

A Book of Abstract Algebra | (2nd Edition)

Chapter 29, Problem 1EE

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Problem

Let F be a field.

Prove part:

The degree of a over F is the same as the degree of $1/a$ over F . It is also the same as the degrees of $a + c$ and ac over F , for any $c \in F$.

Step-by-step solution

Step 1 of 3

Objective is to prove that the degree of a over field F is the same as the degree of $1/a$ over F . Also show that degrees of $a + c, ac$ over F , for any $c \in F$.

Let degree of a over field F is n , that is,

$$[F(a) : F] = n.$$

Since F is a field and $a \in F$, therefore its inverse also belong to F . That is, $a^{-1} \in F$. Thus,

$F(a^{-1}) \subseteq F(a)$. And since $\frac{1}{a^{-1}} = a$, one have that

$$F(a) \subseteq F(a^{-1}).$$

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Step 2 of 3

Hence, $F(a) = F(a^{-1})$.

Since both are the same extension, therefore they have the same degrees. Thus, the degree of a over field F is the same as the degree of $1/a$ over F .

Since $[F(a):F]=n$, so there is a minimal polynomial of a of degree n , say $p(x)$. One knows that $p(x)$ is irreducible. Then substituting x by $x+c$, or xc , $p(x)$ will remain irreducible.

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Step 3 of 3

Thus, the degree of a over field F is the same as the degrees of $a+c, ac$ over F , for any $c \in F$.

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