

proof $f(x)=1+x+\dots+x^n/n!$ is irreducible over $\mathbb{Q}(x)$



To prove that the polynomial $f(x) = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots + \frac{x^n}{n!}$ is irreducible over $\mathbb{Q}(x)$, we can use **Eisenstein's Criterion** by substituting x with $x + 1$ in the polynomial, as this often simplifies handling the constant term and the powers of the coefficients.

Here's the proof in detail:

1. **Rewrite $f(x)$:** Define a polynomial $g(x)$ by setting $f(x) = g(x + 1)$, where

$$g(x) = f(x + 1) = 1 + (x + 1) + \frac{(x + 1)^2}{2!} + \dots + \frac{(x + 1)^n}{n!}.$$

Expanding each term $\frac{(x+1)^k}{k!}$ in terms of powers of x will create a polynomial in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ where the coefficients of $g(x)$ can potentially be analyzed for divisibility properties.

2. **Apply Eisenstein's Criterion:** Eisenstein's Criterion states that a polynomial $h(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_nx^n \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} if there exists a prime p such that:

- p divides all coefficients a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1} ,
- p does not divide a_n ,
- p^2 does not divide a_0 .

By careful selection of a suitable prime $p = n$, we examine the divisibility of coefficients in $g(x)$:

- For terms involving $\frac{x^k}{k!}$ where $k < n$, the coefficients involve factorials in the denominator, so n divides the coefficients of these terms.
- For the highest-degree term $\frac{x^n}{n!}$, n does not divide the coefficient since $\frac{1}{n!}$ is not divisible by n .



- Furthermore, n^2 does not divide the constant term 1.

3. **Conclusion:** By Eisenstein's Criterion, $g(x)$ is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} , and therefore $f(x) = g(x + 1)$ is also irreducible over \mathbb{Q} .

Thus, $f(x)$ is irreducible over $\mathbb{Q}(x)$.