EXAMPLE SHEET 1 (LECTURES 1–6)
GALOIS THEORY MICHAELMAS 2009

1. Find the greatest common divisors of the polynomials $f = X^3 - 3$ and $g = X^2 - 4$ in $\mathbb{Q}[X]$ and in $\mathbb{F}_5[X]$, expressing them in the form $af + bg$ for polynomials a, b.

2. Let x have minimal polynomial $X^3 + X^2 - 2X + 1$ over $\mathbb{Q}$. Express $(1 - x^2)^{-1}$ as a linear combination of 1, x and x^2. Justify the assertion that the cubic is irreducible over $\mathbb{Q}$.

3. Suppose that L/K is an extension with $[L : K] = 3$. Show that for any $x \in L$ and $y \in L - K$ we can find $p, q, r, s \in K$ such that $x = \dfrac{p + qy}{r + sy}$.

[Hint: Consider four appropriate elements of the 3-dimensional vector space L.]

4. Let R be a ring, and K a subring of R which is a field. Show that if R is an integral domain and $\dim_K R < \infty$ then R is a field. Show that the result fails without the assumption that R is a domain.

5. (Quadratic extensions) Let L/K be an extension of degree 2. Show that if the characteristic of K is not 2, then $L = K(x)$ for some $x \in L$ with $x^2 \in K$.

Show that if the characteristic is 2, then either $L = K(x)$ with $x^2 \in K$, or $L = K(x)$ with $x^2 + x \in K$.

6. (i) Let L/K be a finite extension whose degree is prime. Show that there is no intermediate extension $L \supsetneqq K' \supsetneqq K$.

(ii) Let x be algebraic over K of odd degree. Show that $K(x) = K(x^2)$.

7. Let L/K be an extension and $x, y \in L$. Show that $x + y$ and xy are algebraic over K if and only if x and y are algebraic over K.

8. Find the minimal polynomials over $\mathbb{Q}$ of the complex numbers $\sqrt[5]{3}$, $i + \sqrt{2}$, $\sin(2\pi/5)$ and $e^{\pi i/6} - \sqrt{3}$.

9. Let L/K be a finite extension and $f \in K[X]$ an irreducible polynomial of degree $d > 1$. Show that if d and $[L : K]$ are coprime, f has no roots in L.

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10. (i) Let K be a field, and $r = p/q \in K(X)$ a non-constant rational function. Find a polynomial in $K(r)[T]$ which has X as a root.

(ii) Let L be a subfield of $K(X)$ containing K. Show that either $K(X)/L$ is finite, or $L = K$. Deduce that the only elements of $K(X)$ which are algebraic over K are constants.

11. Show that an algebraic extension L/K of fields is finite if and only if it is *finitely generated*; i.e. iff $L = K(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ for some $x_i \in L$. Prove that the algebraic numbers (zeros of polynomials with rational coefficients) form a subfield of $\mathbb{C}$ which is not finitely generated over $\mathbb{Q}$.

12. Let $L = K(x, y)$, with $[K(x) : K] = m$, $[K(y) : K] = n$ and $\gcd(m, n) = 1$. Show that $[L : K] = mn$.

13. Let K and L be subfields of a field M such that M/K is finite. Denote by KL the set of all finite sums $\sum x_i y_i$ with $x_i \in K$ and $y_i \in L$. Show that KL is a subfield of M, and that

$$[KL : K] \leq [L : K \cap L].$$

14. Let L/K be an extension, and $x, y \in L$ transcendental over K. Show that x is algebraic over $K(y)$ iff y is algebraic over $K(x)$. [x, y are then said to be **algebraically dependent**.]

15. Find a splitting field $K/\mathbb{Q}$ for each of the following polynomials, and calculate $[K : \mathbb{Q}]$ in each case:

$$X^4 - 5X^2 + 6, \quad X^4 - 7, \quad X^8 - 1, \quad X^3 - 2, \quad X^4 + 4.$$

16. Show that if L is a splitting field for a polynomial in $K[X]$ of degree n, then $[L : K] \leq n!$.

17. Let L/K be a field extension, and $\phi\colon L \to L$ a K-homomorphism. Show that if L/K is algebraic then ϕ is an isomorphism. Does this hold without the hypothesis L/K algebraic?

E-mail address: `t.yoshida@dpmms.cam.ac.uk`