

Geometric constructions and elements of Galois' theory

List 6

Applications of Eisenstein's criterion

Warm-up exercises.

- For which of the following polynomials one can deduce their irreducibility over the rational numbers by direct application of Eisenstein's criterion:
 $x^4 + 6x^2 - 18x + 12$, $x^4 + 21x^3 - 3x^2 + 49$, $x^5 - 10x^2 + 50$?

Exercises.

- Find the minimal polynomial of the number $\sqrt[3]{2 + \sqrt{6}}$. Deduce that this number is not constructible.
- Find the degree of the algebraic number $\sqrt{3 - \sqrt[4]{3}}$.
- For which natural numbers k and n can one deduce, by direct application of Eisenstein's criterion, that the number $\sqrt[n]{k}$ is an algebraic number of degree n ?
- Show that if a polynomial $W(x) \in Q[x]$ is irreducible over Q , and if q is a rational number distinct from zero, then the polynomial $V(x) := W(x + q)$ is also irreducible over Q .
- (a) Show that $\sqrt[5]{36}$ is an algebraic number of degree 5. HINT: consider the polynomial $V(x) := W(x + 1)$, where $W(x) = x^5 - 36$.
 (b) Using a similar method, show that the degree of the number $\sqrt[5]{4}$ is 5, and then deduce that this number is not constructible.
- Prove that if u is an algebraic number, and if $q \in Q$, then the degree of the number $u + q$ is equal to the degree of u . HINT: consider the minimal polynomial $W(x)$ of the number u , and the polynomial $V(x) := W(x - q)$.
- Given a polynomial $W(x) \in Q[x]$ which is irreducible over Q , and a rational non-zero number q , show that the new polynomial $V(x)$ described as $V(x) := W(q \cdot x)$ is also irreducible over Q . Deduce from this, that for any algebraic number u the degrees of the numbers u and $q \cdot u$ are equal.
- Show that the polynomial $W(x) = 2x^4 - 7$ is irreducible by considering the associated polynomial $V(x) := W(\frac{x}{2})$ multiplied by such a factor, that its coefficients become integer. Likewise, show that the polynomial $9x^5 + 5$ is irreducible over Q .
- Determine the degree of the number $\sqrt[5]{3/2}$ in the following two ways:
 (a) using the fact that $\sqrt[5]{3/2} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt[5]{48}$ and applying exercise 7;
 (b) using the method from exercise 8.
 Similarly, determine the degree of the number $\sqrt[4]{2/3}$.
- For a given polynomial $W(x) = a_n x^n + \dots + a_1 x + a_0$ define its *palindrome* $\widetilde{W}(x)$ as

$$\widetilde{W}(x) := a_0 x^n + a_1 x^{n-1} + \dots + a_{n-1} x + a_n.$$

- Verify that $\widetilde{W}(x) = x^{\text{st}(W)} \cdot W(\frac{1}{x}) = x^n \cdot W(\frac{1}{x})$.
 - Show that if a number $u \neq 0$ is a root of W , then the number $\frac{1}{u}$ is a root of \widetilde{W} .
 - Justify that if $W(x) = U(x) \cdot V(x)$, then $\widetilde{W}(x) = \widetilde{U}(x) \cdot \widetilde{V}(x)$.
 - Prove that if $W \in Q[x]$ is irreducible over Q then \widetilde{W} is also irreducible.
 - Deduce that for any algebraic number $u \neq 0$ its inverse $\frac{1}{u}$ is also algebraic and its degree coincides with the degree of u .
 - Determine the degree of the number $\sqrt[5]{9/5}$.
- Knowing that $W(x) = x^3 - 15x^2 + 12$ is the minimal polynomial of an algebraic number u , find minimal polynomials of the numbers $u - 2$, $3u$, $2u + 3$, $\frac{1}{u}$, $\frac{1}{u+1}$, $\frac{2}{2u-1}$, $\frac{u-1}{u+1}$.