MA553: Qual Preparation

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1 MA 553 Spring 2016

This is material from the course MA 533 as it was taught in the spring of 2016.

1.1 Homework

 D_n

Most of the homework is Ulrich original (or as original as elementary exercises in abstract algebra can be). However, an excellent resource and one that I will often quote on these solutions is [Hun03]. Other resources include [DF04] and (to a lesser extent) [Her75]. I may also cite Milne's *Group Theory*, *Field Theory*, and *Commutative Algebra: A Primer* notes, respectively, [Mil13], [Mil14], and (no reference for the last). Unless otherwise stated, whenever we quote a result, e.g., Theorem 1.1, it is understood to come from Hungerford's *Algebra*.

Throughout these notes

- \mathbb{R} is the set of real numbers \mathbb{C} is the set of complex numbers \mathbb{Q} is the set of rational numbers is the finite field of order $q = p^n$ for some prime p \mathbb{Z} is the set of the integers \mathbb{N} is the set of the natural numbers $1, 2, \ldots$ kis used to denote the base field with characteristic char kK, E, Lis used to denote field extensions over the base field k is the cyclic group of order n not necessarily equal (but isomorphic) to $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ Z_n S_n is the symmetric group on $\{1, \ldots, n\}$ A_n is the alternating group on $\{1, \ldots, n\}$
- $A \setminus B$ is the set difference of A and B, that is, the complement of $A \cap B$ in A $X \simeq Y$ means X and Y are isomorphic as groups, rings, R-modules, or fields

is the dihedral group of order n

1.1.1 Homework 1

Problem 1. Let G be a group, $a \in G$ an element of finite order m, and n a positive integer. Prove that

 $|a^n| = \frac{m}{(m,n)}.$

Solution. \blacktriangleright Let ℓ denote the order of a^n . Then ℓ is the minimal power of a^n such that $(a^n)^{\ell} = e$. Now, observe that

$$(a^{n})^{m/(m,n)} = a^{nm/(m,n)}$$

$$= a^{mn/(m,n)}$$

$$= (a^{m})^{n/(m,n)}$$

$$= e^{n/(m,n)}$$

$$= e.$$
(1)

Thus $\ell \leq m/(m,n)$.

On the other hand, by Theorem 3.4 (iv) from [Hun03, Ch. I §3.3, p. 35] since $(a^n)^{\ell} = a^{n\ell} = e$ and the order of a is m, $m \mid n\ell$ or, equivalently, $mk = n\ell$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. Now, since $(m,n) \mid m$ and $(m,n) \mid n$, we can represent m and n as the products (m,n)m' and (m,n)n', respectively. Now, note that m' = m/(n,m) so we must show that $m' \le \ell$. Putting all of this together, we have mk

$$mk = (m, n)m'k = (m, n)n'\ell = n\ell$$
(2)

so

$$m'k = n'\ell. (3)$$

Thus $m' \mid n'\ell$ so either $m' \mid n'$ or $m' \mid \ell$. But since we factored the (m,n) from m and n, it follows that (m',n')=1 so $m' \mid \ell$. Therefore $m' \leq \ell$ and equality holds, that is, $\ell=m/(m,n)$.

Problem 2. Let G be a group, and let a, b be elements of finite order m, n respectively. Show that if ba = ab and $\langle a \rangle \cap \langle b \rangle = \{e\}$, then |ab| = mn/(m, n).

Solution. \blacktriangleright Let ℓ denote the order of ab. Now, playing around with powers of ab, we have

$$(ab)^n = a^n b^n$$

$$= a^n$$

$$\neq e$$
(4)

since the order of a is m and n < m. Thus, by Problem 1, $|a^n| = m/(m, n)$ so |ab| = mn/(m, n).

Problem 3. Let G be a group and H, K normal subgroups with $H \cap K = \{e\}$. Show that

- (a) hk = kh for every $h \in H$, $k \in K$.
- (b) HK is a subgroup of G with $HK \simeq H \times K$.

Solution. \blacktriangleright (a) Suppose that H and K are normal in G. Then, for every $g \in G$, gh = hg and gk = kg for any $h \in H$, $k \in K$. In particular, since $H \subset G$, $h \in G$ so hk = kh.

(b) Consider the subset HK of G consisting of all products hk where $h \in H$, $k \in K$. First, we show that HK is closed under multiplication: Pick $h_1k_1, h_2k_2 \in HK$ then $h_1k_1h_2k_2 = h_1(k_1k_2)h_2 = h_1h_2(k_1k_2)$ is in HK since $h_1h_2 \in H$, $k_1k_2 \in K$. Moreover, since $e \in H$ and $e \in K$, $ee = e \in HK$. Lastly, given $hk \in HK$, $hkh^{-1}k^{-1} = (hkh^{-1})k^{-1} = kk^{-1} = e$ so HK is closed under taking inverses. Thus, HK is a subgroup of G.

To see that $HK \simeq H \times K$, consider the map $\varphi \colon HK \to (HK/K) \times (HK/H)$ given by $\varphi(hk) = (\pi_K(h), \pi_H(k))$ where $\pi_H \colon HK \to HK/H$ and $\pi_K \colon HK \to HK/K$ are quotient maps. By the first (or second) isomorphism theorem, $H \simeq HK/H$ and $K \simeq HK/H$ so $HK \simeq H \times K$.

Problem 4. Show that A_4 has no subgroup of order 6 (although 6 | $12 = |A_4|$).

Solution. \blacktriangleright We proceed by contradiction. Suppose that A_4 has a subgroup of order 6, call it H. Then, we claim that H must contain all elements σ^2 where $\sigma \in A$.

Proof of claim. Since |H|=6, $[A_4:H]=2$ which implies that H is must be a normal subgroup of A_4 . Now, consider the collection of G/H of right-cosets of H in G. By Theorem 5.4, G/H is a group with order |G/H|=2 so either $\bar{\sigma}=\bar{e}$ or $\bar{\sigma}^2=\bar{e}$. Thus, $\sigma^2\in H$.

Thus, H must contain all of the squares in A_4 . However, counting all of the elements in A_4 and squaring them

$$(1)^{2} = (1) \qquad (123)^{2} = (132)$$

$$(132)^{2} = (123) \qquad (124)^{2} = (142)$$

$$(142)^{2} = (124) \qquad (134)^{2} = (143)$$

$$(143)^{2} = (134) \qquad (234)^{2} = (234)$$

$$(243)^{2} = (243) \qquad ((12)(34))^{2} = (1)$$

$$((13)(24))^{2} = (1) \qquad ((14)(23))^{2} = (1)$$

we see that there are a total of 9 squares (8 nontrivial ones) which exceeds the order of H. This is a contradiction therefore, G has no subgroup of order 6.

1.1.2 Homework 2

Problem 1. Let G be the group of order $2^n \cdot 3$, $n \ge 2$. Show that G has a normal 2-subgroup $\ne \{e\}$.

Solution. \blacktriangleright Suppose that $|G|=2^n\cdot 3$. By the first Sylow theorem, G contains a 2-Sylow subgroup, i.e., a subgroup P of order $|P|=2^3$; this is, by Corollary 5.3, a 2-subgroup. Now, by Corollary 5.8 (iii), it suffices to show that P is the only 2-Sylow subgroup. By The third Sylow theorem, the number of 2-Sylow subgroups n_2 is $n_2 \equiv 1 \mod 2$ so either $n_2 = 1$ or $n_2 = 3$.

Suppose that $n_2 = 3$. Then

Problem 2. Let G be a group of order p^2q , p and q primes. Show that the Sylow p-Sylow subgroup or the q-Sylow subgroup of G is normal in G.

Solution. ▶

Problem 3. Let G be a subgroup of order pqr, p < q < r primes. Show that the r-Sylow subgroup of G is normal in G.

Solution. ▶

Problem 4. Let G be a group of order n and let $\varphi \colon G \to S_n$ be given by the action of G on G via translation.

- (a) For $a \in G$ determine the number and the lengths of the disjoint cycles of the permutation $\varphi(a)$.
- (b) Show that $\varphi(G) \not\subset A_n$ if and only if n is even and G has a cyclic 2-Sylow subgroup.
- (c) If n = 2m, m odd, show that G has a subgroup of index 2.

Solution. ▶

Problem 5. Show that the only simple groups $\neq \{e\}$ of order < 60 are the groups of prime order.

1.1.3 Homework 3

Problem 1. Let G be a finite group, p a prime number, N the intersubsection of all p-Sylow subgroups of G. Show that N is a normal p-subgroup of G and that every normal p-subgroup of G is contained in N.

Solution. ▶

Problem 2. Let G be a group of order 231 and let H be an 11-Sylow subgroup of G. Show that $H \subset Z(G)$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 3. Let $G = \{e, a_1, a_2, a_3\}$ be a non-cyclic group of order 4 and define $\varphi \colon S_3 \to \operatorname{Aut}(G)$ by $\varphi(\sigma)(e) = e$ and $\varphi(\sigma)(a_1) = a_{\sigma(i)}$. Show that φ is well-defined and an isomorphism of groups.

Solution. ▶

Problem 4. Determine all groups of order 18.

1.1.4 Homework 4 Problem 1. Let p be a prime and let G be a nonAbelian group of order p^3 . Show that G' = Z(G). Solution. ▶ Problem 2. Let p be an odd prime and let G be a nonAbelian group of order p^3 having an element of order p^2 . Show that there exists an element $b \notin \langle a \rangle$ of order p. Solution. ▶ Problem 3. Let p be an odd prime. Determine all groups of order p^3 . Solution. ▶ Problem 4. Show that $(S_n)' = A_n$. Solution. ▶ Problem 5. Show that every group of order < 60 is solvable.

Problem 6. Show that every group of order 60 that is simple (or not solvable) is isomorphic to A_5 .

1.1.5 Homework 5

Problem 1. Find all composition series and the composition factors of D_6 .

Solution. ▶

Problem 2. Let T be the subgroup of $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$ consisting of all upper triangular invertible matrices. Show that T is solvable.

Solution. ▶

Problem 3. Let $p \in \mathbb{Z}$ be a prime number. Show:

- (a) $(p-1)! \equiv -1 \mod p$.
- (b) If $p \equiv 1 \mod 4$ then $x^2 \equiv -1 \mod p$ for some $x \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 4. (a) Show that the following are equivalent for an odd prime number $p \in \mathbb{Z}$:

- (i) $p \equiv 1 \mod 4$.
- (ii) $p = a^2 + b^2$ for some a, b in \mathbb{Z} .
- (iii) p is not prime in $\mathbb{Z}[i]$.
- (b) Determine all prime ideals of $\mathbb{Z}[i]$.

1.1.6 Homework 6

Problem 1. Let R be a domain. Show that R is a UFD if and only if every nonzero nonunit in R is a product of irreducible elements and the intersection of any two principal ideals is again principal.

Solution. ▶

Problem 2. Let R be a PID and \mathfrak{p} a prime ideal of R[X]. Show that \mathfrak{p} is principal or p = (a, f) for some $a \in R$ and some monic polynomial $f \in R[X]$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 3. Let k be a field and $n \ge 1$. Show that $Z^n + Y^3 + X^2 \in k(X,Y)[Z]$ is irreducible.

Solution. ▶

Problem 4. Let k be a field of characteristic zero and $n \ge 1$, $m \ge 2$. Show that $X_1^n + \cdots + X_m^n - 1 \in k[X_1, \ldots, X_m]$ is irreducible.

Solution. ▶

Problem 5. Show that $X^{3^n} + 2 \in \mathbb{Q}(i)[X]$ is irreducible.

1.1.7 Homework 7

Problem 1. Let $k \subset K$ and $k \subset L$ be finite field extensions contained in some field. Show that:

- (a) $[KL:L] \leq [K:k]$.
- (b) $[KL:k] \leq [K:k][L:k]$.
- (c) $K \cap L = k$ if equality holds in (b).

Solution. ▶

Problem 2. Let k be a field of characteristic $\neq 2$ and a, b elements of k so that a, b, ab are not squares in k. Show that $\left\lceil k\left(\sqrt{a}, \sqrt{b}\right) : k \right\rceil = 4$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 3. Let R be a UFD, but not a field, and write K = Quot(R). Show that $[\bar{K}:k] = \infty$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 4. Let $k \in K$ be an algebraic field extension. Show that every k-homomorphism $\delta \colon K \to K$ is an isomorphism.

Solution. ▶

Problem 5. Let K be the splitting field of $X^6 - 4$ over \mathbb{Q} . Determine K and $[K : \mathbb{Q}]$.

1.1.8 Homework 8

Problem 1. Let k be a field, $f \in k[X]$ is a polynomial of degree $n \ge 1$, and K the splitting field of f over k. Show that $[K : k] \mid n!$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 2. Let k be a field and $n \geq 0$. Define a map $\Delta_n : k[X] \to k[X]$ by $\Delta_n(\sum a_i X^i) = \sum a_i \binom{i}{n} X^{i-n}$. Show:

- (a) Δ_n is k-linear, and for f, g in $k[X], \Delta_n(fg) = \sum_{j=0}^n \Delta_j(f) \Delta_{n-j}(g)$;
- (b) $f^{(n)} = n! \Delta_n(f);$
- (c) $f(X + a) = \sum \Delta_n(f)(a)X^n$, where $a \in k$;
- (d) $a \in k$ is a root of f of multiplicity n if and only if $\Delta_i(f)(a) = 0$ for $0 \le i \le n-1$ and $\Delta_n(f)(a) \ne 0$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 3. Let $k \subset K$ be a finite filed extension. Show that k is perfect if and only if K is perfect.

Solution. ▶

Problem 4. Let K be the splitting field of $X^p - X - 1$ over $k = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$. Show that $k \subset K$ is normal, separable, of degree p.

Solution. ▶

Problem 5. Let k be a field of characteristic p > 0, and k(X, Y) the field of rational functions in two variables.

- (a) Show that $[k(X,Y):k(X^{p},Y^{p})]=p^{2}$.
- (b) Show that the extension $k(X^p, Y^p) \subset k(X, Y)$ is not simple.
- (c) Find infinitely many distinct fields L with $k(X^p, Y^p) \subset L \subset k(X, Y)$.

1.1.9 Homework 9

Problem 1. Let $k \subset K$ be a finite extension of fields of characteristic p > 0. Show that if $p \nmid [K : k]$, then $k \subset K$ is separable.

Solution. ▶

Problem 2. Let $k \subset K$ be an algebraic extension of fields of characteristic p > 0, let L be an algebraically closed field containing K, and let $\delta \colon k \to L$ be an embedding. Show that $k \subset K$ is purely inseparable if and only if there exists exactly one embedding $\tau \colon K \to L$ extending δ .

Solution. ▶

Problem 3. Let $k \subset K = k(\alpha, \beta)$ be an algebraic extension of fields of characteristic p > 0, where α is separable over k and β is purely inseparable over k. Show that $K = k(\alpha + \beta)$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 4. Let $f(X) \in \mathbb{F}_q[X]$ be irreducible. Show that $f(X) \mid X^{q^n} - X$ if and only if deg $f(X) \mid n$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 5. Show that $\operatorname{Aut}_{\mathbb{F}_q}(\bar{\mathbb{F}}_q)$ is an infinite Abelian group which is torsionfree (i.e., $\delta^n = \operatorname{id}$ implies $\delta = \operatorname{id}$ or n = 0).

Solution. ▶

Problem 6. Show that in a finite field, every element can be written as a sum of two perfect squares.

1.1.10 Homework 10

Problem 1. Let $k \subset K = k(\alpha)$ be a simple field extension, let $G = \{\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n\}$ be a finite subgroup of $\operatorname{Aut}_k(K)$, and write $f(X) = \prod_{i=1}^n (X - \delta_i(\alpha)) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i X^i$. Show that f(X) is the minimal polynomial of α over K^2 and that $K^G = k(a_0, \dots, a_{n-1})$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 2. Let k be a field, k(X) the field of rational functions, and $u \in k(X) \setminus k$. Write u = f/g with f and g relatively prime in k[X]. Show that $[k(X) : k(u)] = \max\{\deg f, \deg g\}$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 3. Let k be a field and K = k(X) the field of rational functions. Show that for every $\delta \in \operatorname{Aut}_k(K)$, $\delta(X) = (aX + b)/(cX + d)$ for some a, b, c, d in k with $ad - bc \neq 0$, and that conversely, every such rational functions uniquely determines an automorphism $\delta \in \operatorname{Aut}_k(K)$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 4. With the notion of the previous problem let $\delta \in \operatorname{Aut}_k(K)$ and $G = \langle \delta \rangle$.

- (a) Assume $\delta(X) = 1/(1-X)$. Show that |G| = 3 and determine K^G .
- (b) Assume char k=0 and $\delta(X)=X+1$. Show that G is infinite and determine K^G .

Solution. ▶

Problem 5. Let $k \subset K$ be a finite Galois extension with $G = \operatorname{Gal}(K/k)$, let L be a subfield of K containing k with $H = \operatorname{Gal}(K/L)$, and let L' be the compositum in K of the fields $\delta(L)$, $\delta \in G$. Show that:

- (a) L' is the unique smallest subfield of K that contains L and is Galois over k.
- (b) $\operatorname{Gal}(K/L') = \bigcap_{\delta \in G} \delta H \delta^{-1}$.

1.1.11 Homework 11

Problem 1. Show that every algebraic extension of a finite field is Galois and Abelian.

Solution. ▶

Problem 2. Let k be a field of characteristic $\neq 2$ and $f(X) \in k[X]$ a cubic whose discriminant is a square. Show that f is either irreducible or a product of linear polynomials in k[X].

Solution. >

Problem 3. Let k be a field of characteristic $\neq 2$, and let $f(X) = X^4 + aX^2 + b \in k[X]$ be irreducible with Galois group G. Show:

- (i) If b is a square in k, then G = H.
- (ii) If b is not a square in k, but $b(a^2 4b)$ is, then $G \simeq C_4$.
- (iii) If neither b nor $b(a^2 4b)$ is a square in k, then $G \simeq D_4$.

Solution. >

Problem 4. Determine the Galois group of:

- (a) $X^4 5$ over \mathbb{Q} , over $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$, over $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$;
- (b) $X^3 10$ over \mathbb{Q} ;
- (c) $X^4 4X^2 + 5$ over \mathbb{Q} ; (d) $X^4 + 3X^3 + 3X 2$ over \mathbb{Q} ; (e) $X^4 + 2X^2 + X + 3$ over \mathbb{Q} .

Solution. >

Problem 5. Let K be the splitting field of $X^4 - X^2 - 1$ over \mathbb{Q} . Determine all intermediate fields $L, \mathbb{Q} \subset L \subset K$. Which of these are Galois over \mathbb{Q} ?

1.1.12 Homework 12

Problem 1. Prove that the resolvent cubic $X^4 + aX^2 + bX + c$ is given by $X^3 - aX^2 - 4cX + 4ac - b^2$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 2. Show that the general polynomial $g(Y) = Y^n + u_1 Y^{n-1} + \cdots + u_n$ is irreducible in $k(u_1, \ldots, u_n)[Y]$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 3. Let k be a field.

- (a) compute the discriminant $Y^3 Y \in k[Y]$ and $Y^3 1 \in k[Y]$.
- (b) Show that the discriminant of the polynomial $(Y X_1)(Y X_2)(Y X_3)$ over $k(X_1, X_2, X_3)$ is of the form

$$\lambda_1 s_1^4 + \lambda_2 s_1^4 s_2 + \lambda_3 s_1^3 s_3 + \lambda_4 s_1^2 s_2^2 + \lambda_5 s_1 s_2 s_3 + \lambda_6 s_2^3 + \lambda_7 s_3^2$$

with $\lambda_i \in k$.

(c) From (b) and (a) conclude that the discriminant $Y^3 + aY + b \in k[Y]$ is $-4a^3 - 27b^2$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 4. Let $\Phi_n(X)$ be the *n*th cyclotomic polynomial over \mathbb{Q} .

- (a) Let $n=p_1^{r_1}\cdots p_s^{r_s}$ with p_i distinct prime numbers and $r_i>0$. Show that $\Phi(X)=\Phi_{p_1\cdots p_s}(X^{p_1^{r_1-1}\cdots p_s^{r_s-1}})$.
- (b) For a prime number p with $p \nmid n$ show that $\Phi_{pn}(X) = \Phi_n(X^p)/\Phi_n(X)$.

1.1.13 Homework 13

Problem 1. Let $n \geq 3$ and ρ a primitive nth root of unity over \mathbb{Q} . Show that $[\mathbb{Q}(\rho + \rho^{-1}) : \mathbb{Q}] = \varphi(n)/2$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 2. Let ρ be a primitive nth root of unity over \mathbb{Q} . Determine all n so that $\mathbb{Q} \subset \mathbb{Q}(\rho)$ is cyclic.

Solution. ▶

Problem 3. Let $k \subset K$ be an extension of finite fields. Show that N_k^K and Tr_k^K are surjective maps from K to k.

Solution. ▶

Problem 4. Let $f(X) \in k[X]$ be a separable polynomial of degree $n \geq 3$ with Galois group isomorphic to S_n , and let $\alpha \in \bar{k}$ be a root of f(X).

- (a) Show that f(X) is irreducible.
- (b) Show that $\operatorname{Aut}_k(k(\alpha)) = \{ \operatorname{id} \}.$
- (c) Show that $\alpha^n \notin k$ if $n \geq 4$.

Solution. ▶

Problem 5. Let $k \subset K$ be a Galois extension.

- (a) For $k \subset L \subset K$ show that Gal(K/L) is solvable if Gal(K/k) is solvable.
- (b) For $k \subset L \subset K$ with $k \subset L$ normal show that Gal(L/k) and Gal(K/L) are solvable if and only if Gal(K/k) is solvable.
- (c) For $k \subset L$ with K and L in a common field show that $\operatorname{Gal}(KL/L)$ is solvable if $\operatorname{Gal}(K/k)$ is solvable.

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