Algebra Qualifying Exams

Rutgers - the State University of New Jersey

Syllabus

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Contents

Spring 2023

Groups

Classify all groups of order 309, up to isomorphism.

Groups

Let A be the abelian group with generators x, y, z and the relations

$$4x + 3y + z = 0, x + 2y + 3z = 0, 3x + 2y + 5z = 0$$

Show that A is a cyclic abelian group, and determine its order.

Linear Algebra

Let A be a complex $n \times n$ matrix. Prove that there is an invertible complex $n \times n$ matrix B such that $AB = BA^t$. (A^t is the transpose of A.)

Rings

Prove that the subring $\mathbb{Z}[3i]$ of $\mathbb{C}$ is not a Principal Ideal Domain.

Rings

If $R = \mathbb{Z}[x]$, show that the sequence $R \xrightarrow{f} R^2 \xrightarrow{g} R$ is exact, where $f(a) = (ax, -2a)$ and $g(c, d) = 2c + dx$.

Fall 2022

Groups

Let G be a finite simple group. Prove that $G \times G$ has exactly 4 normal subgroups (including $G \times G$) if and only if G is non-abelian.

Rings

Let R be a principal ideal domain and I, J be ideals of R. Show that $I \cap J = IJ$ holds if and only if $I = 0$ or $J = 0$ or $I + J = R$.

Linear Algebra

Let $A \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$ be a symmetric matrix with real coefficients. Show that all eigenvalues of A are non-negative if and only if $A = P^T P$ for some matrix $P \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$.

Rings

Let R be an integral domain and $R[x, y, z]$ the polynomial ring in three variables over R. Show that $I = \langle x^3, y^2, y^3 - z^2 y \rangle \subseteq R[x, y, z]$ is a prime ideal.
Hint: Show that I is the kernel of a ring homomorphism $R[x, y, z] \to R[t]$.

Linear Algebra

Let A and B be commuting complex matrices. Assume that $B \notin \mathbb{C}[A]$, that is, B cannot be written as a polynomial in A. Show that some eigenspace of A has dimension at least two.

Spring 2022

Rings

Prove that the rings $\mathbb{Q}[x]/(x^2-1)$ and $\mathbb{Q}\oplus\mathbb{Q}$ are isomorphic.

Groups

Let p be a prime. Show that any element of order p in $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$ can be conjugated to the matrix $\begin{bmatrix}1 & 1\\ 0 & 1\end{bmatrix}$

Fields

Let a and b be elements of a field of order 2^n where n is odd. Prove that if $a^2+ab+b^2=0$ then $a=b=0$.

Linear Algebra

Let A, B be linear operators on a nonzero finite-dimensional vector space V over $\mathbb{C}$ such that $A^2=B^2=\mathrm{Id}$. Prove that there exists a nonzero subspace W of V which is invariant under A and B and $\dim W\le 2$.

Linear Algebra

Let A be a complex $n\times n$ matrix. Let a_k denote the dimension of the null space of A^k (in particular, $a_0=0$). Prove that $a_k+a_{k+2}\le 2a_{k+1}$ for all $k\ge 0$.

Fall 2021

Groups

Let G be a group and $Z(G)$ the center of G. Show that the group $G/Z(G)$ does not have prime order. Find a group G such that $G/Z(G)$ has 4 elements.

Solution

Rings

Show that every prime ideal P in $\mathbb{Z}[x]$ which is not principal contains a prime number.

Solution

Groups

Show that every finite noncyclic group is a finite union of proper subgroups, and that if a group maps surjectively to a finite noncyclic group then it is a finite union of proper subgroups and use this to determine for which positive integers the product of n copies of the integers is a finite union of proper subgroups.

Solution

Linear Algebra

Let A and B be two square matrices over a field F. Suppose $\operatorname{diag}(A, A)$ and $\operatorname{diag}(B, B)$ are similar. Show that A and B are similar.

Solution

Groups

(a) Suppose that p and q are distinct primes and a group G is generated by elements of order p and also by elements of order q. Show that any homomorphism of G to an abelian group is trivial.

(b) Show that for $n \geq 5$ the alternating group A_n of even permutations of n objects is generated by elements of order 2, and also by elements of order 3, so that for such n the only homomorphisms to abelian groups are trivial.

Solution