



Fields

Book III

We have been talking about number fields: finite extensions $E \supseteq \mathbb{Q}$ i.e. $[E:\mathbb{Q}] = n < \infty$.
(Some are Galois i.e. $G = \text{Aut } E$ satisfies $|G| = n$; but in general $|G| \leq n$.)

Back to basics:

In a field F , if $\underbrace{1+1+\dots+1}_{n \geq 1} = 0$ then the smallest n for which this occurs is the characteristic of F .

If F has characteristic $n > 0$ then n must be prime. If $n = ab$, $a, b \geq 1$ then

$$\underbrace{(1+1+\dots+1)}_a \underbrace{(1+1+\dots+1)}_b = \underbrace{1+1+\dots+1}_{n=ab} = 0$$

By minimality of n , n is prime.

If $\underbrace{1+1+\dots+1}_n \neq 0$ for any $n \geq 1$, then we say n has characteristic 0.

Given a field F , $\text{char } F =$ characteristic of F is either 0 or p (some prime p).

• If $\text{char } F = p$ then $F \supseteq \mathbb{F}_p =$ field of order p ($\mathbb{F}_p = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, p-1\} =$ "integers mod p ").

eg. $\mathbb{F}_p, \mathbb{F}_{p^2}, \mathbb{F}_{p^3}, \mathbb{F}_{p^4}, \dots, \mathbb{F}_p(x) = \{ \text{all rational functions in } x \text{ with coefficients in } \mathbb{F}_p \}, \dots$

• If $\text{char } F = 0$ then $F \supseteq \mathbb{Q}$. Eg. $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{Q}$, number fields, $A = \{ \text{algebraic numbers} \} \subset \mathbb{C}$
eg. $\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{2}]$

In either case F has a unique smallest subfield, either \mathbb{F}_p or \mathbb{Q} , called the prime subfield of F .

All fields of characteristic 0 are infinite. (They are extensions of \mathbb{Q} , hence vector spaces over \mathbb{Q} .)

If $E \supseteq F$ is a field extension (i.e. E, F are fields with F a subfield of E) then E is a vector space over F . The dimension of this vector space is the degree $[E:F]$ of this extension eg.

$$[\mathbb{C}:\mathbb{R}] = 2$$

$\{1, i\}$ basis

$$[\mathbb{R}:\mathbb{Q}] = \infty$$

$1, \sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}, \sqrt{5}, \sqrt{6}, \sqrt{7}, \sqrt{10}, \sqrt{11}, \dots$
are lin. indep.

$$[\mathbb{C}:\mathbb{Q}] = \underbrace{[\mathbb{C}:\mathbb{R}]}_2 \underbrace{[\mathbb{R}:\mathbb{Q}]}_{\infty} = \infty$$

For fields of characteristic a prime p , some are finite, some are infinite.

Given p prime and $k \geq 1$ (positive integer), there is a unique field of order $q = p^k$ (up to isomorphism)

Finite fields: $\mathbb{F}_2, \mathbb{F}_3, \mathbb{F}_4, \mathbb{F}_5, \mathbb{F}_7, \mathbb{F}_8, \mathbb{F}_9, \mathbb{F}_{11}, \mathbb{F}_{13}, \mathbb{F}_{16}, \mathbb{F}_{17}, \dots$

$$\mathbb{F}_4 = \{0, 1, \alpha, \beta\}$$

+	0	1	α	β
0	0	1	α	β
1	1	0	β	α
α	α	β	0	1
β	β	α	1	0

$$\alpha + \alpha = (1+1)\alpha = 0\alpha = 0$$

×	0	1	α	β
0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	α	β
α	0	α	β	1
β	0	β	1	α

$$\text{char } \mathbb{F}_4 = 2.$$

$\mathbb{F}_4 \supset \mathbb{F}_2$ of degree $[\mathbb{F}_4:\mathbb{F}_2] = 2$

with basis $1, \alpha$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{F}_4 &= \{a \cdot 1 + b\alpha : a, b \in \mathbb{F}_2\} \\ &= \{0, 1, \alpha, 1+\alpha\} \quad \text{where } \alpha^2 = \alpha+1. \\ &= \{0, 1, \alpha, \alpha^2\} \quad \beta \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbb{F}_4 = \mathbb{F}_2[\alpha]$$

The minimal poly. of α over \mathbb{F}_2 is $x^2 + x + 1$.

Irreducible polynomials over $\mathbb{F}_2 = \{0, 1\}$

degree 1: $x, x+1$ (both irreducible)

degree 2: $x^2, x^2+1, x^2+x, x^2+x+1$
 $\underbrace{x \cdot x \quad (x+1)(x+1) \quad x(x+1)}_{\text{reducible}}$ irreducible

degree 3: $x^3 = x \cdot x \cdot x$
 $x^3+1 = (x+1)(x^2+x+1)$
 $x^3+x = x \cdot (x+1)^2$
 x^3+x+1 irreducible
 $x^3+x^2 = x \cdot x \cdot (x+1)$
 x^3+x^2+1 irreducible
 $x^3+x^2+x = x(x^2+x+1)$
 $x^3+x^2+x+1 = (x+1)^3$

There are 2ⁿ polynomials of degree n: $x^n + c_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \dots + c_1x + c_0$
 and they are all monic. $c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1} \in \mathbb{F}_2$

Let α be a root of x^2+x+1 . The other root is $\alpha+1$.

$$\alpha^2 + \alpha + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha^2 = -\alpha - 1 = \alpha + 1$$

Note: The roots of $ax^2+bx+c=0$ are $\frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2-4ac}}{2a}$
 except in characteristic 2.

$\mathbb{F}_8 = \mathbb{F}_2[\gamma]$ where γ is a root of x^3+x+1
 $= \{a + b\gamma + c\gamma^2 : a, b, c \in \mathbb{F}_2\}$
 $= \{0, 1, \gamma, \gamma+1, \gamma^2, \gamma^2+1, \gamma^2+\gamma, \gamma^2+\gamma+1\}$
 $\quad \quad \quad \underbrace{\quad}_{\gamma^3} \quad \quad \quad \underbrace{\quad}_{\gamma^6} \quad \quad \quad \underbrace{\quad}_{\gamma^4} \quad \quad \quad \underbrace{\quad}_{\gamma^5}$

ie. $\gamma^3 = \gamma + 1$

$\gamma^0 = 1$

$\gamma^1 = \gamma$

$\gamma^2 = \gamma^2$

$\gamma^3 = \gamma + 1$

$\gamma^4 = \gamma^2 + \gamma$

$\gamma^5 = \gamma^3 + \gamma^2 = \gamma^2 + \gamma + 1$

$\gamma^6 = \gamma^3 + \gamma^2 + \gamma = (\gamma + 1) + \gamma^2 + \gamma$

$= \gamma^2 + 1$

$\gamma^7 = \gamma^3 + \gamma = (\gamma + 1) + \gamma = 1$

x^3+x+1 has three roots in \mathbb{F}_8 :
 $\gamma, \gamma^2, \gamma^4$

x^3+x^2+1 has three roots in \mathbb{F}_8 :
 $\gamma^3, \gamma^5, \gamma^6 = \gamma^7$

In general the nonzero elements of \mathbb{F}_q
 form a cyclic group of order $q-1$.

There is only one finite field of each order $q=p^k$
 (p prime, $k \geq 1$) up to isomorphism.

If \mathbb{F}_q is a finite field then it must have $\text{char } \mathbb{F}_q = p$ for some prime p

$|\mathbb{F}_q| = q < \infty$

So \mathbb{F}_q is an extension $\mathbb{F}_q \supseteq \mathbb{F}_p$ hence a vector space of some dimension k .
 Let $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$ be a basis for \mathbb{F}_q over \mathbb{F}_p ie. $\mathbb{F}_q = \{a_1\alpha_1 + a_2\alpha_2 + \dots + a_k\alpha_k : a_1, \dots, a_k \in \mathbb{F}_p\}$

$q = |\mathbb{F}_q| = p^k$

$\mathbb{F}_9 = \mathbb{F}_3[i]$ compare: $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{R}[i]$,
 $= \{a+bi : a, b \in \mathbb{F}_3\}$
 $= \{0, 1, 2, i, 1+i, 2i, 1+2i, 2+2i\}$
 $\theta^0 \quad \theta^1 \quad \theta^2 \quad \theta^3 \quad \theta^4 \quad \theta^5 \quad \theta^6 \quad \theta^7 \quad \theta^8$

θ is a primitive element: its powers give all the nonzero elements of \mathbb{F}_9 .

$\mathbb{Q}[i] \supset \mathbb{Q}$, $i = \sqrt{-1}$.
 $\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{2}] \supset \mathbb{Q}$

$\{1, i\}$ is a basis of the extension in each case.

$i = \sqrt{-1} = \sqrt{2}$

$\mathbb{F}_9 = \mathbb{F}_3[i] = \mathbb{F}_3[\sqrt{2}]$

$\theta^0 = 1$
 $\theta^1 = \theta = 1+i$
 $\theta^2 = (1+i)^2 = 1+2i+i^2 = 2i$
 $\theta^3 = \frac{2i(1+i)}{\theta^2 \theta} = -2+2i = 1+2i$
 $\theta^4 = \theta^2 \theta = (1+2i)(1+i) = 1-2 = -1 = 2$
 $\theta^5 = \theta^4 \theta = -\theta = 2\theta = 2+2i$
 $\theta^6 = \theta^4 \theta^2 = -\theta^2$
 $\theta^7 = \theta^4 \theta^3 = -\theta^3$
 $\theta^8 = \theta^4 \theta^4 = -\theta^4$

Every finite field \mathbb{F}_q ($q = p^k$, p prime)

has a primitive element i.e. an element whose powers give all the nonzero field elements.

Why? Idea of proof: Eg. to see that \mathbb{F}_9 has a primitive element: The nonzero elements form a multiplicative group of order 8. There are five groups of order 8 up to isomorphism:

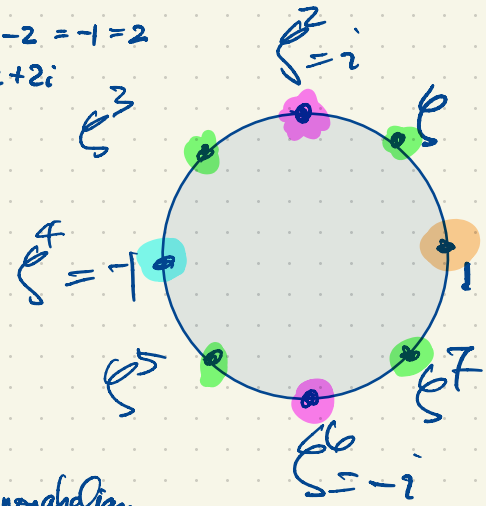
- dihedral group of order 8 (symmetry group of a square) } nonabelian
- quaternion " " " " }

abelian

- C_8 (four elements of order 8, two elements of order 4, one element of order 2)
- $C_2 \times C_4$ (four elements of order 4, three elements of order 2)
- $C_2 \times C_2 \times C_2$ (with seven elements of order 2)

Every abelian group is a direct product of cyclic groups.

$C_n =$ cyclic group of order n
 (multiplicative)
 $C_n = \{1, g, g^2, \dots, g^{n-1}\}$, $g^n = 1$.



In a field of order q , the polynomial x^2-1 has at most 2 roots.
 (In $F[x]$, where F is any field, every polynomial of degree k has at most k roots.)
 If $f(x) \in F[x]$ has k roots $r_1, \dots, r_k \in F$, then $f(x) = \underbrace{(x-r_1)(x-r_2)\dots(x-r_k)}_{\text{degree } k} h(x)$

$$x^2-1 = (x-1)(x+1)$$

$$\mathbb{F}_5 = \mathbb{F}_5[\sqrt{2}] \neq \mathbb{F}_5[i], \quad i = \sqrt{-1} = \sqrt{4} = \pm 2$$

$1, \sqrt{2}$ is a basis

In \mathbb{F}_5 , -1 is already a square.

$$\mathbb{F}_5[i] = \mathbb{F}_5[2] = \mathbb{F}_5$$

$$\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{4}] = \mathbb{Q}[2] = \mathbb{Q}$$

$$\mathbb{R}[\sqrt{2}] = \mathbb{R}$$

$$\mathbb{R}[i] = \mathbb{C}$$

In $\mathbb{R}[x]$, $\begin{cases} x^2-2 \text{ is reducible since } x^2-2 = (x+\sqrt{2})(x-\sqrt{2}). \\ x^2+1 \text{ is irreducible.} \end{cases}$

How do we extend \mathbb{F}_p to \mathbb{F}_{p^2} ? We want a quadratic extension $[\mathbb{F}_{p^2} : \mathbb{F}_p] = 2$.
 A choice of basis is $\{1, \sqrt{a}\}$ if $a \in \mathbb{F}_p$ is not a square of any element in \mathbb{F}_p i.e. $x^2-a \in \mathbb{F}_p[x]$ should be irreducible.

When p is an odd prime, there are $p-1$ nonzero elements and half of them are squares, half are non-squares.

When $p=5$, the nonzero elements of \mathbb{F}_5 are $1, 2, 3, 4$ where $1, 4$ are squares; $2, 3$ are non-squares.

$$\mathbb{F}_{25} = \mathbb{F}_5[\sqrt{2}] = \mathbb{F}_5[\sqrt{3}].$$

When $p=2$, $x^2-a = (x-a)^2$ i.e. $x^2 = x \cdot x$ reducible

$$x^2-1 = (x-1)^2 \text{ reducible}$$

$\mathbb{F}_2 = \{0, 1\}$ has squares only.

But x^2+x+1 is irreducible in $\mathbb{F}_2[x]$

$$\mathbb{F}_4 = \mathbb{F}_2[x], \quad \alpha \text{ root of } x^2+x+1.$$

If $q = p^k$ then $\mathbb{F}_q \supset \mathbb{F}_p$ is an extension of degree $[\mathbb{F}_q : \mathbb{F}_p] = k$ with exactly k automorphisms.

In $\mathbb{F}_q = \mathbb{F}_3[i]$, the map $a+bi \mapsto a-bi$ is the nonidentity automorphism.

In $\mathbb{F}_{25} = \mathbb{F}_5[\sqrt{2}]$, the map $a+b\sqrt{2} \mapsto a-b\sqrt{2}$

$\mathbb{F}_4 = \mathbb{F}_2[\alpha]$ the map $\begin{matrix} 0 \mapsto 0 \\ 1 \mapsto 1 \\ \alpha \mapsto \beta \\ \beta \mapsto \alpha \end{matrix}$
 $= \{0, 1, \alpha, \beta\}$
 $\alpha^2 = \beta$

Finite fields are Galois extensions of their prime fields: $\mathbb{F}_q \supset \mathbb{F}_p$, $q = p^k$, p prime
 $[\mathbb{F}_q : \mathbb{F}_p] = k$ so $G = \text{Aut } \mathbb{F}_q$ has order $|G| = k$ and $G = \{1, \sigma, \sigma^2, \dots, \sigma^{k-1}\}$, $\sigma^k = 1$. Here $\sigma(x) = x^p$.

$\sigma(xy) = (xy)^p = x^p y^p = \sigma(x)\sigma(y)$ for all $x, y \in \mathbb{F}_q$.

$\sigma(x+y) = (x+y)^p = x^p + px^{p-1}y + \frac{p(p-1)}{2}x^{p-2}y^2 + \dots + pxy^{p-1} + y^p$ by the Binomial Theorem $(x+y)^n = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} x^{n-i} y^i$
 where $\binom{n}{i} = \frac{n!}{i!(n-i)!}$, $n! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times \dots \times n$
 $\binom{n}{1} = \frac{n!}{1!(n-1)!} = n$
 $\binom{n}{2} = \frac{n!}{2!(n-2)!} = \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$
 $\binom{n}{0} = \frac{n!}{0!n!} = 1 = \binom{n}{n}$
 = $x^p + y^p = \sigma(x) + \sigma(y)$
 divisible by p

$\sigma: \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ is a homomorphism. All elements of \mathbb{F}_q are roots of $x^q - x$.

$\ker \sigma = \{x \in \mathbb{F}_q : \sigma(x) = 0\} = \{0\}$ so σ is one-to-one.

Since \mathbb{F}_q is finite, σ is onto. So σ is an isomorphism $\mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ i.e. σ is an automorphism of \mathbb{F}_q .

$\text{Aut } \mathbb{F}_q \supseteq \{1, \sigma, \sigma^2, \sigma^3, \dots\}$ but these automorphisms can't all be distinct

$$\sigma^k(x) = \underbrace{\sigma(\sigma(\sigma(\dots(\sigma(x))\dots))}_{k \text{ times}} = \underbrace{(((x^p)^p)^p)\dots)}_{k \text{ times}} = x^{p^k} = x^q = x$$

$\sigma^k = 1$

In $\mathbb{F}_q^* = \{x \in \mathbb{F}_q : x \neq 0\}$ is a multiplicative group (actually cyclic) of order $q-1$. $x^{q-1} = 1$ for all $x \in \mathbb{F}_q^*$.

If $f(x) \in F[x]$ is irreducible, then we say any two roots α, β of $f(x)$ (typically in an extension field $E \supseteq F$) then α, β are conjugates.

Eg. $f(x) = x^2 - 2 \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ has roots $\pm\sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{R}$ or in $\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{2}]$. $\pm\sqrt{2}$ are conjugates.

If $f(x) = x^2 + 1 \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ has roots $\pm i \in \mathbb{C}$ or $\mathbb{Q}[i]$. $\pm i$ are conjugates.

In E there can be an automorphism $\sigma \in \text{Aut } E$ fixing every element of F and mapping a root of $f(x)$ to any of its conjugates.

Eg. $f(x) = x^3 - 2$ has three roots $\alpha, \alpha\omega, \alpha\omega^2$ where $\alpha = \sqrt[3]{2}$, $\omega = e^{2\pi i/3} = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{3}i}{2}$, $\omega^2 = e^{4\pi i/3} = \frac{-1 - \sqrt{3}i}{2}$.

The elements $\alpha, \alpha\omega, \alpha\omega^2$ are conjugates. These are all the conjugates of α .

in $\mathbb{Q}[\alpha, \omega] \supset \mathbb{Q}$, $[\mathbb{Q}[\alpha, \omega] : \mathbb{Q}] = 6$.

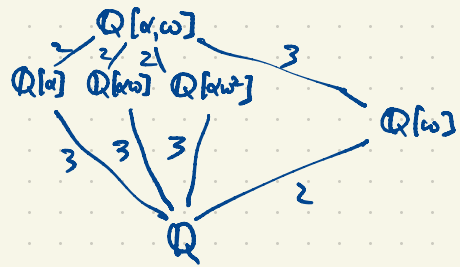
$$x^3 - 2 = (x - \alpha)(x - \alpha\omega)(x - \alpha\omega^2)$$

$\mathbb{Q}[\alpha, \omega]$ is the splitting field of $f(x) = x^3 - 2$

$\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]$ is not the splitting field of $f(x) = x^3 - 2 = (x - \alpha)(x^2 + \alpha x + \alpha^2)$

$$[\mathbb{Q}[\alpha] : \mathbb{Q}] = 3$$

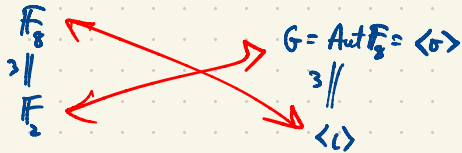
$$[\mathbb{Q}[\alpha\omega] : \mathbb{Q}] = 3$$



Ex. $\mathbb{F}_8 \supset \mathbb{F}_2 = \{0, 1\}$, $[\mathbb{F}_8 : \mathbb{F}_2] = 3 = |G|$ where $f = \text{Aut } \mathbb{F}_8 = \langle \sigma \rangle = \{1, \sigma, \sigma^2\}$, $\sigma^3 = 1$

$$\mathbb{F}_8 = \{a + b\gamma + c\gamma^2 : a, b, c \in \mathbb{F}_2\}, \quad \gamma^3 = \gamma + 1$$

$\{1, \gamma, \gamma^2\}$ basis



$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(x) &= x^2 \\ \sigma^2(x) &= (x^2)^2 = x^4 \\ \sigma^3(x) &= (x^4)^2 = x^8 = x \end{aligned}$$

x	$\sigma(x) = x^2$
0	0
1	1
γ	γ^2
γ^2	$\gamma^4 = \gamma + \gamma^2$
$\gamma^3 = \gamma + 1$	$\gamma^6 = 1 + \gamma^2$
γ^4	$\gamma^8 = \gamma$
$\gamma^5 = \gamma^2 + \gamma + 1$	$\gamma^{10} = \gamma^3 = \gamma + 1$
γ^6	$\gamma^{12} = \gamma^5$
γ^7	1

$f(x) = x^3 + x + 1 \in \mathbb{F}_2[x]$ is irreducible

It has roots in \mathbb{F}_8 : $\gamma, \gamma^2, \gamma^4$

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= x^3 + x + 1 = (x - \gamma)(x - \gamma^2)(x - \gamma^4) \\ (\gamma^3 + \gamma + 1) &= 0 \\ \gamma^6 + \gamma^2 + 1 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$\gamma^3 \in \mathbb{F}_8$ must have minimal poly. $g(x) \in \mathbb{F}_2[x]$ of degree 3. This must be $g(x) = x^3 + x^2 + 1$
 so $g(x) = x^3 + x^2 + 1$ must have roots $\gamma^3, \gamma^5, \gamma^6$

The roots of $x^8 - x \in \mathbb{F}_2[x]$ are all the eight elements of \mathbb{F}_8 .

$$\begin{aligned} x^8 - x &= x(x^7 - 1) = x(x-1)(x^6 + x^5 + x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1) \\ &= x(x+1)(x^3 + x + 1)(x^3 + x^2 + 1) \end{aligned}$$

0
1
 $\gamma, \gamma^2, \gamma^4$
 $\gamma^3, \gamma^5, \gamma^6$

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(\gamma^4) &= \gamma^8 = \gamma & \sigma(\gamma^5) &= \gamma^{10} = \gamma^3 \\ \sigma(\gamma^3) &= \gamma^6 & & \\ \sigma(\gamma^6) &= \gamma^{12} = \gamma^5 & & \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbb{F}_5: \text{ all elements are roots of } x^5 - x = x(x^4 - 1) = x(x^2 - 1)(x^2 + 1) = x(x-2)(x-3)(x-1)(x+1)$$

$$= x(x-1)(x-2)(x-3)(x-4)$$

0 1 2 3 4

Subfields of \mathbb{F}_{16} : $\mathbb{F}_2, \mathbb{F}_4, \mathbb{F}_8$

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathbb{F}_{16} \\ 2 \mid \\ \mathbb{F}_4 \\ 2 \mid \\ \mathbb{F}_2 \end{array}$$

$$[\mathbb{F}_8 : \mathbb{F}_2] = 3$$

