

Matehmatical Tools For Cryptography

Disclaimer

This follows the lessons from Mr. Zaimi given in course, major additions, changes or rearrangements can be applied on the course for the sake of clarity, better explainations or just subjective opinions, written by HADIOUCHE Azouaou.

Some contents were added as remainders for the students. To seperate the contents of the course to actual additions or out of context information, I will use the black band that is next to the one englobing this comment for out of course information.

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Chapter 0

Remainders

This part will just be a remainder of the important definitions, propositions and theorems of the field extension course that are needed for this course. We assume that rings in this case are commutative rings with unity.

0.1. Rings & Homomorphisms

Definition 0.1.1 (Ring Homomorphism/Kernel/Image): Let R, R' be two rings and $f : R \rightarrow R'$ a map. We say that f is a ring homomorphism if

$$f(a + b) = f(a) + f(b). \quad f(ab) = f(a)f(b).$$

define $\text{Ker } f = f^{-1}(\{0\})$ and $\text{Im } f = f(R)$.

Proposition 0.1.2: Let $f : R \rightarrow R'$ be a ring homomorphism

- $\text{Ker } f$ is an ideal of R and $\text{Im } f$ is a subring of R' .
- $\text{Ker } f = \{0\} \Leftrightarrow f$ injective and $\text{Im } f = R' \Leftrightarrow f$ surjective.
- If R, R' are fields then $f \equiv 0$ or $f(1) = 1$.

Theorem 0.1.3 (First Isomorphism Theorem): Let $f : A \rightarrow B$ be a ring homomorphism, then $\text{Im } f \cong A / \text{Ker } f$ and for $I \subseteq \text{Ker } f$ is an ideal then there exists a unique isomorphism $f_* : A/I \rightarrow B$, $f_*(x + I) = f(x)$ with $f = f_* \circ \pi$ and $\pi(x) = x + I$ the canonical surjection.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & f & & & \\ A & \xrightarrow{\pi} & A/I & \xrightarrow{f_*} & B \end{array}$$

0.2. Ideals, UFDs, PIDs & EDs

Definition 0.2.4 (Elements): Let R be a ring, we have the following:

- **Unit:** $x \in R$ is a unit if $\exists y \in R, xy = 1$, denoted R^* .
- **Zero Divisor:** $x \in R \setminus \{0\}$ is a zero divisor if $\exists y \in R, xy = 0$.
- **Irreducible:** $x \in R$ is irreducible if $x = x_1 x_2 \Rightarrow x_1 \in R^* \vee x_2 \in R^*$.

Definition 0.2.5 (Ideals): Let R be a ring, $I \subseteq R$ ideal, we have:

- **Prime Ideal:** I is prime if $\forall a, b \in R, ab \in I \Rightarrow a \in I \vee b \in I$.
- **Principal Ideal:** I is principal if $\exists x \in R, I = (x) = xR$.
- **Maximal Ideal:** I is maximal if $\forall M$ ideal $I \subseteq M \subseteq R \Rightarrow M = I$ or R .

Proposition 0.2.6: Let $f : R \rightarrow R'$ be a ring homomorphism and let I' be an ideal of R' then $I = f^{-1}(I')$ is an ideal of R , if I' is prime then I is prime.

Theorem 0.2.7: Let R be a ring and I, J ideals of R

- I is a prime ideal $\Leftrightarrow R/I$ is an integral domain.
- I is a maximal ideal $\Leftrightarrow R/I$ is a field.
- if $I \subseteq J$ then $(A/I)/(J/I) \cong A/J$.

Definition 0.2.8 (Domains): Let R be a ring, we have the following:

- **Integral Domain:** R is an integral domain if $xy = 0 \Rightarrow x = 0$ or $y = 0$.
- **Principle Ideal Domain:** R is a PID if for any ideal I in R , I is principle.
- **Euclidean Domain:** R is said to be an ED if $\exists \nu : R/\{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ a valuation function, $\forall a, b \in R, \exists q, r \in R, a = bq + r, r = 0$ or $\nu(r) < \nu(b)$.
- **Unique Factoriation Domain:** R is a UFD if any element can be decomposed into a unique product of irreducible elements.

Theorem 0.2.9:

- If R is a UFD and $x \in R$ is irreducible, then (x) is prime.
- If R is an integral domain and a PID, every prime ideal is maximal.
- $ED \Rightarrow PID \Rightarrow UFD$.

0.3. Ring Of Polynomials

Definition 0.3.10 (Ring Of Polynomials): Let R be a ring, we define

$$R[X] = \left\{ \sum_{i \in I} a_i X^i \mid I \text{ finite}, \{a_i\}_{i \in I} \subseteq R \right\}.$$

to be the ring of polynomials on R , and for any $P \in R[X]$ we set

$$\deg P = \max\{i \in \mathbb{N} \mid X^i \text{ has a non-zero coefficient in } P\}.$$

Definition 0.3.11 (Polynomials): Let L/K be a field extension and $P \in K[X]$

- **Minimal:** P is the minimal polynomial of $\alpha \in L$ if it is the unique monic polynomial with the smallest degree which vanishes at α denoted $\text{Irr}(\alpha, K, x)$.

Proposition 0.3.12: Let K be a field, $P(X) \in K[X]$ with $\deg P \in \{2, 3\}$ then we have that P is reducible over $K \Leftrightarrow P$ has a zero in K .

Theorem 0.3.13: Let R be a ring

- R is an integral domain $\Rightarrow R[X]$ is an integral domain.
- $P = \sum a_i X^i$ is a unit in $R[X] \Leftrightarrow a_0 \in R^*$ and $\forall i \geq 1, a_i$ nilpotent.
- $P \in R[X]$ irreducible $\Rightarrow R[X]/(P) = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{\deg P-1} a_i \alpha^i \mid a_i \in R \right\}$.
- Let α a root of $P \in R[X]$ then $\text{Irr}(\alpha, K, X)$ divides P .
- if R is a field, $R[X]$ is a Euclidean domain with the valuation $\nu(P) = \deg P$.

Proposition 0.3.14 (Eisenstein's Criterions):

- Let $P(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + \dots + a_n x^n \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$, if there is a prime p such that $p \mid a_0, \dots, p \mid a_{n-1}, p^2 \nmid a_0$ and $p \nmid a_n$ then P is irreducible over $\mathbb{Q}[X]$.
- Let $P(X) \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$ and $\varphi : \mathbb{Z}[X] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{n[X]}$ the extension of $k \mapsto k \bmod n$, if $\deg \varphi(P) = \deg P$ and $\varphi(P)$ is irreducible in $\mathbb{Z}_{n[X]}$ then P is irreducible in $\mathbb{Q}[X]$.

0.4. Field Extensions

Definition 0.4.15 (Extension/Degree Of Extension): Let L, K be two fields such that $K \subseteq L$, we call L a field extension of K and we denote it L/K , we define the degree of extension of L on K as $\dim_K L$ if it is finite and $+\infty$ if it is infinite, and we denote it $[L : K] = \dim_K L$

Definition 0.4.16 (Characteristic): we define the characteristic of K to be the smallest n such that $1 + 1 + \dots + 1 = 0$ n times, denoted $\text{Char } K = n$, if n does not exist then we say that $\text{Char } K = 0$.

Definition 0.4.17 (Elements): Let K be a field and $x \in K$.

- **Algebraic:** x is said to be algebraic if $\exists P \in K[X], \deg P > 0, P(x) = 0$.
- **Transcendental:** x is said to be transcendental if it is not algebraic.
- **Conjugate:** α is said to be the conjugate of β if β is a root of $\text{Irr}(\alpha, K, x)$.

Proposition 0.4.18:

- If α, β are conjugates then $\text{Irr}(\alpha, K, X) = \text{Irr}(\beta, K, X)$.
- If L/K then $\text{Char } L = \text{Char } K$.
- if K is a field then $\text{Char } K$ is prime.

Definition 0.4.19 (Fields): Let K be a field

- **Algebraically Closed:** K is said to be algebraically closed if any algebraic extension of K is K .

Definition 0.4.20 (Extensions):

- **L/K Algebraic Extension:** $\forall x \in L$, x is algebraic over K .
- **L/K Transcendental Extension:** if it is not an algebraic extension.
- **Algebraic Closure:** \overline{K} is an algebraic closure of K if \overline{K}/K is an algebraic extension and \overline{K} is algebraically closed.

Theorem 0.4.21: Let L/K be a field extension and $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in L$ and set $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ then

- $K[\alpha_1][\alpha_2] \dots [\alpha_n] = K[\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n] = \{P(\alpha) \mid P \in K[X_1, \dots, X_n]\}$ is the smallest ring containing K and $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$.
- $K(\alpha_1)(\alpha_2) \dots (\alpha_n) = K(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) = \{P(\alpha)/Q(\alpha) \mid P, Q \in K[X_1, \dots, X_n], Q(\alpha) \neq 0\}$ is the smallest field containing K and $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$.
- any extension of finite degree is algebraic.

Theorem 0.4.22 (Steinitz):

1. Any field is contained inside of an algebraically closed field.
2. Any two algebraic closures of a field are isomorphic.

Chapter 1

Embeddings

Consider in this chapter, K, L, E, Ω denote fields, the lower-case elements are used for elements of fields.

1.1. Embedding

Definition 1.1.1 (Embedding): Let $\sigma : K \rightarrow L$ a homomorphism, if $\sigma \neq 0$ then σ is an embedding from K to L .

Definition 1.1.2 (Extension/Restriction): Suppose E is an extension of K , τ is an embedding of E into L such that $\forall k \in K, \tau(k) = \sigma(k)$, then τ is called an extension σ and σ is called a restriction of τ to K . Moreover if $\sigma = \text{Id}_K$ then τ is called a K -embedding of E into L .

Example:

- The unique embedding $\sigma : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is the identity, we prove $\sigma(1) = 1, \sigma(n) = n, \sigma(-n) = -n, \sigma(a/b) = \sigma(a)/\sigma(b)$ by induction, then $\sigma = \text{Id}$.
- The embeddings $\tau : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ has only two forms, given that $\tau|_{\mathbb{Q}} = \text{Id}_{\mathbb{Q}}$ then $\tau(a + b\sqrt[3]{2}) = a + b\tau(\sqrt[3]{2})$ and since $\tau(\sqrt[3]{2})^2 = \tau(\sqrt[3]{2}^2) = \tau(2) = 2 \Rightarrow \tau(\alpha) = \sqrt[3]{2}$ or $\tau(\alpha) = -\sqrt[3]{2}$.

Proposition 1.1.3: Let τ be a K -embedding of L into E where $K \subseteq L$ and let $\alpha \in L$ be algebraic over K , then $\tau(\alpha)$ is a conjugate of α over K .

Proof. Suppose α algebraic of degree d over K and let $P = \text{Irr}(\alpha, K, x)$, we have $P(\alpha) = 0$ and $\tau(P(\alpha)) = \tau(\sum k_i \alpha^i) = \sum \tau(k_i) \tau(\alpha)^i = \sum k_i \tau(\alpha)^i = P(\tau(\alpha)) = 0$ then $\tau(\alpha)$ is a conjugate of α . \square

We used the fact that τ is a K -embedding in the evaluation $\tau(k_i) = k_i$.

Proposition 1.1.4: Let K be a field, \bar{K} an algebraic closure of K , $\alpha \in \bar{K}$ and let $\beta \in \bar{K}$ be a conjugate of α over K , then there is a K -embedding $\tau : K(\alpha) \rightarrow \bar{K}$ which is a K -isomorphism of $K(\alpha)$ into $K(\beta)$ sending α to β .

Proof. Let α, β conjugates over K , then we have that $\text{Irr}(\alpha, K, X) = \text{Irr}(\beta, K, X)$. Define $I = (\text{Irr}(\alpha, K, X)), \nu_\alpha : K[X] \rightarrow K[\alpha]$ and $\nu_\beta : K[X] \rightarrow K[\beta]$ such that $\nu_\alpha(P(X)) = P(\alpha)$ and $\nu_\beta(P(X)) = P(\beta)$ which are surjective by definition. We have that $\text{Ker}(\nu_\alpha) = \text{Ker}(\nu_\beta) = (\text{Irr}(\alpha, K, X))$. From the first isomorphism theorem we have that there exists two isomorphisms $(\nu_\alpha)_* : K[X]/I \rightarrow K[\alpha]$ and $(\nu_\beta)_* : K[X]/I \rightarrow K[\beta]$ such that $v_\alpha = (\nu_\alpha)_* \circ \pi$ and $v_\beta = (\nu_\beta)_* \circ \pi$. We also have that $K[\alpha] = K(\alpha)$ and $K[\beta] = K(\beta)$ since α, β are algebraic.

Set $\varphi : K(\alpha) \rightarrow K(\beta), x \mapsto ((v_\beta)_* \circ (\nu_\alpha)_*)^{-1}(x)$, φ is the composition of isomorphisms then it is an isomorphism, let $x \in K, \varphi(x) = (v_\beta)_*((\nu_\alpha)_*(x)) = (v_\beta)_*(x + I) = x$ so φ is a K -isomorphism and $\varphi(\alpha) = (v_\beta)_*((\nu_\alpha)_*(\alpha)) = (v_\beta)_*(I) = \beta$. \square

Example: Let $\alpha = \sqrt[3]{2}$ we have $\text{Irr}(\alpha, \mathbb{Q}, X) = X^3 - 2$, the conjugates of α over \mathbb{Q} are $\alpha, j\alpha, j^2\alpha$, there are the following embeddings:

- $\tau_1 : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})$ which is the identity.
- $\tau_2 : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}(j\sqrt[3]{2})$ with $\tau_2(\sqrt[3]{2}) = j\sqrt[3]{2}$ an isomorphism.
- $\tau_3 : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}(j^2\sqrt[3]{2})$ with $\tau_3(\sqrt[3]{2}) = j^2\sqrt[3]{2}$ an isomorphism.

so there are exactly three embeddings.

Corollary 1.1.5: Let α be algebraic over K of degree $n, \alpha \in \bar{K}$ an algebraic closure of K and let s be the number of distinct conjugates of α over K , then there are exactly s embeddings of $K(\alpha)$ into \bar{K} sending α to its distinct conjugates.

Proof. Follows immediately from applying the previous two propositions. \square

Proposition 1.1.6: Let L/K be an algebraic extension and σ a K -endomorphism of L , then σ is surjective.

Proof. Let $\sigma : L \rightarrow L$ a K -embedding and $\alpha \in L$. Take $P = \text{Irr}(\alpha, K, X)$ and set $C = \{\beta \in L \mid P(\beta) = 0\}$ so C is the set of conjugates of α over K , $\alpha \in C \neq \emptyset$ and C is finite since P has finite roots. For any $\beta \in C$, $\sigma(\beta) \in C$ since $P(\sigma(\beta)) = \sigma(P(\beta)) = 0$, σ is an injection from a finite set to itself so $\sigma(C) = C$ thus $\exists \beta \in C, \sigma(\beta) = \alpha$ so σ is surjective. \square

1.2. Primitive Element Theorem

Let K be a field and \bar{K} an algebraic closure of K , and let $\alpha \in \bar{K}$ and α is a zero of $P(X) \in K[X] \setminus \{0\}$, recall that α is said to be a zero of P is $P(X) = (X - \alpha)^m Q(X)$ with $Q \in K[X]$, if $m \geq 2$ we say that α is a repeated zero of P , if $m = 1$ we say that α is a simple zero.

Definition 1.2.7 (Derivative/Repeated Factor):

- Let $P \in K[X]$ such that $P(X) = \sum_{i=0}^n k_i X^i$, the formal derivative of $P(X)$ is defined by $P'(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n i k_i X^{i-1}$.
- Let $Q \in K[X]$ of degree ≥ 1 , then Q is said to be a repeated factor of $P \in K[X]$ if $P(X) = Q(X)^m R(X)$ for some $m \geq 2$ and $R \in K[X]$.

Proposition 1.2.8: Let K be a field with $\text{Char } K = 0$, then we have that $\deg P' = \deg P - 1$, thus P does not divide P' .

Proposition 1.2.9: Let K be a field with $\text{Char } K = 0$ and $P \in K[X]$, then P has a repeated factor in $K[X] \Leftrightarrow P, P'$ have a common factor.

More precisely, if $Q \in K[X]$ a repeated factor of P then it divides both P and P' . Conversely if Q is irreducible and is a common divisor of P and P' then it is a repeated factor of P .

Proof.

- \Rightarrow suppose that $P(X) = Q^m(X)R(X)$, $P'(X) = mQ^{m-1}(X)Q'(X)R(X) + Q^m(X)R'(X)$ then Q divides both P and P' .
- \Leftarrow suppose now that P, P' have a common factor Q irreducible which exists by the fact that $K[X]$ is a UFD, then $P(X) = Q(X)R(X)$ we get then that $P'(X) = Q'(X)R(X) + Q(X)R'(X)$ since Q divides P and P' we have that it divides $Q'(X)R(X) = P'(X) - Q(X)R'(X)$ so Q divides either Q' or R , since $\text{Char } K = 0$ then Q does not divide Q' so it necessarily divides R then $R(X) = Q(X)R_1(X)$, thus $P(X) = Q(X)R(X) = Q(X)Q(X)R_1(X) = Q^2(X)R_1(X)$ so Q is a repeated factor of P .

\square

Corollary 1.2.10: Let $P \in K[X]$ irreducible and $\text{Char } K = 0$ then $P(X)$ has no repeated zeros in any algebraic closure \bar{K} .

Proof. Let $P \in K[X]$ be irreducible then $P' \neq 0$ and P does not divide P' , if Q is a common factor of P and P' then Q divides P and since P is irreducible then $Q(X) = \lambda P(X)$ thus P divides P' , so $\gcd(P(X), P'(X)) = 1$. By Bezout's theorem we have that $\exists u, v \in K[X]$ such that $P(X)u(X) + P'(X)v(X) = 1$, viewing this identity in $\bar{K}[X]$, let α be a zero of P in \bar{K} , replacing in the previous equation we have that $P(\alpha)u(\alpha) + P'(\alpha)v(\alpha) = P'(\alpha)v(\alpha) = 1$ then $P'(\alpha) \neq 0$ so $(X - \alpha)$ is not a factor of P' so P has no repeated factor $(X - \alpha)$ then P has no repeated zeros in \bar{K} . \square

Corollary 1.2.11: Let K be a field of $\text{Char } K = 0$ and α be algebraic over K of degree d and let $\text{Irr}(\alpha, K, X) = (X - \alpha_1) \dots (X - \alpha_d)$ in $\bar{K}[X]$, then there exists d embeddings of $K(\alpha)$ into \bar{K} of the form $\sigma_i : \alpha \mapsto \alpha_i$.

Proof. Use the previous corollary and the one of the existence of s embeddings in this case to get $s = d$. \square

Theorem 1.2.12 (Primitive Element): Let L be a finite extension of a field K with $\text{Char } K = 0$ then there is $\theta \in L$ such that $L = K(\theta)$.

Proof. It is easy to notice that by induction, a proof for the existence of θ when $L = K(\alpha, \beta)$ is sufficient.

Consider $L = K(\alpha, \beta)$. Consider the minimal polynomials

$$P(X) = \text{Irr}(\alpha, K, X) \underset{\overline{K}[X]}{=} (X - \alpha_1) \dots (X - \alpha_n)$$

$$Q(X) = \text{Irr}(\beta, K, X) \underset{\overline{K}[X]}{=} (X - \beta_1) \dots (X - \beta_m)$$

Let $k \in K$ such that $\forall i \in \llbracket 1, n \rrbracket, \forall j \in \llbracket 2, m \rrbracket, k \neq \frac{\alpha - \alpha_i}{\beta_j - \beta}$ which exists since $\text{Char}(K) = 0 \Rightarrow \#K = \infty$ and consider $\theta = \alpha + k\beta$, clearly $K(\theta) \subseteq K(\alpha, \beta)$.

Consider the polynomial $R(X) = P(\theta - kX)$, $\deg R = \deg P = n$ and $R \in K(\theta)[X]$, we have $R(\beta) = P(\theta - k\beta) = P(\alpha) = 0$ so β is a zero of R and also a zero of Q . We want to prove that the only common zero of R and Q is β , let γ be a zero of R and Q in \overline{K} , $R(\gamma) = P(\theta - k\gamma) = 0 \Rightarrow \theta - k\gamma = \alpha_i$ so we get that γ satisfies $\gamma = \frac{\theta - \alpha_i}{k} = \frac{\alpha - \alpha_i}{k} + \beta$, since γ is a zero of Q then $\gamma = \beta_j$ but this reduces to $k = \frac{\alpha - \alpha_i}{\beta_j - \beta}$ which is not true by choice of k so $\gamma = \beta_1 = \beta$. Thus the unique common zero of Q and R is β then $\text{Irr}(\beta, K, X)$ divides both Q and R and is of degree one so $\text{Irr}(\beta, K, X) = X - \beta \in K(\theta)[X]$ thus we have $\beta \in K(\theta)$.

It is clear that $K(\theta) \subseteq K(\alpha, \beta)$ and we have that $\beta \in K(\theta)$ then $\alpha = \theta - k\beta \in K(\theta)$ since $k, \theta, \beta \in K(\theta)$ and thus $K(\alpha, \beta) = K(\theta)$. \square

Example:

- to find the primitive of $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{a}, \sqrt{b})$ with $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ non-perfect squares, we have that $\text{Irr}(\sqrt{a}, \mathbb{Q}, K) = X^2 - a$ and $\text{Irr}(\sqrt{b}, \mathbb{Q}, K) = X^2 - b$ thus $\alpha_1 = \sqrt{a}, \alpha_2 = -\sqrt{a}$ and $\beta_1 = \sqrt{b}, \beta_2 = -\sqrt{b}$ and thus we obtain that the set of non-allowed values of k are $\{0, \sqrt{a/b}\}$, given that $a \neq b$ then $k = 1$ is not in that list so we obtain that

$$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b}) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b})$$

Chapter 2

Extensions Of Finite Fields

The aim of this chapter is to study the structure of the finite fields.

2.1. Finite Fields

Proposition 2.1.1: Let F be a finite field with $\# F = q$, and E/F a finite extension of degree n , thus we get that $\# E = q^n$.

Proof. Let $\{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ be a basis of the vector space E over F , let $\alpha \in E$, it is written in a unique way $\alpha = k_1 b_1 + \dots, k_n b_n$ with $k_i \in F$, hence $\# E = q^n$. \square

Corollary 2.1.2: Let E be a finite field with $\text{Char } E = p$, then $\# E = p^n$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$.

Proof. Apply the previous proposition with $F = \mathbb{F}_p$ and $n = [E : \mathbb{F}_p]$ \square

Theorem 2.1.3: Let E be a finite field with $\# E = p^n$, then the elements of p are precisely the zeros of the polynomial $X^{p^n} - X \in \mathbb{F}_p[X]$ in a certain algebraic closure of \mathbb{F}_p .

Proof. Let E be a field with $\# E = p^n$, then the group $E^* = E \setminus \{0\}$ has order $p^n - 1$, by the Lagranges theorem we have that $\forall \alpha \in E^*, \alpha^{p^n-1} = 1, \alpha^{p^n} = \alpha$ thus we get that $\alpha^{p^n} - \alpha = 0$ for any $\alpha \in E$ so E is contained in the set of roots of the polynomial $X^{p^n} - X$. Also, $X^{p^n} - X$ has at most p^n zeros in $\overline{\mathbb{F}_p}$ and so these zeros are exactly the elements of E . \square

Example:

1. $E = \mathbb{F}_2$ with $n = 1$ and $p = 2$ then \mathbb{F}_2 are the zeros of $X^2 - X$.

2. $E = \mathbb{F}_2(\alpha)$ with $\alpha^2 + \alpha + 1 = 0$, we have that $E = \{0, 1, \alpha, \alpha^2\}$ and by the theorem the roots of $X^4 - X = X(X - 1)(X^2 + X + 1)$ are the solutions.

Theorem 2.1.4: Let E be a finite field, then the group E^* is cyclic.

Proof. Let E be a finite field and $E^* = E \setminus \{0\}$ the multiplicative group of E , then E^* is abelian and $\# E^* = p^n - 1$ where $\# E = p^n$, assume on the contrary that E^* is not cyclic, so the order of any element of E^* is strictly less than $p^n - 1$. Let $\alpha \in E^*$ of maximal order $s < p^n - 1$. Let $G = \langle \alpha \rangle = \{\alpha, \alpha^2, \dots, \alpha^s\}$ be the cyclic subgroup of E^* generated by α . Any element of G is dividing s by Lagrange's theorem, $\forall g \in G, g^s = 1$ thus g is a zero of $X^s - 1 \in E[X]$, and since $\deg(X^s - 1) = s$ then this polynomial has at most s zeros, so G are exactly the roots of $X^s - 1$ in $\overline{\mathbb{F}_p}$, since $\# G = s < p^n - 1 = \# E^*$ then there exists $\beta \in E^*$ with $\beta \notin G$. Let t be the order of β , $\beta^t = 1$ and t does not divide s

$$s = p_1^{l_1} p_2^{l_2} \dots p_j^{l_j} \dots p_r^{l_r} \quad t = p_1^{k_1} p_2^{k_2} \dots p_j^{k_j} \dots p_r^{k_r}$$

with p_i prime numbers and $l_i, k_i \in \mathbb{N}, l_1 < k_1, l_j < k_j, l_{j+1} \geq k_{j+1}, \dots, l_r \geq k_r$. j exists since t does not divide s , set $u = p_1^{l_1} \dots p_j^{l_j}, u' = s/u, v = p_1^{k_1} \dots p_j^{k_j}$ and $v' = t/v$. Notice that $u < v$ and $\gcd(u, v') = 1$. Let $\gamma = \alpha^u \beta^{v'}$, $\gamma \in E^*$ since $\alpha, \beta \in E^*$, α^u is of order u' and $\beta^{v'}$ is of order v and since u and v' are coprime then the order of $\alpha^u \beta^{v'}$ is $u'v > u'u = s$, contradiction with the fact that the maximal order is s . \square

Corollary 2.1.5: Let E be a finite extension of a finite field F , then there exists a primitive element $\theta \in E, E = F(\theta)$.

Proof. Since E is finite then by Proposition 2.1.1, from Theorem 2.1.4, $\exists \theta \in E, E^* = \langle \theta \rangle$, it is clear that $F(\theta) \subseteq E$, now let $E = E^* \cup \{0\}$ we have that $E^* \subseteq F(\theta)$ from the previous theorem, and $0 \in F$ thus $E = E^* \cup \{0\} \subseteq F(\theta)$ so we get $E = F(\theta)$. \square

Theorem 2.1.6: Let $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and p a prime number, there exists a unique field of order p^n up to an isomorphism denoted \mathbb{F}_{p^n} .

Proof. Consider $P(X) = X^{p^n} - X$ in $\overline{\mathbb{F}_p}$ and let $K = \{\alpha \in \overline{\mathbb{F}_p} \mid P(\alpha) = 0\}$.

- let $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_p$ we have that $\alpha^p = \alpha$ by Proposition 2.1.3, and by induction its easy to prove that $\forall i \in \mathbb{N}, \alpha^{p^i} = \alpha \Rightarrow P(\alpha) = 0$ thus $\alpha^{p^n} \in K$ so we have $\mathbb{F}_p \subseteq K$.
- let $\alpha, \beta \in K$ we have $\alpha^{p^n} = \alpha$ and $\beta^{p^n} = \beta$ then $(\alpha\beta)^{p^n} = \alpha^{p^n}\beta^{p^n} = \alpha\beta \in K$.
- let $\alpha \in K$ we have $(\alpha^{-1})^{p^n} = (\alpha^{p^n})^{-1} = \alpha^{-1}$ so $\alpha^{-1} \in K$.
- let $\alpha, \beta \in K$ we have $(\alpha + \beta)^p = \alpha^p + \beta^p = \alpha + \beta$ by the fact that p divides $\binom{p}{k}$ for $k = 1, \dots, p-1$, by induction we have that $(\alpha + \beta)^{p^n} = \alpha + \beta$.

thus we deduce that K is a subfield of $\overline{\mathbb{F}_p}$ and it is a field having p^n elements. \square

Corollary 2.1.7: Let F be a finite field, $F \subseteq \overline{\mathbb{F}_p}$ and $\alpha \in \overline{\mathbb{F}_p}$, then the zeros of $\text{Irr}(\alpha, F, X)$ are distinct, the conjugates of α are all in $F(\alpha)$ and so there are exactly $[F(\alpha) : F]$ embeddings which are all automorphisms.

Proof. we have $\mathbb{F}_p \subseteq F \subseteq F(\alpha)$, $[F : \mathbb{F}_p] = d$ and $[F(\alpha) : F] = n$ then we get $F(\alpha) \cong \mathbb{F}_{p^{nd}}$. The elements of $F(\alpha)$ are zeros of $X^{p^{nd}} - X \in \mathbb{F}_p[X]$ so $\text{Irr}(\alpha, \mathbb{F}_p, X)$ divides $X^{p^{nd}} - X$ whose zeros are distinct so the zeros of $\text{Irr}(\alpha, \mathbb{F}_p, X)$ are distinct. Let σ be an F -embedding of $F(\alpha)$ then $\sigma(\alpha)$ is a conjugate of α so $\# F(\alpha) = \# F(\sigma(\alpha))$ thus $F(\alpha) = F(\sigma(\alpha))$. \square

Example:

- $\mathbb{F}_2 = \{0, 1\}$
 - linear polynomials in $\mathbb{F}_2[X]$: $X, X + 1$ irreducible.
 - quadratic polynomials in $\mathbb{F}_2[X]$: $X^2 + X + 1$ irreducible.
 - cubic polynomials in $\mathbb{F}_2[X]$: $X^3 + X + 1, X^3 + X^2 + 1$. Prove that there is an isomorphism between the fields generated by the zeros of those polynomials.