
LECTURE 4

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1 Polynomials in Fields

$$p(x) \in K(x)$$

$$p = f \cdot g, f, g \in K(x)$$

$$\partial f, \partial g > 0$$

$$\partial f, \partial g < \partial p$$

$$\text{case 1 } \partial p = 2$$

$$p = f \cdot g$$

$$\partial f = \partial g = 1$$

p is irreducible $\leftrightarrow p$ doesn't have units in K (quadratic formula)

$$\text{case 2: } \partial p = 3$$

$$\partial f = 1,$$

$$\partial g = 2$$

p is irreducible $\leftrightarrow p$ doesn't have a root in K

$$\text{case 3: } \partial p = 4$$

$$\partial f = 2, \partial g = 2 \text{ or } \partial f = 1, \partial g = 3$$

$$\mathbb{Q}[x]$$

$$p \in \mathbb{Z}[x]?$$

Lemma 1.1 (Gauss' Lemma).

$h \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ irreducible $\Rightarrow h$ is irreducible in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$

(\Leftarrow): is this true? (no)

$$h = f \cdot g$$

$$h = 2x + 2 = 2(x + 1) \text{ where } \partial f, \partial g < \partial h$$

this constant is not a unit.

Proof.

Suppose $h = f \cdot g$ where $f, g \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$. Clear denominators in f, g .

There is the smallest positive integer k such that $k \cdot h = \bar{f} \cdot \bar{g}$ where $\bar{f}, \bar{g} \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$

There is a prime p dividing k . Let's look at $kh = \bar{f}\bar{g}$ in $\mathbb{Z}_p(x)$

in $\mathbb{Z}_p, 0 = \bar{f}_p \cdot \bar{g}_p$ \mathbb{Z} : integral domain, so either one must be 0,

$\bar{f}_p = 0$ or $\bar{g}_p = 0 \rightarrow$ either all coefficients of \bar{f} or all coefficients of \bar{g} are divisible by $p \rightarrow k$ can be reduced. contradiction.

□

2 Eisenstein's Criterion

$$h \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$$

$$h = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n$$

suppose that there exists a prime p such that:

$$1. \ p | a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}$$

$$2. \ p \nmid a_n$$

$$3. \ p^2 \nmid a_0$$

$\rightarrow f$ is irreducible in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$

Proof.

suffice to show that h is irreducible in $\mathbb{Z}[x]$ (Gauss lemma)

Suppose $h = f \cdot g$, where $f, g \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ and $\partial f, \partial g < \partial h$

Let's look at $h = fg \pmod p$

$$h_p = f_p g_p$$

$$a_n x^n = f_p g_p$$

$$a_n \not\equiv 0 \pmod p$$

$$\text{look } a_0, p \mid a_0, p^2 \nmid a_0$$

$\rightarrow p$ divides constant term g, f or g but not both

WLOG,

$p \mid$ constant term of g and $p \nmid$ constant term of $f \rightarrow g_p$ is a polynomial with a constant term

$$a_n x^n = f_p \cdot g_p$$

$\mathbb{Z}_p[x]$ UFD but we have two different factorizations.. contradiction

$\rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[x]$ can only factor $h = fg, \partial f = 0$ but then divide h by f

□

2.1 Applications of Eisenstein's criterion

ex.

$$x^4 - 2$$

is irreducible, $p = 2$

$$2x^5 - 4x^3 + 8x^3 + 14x^2 + 7 = h(x)$$

$$h(x) \text{ irreducible} \Leftrightarrow h\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)x^u, u = \partial h$$

$2 - 4x + 8x^2 + 15x^3 + 7x^5$ is irreducible by Eisenstein $p = 2$.

$$h = 1 + x + x^2 + \cdots + x^{p-1}$$

p - prime

Proposition 2.1. $h(x)$ is irreducible in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$

$$h(x) = \frac{x^p - 1}{x - 1}$$

Proof.

$$\text{consider } h(x+1) = \frac{(x+1)^p - 1}{x} = \sum_{k=1}^p \binom{p}{k} x^{p-k}$$

$$(x+1)^p = \frac{x^p + px^{p-1} + \binom{p}{2}x^{p-2} + \dots + px + 1 - 1}{x}$$

$$\text{here } p \mid \binom{p}{k} \text{ for } 0 < k < p$$

□

Several notations of field extensions

$L/K \subsetneq L$, where K, L fields

$L : K, M : L : K$ where $L/K, M/L$

$[L : K]$ = degree of field extension (dimension L as K vector space) $L/K, L : K$

Theorem 2.2 (Tower Theorem). Let $K \subseteq L \subseteq M$ be fields. Then $[M : K] = [M : L] \cdot [L : K]$

Proof. Let a_1, \dots, a_s be a basis of L as a K -vector space, so $[L : K] = s$. Let b_1, \dots, b_t be a basis of M as an L -vector space, so $[M : L] = t$. For any $l \in L$, we can write $l = \sum_{i=1}^s f_i a_i$ where $f_i \in K$. Claim: The set $a_i b_j : 1 \leq i \leq s, 1 \leq j \leq t$ forms a basis of M as a K -vector space. To prove this claim, we need to show:

Linear Independence: Any linear combination $\sum_{i,j} k_{ij}(a_i b_j) = 0$ with $k_{ij} \in K$ implies all $k_{ij} = 0$ Spanning: Any element of M can be written as a linear combination of the $a_i b_j$ with coefficients in K

1. To show $a_i b_j$ are linearly independent: Suppose $\sum_{i=1}^s \sum_{j=1}^t k_{ij}(a_i b_j) = 0$ where $k_{ij} \in K$. For each fixed j , let $c_j = \sum_{i=1}^s k_{ij} a_i \in L$. Then our equation becomes $\sum_{j=1}^t c_j b_j = 0$. Since b_j is a basis of M over L , we must have $c_j = 0$ for all j . For each j : $0 = c_j = \sum_{i=1}^s k_{ij} a_i$. Since a_i is a basis of L over K , we must have $k_{ij} = 0$ for all i, j .
2. To show $a_i b_j$ span M as a K -vector space: Let $m \in M$. Since b_j is a basis of M over L , we can write: $m = \sum_{j=1}^t l_j b_j$ where $l_j \in L$. For each l_j , since a_i is a basis of L over K , we can write: $l_j = \sum_{i=1}^s k_{ij} a_i$ where $k_{ij} \in K$. Substituting: $m = \sum_{j=1}^t (\sum_{i=1}^s k_{ij} a_i) b_j = \sum_{i=1}^s \sum_{j=1}^t k_{ij}(a_i b_j)$. Therefore, m is in the span of $a_i b_j$.

□