# MA553: Qual Preparation

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# July 7, 2016

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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  $\ell$  denote the order of  $a^n$ . Then  $\ell$  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  $\ell$  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  $\sigma^2$  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  $\varphi$  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)  $\Delta_n$  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  $\delta$ .

Solution. ▶

**Problem 3.** Let  $k \subset K = k(\alpha, \beta)$  be an algebraic extension of fields of characteristic p > 0, where  $\alpha$  is separable over k and  $\beta$  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  $\alpha$  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  $\rho$  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  $\rho$  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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