

**Algebra - II**  
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**Solved Problems (week 2)**

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Problem Session (Week 2)

1. List all the subfields of  $F_{729}$ .

$729 = 3^6$ , and 6 has factors 1, 2, 3, 6

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & F_{729} & \\ & / \quad \backslash & \\ F_9 & & F_{27} \\ & \backslash \quad / & \\ & F_3 & \end{array}$$

are the subfields of  $F_{729}$ .



Let us solve some problems, the first problem list all the subfields of  $F_{729}$  By which I mean a finite field of order 729. So, 729 is 3 to the power 6 and 6 has factors 1, 2, 3 and 6. So, we have  $F_{729}$ . It contains subfield of order 3 square, which is 9. It also contains subfield of order 27 which is 3 cubed. And both those contain a subfield of order 3.

The  $F_{729}$  has exactly four subfields including itself  $F_{729}$ ,  $F_9$ ,  $F_{27}$  and  $F_3$  these are the subfields of  $F_{729}$ . It is exactly one of each of the.  $F_9$  consists of the roots of the polynomial  $t^9 - t$   $F_{27}$  consists of the roots of the polynomial  $t^{27} - t$  and  $F_3$  consists of the roots of the polynomial  $t^3 - t$ , okay. So, that was easy.

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2. How irreducible <sup>monic</sup> polynomials of degree 2 are there in  $F_p[t]$ ?  
There are  $p^2$  monic polynomials of degree 2 in  $F_p[t]$ .  
Every reducible polynomial is of the form  $(t-\alpha)(t-\beta)$ ,  
 $\alpha, \beta \in F_p$ .  
no. possibilities =  $\binom{p+1}{2}$   
no. of irred polys =  $p^2 - \binom{p+1}{2} = \frac{p^2-p}{2}$



Let us look at problem two of how many irreducible polynomials of degree 2 are there in  $F_p$ . So, I am asking this question about general  $F_p$ . Let us see how the answer depends on  $p$ . That is another interesting point. So, now one way to calculate the number of irreducible polynomials, maybe let us just make this simple, irreducible monic polynomial, okay.

So, one way to find the irreducible polynomial, this is start with all polynomial. So, there are totally  $p^2$  monic polynomials of degree 2 because each monic polynomial for  $t^2 + at + b$ , you have  $p$  choices for  $a$  and  $p$  choices for  $b$ . So, the total  $p^2$  monic polynomials of degree 2 in  $F_p$ , irreducible or not.

Now from this, let us remove the polynomial which are not reducible. So, every reducible polynomial or non-irreducible average is well, it must have two linear factors is of the form,  $t - \alpha$  into  $t - \beta$  where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are in  $F_p$ . So, what we are looking is how many pairs, unordered pairs of possibly in repeated elements do I have in  $F_p$ .

And so the number of possibilities is the number of sub multi sets of a set of size  $p + 1$  off sites 2 which is  $p + 1$  choose 2, another way to see this is okay if they have to be distinct. Then you get  $p$  choose 2 possibilities for  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . And if they have to be the same, then you get  $p$  possibilities for  $\alpha$ , which is repeated root 2 times.

So,  $p$  choose 2 plus  $p$ , which is the same as  $p + 1$  choose 2. So, number of irreducible polynomials is  $p^2$  minus  $p + 1$  choose 2 which is just  $p^2 - p$  by 2, okay.

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3. How many *irred.* polynomials of degree 3 in  $F_p[t]$ .



Let us try a slightly harder one. How many irreducible polynomials of degree 3? Actually, here  $p$  need not be a primary could also take  $p$  to be a prime power, all the uses of the cardinality, the field  $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$ .

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2. How many *irred.* <sup>monic</sup> polynomials of degree 2 are there in  $F_p[t]$ ?

There are  $p^2$  monic polynomials of degree 2 in  $F_p[t]$ .

Every reducible polynomial is of the form  $(t-\alpha)(t-\beta)$ ,  
 $\alpha, \beta \in F_p$ .

$$\text{no. possibilities} = \binom{p+1}{2}$$

$$\text{no. of irred polys} = p^2 - \binom{p+1}{2} = \frac{p^2 - p}{2} = \phi_2(p)$$

$$\phi_2(p) = p.$$



So, note that let us call this polynomial  $\phi_2(p)$  it is a polynomial  $p$  which is itself quite a nice thing. You do not need to calculate it separately for each Prime  $p$ , its dependence on  $p$  is just polynomial. And  $\phi_1(p)$  let us say, is the number of irreducible polynomial of degree 1.

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3. How many <sup>monic</sup> irreducible polynomials of degree 3 in  $F_p[t]$

Let  $\varphi_d(p)$  = no. of irreducible polys. of deg.  $d$  in  $F_p[t]$ .

$$p^3 = \varphi_3(p) + \varphi_2(p)\varphi_1(p) + \binom{\varphi_1(p)+2}{3}$$
$$\varphi_3(p) = p^3 - \frac{p^2-p}{2} \cdot p + \binom{p+2}{3}$$
$$= \frac{1}{3}(p^3-p).$$



So, we have  $\varphi_1(p)$  each polynomial from  $p$  minus  $\alpha$ . This is just and  $\varphi_3(p)$  is so let  $\varphi_d(p)$  be the number of irreducible polynomial of degree  $d$  in  $F_p[t]$ , what we get is  $p^3$  is the total number of irreducible polynomials is a total number of again, I want to say monic polynomials. So,  $p^3$  is the total number of monic polynomial the degree 3.

And so this consists of, okay, you can have the irreducible polynomials, which is  $\varphi_3(p)$  then you can have polynomials which have one irreducible factor of degree 2 and 1 and irreducible factor of degree 1. So, that  $\varphi_2(p)$  time's  $\varphi_1(p)$  and then you can have polynomials with 3 irreducible factors of degree 1. Now those factors could be repeated. And so what you get is  $\varphi_1(p)$  plus 2 choose 3, the number of sub multi sets of a set of size  $\varphi_1(p)$  of size 3.

If you want, you can work through different cases and see these two are the same and so on. I let you figure this part out. So, now we know the values of  $\varphi_2$  and  $\varphi_1$ . So, we can compute  $\varphi_3$  from that. So, what we get is  $\varphi_3(p)$  is  $p^3$ , minus now  $\varphi_2$  is  $p^2$  minus  $p$  by 2 into  $p$  plus. And then this is just  $p$  plus 2 choose 3. And if you expand it all out, I believe you will get  $\frac{1}{3}(p^3 - p)$ .

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4. Prove that  $t^3 + 48t - 24$  is irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}[t]$

Take  $p=3$  and apply Eisenstein's criterion.

5. Is  $(x^4+4)$  irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ ?

$$(x^4+4) \stackrel{??}{=} (x^2+ax+2)(x^2+bx+2)$$
$$= x^4 + (a+b)x^3 + (4+ab)x^2 + 2(a+b)x + 4$$

$$a+b=0, \quad 4+ab=0$$

$$b=-a, \quad 4-a^2=0 \Rightarrow a=2, b=-2.$$

$$(x^4+4) = (x^2-2x+2)(x^2+2x+2).$$



The next exercise is a fairly straightforward application of Eisenstein's criteria. Prove that  $t$  cubed plus  $48t$  minus  $24$  is irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}[t]$ . Now, this would be you just have to find a prime  $p$  with which we can apply Eisenstein's criterion. So, you look at the factors of  $24$ ,  $24$  has two prime factors,  $2$  and  $3$ , but it is divisible by  $4$ . So, you cannot use  $p$  equals  $2$  however you can use  $p$  equals  $3$  it is just divisible by  $3$ , but it is not divisible by  $9$ . So, just take  $p$  equals  $3$  and apply Eisenstein's criterion, okay.

And let us look at problem five, which is another irreducibility problem is  $x$  to the  $4$ ,  $x$  to the  $4$ ,  $x$  to the  $4$  plus  $4$  irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ . Now it would be tempting to see that Eisenstein's criterion does not apply to this polynomial because the only  $P$  I can take is  $2$ , but  $p$  square divides  $4$  so the only. So, Eisenstein's criterion does not apply to this polynomial and therefore it is not irreducible.

But that is not correct. Eisenstein's criterion only gives a sufficient condition for a polynomial to be irreducible. If Eisenstein's criterion does not hold that is not automatically mean that the polynomial is not irreducible. So, we need to work a little further and try to examine this.

Now note that  $x$  to the power  $4$  plus  $4$  does not have any linear factors because  $x$  to the power  $4$  plus  $4$  does not have any rational roots. So, we would be looking for a factorization into two quadratic factors. So, let us try and we should have  $x$  square plus,  $x$  to the power  $4$  plus  $4$  should be a product of two quadratic factors. And we know that we can choose they have to be integer polynomial by Gauss's lemma.

So, there were must be of the form  $x^2 + ax + 2$  into  $x^2 + bx + 2$  plus 2 you can have  $x^2 + ax + 4$  into  $x^2 + bx + 1$ . But let us just try this and see we can find  $a$  and  $b$ . But if you can expand this out so we do not know for sure that we have a factorization like this. So, let us just try so we expand this out you get  $x^4 + ax^3 + 2x^2 + bx^2 + 4$ , 2 here and 2 here so 4. We want  $x^4 + abx^2 + 4$  into  $(x^2 + ax + 2)(x^2 + bx + 2)$ .

So, that is the thing what we must have is that  $a + b = 0$ . And  $4 + ab = 0$ . And so this means that  $b = -a$ . which means that  $4 - a^2 = 0$  which imply  $a = 2$ ,  $b = -2$ . So, we have a factorization  $x^4 + 4$  is  $(x^2 + 2x + 2)(x^2 - 2x + 2)$ .

Well if you were little observe and you may have notice that this is the  $x^4 + 4$ . So, this is an  $a^2 + b^2$  into  $(a + ib)(a - ib)$  forms. So,  $x^4 + 4$  is  $(x^2 + 2ix + 2)(x^2 - 2ix + 2)$ . So, this is can also be solved in that way by Gauss. So,  $x^4 + 4$  is not a irreducible  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ . Eisenstein's criterion does not applied but that is not enough you actually need to show that it is reducible.