ to be the corresponding symmetrized element. That is,

$$
e\left[i_{1}, \cdots, i_{m}\right]=\sum_{\sigma \in S_{m}} e\left(i_{\sigma(1)}, \cdots, i_{\sigma(m)}\right) .
$$

It is almost immediate that the symmetric algebra $\Sigma_{m}(L)$ has the $e\left[i_{1}, \cdots, i_{m}\right]$ 's as a basis over $F$. Finally consider $E_{m}(L)$ and the map $\Psi: \Sigma_{m}(L) \rightarrow E_{m}(L)$ defined above. $\quad V=\Lambda^{m}(L)$ has the set of all $e\left(i_{1}\right) \wedge \cdots \wedge e\left(i_{m}\right)$ as a basis, where the $i_{j}$ 's are all distinct. It follows that $\Psi\left(e\left[i_{1}, \cdots, i_{m}\right]\right)=0$ if and only if $i_{j}=i_{k}$ for some $j \neq k$. Stated differently, we have part a) of the next lemma.

Lemma 1.3. a) Suppose $F$ is algebraically closed as above. Considered as a subspace of $T_{m}(L), E_{m}(L) h a s$, as a basis, the set of all e$\left[i_{1}, \cdots, i_{m}\right]$ 's where the $i_{j}$ 's are all distinct.
b) For general $L$ and $F, E_{m}(L / F)$ has dimension $\binom{n}{m}$ over $F$.

Proof. Part a) has been shown and part b) follows from a) using 1.2. We will end this section by giving an alternate description of $E_{m}(L / F)$. Let us fix some notation. Suppose $R$ is any commutative ring and $f(x) \in$ $R[x]$ a polynomial. Denote by $R\{f(x)\}$ the $R$ algebra $R[x] /(f(x))$. We call the image of $x$ in $R\{f(x)\}$ a generic element of $R\{f(x)\}$. If $R=F$ is a
direct sum of fields, then a polynomial $f(x) \in F[x]$ is said to be separable if it's image is separable over each of the components of $F$. Clearly, if $f(x) \in F[x]$ is a monic separable polynomial of degree $n$, then $F\{f(x)\}$ is a separable algebra of constant degree $n$ over $F$. Conversely, if $L$ is a separable commutative $F$ algebra of constant dimension $n$, then $L \cong F\{f(x)\}$ for some monic separable $f(x)$ of degree $n$.

One should think of $F\{f(x)\}$ as the algebra obtained by formally adjoining a root of $f(x)$ to $F$. In fact, if $u_{1} \in F_{1}=F\{f(x)\}$ is a generic element, then, of course, $u_{1}$ is a root of $f(x)$. One can write $f(x)=\left(x-u_{1}\right) f_{1}(x)$ where $f_{1}(x) \in F_{1}[x]$ is a monic separable polynomial of degree $n-1$. We continue this process inductively. Assume $F_{i}, f_{i} \in F_{i}[x]$ and $u_{i} \in F_{i}$ have been defined. Set $F_{i+1}=F_{i}\left\{f_{i}(x)\right\}$, choose $u_{i+1} \in F_{i+1} a$ generic element, and factor $f_{i}(x)=\left(x-u_{i+1}\right)\left(f_{i+1}(x)\right)$ where $f_{i+1}(x) \in F_{i+1}[x]$. It is clear that each $f_{i}$ is monic separable over $F_{i}$ of degree $n-i$, and that $F_{i}$ is separable over $F$ of constant dimension $n(n-1) \cdots(n-i+1)$. We focus on $F_{m}$ and think of it as the algebra obtained by formally adjoining $m$ roots of $f(x)$ to $F$.

Theorem 1.4. Suppose $L=F\{f(x)\}$ and let $S_{m}$ be the symmetric group on $\{1,2, \cdots, m\}$.
a) Setting $\sigma\left(u_{i}\right)=u_{\sigma(i)}$ defines an action of $S_{m}$ on $F_{m}$.
b) $E_{m}(L / F)$ is isomorphic to the fixed ring of $S_{m}$ on $F_{m}$.

Proof. Let $T_{m}(L), \Sigma_{m}(L)$ and $\Psi: \Sigma_{m}(L) \rightarrow E_{m}(L)$ be as above. Once again we let $e \in \Sigma_{m}(L)$ be the idempotent such that $\Psi$ induces an isomorphism on $e \Sigma_{m}(L)$, and set $N=e T_{m}(L)$.

We claim that $N$ is isomorphic naturally to $F_{m}$. We will prove this in a series of steps, as follows. First, we show that $N$ has dimension $n(n-1) \cdots(n-m+1)$ over $F$. But using 1.2 , we may assume $F$ is an algebraically closed field. Using our previous notation, $N$ has, as an $F$ basis, the set of all idempotents $e\left(i_{1}, \cdots, i_{m}\right)$ where the $i_{j}$ 's are distinct. The dimension of $N$ is now clear.

To continue with the proof of our claim, we consider the following. Denote by $\eta_{i}: L \rightarrow T_{m}(L)$ the natural embedding of $L$ onto the $i^{\text {th }}$ factor of the tensor power $T_{m}(L)$. We show now that if $a \in L$ generates $L$ over $F$, and $r \neq s$, then $\left(\eta_{r}(a)-\eta_{s}(a)\right) e$ is a unit in $N$. As before, we may assume $F$ is an algebraically closed field. Write $a=\alpha_{1} e(1)+\cdots+\alpha_{n} e(n)\left(\alpha_{i} \in F\right)$ and note that $\alpha_{r} \neq \alpha_{s}$ if $r \neq s$. It suffices to show that ( $\left.\eta_{r}(a)-\eta_{s}(a)\right) e\left(i_{1}, \cdots, i_{m}\right)$
$\neq 0$ for all $m$ tuples $\left(i_{1}, \cdots, i_{m}\right)$ with the $i_{j}$ 's distinct. But $\left(\eta_{r}(a)-\eta_{s}(a)\right)$ $\cdot e\left(i_{1}, \cdots, i_{m}\right)=\left(\alpha_{k}-\alpha_{t}\right) e\left(i_{1}, \cdots, i_{m}\right)$ where $k=i_{r}, t=i_{s}$. This part is done.

To finish the claim, we will embed $F_{m}$ in $N$. The embedding is constructed inductively. $F_{1}=L$ we embed via $\eta_{1}$, and we denote the image of $F_{1}$ by $N_{1}$. The image of $u_{1} \in L$, in $N_{1}$, we designate as $x_{1}$. More generally we designate by $x_{i}$ the element $\eta_{i}\left(u_{1}\right) e \in N$. Define a map $F_{2} \rightarrow N$ by sending $u_{2}$ to $x_{2}$. To show that this map is well defined, it suffices to show that $x_{2}$ is a root of $f_{1}^{\prime}(x) \in N_{1}[x], f_{1}^{\prime}$ being the image of $f_{1} \in F_{1}[x]$. Now $0=$ $f\left(x_{2}\right)=\left(x_{2}-x_{1}\right) f_{1}^{\prime}\left(x_{2}\right)$. Since $x_{2}-x_{1}$ is a unit, $f_{1}^{\prime}\left(x_{2}\right)=0$. In a similar way, if $\varphi: F_{i} \rightarrow N$ has been defined with $\varphi\left(u_{i}\right)=x_{i}$, and $N_{i}=\varphi\left(F_{i}\right)$, then we let $f_{i}^{\prime} \in N_{i}[x]$ be the image of $f_{i} \in F_{i}[x]$, and note that $0=f\left(x_{i+1}\right)=$ $\left(x_{i+1}-x_{1}\right)\left(x_{i+1}-x_{2}\right) \cdots\left(x_{i+1}-x_{i}\right) f_{i}^{\prime}\left(x_{i+1}\right)$ and so $f_{i}^{\prime}\left(x_{i+1}\right)=0$. Now $\varphi$ extends to $F_{i+1}$ by setting $\varphi\left(u_{i+1}\right)=x_{i+1}$. By this inductive process, we have defined a $\operatorname{map} \varphi: F_{m} \rightarrow N$ such that $\varphi\left(u_{i}\right)=x_{i} . \quad \varphi$ is surjective because the $x_{i}$,s generate $N$, and $\varphi$ is injective because $F_{m}$ and $N$ have equal dimensions. This proves our claim.

Using the isomorphism $\varphi$, we can transfer the action of $S_{m}$ on $N$ over to an action on $F_{m}$, and this latter action is exactly as is described in this theorem. Finally the fixed ring of $S_{m}$ on $N$ is exactly $e \Sigma_{m}(L / F)=$ $E_{m}(L / F)$ and so the theorem is proved.
Q.E.D.

The above theorem gives some handle on the nature of $E_{m}(L / F)$ when $L$ is a field. For example, one has this next corollary.

Corollary 1.6. Suppose $L / F$ is a separable extension of fields of degree $n$ and the Galois group of $L / F$ is $S_{n}$. Then $E_{m}(L / F)$ is a field, for any $1 \leq m \leq n$.

## §2. The correspondence theorem

The corollary which ended the last section showed that the existence of idempotents in $E_{m}(L / F)$ implies that $L / F$ is "not so bad". In this section we develop a much more detailed relationship between idempotents in $E_{m}(L / F)$ and the structure of $L / F$. Specifically, we are concerned with $F$ subalgebras of $L$ of the following type. We say that the $F$ subalgebra $L^{\prime} \subset L$ has codimension $m$ if and only if $L$ has constant dimension $m$ over $L^{\prime}$.

We are interested in a special class of idempotents of $E_{m}(L / F)$. Consider $E_{m}(L / F) \subseteq T_{m}(L / F)$ and recall the maps $\eta_{i}: L \rightarrow T_{m}(L / F)$ defined in

Section One. If $e \in E_{m}(L / F)$ is an idempotent, one can view $T_{m}(L / F) e$ as a module over $L$ via multiplication by $\eta_{1}(a)$ for $a \in L$. We say $e$ is regular if $T_{m}(L / F) e$ has constant dimension as an $L$ module. Of course, if $L$ is a field then all idempotents of $E_{m}(L / F)$ are regular. The effect of assuming regularity is to force such $e$ to reflect the structure of $L / F$ and not to arise from idempotents of $L$ or $F$. In order to make our next definition, note that for regular $e \in E_{m}(L / F), e E_{m}(L / F)$ has constant dimension over $F$. The rank of $e$ we define to be the dimension of $e E_{m}(L / F)$ over $F$.

Consider the case $F$ is an algebraically closed field. Any idempotent of $E_{m}(L / F)$ is a sum of the primitive idempotents $e\left[i_{1}, \cdots, i_{m}\right]$, where the $i_{j}$ 's are distinct integers between 1 and $n$. Changing notation, set $e\left[i_{1}, \cdots, i_{m}\right]$ $=e[A]$ where $A$ is the $m$ element set $\left\{i_{1}, \cdots, i_{m}\right\}$. Thus any idempotent $e \in E_{m}(L / F)$ can be written as $e\left[A_{1}\right]+\cdots+e\left[A_{r}\right]$, where the $A_{i}$ are distinct $m$ element subsets of $\{1, \cdots, n\}$. The integer $r$ is the rank of $e$.

Lemma 2.1. With $F$ algebraically closed, $e=e\left[A_{1}\right]+\cdots+e\left[A_{r}\right]$ is regular if and only if $n \mid r m$ and each $j, 1 \leq j \leq n$, appears in exactly rm/n of the $A_{i}$ 's.

Proof. Write $L=F e(1)+\cdots+F e(m)$. Once again, consider $L \subset$ $T_{m}(L / F)$ by identifying $L$ and $\eta_{1}(L)$. For an $e$ as above, $T_{m}(L / F) e$ has constant $L$ dimension if and only if the $F$ modules $T_{m}(L / F) e e(j)$ have equal dimension for all $j$. Call this dimension $s_{j}$. Note that $e[A] e(j) \neq 0$ if and only if $j \in A$. Thus each $j$ appears in exactly $s_{j}$ of the $A_{i}$ 's. Suppose the $s_{j}$ 's are all equal to, say $s$. Then by counting, $s$ must be rm/n. This lemma is now clear.
Q.E.D.

For the rest of this section we assume that $m$ divides $n$. Still treating the case $F$ is algebraically closed, we have that if $e \in E_{m}(L)$ is regular, then $r \geq n / m$. We say $e$ is basic if $e$ is regular and has rank exactly $n / m$. The next lemma is an immediate consequence of the last.

Lemma 2.2. Assume $m \mid n$ and that $F$ is an algebraically closed field. Then $e=e\left[A_{1}\right]+\cdots+e\left[A_{r}\right]$ is basic if and only if the $A_{i}$ 's form a partition of the set $\{1, \cdots, n\}$.

Consider, now, general $L$ and $F$. If $e \in E_{m}(L / F)$ then the above lemma and 1.2 show that $e$ has rank greater than or equal to $n / m$. As in the special case, we say $e$ is basic if it is regular of rank equal to $n / m$.

The main result of this paper is a bijection between basic idempotents
in $E_{m}(L / F)$ and $F$ subalgebras $L^{\prime} \subset L$ of codimension $m$. This bijection is defined as follows. For a basic idempotent $e \in E_{m}(L)$, set $\Psi(e)$ to be the subalgebra of $L$ equal to $\left\{a \in L \mid \eta_{1}(a) e=\eta_{2}(a) e\right\}$. Note that since $e$ is symmetric, $\Psi(e)$ is also equal to $\left\{a \in L \mid \eta_{r}(a) e=\eta_{s}(a) e\right\}$ where $r \neq s$.

Theorem 2.3. $\Psi$ induces a bijection between basic idempotents of $E_{m}(L)$ and $F$ subalgebras of $L$ of codimension $m$.

Proof. Assuming $e$ is basic, we first observe that basic idempotents behave well with respect to direct sums and base change. That is, if $F=$ $F_{1} \oplus F_{2}$ and $E_{m}(L)=E_{m}\left(L_{1} / F_{1}\right) \oplus E_{m}\left(L_{2} / F_{2}\right)$, then the basic idempotents of $E_{m}(L)$ are exactly the elements of the form $e_{1} \oplus e_{2}$ where $e_{i} \in E_{m}\left(L_{i} / F_{i}\right)$ is basic. One can quickly compute that $\Psi\left(e_{1} \oplus e_{2}\right)=\Psi\left(e_{1}\right) \oplus \Psi\left(e_{2}\right)$. Similarly if $F^{\prime} \supseteq F$ and $e \in E_{m}(L / F)$ is basic, then $e \otimes 1 \in E_{m}\left(L \otimes F^{\prime} / F^{\prime}\right)$ is basic and $\Psi(e \otimes 1) \cong \Psi(e) \otimes_{F} F^{\prime}$.

The next step is to show that if $e \in E_{m}(L / F)$ is basic, then $\Psi(e)$ is as claimed. Using the first paragraph, one sees that we may assume $F$ is an algebraically closed field. In this case, we can write $e=e\left[A_{1}\right]+\cdots+$ $e\left[A_{r}\right]$ where the $A_{i}$ 's are a partition. An easy calculation shows that $\Psi(e)=\left\{\alpha_{1} e(1)+\cdots+\alpha_{n} e(n) \mid \alpha_{i}=\alpha_{j}\right.$ whenever $i, j$ are in the same $\left.A_{k}\right\}$. That $\Psi(e)$ has codimension $m$ is now clear.

Conversely, suppose $L^{\prime} \subset L$ is an $F$ subalgebra of codimension $m$. Viewing $L$ as an $L^{\prime}$ algebra we can define $T_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right), \Sigma_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)$, and $E_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)$. Denote by $f \in \Sigma_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)$ the idempotent such that $f \Sigma_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)=E_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)$. $T_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)$ only differs from $T_{m}(L / F)$ in that the former is a tensor power over a larger coefficient ring. Thus there is a natural $F$ algebra surjection $\varphi: T_{m}(L / F) \rightarrow T_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)$. Note that $\varphi$ preserves the action of $S_{m}$, and so induces a surjection $\Sigma_{m}(L / F) \rightarrow \Sigma_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)$. Denote by $V$ and $V^{\prime}$ the $m^{\text {th }}$ exterior powers of $L$ taken with respect to $F$ and $L^{\prime}$ respectively.

Just as before, there is a natural map $\rho: V \rightarrow V^{\prime}$. Using $\varphi$ we consider $V^{\prime}$ to be a $\Sigma_{m}(L / F)$ module and note the immediate fact that $\rho$ is a $\Sigma_{m}(L / F)$ module map. It follows that $\rho$ and $\varphi$ induce a surjection $\mu: E_{m}(L / F) \rightarrow$ $E_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)$. When $E_{m}(L / F)$ and $E_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)$ are considered subsets of $T_{m}(L / F)$ and $T_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)$ respectively, $\mu$ is just the restriction of $\varphi$. Let $e \in E_{m}(L / F)$ be the unique idempotent such that $\mu$ induces an isomorphism $e E_{m}(L / F)$ $\cong E_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)$. Since $V^{\prime}$ has dimension one over $L^{\prime}, E_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)$ has dimension $n / m$ over $F$ and so $e$ has rank $n / m$. $\varphi$ induces an isomorphism from $e T_{m}(L / F)$ to $f T_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)$, and so $e$ is regular and hence basic. That $\Psi(e) \supseteq L^{\prime}$
follows precisely from the fact that $T_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)$ is a tensor power over $L^{\prime}$. Finally, $\Psi(e)=L^{\prime}$ using dimensions.

It remains to show that $\Psi$ is injective. Suppose that $e^{\prime} \in E_{m}(L / F)$ is basic and $e \in E_{m}(L / F)$ is constructed, as in the above paragraph, using $L^{\prime}=\Psi\left(e^{\prime}\right)$. Let $W \subset T_{m}(L / F)$ be the $F$ submodule spanned by all elements of the form $\eta_{r}(a)-\eta_{s}(a)$ for $a \in L^{\prime}$ and $r \neq s$. Then $W$ is exactly the kernel of $\varphi$ and $e^{\prime}$ annihilates $W$. If $W^{\prime}$ is the annihilator of $W$, then $\varphi$ is injective on $W^{\prime}$ and $e, e^{\prime} \in W^{\prime}$. Since $e^{\prime} \in E_{m}(L / F), \varphi\left(e^{\prime}\right) \in E_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)=f \Sigma_{m}\left(L / L^{\prime}\right)$ and so $\varphi\left(e^{\prime}\right) f=\varphi\left(e^{\prime}\right)$. Pulling back to $W^{\prime}$ we have $e^{\prime} e=e^{\prime}$. But $e$ and $e^{\prime}$ have the same rank so $e=e^{\prime}$.
Q.E.D.

Consider the case $L$ is a field. Then every idempotent of $E_{m}(L / F)$ has rank $\geq n / m$. Thus the basic idempotents are the minimal ones. Note that a minimal idempotent will not be basic, unless some basic idempotent occurs.

Corollary 2.4. Let $L$ be a field. Then either $L / F$ has no subfields of codimension m, or there is a bijection between such subfields and the set of minimal idempotents of $E_{m}(L / F)$.

Supposing $e \in E_{m}(L / F)$ to be basic, then $e E_{m}(L / F)$ has dimension $n / m$ over $F$. Therefore it is natural to expect that $e E_{m}(L / F)$ is isomorphic to $\Psi(e) \subset L$.

Theorem 2.5. $\quad E_{m}(L / F) e \subset \eta_{1}(L) e$, and if this last algebra is identified with $L$, then $E_{m}(L / F) e=\Psi(e)$.

Proof. To begin, let us show that $E_{m}(L / F) e \subset \eta_{1}(L) e$. As usual, it suffices to show this when $F$ is an algebraically closed field. We have $e=e\left[A_{1}\right]+\cdots+e\left[A_{r}\right]$ where the $A_{i}$ 's partition $\{1, \cdots, n\}$. For each $i$, $1 \leq i \leq n$, let $r(i)$ be such that $i \in A_{r(i)}$, and set $B_{i}=A_{r(i)}-\{i\}$. Write $f_{i}=\sum_{\sigma} e(i) \otimes e(\sigma(a)) \otimes \cdots \otimes e(\sigma(b))$ where the summation is over all permutations of $B_{i}$. An easy exercise shows that $f_{1}, \cdots, f_{n}$ form a basis of $\eta_{1}(L) e$. Since $e\left[A_{j}\right]$ is the sum of $f_{i}$ for $i \in A_{j}$, the inclusion is clear.

As $E_{m}(L / F) e$ and $\Psi(e)$ have equal dimension, we finish this proof by showing $E_{m}(L / F) e \subset \Psi(e)$. But if $\eta_{1}(a) e \in E_{m}(L / F) e$, then $\eta_{1}(a) e$ is fixed by $S_{m}$ and so $\eta_{1}(a) e=\eta_{2}(a)$. That is, $a \in \Psi(e)$. Q.E.D.

It is instructive to consider a special case of 2.3. Suppose $L$ is a field and Galois over $F$ with group $G$. For each $\sigma \in G, L \otimes_{F} L$ contains a unique
idempotent $e(\sigma)$ such that, for all $a \in L,(a \otimes 1) e(\sigma)=\left(1 \otimes \sigma^{-1}(a)\right) e(\sigma)$. Furthermore, $L \otimes_{F} L=\sum_{\sigma} L e(\sigma)$.

An easy argument shows that for any $\sigma_{2}, \cdots, \sigma_{m} \in G, T_{m}(L / F)$ has a unique idempotent $e\left(\sigma_{2}, \cdots, \sigma_{m}\right)$ such that

$$
\eta_{1}(a) e\left(\sigma_{2}, \cdots, \sigma_{m}\right)=\eta_{j}\left(\sigma_{j}^{-1}(a)\right) e\left(\sigma_{2}, \cdots, \sigma_{m}\right)
$$

for all $2 \leq j \leq m$ and all $a \in L$. The $e\left(\sigma_{2}, \cdots, \sigma_{m}\right)$ 's comprise all the minimal idempotents of $T_{m}(L / F)$. Therefore the action of $S_{m}$ on $T_{m}(L / F)$ induces a permutation action of $S_{m}$ on the $e\left(\sigma_{2}, \cdots, \sigma_{m}\right)$ 's. We briefly describe this later action. Viewing $S_{m}$ as the permutation group of the set $\{1, \cdots, m\}$, consider $S_{m-1} \subset S_{m}$ to consist of those permutations which fix 1. $S_{m-1}$ acts on the $e\left(\sigma_{2}, \cdots, \sigma_{m}\right)$ 's via permutation of the $\sigma_{j}$ 's. If $\tau \in S_{m}$ is the two cycle ( $1 k$ ), then $\tau\left(e\left(\sigma_{2}, \cdots, \sigma_{m}\right)\right)=e\left(\sigma_{k}^{-1} \sigma_{2}, \cdots, \sigma_{k}^{-1}, \cdots, \sigma_{k}^{-1} \sigma_{m}\right)$.

Define $e\left[\sigma_{2}, \cdots, \sigma_{m}\right] \in T_{m}(L / F)$ to be

$$
\sum_{\tau \in S_{m-1}} e\left(\sigma_{\tau(2)}, \cdots, \sigma_{\tau(m)}\right) .
$$

It is now not hard to derive the following result.
Theorem 2.6. The basic idempotents of $E_{m}(L / F)$ are exactly the idempotents $e=e\left[\sigma_{2}, \cdots, \sigma_{m}\right]$ where $\left\{1, \sigma_{2}, \cdots, \sigma_{m}\right\} \subset G$ is a subgroup of order $m$. $\Psi(e)$ is the fixed field of this subgroup.

## Reference

[1] Rowen, L., Polynomial Identities in Ring Theory, Academic Press, New York 1980.


[^0]:    Received July 1, 1981.

    * The author is grateful for support under N.S.F. grant MCS79-04473.

