

Consider the field $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F}_{64}$

Problem 1. The group \mathbb{F}^* is of order 63. Therefore, the possible orders of elements in \mathbb{F}^* are 1, 3, 7, 9, 21, and 63

There is of course, one element of order 1. There are $\phi(3) = 2$ elements of order 3, $\phi(7) = 6$ elements of order 7, $\phi(9) = 6$ elements of order 9, $\phi(21) = 12$ elements of order 21, and $\phi(63) = 36$ primitive elements.

Problem 2. Let α be a primitive element of \mathbb{F} . Then the primitive elements in \mathbb{F}^* are:

$$\begin{aligned} C_{\alpha^1} &= \{\alpha^1, \alpha^2, \alpha^4, \alpha^8, \alpha^{16}, \alpha^{32}\} \\ C_{\alpha^5} &= \{\alpha^5, \alpha^{10}, \alpha^{20}, \alpha^{40}, \alpha^{17}, \alpha^{34}\} \\ C_{\alpha^{11}} &= \{\alpha^{11}, \alpha^{22}, \alpha^{44}, \alpha^{25}, \alpha^{50}, \alpha^{37}\} \\ C_{\alpha^{13}} &= \{\alpha^{13}, \alpha^{26}, \alpha^{52}, \alpha^{41}, \alpha^{19}, \alpha^{38}\} \\ C_{\alpha^{23}} &= \{\alpha^{23}, \alpha^{46}, \alpha^{29}, \alpha^{58}, \alpha^{53}, \alpha^{43}\} \\ C_{\alpha^{31}} &= \{\alpha^{31}, \alpha^{62}, \alpha^{61}, \alpha^{59}, \alpha^{55}, \alpha^{47}\} \end{aligned}$$

The primitive elements above have already been arranged by the cyclotomic coset that they belong to. Hence this gives us the following primitive polynomials:

$$\begin{aligned} M^{(1)}(x) &= (x - \alpha^1)(x - \alpha^2)(x - \alpha^4)(x - \alpha^8)(x - \alpha^{16})(x - \alpha^{32}) \\ M^{(5)}(x) &= (x - \alpha^5)(x - \alpha^{10})(x - \alpha^{20})(x - \alpha^{40})(x - \alpha^{17})(x - \alpha^{34}) \\ M^{(11)}(x) &= (x - \alpha^{11})(x - \alpha^{22})(x - \alpha^{44})(x - \alpha^{25})(x - \alpha^{50})(x - \alpha^{37}) \\ M^{(13)}(x) &= (x - \alpha^{13})(x - \alpha^{26})(x - \alpha^{52})(x - \alpha^{41})(x - \alpha^{19})(x - \alpha^{38}) \\ M^{(23)}(x) &= (x - \alpha^{23})(x - \alpha^{46})(x - \alpha^{29})(x - \alpha^{58})(x - \alpha^{53})(x - \alpha^{43}) \\ M^{(31)}(x) &= (x - \alpha^{31})(x - \alpha^{62})(x - \alpha^{61})(x - \alpha^{59})(x - \alpha^{55})(x - \alpha^{47}) \end{aligned}$$

Problem 3. On page 105, we can see that there are 9 cyclotomic cosets of size 6 for \mathbb{F}^* . This accounts for 54 elements, which is greater than the number of primitive elements. Simply put, while each primitive element has a minimal polynomial of degree 6 in \mathbb{F}^* , the converse is not necessarily true: not every polynomial of degree 6 will have primitive elements as their roots. The three cosets in question have representatives 3, 7 and 15, all of which are not relatively prime to 63. Hence, none of the elements in these three cosets are actually primitive. The remaining 6 cosets leaves us with 36 elements, which is exactly the 36 primitive elements in \mathbb{F}^* . The 54 elements which have cyclotomic cosets of size 6 are those elements which are not contained in any proper subfields of \mathbb{F}

Problem 4. The subfields of $GF(2^6)$ are shown below.

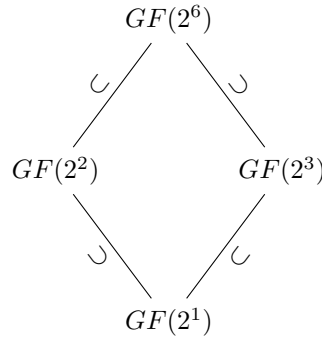


Figure 1: Subfields of $GF(2^6)$