


Algebra - II
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Uniqueness Theorem for Finite Field

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Uniqueness Theorem for Finite Fields

Thm: If E and E' are finite fields of order p^n , then \exists an isomorphism $E \xrightarrow{\varphi} E'$.

Pf: $E^* = \{1, \alpha, \alpha^2, \dots, \alpha^{p^n-1}\}$ for some $\alpha \in E^*$.
 So $E = F_p(\alpha)$.
 Define $\varphi: F_p[t] \rightarrow E$,
 $\varphi: t \mapsto \alpha$.



In this lecture, we will show that up to the isomorphism there is only one field of any given finite order. For this, we will use the fact that the multiplicative group of a finite field is cyclic. So, suppose e . So, theorem if E and E' prime are finite fields of order p^n , then there exists an isomorphism E onto the E' .

And what is more, this is sort of a trivial observation, but I just want to say it here is that this isomorphism will map to the copy of F_p which is obtained by taking one and adding it to itself. How many of the times it lacked by identity on F_p ? So, there is an isomorphism of field extensions E over F_p to E' over F_p .

Now, the proof of this is as follows. We will express E as coefficient of $F_p[t]$ modulo irreducible polynomial. So, what we do is we know that E^* is the group generated by some element α . Some non-zero element α generates this group, and what this means is that E is the group generated by α , the field extension of F_p generated by α .

That is the smallest field containing F_p and α is all of E . Now that means that we can construct a homomorphism f from $F_p[t]$ to E as we did in the first lecture of this course, which is just takes f of t goes to α , then what we have is that this f gives rise to an isomorphism.

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$$\bar{\varphi} : F[t]/(p(t)) \rightarrow E$$

where $p(t)$ is an irreducible polynomial, and $(p(t)) = \ker \varphi$.

$$\bar{\varphi}(t) = \alpha$$

So α is a root of $p(t)$ in E .

$$(p(t), t^n - t) \neq 1 \text{ in } E[t].$$

So $(p(t), t^n - t) \neq 1 \text{ in } F_p[t].$



So we have $F[t] \text{ mod } (p(t)) \rightarrow E$, where $p(t)$ is an irreducible polynomial and $p(t)$ generates kernel of φ . So, E is isomorphic to $F[t] \text{ mod } (p(t))$. Now, this suppose we write. So, what we know is that the value of t is α . And so α is root of $p(t)$ in E this means that the GCD of $p(t)$ and $t^n - t$ is also root of $p(t)$ to the n minus t because the elements of E are precisely all the roots of $t^n - t$. This is not equal to one in E .

But we have seen that this GCD does not actually depend on which polynomial ring we are computing it over, if the GCD is not one in $E[t]$, it is also not one in $F_p[t]$. Because both are polynomial rings over F_p . And so the GCD must also lie in $F_p[t]$, okay.

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Since $(p(t), t^n - t) \neq 1$,
 and $t^n - t$ is a product of linear factors in E' ,
 So $p(t)$ has a root in E' , call it α' .

Define $\varphi' : F_p[t] \rightarrow E'$
 $t \mapsto \alpha'$.

$\ker \varphi' = (p(t))$
 $\therefore E' \cong F_p[t]/(p(t))$

$$E \xrightarrow{\cong} F_p[t]/(p(t)) \xrightarrow{\cong} E'$$


Now let us move to the field E . So, since $t^n - a$ and t to the P to the n minus t is not equal to one and t to the P to the n minus t split into linear factors in E . Is a product of linear factor? This means that P has a root if in fact one of those linear factors must also divide P . So, P has a root E prime call it α . And now you define F_α to let us call this fee prime to E prime by taking t to α .

Now this homomorphism must have kernel containing P because α is the root of P . But this P is a maximal ideal. I mean, the kernel cannot be all of F_α because this map is obviously non zero α , is not it? And so this kernel \mathfrak{p} has to be equal to P . And therefore, E prime is also isomorphic to $F_\alpha \text{ mod } P$.

And so what we have is $F_\alpha \text{ mod } P$ this over F is isomorphic to E on the one hand via $\bar{\cdot}$ and isomorphic to E prime on the other hand, via $\bar{\cdot}$ which means that E and E prime has isomorphic via $\bar{\cdot}$, $\bar{\cdot}^{-1}$ and that proves the theorem. But the thing is that up to isomorphism, there is only one finite field of any given order.