

QUALIFYING EXAM

FEBRUARY 21, 2013

Instructions. You need to show all your work in order to get full credit. When using a theorem, you must state it clearly and correctly.

Problem 1. (10 points) Let $\text{Mat}_{n \times n}(K)$ denote the space of $n \times n$ matrices with coefficients in a field K . For $A \in \text{Mat}_{n \times n}(K)$ define a linear map $T_A : \text{Mat}_{n \times n}(K) \rightarrow \text{Mat}_{n \times n}(K)$ by $T_A(B) = AB + BA$, for $B \in \text{Mat}_{n \times n}(K)$. Express the trace of T_A as a function of the trace of A .

Problem 2. (20 points) Let R be a ring with 1. Suppose we have a sequence of left R -modules $\{M_i | i \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ and R -homomorphisms $\{d_i : M_i \rightarrow M_{i-1} | i \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ such that $d_i \circ d_{i+1} = 0$, for all $i \in \mathbb{Z}$.

(i) Prove that $\text{im}d_{i+1} \subseteq \ker d_i$, and hence $H_i = \ker d_i / \text{im}d_{i+1}$ is an R -module.

Assume below that there exists a sequence of R -homomorphisms $\{s_i : M_{i-1} \rightarrow M_i | i \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ such that $d_i = d_i \circ s_i \circ d_i$, for all $i \in \mathbb{Z}$.

(ii) Prove that there exist R -submodules N_i and P_i of $\ker d_i$ such that $\ker d_i \cong N_i \oplus P_i$ with $N_i \cong H_i$, for every i . (Hint: Prove that $N_i = \ker(d_{i+1} \circ s_{i+1} + s_i \circ d_i)$.)

Problem 3. (20 points) Let G be a finite group.

(i) Suppose that $g^2 = 1$ for every $g \in G$. Prove that G is abelian.

(ii) Find all G with $|G| = 8$ up to isomorphism.

Problem 4. (25 points) Let $f(x) = x^4 - 2x^2 - 2$.

(i) Prove that $f(x)$ is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} .

(ii) Prove that $\alpha = \sqrt{1 + \sqrt{3}}$ and $\beta = \sqrt{1 - \sqrt{3}}$ are roots of $f(x)$ in \mathbb{C} , and furthermore $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha) \cap \mathbb{Q}(\beta) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})$. What are the other roots of $f(x)$?

(iii) Let F be a splitting field of $f(x)$ over \mathbb{Q} . What are the degrees of the field extensions $[F : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})]$ and $[F : \mathbb{Q}]$?

(iv) What is the Galois group of the extension $[F : \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})]$?

(v) What is the Galois group of the extension $[F : \mathbb{Q}]$? Is it abelian?

Problem 5. (25 points) Let \mathbb{F}_q denote the finite field of $q = p^m$ elements, where p is a prime. Let $\text{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$ denote the group of invertible $n \times n$ matrices with coefficients in \mathbb{F}_q and let $\text{SL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q) := \{A \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q) | \det A = 1\}$.

(i) What is the order of the group $\text{SL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$?

Below assume that $n = 2$ and $p > 2$. For an element $\xi \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2}$ we define $T_\xi : \mathbb{F}_{q^2} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{q^2}$ given by $T_\xi(z) = \xi z$, for $z \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2}$.

- (ii) Identifying the \mathbb{F}_q -vector spaces \mathbb{F}_{q^2} and $\mathbb{F}_q \oplus \mathbb{F}_q$ prove that the map $\xi \rightarrow T_\xi$ defines a group homomorphism $T : \mathbb{F}_{q^2} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$.
- (iii) Prove that there exists an element $\zeta \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2} \setminus \mathbb{F}_q$ such that $\zeta^q + \zeta = 0$. Conclude that $B_\zeta = \{1, \zeta\}$ is a \mathbb{F}_q -basis for \mathbb{F}_{q^2} .
- (iv) Prove that, for $\xi \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2} \setminus \{0\}$, the matrix of the linear map T_ξ , with respect to the ordered basis B_ζ , is of the form $T_\xi = \begin{pmatrix} (\xi + \xi^q)/2 & \zeta(\xi - \xi^q)/2 \\ (\xi - \xi^q)/2\zeta & (\xi + \xi^q)/2 \end{pmatrix}$.
- (v) Prove that $\mathbb{F}_{q^2} \setminus \{0\}$ has a unique subgroup \mathbb{Z}_{q+1} of order $q+1$, and furthermore prove that $T_\xi \in \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$, for all $\xi \in \mathbb{Z}_{q+1}$.