

Algebra 2R

Problem List 1

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EXERCISE 1.

Proof that $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{R}[z]$ for every complex number $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$.

To begin with, let us take any $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$ such that $z = ai$ for some $a \in \mathbb{R}$. We have that

$$\mathbb{R}[z] = \{f(z) : f \in \mathbb{R}[X]\}.$$

Let $I = (X^2 + a^2) \triangleleft \mathbb{R}[X]$ be an ideal of $\mathbb{R}[X]$ generated by a polynomial with no real roots. We know that $\mathbb{R}[X]/I \cong \mathbb{C}$.

This is because \mathbb{R} is a field and so $\mathbb{R}[X]$ is an euclidean domain: if we take any $f \in \mathbb{R}[X]$ then we can write it as $f = v(X^2 + a^2) + w$, where w is of degree 0 or 1 ($< \deg(X^2 + a^2)$) and so f in $\mathbb{R}[X]/I$ is represented only by w . Now it is quite easy to map polynomials with real coefficients and maximal degree 1 to \mathbb{C} , for example $f : \mathbb{R}[X]/I \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $f(aX + b) = ai + b$. Therefore $\mathbb{R}[X]/I \cong \mathbb{C}$.

Consider the evaluation homomorphism ϕ_z which maps $\mathbb{R}[X] \ni w \mapsto w(z) \in \mathbb{R}[z]$. We can see that $\ker(\phi_z) = (X^2 + a^2) = I$. Therefore, by the fundamental theorem on ring homomorphism we have an isomorphism

$$f : \text{Im}(\phi_z) = \mathbb{R}[z] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}[X]/\ker(\phi_z) = \mathbb{R}[X]/I$$

and as mentioned above, $\mathbb{R}[X]/I \cong \mathbb{C}$. Hence, $\mathbb{R}[z] \cong \mathbb{C}$.



EXERCISE 2.

Assume that $K \subset L$ are fields and $a, b \in L$. For a rational function $f(X) \in K(X)$ define $f(a)$ as $\frac{g(a)}{h(a)}$, where $g, h \in K[X]$, $f = \frac{g}{h}$ and $h(a) \neq 0$, provided such g, h exist. If not, $f(a)$ is undetermined. Prove that

(a) if $f(X) \in K(X)$ and $f(a)$ is defined, then $f(a)$ is determined uniquely (does not depend on the choice of g, h)

Suppose by contradiction that $f(a)$ depends on which g, h we choose. That means that there exist $g, h, g', h' \in K[X]$, $h(a) \neq 0$, $h'(a) \neq 0$ such that $f = \frac{g}{h} = \frac{g'}{h'}$ but $\frac{g(a)}{h(a)} + c = \frac{g'(a)}{h'(a)}$, where $c \in L \setminus \{0\}$.

From $f = \frac{g}{h} = \frac{g'}{h'}$ we get that $g \cdot h' = g' \cdot h$ and in particular

$$(gh')(a) = (g'h)(a)$$

$$g(a)h'(a) = g'(a)h(a)$$

$$g(a)h'(a) - g'(a)h(a) = 0$$

From the assumption that $f(a)$ depends on the choice of polynomials we get that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{g'(a)}{h'(a)} &= \frac{g(a)}{h(a)} + c \\ g'(a)h(a) &= g(a)h'(a) + ch'(a) \\ g'(a)h(a) - g(a)h'(a) &= ch'(a) \neq 0\end{aligned}$$

Which is a contradiction because $c \neq 0$, $h'(a) \neq 0$ and we are working in a field that is a ring without zero divisors.

(b) $K(a) = \{f(a) : f \in K(X) \text{ i } f(a) \text{ jest określone}\}$

We know that $K(a)$ is a subfield of L that is generated by $K \cup \{a\}$. Let us label this field as L' . We will show that $L' = K(a)$.

$$L' \subseteq K(a)$$

Let us take any $x \in L'$. Then x is a finite linear combination of elements from K and $\{a, a^{-1}\}$:

$$x = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} \alpha_k a^{i_k k}, \quad i_k \in \{1, -1\}, \quad \alpha_k \in K.$$

We need to change this into a rational function. Take $p_k \in K[X]$ such that $p_k(X) = \alpha_k X^k$. We have that

$$x = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} p_k(a^{i_k}).$$

It is clear that when working with rational functions we may say that $p_k(a^{-1}) = \frac{1}{p'_k(a)}$ where $p_k(X) = \alpha_k^{-1} X^k$.

$$x = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} p_k(a^{i_k}) = \frac{\sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} p_k(a) \prod_{\substack{0 \leq l \leq n, \\ i_l = -1}} p'_l(a)}{\prod_{\substack{0 \leq k \leq n, \\ i_k = -1}} p'_k(a)} \in K(a)$$

$$K(a) \subseteq L'$$

Let us take any $f \in K(X)$ such that $f(a)$ is defined. We may write $f = \frac{g}{h}$ for $g, h \in K[X]$ and $h(a) \neq 0$. We have that $g(a) \in L'$ and $h(a) \in L'$. Therefore, $\frac{g(a)}{h(a)} = g(a) \cdot [h(a)]^{-1} \in L'$.

(c) $K(a, b) = (K(a))(b)$

EXERCISE 3.

Assume that $K \subseteq L$ are fields and $f_1, \dots, f_m \in K[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ have degree 1.

(a) Prove that if the system of equations $f_1 = \dots = f_m = 0$ has a solution in L then it has a solution in K . (hint: use linear algebra).

Let

$$f_i = \sum_{1 \leq k \leq n} b_{i,k} X_k$$

for $i = 1, \dots, m$.

We are working on linear equations, therefore we can construct a matrix that stores the same information as the system of equations $f_1 = \dots = f_m$. Let

$$f_i = \sum_{1 \leq k \leq n} b_{i,k} X_k$$

for $i = 1, \dots, m$. The matrix representation of this system of equations is:

$$\begin{bmatrix} b_{1,1} & b_{1,2} & b_{1,3} & \dots & b_{1,n-1} & b_{1,n} \\ b_{2,1} & b_{2,2} & b_{2,3} & \dots & b_{2,n-1} & b_{2,n} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ b_{m,1} & b_{m,2} & b_{m,3} & \dots & b_{m,n-1} & b_{m,n} \end{bmatrix} X = 0.$$

Using Gaussian algorithm, we can create an upper triangular matrix with coefficients from K . The solution would be found by backwards substitution. That is, a_n would be in the bottom right corner of the matrix and it is an element of K because such are the coefficients within my matrix. Then a_{n-1} would be a combination of a_n with two elements of K , hence it would still be in K and so on. Each a_i would be a linear combination of elements from K and a_k , $k < i$, which we know are in K .



EXERCISE 8.

Prove that the set $\{\sqrt{p} : p \text{ is a prime number}\}$ is linearly independent over the field \mathbb{Q} .

Assume that the set $S = \{\sqrt{p} : p \text{ is a prime number}\}$ is not linearly independent. That means that there is a sequence p_1, \dots, p_n of prime numbers and $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that

$$\sum_{1 \leq k \leq n} a_k \sqrt{p_k} = 0$$