

Q5: First note that since \mathbb{F}_3 is a field, constant numbers are irreducible. Next, we have that linear terms $x, (x-1), (x-2)$ are all irreducible, since they are all linear. This is also an exhaustive list of all degree 1 irreducible polynomials, since they each have a unique root. Note that for degree 2 and 3 polynomials, it is sufficient to check when they are monic, and their constant term is nonzero. The complete list of degree 2 monic polynomials over \mathbb{F}_3 are:

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + 1 \\ x^2 + 2 \\ x^2 + x + 1 \\ x^2 + x + 2 \\ x^2 + 2x + 1 \\ x^2 + 2x + 2 \end{aligned}$$

Applying Prop. 9 and Prop 10, it is enough to evaluate each polynomial on \mathbb{F}_3 , and the ones which do not vanish will therefore be irreducible. We see that the only such polynomials are

$$x^2 + 1, x^2 + x + 2, x^2 + 2x + 2.$$

Finally, we will find the degree 3 irreducible polynomials. Similarly to the degree 2 case, we use Prop. 9 and Prop. 10. We can find such degree 3 polynomials by checking all degree 3 monic polynomials who do not vanish at 0. First note that the two simplest cases that are irreducible are

$$x(x-1)(x-2) + 1 = x^3 + 2x + 1, x(x-1)(x-2) + 2 = x^3 + 2x + 2.$$

These are irreducible by construction. They will never be 0. Checking the remaining degree polynomials, we have that the following are irreducible:

$$\begin{aligned} x^3 + x^2 + 2 \\ x^3 + x^2 + x + 2 \\ x^3 + 2x^2 + x + 1 \\ x^3 + 2x^2 + 2x + 2 \\ x^3 + x^2 + 2x + 1 \\ x^3 + 2x^2 + 1 \end{aligned}$$

Thus by brute force these are all the irreducible polynomials over \mathbb{F}_3 of degree less than 3.