

A Book of Abstract Algebra | (2nd Edition)

Chapter 27, Problem 3EC

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Problem

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Let $p(x)$ be an irreducible polynomial of degree n over F . Let c denote a root of $p(x)$ in some extension of F (as in the basic theorem on field extensions).

Conclude from parts 1 and 2 that every element in $F(c)$ can be written *uniquely* as $r(c)$, with $\deg r(x) < n$.

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Step-by-step solution

Step 1 of 5 ^

Let $p(x)$ be an irreducible polynomial of degree n over F . Let c denote a root of $p(x)$ in some extension of F .

1. Prove: Every element in $F(c)$ can be written as $r(c)$, for some $r(x)$ of degree $< n$ in $F[x]$.

2. If $t(c) = s(c)$ in $F(c)$, where $s(x)$ and $t(x)$ have degree $< n$, prove that $t(x) = s(x)$.

Conclude from part 1 and 2 that every element in $F(c)$ can be written *uniquely* as $r(c)$, with $\deg r(x) < n$.

Comment

Step 2 of 5 ^

First part shows that every element in $F(c)$ can be written as $r(c)$, for some $r(x)$ of degree $< n$ in $F[x]$.

Here we use "Division Algorithm".

Let $t(c) \in F(c)$ be any element. Consider $t(x)$ be any polynomial over $F(c)$.

Also, it is given that $p(x)$ is irreducible over F and c denote a root of $p(x)$ in some extension of F .

So, by division algorithm, there exists two polynomials $q(x)$ and $r(x)$ such that

$$t(x) = q(x)p(x) + r(x), \text{ where } \deg r(x) < n. \text{----- (i)}$$

Now, put $x = c$ in above expression and use the fact that c is root of $p(x)$.

Hence, $t(c) = q(c)p(c) + r(c) = r(c)$ [$\because p(c) = 0$]

That is, $t(c) = r(c)$.

Hence, every element in $F(c)$ can be written as $r(c)$, for some $r(x)$ of degree $< n$ in $F[x]$.

Now it remain to conclude that this representation by $r(c)$ is unique, that is what comes from part 2.

Let $t(c) = s(c)$.

Suppose $t(x) \neq s(x)$.

By Division Algorithm, we have

$$\begin{aligned} t(x) &= q(x)p(x) + r(x) \\ s(x) &= q'(x)p(x) + r'(x) \end{aligned} \text{ where } \deg r(x), \deg r'(x) < n.$$

Now put $x = c$ and use the fact that $p(c) = 0$.

We have, $t(c) = r(c)$ and $s(c) = r'(c)$. But $t(c) = s(c)$, therefore, $r(c) = r'(c)$.

Also by assumption,

$$\begin{aligned} q(x)p(x) + r(x) &\neq q'(x)p(x) + r'(x) \\ \Rightarrow q(c)p(c) + r(c) &\neq q'(c)p(c) + r'(c) \\ \Rightarrow r(c) &\neq r'(c) \text{ which is contradiction.} \end{aligned}$$

Comment

Step 3 of 5 ^

Comment

Step 4 of 5 ^

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Step 5 of 5 ^

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