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irreducible polynomials obtained from
biquadratic fields

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Corollary. *Let m and n be distinct squarefree integers, neither of which is equal to 1. Then the polynomial*

$$x^4 - 2(m+n)x^2 + (m-n)^2$$

is <http://planetmath.org/IrreduciblePolynomial2irreducible> (over \mathbb{Q}).

Proof. By the theorem stated in the <http://planetmath.org/PrimitiveElementOfBiquadraticField> entry, $\sqrt{m}+\sqrt{n}$ is an algebraic number of <http://planetmath.org/DegreeOfAnAlgebraicNumber> 4. Thus, a polynomial of degree 4 that has $\sqrt{m}+\sqrt{n}$ as a root must be over \mathbb{Q} . We set out to construct such a polynomial.

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \sqrt{m} + \sqrt{n} \\ x - \sqrt{m} &= \sqrt{n} \\ (x - \sqrt{m})^2 &= n \\ x^2 - 2\sqrt{m}x + m &= n \\ x^2 + m - n &= 2\sqrt{m}x \\ (x^2 + m - n)^2 &= 4mx^2 \\ x^4 + (2m - 2n)x^2 + (m - n)^2 &= 4mx^2 \\ x^4 + (2m - 2n - 4m)x^2 + (m - n)^2 &= 0 \\ x^4 - 2(m + n)x^2 + (m - n)^2 &= 0 \quad \square \end{aligned}$$