

Rest of this unit: use this information to study field extns

Today: When is the n -gon constructible by
straightedge & compass?

Recall: \mathcal{C} = field of constructible numbers $\subseteq \mathbb{C}$

$\alpha \in \mathcal{C} \Rightarrow \sqrt{\alpha} \in \mathcal{C} \Rightarrow$ If $F \subseteq \mathcal{C}$, any deg 2 extn
 $F(\alpha) \subseteq \mathcal{C}$

$\alpha \in \mathcal{C} \Rightarrow [\mathbb{Q}(\alpha) : \mathbb{Q}]$ is a power of 2

$\alpha \in \mathcal{C} \iff \exists \mathbb{Q} \subseteq E_1 \subseteq \dots \subseteq E_k$ s.t. $\alpha \in E_k$ and

$$[E_1 : \mathbb{Q}] = 2$$

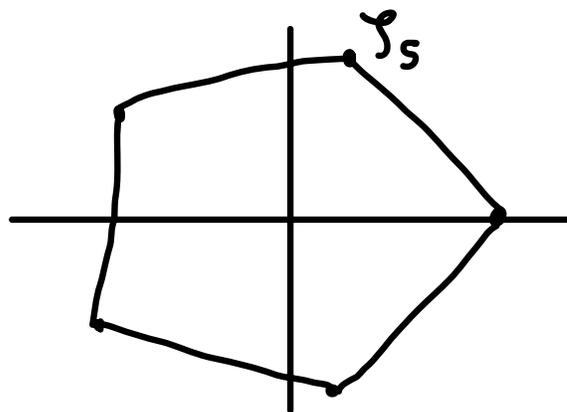
$$[E_2 : E_1] = 2$$

\vdots

$$[E_k : E_{k-1}] = 2$$

use Galois theory
to understand this

n -gon constructible $\iff \zeta_n = e^{2\pi i/n}$ constructible



$$\zeta := \zeta_n$$

Recall: $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta) = \mathbb{S}_{p_{\mathbb{Q}}}(x^n - 1)$, so $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)/\mathbb{Q}$ is Galois

$$\text{Prop: } \underbrace{\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)/\mathbb{Q})}_G \cong (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times$$

Pf: $\sigma \in G$ determined by $\sigma(\zeta) = \zeta^a$, $\underbrace{\gcd(a, n) = 1}_{a \in (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times}$

$$\sigma_a(\zeta) = \zeta^a$$

$$\sigma_a \sigma_b(\zeta) = \sigma_a(\zeta^b) = (\zeta^b)^a = \zeta^{ab} = \sigma_{ab}(\zeta).$$

□

Cor: G is abelian!

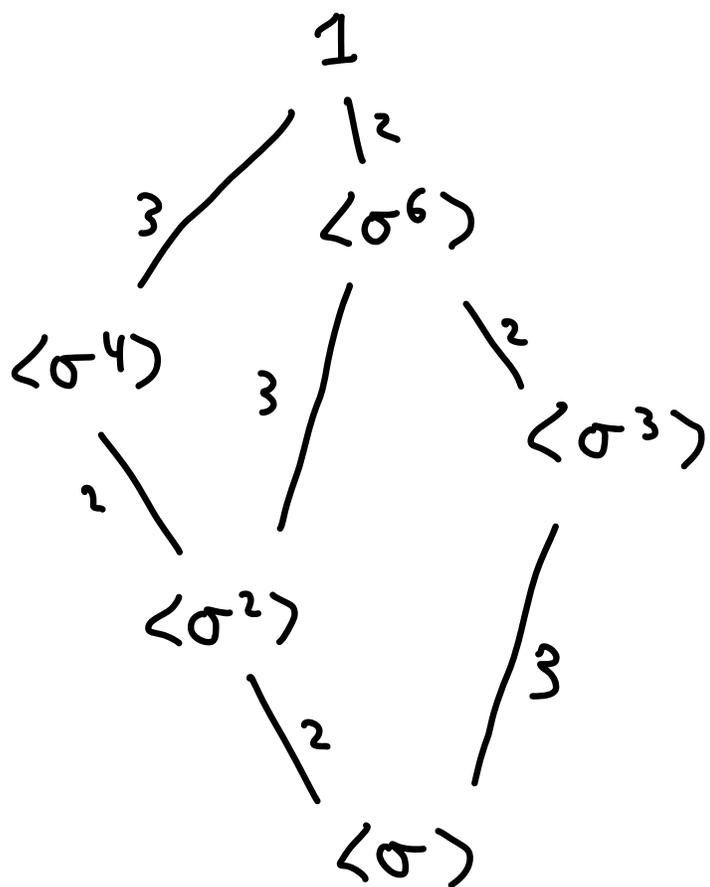
Ex: $n = 13$

$$G = \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)/\mathbb{Q}) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/13\mathbb{Z})^\times$$

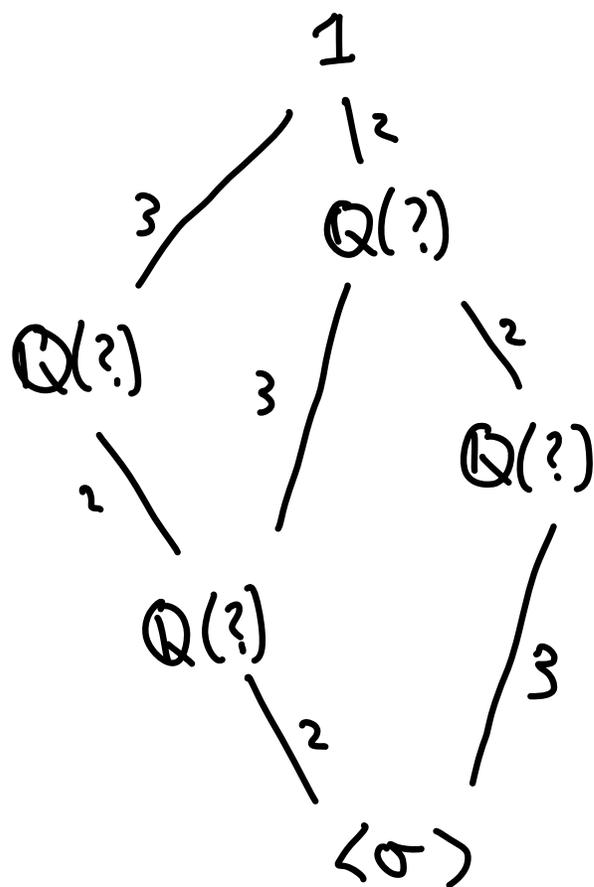
cyclic w/ gen.

$$\sigma = \sigma_2: \zeta \mapsto \zeta^2$$

Subgp. lattice:



Int. field lattice



Need elts. of $\mathbb{Q}(\mathcal{F})$ fixed by subgps of G

Idea: sum over orbits

$$\langle \sigma^6 \rangle = \{1, \sigma^6\} \quad \langle \sigma^6 \rangle \mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{F}, \sigma^6 \mathcal{F}\}$$

Claim: $\mathcal{F} + \sigma^6 \mathcal{F}$ is fixed by σ^6

PF: $\sigma^{12} = 1$, so $\sigma^6(\mathcal{F} + \sigma^6 \mathcal{F}) = \sigma^6 \mathcal{F} + \mathcal{F}$

□

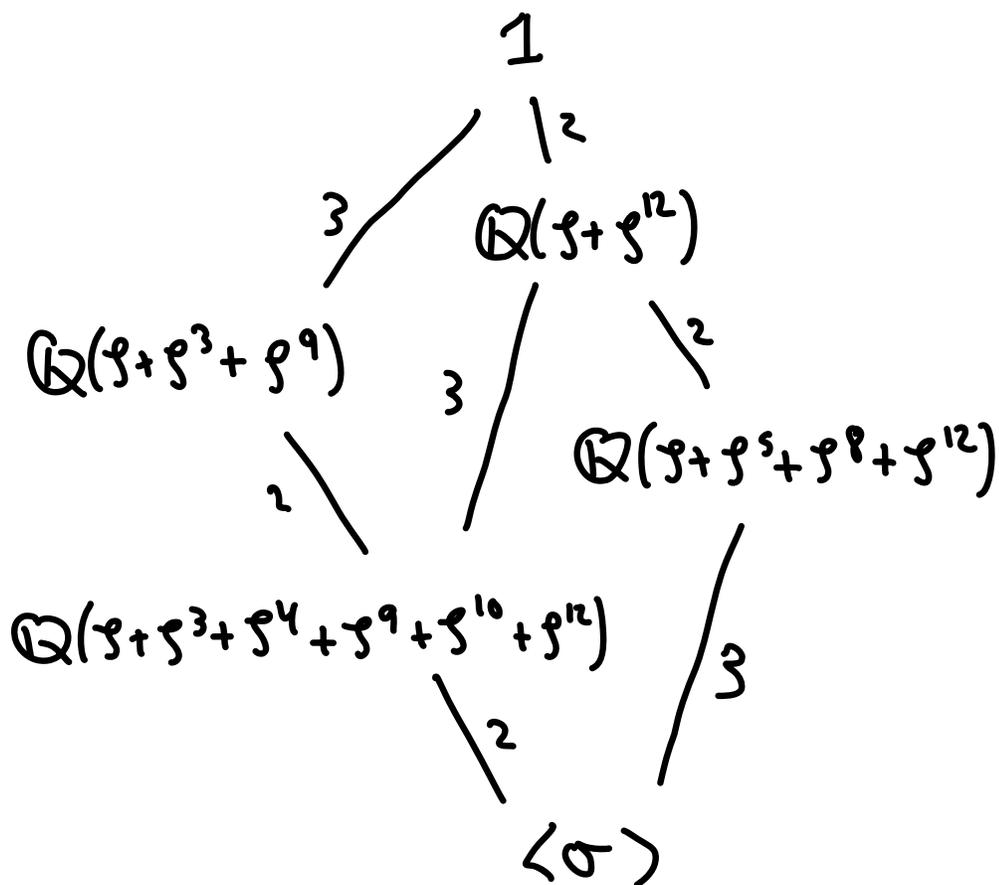
$$\sigma^6 \zeta = \zeta^{2^6} = \zeta^{64} = \zeta^{-1}$$

$$\text{Fix} \langle \sigma^6 \rangle = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta + \zeta^{-1}) \quad (\text{correct degree})$$

$$\text{since } \zeta^2 + (\zeta + \zeta^{-1})\zeta - 1 = 0$$

$$\langle \sigma^4 \rangle = \{1, \sigma^4, \sigma^8\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } \text{Fix} \langle \sigma^4 \rangle &= \mathbb{Q}(\zeta + \sigma^4 \zeta + \sigma^8 \zeta) \\ &= \mathbb{Q}(\zeta + \zeta^3 + \zeta^9) \end{aligned}$$



Thm: The n -gon is constructible if and only if $\varphi(n)$ is a power of 2.

Pf: $[\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n) : \mathbb{Q}] = \varphi(n)$, and we've already shown that this must be a power of 2.

Conversely, if $\varphi(n) = 2^k$, then since

$\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)/\mathbb{Q}$ is Galois,

$G := \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)/\mathbb{Q})$ is an abelian gp. of order 2^k

Abelian gps. have subgps. of every "possible" order (by Fun. Thm. of abelian gps.), so \exists

$$\text{id} = G_0 \leq G_1 \leq \dots \leq G_k = G \quad |G_i| = 2^i$$

\updownarrow Galois corresp.

$$\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n) = E_k \supseteq E_{k-1} \supseteq \dots \supseteq E_0 = \mathbb{Q}$$

$\uparrow \quad \quad \uparrow \quad \quad \uparrow$
 $2 \quad \quad 2 \quad \quad 2$

So $\zeta_n \in \mathcal{C}$.

Cor: The n -gon is constructible if and only if

$$n = 2^k p_1 \dots p_r$$

Where the p_i are distinct primes of the form

$$p = 2^{2^s} + 1 \quad (\text{Fermat prime})$$

Pf: These are the numbers n s.t. $\varphi(n)$ is a power of 2. \square