

# Algebra 2 Homework 4

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## 1

We know that the commutator subgroup of  $F$ , the free group on two generators, will be generated by all elements of the form  $w_1 w_2 w_1^{-1} w_2^{-1}$ , where  $w_1, w_2$  are words in the free group. Let the set of generators be denoted by  $S$ . We consider  $DF$ , the commutator subgroup of  $F$ . By the universal property of free groups, we have the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & F(S) & \\ i \nearrow & & \searrow \exists! \Phi \\ S & \xrightarrow{i} & DF \end{array}$$

where  $F(S)$  surjects onto  $DF$ . Then see that for any element  $w \in \ker \Phi$ , the action on the map is given by the inclusion of each letter of the word, and where it is sent. Due to this, we must have that  $F(S) \cong DF$ . Since  $DF$  is isomorphic to a free group of infinite rank, it is not finitely generated.

## 2

See that for all  $i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  we have  $t'_i$  is a product of disjoint transpositions. We know that the order of  $t'_i$  is the least common multiple of all the cycles, which is clearly 2 in this case. Then we have  $t'^2_i = 1$ .

Now see that  $t'_1 t'_2 = (1, 2)(3, 4)(5, 6) \circ (1, 4)(2, 5)(3, 6) = (1, 3, 5)(2, 6, 4)$ ,  $t'_2 t'_3 = (1, 4)(2, 5)(3, 6) \circ (1, 3)(2, 4)(5, 6) = (1, 6, 2)(3, 4, 5)$ ,  $t'_3 t'_4 = (1, 3)(2, 4)(5, 6) \circ (1, 2)(3, 6)(4, 5) = (1, 4, 6)(2, 3, 5)$ , and  $t'_4 t'_5 = (1, 2)(3, 6)(4, 5) \circ (1, 4)(2, 3)(5, 6) = (1, 5, 3)(2, 6, 4)$ . These are all products of disjoint 3-cycles, thus they have order 3.

It is also interesting to see that  $t'_1 t'_3 = (1, 2)(3, 4)(5, 6) \circ (1, 3)(2, 4)(5, 6) = (1, 4)(2, 3)$ ,  $t'_1 t'_4 = (1, 2)(3, 4)(5, 6) \circ (1, 2)(3, 6)(4, 5) = (3, 5)(4, 6)$ ,  $t'_1 t'_5 = (1, 2)(3, 4)(5, 6) \circ (1, 4)(2, 3)(5, 6) = (1, 3)(2, 4)$ ,  $t'_2 t'_4 = (1, 4)(2, 5)(3, 6) \circ (1, 2)(3, 6)(4, 5) = (1, 5)(2, 4)$ ,  $t'_2 t'_5 = (1, 4)(2, 5)(3, 6) \circ (1, 4)(2, 3)(5, 6) = (2, 6)(3, 5)$ , and  $t'_3 t'_5 = (1, 3)(2, 4)(5, 6) \circ (1, 4)(2, 3)(5, 6) = (1, 2)(3, 4)$ , which is a product of disjoint 2-cycles.

See that  $t'_3 t'_5 t'_1 = (6, 5)$ , and  $t'_1 t'_2 t'_4 = (6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1)$ . These two can generate  $S_6$ , since a transposition and a  $n$ -cycle can generate  $S_n$ . Thus we have a presentation for  $S_n$ . We also know that transpositions that change consecutive elements generate  $S_n$ , hence the map defined for the five such elements of  $S_6$  suffice to determine an automorphism. This automorphism is clearly not inner.

## 3

Let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$ . It satisfies a monic polynomial  $f(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ . Then we have

$$\alpha^n + c_{n-1}\alpha^{n-1} + \cdots + c_0 = 0.$$

Let  $\alpha = \frac{p}{q}$ , with  $(p, q) = 1$ . Then we have

$$p^n + c_{n-1}p^{n-1}q + \cdots + c_0q^n = 0.$$

Reducing this equation modulo  $q$ , we have

$$p^n \equiv 0 \pmod{q}.$$

Since  $(p, q) = 1$ , we have  $q = 1$ . Thus  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

## 4

We have  $f(x) = x^5 - ax - 1$ . For  $a = 0$ ,  $f(x) = (x - 1)(x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1)$ , which is a non-trivial reduction. For  $a = 2$ , we have  $f(-1) = 0$ , so this is also reducible. For  $a = -1$ , we have  $f(x) = x^5 - x - 1$  which can be factored as given by the problem. Now assume  $a \neq -1, 0, 2$ . If  $f(x)$  factors, it will either have a linear factor or a quadratic factor. Then we shall see that there can never be zero remainder, to prove that it is irreducible.

If there was a linear factor, then  $f$  would have an integer root, say  $k$ . By the rational roots theorem, we must have  $k \mid -1$ . Thus we have  $k = 1, -1$ . In either case,  $f$  is not zero. Thus there is no linear factor.

If there was a quadratic factor, then we have  $x^5 - ax - 1 = (x^2 + a_1x + a_0)(x^3 + b_2x^2 + b_1x + b_0)$ . See that  $a_0b_0 = -1$ , so we have two cases  $a_0 = 1, b_0 = -1$  and  $a_0 = -1, b_0 = 1$ . In the first, we substitute this in the other constraints

$$\begin{aligned} b_2 + a_1 &= 0 \\ a_1b_2 + a_1 + b_1 &= 0 \\ a_0b_2 + a_1b_1 + b_0 &= 0 \\ a_0b_1 + a_1b_0 &= -a \end{aligned}$$

Many substitutions later, we have  $a_1^3 + a_1^2 - a_1 + 1 = 0$ . If it has an integer root, we must have  $a_1 \mid 1$ . In either case  $a_1 = 1, -1$ , this equation is not satisfied. Thus there is no solution for  $a_1$ .

In the other case where  $a_0 = -1, b_0 = 1$ , we have the equation  $a_1^3 - a_1^2 + a_1 + 1 = 0$ . The same way as above, if it is possible,  $1, -1$  are the only roots. However, it is not zero at those points, hence there are no solutions for this case.

Thus this polynomial is irreducible.

## 5

See that  $x^2 - 4x + 1$  is a polynomial that  $2 + \sqrt{3}$  satisfies. The minimal polynomial if it is any smaller would have degree 1. But since  $2 + \sqrt{3}$  is not rational, the degree of its minimal polynomial must be at least 2. Thus we have that  $2 + \sqrt{3}$  has exactly degree 2 over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

Consider the number field  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})/\mathbb{Q}$ , which is a degree 3 extension. It is a  $\mathbb{Q}$  vector space, so it clearly contains the element  $1 + \sqrt[3]{2} + \sqrt[3]{4}$ . Therefore it must have degree at most 3 in  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Since it is not rational, its degree over  $\mathbb{Q}$  must be at least 2. Let us see if any quadratic polynomial can satisfy it. Let  $x^2 + ax + b \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  be some rational polynomial. Assume  $\alpha = \sqrt[3]{2}$ . Assume that  $(1 + \alpha + \alpha^2)$  satisfies this quadratic polynomial, so we must have

$$\begin{aligned} (1 + \alpha + \alpha^2)^2 + a(1 + \alpha + \alpha^2) + b &= 3\alpha^2 + 4\alpha + 5 + a + a\alpha + a\alpha^2 + b \\ &= (3 + a)\alpha^2 + (4 + a)\alpha + (5 + a + b). \end{aligned}$$

If this is to be 0, then we must have  $a = -3$  and  $a = -4$ , which is absurd.

Therefore  $1 + \sqrt[3]{2} + \sqrt[3]{4}$  must be of degree 3.

## 6

If we can find a  $a + bi \in \mathbb{Q}(i)$ , such that  $x^3 - q$  vanishes for  $q \in \{2, 3\} \in \mathbb{Q}$ , then we can reduce the polynomial. If this is possible, then we must have

$$(a + bi)^3 = (a^3 - 3ab^2) + i(3a^2b - b^3) \in \mathbb{Q},$$

which forces  $3a^2b = b^3$ . If  $b = 0$ , then it is equivalent to asking if a rational root for  $q$  exists, which is not true. Thus we must have  $b \neq 0$ . Then we have  $3a^2 = b^2$ , which has no rational solution since  $\sqrt{3}$  is not rational. Therefore we must have that  $x^3 - 2$  and  $x^3 - 3$  are both irreducible, since they have no solutions on  $\mathbb{Q}(i)$ .

## 7

Let  $q(x)$  be an irreducible polynomial dividing  $f(g(x))$ . Then we define  $K \cong \frac{F[x]}{(q(x))}$ . We consider the canonical projection  $\pi : F[x] \rightarrow K$ . We consider the image of  $g(x)$  under  $\pi$ . We get  $\overline{g(x)} = g(x) + (q(x))$ . We claim that  $f(\overline{g(x)})$  is 0. We have

$$f(\overline{g(x)}) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i(g(x) + (q(x)))^i = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i(g(x)^i + (q(x))) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i g(x)^i + (q(x)) = f(g(x)) + (q(x)).$$

We know that  $f(g(x))$  is a multiple of  $q(x)$ , thus  $\overline{g(x)}$  is a root of  $f(g(x))$ . Let  $\alpha = \overline{g(x)}$ . We have a root of  $f$  over  $K$ , and we know  $f$  is irreducible on  $F$ , thus  $[F(\alpha) : F] = \deg f = n$ . Note that  $q$  is irreducible over  $F$ , thus we have  $[K : F] = \deg q$ . Now we have

$$[K : F] = [K : F(\alpha)][F(\alpha) : F],$$

which gives the required result that  $n \mid \deg q$ .