

# Cyclotomic polynomials

---

## Introduction

---

1. Polynomials  $A(x)$ ,  $B(x)$ ,  $C(x)$ ,  $D(x)$  satisfy the equation

$$A(x^5) + xB(x^5) + x^2C(x^5) = (1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4)D(x) \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Find all possible values of  $A(1)$ .

2. A sequence  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  is called  $k$ -balanced if

$$a_1 + a_{k+1} + \dots = a_2 + a_{k+2} + \dots = \dots = a_k + a_{2k} + \dots$$

Suppose the sequence  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{50}$  is  $k$ -balanced for  $k = 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17$ .  
Prove that  $a_i$  are all zeros.

---

**Definition 1.** A complex number  $z$  is called a **primitive  $n$ th root of unity** if  $z^n = 1$  and  $z^k \neq 1$  for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ .

In other words,  $z^n$  is the first power which is equal to 1.

**Definition 2.** The  **$n$ th cyclotomic polynomial** is the monic polynomial  $\Phi_n(x)$  whose roots are exactly primitive  $n$ th roots of unity, that is

$$\Phi_n(x) = \prod_{\gcd(n,k)=1, 1 \leq k \leq n} (x - e^{\frac{2\pi k}{n}i})$$

---

## Problems

---

- Find all primitive roots of unity (see Definition 1) if a)  $n = 1$ , b)  $n = 2$ , c)  $n = 3$ , d)  $n = 4$ , e)  $n = 6$ .
- Prove that the number of primitive  $n$ th roots of unity is  $\varphi(n)$ .
- Find cyclotomic polynomials (see Definition 2)  $\Phi_1(x)$ ,  $\Phi_2(x)$ ,  $\Phi_3(x)$ ,  $\Phi_4(x)$ ,  $\Phi_6(x)$ .
- Prove that the degree of  $\Phi_n(x)$  is even for any  $n > 2$ .
- Find the degree of  $\Phi_n(x)$ .
- Find  $\Phi_p(x)$  if  $p$  is a prime number.

7. Prove that for any positive integer  $n$

$$\prod_{d|n} \Phi_d(x) = x^n - 1. \quad (1)$$

*Remark.* We have also proved that  $\sum_{d|n} \varphi(d) = n$ .

8. Prove that  $\Phi_n(x)$  is a polynomial with integer coefficients.

9. Let  $\Phi_n(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\varphi(n)} a_i x^i$  for  $n \geq 2$ . Prove that  $a_i = a_{\varphi(n)-i}$  for all  $0 \leq i \leq \varphi(n)$ .

10. Find  $\Phi_{81}(x)$ .

11. Let  $n > 1$  be an odd integer. Prove that  $\Phi_{2n}(x) = \Phi_n(-x)$ .

12. Polynomial  $\Phi_n(x)$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Prove that  $\Phi_p(x)$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Z}$  if  $p$  is a prime number.

*Remark.* Note that  $\Phi_n(x)$  can be reducible over  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  for some prime numbers  $p$ . Give an example.

13. Determine whether there exists a polynomial  $P(x)$  with integer coefficients such that  $P(x)$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , but reducible over  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  for any prime  $p$ .

14. Prove that  $\Phi_n(x) = \prod_{d|n} (x^d - 1)^{\mu(n/d)}$ , where  $\mu$  is the Mobius function, that is

$$\mu(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & n = 1 \\ (-1)^k & n = p_1 \cdots p_k \\ 0 & n = p^2 m \end{cases}$$

15. For any positive integer  $n$ , the sum of all primitive  $n$ th roots of unity is  $\mu(n)$ .

---

## Closer to number theory

**Lemma 1 (Key fact).** *Let  $p$  be a prime,  $n$  a positive integer and  $a$  any integer. Suppose*

$$\Phi_n(a) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}.$$

*Prove that either*

- $p$  divides  $n$ , or
- $n$  divides  $p - 1$  (moreover,  $n$  is the order of  $a$  modulo  $p$ ).

16. What does Lemma 1 say if  $n = 4$ ?

17. Prove Lemma 1.

18. Let  $x$  be an integer and  $p > 3$  a prime such that  $p \mid x^2 - x + 1$ . Prove that  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{6}$ .
  19. Let  $a$  and  $b$  be integers such that  $a^4 + b^4$  is divisible by 1001. Prove that both  $a$  and  $b$  are divisible by 1001.
  20. Let  $m$  and  $n$  be distinct positive integers and  $p$  a prime such that  $p \nmid mn$ . Then  $\Phi_m(a)$  and  $\Phi_n(a)$  cannot both be divisible by  $p$  for  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
  21. Let  $m$  and  $n$  be two distinct positive integers and  $p$  a prime such that  $p \nmid mn$ . Then  $\gcd(\Phi_m(x), \Phi_n(x)) = 1$  over  $\mathbb{Z}_p[x]$ .
  22. Prove that for any prime number  $p$  there always exists a primitive root, i.e. there exists a positive integer  $a$  such that  $a, a^2, \dots, a^{p-1}$  are all different modulo  $p$ . *Hint.* You may use the following identity
$$x^{p-1} - 1 \equiv (x - 1)(x - 2) \dots (x - (p - 1)) \pmod{p}.$$
  23. Prove that for any positive integer  $n$  there exist infinitely many primes congruent to 1 modulo  $n$ .
  24. Let  $p$  be a prime number. Prove that there exists a prime number  $q$  such that for every integer  $n$ , the number  $n^p - p$  is not divisible by  $q$ .
- 

## Homework

1. For any positive integer  $n$ , let  $\tau(n)$  be the number of positive factors of  $n$  (for example,  $\tau(5) = 2$ ,  $\tau(6) = 4$ ). Prove that

$$\sum_{d \mid n} \tau(n/d) \mu(d) = 1.$$