

1. (Textbook 17.4)  
( $K(t)$  as an  $S_3$ -extension)
2. Denote by  $\overline{\mathbb{F}_p}$  an algebraic closure of  $\mathbb{F}_p$ . As discussed in class, for each  $d \geq 1$ , the set  $\{\alpha \in \overline{\mathbb{F}_p} : \alpha^{p^d} = \alpha\}$  forms a subfield of exactly  $p^d$  elements, which we will denote  $\mathbb{F}_{p^d}$ .
  - (a) For which  $d, e$  is  $\mathbb{F}_{p^d}$  a subfield of  $\mathbb{F}_{p^e}$ ?
  - (b) Describe, as explicitly as possible, the Galois group of  $\mathbb{F}_{p^e}/\mathbb{F}_{p^d}$  in the cases where  $\mathbb{F}_{p^d} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_{p^e}$ .
3. Let  $q = p^n$  denote a prime power, and let  $\mathbb{F}_q$  be a field of  $q$  elements. For each  $d \mid n$ , denote by  $\mathbb{F}_{p^d}$  the (unique) subfield of  $\mathbb{F}_q$  of degree  $p^d$ .
  - (a) Suppose that  $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q$  has minimal polynomial  $m \in \mathbb{F}_p[t]$  over  $\mathbb{F}_p$ , and let  $d$  be the degree of  $m$ . Prove that  $d \mid n$  and  $\mathbb{F}_p(\alpha) = \mathbb{F}_{p^d}$ .
  - (b) In the notation of part (a), prove that  $m$  is an irreducible factor of  $t^q - t$ .
  - (c) Prove that if  $m$  is *any monic irreducible polynomial* of degree  $d$  over  $\mathbb{F}_p$ , where  $d \mid n$ , then  $m$  splits in  $\mathbb{F}_q$  and  $m$  is an irreducible factor of  $t^q - t$ .
  - (d) Deduce that  $t^q - t$  is equal to the product of all monic irreducible polynomials  $m$  over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  such that  $\deg m \mid n$ .
4. Let  $p$  be a prime number. For all  $d \geq 1$ , denote by  $a_d$  the number of irreducible polynomials over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  of degree  $d$ .
  - (a) Prove that for all  $n \geq 1$ , the following formula holds.

$$p^n = \sum_{d \mid n} d a_d$$

**Hint** Use the previous problem. You can assume its results are true even if you haven't solved it yet.

- (b) Find a formula for  $a_{10}$  in terms of  $p$ .