

# MATH 601 (DUE 10/30)

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### 1. FACTORING POLYNOMIALS WITH COEFFICIENTS IN FINITE FIELDS

**Exercise.** (Problem 1) Consider the Frobenius homomorphism,  $F_p : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ . Show that this homomorphism is bijective. If  $q = p$ , identify it with a familiar homomorphism.

*Proof.* Since  $\mathbb{F}_q$  is finite, it suffices to show that  $F_p$  is injective.  $F_p(a) = 0 \implies a^p = 0$ .  $a^p = 0 \implies a = 0$  because  $\mathbb{F}_q$  contains no zero divisor. If  $q = p$ ,  $\mathbb{F}_q \cong \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ , which is a cyclic additive group generated by 1. Since  $F_p(1) = 1$ ,  $F_p$  must be the identity homomorphism.  $\square$

**Exercise.** (Problem 2) Let  $K$  be a field of characteristic  $p$ . Which polynomials  $f(x) \in K[x]$  satisfies  $f'(x) = 0$ ?

*Proof.*  $f'(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n i a_i x^{i-1} = 0 \iff (\forall i, i \notin (p) \implies a_i = 0)$  since if  $i \in (p)$ ,  $i a_i = 0$  regardless of what  $a_i$  is.  $\square$

**Exercise.** (Problem 3) Suppose that  $f(x) \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$  satisfies  $f'(x) = 0$ . Show that there exists  $g(x) \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$  with  $g^p = f$ .

*Proof.* By Problem 2,  $f(x)$  with  $f'(x) = 0$  can be always written as  $\sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^{pi}$ . We will use induction on the degree of polynomials. The base case,  $n = 0$ , is clear because  $F_p$  is bijective. If  $f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{n+1} a_i x^{pi}$ ,  $(F_p^{-1}(a_{n+1})x^{n+1} + g(x))^p = a_{n+1}x^{p(n+1)} + (\sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^{pi})$  where  $g(x)$  is the  $p$ th root of  $\sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^{pi}$ , whose existence is given by the inductive hypothesis.  $\square$

**Exercise.** (Problem 4) Show that there are no inseparable irreducible polynomials,  $f(x) \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$ .

*Proof.* If  $f$  is inseparable,  $\gcd(f, f') \neq F^\times$ . If  $f' = 0$ , then  $f$  has a proper factor by Problem 3. Otherwise,  $f$  has a factor of degree between 1 and  $\deg(f') = \deg(f) - 1$ , so  $f$  is not irreducible.  $\square$

**Exercise.** (Problem 5) Suppose that  $f(x) \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$  and  $\gcd(f, f') = f$ . How can you reduce the problem of factoring  $f$  to a simpler problem?

*Proof.* If  $f' \neq 0$ ,  $f \nmid f'$  because  $\deg(f') < \deg(f)$ . Thus  $\gcd(f, f') = f$  implies  $f' = 0$ . By Problem 3,  $f = g^p$  for some  $g \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$ , and thus it suffices to factor  $g$ , whose degree is exactly  $\deg(f)/p$ .  $\square$

**Exercise.** (Problem 6) Let  $L$  be a field and  $f(x) = \prod_{i=1}^n (x - a_i)^{m_i} \in L[x]$ , where the  $a_i$ 's are pairwise distinct. Compute  $d(x) = \gcd(f(x), f'(x))$ .

*Proof.* Let  $p$  be the characteristic of the finite field  $L$ . Since  $L[x]$  is a UFD, every divisor of  $f(x)$  is associate to a product of  $(x - a_i)$ 's, and so is  $d(x)$ . Let  $j$  be given. Then  $f' = m_j(x - a_j)^{m_j-1}g(x) + (x - a_j)^{m_j}g'(x)$  where  $g(x) = \prod_{i \neq j} (x - a_i)^{m_i}$ . If  $p \mid m_j$ , then  $(x - a_j)^{m_j}$  divides both  $f$  and  $f'$ . If  $p \nmid m_j$ , then  $b_j = m_j - 1$  is the largest integer such that  $(x - a_j)^{b_j}$  divides both  $f$  and  $f'$ . Therefore,  $d(x) = \prod_{i=1}^n (x - a_i)^{m_i - c_i}$  where  $c_i = 0$  if  $p \mid m_i$  and  $c_i = 1$  otherwise.  $\square$

**Exercise.** (Problem 7) A polynomial,  $f(x)$ , is said to be square free if it can be written as a product of irreducible factors, no two of which are associate. For  $f(x) \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$ , find a criterion in terms of  $\gcd(f(x), f'(x))$  for  $f(x)$  to be square free.

*Proof.* Let  $f = \prod f_i$  be square free. Let  $j$  be given.  $f' = f'_j g + f_j g'$  where  $g = \prod_{i \neq j} f_i$ . Since  $f_j$  is irreducible,  $f_j$  is separable by Problem 4. Thus  $\gcd(f_j, f'_j) = 1$ , so  $f_j \nmid f'_j$ . Thus  $f_j \nmid f'$ .

Since all divisors of  $f$  are associate to some product of  $f_i$ 's,  $\gcd(f, f') = 1$ .

On the other hand, suppose  $f$  is not square free. Then  $f = g^2 h$  for some irreducible  $g$  and some  $h$ .  $f' = g(2g'h + gh')$ , so  $g \mid \gcd(f, f')$ .

Therefore,  $f$  is square free if and only if  $\gcd(f, f') = 1$ .  $\square$

**Exercise.** (Problem 8) Describe how to use repeated computation of gcd's to find a factorization of a given polynomial,  $f(x) \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$ ,  $f = f_1 \cdots f_r$ , where each  $f_i \in \mathbb{F}_q[x]$  is square free.

*Proof.*

- (1) Calculate  $d = \gcd(f, f')$ .
- (2) If  $d = 1$ ,  $f$  is square free by Problem 7, and we are done.
- (3) If  $d = f$ , then  $f' = 0$ , so  $f = g^p$  for some  $g$  by Problem 2. Let  $f = g$ , and go back to Step 1.
- (4) Otherwise, we can factor  $d$  and  $f/d$  further by going back to Step 1.

This process must terminate finitely because the degree of a polynomial continues to decrease.  $\square$

## 2. MODULES

**Exercise.** (Problem 6) Take four  $4 \times 4$  matrices with integer entries and check if the abelian group presented by the matrix is cyclic.

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned}
& \begin{bmatrix} -166 & -74 & 254 & 347 \\ 140 & -93 & 246 & 425 \\ -196 & 57 & -363 & 202 \\ 325 & 257 & 314 & -389 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [18444530375 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 1] \\
& \begin{bmatrix} 237 & -81 & 332 & -132 \\ 95 & 268 & 229 & 498 \\ 387 & 213 & 46 & 55 \\ 88 & -126 & -380 & -447 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [2610768268 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 1] \\
& \begin{bmatrix} -275 & -22 & -207 & -276 \\ -469 & -342 & 240 & -101 \\ -41 & 455 & 51 & -151 \\ 267 & -450 & 98 & -40 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow [33644517767 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 1] \\
& \begin{bmatrix} 48 & 29 & 22 & -481 \\ 388 & -468 & -137 & -491 \\ 84 & -352 & 85 & -384 \\ -226 & -486 & 102 & -156 \end{bmatrix} = [13267264454 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 1]
\end{aligned}$$

Each of the groups contains 4 generators, so none of them are cyclic.  $\square$

### 3. GALOIS THEORY

**Exercise.** (Problem 1) Let  $F = \mathbb{Q}$ . Let  $L = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{7}, \sqrt{-11})$ . To what familiar group is  $\text{Aut}(L/F)$  isomorphic?

*Proof.*  $[K : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{7})] = [K : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-11})] = 2$ . Since the characteristic of  $K$  is not 2, by the argument presented on P.3 of the Galois Theory handout,  $\text{Aut}(K/\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{7}))$  and  $\text{Aut}(K/\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-11}))$  have 2 elements. For instance,  $\alpha = \sqrt{7}$  and the minimal monic polynomial is  $x^2 - 7$ . This gives  $D = 28$  and two automorphisms in  $\text{Aut}(K/\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{7}))$ , the identity map, and  $\sigma : \sqrt{D} \mapsto -\sqrt{D}$  as discussed in the handout. Similarly,  $\text{Aut}(K/\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-11}))$  contains the identity map and  $\sigma : \sqrt{D} \mapsto -\sqrt{D}$  where  $D = -44$ .

Finish this proof.

$\square$

**Exercise.** (Problem 2) Let  $F \subset K$  be a field extension.

- (1) Prove in at most two sentences that each  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(K/F)$  is an  $F$ -linear transformation of the  $F$ -vector space,  $K$ .
- (2) Does the same condition hold in general for  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(K)$ ? Prove or give a counterexample.

*Proof.*

- (1) For any  $a \in F$  and  $v, w \in K$ ,  $\sigma(av + w) = \sigma(a)\sigma(v) + \sigma(w) = a\sigma(v) + \sigma(w)$ , so  $\sigma$  is indeed an  $F$ -linear transformation.

- (2) Let  $F = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{7})$  and  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{7}, \sqrt{-11})$ . Let  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(K/\mathbb{Q})$  such that  $\sigma(\sqrt{7}) = -\sqrt{7}, \sigma(\sqrt{-11}) = -\sqrt{-11}$ . The existence of such an automorphism is shown in the solution to Problem 1.  $K$  is an  $F$ -vector space. However,  $\sigma(\sqrt{7} \cdot 1) = -\sqrt{7} \neq \sqrt{7} = \sqrt{7}(\sigma(1))$ , so  $\sigma$  is not an  $F$ -linear transformation.

□

**Exercise.** (Problem 3) Let  $\zeta = \exp(2\pi i/3) \in \mathbb{C}$ . Consider the following subfields of  $\mathbb{C}$ . Let  $F = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta)$ . For  $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ , let  $K_i = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta^i 7^{1/3})$ . Let  $L = \mathbb{Q}(7^{1/3}, \zeta 7^{1/3}, \zeta^2 7^{1/3})$ .

*Proof.*

- (1)  $[F : \mathbb{Q}] = 3$ .
- (2)  $\text{Aut}(F/\mathbb{Q})$  consists of two maps, the identity map and another map that swaps  $\zeta$  and  $\zeta^2$ .
- (3)  $[K_i : \mathbb{Q}] = 3$  for each  $i$  because  $\{1, \zeta^i 7^{1/3}, (\zeta^i 7^{1/3})^2\}$  is a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -basis.
- (4) Finish the rest!

□