

Geometric constructions and elements of Galois' theory

List 5

Field extensions, their degrees; non-algebraic number π

Warm-up exercises.

1. Given two numbers $2 - \sqrt[3]{2} + 3\sqrt[3]{4}$ and $\sqrt[3]{4} - 7\sqrt[3]{2} + 5$ from the field $Q(\sqrt[3]{2})$, express their sum, difference, product and quotient in a form $q_0 + q_1\sqrt[3]{2} + q_2(\sqrt[3]{2})^2$, where q_0, q_1, q_2 are rational.
2. Decide what is the degree and find any basis for the extension $Q \subset Q(\sqrt[5]{2})$, assuming we know that $\sqrt[5]{2}$ is an algebraic number of degree 5.
3. Let $F_1 = Q(\sqrt{3})$ and $F_2 = F_1(\sqrt{5})$. Find the degree and a basis for the extension $Q \subset F_2$.

Exercises.

1. Express the numbers $\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{2}-1}$ and $\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{2}-\sqrt[3]{4}+1}$ from the field $Q(\sqrt[3]{2})$ in the form $q_0 + q_1\sqrt[3]{2} + q_2\sqrt[3]{4}$, with $q_0, q_1, q_2 \in Q$.
2. Let u be a root of the polynomial $x^3 - x^2 - 1$, and let $a = 2 + u - 3u^2$, $b = 1 - u + u^2$. Express the numbers $a \cdot b$ oraz $1/a$ in the form $q_0 + q_1u + q_2u^2$, with q_0, q_1, q_2 rational.
3. Niech $F_1 = Q(\sqrt{2})$, $F_2 = F_1(\sqrt{3})$ i $F_3 = F_2(\sqrt{\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3}})$. Znajdź stopień i bazę rozszerzenia $Q \subset F_3$.
4. Verify that the extension $Q(1 + \sqrt{5})$ of the field Q of rationals coincides with the extension $Q(\sqrt{5})$.
5. Prove that each extension of degree 2 of any number field F is a quadratic extension. HINT: consider any basis for this extension of the form $\{1, a\}$; express a^2 as a linear combination of elements of this basis (with non-explicit coefficients from F); use this to show that a is a root of some quadratic equation with coefficients in F ; express a using the well known formula for roots of a quadratic equation; make final conclusions.
6. Show that if u is an algebraic number of degree k , and if a is a distinct from u root of the minimal polynomial of u , then a is also an algebraic number of degree k .
7. Using the fact that the number $\sqrt[3]{2}$ is not constructible, show that the number $2\sqrt[3]{4} + \sqrt[3]{2} + 1$ is also not constructible. Show also (without finding the minimal polynomial of b) that b is of degree 3 (the same degree as $\sqrt[3]{2}$). HINT: for non-constructibility of b you can use two arguments; first, assume a contrario that b IS constructible, and observe that then $\sqrt[3]{2}$ is a root of a quadratic equation $2x^2 + x + 1 = b$ with constructible coefficients, so it is given by a formula for solutions of this equation; second argument is more abstract, and uses the fact that $b \in Q(\sqrt[3]{2})$ and b is not rational, so we have $Q \subset Q(b) \subset Q(\sqrt[3]{2})$, and we can deduce the degree of the extension $Q \subset Q(b)$.

Exercise based on the fact that π is a non-algebraic number.

8. Is it possible, by using compass and straightedge, to construct a circle whose area equals:
 - (a) the area of a given square (inverse of the quadrature of a circle); HINT: assume that the side of the given square is a unit;
 - (b) half of the area of a given circle;
 - (c) sum of the areas of two given circles;
 - (d) the difference of areas of a given square and the circle inscribed in this square?
9. Is it possible, by using compass and straightedge, to construct:
 - (a) the circle whose perimeter is equal to a given segment;
 - (b) the circle whose perimeter equals the sum of perimeters of three given circles;
 - (c) the semicircle whose perimeter is equal to a given segment;
 - (d) the semicircle whose perimeter is equal to the perimeter of a given circle?