Math 418, Spring 2025 – Homework 6

Due: Friday, March 14th, at 9:00am via Gradescope.

Instructions: Students should complete and submit all problems. Textbook problems are from Dummit and Foote, *Abstract Algebra, 3rd Edition*. All assertions require proof, unless otherwise stated. Typesetting your homework using LaTeX is recommended, and will gain you 1 bonus point per assignment.

1. **Dummit and Foote #13.5.3:** *Prove that d divides n if and only if $x^d - 1$ divides* $x^n - 1$. (Hint: if $n = qd + r$, then $x^n - 1 = (x^{qd+r} - x^r) + (x^r - 1)$)

   Solution. Using the hint, if $n = qd + r$ with $0 \leq r < d$, then $x^n - 1 = (x^{qd+r} - x^r) + x^r - 1$. Unless $r = 0$, $x^d - 1$ can't divide $x^r - 1$ since $r < d$, so the result follows since $x^d - 1$ divides $x^{qd+r} - x^r = x^r(x^d - 1)(x^{(q-1)d} + x^{(q-2)d} + \cdots + 1)$.

   (Alternatively, the roots of $x^n - 1$ are the nth roots of 1, while the roots of $x^d - 1$ are the dth roots of 1, so the latter divides the former if and only if nth roots are dth roots, so if and only if $d|n$.)

2. **Dummit and Foote #13.5.6:** *Prove that $x^{p^n-1} - 1 = \prod_{\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_{p^n}^\times}(x - \alpha)$. Conclude that $\prod_{\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_{p^n}^\times} \alpha = (-1)^{p^n}$ so the product of the nonzero elements of a finite field is $+1$ if $p = 2$ and -1 if p is odd. For p odd and $n = 1$ derive Wilson 's Theorem: $(p-1)! = -1($ mod $p)$.*

   Solution. The degrees of both sides match up, so for the first part we only need to show that if $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_{p^n}^\times$ that $\alpha^{p^n-1} = 1$. $\mathbb{F}_{p^n}^\times$ is a group under multiplication with order $p^n - 1$, so by Lagrange's Theorem the order of every element divides $p^n - 1$, so $\alpha^{p^n-1} = 1$ for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_{p^n}$, and the first statement holds.

   The statements in the second sentence follow from the specialization $x = 0$. Finally, Wilson's Theorem is just a reinterpretation of the second sentence: up to a multiple of p, $(p-1)!$ is the product of all nonzero elements of $\mathbb{F}_p$.

3. **Dummit and Foote #13.6.2:** *Let ζ_n be a primitive nth root of unity and let d be a divisor of n. Prove that ζ_n^d is a primitive (n/d)th root of unity.*

   Solution. ζ_n^d is an (n/d)th root of unity since $(\zeta_n^d)^{n/d} = \zeta_n^n = 1$. Furthermore, if $m < n/d$ and $(\zeta_n^d)^m = 1$, then $md < n$ and $\zeta_n^{md} = (\zeta_n^d)^m = 1$, so the primitivity of ζ_n as an nth root implies the primitivity of ζ_n^d as an (n/d)th root.

4. **Dummit and Foote #13.6.3:** *Prove that if a field contains the nth roots of unity for n odd then it also contains the $2n$th roots of unity.*

   Solution. Direct method: Let ζ_n be a primitive nth root of unity. Then $(-\zeta_n)^{2n} = (-1)^{2n}\zeta^{2n} = 1$, so $-\zeta_n$ is a $2n$-th root of unity. Conversely, if $(-\zeta_n)^a = 1$, then either a is even and $\zeta_n^a = 1$, in which case a is a multiple of $2n$ or a is odd and $\zeta_n^a = -1$. But no power of ζ_n can equal -1; otherwise let $b \geq 1$ be minimal with $\zeta_n^b = -1$, and ζ_n^{2b} must be a multiple of n, but since n is odd, this would mean that b is a multiple of n.

   Indirect method: The map

$$a \mapsto \begin{cases} a, & \text{if } a \text{ is odd} \\ a+n, & \text{if } a \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

   is a bijection between integers $1, \ldots, n$ that are coprime to n and integers $1, \ldots, 2n$ that are coprime to $2n$. This means that $\phi(n) = \phi(2n)$, so the cyclotomic extensions $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)/\mathbb{Q}$ and $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{2n})/\mathbb{Q}$ have the same degree. Since $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n) \subseteq \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{2n})$, the fields must be equal.

5. **Dummit and Foote #13.6.7:** *Use the Mobius Inversion formula indicated in Section 14.3 to prove*

$$\Phi_n(x) = \prod_{d|n} (x^d - 1)^{\mu(n/d)}.$$

   Solution. Note that we don't need to know anything about the Mobius Inversion formula except the formula itself:

$$\text{if } F(n) = \sum_{d|n} f(d), \quad \text{then} \quad f(n) = \sum_{d|n} \mu(d) F\left(\frac{n}{d}\right).$$

   We use the formula $x^n - 1 = \prod_{d|n} \Phi_d(x)$; to turn multiplication into addition set $F(n) := \log(x^n - 1)$ and $f(n) := \log(\Phi_d(x))$. Plugging these into the Mobius Inversion formula produces

$$\log(\Phi_n(x)) = \sum_{d'|n} \mu(d') \log(x^{n/d'} - 1),$$

   so

$$\Phi_n(x) = \prod_{d'|n} (x^{n/d'} - 1)^{\mu(d')},$$

   and the substitution $d = n/d'$ gives the desired formula.

6. **Dummit and Foote #14.1.3:** *Determine the fixed field of complex conjugation on $\mathbb{C}$.*

   Solution. If $z \in \mathbb{C}$, z can be written uniquely as $z = a+bi$ with $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$. (You already know this from long ago, but it also follows from Dummit & Foote Theorem 13.4 using the polynomial $x^2 + 1$). The complex comjugate $\overline{z} = a - bi$, and by uniqueness, that equals $a + bi$ precisely if $b = 0$ i.e. $z \in \mathbb{R}$.

7. **Dummit and Foote #14.1.5:** *Determine the automorphisms of the extension* $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[4]{2})/\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$ *explicitly.* (Hint: Use Dummit & Foote Proposition 14.5)

   Solution. By the Tower Law, this is a degree 2 field extension, so by Proposition 14.5 we have at most 2 automorphisms of $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[4]{2})$ fixing $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$. The identity is such an automorphism, and for the other, we let $a \mapsto a$ for any $a \in \mathbb{Q}$ and let $\sqrt[4]{2} \mapsto -\sqrt[4]{2}$. (How do we guess this? The image of $\sqrt[4]{2}$ must be one of $\pm\sqrt[4]{2}, \pm i\sqrt[4]{2}$, and choosing one of the latter pair would give a map of order > 2). The powers of $\sqrt[4]{2}$ give us a $\mathbb{Q}$-basis of $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[4]{2})$, so our automorphism is

$$a + b\sqrt[4]{2} + c\sqrt{2} + d(\sqrt[4]{2})^3 \mapsto a - b\sqrt[4]{2} + c\sqrt{2} - d(\sqrt[4]{2})^3.$$

   We see this fixes $\sqrt{2}$, so it is indeed an element of $\mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[4]{2})/\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}))$.