## THE BOOLEAN ALGEBRA OF GALOIS ALGEBRAS

## George Szeto and Lianyong Xue

Received 8 February 2002

Let B be a Galois algebra with Galois group G,  $J_g = \{b \in B \mid bx = g(x)b \text{ for all } x \in B\}$  for each  $g \in G$ , and  $BJ_g = Be_g$  for a central idempotent  $e_g$ ,  $B_a$  the Boolean algebra generated by  $\{0, e_g \mid g \in G\}$ , e a nonzero element in  $B_a$ , and  $H_e = \{g \in G \mid ee_g = e\}$ . Then, a monomial e is characterized, and the Galois extension Be, generated by e with Galois group  $H_e$ , is investigated.

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification: 16S35, 16W20.

**1. Introduction.** The Boolean algebra of central idempotents in a commutative Galois algebra plays an important role for the commutative Galois theory (see [1, 3, 6]). Let B be a Galois algebra with Galois group G, C the center of *B*, and  $J_g = \{b \in B \mid bx = g(x)b \text{ for all } x \in B\}$  for each  $g \in G$ . In [2], it was shown that  $BJ_g = Be_g$  for some idempotent  $e_g$  of C. Let  $B_a$  be the Boolean algebra generated by  $\{0, e_g \mid g \in G\}$ . Then in [5], by using  $B_a$ , the following structure theorem for B was given. There exist  $\{e_i \in B_a \mid i = a\}$ 1,2,...,m for some integer m} and some subgroups  $H_i$  of G such that B= $\oplus \sum_{i=1}^{m} Be_i \oplus Bf$  where  $f = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{m} e_i$ ,  $Be_i$  is a central Galois algebra with Galois group  $H_i$  for each i = 1, 2, ..., m, and Bf = Cf which is a Galois algebra with Galois group induced by and isomorphic with G in case  $1 \neq \sum_{i=1}^{m} e_i$ . In [4], let K be a subgroup of G. Then, K is called a nonzero subgroup of G if  $\prod_{k \in K} e_k \neq 0$  in  $B_a$ , and K is called a maximal nonzero subgroup of G if  $K \subset K'$ , where K' is a nonzero subgroup of G such that  $\prod_{k \in K} e_k = \prod_{k \in K'} e_k$ , then K = K'. We note that any nonzero subgroup is contained in a unique maximal nonzero subgroup of G. In [4], it was shown that there exists a one-to-one correspondence between the set of nonzero monomials in  $B_a$  and the set of maximal nonzero subgroups of G, and that, for a nonzero monomial e in  $B_a$  such that  $H_e \neq \{1\}$ , Be is a central Galois algebra with Galois group  $H_e$  if and only if e is a minimal nonzero monomial in  $B_a$ . The purpose of the present paper is to characterize a monomial e in  $B_a$  in terms of the maximal nonzero subgroups of G. Then, the Galois extension Be, generated by a nonzero idempotent eand by a monomial e with Galois group  $H_e$ , is investigated, respectively. Let  $G(e) = \{g \in G \mid g(e) = e\}$  for each  $e \neq 0$  in  $B_a$ . We will show that (1)  $H_e$  is a normal subgroup of G(e), and (2) Be is a Galois extension of  $(Be)^{H_e}$  with Galois group  $H_e$  and  $(Be)^{H_e}$  is a Galois extension of  $(Be)^{G(e)}$  with Galois group  $G(e)/H_e$ . In particular, when e is a monomial,  $G(e) = N(H_e)$  (the normalizer of  $H_e$ ), and when e is an atom (a minimal nonzero element) of  $B_a$ , Be is a central Galois algebra over Ce with Galois group  $H_e$  and Ce is a commutative Galois algebra with Galois group  $G(e)/H_e$ . This generalizes and improves the result of the components of B in [5, Theorem 3.8] for a Galois algebra.

- **2. Definitions and notations.** Let B be a ring with 1, C the center of B, G an automorphism group of B of order n for some integer n, and  $B^G$  the set of elements in B, fixed under each element in G. B is called a Galois extension of  $B^G$  with Galois group G if there exist elements  $\{a_i,b_i \text{ in } B,\ i=1,2,...,m\}$  for some integer m such that  $\sum_{i=1}^m a_i g(b_i) = \delta_{1,g}$  for each  $g \in G$ . B is called a Galois algebra over B if B is a Galois extension of B which is contained in B, and B is called a central Galois extension if B is a Galois extension of B. In this paper, we assume that B is a Galois algebra with Galois group B. Let B is a Galois extension of B is a Galois extension of B. We denote the B in the
- **3. The Boolean algebra.** In this section, we will characterize a monomial e in  $B_a$  in terms of the maximal nonzero subgroups of G. We begin with several lemmas.
  - **LEMMA 3.1.** Let  $\{e_i, f \mid i = 1, 2, ..., m\}$  be given in [5, Theorem 3.8]. Then,
  - (1)  $\{e_i, f \mid i = 1, 2, ..., m\}$  is the set of all minimal elements of  $B_a$  in case  $f \neq 0$ ,
  - (2) for each  $e \neq 0$  in  $B_a$ , there exists a unique subset  $Z_e$  of the set  $\{1, 2, ..., m\}$  such that  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_a} e_i$  or  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_a} e_i + f$ .
- **PROOF.** (1) By the proof of [5, Theorem 3.8], either  $e_i = \prod_{g \in H_i} e_g$ , where  $H_i$  is a maximum subset (subgroup) of G such that  $\prod_{g \in H_i} e_g \neq 0$ , or  $e_i = (1 \sum_{j=1}^t e_j) \prod_{g \in H_i} e_g$  for some t < i, where  $H_i$  is a maximum subset (subgroup) of G such that  $(1 \sum_{j=1}^t e_j) \prod_{g \in H_i} e_g \neq 0$ ; so, either  $e_i$  is a minimal element of  $B_a$  or  $e_i$  is a minimal element of  $(1 \sum_{j=1}^t e_j)B_a$ . Noting that any minimal element in  $(1 \sum_{j=1}^t e_j)B_a$  is also a minimal element in  $B_a$ , we conclude that each  $e_i$  is a minimal element in  $B_a$ . Next, we show that f is also a minimal element of  $B_a$  in case  $f \neq 0$ . In fact, by the proof of [5, Theorem 3.8],  $e_g f = 0$  for any  $g \neq 1$  in G; so, for any  $e \in B_a$ , ef = 0 or ef = f. This implies that f is a minimal element of  $B_a$  in case  $f \neq 0$ . Moreover,  $\sum_{i=1}^m e_i + f = 1$ ; so,  $\{e_i, f \mid i = 1, 2, ..., m\}$  is the set of all minimal elements of  $B_a$  in case  $f \neq 0$ .
- (2) Since  $1 = \sum_{i=1}^{m} e_i + f$ , a sum of all minimal elements of  $B_a$ , the statement is immediate.

**LEMMA 3.2.** Let e be a nonzero element in  $B_a$ . Then,

- (1) there exists a monomial e' of  $B_a$  such that  $e \le e'$  and  $H_e = H_{e'}$ ,
- (2)  $H_e$  is a maximal nonzero subgroup of G.
- **PROOF.** (1) For any nonzero element e in  $B_a$ , let  $e' = \prod_{g \in H_e} e_g$ . We claim that  $e \leq e'$  and  $H_e = H_{e'}$ . In fact, for any  $h \in H_e$ ,  $e \leq e_h$ ; so,  $e \leq \prod_{h \in H_e} e_h = e'$ . Moreover, for any  $h \in H_e$ ,  $e_h \geq \prod_{g \in H_e} e_g = e'$ ; so,  $h \in H_{e'}$ . Hence,  $H_e \subset H_{e'}$ . On the other hand, for any  $h \in H_{e'}$ ,  $e_h \geq e' = \prod_{g \in H_e} e_g \geq e$ ; so,  $h \in H_e$ . Thus,  $H_{e'} \subset H_e$ . Therefore,  $H_e = H_{e'}$ .
- (2) By [4, Theorem 3.2],  $H_{e'}$  is a maximal nonzero subgroup of G for e' is a monomial. Hence,  $H_{e}$  (=  $H_{e'}$ ) is a maximal nonzero subgroup of G.

Next is an expression of  $H_e$  for a nonzero  $e \in B_a$ .

**THEOREM 3.3.** For any  $e \neq 0$  in  $B_a$ ,  $H_e = \bigcap_{i \in Z_e} H_{e_i}$  or  $H_1$ , where  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i$  or  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i + f$  as given in Lemma 3.1(2).

**PROOF.** We first show that for e=e'+e'' for some  $e',e''\neq 0$  in  $B_a, H_e=H_{e'}\cap H_{e''}$ . In fact, since  $e\geq e'$  and  $e\geq e''$ , we have  $H_e\subset H_{e'}\cap H_{e''}$ . Conversely, for any  $g\in H_{e'}\cap H_{e''}$ ,  $e_g\geq e'$  and  $e_g\geq e''$ ; so,  $e_g\geq e'+e''=e$ . Hence,  $g\in H_e$ ; so,  $H_e=H_{e'}\cap H_{e''}$ . Therefore, by induction, if  $e=\sum_{i\in Z_e}e_i$ , then  $H_e=\cap_{i\in Z_e}H_{e_i}$ . Now, by Lemma 3.1, for any  $e\neq 0$  in  $B_a$ ,  $e=\sum_{i\in Z_e}e_i$  or  $e=\sum_{i\in Z_e}e_i+f$ . Similarly, if  $e=\sum_{i\in Z_e}e_i+f$ , then  $H_e=H_{(\sum_{i\in Z_e}e_i)+f}=(\cap_{i\in Z_e}H_{e_i})\cap H_f$ . But, for  $g\in G$  such that  $e_g\neq 1$ ,  $e_gf=0$ ; so,  $H_f=H_1$ . Therefore,  $H_e=(\cap_{i\in Z_e}H_{e_i})\cap H_1=H_1$  for  $H_1\subset H_{e_i}$  for each i.

We observe that there exist some  $e \neq 0$  such that  $H_e = \cap_{i \in Z_e} H_{e_i}$  and  $H_e \subset H_{e_j}$  for some  $j \notin Z_e$ , and that not all  $e \neq 0$  are monomials. Next, we identify which element  $e \neq 0$  in  $B_a$  is a monomial. Two characterizations are given. We begin with a definition.

**DEFINITION 3.4.** An  $e \neq 0$  in  $B_a$  is called a maximal G-element if  $H_e \neq H_1$  and, for any  $e' \in B_a$  such that  $e \leq e'$  and  $H_e = H_{e'}$ , e = e'.

**LEMMA 3.5.** (1) If  $e \neq 0$  such that ef = 0, then  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i$ .

(2) If e is a monomial,  $e = \prod_{g \in S} e_g$  for some  $S \subset G$ , then e = 1 or  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i$ .

**PROOF.** (1) By Lemma 3.1,  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i$  or  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i + f$ . If  $e \neq \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i$ , then  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i + f$  and  $f \neq 0$ . But then,  $f = (\sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i + f)f = ef = 0$ . This is a contradiction. Hence,  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i$ .

(2) In case e=1, we are done. In case  $e\neq 1$ . Since  $e_gf=0$  for each  $g\in G$  such that  $e_g\neq 1$ ,  $e_gf=\prod_{g\in S}e_gf=0$ . Thus, by (1),  $e=\sum_{i\in Z_e}e_i$ .

**THEOREM 3.6.** Keeping the notations of Lemma 3.1 for any  $e \neq 0,1$  in  $B_a$ , the following statements are equivalent:

- (1)  $e = \prod_{g \in S} e_g$  for some  $S \subset G$ , a monomial in  $B_a$ ;
- (2) e is a maximal G-element in  $B_a$ ;

(3)  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i$  where  $\{e_i \mid i \in Z_e\}$  are all atoms such that  $H_e \subset H_{e_i}$  and  $H_e \neq H_1$ .

**PROOF.** (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2). Since e is a monomial and  $e \neq 1$ ,  $e = \prod_{g \in H_e} e_g$  where  $e_g \neq 1$  for some  $g \in H_e$ . Thus,  $H_e \neq H_1$ . Next, for any e' such that  $e \leq e'$  and  $H_e = H_{e'}$ ,

$$e \le e' \le \prod_{g \in H_{\varrho'}} e_g = \prod_{g \in H_{\varrho}} e_g = e. \tag{3.1}$$

Hence, e = e'. This implies that e is a maximal G-element in  $B_a$ .

- $(2)\Rightarrow(1)$ . Let e be a maximal G-element and  $e'=\prod_{g\in H_e}e_g$ . Then, by Lemma 3.2,  $e\leq e'$  and  $H_e=H_{e'}$ . But e is a maximal G-element; so, e=e' which is a monomial.
- $(1)\Rightarrow(3)$ . By Lemma 3.5,  $e=\sum_{i\in Z_e}e_i$ . Now, let  $e_j$  be an atom such that  $H_e\subset H_{e_j}$ . Then,  $e_j\leq\prod_{g\in H_{e_j}}e_g\leq\prod_{g\in H_e}e_g$ . But, by hypothesis, e is a monomial; so,  $e=\prod_{g\in H_e}e_g$ . Hence,  $e_j\leq e$ . This implies that  $e_j$  is a term in e. Thus,  $e=\sum_{i\in Z_e}e_i$  where  $\{e_i\mid i\in Z_e\}$  are all atoms such that  $H_e\subset H_{e_i}$ . Moreover, since  $e=\prod_{g\in S}e_g\neq 1$ , there exists  $g\in G$  such that  $e\leq e_g\neq 1$ . Thus,  $g\in H_e$  and  $g\notin H_1$ . Therefore,  $H_e\neq H_1$ .
- (3)⇒(1). Let  $e' = \prod_{g \in H_e} e_g$ . Then, by Lemma 3.2,  $e \le e'$  and  $H_e = H_{e'}$ . Since  $H_e \ne H_1$ ,  $H_{e'} \ne H_1$ . Also, since e' is a monomial,  $e' = \sum_{j \in Z_{e'}} e_j$  by Lemma 3.5(2). Now, suppose that  $e \ne e'$ . Then, there is a  $j \in Z_{e'}$  but  $j \notin Z_e$ , that is,  $e_j$  is a term of  $e' = \sum_{j \in Z_{e'}} e_j$  but not a term of  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i$ . But then,  $H_e = H_{e'} = \cap_{j \in Z_{e'}} H_{e_j} \subset H_{e_j}$  such that  $j \notin Z_e$ . This contradicts the hypothesis that  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i$  where  $\{e_i \mid i \in Z_e\}$  are all atoms such that  $H_e \subset H_{e_i}$ . Thus, e = e' which is a monomial in  $B_a$ .
- **4. Galois extensions.** In [5], it was shown that Be is a central Galois algebra with Galois group  $H_e$  for any atom  $e \neq f$  of  $B_a$ . Also, for any  $e \neq 0$  in  $B_a$ , Be is a Galois extension of  $(Be)^{G(e)}$  with Galois group  $G(e)|_{Be} \cong G(e)$  where  $G(e) = \{g \in G \mid g(e) = e\}$  (see [5, Lemma 3.7]). In this section, we are going to show that, for any  $e \neq 0$  in  $B_a$  (not necessary an atom), (1)  $H_e$  is a normal subgroup of G(e), and (2) Be is a Galois extension of  $(Be)^{He}$  with Galois group  $H_e$  and  $(Be)^{He}$  is a Galois extension of  $(Be)^{G(e)}$  with Galois group  $G(e)/H_e$ . This generalizes and improves the result for Be when e is an atom of  $B_a$  as given in [5, Theorem 3.8]. In particular, for a monomial e,  $G(e) = N(H_e)$ , the normalizer of  $H_e$  in G.

**LEMMA 4.1.** Let  $e \neq 0$  in  $B_a$ . Then,  $H_e$  is a normal subgroup of G(e) where  $G(e) = \{g \in G \mid g(e) = e\}$ .

**PROOF.** We first claim that  $H_e \subset G(e)$ . In fact, by Lemma 3.1, for any  $e \neq 0$  in  $B_a$ , there exists a unique subset  $Z_e$  of the set  $\{1, 2, ..., m\}$  such that  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i$  or  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i + f$  where  $e_i$  are given in Lemma 3.1. Moreover, for each i,

 $e_i = \prod_{h \in H_{e_i}} e_h$  or  $e_i = (1 - \sum_{j=1}^t e_j) \prod_{g \in H_{e_i}} e_g$  for some t < i. Noting that g permutes the set  $\{e_i \mid i = 1, 2, ..., t\}$  for each  $g \in G$  by the proof of [5, Theorem 3.8], we have, for each  $g \in G$ ,

$$g(e_i) = g\left(\prod_{h \in H_{e_i}} e_h\right) = \prod_{h \in H_{e_i}} e_{ghg^{-1}} \ge \prod_{h \in H_{e_i}} e_g e_h e_{g^{-1}} = e_g e_i e_{g^{-1}}$$
(4.1)

or

$$g(e_{i}) = g\left(\left(1 - \sum_{j=1}^{t} e_{j}\right) \prod_{h \in H_{e_{i}}} e_{h}\right) = \left(1 - \sum_{j=1}^{t} e_{j}\right) \prod_{h \in H_{e_{i}}} e_{ghg^{-1}}$$

$$\geq \left(1 - \sum_{j=1}^{t} e_{j}\right) \prod_{h \in H_{e_{i}}} e_{g}e_{h}e_{g^{-1}}$$

$$= e_{g}\left(\left(1 - \sum_{j=1}^{t} e_{j}\right) \prod_{h \in H_{e_{i}}} e_{h}\right) e_{g^{-1}} = e_{g}e_{i}e_{g^{-1}}.$$

$$(4.2)$$

Now, in case  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i$ , for any  $h \in H_e$ ,

$$e = e_h e e_{h^{-1}} = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_h e_i e_{h^{-1}} \le \sum_{i \in Z_e} h(e_i) = h(e). \tag{4.3}$$

Thus, h(e) = e using Lemma 3.1(2). Noting that g permutes the set  $\{e_i \mid i = 1, 2, ..., m\}$  for each  $g \in G$ , we have g(f) = f for each  $g \in G$ . Thus, we have h(e) = e for each  $h \in H_e$  in case  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i + f$ . This proves that  $H_e \subset G(e)$ . Next, we show that  $H_e$  is a normal subgroup of G(e). Since for each  $g \in G$ ,  $g(e_i)$  is also an atom, g(e) = e (i.e.,  $g \in G(e)$ ) implies that g permutes the set  $\{e_i \mid i \in Z_e\}$ . Therefore, for each  $i \in Z_e$ ,  $g(e_i) = e_j$  and  $gH_{e_i}g^{-1} = H_{e_j}$  for some  $j \in Z_e$ . But, by Theorem 3.3,  $H_e = \cap_{i \in Z_e} H_{e_i}$  (or  $H_e = H_1$  which is normal); so, for any  $g \in G(e)$ ,  $gH_eg^{-1} = g(\cap_{i \in Z_e} H_{e_i})g^{-1} = \cap_{i \in Z_e} gH_{e_i}g^{-1} = \cap_{j \in Z_e} H_{e_j} = H_e$ . Therefore,  $H_e$  is a normal subgroup of G(e).

**THEOREM 4.2.** Let e be a nonzero element in  $B_a$ . Then,

- (1) Be is a Galois extension of  $(Be)^{G(e)}$  with Galois group G(e),
- (2) Be is a Galois extension of  $(Be)^{H_e}$  with Galois group  $H_e$  and  $(Be)^{H_e}$  is a Galois extension of  $(Be)^{G(e)}$  with Galois group  $G(e)/H_e$ .

**PROOF.** (1) Since *B* is a Galois algebra with Galois group *G*, *B* is a Galois extension with Galois group G(e). But g(e) = e for each  $g \in G(e)$ ; so, by [5, Lemma 3.7], Be is a Galois extension of  $(Be)^{G(e)}$  with Galois group G(e).

(2) Clearly, Be is a Galois extension of  $(Be)^{H_e}$  with Galois group  $H_e$  by part (1). Next, we claim that  $|H_e|$ , the order of  $H_e$ , is a unit in Be. In fact, by [5, Theorem 3.8], for each atom  $e_i$  of  $B_a$ ,  $Be_i$  is a central Galois algebra over  $Ce_i$  with Galois group  $H_{e_i}$ ; so,  $|H_{e_i}|$ , the order of  $H_{e_i}$ , is a unit in  $Be_i$  (see [2, Corollary 3]). Hence,  $|H_e|$  (=  $|\cap H_{e_i}|$ ) is a unit in Be if  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i$ . If  $e = \sum_{i \in Z_e} e_i + f$  and  $f \neq 0$ , then  $H_e = H_1 = \{g \in G \mid e_g = 1\} = \{g \in G \mid g(c) = c \text{ for each } c \in C\}$ . Hence, by

[2, Proposition 5],  $|H_e|$  is a unit in B. Thus,  $(Be)^{H_e}$  is a Galois extension of  $(Be)^{G(e)}$  with Galois group  $G(e)/H_e$  for  $H_e$  is a normal subgroup of G(e) by Lemma 4.1.

Lemma 4.1 shows that, for any nonzero element e in  $B_a$ , G(e) is contained in (not necessarily equal to) the normalizer  $N(H_e)$  of  $H_e$  in G. Next, we want to show that  $G(e) = N(H_e)$  when e is a monomial. Consequently, for any nonzero element e in  $B_a$ , Be is embedded in a Galois extension Be' of  $(Be')^{H_e}$  with the same Galois group  $H_e$ , and  $(Be')^{H_e}$  is a Galois extension of  $(Be')^{G(e')}$  with Galois group  $G(e')/H_e$  such that  $G(e') = N(H_e)$  for some monomial e' in  $B_a$ .

**LEMMA 4.3.** Let e be a nonzero element in  $B_a$ . Then, there exists a monomial e' in  $B_a$  such that  $e \le e'$ ,  $H_e = H_{e'}$ , and  $N(H_e) = G(e')$  where  $G(e') = \{g \in G \mid g(e') = e'\}$  and  $N(H_e)$  is the normalizer of  $H_e$  in G.

**PROOF.** By Lemma 3.2, there exists a monomial e' in  $B_a$  such that  $e \le e'$  and  $H_e = H_{e'}$ ; so, it suffices to show that  $N(H_e) = G(e')$ . For any  $g \in N(H_e)$ ,  $g \in N(H_{e'})$ ; so, by Theorem 3.3,  $H_{e'} = gH_{e'}g^{-1} = g(\cap_{i \in Z_{e'}}H_{e_i})g^{-1} = \cap_{i \in Z_{e'}}gH_{e_i}g^{-1} = \cap_{i \in Z_{e'}}H_{g(e_i)} = H_{\sum_{i \in Z_{e'}}g(e_i)} = H_{g(e')}$ . Noting that e' is a monomial, we have g(e') = e' by Lemma 3.2, that is,  $g \in G(e')$ . This implies that  $N(H_e) \subset G(e')$ . Conversely,  $G(e') \subset N(H_{e'})$  by Lemma 4.1. But  $H_e = H_{e'}$ ; so,  $G(e') \subset N(H_{e'}) = N(H_e)$ . Therefore,  $N(H_e) = G(e')$ .

**THEOREM 4.4.** Let e be a nonzero element in  $B_a$ . Then, there exists a monomial e' in  $B_a$  such that Be is embedded in Be', Be' is a Galois extension of  $(Be')^{H_e}$  with Galois group  $H_e$ , and  $(Be')^{H_e}$  is a Galois extension of  $(Be')^{N(H_e)}$  with Galois group  $N(H_e)/H_e$ .

**PROOF.** By Lemma 4.3, there exists a monomial e' in  $B_a$  such that  $e \le e'$ ,  $H_e$  is a normal subgroup of G(e'), and  $N(H_e) = G(e')$ . Hence,  $Be \subset Be'$ . But Be' is a Galois extension of  $(Be')^{H_{e'}}$  with Galois group  $H_{e'}$  and  $(Be')^{H_{e'}}$  is a Galois extension of  $(Be')^{G(e')}$  with Galois group  $G(e')/H_{e'}$  by Theorem 4.2; so, Theorem 4.4 holds.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.** This paper was written under the support of a Caterpillar Fellowship at Bradley University, and the authors would like to thank the Caterpillar Inc. for that support.

## REFERENCES

- [1] F. DeMeyer, *Separable polynomials over a commutative ring*, Rocky Mountain J. Math. **2** (1972), no. 2, 299–310.
- [2] T. Kanzaki, On Galois algebra over a commutative ring, Osaka J. Math. 2 (1965), 309–317.
- [3] G. Szeto, A characterization of Azumaya algebras, J. Pure Appl. Algebra 9 (1976/1977), no. 1, 65–71.
- [4] G. Szeto and L. Xue, *The Boolean algebra and central Galois algebras*, Int. J. Math. Math. Sci. **28** (2001), no. 4, 237–242.

- [5] \_\_\_\_\_, The structure of Galois algebras, J. Algebra 237 (2001), no. 1, 238–246.
- [6] O. E. Villamayor and D. Zelinsky, *Galois theory with infinitely many idempotents*, Nagoya Math. J. **35** (1969), 83–98.

George Szeto: Department of Mathematics, Bradley University, Peoria, IL 61625, USA *E-mail address*: szeto@hilltop.bradley.edu

Lianyong Xue: Department of Mathematics, Bradley University, Peoria, IL 61625, USA  $\emph{E-mail address:}$  lxue@hilltop.bradley.edu