## WATSON'S METHOD OF SOLVING A QUINTIC EQUATION

## MELISA J. LAVALLEE

Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Okanagan University College Kelowna, B. C., Canada V1V 1V7

#### **BLAIR K. SPEARMAN**

Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Okanagan University College Kelowna, B. C., Canada V1V 1V7

## **KENNETH S. WILLIAMS**

School of Mathematics and Statistics, Carleton University Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1S 5B6

## Abstract

Watson's method for determining the roots of a solvable quintic equation in radical form is examined in complete detail. New methods in the spirit of Watson are constructed to cover those exceptional cases to which Watson's original method does not apply, thereby making Watson's method completely general. Examples illustrating the various cases that arise are presented.

#### 1. Introduction

In the 1930's the English mathematician George Neville Watson (1886-1965) devoted considerable effort to the evaluation of singular moduli and class invariants arising in the theory of elliptic functions

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification: 12E10, 12E12, 12F10.

Key words and phrases: solvable quintic equations, Watson's method.

The second and third authors were supported by research grants from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

Received October 11, 2004

© 2005 Pushpa Publishing House

[6]-[11]. These evaluations were given in terms of the roots of polynomial equations whose roots are expressible in terms of radicals. In order to solve those equations of degree 5, Watson developed a method of finding the roots of a solvable quintic equation in radical form. He described his method in a lecture given at Cambridge University in 1948. A commentary on this lecture was given recently by Berndt, Spearman and Williams [1]. This commentary included a general description of Watson's method. However it was not noted by Watson (nor in [1]) that there are solvable quintic equations to which his method does not apply. In this paper we describe Watson's method in complete detail treating the exceptional cases separately, thus making Watson's method applicable to any solvable quintic equation. Several examples illustrating Watson's method are given. Another method of solving the quintic has been given by Dummit [4].

#### 2. Watson's Method

Let f(x) be a monic solvable irreducible quintic polynomial in  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ . By means of a linear change of variable we may suppose that the coefficient of  $x^4$  is 0 so that

$$f(x) = x^{5} + 10Cx^{3} + 10Dx^{2} + 5Ex + F$$
(2.1)

for some C, D, E,  $F \in \mathbb{Q}$ . Let  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5 \in \mathbb{C}$  be the five roots of f(x). The discriminant  $\delta$  of f(x) is the quantity

$$\delta = \prod_{1 \le j < k \le 5} (x_j - x_k)^2.$$
 (2.2)

In terms of the coefficients of f(x),  $\delta$  is given by

$$\begin{split} \delta &= 8250000 C^2 D^2 F^2 + 500000 C E^2 F^2 - 375000 C D F^3 \\ &- 6750000 D^4 E^2 - 10000000 C^3 D^2 E^2 - 4500000 C^3 E F^2 \\ &+ 10800000 D^5 F + 18000000 C D^2 E^3 + 16000000 C^3 D^3 F \\ &+ 14000000 C^2 D E^2 F - 36000000 C^4 D E F - 31500000 C D^3 E F \end{split}$$

$$+ 1125000 D^{2} E F^{2} - 2000000 D E^{3} F + 2000000 C^{4} E^{3}$$
$$- 8000000 C^{2} E^{4} + 800000 E^{5} + 3125 F^{4} + 10800000 C^{5} F^{2}.$$
(2.3)

As f(x) is solvable and irreducible, we have [4, p. 390]

$$\delta > 0. \tag{2.4}$$

We set

$$K = E + 3C^2, (2.5)$$

$$L = -2DF + 3E^2 - 2C^2E + 8CD^2 + 15C^4,$$
(2.6)

$$M = CF^{2} - 2DEF + E^{3} - 2C^{2}DF - 11C^{2}E^{2} + 28CD^{2}E - 16D^{4} + 35C^{4}E - 40C^{3}D^{2} - 25C^{6}.$$
 (2.7)

Let  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5 \in \mathbb{C}$  be the five roots of f(x). Cayley [2] has shown that

$$\begin{split} \phi_1 &= x_1 x_2 + x_2 x_3 + x_3 x_4 + x_4 x_5 + x_5 x_1 - x_1 x_3 - x_3 x_5 - x_5 x_2 - x_2 x_4 - x_4 x_1, \\ \phi_2 &= x_1 x_3 + x_3 x_4 + x_4 x_2 + x_2 x_5 + x_5 x_1 - x_1 x_4 - x_4 x_5 - x_5 x_3 - x_3 x_2 - x_2 x_1, \\ \phi_3 &= x_1 x_4 + x_4 x_2 + x_2 x_3 + x_3 x_5 + x_5 x_1 - x_1 x_2 - x_2 x_5 - x_5 x_4 - x_4 x_3 - x_3 x_1, \\ \phi_4 &= x_1 x_2 + x_2 x_5 + x_5 x_3 + x_3 x_4 + x_4 x_1 - x_1 x_5 - x_5 x_4 - x_4 x_2 - x_2 x_3 - x_3 x_1, \\ \phi_5 &= x_1 x_3 + x_3 x_5 + x_5 x_4 + x_4 x_2 + x_2 x_1 - x_1 x_5 - x_5 x_2 - x_2 x_3 - x_3 x_4 - x_4 x_1, \\ \phi_6 &= x_1 x_4 + x_4 x_5 + x_5 x_2 + x_2 x_3 + x_3 x_1 - x_1 x_5 - x_5 x_3 - x_3 x_4 - x_4 x_2 - x_2 x_1, \\ \end{split}$$

are the roots of

$$g(x) = x^{6} - 100Kx^{4} + 2000Lx^{2} - 32\sqrt{\delta}x + 40000M \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{\delta})[x].$$
 (2.9)

Watson [1] has observed as f(x) is solvable and irreducible that g(x) has a root of the form  $\phi = \rho \sqrt{\delta}$ , where  $\rho \in \mathbb{Q}$ , so that  $\phi \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{\delta})$ . We set

$$\theta = \frac{\phi\sqrt{5}}{50} \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5\delta}) \subseteq \mathbb{R}.$$
(2.10)

Clearly  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  is a root of

$$h(x) = x^{6} - \frac{K}{5}x^{4} + \frac{L}{125}x^{2} - \frac{\sqrt{5\delta}}{390625}x + \frac{M}{3125}.$$
 (2.11)

The following simple lemma enables us to determine the solutions of a quintic equation.

**Lemma.** Let C, D, E,  $F \in \mathbb{Q}$ . If  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4 \in \mathbb{C}$  are such that

$$u_1 u_4 + u_2 u_3 = -2C, (2.12)$$

$$u_1 u_2^2 + u_2 u_4^2 + u_3 u_1^2 + u_4 u_3^2 = -2D, (2.13)$$

$$u_1^2 u_4^2 + u_2^2 u_3^2 - u_1^3 u_2 - u_2^3 u_4 - u_3^3 u_1 - u_4^3 u_3 - u_1 u_2 u_3 u_4 = E, \qquad (2.14)$$

$$u_1^5 + u_2^5 + u_3^5 + u_4^5 - 5(u_1u_4 - u_2u_3)(u_1^2u_3 - u_2^2u_1 - u_3^2u_4 + u_4^2u_2) = -F, \quad (2.15)$$

then the five roots of f(x) = 0 are

$$x = \omega u_1 + \omega^2 u_2 + \omega^3 u_3 + \omega^4 u_4, \qquad (2.16)$$

where  $\omega$  runs through the fifth roots of unity.

**Proof.** This follows from the identity

$$(\omega u_1 + \omega^2 u_2 + \omega^3 u_3 + \omega^4 u_4)^5 - 5U(\omega u_1 + \omega^2 u_2 + \omega^3 u_3 + \omega^4 u_4)^3 - 5V(\omega u_1 + \omega^2 u_2 + \omega^3 u_3 + \omega^4 u_4)^2 + 5W(\omega u_1 + \omega^2 u_2 + \omega^3 u_3 + \omega^4 u_4) + 5(X - Y) - Z = 0,$$

where

$$U = u_1 u_4 + u_2 u_3,$$

$$V = u_1 u_2^2 + u_2 u_4^2 + u_3 u_1^2 + u_4 u_3^2,$$

$$W = u_1^2 u_4^2 + u_2^2 u_3^2 - u_1^3 u_2 - u_2^3 u_4 - u_3^3 u_1 - u_4^3 u_3 - u_1 u_2 u_3 u_4,$$

$$X = u_1^3 u_3 u_4 + u_2^3 u_1 u_3 + u_3^3 u_2 u_4 + u_4^3 u_1 u_2,$$

$$Y = u_1 u_3^2 u_4^2 + u_2 u_1^2 u_3^2 + u_3 u_2^2 u_4^2 + u_4 u_1^2 u_2^2,$$

$$Z = u_1^5 + u_2^5 + u_3^5 + u_4^5,$$

see for example [5, p. 987].

If  $\theta \neq 0$ ,  $\pm C$  Watson's method of determining the roots of f(x) = 0 in radical form is given in the next theorem.

**Theorem 1.** Let f(x) be the solvable irreducible quintic polynomial (2.1). Suppose that  $\theta \neq 0, \pm C$ . Set

$$p(T) = T^{4} + (-14C\theta^{2} - 2D^{2} + 2CE - 2C^{3})T^{2} + 16D\theta^{3}T$$
$$+ (-25\theta^{6} + (35C^{2} + 6E)\theta^{4} + (-11C^{4} - 2CD^{2} - 4C^{2}E - E^{2})\theta^{2}$$
$$+ (C^{6} + 2C^{3}D^{2} - 2CD^{2}E - 2C^{4}E + C^{2}E^{2} + D^{4}))$$
(2.17)

and

$$q(T) = -CT^{3} - D\theta T^{2} + (25\theta^{4} - (10C^{2} + E)\theta^{2} + C^{4} + CD^{2} - C^{2}E)T$$
$$+ (-F\theta^{3} + (-2CDE + C^{2}F + D^{3})\theta).$$
(2.18)

Then the pair of equations

$$p(T) = q(T) = 0 (2.19)$$

has at least one solution  $T \in \mathbb{C}$ , which is expressible by radicals. Set

$$R_1 = \sqrt{(D-T)^2 + 4(C-\theta)^2(C+\theta)}$$
(2.20)

and

$$R_{2} = \begin{cases} \frac{C(D^{2} - T^{2}) + (C^{2} - \theta^{2})(C^{2} + 3\theta^{2} - E)}{R_{1}\theta}, & \text{if } R_{1} \neq 0, \\ \sqrt{(D + T)^{2} + 4(C + \theta)^{2}(C - \theta)}, & \text{if } R_{1} = 0. \end{cases}$$
(2.21)

If  $R_1 \neq 0$ , then we have

$$R_2 = \pm \sqrt{(D+T)^2 + 4(C+\theta)^2(C-\theta)}.$$
 (2.22)

Set

$$X = \frac{1}{2}(-D + T + R_1), \quad \overline{X} = \frac{1}{2}(-D + T - R_1), \quad (2.23)$$

$$Y = \frac{1}{2}(-D - T + R_2), \quad \overline{Y} = \frac{1}{2}(-D - T - R_2), \quad (2.24)$$

$$Z = -C - \theta \neq 0, \quad \overline{Z} = -C + \theta \neq 0. \tag{2.25}$$

Let  $u_1$  be any fifth root of  $X^2Y/Z^2$ . Set

$$u_2 = \frac{\overline{X}}{\overline{Z}^2} u_1^2, \quad u_3 = \frac{\overline{X}\overline{Y}}{Z\overline{Z}^3} u_1^3, \quad u_4 = \frac{\overline{X}^2 \overline{Y}}{Z^2 \overline{Z}^4} u_1^4.$$
 (2.26)

Then the five roots of f(x) = 0 are given in radical form by (2.16).

The proof of Theorem 1 is given in Section 3. Theorem 1 does not apply when (i)  $\theta = 0$ , since in this case  $R_2$  is not always defined; when (ii)  $\theta = C$ , since  $\overline{Z} = 0$  and  $u_2$ ,  $u_3$ ,  $u_4$  are not defined; and when (iii)  $\theta = -C$ , since Z = 0 and  $u_1$ ,  $u_3$ ,  $u_4$  are not defined. These excluded cases were not covered by Watson [1] and are given in Theorems 2, 3, 4. Theorem 2 covers  $\theta = \pm C \neq 0$ , Theorem 3 covers  $\theta = C = 0$ , and Theorem 4 covers  $\theta = 0$ ,  $C \neq 0$ .

**Theorem 2.** Let f(x) be the solvable irreducible quintic polynomial (2.1). Suppose that  $\theta = \pm C \neq 0$ . Set

$$r(T) = T^{3} + DT^{2} + (-16C^{3} + 2CE - D^{2})T + (2CDE - D^{3})$$
 (2.27)

and

$$s(T) = T^{6} + (88C^{3} - 3D^{2})T^{4} + (112C^{3}D - 4C^{2}F)T^{3}$$
  
+ (-64C^{6} - 32C^{3}D^{2} - 4C^{2}DF + 3D^{4})T^{2}  
+ (128C^{6}D - 48C^{3}D^{3} + 4C^{2}D^{2}F)T  
+ (-64C^{6}D^{2} + 8C^{3}D^{4} + 4C^{2}D^{3}F - D^{6}). (2.28)

Then the pair of equations

$$r(T) = s(T) = 0 (2.29)$$

has at least one solution  $T \in \mathbb{C}$  expressible by radicals.

(a) If  $D \neq \pm T$ , we let  $u_1$  be any fifth root of

$$\begin{cases} \frac{-(D-T)^{2}(D+T)}{4C^{2}}, & \text{if } \theta = C, \\ \frac{-16C^{4}(D-T)}{(D+T)^{2}}, & \text{if } \theta = -C, \end{cases}$$
(2.30)

and set

$$u_{2} = \begin{cases} \frac{2C}{(D-T)}u_{1}^{2}, & \text{if } \theta = C, \\ \frac{-(D+T)}{4C^{2}}u_{1}^{2}, & \text{if } \theta = -C, \end{cases}$$
(2.31)

$$u_{3} = \begin{cases} \frac{4C^{2}}{D^{2} - T^{2}} u_{1}^{3}, & \text{if } \theta = C, \\ 0, & \text{if } \theta = -C, \end{cases}$$
(2.32)

$$u_4 = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } \theta = C, \\ \frac{(D+T)^2}{8(D-T)C^3} u_1^4, & \text{if } \theta = -C. \end{cases}$$
(2.33)

(b) If  $D = \pm T$ , then

$$D = 0 \tag{2.34}$$

and either

(i) 
$$E = 4C^2$$
 or (ii)  $E = \frac{16C^3 - Z^2}{2C}$ ,  $F = \frac{64C^6 - 88C^3Z^2 - Z^4}{4C^2Z}$  (2.35)

for some  $Z \in \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $Z \neq 0$ . Let  $u_1$  be any fifth root of

$$\begin{cases} \frac{-F + \sqrt{128C^5 + F^2}}{2}, & \text{(i)}, \\ 2CZ, & & \text{(ii)}, \end{cases}$$
(2.36)

 $and \; set$ 

$$u_2 = 0,$$
 (2.37)

$$u_3 = \begin{cases} 0, & (i), \\ \frac{1}{2C} u_1^3, & (ii), \end{cases}$$
(2.38)

$$u_{4} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{16C^{4}} \left( \frac{-F - \sqrt{128C^{5} + F^{2}}}{2} \right) u_{1}^{4}, & \text{(i)}, \\ -\frac{1}{Z} u_{1}^{4}, & \text{(ii)}. \end{cases}$$
(2.39)

Then in both cases (a) and (b) the five roots of f(x) = 0 are given by (2.16).

**Theorem 3.** Let f(x) be the solvable irreducible quintic polynomial (2.1). Suppose that  $\theta = C = 0$ . In this case

(i) 
$$D = E = 0$$
 or (ii)  $D \neq 0, E \neq 0.$  (2.40)

In case (ii) we have

$$F = \frac{E^3 - 16D^4}{2DE}.$$
 (2.41)

Let  $u_1$  be any fifth root of

$$\begin{cases} -F, & (i), \\ \frac{8D^3}{E}, & (ii). \end{cases}$$
(2.42)

Set

$$u_2 = u_4 = 0 \tag{2.43}$$

and

$$u_3 = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{(i)}, \\ -\frac{E}{4D^2} u_1^3, & \text{(ii)}. \end{cases}$$
(2.44)

Then the five roots of f(x) = 0 are given by (2.16).

**Theorem 4.** Let f(x) be the solvable irreducible quintic polynomial (2.1). Suppose that  $\theta = 0, C \neq 0$ . Set

$$T = \sqrt{C^3 - CE + D^2}.$$
 (2.45)

Then

$$T^{2}((D-T)^{2} + 4C^{3})((D+T)^{2} + 4C^{3})$$
  
=  $(2C^{3}D - C^{2}F + D^{3} - DT^{2})^{2}$ . (2.46)

Let  $R_1, R_2 \in \mathbb{C}$  be such that

$$R_1^2 = (D - T)^2 + 4C^3, (2.47)$$

$$R_2^2 = (D+T)^2 + 4C^3, (2.48)$$

$$TR_1R_2 = 2C^3D - C^2F + D^3 - DT^2. (2.49)$$

Set

$$X = \frac{1}{2}(-D + T + R_1), \quad \overline{X} = \frac{1}{2}(-D + T - R_1), \quad (2.50)$$

$$Y = \frac{1}{2}(-D - T + R_2), \quad \overline{Y} = \frac{1}{2}(-D - T - R_2). \tag{2.51}$$

Let  $u_1$  be any fifth root of  $\frac{X^2Y}{C^2}$ . Set

$$u_2 = \frac{\overline{X}}{C^2} u_1^2, \quad u_3 = \frac{\overline{X}\overline{Y}}{C^4} u_1^3, \quad u_4 = \frac{\overline{X}^2 \overline{Y}}{C^6} u_1^4.$$
 (2.52)

Then the five roots of f(x) = 0 are given by (2.16).

#### 3. Proof of Theorem 1

If  $C \neq 0$  or  $D \neq 0$  or  $25\theta^4 - (10C^2 + E)\theta^2 + (C^4 + CD^2 - C^2E) \neq 0$ , then the polynomial q(T) is non-constant and the resultant R(p, q) of pand q is

$$R(p, q) = 5^{10} \theta^4 (C^2 - \theta^2)^3 h(\theta) h(-\theta).$$
(3.1)

As  $h(\theta) = 0$ , we have R(p, q) = 0. Thus (2.19) has at least one solution  $T \in \mathbb{C}$ , which is expressible by radicals as it is a root of the quartic polynomial p(T).

On the other hand if  $C = D = 25\theta^4 - (10C^2 + E)\theta^2 + (C^4 + CD^2 - C^2E)$ = 0, then we show that q(T) is identically zero and the assertion remains valid. In this case  $25\theta^4 - E\theta^2 = 0$ . As  $\theta \neq 0$  we have  $\theta^2 = E/25$ . Thus (2.3), (2.5), (2.6) and (2.7) give

$$\delta = 2^8 5^5 E^5 + 5^5 F^4$$
,  $K = E$ ,  $L = 3E^2$ ,  $M = E^3$ .

Hence

$$h(x) = x^{6} - \frac{E}{5}x^{4} + \frac{3E^{2}}{5^{3}}x^{2} - \frac{(2^{8}E^{5} + F^{4})^{1/2}}{5^{5}}x + \frac{E^{3}}{5^{5}}$$

Thus

$$0 = h(\theta) = \frac{2^4 E^3}{5^6} \pm \frac{(2^8 E^6 + EF^4)^{1/2}}{5^6}$$

As  $E \neq 0$  we deduce that F = 0 proving that  $q(T) \equiv 0$ .

Multiplying p(T) = 0 by  $C^2 - \theta^2 \neq 0$  and rearranging, we obtain

$$(C(D^{2} - T^{2}) + (C^{2} - \theta^{2})(C^{2} + 3\theta^{2} - E))^{2}$$
  
=  $\theta^{2}((D - T)^{2} + 4(C - \theta)^{2}(C + \theta))((D + T)^{2} + 4(C + \theta)^{2}(C - \theta)).$  (3.2)

Define  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  as in (2.20) and (2.21). If  $R_1 \neq 0$ , as  $\theta \neq 0$ , then we deduce from (3.2) that

$$R_2^2 = (D + T)^2 + 4(C + \theta)^2(C - \theta),$$

which is (2.22). Define X,  $\overline{X}$ , Y,  $\overline{Y}$ , Z,  $\overline{Z}$  as in (2.23), (2.24) and (2.25). Clearly

$$X + \overline{X} + Y + \overline{Y} = -2D, \quad X + \overline{X} - Y - \overline{Y} = 2T.$$
(3.3)

From (2.20), (2.23) and (2.25) we deduce that

$$X\overline{X} = Z\overline{Z}^2. \tag{3.4}$$

From (2.21), (2.22), (2.24) and (2.25) we deduce that

$$Y\overline{Y} = Z^2\overline{Z}.$$
 (3.5)

From (2.23), (2.24) and (2.25) we obtain

$$Z^{2} - Z\overline{Z} + \overline{Z}^{2} - \left(\frac{XY}{Z} + \frac{\overline{XY}}{\overline{Z}} + \frac{X\overline{Y}}{\overline{Z}} + \frac{\overline{XY}}{\overline{Z}}\right)$$
$$= \frac{-C^{4} + 3\theta^{4} - 2C^{2}\theta^{2} + R_{1}R_{2}\theta - CD^{2} + CT^{2}}{-(C^{2} - \theta^{2})}.$$

Appealing to (2.20) and (3.2) if  $R_1 = 0$  and to (2.21) if  $R_1 \neq 0$ , then we deduce that

$$Z^{2} - Z\overline{Z} + \overline{Z}^{2} - \left(\frac{XY}{Z} + \frac{\overline{X}Y}{\overline{Z}} + \frac{X\overline{Y}}{\overline{Z}} + \frac{\overline{X}\overline{Y}}{\overline{Z}}\right) = E.$$
(3.6)

From (2.20)-(2.25) we obtain

$$\frac{X^2Y}{Z^2} + \frac{\overline{X}Y^2}{\overline{Z}^2} + \frac{X\overline{Y}^2}{\overline{Z}^2} + \frac{\overline{X}^2\overline{Y}}{Z^2} - 20T\theta$$
$$= \frac{q(T) + F\theta^3 - C^2F\theta}{(C^2 - \theta^2)\theta} = -F.$$
(3.7)

Now define  $u_1$ ,  $u_2$ ,  $u_3$ ,  $u_4$  by (2.26). As  $Z, \overline{Z} \neq 0$  we deduce from (3.4) and (3.5) that  $X, \overline{X}, \overline{Y}, \overline{Y} \neq 0$ . Further, by (3.4) and (3.5), we have

$$\frac{\overline{X}\overline{Y}}{\overline{Z}\overline{Z}^3} = \frac{Z^2}{\overline{X}\overline{Y}}, \quad \frac{\overline{X}^2\overline{Y}}{\overline{Z}^2\overline{Z}^4} = \frac{\overline{Y}}{\overline{X}^2},$$

so that

$$u_3 = \frac{Z^2}{XY}u_1^3, \quad u_4 = \frac{\overline{Y}}{X^2}u_1^4,$$

Then

$$u_1 u_4 = \frac{Y\overline{Y}}{Z^2} = \overline{Z}, \quad u_2 u_3 = \frac{X\overline{X}}{\overline{Z}^2} = Z$$
(3.8)

 $\quad \text{and} \quad$ 

$$u_{2}^{5} = \frac{\overline{X}Y^{2}}{\overline{Z}^{2}}, \quad u_{3}^{5} = \frac{X\overline{Y}^{2}}{\overline{Z}^{2}}, \quad u_{4}^{5} = \frac{\overline{X}^{2}\overline{Y}}{Z^{2}}.$$
 (3.9)

Hence

$$u_1u_4 + u_2u_3 = Z + \overline{Z} = -2C,$$

which is (2.12). Next

$$u_1^2 u_3 \pm u_2^2 u_1 \pm u_3^2 u_4 + u_4^2 u_2$$

$$= u_1^5 \frac{Z^2}{XY} \pm u_1^5 \frac{\overline{X}^2}{\overline{Z}^4} \pm u_1^{10} \frac{Z^4 \overline{Y}}{X^4 Y^2} + u_1^{10} \frac{\overline{Y}^2 \overline{X}}{X^4 \overline{Z}^2}$$
$$= X \pm Y \pm \overline{Y} + \overline{X},$$

that is,

$$u_1^2 u_3 \pm u_2^2 u_1 \pm u_3^2 u_4 + u_4^2 u_2 = \begin{cases} -2D, & \text{with + signs,} \\ 2T, & \text{with - signs.} \end{cases}$$
(3.10)

The first of these is (2.13).

Further

$$u_{1}^{2}u_{4}^{2} + u_{2}^{2}u_{3}^{2} - u_{1}u_{2}u_{3}u_{4} - u_{1}^{3}u_{2} - u_{2}^{3}u_{4} - u_{3}^{3}u_{1} - u_{4}^{3}u_{3}$$

$$= u_{1}^{10} \left( \frac{\overline{Y}^{2}}{X^{4}} + \frac{Z^{6}}{X^{4}Y^{2}} - \frac{Z^{3}\overline{Y}}{X^{4}Y} \right)$$

$$- \left( u_{1}^{5}\frac{Z}{X} + u_{1}^{10}\frac{Z^{3}\overline{Y}}{X^{5}} + u_{1}^{10}\frac{Z^{6}}{X^{3}Y^{3}} + u_{1}^{15}\frac{\overline{Y}^{3}Z^{2}}{X^{7}Y} \right)$$

$$= \overline{Z}^{2} + Z^{2} - Z\overline{Z} - \left( \frac{XY}{Z} + \frac{\overline{X}Y}{\overline{Z}} + \frac{X\overline{Y}}{\overline{Z}} + \frac{\overline{X}\overline{Y}}{Z} \right)$$

$$= E,$$

which is (2.14).

Finally, from (3.7), (3.8), (3.9) and (3.10), we obtain

$$u_1^5 + u_2^5 + u_3^5 + u_4^5 - 5(u_1u_4 - u_2u_3)(u_1^2u_3 - u_2^2u_1 - u_3^2u_4 + u_4^2u_2)$$
  
=  $\frac{X^2Y}{Z^2} + \frac{\overline{X}Y^2}{\overline{Z}^2} + \frac{\overline{X}\overline{Y}^2}{\overline{Z}^2} + \frac{\overline{X}^2\overline{Y}}{Z^2} - 20T\theta$   
=  $-F$ ,

which is (2.15). By the Lemma the roots of f(x) = 0 are given by (2.16). As  $\theta$  and T are expressible by radicals so are  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , X,  $\overline{X}$ , Y,  $\overline{Y}$ , Z,  $\overline{Z}$ . Hence  $u_1$ ,  $u_2$ ,  $u_3$ ,  $u_4$  are expressible by radicals. Thus the roots  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ ,  $x_3$ ,  $x_4$ ,  $x_5$  of f(x) = 0 are expressible by radicals.

#### 4. Proof of Theorem 2

Using MAPLE we find that

$$R(r, s) = -\frac{5^{15}}{C^2}h(C)h(-C) = 0, \qquad (4.1)$$

as  $\theta = \pm C$ , so that there is at least one solution  $T \in \mathbb{C}$  of (2.29). As T is a root of a cubic equation, T is expressible in terms of radicals.

If  $D \neq \pm T$ , then we define  $u_1$ ,  $u_2$ ,  $u_3$ ,  $u_4$  as in (2.30)-(2.33). Thus

$$u_{1}u_{4} + u_{2}u_{3} = \begin{cases} \frac{8C^{3}u_{1}^{5}}{(D-T)^{2}(D+T)}, & \text{if } \theta = C, \\ \frac{(D+T)^{2}u_{1}^{5}}{8C^{3}(D-T)}, & \text{if } \theta = -C, \end{cases}$$
$$= -2C,$$

which is (2.12).

Next

$$u_{1}u_{2}^{2} + u_{2}u_{4}^{2} + u_{3}u_{1}^{2} + u_{4}u_{3}^{2} = \begin{cases} \frac{8C^{2}Du_{1}^{5}}{(D-T)^{2}(D+T)}, & \text{if } \theta = C, \\ \frac{4C^{2}u_{1}^{5}}{(D-T)^{2}} + \frac{(D+T)^{4}u_{1}^{10}}{32C^{5}(D-T)^{3}}, & \text{if } \theta = -C, \end{cases}$$
$$= -2D,$$

which is (2.13).

Further, for both  $\theta = C$  and  $\theta = -C$ , we have

$$u_1^2 u_4^2 + u_2^2 u_3^2 - u_1^3 u_2 - u_2^3 u_4 - u_3^3 u_1 - u_4^3 u_3 - u_1 u_2 u_3 u_4$$
  
=  $4C^2 + \frac{(D^2 - T^2)}{2C} - 4C^2 \frac{(D - T)}{(D + T)} = E,$ 

by (2.27) and (2.29), which is (2.14).

Finally, using (2.30)-(2.33), we obtain

$$u_1^5 + u_2^5 + u_3^5 + u_4^5 - 5(u_1u_4 - u_2u_3)(u_1^2u_3 - u_2^2u_1 - u_3^2u_4 + u_4^2u_2)$$

$$= \begin{cases} u_1^5 + u_2^5 + u_3^5 - 20CT, & \text{if } \theta = C, \\ u_1^5 + u_2^5 + u_4^5 - 20CT, & \text{if } \theta = -C, \end{cases}$$
$$= \begin{cases} -\frac{(D-T)^2(D+T)}{4C^2} + 2C\frac{(D+T)^2}{(D-T)} - \frac{16C^4(D-T)}{(D+T)^2} - 20CT, & \text{if } \theta = C, \\ -\frac{16C^4(D-T)}{(D+T)^2} - \frac{(D+T)(D-T)^2}{4C^2} + \frac{2C(D+T)^2}{(D-T)} - 20CT, & \text{if } \theta = -C, \end{cases}$$

= -F,

by (2.28) and (2.29), which is (2.15).

If  $D = \pm T$ , then from  $r(T) = r(\pm D) = 0$ , we obtain

$$\begin{cases} 128C^3D^4 = 0, & \text{if } T = D, \\ -256C^6D^2 = 0, & \text{if } T = -D. \end{cases}$$

As  $C \neq 0$  we deduce that D = 0. Then (2.5)-(2.7) become

$$\begin{cases} K = 3C^{2} + E, \\ L = 15C^{4} - 2C^{2}E + 3E^{2}, \\ M = -25C^{6} + 35C^{4}E - 11C^{2}E^{2} + CF^{2} + E^{3}. \end{cases}$$

From

$$h(C)h(-C) = h(\theta)h(-\theta) = 0$$

and (2.3) with D = 0, we obtain

$$(4C^{2} - E)^{2}(-160000C^{8} + 48000C^{6}E - 4400C^{4}E^{2} + 16C^{3}F^{2} + 120C^{2}E^{3} - 2CEF^{2} - E^{4}) = 0.$$

If  $E = 8C^2$ , then this equation becomes  $-2^{12}C^{12} = 0$ , contradicting  $C \neq 0$ . Thus  $E \neq 8C^2$ . Hence either

(i) 
$$E = 4C^2$$

or

(ii) 
$$F^2 = \frac{(400C^4 - 60C^2E + E^2)^2}{2C(8C^2 - E)}$$
.

## WATSON'S METHOD

Since f(x) is irreducible,  $F \neq 0$ , and in case (ii) we have

$$2C(8C^2-E)=Z^2$$

for some  $Z \in \mathbb{Q}$  with  $Z \neq 0$ . Then

$$E = \frac{16C^3 - Z^2}{2C}$$

 $\quad \text{and} \quad$ 

$$F = \frac{400C^4 - 60C^2E + E^2}{Z} = \frac{64C^6 - 88C^3Z^2 - Z^4}{4C^2Z}.$$

Now define  $u_1$ ,  $u_2$ ,  $u_3$ ,  $u_4$  as in (2.36)-(2.39). Then

$$u_1u_4 + u_2u_3 = u_1u_4 = -2C,$$

which is (2.12).

Next

$$u_1u_2^2 + u_2u_4^2 + u_3u_1^2 + u_4u_3^2 = u_3u_1^2 + u_4u_3^2 = 0 = -2D,$$

which is (2.13).

Further

$$u_{1}^{2}u_{4}^{2} + u_{2}^{2}u_{3}^{2} - u_{1}^{3}u_{2} - u_{2}^{3}u_{4} - u_{3}^{3}u_{1} - u_{4}^{3}u_{3} - u_{1}u_{2}u_{3}u_{4}$$

$$= u_{1}^{2}u_{4}^{2} - u_{3}^{3}u_{1} - u_{4}^{3}u_{3}$$

$$= \begin{cases} 4C^{2}, & (i), \\ \frac{16C^{3} - Z^{2}}{2C}, & (ii), \end{cases}$$

$$= E,$$
which is (2.14).
Finally

$$u_1^5 + u_2^5 + u_3^5 + u_4^5 - 5(u_1u_4 - u_2u_3)(u_1^2u_3 - u_2^2u_1 - u_3^2u_4 + u_4^2u_2)$$

63

$$=\begin{cases} u_1^5 + u_4^5, & (i), \\ u_1^5 + u_3^5 + u_4^5 + 20CZ, & (ii), \end{cases}$$
$$=\begin{cases} -F, & (i), \\ 22CZ + \frac{Z^3}{4C^2} - \frac{16C^4}{Z}, & (ii), \end{cases}$$
$$= -F, \end{cases}$$

which is (2.15).

In both cases (i) and (ii), by the Lemma the roots of f(x) = 0 are given by (2.16). As T is expressible in terms of radicals, so are  $u_1$ ,  $u_2$ ,  $u_3$ ,  $u_4$ , and thus  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ ,  $x_3$ ,  $x_4$ ,  $x_5$  are expressible in radicals.

## 5. Proof of Theorem 3

As  $\theta = C = 0$  we deduce from  $h(\theta) = 0$  that

$$M = -16D^4 - 2DEF + E^3 = 0.$$

If E = 0, then D = 0 and conversely. Thus

(i) 
$$D = E = 0$$
 or (ii)  $D \neq 0, E \neq 0$ .

In case (ii) we have

$$F=\frac{E^3-16D^4}{2DE}.$$

Define  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  as in (2.42)-(2.44). Then

$$u_1u_4 + u_2u_3 = 0 = -2C,$$

which is (2.12). Also

$$u_1u_2^2 + u_2u_4^2 + u_3u_1^2 + u_4u_3^2 = u_1^2u_3 = \begin{cases} 0, & (i) \\ -2D, & (ii) \end{cases} = -2D,$$

which is (2.13). Further

$$u_1^2 u_4^2 + u_2^2 u_3^2 - u_1^3 u_2 - u_2^3 u_4 - u_3^3 u_1 - u_4^3 u_3 - u_1 u_2 u_3 u_4$$

WATSON'S METHOD

$$= -u_1 u_3^3 = \begin{cases} 0, & (i) \\ E, & (ii) \end{cases} = E,$$

which is (2.14). Finally

$$u_{1}^{5} + u_{2}^{5} + u_{3}^{5} + u_{4}^{5} - 5(u_{1}u_{4} - u_{2}u_{3})(u_{1}^{2}u_{3} - u_{2}^{2}u_{1} - u_{3}^{2}u_{4} + u_{4}^{2}u_{2})$$
  
=  $u_{1}^{5} + u_{3}^{5} = \begin{cases} -F, & (i) \\ \frac{16D^{4} - E^{3}}{2DE}, & (ii) \end{cases} = -F,$ 

which is (2.15). Hence by the Lemma the roots of f(x) = 0 are given by (2.16). Clearly  $u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4$  can be expressed in radical form so that  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5$  are expressible by radicals.

## 6. Proof of Theorem 4

We define T by (2.45). As  $\theta = 0$  we have  $h(\theta) = h(0) = \frac{M}{3125} = 0$  so that

$$-25C^{6} + 35C^{4}E - 40C^{3}D^{2} - 2C^{2}DF - 11C^{2}E^{2} + 28CDE + CF^{2} - 16D^{4} - 2DEF + E^{3} = 0.$$
(6.1)

Replacing E by  $\frac{(C^3 + D^2 - T^2)}{C}$  in (6.1), we obtain (2.46). Define  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  as in (2.47)-(2.49). Define X,  $\overline{X}$ , Y,  $\overline{Y}$  as in (2.50) and (2.51). Clearly

$$X, \overline{X}, Y, \overline{Y} \neq 0$$

and

$$X\overline{X} = Y\overline{Y} = -C^3, \quad X + \overline{X} + Y + \overline{Y} = -2D.$$
 (6.2)

Next

$$C^{2} + \frac{(X + \overline{X})(Y + \overline{Y})}{C} = \frac{C^{3} - T^{2} + D^{2}}{C} = E.$$
 (6.3)

Also

$$\frac{X^2Y+\overline{X}Y^2+X\overline{Y}^2+\overline{X}^2\overline{Y}}{C^2}$$

65

$$=\frac{TR_1R_2 - \frac{1}{4}DR_1^2 - \frac{1}{4}TR_1^2 - \frac{1}{4}DR_2^2 + \frac{1}{4}TR_2^2 - \frac{1}{2}D^3 + \frac{1}{2}DT^2}{C^2}$$
  
= -F. (6.4)

Now define  $u_1$ ,  $u_2$ ,  $u_3$ ,  $u_4$  by (2.52). Then

$$u_1u_4 = u_2u_3 = -C.$$

Also

$$u_2^5 = rac{\overline{X}Y^2}{C^2}, \quad u_3^5 = rac{X\overline{Y}^2}{C^2}, \quad u_4^5 = rac{\overline{X}^2\overline{Y}}{C^2}.$$

Then

$$u_1 u_4 + u_2 u_3 = -2C,$$

which is (2.12). Also

$$u_1u_2^2 + u_2u_4^2 + u_3u_1^2 + u_4u_3^2 = Y + X + \overline{Y} + \overline{X} = -2D,$$

which is (2.13). Further

$$u_1^2 u_4^2 + u_2^2 u_3^2 - u_1 u_2 u_3 u_4 - (u_1^3 u_2 + u_2^3 u_4 + u_3^3 u_1 + u_4^3 u_3)$$
  
=  $C^2 + \left(\frac{XY}{C} + \frac{\overline{XY}}{C} + \frac{X\overline{Y}}{C} + \frac{\overline{XY}}{C}\right)$   
=  $E$ ,

by (6.3), which is (2.14). Finally

$$u_{1}^{5} + u_{2}^{5} + u_{3}^{5} + u_{4}^{5} - 5(u_{1}u_{4} - u_{2}u_{3})(u_{1}^{2}u_{2} - u_{2}^{2}u_{1} - u_{3}^{2}u_{4} + u_{4}^{2}u_{2})$$

$$= u_{1}^{5} + u_{2}^{5} + u_{3}^{5} + u_{4}^{5}$$

$$= \frac{X^{2}Y}{C^{2}} + \frac{\overline{X}Y^{2}}{C^{2}} + \frac{\overline{X}\overline{Y}^{2}}{C^{2}} + \frac{\overline{X}^{2}\overline{Y}}{C^{2}}$$

$$= -F,$$

by (6.4), which is (2.15). By the Lemma the roots of f(x) = 0 are given by

(2.16). As T,  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , X,  $\overline{X}$ , Y,  $\overline{Y}$  are expressible by radicals, so are  $u_1$ ,  $u_2$ ,  $u_3$ ,  $u_4$ , and thus  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ ,  $x_3$ ,  $x_4$ ,  $x_5$  are expressible by radicals.

## 7. Examples

We present eight examples.

Example 1. This is Example 3 from [1] with typos corrected

$$f(x) = x^{5} - 25x^{3} + 50x^{2} - 25, \quad \text{Gal}(f) = \mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z} \text{ [MAPLE]}$$

$$C = -\frac{5}{2}, \quad D = 5, \quad E = 0, \quad F = -25$$

$$K = \frac{75}{4}, \quad L = \frac{5375}{16}, \quad M = \frac{-30625}{64}$$

$$\delta = 5^{12}7^{2}$$

$$h(x) = x^{6} - \frac{15}{4}x^{4} + \frac{43}{16}x^{2} - \frac{7}{25}\sqrt{5}x - \frac{49}{320}$$

$$= \left(x + \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}\right) \left(x^{5} - \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}x^{4} - \frac{5}{2}x^{3} + \frac{5\sqrt{5}}{4}x^{2} - \frac{7}{16}x - \frac{49\sqrt{5}}{800}\right)$$

$$\theta = -\frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}, \quad T = 0$$

Theorem 1 and (3.9) give

$$\begin{split} R_1 &= \sqrt{-25 + 10\sqrt{5}}, \quad R_2 = -\sqrt{-25 - 10\sqrt{5}} \\ X &= \frac{-5 + \sqrt{-25 + 10\sqrt{5}}}{2}, \quad Y = \frac{-5 - \sqrt{-25 - 10\sqrt{5}}}{2}, \quad Z = \frac{5 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \\ u_1 &= \left(\frac{X^2 Y}{Z^2}\right)^{1/5} = \left(\frac{25 + 15\sqrt{5} + 5\sqrt{-130 - 58\sqrt{5}}}{4}\right)^{1/5} \\ u_2 &= \left(\frac{\overline{X}Y^2}{\overline{Z}^2}\right)^{1/5} = \left(\frac{25 - 15\sqrt{5} + 5\sqrt{-130 + 58\sqrt{5}}}{4}\right)^{1/5} \\ u_3 &= \left(\frac{X\overline{Y}^2}{\overline{Z}^2}\right)^{1/5} = \left(\frac{25 - 15\sqrt{5} - 5\sqrt{-130 + 58\sqrt{5}}}{4}\right)^{1/5} \end{split}$$

.

$$u_4 = \left(\frac{\overline{X}^2 \overline{Y}}{Z^2}\right)^{1/5} = \left(\frac{25 + 15\sqrt{5} - 5\sqrt{-130 - 58\sqrt{5}}}{4}\right)^{1/5}.$$

Example 2.

 $f(x) = x^5 + 10x^3 + 10x^2 + 10x + 78$ , Gal $(f) = F_{20}$  [MAPLE] C = 1, D = 1, E = 2, F = 78 $K = 5, L = -125, M = 5625, \delta = 2^4 5^{13}$  $h(x) = x^{6} - x^{4} - x^{2} - \frac{4}{5}x + \frac{9}{5} = (x - 1)\left(x^{5} + x^{4} - x - \frac{9}{5}\right)$  $\theta = 1, T = 3.$ 

Theorem 2(a)  $(\theta = C)$  gives

$$u_1^5 = -4, \ u_2 = -u_1^2, \ u_3 = -\frac{1}{2}u_1^3, \ u_4 = 0$$
  
 $x = -\omega 2^{2/5} - \omega^2 2^{4/5} + \omega^3 2^{1/5}.$ 

Example 3.

$$f(x) = x^{5} + 10x^{3} + 20x + 1, \quad \text{Gal}(f) = F_{20} \text{ [MAPLE]}$$

$$C = 1, \quad D = 0, \quad E = 4, \quad F = 1$$

$$K = 7, \quad L = 55, \quad M = 4, \quad \delta = 3^{2}5^{5}43^{2}$$

$$h(x) = x^{6} - \frac{7}{5}x^{4} + \frac{11}{25}x^{2} - \frac{129}{3125}x + \frac{4}{3125}$$

$$= (x - 1)\left(x^{5} + x^{4} - \frac{2}{5}x^{3} - \frac{2}{5}x^{2} + \frac{1}{25}x - \frac{4}{3125}\right)$$

$$\theta = 1, \quad T = 0.$$

Theorem 2(b)(i) gives

$$u_1 = \left(\frac{-1 + \sqrt{129}}{2}\right)^{1/5}, \quad u_2 = u_3 = 0, \quad u_4 = \left(\frac{-1 - \sqrt{129}}{2}\right)^{1/5}$$

$$x = \omega \left(\frac{-1 + \sqrt{129}}{2}\right)^{1/5} + \omega^4 \left(\frac{-1 - \sqrt{129}}{2}\right)^{1/5}.$$

Example 4.

$$f(x) = x^{5} + 10x^{3} + 30x - 38, \text{ Gal}(f) = F_{20} \text{ [MAPLE]}$$

$$C = 1, D = 0, E = 6, F = -38$$

$$K = 9, L = 111, M = 1449, \delta = 2^{4}5^{5}431^{2}$$

$$h(x) = x^{6} - \frac{9}{5}x^{4} + \frac{111}{125}x^{2} - \frac{1724}{3125}x + \frac{1449}{3125}$$

$$= (x - 1)\left(x^{5} + x^{4} - \frac{4}{5}x^{3} - \frac{4}{5}x^{2} + \frac{11}{125}x - \frac{1449}{3125}\right)$$

$$\theta = 1, T = 0.$$

Theorem 2(b)(ii) gives

$$Z = 2$$
  
 $u_1 = 2^{2/5}, u_2 = 0, u_3 = 2^{1/5}, u_4 = -2^{3/5}$   
 $x = \omega 2^{2/5} + \omega^3 2^{1/5} - \omega^4 2^{3/5}.$ 

Example 5.

$$f(x) = x^{5} - 20x^{3} + 180x - 236, \text{ Gal}(f) = F_{20} \text{ [MAPLE]}$$

$$C = -2, D = 0, E = 36, F = -236$$

$$K = 48, L = 3840, M = -103200, \delta = 2^{8}5^{9}$$

$$h(x) = x^{6} - \frac{48}{5}x^{4} + \frac{768}{25}x^{2} - \frac{16}{125}x - \frac{4128}{145}$$

$$= (x - 2)\left(x^{5} + 2x^{4} - \frac{28}{5}x^{3} - \frac{56}{5}x^{2} - \frac{208}{25}x + \frac{2064}{125}\right)$$

$$\theta = 2$$

$$T = 0, 4.$$

With T = 0 Theorem 2(b)(ii) gives

$$Z = -4$$
  
 $u_1 = 2^{4/5}, u_2 = 0, u_3 = -2^{2/5}, u_4 = 2^{6/5}$   
 $x = \omega 2^{4/5} - \omega^3 2^{2/5} + \omega^4 2^{6/5}.$ 

With T = 4 Theorem 2(a) ( $\theta = -C$ ) gives

$$u_1 = 2^{6/5}, \quad u_2 = -2^{2/5}, \quad u_3 = 0, \quad u_4 = 2^{4/5}$$
  
 $x = \omega 2^{6/5} - \omega^2 2^{2/5} + \omega^4 2^{4/5}$ 

in agreement with the solutions given with T = 0.

Example 6.

$$f(x) = x^{5} + 10x^{2} + 10x - 2, \quad \text{Gal}(f) = F_{20} \text{ [MAPLE]}$$

$$C = 0, \quad D = 1, \quad E = 2, \quad F = -2$$

$$K = 2, \quad L = 16, \quad M = 0, \quad \delta = 2^{4}5^{5}19^{2}$$

$$h(x) = x^{6} - \frac{2}{5}x^{4} + \frac{16}{125}x^{2} - \frac{76}{3125}x$$

$$\theta = 0.$$

Theorem 3(ii) gives

$$u_1 = 2^{2/5}, u_2 = 0, u_3 = -2^{1/5}, u_4 = 0$$
  
 $x = \omega 2^{2/5} - \omega^3 2^{1/5}.$ 

Example 7.

$$f(x) = x^{5} - 20x^{3} + 8x^{2} + 76x - \frac{96}{25}, \quad \text{Gal}(f) = F_{20} \text{ [MAPLE]}$$

$$C = -2, \quad D = \frac{4}{5}, \quad E = \frac{76}{5}, \quad F = -\frac{96}{25}$$

$$K = \frac{-136}{5}, \quad L = \frac{100928}{125}, \quad M = 0, \quad \delta = \frac{2^{16}1999^{2}}{5^{3}}$$

•

$$h(x) = x^{6} - \frac{136}{25}x^{4} + \frac{100928}{15625}x^{2} - \frac{511744}{1953125}x$$
  
$$\theta = 0.$$

Theorem 4 gives

$$\begin{split} T &= \frac{24}{5}, \quad R_1 = 4i, \quad R_2 = \frac{4}{5}i \\ X &= 2 + 2i, \quad \overline{X} = 2 - 2i, \quad Y = \frac{-14 + 2i}{5}, \quad \overline{Y} = \frac{-14 - 2i}{5} \\ u_1 &= \left(\frac{-4 - 28i}{5}\right)^{1/5}, \quad u_2 = \left(\frac{1 - i}{2}\right)u_1^2 \\ u_3 &= \left(\frac{-4 + 3i}{10}\right)u_1^3, \quad u_4 = \left(\frac{-1 + 7i}{20}\right)u_1^4 \\ x &= \omega u_1 + \omega^2 \left(\frac{1 - i}{2}\right)u_1^2 + \omega^3 \left(\frac{-4 + 3i}{10}\right)u_1^3 + \omega^4 \left(\frac{-1 + 7i}{20}\right)u_1^4. \end{split}$$

Example 8.

$$f(x) = x^{5} + 40x^{3} - 120x^{2} + 160x + 96, \quad \text{Gal}(f) = D_{5} \text{ [MAPLE]}$$

$$C = 4, \quad D = -12, \quad E = 32, \quad F = 96$$

$$K = 80, \quad L = 12800, \quad M = 0, \quad \delta = 2^{20}3^{4}5^{10}$$

$$h(x) = x^{6} - 16x^{4} + \frac{512}{5}x^{2} - \frac{288}{125}\sqrt{5}x$$

$$\theta = 0.$$

Theorem 4 gives

$$T = 4\sqrt{5}$$

$$R_1 = 4\sqrt{30 + 6\sqrt{5}}, \quad R_2 = -4\sqrt{30 - 6\sqrt{5}} \quad (by (2.49))$$

$$X = 6 + 2\sqrt{5} + 2\sqrt{30 + 6\sqrt{5}}, \quad \overline{X} = 6 + 2\sqrt{5} - 2\sqrt{30 + 6\sqrt{5}}$$

$$Y = 6 - 2\sqrt{5} - 2\sqrt{30 - 6\sqrt{5}}, \quad \overline{Y} = 6 - 2\sqrt{5} + 2\sqrt{30 - 6\sqrt{5}}$$

$$u_{1} = (-24 - 40\sqrt{5} - 8\sqrt{150} + 30\sqrt{5})^{1/5}$$

$$u_{2} = \left(\frac{3 + \sqrt{5} - \sqrt{30 + 6\sqrt{5}}}{8}\right)u_{1}^{2}$$

$$u_{3} = \left(\frac{1 - 3\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{30 - 6\sqrt{5}}}{16}\right)u_{1}^{3}$$

$$u_{4} = \left(\frac{-3 - 5\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{150 + 30\sqrt{5}}}{32}\right)u_{1}^{4}$$

$$x = \omega u_{1} + \omega^{2}\left(\frac{3 + \sqrt{5} - \sqrt{30 + 6\sqrt{5}}}{8}\right)u_{1}^{2}$$

$$+ \omega^{3}\left(\frac{1 - 3\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{30 - 6\sqrt{5}}}{16}\right)u_{1}^{3}$$

$$+ \omega^{4}\left(\frac{-3 - 5\sqrt{5} + \sqrt{150 + 30\sqrt{5}}}{32}\right)u_{1}^{4}$$

## 8. Concluding Remarks

We take this opportunity to note some corrections to [1].

On page 20 in the expression for  $\Delta$  the terms

$$-20a^{3}bcf^{3}$$
,  $4080a^{2}bd^{2}c^{2}f$ ,  $-180ab^{3}c^{3}f$ ,  $-3375b^{4}c^{4}$ 

should be replaced by

$$-20a^{3}bef^{3}$$
,  $4080a^{2}bd^{2}e^{2}f$ ,  $-180ab^{3}e^{3}f$ ,  $-3375b^{4}e^{4}$ .

On page 24 in the second column  $S_2$ ,  $S_4$  and  $S_6$  should be replaced by  $E_2$ ,  $E_4$  and  $E_6$ .

On page 27 in the first column in the equation given by MAPLE the term  $3CD\theta^2 - T\theta^3$  should be replaced by  $C^3D - 3C^2T\theta + 3CD\theta^2 - T\theta^3$ .

On page 28 in Step 3 equation (7) should be replaced by (8).

#### References

- [1] B. C. Berndt, B. K. Spearman and K. S. Williams, Commentary on an unpublished lecture by G. N. Watson on solving the quintic, Math. Intelligencer 24 (2002), 15-33.
- [2] A. Cayley, On a new auxiliary equation in the theory of equations of the fifth order, Phil. Trans. Royal Society London CLI (1861), 263-276. [3, Vol. IV, Paper 268, pp. 309-324].
- [3] A. Cayley, The Collected Mathematical Papers of Arthur Cayley, Cambridge University Press, Vol. I (1889), Vol. II (1889), Vol. III (1890), Vol. IV (1891), Vol. V (1892), Vol. VI (1893), Vol. VII (1894), Vol. VIII (1895), Vol. IX (1896), Vol. X (1896), Vol. XI (1896), Vol. XII (1897), Vol. XIII (1897), Vol. XIV (1898).
- [4] D. S. Dummit, Solving solvable quintics, Math. Comp. 57 (1991), 387-401.
- [5] B. K. Spearman and K. S. Williams, Characterization of solvable quintics, Amer. Math. Monthly 101 (1994), 986-992.
- [6] George N. Watson, Some singular moduli (i), Quart. J. Math. 3 (1932), 81-98.
- [7] George N. Watson, Some singular moduli (ii), Quart. J. Math. 3 (1932), 189-212.
- [8] George N. Watson, Singular moduli (3), Proc. London Math. Soc. 40 (1936), 83-142.
- [9] George N. Watson, Singular moduli (4), Acta Arith. 1 (1936), 284-323.
- [10] George N. Watson, Singular moduli (5), Proc. London Math. Soc. 42 (1937), 377-397.
- [11] George N. Watson, Singular moduli (6), Proc. London Math. Soc. 42 (1937), 398-409.