

# QUALIFYING EXAMINATION, ALGEBRA, PART A, 2015

September 26, 2015

Solve any four questions; indicate which ones are supposed to be graded. Each question is worth 15 points. You must show all work and justify all statements either by referring to an appropriate theorem or by providing a full solution.

**1.**

- (a) List all isomorphism classes of abelian groups of order 120. Is there a simple group of order 120?
- (b) What is the maximal number of elements of order 5 in a group of order 120?
- (c) How many conjugacy classes are there in  $S_5$ ?

**2.** Let  $p > q$  be primes.

- (a) Describe *all* groups of order  $p^2$  up to an isomorphism.
- (b) Show that a group of order  $p^n q$ ,  $n > 0$ , is solvable.

**3.** The action of a group  $G$  on a set  $X$  is called *transitive* if for every  $x, x' \in G$  there exists  $g \in G$  such that  $gx = x'$ .

- (a) Show that the natural action of the symmetric group  $S_n$  on the set  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  is transitive and find the stabilizer of an arbitrary element of that set.
- (b) Suppose that a group  $G$  acts transitively on a set  $X$ . Prove that all subgroups  $\text{Stab}_G x$ ,  $x \in X$  are conjugate and find  $[G : \text{Stab}_G x]$ .

**4.** Recall that an element  $a$  of a ring is called nilpotent if  $a^n = 0$  for some positive integer  $n$ . Prove the following statements for a *commutative unital ring*  $R$ :

- (a) The set of all nilpotent elements in  $R$  is an ideal.
- (b)  $R$  is local if and only if for all  $x, y \in R$ ,  $x + y = 1_R$  implies that  $x$  or  $y$  is a unit.
- (c) If every non-unit in  $R$  is nilpotent then  $R$  is local.

**5.** Let  $R = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$  as an additive abelian group while the multiplication is defined by  $(x, y) \cdot (x', y') = (xy' + yx', yy' - xx')$ ; then  $R$  is a commutative ring with unity  $1_R = (0, 1)$ . Answer the following questions (all answers must be justified).

- (a) Is the ideal of  $R$  generated by  $(0, 5)$  prime?
- (b) Is  $R$  a domain? If so, describe its field of fractions.
- (c) Choose a maximal ideal  $M$  in  $R$  and describe the localization of  $R$  at  $M$ .

Algebra Qualifier, Part B

September 26, 2015

**Do 4 problems.**

1. Show that if  $\text{Hom}_R(D, \_)$  preserves exactness of  $0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{f} B \xrightarrow{g} C \rightarrow 0$  for each  $D$ , then the sequence  $0 \rightarrow A \xrightarrow{f} B \xrightarrow{g} C \rightarrow 0$  splits.
2. Let  $B$  be an abelian group and let  $A$  be a subgroup of  $B$ . Show that any homomorphism  $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$  extends to a homomorphism  $\bar{f} : B \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$ .
- (3) (a) State the Hilbert basis theorem.  
(b) Give an example of a Noetherian ring  $R$  and a Noetherian  $R$ -algebra  $B$  which is not a finitely generated  $R$ -algebra.
4. Let  $R$  be a principal ideal domain, let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module which can be generated by  $n$  elements, and let  $L$  be a submodule of  $M$ . Show that  $L$  can be generated by  $\leq n$  elements.
5. Let  $R$  be an integral domain. Show that  $R$  is a PID if each finitely generated torsion-free  $R$ -module is free.

ALGEBRA QUALIFIER 2015 - PART C

**Do 4 out of the 5 problems.**

- (1) Let  $K$  be a field and  $f \in K[x]$ . Let  $n$  be the degree of  $f$ . Prove the theorem which states that there exists a splitting field  $F$  of  $f$  over  $K$  with  $[F : K] \leq n!$ .
- (2) Let  $K$  be a subfield of  $\mathbb{R}$ . Let  $L$  be an intermediate field of  $\mathbb{C}/K$ . Prove that if  $L/K$  is a finite Galois extension of odd degree, then  $L \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ .
- (3) Let  $K$  be a finite field of characteristic  $p$ . Prove that every element of  $K$  has a unique  $p$ -th root in  $K$ .
- (4) Let  $f(x) = x^5 - 4x + 2 \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ . Prove that  $f(x) = 0$  is not solvable by radicals over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .
- (5) Let  $F/K$  be a field extension whose transcendence degree is finite. Prove that if  $F$  is algebraically closed, then every  $K$ -monomorphism  $F \rightarrow F$  is in fact an automorphism.

Algebra Qualifying Examination, Part A

You must show all work. You must justify all statements either by referring to or stating the appropriate theorem correctly or by providing a full solution. Referring to some problem in Hungerford is not an acceptable answer or reason. The hints are meant to suggest one approach to the problem. Attempt any four questions. Each question is worth 10 points.

- 1 (a). What are all the groups of order 9. You must explain your reasoning for the answer.  
(b) Prove that a non-abelian group of order six is isomorphic to the dihedral group.
2. Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$  and let  $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$  be a homomorphism such that  $\varphi(h) = h$ . Assume that  $G$  is abelian. Prove that  $G \cong H \times \ker \varphi$ .
3. Prove that the symmetric group  $S_4$  is generated by the elements  $(1, 2, 3, 4)$  and  $(1, 2)$ . Write down all the Sylow sub groups of  $S_4$ . (Hint: As a start, write down for what primes  $p$  there will be a non-trivial Sylow  $p$  subgroup and what the cardinality of the subgroup is. )
4. (a) Suppose that  $H$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$  and  $|H| = 2$ . Prove that  $H$  is contained in the center of  $G$ .  
(b) Suppose that  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$  such that if  $\varphi : G \rightarrow G$  is any automorphism of  $G$  then  $\varphi(H) \subset H$ . Prove that  $H$  is normal.  
Hint: Think about the various ways in which  $G$  acts on itself.
- 5(a) How many elements of order 5 are there in a group of order 20.  
5(b) Prove that a group of order 15 is not simple.

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION, ALGEBRA, PART B, FALL 2014

September 27

Solve four questions out of five; indicate which one is not supposed to be graded. Each item is worth 10 points. You must show all work and justify all statements either by referring to an appropriate theorem or by providing a full solution.

All rings are assumed to be unital and all modules are assumed to be unitary and left unless specified otherwise.

1. Let  $R$  be a commutative ring. Let  $M \neq 0$  be a torsion  $R$ -module and  $N \neq 0$  be a divisible  $R$ -module (that is, for each  $n \in N$  and  $r \in R \setminus \{0\}$ , there exists  $n' \in N$  such that  $n = rn'$ ).

(a) Describe  $M \otimes_R N$ .

(b) Describe  $N^* = \text{Hom}_R(N, R)$  assuming that  $R$  is a domain and but not a field.

2. Let  $R$  be a ring and let  $M, N$  be left  $R$ -modules. Construct a natural homomorphism of abelian groups  $M^* \otimes_R N \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, N)$ . If  $R = k$  is a field and  $M, N$  are finite dimensional  $k$ -vector spaces prove that this natural homomorphism is in fact an isomorphism of  $k$ -vector spaces.

3. Let  $R$  be a ring. Prove that if a projective  $R$ -module  $P$  is a homomorphic image of an  $R$ -module  $M$ , then  $M = N \oplus Q$  for some submodules  $N, Q$  with  $Q \cong P$ .

4. Let  $k$  be a field. Describe all, up to an isomorphism,  $k[x]$ -module structures on  $k^5$  such that  $x$  acts nilpotently. Describe  $\text{End}_{k[x]}(k[x]/(x^5))$ .

5. Let  $R$  be a domain and let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix over  $R$ . Prove that if a system of linear equations  $Ax = 0$  has a non-zero solution then  $\det A = 0$ . Is the converse true?

PART C: Each problem is worth 10 points. Please do any 4 problems of your choice, and indicate which 4 you would like graded.

1. Let  $f = x^3 - 7$ , and let  $F$  be the splitting field of  $f$  over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Determine the Galois group of  $f$  over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Determine all intermediate fields lying between  $\mathbf{Q}$  and  $F$ , and determine which of these fields are themselves Galois extensions of  $\mathbf{Q}$ .

2. Let  $f$  be a polynomial of degree  $n$  over a field  $K$ , and let  $F$  be the splitting field of  $f$  over  $K$ . Show that  $[F : K]$  divides  $n!$ .

3.: Let  $K$  be a field, and  $f \in K[x]$  an irreducible polynomial.

Part a: Show that if  $\text{Char}(K) = 0$ , then  $f$  is separable.

Part b: Show that if  $K = \mathbf{Z}_p$  for some prime  $p$ , then  $f$  is separable. (Note: This is a special case of a more general result. You cannot just cite that result without proof).

4. Let  $p$  be any prime, and let  $n, m$  be positive integers Show that the field of order  $p^n$  has a subfield of order  $p^m$  if and only if  $m$  divides  $n$ , and that if the subfield exists then it is unique.

5. Let  $F$  be an extension of a field  $K$ . Define what it means for a subset  $S \subseteq F$  to be a transcendence basis for  $F$  over  $K$ , and show that any extension possesses a transcendence basis.

Qualifying Examination, Algebra, Part A, Fall 2013

Answer four out of the five questions. Each question is worth 15 points.

- 1(a). Suppose that  $H$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$  and that  $G \cong H \times K$ . Prove that  $K$  is isomorphic to a normal subgroup of  $G$ .
- 1(b) Suppose that  $G, H, K$  are as in part (a). Prove that any homomorphism of groups  $\varphi : H \rightarrow H$  gives rise to a canonical homomorphism from  $\tilde{\varphi} : G \rightarrow G$ . Give an example to show that  $\varphi$  is an isomorphism need not imply that  $\tilde{\varphi}$  is an isomorphism.
- 2(a) Consider the symmetric group  $S_n$  acting on the set  $S = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  by permutations. What is the orbit of the element  $i$ ? What is the stabilizer of the element  $i$ . Prove that the stabilizer subgroup of any two elements of  $S$  are conjugates.
- 2(b) Prove that the dihedral group  $D_3$  is not isomorphic to the direct product of two subgroups.
3. Recall that a local ring is a non-zero commutative ring with a unique maximal ideal. Prove that if  $R$  is a local ring and  $\varphi : R \rightarrow S$  is a surjective ring homomorphism onto a non-zero ring  $S$ , then  $S$  is local.
4. Consider the ring  $\mathbf{C}[x]$  of polynomials in an indeterminate  $x$  with coefficients in the complex numbers. Find a maximal ideal containing the polynomial  $f(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 + 2$ . How many such maximal ideals are there? If we were working with the ring  $\mathbf{R}[x]$  how many maximal ideals would there be containing  $f(x)$ . Find a polynomial  $g(x) \in \mathbf{C}[x]$  such that the ideal generated by  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  is  $\mathbf{C}[x]$ .
5. Suppose that  $G$  is a group of order 105. For any prime  $p$  determine the cardinality of the Sylow  $p$ -subgroups of  $G$ . Prove that the intersection of any two distinct Sylow subgroups is the identity. Prove that  $G$  is not simple.

# QUALIFYING EXAMINATION, ALGEBRA, PART B, FALL 2013

September 28

Solve five questions out of six; indicate which one is not supposed to be graded. Each item is worth 12 points.

All rings are assumed to be unital and all modules are assumed to be unitary and left unless specified otherwise.

1. Let  $R$  be a ring and let  $I, J \subset R$  be ideals. Let

$$0 \rightarrow M_1 \xrightarrow{f_1} M_2 \xrightarrow{f_2} M_3 \rightarrow 0$$

be a short exact sequence of  $R$ -modules.

- (a) Prove that  $IM_2 = 0$  implies that  $IM_1 = 0 = IM_3$ .  
(b) Show that  $IM_1 = 0 = JM_3$  implies that  $IJM_2 = 0$ . Give an example of a ring  $R$ , a short exact sequence of  $R$ -modules as above and an ideal  $I \subset R$  such that  $IM_1 = 0 = IM_3$  but  $IM_2 \neq 0$ .

2. Let  $R$  be a ring and let  $M \neq 0$  be an  $R$ -module. Let  $Z(R)$  be the center of  $R$ .

- (a) Construct the natural homomorphism of rings  $\psi : Z(R) \rightarrow \text{End}_R M$  and describe its kernel.  
The homomorphism  $\psi$  from part (a) induces a natural  $Z(R)$ -module structure on  $\text{End}_R M$ ; in particular, for any field  $K \subset Z(R)$ ,  $\text{End}_R M$  is a  $K$ -vector space.  
(b) Suppose that  $M$  and  $K \subset Z(R)$  are such that  $\text{End}_R M$  is finite-dimensional as a  $K$ -vector space. Prove that  $M$  is a direct sum of finitely many indecomposable  $R$ -modules with the same property.

3. Let  $R$  be a commutative ring.

- (a) Let  $M \neq 0$  be a torsion  $R$ -module and  $N \neq 0$  be a divisible  $R$ -module (that is, for each  $n \in N$  and  $r \in R \setminus \{0\}$ , there exists  $n' \in N$  such that  $n = rn'$ ). Describe  $M \otimes_R N$ . Describe  $N^* = \text{Hom}_R(N, R)$  assuming that  $R$  is a domain and but not a field. Give an example of a divisible module.  
(b) Find a necessary condition (on  $R$ ) for a divisible  $R$ -module to be free. Is it also sufficient?

4. Let  $R$  be a commutative ring,  $E$  and  $F$  be free  $R$ -modules of the same finite rank. Prove that  $f \in \text{Hom}_R(E, F)$  is an epimorphism if and only if  $f$  is an isomorphism. Is there an analogous statement for  $f$  monic?

5. Let  $R$  be a ring,  $M, M'$  be right  $R$ -modules and  $N, N'$  be left  $R$ -modules. Let  $f \in \text{Hom}_R(M, M')$ ,  $g \in \text{Hom}_R(N, N')$ . Is it always true that  $\ker(f \otimes g) = M \otimes_R \ker g + \ker f \otimes_R N$ ? Prove or provide a counterexample.

6. Let  $K$  be a field. Describe all, up to an isomorphism, nilpotent  $K[x]$ -module structures on  $K^5$  (that is, all elements of  $xK[x]$  act nilpotently) and  $\text{End}_{K[x]}(K[x]/(x^5))$ .



Algebra Qualifier, Part C

September 28, 2013

Do 4 out of the 5 problems. Indicate which of the 5 that I am not to grade.

- (1.) Give an example of a finite extension of fields  $E/k$  having infinitely many intermediate fields  $F$ ,  $k \subseteq F \subseteq E$ . Verify your assertions.
- (2.) Let  $q = p^n$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{N}$  prime, and let  $F_q$  be a field with  $q$  elements and algebraic closure  $\overline{F}_q$ . Show that for each  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists a unique extension field  $E \subseteq \overline{F}_q$  with  $[E : F_q] = m$  and that the extension  $E/F_q$  is separable and normal.
- (3.) Let  $K/k$  be a normal extension of fields and let  $K_0$  be the maximal separable subextension of  $K$ . Show that  $K_0/k$  is normal.
- (4.) Show that if  $k$  is a field of characteristic  $p > 0$  and every algebraic extension  $E/k$  of the field  $k$  is separable, then  $k^p = k$ .
- (5.) Prove or disprove the following. If  $K$  is a field and  $G$  is an arbitrary group of automorphisms of  $K$ , then  $K^G = \{a \in K \mid \sigma(a) = a \text{ for all } \sigma \in G\}$  is a field with  $K/K^G$  algebraic.

Algebra Qualifier, Part A

September 29, 2012

Do four out of the five problems.

1. Let  $G$  be a finite group and let  $p$  be a prime integer.
  - (a) Show that if  $p$  divides  $(G : 1)$ , then  $G$  contains an element of order  $p$ . (You may assume this holds if  $G$  is abelian.)
  - (b) Show that if each  $x \in G$  has order  $p^k$  for some  $k \geq 0$ , then  $(G : 1)$  is a power of  $p$ .
2. Prove or disprove the following.
  - (a) The ring  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-19}]$  is a PID.
  - (b) Each nonzero nonunit of  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-19}]$  is a product of irreducible elements.
3. Let  $R$  be a commutative unitary ring. A multiplicative subset  $S$  of  $R$  is said to be *saturated* if  $xy \in S$  for  $x, y \in R$  implies  $x, y \in S$ .
  - (a) Show that if  $S$  is a saturated multiplicative subset of  $R$ , then  $R \setminus S$  is a union of prime ideals of  $R$ .
  - (b) An element  $a \in R$  is a *zero-divisor* if  $ab = 0$  for some  $b \neq 0$  in  $R$ . Show that the set of zero-divisors of  $R$  is a union of prime ideals of  $R$ .
4. How many elements of order 7 are there in a simple group of order 168? Prove your answer.
5.
  - (a) Define the characteristic of a ring.
  - (b) Assume  $R$  is a commutative unitary ring having only one maximal ideal  $M$ . Show that the characteristic of  $R$  is either zero or a power of a prime.
  - (c) Show that if  $R/M$  has characteristic zero, where  $R$  is as in (b), then  $R$  contains a field.
  - (d) Give an example of a ring  $R$ , as in (b), of characteristic zero having a non-maximal prime ideal  $P$  such that the characteristic of  $R/P$  is **not** zero.

## 2012 RINGS QUALIFIER

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Prove all your claims; proofs must be as self-contained as is feasible.

1. [20] Let  $R$  be a unitary commutative ring. Prove *from scratch* that  $R$  and  $R \oplus R$  are not isomorphic as  $R$ -modules.

2. [40] In this problem only, advanced theorems may be used.

(i) Determine with proof the number of similarity classes of matrices over the field  $\mathbb{C}$  of complex numbers, with characteristic polynomial  $(x - 1)^2(x - 2)^3$

(ii) Determine with proof the number of similarity classes of  $8 \times 8$  matrices over the field  $\mathbb{C}$  of complex numbers, with minimal polynomial  $(x - 1)^3(x - 2)$

(iii) Let  $k$  be an algebraically closed field. Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix over  $k$ . For  $a \in k$ , set

$$W_a(A) := \ker((A - aI_n)^n) \subset k^n.$$

A *quasi-eigenvector* for  $A$  is a nonzero vector  $v \in W_a(A)$  for some  $a \in k$ . Prove that there exist  $a_1, \dots, a_m \in k$  such that

$$k^n = \bigoplus_{i=1}^m W_{a_i}(A).$$

(Hint: You may use the Jordan form theorem).

(iv) Let  $k$  be an algebraically closed field. Let  $A, B$  be  $n \times n$  matrices over  $k$  such that  $AB = BA$ . Prove that there is a basis of  $k^n$  whose elements are quasi-eigenvectors for both  $A$  and  $B$ .

3. [20] Let  $R = \mathbb{Z}_{20}$ ,  $S = \{1, 4, -4\}$ .

(i) Prove that the natural map  $R \rightarrow S^{-1}R$  is surjective and identify its kernel.

(ii) What is the cardinality of  $S^{-1}R$ ?

4. [20] (i) Prove *from scratch* that if  $R$  is a PID then  $R$  has the property that any submodule of a finitely generated  $R$ -module is finitely generated.

(ii) Give an example with proof of a commutative unitary ring  $R$  where this property fails.

Algebra Qualifying Examination, 2012, Part A, C

Each question is worth 10 points. Answer any 4. Please remember, all answers need justification.

1. Let  $K$  be a field and let  $K[x]$  be a polynomial ring in one variable and  $K(x)$  the corresponding quotient field. Give an example of a monomorphism  $\sigma : K(x) \rightarrow K(x)$  which is the identity on  $K$  but is not onto. (You must explain why your example is a homomorphism of fields and why it is a monomorphism). Use this to deduce the following statement. Suppose that  $F$  is an extension field of  $K$  such that for every intermediate field  $E$  every monomorphism  $\sigma : E \rightarrow E$  which is the identity on  $K$  is an automorphism. Then  $F$  is an algebraic extension of  $K$ .

2. Suppose that  $F$  is a field extension of  $K$ . Define the Galois group of  $F$  over  $K$  and the notion of  $F$  being Galois over  $K$ . Suppose that  $E \supset L$  are intermediate fields of the extension such that  $[E : L] = 2$ . Prove that the Galois group of  $F$  over  $E$  is a subgroup of the Galois group of  $F$  over  $L$  of index at most 2. (You should prove the statement explicitly in this simple example and not just refer to the statement of the appropriate theorem).

3. Suppose that  $F$  is a finite-dimensional Galois extension of  $K$  and assume that the Galois group is the direct product  $S_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ .

- (i) If  $E$  is an intermediate extension, what are the possible values of  $[E : K]$ .
- (ii) Prove that there exists two distinct intermediate fields  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  such that  $[L_j : K] = 6$ , and  $L_j$  is Galois over  $K$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ . Are there any others with these properties?

4. Let  $F_7$  be the cyclotomic extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$  of order seven. If  $\zeta$  is a primitive seventh root of unity, what is the irreducible polynomial over  $\mathbb{Q}$  of  $\zeta + \zeta^{-1}$ . You must justify your answer.

5. Let  $F$  be a finite field of characteristic  $p$ . Prove that  $F$  is a separable extension of  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . Suppose now that  $E$  is a finite-dimensional extension of  $F$ . Prove that  $E$  is separable over  $F$ . Now prove that any algebraic closure of  $F$  is algebraic and Galois over  $F$ .

6. Let  $f \in \mathbb{K}[x]$  be a cubic whose discriminant is a square in  $K$ . If  $\text{char}K \neq 2$  prove that  $f$  is either irreducible or factors completely in  $K$ . What happens if  $\text{char}K = 2$ ?

Algebra Qualifying Examination, 2011, Part A

Each question is worth 10 points. A perfect score is 60 points

1(a). Suppose that  $G$  is a group and that  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  are two distinct subgroups of  $G$ . State and prove a sufficient condition for  $H_1 \cup H_2$  to be a group.

1(b). Give an example of a group  $G$  and two subgroups  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  such that  $K_1 \cup K_2$  is strictly contained in the subgroup generated by  $K_1$  and  $K_2$ .

2. Suppose that  $G$  is a group and  $H, K$  are subgroups of  $G$  such that  $G$  is the internal direct product of  $H$  and  $K$ . Prove that  $H$  and  $K$  are normal subgroups of  $G$  and that  $G/H \cong K$ . Deduce that there does not exist a subgroup  $H$  of  $S_5$  such that  $S_5$  is isomorphic to the direct product of  $H$  and  $A_5$ .

3. Prove that a free abelian group is a free group if and only if it is cyclic. Give an example to show that a cyclic group may not be free.

4. How many subgroups of order 9 does the group  $\mathbf{Z}_9 \oplus \mathbf{Z}_{27}$  have? How many non-isomorphic subgroups of order 9 does it have?

5. Suppose that  $H$  acts on a set  $S$ . Given  $s \in S$  define the  $H$ -orbit of  $s$ . Prove that if  $s' \in S$  is another element then either  $s'$  is in the orbit of  $s$  or that the orbits of  $s$  and  $s'$  are disjoint.

6. Prove that a group of order 200 is not simple.

7. Let  $t$  be an indeterminate and consider the ring of polynomials  $\mathbf{R}[t]$  where  $\mathbf{R}$  is the set of real numbers. Using the fact that  $\mathbf{R}[t]$  is a principal ideal domain prove that the ideal generated by  $t^2 + 2$  is maximal. Suppose now that we work with the ring  $\mathbf{C}[t]$  where  $\mathbf{C}$  is the set of complex numbers. Find a polynomial  $f$  such that the ideal generated by  $f$  is proper and strictly contains the ideal generated by  $t^2 + 2$ .

8. Suppose that  $R$  is the ring  $\mathbf{Z}_6$  and  $S = \{2, 4\}$  is a subset of  $R$ . Prove that  $S^{-1}R$  is a finite field and identify the field.

## ALGEBRA QUALIFYING EXAMINATION, 2011, PART B

Each question is worth 10 points. A perfect score is 50 points.

All rings are assumed to be unital and all modules are assumed to be left and unitary unless specified otherwise.

1. Let  $I$  be a two-sided ideal in a ring  $R$  and let  $IM$  be the abelian subgroup of an  $R$ -module  $M$  generated by all elements of the form  $xm$ ,  $x \in I$ ,  $m \in M$ . Show that  $IM$  is an  $R$ -submodule of  $M$ , describe the natural left  $R$ -module structure on  $R/I \otimes_R M$  and show that  $R/I \otimes_R M \cong M/IM$  as left  $R$ -modules.

2. Prove Schur's lemma: if  $M$  is a simple module over a ring  $R$  then  $\text{End}_R M$  is a division ring. Is the converse true (prove or provide a counterexample)?

3. Let  $R$  be a ring and let  $M, N$  be left  $R$ -modules. Construct a natural homomorphism of abelian groups  $M^* \otimes_R N \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(M, N)$ . If  $R = k$  is a field and  $M, N$  are finite dimensional  $k$ -vector spaces prove that this natural homomorphism is in fact an isomorphism of  $k$ -vector spaces.

4. Let  $K$  be a field. We say that a  $K[x]$ -module  $M$  is nilpotent if for every non-unit  $p \in K[x]$ ,  $p^n M = 0$  for  $n$  sufficiently large. Prove that a finitely generated nilpotent indecomposable  $K[x]$ -module is isomorphic to  $K[x]/(x^k)$  for some  $k > 0$ .

5. Let  $R$  be a ring.

(a) (7 points) Prove that if a projective  $R$ -module  $P$  is a homomorphic image of an  $R$ -module  $M$ , then  $P$  is (isomorphic to) a direct summand of  $M$  (that is,  $M = N \oplus P'$  for some submodules  $N, P'$  with  $P \cong P'$ ).

(b) (3 points) Formulate and prove an analogous statement for injective modules.

6. Let  $R$  be a ring and  $M_i, N_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$  be  $R$ -modules. Consider a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & M_1 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & M_2 & \xrightarrow{f_2} & M_3 & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & & & & & \psi_2 \downarrow & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & N_1 & \xrightarrow{g_1} & N_2 & \xrightarrow{g_2} & N_3 & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

with exact rows (all maps are homomorphisms of  $R$ -modules). Suppose that there exists  $\psi_1 \in \text{Hom}_R(M_1, N_1)$  such that  $g_1 \psi_1 = \psi_2 f_1$ . Prove that there exists  $\psi_3 \in \text{Hom}_R(M_3, N_3)$  that makes the diagram commute (that is, satisfies  $g_2 \psi_2 = \psi_3 f_2$ ). Which conditions should satisfy  $\psi_1$  and/or  $\psi_2$  to ensure that  $\psi_3$  is surjective?

7. Let  $K$  be a field,  $p \in K[x]$  be a monic polynomial and  $A$  be its companion matrix. Prove that  $p$  is the minimal polynomial of  $A$ . Write down the companion matrix of  $q(x) = x^3 - x^2 + 2x - 1 \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ .

8. Let  $R$  be a domain and let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix over  $R$ . Prove that if a system of linear equations  $Ax = 0$  has a non-zero solution then  $\det A = 0$ . Is the converse true?

Algebra Part C, September 2011

1. Find a polynomial  $f(x) \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  with  $\deg(f) = 101$  and  $f$  is not solvable by radicals. Justify your answer.
2. Give an example of an infinite field  $K$  with  $\text{char } K = 5$  and a polynomial  $f(x) \in K[x]$  such that the splitting field of  $f$  over  $K$  has degree 20 and is a cyclic extension of  $K$ . Justify your answer.
3. Let  $F$  be a cyclotomic extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$  of order 24. Determine all intermediate fields and give the diagram of subfields of  $F$ . Among all these extensions which one(s) are normal? separable? radical? Justify your answer.
4. Let  $F > E > K$  be fields. Prove or disprove each of the following statements.
  - (a). If  $F$  is Galois over  $E$  and  $E$  is Galois over  $K$ , then  $F$  is Galois over  $K$ .
  - (b). If  $F$  is purely inseparable over  $E$  and  $E$  is purely inseparable over  $K$ , then  $F$  is purely inseparable over  $K$ .
  - (c). If  $F$  is normal over  $E$  and  $E$  is normal over  $K$ , then  $F$  is normal over  $K$ .

## ALGEBRA QUALIFIER. PART A

September 25, 2010

Do four out of the five problems. **All answers must be justified.**

1. Let  $G$  be a group and let  $A$  be an abelian group. Let  $\theta : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(A)$  be a group homomorphism. Let  $A \times_{\theta} G$  be the set  $A \times G$  with the binary operation

$$(a, g)(a', g') = (a + \theta(g)(a'), gg').$$

- (i) Prove that  $A \times_{\theta} G$  is a group.
- (ii) Find  $\theta : \mathbb{Z}_2 \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z}_m)$  such that the dihedral group  $D_m$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_m \times_{\theta} \mathbb{Z}_2$ . *Do not forget to prove the isomorphism!*

2.

- (i) Let  $G$  be a group of order  $np$  where  $p$  is a prime. Find a sufficient condition for a subgroup of order  $p$  to be normal.
- (ii) List all isomorphism classes of abelian groups of order 120.
- (iii) Is there a simple group of order 120?
- (iv) What is the maximal possible number of elements of order 5 in a group of order 120?

3. Let  $G$  be a group acting on a set  $X$ . We say that the action of  $G$  on  $X$  is transitive if for all  $x, x' \in X$  there exists  $g \in G$  such that  $gx = x'$ . Prove the following statements.

- (i) For all  $x \in X$ ,  $Gx = X$ . In particular,  $[G : \text{Stab}_G x] = |X|$  and if  $|G|$  is finite then  $|X|$  divides  $|G|$ .
- (ii) The subgroups  $\text{Stab}_G x$  are conjugate for all  $x \in X$ .
- (iii) Suppose that  $|X| = k$  and let  $\pi : G \rightarrow S_k = \text{Bij}(X)$  be the group homomorphism given by the action. Then  $k$  divides  $n = [G : \ker \pi]$  and  $n$  divides  $k!$ .

4. An element  $e$  in a ring  $R$  is said to be an idempotent if  $e^2 = e$ . The center  $Z(R)$  of a ring  $R$  is the set of all elements  $x \in R$  such that  $xr = rx$  for all  $r \in R$ . An element of  $Z(R)$  is called central. Two central idempotents  $f, g \in R$  are called orthogonal if  $fg = 0$ . Suppose that  $R$  is a unital ring.

- (i) If  $e$  is a central idempotent, then so is  $1_R - e$ , and  $e, 1_R - e$  are orthogonal.
- (ii)  $eR$  and  $(1_R - e)R$  are ideals and  $R = eR \times (1_R - e)R$
- (iii) If  $R_1, \dots, R_n$  are rings with identity then the following statements are equivalent
  - (a)  $R \cong R_1 \times \dots \times R_n$
  - (b)  $R$  contains a set of orthogonal central idempotents  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  such that  $e_1 + \dots + e_n = 1_R$  and  $e_i R \cong R$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ .
  - (c)  $R = I_1 \times \dots \times I_n$  where  $I_k$  is an ideal of  $R$  and  $R_k \cong I_k$ .



5. An element  $a$  of a ring  $R$  is called nilpotent if  $a^n = 0$  for some positive integer  $n$ . A ring is said to be local if it contains a unique maximal ideal. Prove the following statements.

- (i) The set of all nilpotent elements in a commutative ring  $R$  is an ideal.
- (ii) A commutative unital ring  $R$  is local if and only if for all  $x, y \in R$ ,  $x + y = 1_R$  implies that  $x$  is a unit.
- (iii) Suppose that  $R$  is a commutative unital ring with the following property: if  $x \in R$  is not a unit then  $x$  is nilpotent. Then  $R$  is local.
- (iv) Let  $\mathbb{Z}[i] = \{x + yi : x, y \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ ,  $i^2 = -1$ . Clearly,  $\mathbb{Z}$  identifies with a subring of  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ . Find a prime ideal in  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  and an ideal  $I$  such that  $I \cap \mathbb{Z}$  is prime but  $I$  is not prime.

**Qualifying Examination, Part B, 2010** Attempt as many questions as you like. A perfect score is 50.

Assume that all rings have identity.

1. (5 points)(a) Let  $V$  be a vector space over a field  $K$  of dimension  $r$ . Let  $f \in \text{Hom}_K(V, K)$ . Prove that if  $f$  is non-zero, then it is surjective and determine the dimension of the kernel of  $f$ .

2. (7 points) (a) Suppose that  $R$  and  $S$  are commutative rings and that  $M$  is a  $(R, S)$ -bimodule. This means that  $M$  is a left  $R$ -module and a right  $S$ -module and the actions are compatible, i.e  $r(ms) = (rm)s$ , for all  $r \in R$ ,  $s \in S$  and  $m \in M$ . Let  $N$  be a left  $S$ -module. How does one define a left  $R$ -module structure on  $M \otimes_S N$ . What must you check to see that the action is well-defined? If we assume now in addition, that  $N$  is a  $(S, R)$ -bimodule what can you say about  $M \otimes_S N$ ?

(b) (3 points) Suppose now that  $K$  is a field and let  $V, W$  be a vector space over  $K$ . Use (a) to show that  $V \otimes_K W$  is also a vector space over  $K$ . What is the most natural way to find a basis for  $V \otimes_K W$ .

3. (5points) (a) Let  $V, W$  be a vector spaces over a field  $K$ . How does one define a vector space structure on  $\text{Hom}_K(V, W)$ ? Suppose now that  $W = K$ . Given a basis for  $V$ , how would you produce a natural basis for  $V^* = \text{Hom}_K(V, K)$ ? More generally, if  $\dim V = r$  and  $\dim W = s$  and you are given bases for  $V$  and  $W$ , find a natural basis for  $\text{Hom}_K(V, W)$ .

(b) (10points) Let  $W$  be another vector space over  $K$ . Define the natural map of vector spaces  $V^* \otimes W \rightarrow \text{Hom}_K(V, W)$  and prove that it is an isomorphism of vector spaces.

4. (10 points) Let  $R$  be the polynomial ring  $\mathbf{C}[t]$  in one variable with coefficients in the complex numbers and let  $I$  be the ideal generated by  $t^2$  and let  $M = R/I$ . Prove that  $M$  has a proper non-zero submodule and that  $M$  cannot be written as a direct sum of proper non-zero submodules. Suppose now we take  $J$  to be the ideal generated by  $t(t-1)$ . Prove that the module  $N = R/J$  is isomorphic to a direct sum of two proper non-zero submodules.

5. (5 points) Prove that an  $n \times n$ -matrix with entries in a field  $K$  is invertible iff 0 is not an eigenvalue of the matrix.

6. (10points) What is the companion matrix  $A$  of the polynomial  $q = x^2 - x + 2$ . Prove that  $q$  is the minimal polynomial of  $A$ .

7.(10 points) Suppose that  $P_1$  and  $P_2$   $R$ -modules. Prove that  $P_1 \oplus P_2$  is projective iff  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are projective.

8. (10 points) Let  $0 \rightarrow L \rightarrow M \rightarrow N \rightarrow 0$  be short exact sequence of  $R$ -modules such that we have a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(N, L) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(N, M) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(N, N) \rightarrow 0.$$

Prove that the original short exact sequence is split.

## ALGEBRA QUALIFIER PART C

**Problem 1.** Prove that every finite field  $K$  is perfect.

**Problem 2.** Let  $E$  be a splitting field of the polynomial  $f(x) = x^5 - 4x + 2$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Show that this polynomial is irreducible in  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ . Prove that the Galois group  $\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{Q}}(E)$  is isomorphic to  $S_5$ . Is it possible to find a radical extension  $F$  of  $\mathbb{Q}$  such that  $F \supset E$ ?

**Problem 3.** Let  $F$  be a field with  $p^n$  elements (here  $p$  is prime). Prove that  $F$  contains a primitive  $d$ -th root of unity for every divisor  $d$  of the number  $p^n - 1$ .

**Problem 4.** Let  $K(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  be the field of rational functions in  $n$  indeterminates. Show that  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  is a transcendence basis of  $K(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  over  $K$ .

## Algebra Qualifying Exam

September 26, 2009

### Part A

Do exactly four problems (at least one must be from 5-8).

1. Let  $D_8 = \langle a, b \rangle$  be the dihedral group of degree 8. What are the equivalent classes of  $D_8$ ?
2. Let  $G$  be a group of order  $n$ . If  $n > m!$  and  $G$  has  $m$  Sylow  $p$ -subgroups, then  $G$  is not simple.
3. Find all the Sylow 3-subgroups of  $S_6$ .
4. Let  $(P, \{\pi_i\})$  and  $(Q, \{\psi_i\})$  be coproducts of the family  $\{A_i \mid i \in I\}$  of objects of a category  $G$ . Prove that  $P$  and  $Q$  are equivalent.
5. Let  $R = \mathbb{Z}_{96}$ , and  $S = \{2^i \in R \mid i = 1, 2, \dots\}$ .
  - (a). Find  $S^{-1}R$ .
  - (b). What are the ideals of  $S^{-1}R$ ?
6. Find the center of the ring of all  $n \times n$  matrices over  $\mathbb{Z}_6$ .
7. The ring  $R = \{a + b\sqrt{2}i \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  is an Euclidean domain.
8. A UFD is integrally closed.

## Algebra Qualifier '09 - Part B

Do any four problems.

Assume that all rings contain 1, and all modules are unitary, unless stated otherwise.

- (1) Let  $U$  and  $W$  be subspaces of a finite dimensional vector space  $V$ . Prove that
$$\dim(U + W) + \dim(U \cap W) = \dim(U) + \dim(W).$$
- (2) Prove that if  $m$  and  $n$  are coprime integers, then  $(\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}) \cong 0$ .
- (3) Let  $R$  be a ring. Let  $M$  be a finitely generated  $R$ -module, and let  $N$  be a projective  $R$ -module. Prove that if  $f : M \rightarrow N$  is a surjective homomorphism, then the kernel of  $f$  is finitely generated.
- (4) Let  $R = \mathbb{R}[x]$  and  $A = Rz_1 \oplus Rz_2 \oplus Rz_3$ , where
$$\text{ann}(z_1) = ((x + 1)^2(x^2 + 1)), \quad \text{ann}(z_2) = ((x^2 + 1)^2), \quad \text{ann}(z_3) = (x^4 - 1).$$
Find the elementary divisors and the invariant factors of  $A$ .
- (5) Let  $A \in \text{Mat}_n(\mathbb{C})$ . Prove that  $A$  is conjugate to its transpose  $A^t$ .

Algebra Qualifier, Part C

September 26, 2009

Do four out of the five problems. Indicate which of the 4 that I am to grade.

1. Let  $K$  be a field of characteristic zero. Let  $f \in K[X]$  be a cubic whose discriminant is a square in  $K$ . Show that either  $f$  is irreducible over  $K$  or factors completely over  $K$ .
2. Let  $G$  be a finite group of automorphisms of an integral domain  $A$ . Let  $R = \{a \in A \mid \sigma(a) = a \text{ for each } \sigma \in G\}$ . Show that each  $a \in A$  satisfies a monic  $f \in R[X]$ . Further, if  $E$  and  $F$  are the quotient fields of  $A$  and  $R$  respectively, then  $E/F$  is separable.
3. Let  $g_n(X)$  be the  $n$ -th cyclotomic polynomial over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , let  $p$  be a prime integer not dividing  $n$ , let  $F = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ . Suppose the canonical image  $\bar{g}_n(X)$  of  $g_n(X)$  in  $F[X]$  remains irreducible in  $F[X]$  and let  $E = F[X]/(\bar{g}_n(X))$ . Show that the Galois group  $G(E/F)$  is isomorphic to the group of units  $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$  of  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ .
4. Show that if  $f \in \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}[X]$  is irreducible of degree  $n$ , then  $f$  divides  $X^{p^n} - X$  in  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}[X]$ .
5. (a) Define what it means for  $f \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$  to be solvable by radicals.  
(b) Show that  $X^5 - 6X + 3$  is not solvable by radicals over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

## ALGEBRA QUALIFIER. PART A

September 27, 2008

Do four out of the five problems. All answers must be justified.

1. Let  $G$  be a group and let  $A$  be an abelian group. Let  $\theta : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(A)$  be a group homomorphism. Let  $A \times_{\theta} G$  be the set  $A \times G$  with the binary operation

$$(a, g)(a', g') = (a + \theta(g)(a'), gg').$$

- (i) Prove that  $A \times_{\theta} G$  is a group.
- (ii) Prove that the dihedral group  $D_m$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_m \times_{\theta} \mathbb{Z}_2$  for some  $\theta : \mathbb{Z}_2 \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z}_m)$ .

2. Prove that a finite group of order  $p^n q$ ,  $n > 0$ , where  $p > q$  are primes is not simple.

3. Let  $G$  be a group of order 120.

- (i) List all isomorphism classes of abelian groups of order 120.
- (ii) Can  $G$  be simple?
- (iii) What is the maximal possible number of elements of order 5 in  $G$ ?
- (iv) How many conjugacy classes are there in  $S_6$ ?

4. Let  $\mathbb{Z}[i] = \{x + yi : x, y \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ ,  $i^2 = -1$ . This is a unital ring and  $\mathbb{Z}$  identifies with a subring of  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ .

- (i) Is the ideal of  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  generated by 5 prime?
- (ii) Is  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  a domain? If so, describe its field of fractions.
- (iii) Choose a maximal ideal  $P$  in  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  and describe the localization of  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  at  $P$ .

5.

- (i) Give an example of a category in which a morphism between two objects is epic if and only if it is surjective.
- (ii) Give an example of a category  $\mathcal{C}$  and of an epic morphism between two objects in  $\mathcal{C}$  which is not surjective.



## ALGEBRA QUALIFIER. PART B

September 27, 2008

Solve 4 out of the following 5 problems. All rings are assumed to be unital, and all modules are assumed to be unitary left modules unless otherwise stated.

- (1) Prove that

$$\mathbb{Q}[x]/(x^5 - 4x + 2)$$

is a field. Show, on the other hand, that

$$\mathbb{Z}[x]/(x^5 - 4x + 2)$$

is not a field.

- (2) Let  $R$  be a ring, and let  $A, B, C$  be three  $R$ -modules such that  $B$  is a submodule of  $A$ , and  $C \cong A/B$ . Prove that if  $C$  is a projective  $R$ -module, then  $A \cong B \oplus C$ .
- (3) Let  $R$  be a commutative ring and  $I$  an ideal of  $R$ . Let  $A$  be a  $R$ -module and denote by  $IA$  the submodule of  $A$  generated by all elements of the form  $ra$  with  $r \in I$  and  $a \in A$ . Prove that there is an isomorphism of  $R$ -modules

$$(R/I) \otimes_R A \cong A/IA.$$

- (4) Let  $V$  and  $W$  be two vector spaces over a field  $k$ , and  $f : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear map. Prove that  $f$  is surjective if and only if its dual map  $f^*$  is injective.
- (5) Find the Jordan normal form of the following matrix over the field of complex numbers:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Fields qualifier '08

## ALGEBRA QUALIFIER. PART C

Name in block letters:

Do any 3 problems.

1. Let  $f(x) = x^5 - x + 1 \in \mathbb{F}_5[x]$ .

(a) Prove that  $f$  has no root in  $\mathbb{F}_{25}$  (Hint: what polynomial identity holds for any element of  $\mathbb{F}_{25}$ ?).

(b) Determine the splitting field and the full Galois correspondence for the polynomial  $x^5 - x + 1$

(i) over  $\mathbb{F}_5$ ;

(ii) over  $\mathbb{F}_{25}$ ;

(iii) over  $\mathbb{F}_{125}$ .

2. Let  $F$  be a splitting field of  $f \in K[x]$  over  $K$ . Prove that if an irreducible polynomial  $g \in K[x]$  has a root in  $F$ , then  $g$  splits in linear factors over  $F$ . (This result is part of the theorem characterizing normal extensions and you may not, of course, quote this theorem or its corollaries).

3. Disprove (by example) or prove the following:

if  $K \rightarrow F$  is an extension (not necessarily Galois) with  $[F : K] = 6$  and  $\text{Aut}_K(F)$  isomorphic to the Symmetric group  $S_3$ , then  $F$  is the splitting field of an irreducible cubic in  $K[x]$ .

4. If  $\mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow F$  is a field extension of degree  $n$  then  $x \mapsto x^p$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -automorphism of  $F$  of order exactly  $n$  whose fixed field is  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ .

Algebra Qualifier, Part A

September 29, 2007

Do four out of the five problems.

1. If  $G$  is a group, a *left  $G$ -module* is an abelian group  $(A, +)$  with a group action  $\sigma : G \times A \rightarrow A$  such that if we denote  $\sigma(g, a)$  by  $ga$ , we have  $g(a + b) = ga + gb$  for all  $g \in G, a, b \in A$ . If  $A$  is a  $G$ -module, the *(external) semidirect product*  $A \times_{\sigma} G$  is the set  $A \times G$  with product defined by  $(a, g)(b, h) = (a + gb, gh)$ .

(a) Show that  $A \times_{\sigma} G$  is a group.

(b) Show that  $S_3 \cong \mathbb{Z}_3 \times_{\sigma} \{1, -1\}$  for some  $G$ -module action  $\sigma : \{1, -1\} \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_3$ .

2. Let  $R$  be a PID and define  $\varphi : R \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}_0$  by  $\varphi(a) = n$  if  $a = up_1p_2 \cdots p_n$  for a unit  $u$  and prime elements  $p_i$  of  $R$ . Consider the condition:

(\*) for every  $a_1, a_2 \in R$  there exists  $\hat{d} \in R$  such that  $a_1R + a_2R = (a_1 + \hat{d}a_2)R$ .

(a) Show that if  $R$  satisfies the condition (\*), then  $R$  is a Euclidean domain with Euclidean function  $\varphi$ .

(b) Show that (\*) implies that  $\mathcal{U}(R) \rightarrow \mathcal{U}(R/A)$  is onto for each ideal  $A$  of  $R$ , where  $\mathcal{U}(T)$  denotes the group of units of the commutative ring  $T$ .

(c) Show that  $\mathbb{Z}$  does not satisfy (\*).

3. Let  $S_5$  operate on itself by conjugation. How many orbits does  $S_5$  have?

4. Let  $G$  be a finite group of order  $p^nq$ ,  $p$  and  $q$  primes with  $p > q$ . Show that  $G$  is not simple.

5. Give examples of the following and explain how you know they have the properties claimed.

(a) A Noetherian integral domain that is not a PID.

(b) An integral domain  $R$  of characteristic zero having a non-maximal prime ideal  $P$  such that the characteristic of  $R/P$  is not zero.

Algebra Qualifier, Part A

September 29, 2007

Do four out of the five problems.

1. If  $G$  is a group, a *left  $G$ -module* is an abelian group  $(A, +)$  with a group action  $\sigma : G \times A \rightarrow A$  such that if we denote  $\sigma(g, a)$  by  $ga$ , we have  $g(a + b) = ga + gb$  for all  $g \in G, a, b \in A$ . If  $A$  is a  $G$ -module, the (*external*) *semidirect product*  $A \times_{\sigma} G$  is the set  $A \times G$  with product defined by  $(a, g)(b, h) = (a + gb, gh)$ .

(a) Show that  $A \times_{\sigma} G$  is a group.

(b) Show that  $S_3 \cong \mathbb{Z}_3 \times_{\sigma} \{1, -1\}$  for some  $G$ -module action  $\sigma : \{1, -1\} \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_3$ .

2. Let  $R$  be a PID and define  $\varphi : R \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}_0$  by  $\varphi(a) = n$  if  $a = up_1p_2 \cdots p_n$  for a unit  $u$  and prime elements  $p_i$  of  $R$ . Consider the condition:

(\*) for every  $a_1, a_2 \in R$  there exists  $d \in R$  such that  $a_1R + a_2R = (a_1 + da_2)R$ .

(a) Show that if  $R$  satisfies the condition (\*), then  $R$  is a Euclidean domain with Euclidean function  $\varphi$ .

(b) Show that (\*) implies that  $\mathcal{U}(R) \rightarrow \mathcal{U}(R/A)$  is onto for each ideal  $A$  of  $R$ , where  $\mathcal{U}(T)$  denotes the group of units of the commutative ring  $T$ .

(c) Show that  $\mathbb{Z}$  does not satisfy (\*).

3. Let  $S_5$  operate on itself by conjugation. How many orbits does  $S_5$  have?

4. Let  $G$  be a finite group of order  $p^nq$ ,  $p$  and  $q$  primes with  $p > q$ . Show that  $G$  is not simple.

5. Give examples of the following and explain how you know they have the properties claimed.

(a) A Noetherian integral domain that is not a PID.

(b) An integral domain  $R$  of characteristic zero having a non-maximal prime ideal  $P$  such that the characteristic of  $R/P$  is not zero.

## ALGEBRA QUALIFIER. PART B

September 29, 2007

Solve four problems out of five. All rings are assumed to be unital and all modules are assumed to be unitary and left unless specified otherwise.

1. Give an example of a ring  $R$  and an  $R$ -module  $M$  such that
  - (i)  $- \otimes_R M$  is not exact
  - (ii)  $\text{Hom}_R(M, -)$  is not exact.
2. Let  $R$  be a ring and  $M_i, N_i, i = 1, 2, 3$  be  $R$ -modules. Consider a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & M_1 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & M_2 & \xrightarrow{f_2} & M_3 & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & & & & & \psi_2 \downarrow & & \\ & & 0 & \longrightarrow & N_1 & \xrightarrow{g_1} & N_2 & \xrightarrow{g_2} & N_3 & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

with exact rows (all maps are homomorphisms of  $R$ -modules).

- (i) Suppose that there exists  $\psi_3 \in \text{Hom}_R(M_3, N_3)$  such that  $g_2\psi_2 = \psi_3f_2$ . Prove that there exists  $\psi_1 \in \text{Hom}_R(M_1, N_1)$  making the diagram commute. Which conditions should satisfy  $\psi_2$  and/or  $\psi_3$  to ensure that  $\psi_1$  is injective?
  - (ii) Suppose that there exists  $\psi_1 \in \text{Hom}_R(M_1, N_1)$  such that  $g_1\psi_1 = \psi_2f_1$ . Prove that there exists  $\psi_3 \in \text{Hom}_R(M_3, N_3)$  making the diagram commute. Which conditions should satisfy  $\psi_1$  and/or  $\psi_2$  to ensure that  $\psi_3$  is surjective?
3. Let  $K$  be a field.
    - (i) Determine, with a proof, whether the field of rational functions  $K(x)$  is a projective  $K[x]$ -module.
    - (ii) Describe the  $K[x]$ -module dual of  $K(x)$ .
    - (iii) Will the same results remain true if  $K$  is replaced by an integral domain  $R$ ?
  4. Let  $R$  be a domain,  $A$  be a  $n \times n$  matrix over  $R$ .
    - (i) Prove that if the system of linear equations  $Ax = 0$  has a non-trivial solution then  $\det A = 0$ .
    - (ii) Prove, or provide a counterexample to, the converse.
    - (iii) Which, if any, of these statements remain true if we drop the assumption that  $R$  is a domain? Prove or provide a counterexample.
  5. Let  $R, S$  be commutative rings,  $\varphi : R \rightarrow S$  be a ring homomorphism.
    - (i) Extend  $\varphi$  to a ring homomorphism  $\bar{\varphi} : \text{Mat}_n(R) \rightarrow \text{Mat}_n(S)$  and show that  $\det(\bar{\varphi}(A)) = \varphi(\det(A))$  for all  $A \in \text{Mat}_n(R)$ .
    - (ii) Use part (i) to prove that the constant term of the characteristic polynomial of a matrix  $A \in \text{Mat}_n(R)$  equals  $(-1)^n \det(A)$ .

### Algebra Qualifier Part C

Attempt any five, all are worth 10 points.

1. Consider the polynomial  $x^5 - ax - 1 \in \mathbf{Z}[x]$ . Find all possible values of  $a \in \mathbf{Z}$  for which the polynomial is irreducible in  $\mathbf{Z}[x]$ .
2. Prove that  $\mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3}) = \mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3})$ .
3. Let  $F$  be a Galois extension of a field  $K$  of degree 27. Prove that there exist Galois extensions of  $K$  contained in  $F$  of degree 3 and 9.
4. Prove that if the Galois group of the splitting field of a cubic over the rational numbers is  $Z_3$  then all roots of the cubic are real.
5. Prove that a finite dimensional extension of a finite field is Galois.
6. Prove that in a finite field of characteristic  $p$  every element has a unique  $p$ th root. Give an example to show that the condition that the field be finite is necessary.

## ALGEBRA QUALIFIER. PART A

September 27, 2007

Do four out of the five problems. **All answers must be justified.**

1. Let  $G$  be a group and let  $A$  be an abelian group. Let  $\theta : G \rightarrow \text{Aut}(A)$  be a group homomorphism. Let  $A \times_{\theta} G$  be the set  $A \times G$  with the binary operation

$$(a, g)(a', g') = (a + \theta(g)(a'), gg').$$

- (i) Prove that  $A \times_{\theta} G$  is a group.
  - (ii) Prove that the dihedral group  $D_m$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_m \times_{\theta} \mathbb{Z}_2$  for some  $\theta : \mathbb{Z}_2 \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathbb{Z}_m)$ .
2. Prove that a finite group of order  $p^n q$ ,  $n > 0$ , where  $p > q$  are primes is not simple.

3. Let  $G$  be a group of order 120.

- (i) List all isomorphism classes of abelian groups of order 120.
- (ii) Can  $G$  be simple?
- (iii) What is the maximal possible number of elements of order 5 in  $G$ ?
- (iv) How many conjugacy classes are there in  $S_6$ ?

4. Let  $\mathbb{Z}[i] = \{x + yi : x, y \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ ,  $i^2 = -1$ . This is a unital ring and  $\mathbb{Z}$  identifies with a subring of  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$ .

- (i) Is the ideal of  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  generated by 5 prime?
- (ii) Is  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  a domain? If so, describe its field of fractions.
- (iii) Choose a maximal ideal  $P$  in  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  and describe the localization of  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  at  $P$ .

5.

- (i) Give an example of a category in which a morphism between two objects is epic if and only if it is surjective.
- (ii) Give an example of a category  $\mathcal{C}$  and of an epic morphism between two objects in  $\mathcal{C}$  which is not surjective.

## ALGEBRA QUALIFIER. PART B

September 27, 2008

*Solve 4 out of the following 5 problems. All rings are assumed to be unital, and all modules are assumed to be unitary left modules unless otherwise stated.*

- (1) Prove that

$$\mathbb{Q}[x]/(x^5 - 4x + 2)$$

is a field. Show, on the other hand, that

$$\mathbb{Z}[x]/(x^5 - 4x + 2)$$

is not a field.

- (2) Let  $R$  be a ring, and let  $A, B, C$  be three  $R$ -modules such that  $B$  is a submodule of  $A$ , and  $C \cong A/B$ . Prove that if  $C$  is a projective  $R$ -module, then  $A \cong B \oplus C$ .
- (3) Let  $R$  be a commutative ring and  $I$  an ideal of  $R$ . Let  $A$  be a  $R$ -module and denote by  $IA$  the submodule of  $A$  generated by all elements of the form  $ra$  with  $r \in I$  and  $a \in A$ . Prove that there is an isomorphism of  $R$ -modules

$$(R/I) \otimes_R A \cong A/IA.$$

- (4) Let  $V$  and  $W$  be two vector spaces over a field  $k$ , and  $f : V \rightarrow W$  be a linear map. Prove that  $f$  is surjective if and only if its dual map  $f^*$  is injective.
- (5) Find the Jordan normal form of the following matrix over the field of complex numbers:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



# Fields qualifier '08

Name in block letters:

Do any 3 problems.

1. Let  $f(x) = x^5 - x + 1 \in \mathbb{F}_5[x]$ .

(a) Prove that  $f$  has no root in  $\mathbb{F}_{25}$  (Hint: what polynomial identity holds for any element of  $\mathbb{F}_{25}$ ?).

(b) Determine the splitting field and the full Galois correspondence for the polynomial  $x^5 - x + 1$

(i) over  $\mathbb{F}_5$ ;

(ii) over  $\mathbb{F}_{25}$ ;

(iii) over  $\mathbb{F}_{125}$ .

2. Let  $F$  be a splitting field of  $f \in K[x]$  over  $K$ . Prove that if an irreducible polynomial  $g \in K[x]$  has a root in  $F$ , then  $g$  splits in linear factors over  $F$ . (This result is part of the theorem characterizing normal extensions and you may not, of course, quote this theorem or its corollaries).

3. Disprove (by example) or prove the following:

if  $K \rightarrow F$  is an extension (not necessarily Galois) with  $[F : K] = 6$  and  $\text{Aut}_K(F)$  isomorphic to the Symmetric group  $S_3$ , then  $F$  is the splitting field of an irreducible cubic in  $K[x]$ .

4. If  $\mathbb{Z}_p \rightarrow F$  is a field extension of degree  $n$  then  $x \mapsto x^p$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -automorphism of  $F$  of order exactly  $n$  whose fixed field is  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ .

## Algebra

### Syllabus for the qualifying examination

The topics marked with an asterisk are considered undergraduate material and will be only briefly reviewed in the graduate sequence Math 201A-B-C.

### Groups

- 1.\* Basic properties of groups and homomorphisms
- 2.\* Cosets and Lagrange's Theorem
- 3.\* Normal subgroups, fundamental homomorphism theorems
- 4.\* Symmetric groups, Cayley's theorem
- 5.\* Alternating and dihedral groups
6. Groups operating on a set
7. Sylow theorems
8. Construction of products and coproducts in the categories of groups and abelian groups
9. Free groups, presentations of groups

### References

1. T. W. Hungerford, *Algebra*, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1974, Chapter 1, sections 1-6 of Chapter 2.
2. N. Jacobson, *Basic Algebra I*, W. H. Freeman and Company, San Francisco, 1974, Chapter 1.
3. S. Lang, *Algebra*, Addison Wesley, Menlo Park, CA, 1984, Chapter 1.

### Rings and fields

- 1.\* Homomorphism theorems and ideals
- 2.\* Construction of the quotient field of an integral domain
- 3.\* Definition and elementary properties of polynomial rings over fields
- 4.\* Consequences of the Euclidean algorithm for the ideal theory and unique factorization in the ring of integers and the ring of polynomials in one variable over a field
- 5.\* Elementary properties of field extensions including the degree of a finite extension
6. Maximal and prime ideals
7. Euclidean domains, principal ideal domains and unique factorization domains
8. Elementary properties of localization
9. Definition and universal properties of polynomial rings and groups rings
10. Unique factorization in polynomial rings
11. Galois groups of quadratic and cubic extensions
12. Finite fields and their Galois theory

## References

1. T. W. Hungerford, *Algebra*, Chapter 3 and sections 1, 5 of chapter 5.
2. N. Jacobson, *Basic Algebra I*, Chapter 2 and sections 1, 13 of chapter 4.
3. S. Lang, *Algebra*, Chapter 2 and sections 1, 5 of chapter 7.

## Modules and linear algebra

- 1.\* Basic properties of bases and dimension of vector spaces
- 2.\* The relationship between matrices and linear transformations
- 3.\* Inner products and orthogonal bases, Gram-Schmidt process
- 4.\* Determinants, eigenvalues, Cayley-Hamilton Theorem
5. Definitions of Noetherian and Artinian modules and inheritance of these properties by submodules and factor modules
6. Free modules and invariance of basis number
7. Tensor product and Hom and their behavior with respect to exact sequences and products and coproducts
8. Structure of modules over principal ideal domains and applications to linear algebra including rational and Jordan canonical forms
9. Definitions of tensor, symmetric and exterior algebras and their behavior on direct sums and free modules

## References

1. Serge Lang, *Linear Algebra*, Springer-Verlag, New York
2. T. W. Hungerford, *Algebra*, Sections 1-6 of chapter 4, and chapter 7.
3. N. Jacobson, *Basic Algebra I*, Chapter 3.
4. S. Lang, *Algebra*, Sections 1-6 of chapter 3, sections 1-6 of chapter 13, chapter 15.

Algebra Qualifier, Part A  
Fall 2006

1. Find all normal subgroups of  $D_{24}$ .
2. Find the Sylow 2-subgroups of  $S_5$ .
3. Let  $H = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & c \\ 0 & 1 & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} : a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}_{12} \right\}$  be a set of  $3 \times 3$  matrices. Prove or disprove that  $H$  is a nilpotent group under ordinary matrix multiplication.
4.
  - (i) Determine the units in  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}] = \{a + b\sqrt{-5} : a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ .
  - (ii) Is 7 irreducible? Prove your answer.
5. Prove or disprove that the ring of Gaussian integers  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  is a PID.

Algebra Qualifier, Part B.

Attempt any four, all questions are worth 10 points.

1.(a) Let  $R$  be a ring with identity and  $M$  a left module for  $R$ . Recall that  $M$  is indecomposable if  $M$  cannot be written as a direct sum of two non-zero submodules. Prove that if  $f : M \rightarrow M$  is a homomorphism of modules then  $f^2 = f$  implies that either  $f = 0$  or  $f = id$ .

(b) Suppose now that  $M$  is decomposable. Prove that there exists  $f : M \rightarrow M$  a homomorphism of modules such that  $f^2 = f$  and  $f$  different from zero and the identity.

2. Suppose that  $R$  is a ring with identity and  $e \in R$  is such that  $e^2 = e$ .

(a) Prove that  $(1 - e)$  has the same property.

(b) Prove that  $Re \cap R(1 - e) = \{0\}$  and hence that  $R = Re \oplus R(1 - e)$ .

(c) Prove that the  $R$ -module  $Re$  is projective.

3. Let  $R$  be a ring with identity. Regard  $R$  as a right  $R$ -module in the usual way and let  $M$  be a right  $R$ -module. Prove that  $Hom_R(R, M) \cong M$  as abelian groups.

4. Consider the ring  $R = C[x]$  of polynomials in an indeterminate  $x$  with coefficients on  $C$ .

(a) Let  $M$  be a torsion free module for  $R$  with two generators. Prove that  $M$  is free of rank at most two.

(b) Prove that if  $M$  is a cyclic  $R$ -module and  $M \neq R$  then  $M$  is torsion. Under what condition on the torsion ideal will  $M$  be simple?

5(a). Prove that if  $A$  and  $B$  are invertible  $n \times n$  matrices with entries in an integral domain  $R$ , then  $A + rB$  is invertible in the quotient field  $K$  for all but finitely many  $r$ .

(b) Prove that the minimal polynomial of a linear transformation of an  $n$ -dimensional vector space has degree at most  $n$ .

6 Suppose that  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  are commuting linear transformation of an  $n$ -dimensional vector space  $E$ . Prove that if  $E_1$  is a  $\Phi$ -invariant subspace of  $E$  then  $E_1$  is also  $\Psi$ -invariant. Use this to prove that if  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  both have linear elementary divisors then there exists a basis of  $E$  with respect to which the matrix  $\Phi$  and the matrix  $\Psi$  are both diagonal.

**ALGEBRA QUAL PART C**  
**10/29/06**

Answers should be self-contained as much as possible. Points for each problem as indicated.

1.  $[4 \times 10]$  Let  $K \subseteq F$  be a finite-dimensional extension.
  - (i) Define what it means for  $F$  to be separable over  $K$ .
  - (ii) Prove from scratch that if  $K$  is a finite field then  $F$  is separable over  $K$ .
  - (iii) Prove that if  $K$  is of characteristic zero then  $F$  is separable over  $K$ .
  - (iv) Give an example of a non-separable finite-dimensional extension.
2.  $[20]$  Let  $K$  be a field with 9 elements. Prove from scratch that  $K$  has an extension of degree 2 and that any two such are isomorphic over  $K$ .
3.  $[4 \times 10]$  Let  $u = \sqrt{3 + \sqrt{2}}$ .
  - (i) Determine the minimal polynomial of  $u$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .
  - (ii) Prove that  $F = \mathbb{Q}(u)$  is a splitting field of  $f$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .
  - (iii) Prove that  $\sqrt{7} \in F$ .
  - (iv) Determine the Galois group of  $F$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

## Algebra Qualifier Part 1, Fall 2005

Answer any four questions.

1. Consider the additive quotient group  $\mathbf{Q}/\mathbf{Z}$ , where  $\mathbf{Q}$  is the set of rational numbers and  $\mathbf{Z}$  the set of integers.

(a) Show that every coset contains exactly one element  $q \in \mathbf{Q}$  with  $0 \leq q \leq 1$ .

(b) Show that every element in  $\mathbf{Q}/\mathbf{Z}$  has finite order but that there are elements of infinitely large order.

(c) Consider now the group  $\mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z}$  where  $\mathbf{R}$  is the set of real numbers. Prove that any element of finite order in  $\mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z}$  is in  $\mathbf{Q}/\mathbf{Z}$ .

2. (a) Exhibit two distinct Sylow 2 subgroups of  $S_5$  and an element of  $S_5$  that conjugates one into another.

(b) How many elements of order 7 are there in a simple group of order 168.

3(a) Prove that  $D_8$  is not isomorphic to  $D_4 \times \mathbf{Z}_2$ .

3(b) Prove that if  $G$  is a group of order  $p^n$ , then it has a normal subgroup of order  $p^k$  for all  $0 \leq k \leq n$ .

4. Let  $F$  be a field and let  $R$  be the subset of  $F[x]$  consisting of polynomials whose coefficient of  $x$  is 0. Prove that  $F$  is a subring of  $R$ . Prove also that  $R$  is not a UFD by showing that  $x^6 \in R$  has two different factorizations in  $R$  into irreducibles.

5. Let  $R$  be a commutative ring. Assume that  $R[x]$  is a principal ideal domain. Prove that (a)  $R$  is a domain, (b) the ideal  $(x)$  of  $R[x]$  generated by  $x$  is prime, (c) explain why  $(x)$  is then maximal and (d) conclude finally that  $R$  must be a field.

Hint: Recall the equivalent conditions for an ideal in a commutative ring to be prime (resp. maximal), and recall also the evaluation homomorphism  $ev_a$  for  $a \in R$ .

October 2005 UCR Rings qualifier

Prove all your claims; proofs must be as self-contained as is feasible. 100 points suffice or a full score.

1.(15 pts) Let  $\phi : R \rightarrow S$  be a homomorphism of commutative unitary rings,  $I < R, J < S$  ideals. Prove or disprove each of the following assertions.

- (i)  $\phi(I)$  is an ideal in  $S$
- (ii) If  $J$  is a prime ideal, so is  $\phi^{-1}(J)$
- (iii) If  $J$  is a maximal ideal, so is  $\phi^{-1}(J)$

2. (20 pts) Let  $R$  be a commutative integral domain,  $S \subset R$  a multiplicative system and  $M$  an  $R$ -module. Prove directly from the definitions that

$$S^{-1}M \simeq S^{-1}R \otimes_R M$$

(isomorphic as  $R$ -modules).

3. (20 pts) (i) Determine with proof  $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Z})$ .  
(ii) Determine with proof whether  $\mathbb{R}$  is a projective  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module.

4.(20 pts) Determine with proof whether the following  $\mathbb{Z}$ -modules are injective:  
(i)  $\mathbb{Q}$ , (ii)  $\mathbb{Z}/12$

5.(40 pts)(i) Let

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Determine with proof the invariant factor and elementary divisor decompositions of the  $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ -module corresponding to  $M$ .

- (ii) Let ditto with  $\mathbb{Q}$  replaced by  $\mathbb{R}$ .
- (iii) Let

$$M' = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Determine with proof whether  $M$  and  $M'$  are similar as matrices over  $\mathbb{Q}$  or  $\mathbb{R}$ .

- (iv) Ditto with  $M'$  replaced by

$$M'' = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$



Algebra Qualifier, Part C

October 30, 2005

**Do four out of the five problems.**

1. Let  $p$  be a prime integer and let  $F_{p^n}$  denote the field with  $p^n$  elements in a fixed algebraic closure of  $F_p$ .
  - (a) Show that  $F_{p^n} \subseteq F_{p^m}$  if and only if  $n|m$ .
  - (b) Let  $q$  be another prime integer and let  $E = \cup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_{p^{q^i}}$ . Show that  $E$  is an infinite extension of  $F_p$  which is not algebraically closed.
2.
  - (a) Factor the polynomial  $X^9 - 1$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .
  - (b) Is  $X^6 + X^3 + 1$  irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$ ? Explain.
  - (c) Give the Galois group of  $X^6 + X^3 + 1$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Explain.
3. Define what it means for a polynomial  $f \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$  to be solvable by radicals over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .
  - (b) Show that  $X^5 - 4X + 2$  is not solvable by radicals over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .
4. Give an example of a finite extension  $E/F$  of fields with infinitely many intermediate fields and explain why your example works.
5. Define the symmetric algebra  $S(M)$  of a  $k$ -module  $M$  and state the universal property that it satisfies.

Algebra Qualifier, Part A

April 10, 2004

**Do four out of the six problems.**

1. Let  $G = \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}$  being considered as additive groups. Prove that for any positive integer  $n$ ,  $G$  has a unique subgroup  $G(n)$  of order  $n$ , and that  $G(n)$  is cyclic.
2. Let  $G$  be a group. Prove that if the group of automorphisms  $\text{Aut}(G)$  of  $G$  is cyclic, then  $G$  is abelian.
3. Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $H \triangleleft G$  a normal subgroup of prime order  $p$ . Prove that  $H$  is contained in each Sylow  $p$ -subgroup of  $G$ .
4. Let  $H < G$  be a proper subgroup of finite index in a group  $G$ . Prove that  $G$  does not equal the union of all subgroups of  $G$  conjugate to  $H$ .
5. Prove that a group of order 40 has a normal Sylow subgroup.
6. Let  $G$  be a finite group. Describe all group homomorphisms  $\varphi : G \rightarrow F_2$ , where  $F_2$  denotes the free group on two elements.

Algebra Qualifier, Part B

April 10, 2004

**Do four out of the six problems.**

1. Let  $I$  and  $J$  be ideals in a commutative unitary ring  $R$  such that  $I + J = R$  and let  $A$  be a left  $R$ -module. Show that  $A/(I \cap J)A \cong A/IA \times A/JA$ .
2. Let  $p$  be a prime integer and let  $Z(p^\infty)$  be the subgroup of the additive group  $\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$  generated by the cosets of the form  $1/p^i + \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $i \geq 0$ . Let  $A$  be a subgroup of a finitely generated group  $B$ . Show that any homomorphism  $f : A \rightarrow Z(p^\infty)$  extends to a homomorphism  $g : B \rightarrow Z(p^\infty)$ .
3. Give an example of a monomorphism  $f : A \rightarrow B$  of abelian groups and an abelian group  $C$  such that the induced homomorphism  $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(B, C) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(A, C)$  is not onto.
4. (a) Sketch the construction of  $A \otimes_R B$ .  
(b) State the universal property of  $A \otimes_R B$ .
5. Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with identity and let  $X$  be an indeterminate. Let  $M$  be a maximal ideal of  $R[X]$  such that  $M \cap R = P$  is a maximal ideal of  $R$ . Show that  $M = fR[X] + PR[X]$  for some monic  $f \in R[X]$  such that the image  $\bar{f}$  of  $f$  in  $(R/P)[X]$  is irreducible. ( $\bar{f}$  is obtained from  $f$  by reducing coefficients mod  $P$ .)
6. Give an example of an integral domain  $R$  which is not a UFD although each element of  $R$  factors into irreducibles in  $R$ . Justify your assertions.

Algebra Qualifier, Part C

April 10, 2004

**Do four out of the six problems.**

1. Suppose that  $F$  is an extension field of  $K$ . Let  $u, v \in F$  be algebraic over  $K$  and assume that the degree of  $u$  is prime to the degree of  $v$  over  $K$ . What is the degree of the extension  $K(u, v)$  over  $K$ ? You must provide a proof for your answer.

2(a). Let  $F$  be an extension field of  $K$ . Define the Galois group of  $F$  over  $K$ . Suppose that  $L$  is a subfield of  $F$  containing  $K$ . When do we say that  $L$  is closed? Let  $G$  be the Galois group of  $F$  over  $K$ . Let  $H$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . When do we say that  $H$  is closed?

2(b). Prove that if  $H$  is a subgroup of  $G$  then its fixed field is closed.

3. Prove that a field  $F$  generated by an infinite set of separable elements is separable.

4. Suppose that  $K$  is the field of rational numbers and let  $f$  be an irreducible polynomial of degree 3 and discriminant  $D$ . Suppose  $D \neq 0$ . Prove that  $D > 0$  iff  $f$  has three real roots. What conclusion can you draw if  $D < 0$ ?

5. Suppose that  $f \in K[x]$  is a monic polynomial whose roots are distinct and form a field. Prove that  $\text{char}K \neq 0$ . What can you say about  $f$  in this case?

6. Define a cyclotomic extension of order  $n$  of a field  $K$ . Define the  $n$ -th cyclotomic polynomial over  $K$ . Suppose that  $F_8$  is a cyclotomic extension of order 8 over the field  $Q$  of rational numbers. Determine the Galois group of  $F_8$  over  $Q$ .

Algebra Qualifier, Part A

October 30, 2004

**Do four out of the five problems.**

1. Let  $R$  be a UFD in which each nonzero prime ideal is maximal. Show that
  - (a) if  $a, b \in R$  and  $(a, b) = 1$ , then  $ax + by = 1$  for some  $x, y \in R$ .
  - (b) Show that each ideal of  $R$  that is generated by two elements is principal.
  
2. (a) Let  $G$  be a finite group and  $H$  a normal subgroup of  $G$ . Show that if  $H$  and  $G/H$  are solvable, then  $G$  is solvable also.  
(b) Show that if  $H$  and  $K$  are solvable normal subgroups of  $G$  with  $HK = G$  and  $H \cap K = \{e\}$ , then  $G$  is solvable.
  
3. Let  $S$  be a multiplicative subset of the commutative ring  $R$  and let  $I$  be an ideal of  $R$ . Show that  $S^{-1}\text{Rad}(I) = \text{Rad}(S^{-1}I)$ , where  $\text{Rad}(J) = \{x \in R \mid x^n \in J \text{ for some positive integer } n\}$ .
  
4. Let  $p$  be a prime integer and let  $G$  be a finite  $p$ -group. Show that  $G$  has a nonzero center.
  
5. Let  $G$  be a finite simple group having a subgroup  $H$  of index  $n$ . Show the  $G$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $S_n$ .

October 2004 UCR Rings qualifier key

1. Let  $R$  be a ring.

(i) Prove that if  $R$  is unitary, then any left (resp. right, 2-sided) ideal is contained in a maximal left (resp. right, 2-sided) ideal.

$\therefore$  use Zorn's Lemma.

(ii) Prove that if  $R$  is unitary and commutative, then an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  is maximal iff  $R/I$  is a field.

$\therefore$  easy.

2.(i) Prove that any nontrivial subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}$  or  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  but not to both.

$\therefore$  For subgroup  $A$ , let  $A_1 = A \cap \mathbb{Z}e_1, A_2 = A/A_1$ , iso to subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}e_2$ . Because  $\mathbb{Z}$  is a PID,  $A_1, A_2$  both iso to zero or  $\mathbb{Z}$  and the surjection  $A \rightarrow A_2$  splits, so  $A \simeq A_1 \oplus A_2$ . Finally,  $\mathbb{Z} \not\simeq \mathbb{Z}^2$ , indeed there is no injective map  $\mathbb{Z}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  because the images of  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  would be proportional.

(ii) Let  $A$  be a subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ . Prove that  $\mathbb{Z}^2/A$  is finite.

$\therefore$  In the above,  $A_1 = me_1, A_2 = ne_2, m, n \neq 0$ . Then  $\mathbb{Z}^2/A$  is generated by 2 elements and killed by  $mn$ , hence finite.

3.(i) Decompose the following as direct sum of cyclic groups:

(a)  $\mathbb{Z}_{12} \otimes \mathbb{Z}_9$

$\therefore \mathbb{Z}_{12} \simeq \mathbb{Z}_4 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_3, \mathbb{Z}_4 \otimes \mathbb{Z}_9 = 0$  because 4 is a unit mod 9,  $\mathbb{Z}_3 \otimes \mathbb{Z}_9$  is cyclic, killed by 3 and surjects to  $\mathbb{Z}_3$ , hence  $\simeq \mathbb{Z}_3$ .

(b)  $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}_{12}, \mathbb{Z}_9)$

$\therefore = \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}_3, \mathbb{Z}_9) =$  group of elements of order 3 in  $\mathbb{Z}_9 \simeq \mathbb{Z}_3$ .

(ii) Let  $A, B$  be finitely generated abelian groups. Prove that  $\text{Hom}(A, B)$  is finitely generated.

$\therefore$  A surjection  $\mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow A$  yields an injection  $\text{Hom}(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}^n, B) = B^n$  and a subgroup of a finitely generated abelian group is finitely generated.

4.(i) Let

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Determine with reason the invariant factor and elementary divisor decompositions of the  $\mathbb{R}[x]$ -module corresponding to  $M$ .

$\therefore$  min poly =  $x(x-1)$ , char poly =  $x^2(x-1)$  so inv factors are  $x, x, (x-1)$ , elem divisors are  $x, x(x-1)$ .

(ii) Let  $M$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix such that  $M^2 = M$ . Prove that there exists  $0 \leq r \leq n$  such that  $M$  is similar to the block matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_r & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\therefore$  If  $M \neq 0, I_n$ , min poly is  $x(x-1)$  with distinct roots so  $M$  is diagonalizable with eigenvalues 0,1.

Algebra Qualifier Part C

PLEASE CIRCLE THE Four PROBLEMS YOU WANT TO BE GRADED.

1. Let  $F$  be a splitting field over  $\mathbb{Q}$  of the polynomial  $x^4 - 4x^2 - 1$ . Let  $g(x) = x^3 + 6x^2 - 12x - 12$ . Does  $g(x)$  have a root in  $F$ ? Prove your answer.
2. Let  $F$  be a splitting field over  $\mathbb{Q}$  of the polynomial  $x^4 - 5$ . Find all the intermediate fields of  $F$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Indicate the ones which are Galois over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Prove your answer.
3. Let  $F_{12}$  be a cyclotomic extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$  of order 12. Determine  $\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{Q}}F_{12}$  and all intermediate fields.
4. Construct a field with 49 elements and give the rules for its addition and multiplication. If  $a$  is a generator, what is the multiplicative inverse of  $1 + a$  in terms of your set of *minimal* generator(s)?
5. Let  $a, b$  be nonzero in some extension field of  $K$ . Assume that  $a$  is separable over  $K$  and  $b$  is purely inseparable over  $K$ . Prove that  $K(a, b) = K(ab) = K(a + b)$ .

Algebra Qualifier, Part A

September 27, 2003

**Do four out of the six problems.**

1. Prove that a group cannot be the union of two proper subgroups.
2. Let  $\mathbb{Q}_{add}$  be the additive group of rational numbers. Prove that any subgroup of  $\mathbb{Q}_{add}$  generated by two distinct elements is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}$ . Use this to prove that  $\mathbb{Q}_{add}$  is not isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Q}_{add} \times \mathbb{Q}_{add}$ .
3. Let  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  be two non-trivial non-isomorphic simple groups. Prove that any proper non-trivial normal subgroup of  $G_1 \times G_2$  coincides with  $G_1$  or  $G_2$ .
4. Prove that a free group that is abelian is either trivial or is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}$ .
5. Describe up to isomorphism all groups of order 121. Prove your answer.
6. Prove that if  $S$  is a Sylow subgroup of a finite group  $G$ , then  $N_G(N_G(S)) = N_G(S)$ .



Algebra Qualifier, Part B

September 27, 2003

Do four out of the six problems.

1. Let  $I$  and  $J$  be ideals of a commutative unitary ring  $R$ . Show that  $I + J = R$  implies that  $I \cap J = IJ$ , and if  $R$  is a PID, the converse holds.
2. Let  $A$  and  $B$  be commutative unitary rings. Given that  $A \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} B$  is a commutative unitary ring with multiplication satisfying  $(a_1 \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} b_1)(a_2 \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} b_2) = (a_1 a_2) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} (b_1 b_2)$ , for  $a_i \in A$ ,  $b_i \in B$ , show that the coproduct of  $A$  and  $B$  exists in the category of commutative unitary rings and unitary ring homomorphisms.
3. Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with unique maximal ideal  $M$ . Let  $A$  be the smallest subring of  $R$  containing the multiplicative identity  $1$  of  $R$ . Show that  $A$  is ring isomorphic to either  $\mathbb{Z}$  or  $\mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z}$  for some  $p$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $p$  prime. (Hint: Consider the idempotents of  $R$ .)
4. Let  $R$  is a commutative Noetherian ring. (So each ideal of  $R$  is finitely generated.) Show that each submodule  $N$  of a finitely generated  $R$ -module  $M$  is finitely generated.
5. Let  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$  be an exact sequence of left  $R$ -modules.
  - (a) What part of the sequence  $0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(C, D) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(B, D) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(A, D) \rightarrow 0$  is exact for every left  $R$ -module  $D$ ? (No proofs required.)
  - (b) Show the the remaining part is exact if and only if the sequence  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$  splits.
6. Let  $K$  be a field and let  $M$  and  $N$  be finitely generated modules over the polynomial ring  $K[X]$ .

Suppose  $M$  has invariant factors  $(X - 1)$ ,  $(X - 1)(X - 2)^2$ ,  $(X - 1)(X - 2)^2(X - 3)$ , and  $N$  has invariant factors  $(X - 2)(X - 3)^2$ ,  $(X - 2)^2(X - 3)^2(X - 5)$ .

  - (a) Give the elementary divisors of  $M \oplus N$ .
  - (b) Give the invariant factors of  $M \oplus N$ .

Algebra Qualifier, Part C

September 27, 2003

1. A complex number is said to be an algebraic number if it is algebraic over  $\mathbb{Q}$  and an algebraic integer if it is a root of a monic polynomial in  $\mathbb{Z}[x]$ .
  - (a) Prove that  $u$  is an algebraic number iff there exists an integer  $n$  such that  $nu$  is an algebraic integer.
  - (b) If  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$  is an algebraic integer prove that  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
  - (c) If  $u$  is an algebraic number prove that  $u + n$  is algebraic for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .
  - (d) Deduce **from the above**, that the sum and product of two algebraic integers is an algebraic integer.
  
2. Let  $F$  be a field extension of  $K$ . Define the Galois group  $G$  of  $F$  over  $K$ . Now define what one means by a stable subfield of this extension. Prove that if  $E$  is a stable intermediate field, then the Galois group of  $F$  over  $E$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ . Conversely, prove that if  $H$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ , then the fixed field of  $H$  is a stable subfield of the extension  $F \supset K$ .
  
3. Let  $F$  be an extension field of  $K$ . Define the maximal algebraic extension of  $K$  in  $F$ . Suppose that for every extension  $F \supseteq K$ , the maximal extension is  $K$ , prove that  $K$  is algebraically closed. Now suppose that  $K$  is algebraically closed and let  $F$  be any extension of  $K$ . Prove that the maximal algebraic extension of  $K$  in  $F$  is  $K$ .
  
4. Let  $F$  be a finite dimensional extension of  $\mathbb{Z}_3$ . Deduce that  $F$  is Galois over  $\mathbb{Z}_3$ . Prove that  $\phi : F \rightarrow F$  given by  $\phi(u) = u^3$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}_3$ -automorphism of  $F$ . Show that  $\phi$  generates the Galois group of  $F$  over  $\mathbb{Z}_3$ .
  
- 5(a). Let  $K = \mathbb{Q}(i)$ . Let  $F \subset \mathbb{C}$  be a field that contains a root of the polynomial  $x^4 - 2 \in K[x]$ . Prove that  $F$  is the splitting field of this polynomial. What is the Galois group of this polynomial? Determine the subfields of this extension.
- 5(b). Let  $E$  be an algebraic extension of a field  $K$ . Prove that there exists an extension  $F$  of  $E$  such that  $F$  is normal over  $K$  and no proper subfield of  $F$  containing  $E$  is normal over  $K$ .

Algebra Qualifier, Part A

September 28, 2002

**Do 4 problems.**

1. Show that if a positive integer  $d$  divides the order  $n$  of a finite cyclic group  $G$ , then  $G$  has a unique subgroup of order  $d$ .
2. Show that there are no simple groups of order 200.
3. Let  $H$  be a subgroup of a group  $G$  with  $(G : H) = n$ .
  - (a) Show  $H$  contains a normal subgroup  $K$  such that  $(G : K)$  divides  $n!$ .
  - (b) Show that if  $G$  is finite and  $n = p$  is the smallest prime dividing  $|G|$ , then  $H$  is normal.
4. Show that each finite  $p$ -group is solvable.
5. Show that in a principal ideal domain every non-zero prime ideal is maximal.
6. Let  $R$  be a commutative unitary ring. An ideal  $I$  of  $R$  is said to be *primary* if  $a, b \in R$ , and  $ab \in I$  imply  $a \in I$  or  $b^n \in I$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Assume  $I$  is primary and  $S$  is a multiplicative subset of  $R$  such that  $S \cap I = \emptyset$ . Show that  $S^{-1}I$  is a primary ideal of  $S^{-1}R$ .



Prove or disprove 3-9

3). Let  $R$  be any ring, and let  $A, B, C, D$  be  $R$ -modules  
If  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$  is a short exact sequence of  
 $R$ -modules, then

(i)  $0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(D, A) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(D, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(D, C) \rightarrow 0$  is a  
short exact sequence of  $R$ -modules.

(ii)  $0 \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(C, D) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(B, D) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_R(A, D) \rightarrow 0$  is a  
short exact sequence of  $R$ -modules.

4). Let  $R, A, B, C, D$  be as in (3), and  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$

(i)  $0 \rightarrow A \otimes_R D \rightarrow B \otimes_R D \rightarrow C \otimes_R D \rightarrow 0$

(ii)  $A \otimes_R B \cong A \otimes_R C \Rightarrow B \cong C$

5) (i) a torsion-free module is projective.

(ii) a projective module is torsion-free.

(iii) a torsion-free module is free.

6) (i) a free module is torsion-free.

(ii) a projective module is free.

(iii) a free module is projective.

7. (i) A submodule of a free module is free.  
(ii) A submodule of a finitely generated module is finitely generated.

8).  $X^{10} + \pi X^7 + \pi X + \pi$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 9). & A_1 & \longrightarrow & A_2 & \longrightarrow & A_3 & \longrightarrow & A_4 \\ & \downarrow d_1 & & \downarrow d_2 & & \downarrow d_3 & & \downarrow d_4 \\ & B_1 & \longrightarrow & B_2 & \longrightarrow & B_3 & \longrightarrow & B_4 \end{array}$$

$d_4$  is one-to-one and  $d_1, d_3$  are onto  
 $\Rightarrow d_2$  is onto.

### Algebra Qualifying Examination, Part 3

Answer any four questions.

1. Prove that if  $f \in K[x]$  is a polynomial of degree  $n$ , then there exists an extension of  $K$  in which  $f$  has a root. Consider the example  $f(x) = x^3 - 5x - 2 \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ , let  $u$  be a real root of this polynomial. What is the natural basis of  $\mathbb{Q}(u)$  and write the element  $x^4 - 3x + 1$  as a linear combination of the basis elements.

2. Let  $F$  be a finite-dimensional Galois extension of  $K$  and  $E$  an intermediate field. Prove that there exists a unique smallest field  $L$  between  $E$  and  $F$  which is Galois over  $K$  and prove that

$$\text{Aut}_L F = \bigcap_{\sigma \in \text{Gal}(F/K)} \sigma(\text{Aut}_E F)\sigma^{-1}.$$

3. Prove that  $F$  is an algebraic closure of  $K$  iff  $F$  is algebraic over  $K$  and for every algebraic field extension  $E_1$  of another field  $K_1$  and isomorphism of fields  $\sigma : K_1 \rightarrow K$ ,  $\sigma$  extends to a monomorphism  $E \rightarrow F$ .

4. (a) Compute the Galois group of  $x^3 - 10$  over  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$ .

(b) Prove that if  $F$  is Galois over  $E$ ,  $E$  Galois over  $K$  and  $F$  is a splitting field of polynomials in  $K[x]$ , then  $F$  is Galois over  $K$ .

5. Let  $F$  be an algebraic closure of  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . Prove that

(a)  $F$  is algebraic Galois over  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ .

(b) The map  $\phi : F \rightarrow F$  given by  $u \rightarrow u^p$  is a non-identity  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -automorphism of  $F$ .

(c) What is the fixed field of the subgroup of  $\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{Z}_p} F$  generated by  $\phi$ .

Algebra Qualifier. Part A

November 17, 2001

Do 4 problems.

1. Show that the symmetric group  $S_3$  is not isomorphic to a direct product of two of its proper subgroups.
2. Show that a group of order 77 has exactly one subgroup of order 11.
3. Prove that if  $G$  is a group and  $G/C(G)$  is cyclic, then  $G$  is abelian, where  $C(G)$  is the center of  $G$ .
4. Describe explicitly all free groups which are abelian.
5. Prove that if  $H$  is a cyclic normal subgroup of  $G$ , then every subgroup of  $H$  is normal in  $G$ .
6. How many elements of order 7 are there in a simple group of order 168? Prove your answer.



Algebra Qualifier, Part B

November 17, 2001

**Do 4 problems.**

1. Let  $R$  be an integral domain. Show that  $R$  is a PID if each finitely generated torsion-free  $R$ -module is free.
2. Show that if  $\text{Hom}_R(D, \ )$  preserves exactness of  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$  for each  $D$ , the sequence  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow 0$  splits.
3. If  $X, Y$  are independent indeterminates over the commutative ring  $R$ , show  $R[X] \otimes_R R[X] \cong R[X, Y]$  as  $R$ -algebras.
4. Let  $B$  be an abelian group and let  $A$  be a subgroup of  $B$ . Show that any homomorphism  $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$  extends to a homomorphism  $\bar{f} : B \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$ .
5. Let  $R$  be a commutative unitary ring. Show that each injective  $R$ -module is divisible.
6. Prove that  $3 \times 3$  matrices  $A$  and  $B$  over a field  $K$  are similar if they have the same minimal polynomials and the same characteristic polynomials.

Algebra Qualifying Exam, Part C

Answer any four of the following six questions.

- (a) Suppose that  $F = \mathbf{Q}(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n)$  where  $\alpha_i^2 \in \mathbf{Q}$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Prove that  $\sqrt[3]{2} \notin \mathbf{Q}$ .

(b) Determine the degree of the extension of  $\mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{32\sqrt{2}})$  over  $\mathbf{Q}$ .
- (a) Determine the splitting field and its degree over  $\mathbf{Q}$  for  $x^6 - 4$ .

(b) Prove that the polynomial  $x^{p^n} - x$  over  $\mathbf{Z}_p$  is separable.
- For any integer  $r \geq 1$ , let  $\mathbf{F}_{p^r}$  be a finite field of cardinality  $p^r$ . Prove that  $\mathbf{F}_{p^r} \subset \mathbf{F}_{p^s}$  if and only if  $r$  divides  $s$ . (Hint. First prove that  $r$  divides  $s$  if and only if  $x^r - 1$  divides  $x^s - 1$ .)
- Determine the Galois group of  $(x^3 - 2)(x^3 - 3)$  over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Determine the subfields which contain  $\mathbf{Q}(\rho)$  where  $\rho$  is a primitive cube root of unity.
- Determine the splitting field of  $x^p - x - 1$  over  $\mathbf{Z}_p$  and prove explicitly that the Galois group is cyclic.
- Determine the Galois group of  $(x^2 - 2)(x^2 - 3)(x^2 - 5)$  and let  $F/\mathbf{Q}$  be the splitting field of this polynomial. Determine all subfields  $L \subset F$  which are galois over  $\mathbf{Q}$ .

Algebra Qualifying Examination, 2000

Answer any 6.

1. Give examples of abelian groups  $A, B$  satisfying  
(i)  $A \otimes B = 0$ , (ii)  $A \otimes A \cong A$ .
2. Let  $R$  be a ring with identity. Assume that  $M$  is a simple module for  $R$ . Prove that  $M$  is cyclic and that any non-zero  $R$  module endomorphism of  $M$  is an isomorphism.
3. Prove that a module  $P$  over a ring  $R$  is projective if and only if  $P$  is a summand of a free module.
4. If  $A$  is any abelian group, compute  $\text{Hom}(Z_m, A)$ . What can you say about  $Z_m^*$ ?
5. Prove that a free module over a pid is torsion free and give an example to show that the converse is false.
6. What are the invariant factors of  $Z_n \oplus Z_m$ , regarded as modules over  $Z$ .
7. Prove that if  $m > n$ , any alternating multilinear form on  $(R^n)^m = 0$ , here  $R$  is any commutative ring.
8. Prove that if  $q$  is the minimal polynomial of a linear transformation of vector space  $E$ , then  $\deg q \leq \dim E$ .

Choose 5 problems. (20% each)

- 1). (a) Find all subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}_{48}$ .  
(b) Find all ideals of the ring  $\mathbb{Z}_{48}$ .  
(c) Which ideals in (b) are maximal? Which are prime?
- 2) Find all normal subgroups of  $D_{11}$ .

Prove or disprove the following

- 3) A group of order 375 is simple.
- 4) There is a non abelian group  $G$  s.t.  $|G|=125$  and  $|C(G)|=25$ .
- 5).  $\mathbb{R}[X, Y]$  is a PID, but  $\mathbb{Z}[X]$  is not a PID.  
( $X, Y$  are indeterminants)
- 6).  $\mathbb{Z}[i]$  is a UFD.
- 7). Let  $p$  be a fixed prime number.  
Let  $R = \left\{ \frac{a}{b} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, p \nmid b \right\}$ . Then  $R$  is a local ring

Algebra Qualifier Part C: Fall 2000

1. Let  $K$  be a field containing a primitive  $n$ th root of 1,  $\zeta$ , where the characteristic of  $K$  is either 0 or does not divide  $n$ , and let  $F$  be a field extension of degree  $n$  over  $K$ .

(i) Prove that if  $n = 2$  then  $F$  is cyclic Galois over  $K$ .

(ii) Assume  $F$  is cyclic Galois over  $K$  (any  $n$ ), and let  $\sigma$  be a generator of  $\text{Gal}(F/K)$ , considered as an endomorphism of  $F$  as  $K$ -vector space. Show that  $\zeta$  is an eigenvalue of  $\sigma$ .

(iii) Conclude from (ii) or prove otherwise that, with assumptions as in (ii),  $F$  is a radical extension of  $K$ .

2. Let  $G$  be a finite group. Prove that there exists a finite Galois field extension  $K \subseteq F$  with Galois group  $G$ .

3. Let  $K \subseteq F$  be a field extension. Prove or disprove the following

(i) If  $\text{Gal}(F/K) \simeq S_3$  then  $F$  is a splitting field over  $K$  of some cubic polynomial.

(ii) Ditto, assuming in addition that  $F$  is Galois over  $K$ .

4. Let  $f(x) = x^{11} + 5x^3 + 10 \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  and let  $\alpha$  be a root of  $f$  in  $\mathbb{C}$ . Let  $g(x) = x^{19} + 6x^5 - 12$ . Does  $g$  have a root in  $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$ ? Prove your answer.

5. Find with proof a transcendence base over  $\mathbb{Q}$  of

$$\mathbb{Q}(x^5, x^2 + y^5, x^3 + y^4).$$

Algebra Qualifier, Parts A and B

December 10, 1999

**Do 8 problems.**

1. Let  $K \subseteq H$  be subgroups of the finite group  $G$ , which are not necessarily normal. Show  $(G : K) = (G : H)(H : K)$ , where the notation  $(A : B)$  denotes the number of left cosets of  $B$  in  $A$ .
2. Let the group  $G$  operate on the set  $S$ , and suppose that  $s, t \in S$  are in the same orbit under the operation. Show that the isotropy groups  $G_s$  and  $G_t$  are conjugate. That is, there exists  $g \in G$  such that  $g^{-1}G_s g = G_t$ . (Recall that  $G_s = \{x \in G \mid xs = s\}$ .)
3. Show that each group of order  $p^2$ ,  $p$  prime, is abelian.
4. (a) Define *free group*  $F(X)$  on a set  $X$ .  
(b) Define *coproduct*  $(G, \{\phi_i\}_{i \in I})$  of a family  $\{G_i \mid i \in I\}$  of groups.  
(c) Show that if  $(G, \phi_1, \phi_2)$  is a coproduct of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  with  $G_i$  isomorphic to the additive group of integers  $Z$ , then  $G \cong F(\{a, b\})$ .  
(d) Is  $F(\{a, b\})$  abelian?
5. Show that the direct sum of an arbitrary family of injective abelian groups is injective. (Hint: divisible.)
6. (a) Determine the units in  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}] = \{a + b\sqrt{-5} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ .  
(b) Show that  $1 + \sqrt{-5}$  and  $2$  are irreducible in  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}]$ .
7. (a) Give an example of an integral domain  $R$  and ideals  $I$  and  $J$  of  $R$  such that  $IJ \neq I \cap J$ .  
(b) Show that if  $I + J = R$  then  $IJ = I \cap J$ .
8. Give an example of a monomorphism  $f : A \rightarrow B$  of abelian groups and an abelian group  $C$  such that the induced homomorphism  $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(B, C) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(A, C)$  is not onto.

9. Show that if  $R$  is a PID and  $M = R/a_1R \oplus R/a_2R \oplus \cdots \oplus R/a_mR$ , with  $R \neq a_1R \supseteq a_2R \supseteq \cdots \supseteq a_mR$ , then  $M$  cannot be generated by fewer than  $m$ -elements.

10. Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & & & & & & & & & & & \\ & -1 & & & & & & & & & & \\ & & 1 & & & & & & & & & \\ & & & 1 & & & & & & & & \\ & & & & 1 & & & & & & & \\ & & & & & 1 & & & & & & \\ & & & & & & 1 & & & & & \\ & & & & & & & -1 & & & & \\ & & & & & & & & 2 & & & \\ & & & & & & & & & & -1 & \\ & & & & & & & & & & & \end{bmatrix}.$$

Find the minimal polynomial and the rational canonical form of  $A$ .

Algebra Qualifier, Part C

December 10, 1999

**Do 4 problems.**

1. Let  $F$  be a splitting field of  $X^{18} - 1$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Determine all intermediate fields  $F \supseteq \mathbb{Q}$ . How many of them are Galois over  $\mathbb{Q}$ ?
2. Find all roots of unity in  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{11})$ .

**Prove or disprove.**

3. The polynomial  $X^{625} - X - 1$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Z}_5$ .
4. Let  $F$  be a degree 4 extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$ . If any proper subfield of  $F$  is Galois over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , then  $F$  is Galois over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .
5. For field extensions, being separable (respectively, purely inseparable) is transitive.
6. Let  $F > k$  be fields.  
 $[F : k] = \infty \Rightarrow \text{tr.d.}_k F > 0$ .  
 $[F : k] < \infty \Rightarrow \text{tr.d.}_k F = 0$ .  
 $\text{tr.d.}_k F < \infty \Rightarrow \text{tr.d.}_k F = [F : k]$ .



Algebra Qualifier, Parts A and B

December 10, 1999

**Do 8 problems.**

1. Let  $K \subseteq H$  be subgroups of the finite group  $G$ , which are not necessarily normal. Show  $(G : K) = (G : H)(H : K)$ , where the notation  $(A : B)$  denotes the number of left cosets of  $B$  in  $A$ .
2. Let the group  $G$  operate on the set  $S$ , and suppose that  $s, t \in S$  are in the same orbit under the operation. Show that the isotropy groups  $G_s$  and  $G_t$  are conjugate. That is, there exists  $g \in G$  such that  $g^{-1}G_s g = G_t$ . (Recall that  $G_s = \{x \in G \mid xs = s\}$ .)
3. Show that each group of order  $p^2$ ,  $p$  prime, is abelian.
4. (a) Define *free group*  $F(X)$  on a set  $X$ .  
(b) Define *coproduct*  $(G, \{\phi_i\}_{i \in I})$  of a family  $\{G_i \mid i \in I\}$  of groups.  
(c) Show that if  $(G, \phi_1, \phi_2)$  is a coproduct of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  with  $G_i$  isomorphic to the additive group of integers  $Z$ , then  $G \cong F(\{a, b\})$ .  
(d) Is  $F(\{a, b\})$  abelian?
5. Show that the direct sum of an arbitrary family of injective abelian groups is injective. (Hint: divisible.)
6. (a) Determine the units in  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-5}] = \{a + b\sqrt{-5} \mid a, b \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ .  
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8. Give an example of a monomorphism  $f : A \rightarrow B$  of abelian groups and an abelian group  $C$  such that the induced homomorphism  $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(B, C) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(A, C)$  is not onto.

9. Show that if  $R$  is a PID and  $M = R/a_1R \oplus R/a_2R \oplus \cdots \oplus R/a_mR$ , with  $R \neq a_1R \supseteq a_2R \supseteq \cdots \supseteq a_mR$ , then  $M$  cannot be generated by fewer than  $m$ -elements.

10. Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & & & & & & & & \\ & -1 & & & & & & & \\ & & 1 & & & & & & \\ & & & 1 & & & & & \\ & & & 1 & 1 & & & & \\ & & & & & -1 & & & \\ & & & & & & 2 & & \\ & & & & & & & -1 & \end{bmatrix}.$$

Find the minimal polynomial and the rational canonical form of  $A$ .

Algebra Qualifier, Part C

December 10, 1999

**Do 4 problems.**

1. Let  $F$  be a splitting field of  $X^{18} - 1$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Determine all intermediate fields  $F \supseteq \mathbb{Q}$ . How many of them are Galois over  $\mathbb{Q}$ ?
2. Find all roots of unity in  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{11})$ .

**Prove or disprove.**

3. The polynomial  $X^{625} - X - 1$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Z}_5$ .
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5. For field extensions, being separable (respectively, purely inseparable) is transitive.
6. Let  $F > k$  be fields.  
 $[F : k] = \infty \Rightarrow \text{tr.d.}_k F > 0$ .  
 $[F : k] < \infty \Rightarrow \text{tr.d.}_k F = 0$ .  
 $\text{tr.d.}_k F < \infty \Rightarrow \text{tr.d.}_k F = [F : k]$ .

ALGEBRA QUALIFIER - PART A - Nov. 14, 1998

Separate paper for each part.  
Choose four problems.

1. (a) Find all the subgroups of  $\mathbb{Z}_{24}$ .
- (b) Find all the ideals in the ring  $\mathbb{Z}_{24}$ .
- (c) Which of these ideals are maximal and which are prime?

In problems 2-5a, prove or disprove.

2. If  $(P, \{\pi_i\})$  and  $(Q, \{\psi_i\})$  are both products of the family  $\{A_i | i \in I\}$  of objects of a category  $G$ , then  $P$  and  $Q$  are equivalent.
3. A group of order 250 is simple.
4. Let  $R$  be an integral domain. Then  
 $R$  is Euclidean  $\Leftrightarrow R$  is a  $PID$   $\Leftrightarrow R$  is a  $U.F.D.$
5. (a) Let  $R = \mathbb{Z}_6$ ,  $S_1 = \{1, 3\}$ , and  $S_2 = \{1, 2, 4\}$ . Then  $S_i^{-1}R$  is a field.
- (b) How many elements does  $S_i^{-1}R$  have?

## ALGEBRA QUALIFIER PART B, 11/14/98

Throughout  $R$  denotes a commutative ring with unit element,  $M$  a unitary  $R$ -module and  $k$  a field.

1. (i) Prove that if  $R$  is an integral domain with fraction field  $K$  and  $M$  is a torsion-free  $R$ -module, then  $M$  is isomorphic to an  $R$ -submodule of the  $K$ -vector space  $M \otimes_R K$ .

(ii) Prove (from scratch) that if  $R$  is a principal ideal domain and  $M$  a finitely generated torsion-free  $R$ -module such that  $M \otimes_R K$  is 1-dimensional as  $K$ -vector space, then  $M \simeq R$  as  $R$ -modules (i.e.  $M$  is free of rank 1).

(iii) Give (with proof) an example of two nonzero  $\mathbb{Z}$ -modules whose tensor product is zero. (iv) Prove that if  $R$  is an integral domain but not a field then its field of fractions is torsion-free, but is not a submodule of a free  $R$ -module.

2. (i) State with proof a correspondence between {pairs  $(V, L)$  where  $V$  is a finite-dimensional  $k$ -vector space and  $L$  is a linear transformation on  $V$ } and {finitely generated torsion  $k[X]$ -modules  $M$ }.

(ii) Determine with proof the pair  $(V, L)$  corresponding to a cyclic  $k[X]$ -module  $k[X]/(f)$ ,  $f \in k[X]$  nonzero, and compute the minimal polynomial and the characteristic polynomial of  $L$ .

(iii) In the general case, interpret with proof the minimal polynomial and the characteristic polynomial of a linear transformation  $L$  in terms of the corresponding module  $M$ .

3. Let  $V$  be an  $n$ -dimensional  $k$ -vector space.

(i) State the definition of  $\bigwedge^m(V)$  ;

(ii) Prove that if  $m > n$  then  $\bigwedge^m(V) = 3D(0)$ .

(iii) Prove that the dimension of  $\bigwedge^2(V)$  is  $\binom{n}{2}$ .

Algebra Qualifying Exam - Part C - Nov. 14, 1998

Separate paper for each part.

Answer any three questions.  $F$  will always denote an extension field of  $K$ .

- 1(a) Let  $u \in F$  be an element of odd degree over  $K$ , prove that  $K(u) = K(u^2)$ .
- (b) Compute the Galois group of  $x^3 - x - 1$  over  $Q$ .
- (c) If  $f \in K[x]$  has degree  $n$  and  $F$  is its splitting field prove that  $[F:K]$  divides  $n!$ .
  
2. Prove that  $Aut_K K(x)$  is finite. Deduce that if  $K$  is finite then  $K(x)$  is not a Galois extension. Determine the closed subgroups of  $Aut_K K(x)$  when  $K$  is infinite.
  
3. Prove that in a finite field of characteristic  $p$ , every element has a unique  $p^{th}$  root in it. If  $F$  is a finite extension of a finite field  $K$  of characteristic  $p$ , prove that  $Aut_K F$  is cyclic.
  
4. Let  $F$  be an algebraically closed extension of  $K$  of finite transcendence degree, prove that every  $K$ -monomorphism of  $F$  to itself is actually an automorphism.

Give an example of a field extension which is transcendental of finite degree and give an example of a field extension of infinite transcendental degree.

Algebra Qualifying Exam, 1996, Part 1

Attempt any 5.

1. Let  $F$  be a field. Prove that  $F$  contains a unique smallest subfield  $F_0$  and that  $F_0$  is isomorphic to either  $\mathbb{Q}$  or to  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  for some prime  $p$ .
2. Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with identity. Prove that a polynomial ring in more than one variable is not a principal ideal domain.
3. Let  $P$  be a prime ideal in a commutative ring with 1 and let  $D$  be the set  $R - P$ . Show that the ring of fractions  $D^{-1}R$  is defined and that it has a unique maximal ideal.
4. Let  $\phi : R \rightarrow S$  be a homomorphism of rings. Prove that the inverse image in  $R$  of a prime ideal in  $S$  is either  $R$  or a prime ideal.
5. Let  $A$  and  $B$  be finite groups. Prove that the number of Sylow- $p$  subgroups in  $A \times B$  is the product of the number of Sylow- $p$  subgroups in  $A$  and  $B$ .
6. Let  $G$  be a cyclic group of order  $n$  and assume that  $k$  is prime to  $n$ . Prove that the map  $x \rightarrow x^k$  is surjective. Now prove that the same result holds for any finite group  $G$  of order  $n$  and for  $k$  prime to  $n$ .
7. Let  $C$  be a normal subgroup of  $A$  and  $D$  a normal subgroup of  $B$ . Prove that  $C \times D$  is a normal subgroup of  $A \times B$  and that the corresponding quotient group is isomorphic to  $A/C \times B/D$ .

## Algebra Qualifier, Part II

1. Describe all maximal ideals in the polynomial ring  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Prove your answer.
2. Let  $R$  be a ring. A left  $R$ -module  $M$  is called *simple* iff  $M \neq \{0\}$  and  $M$  has no proper submodule. Prove that for any simple left  $R$ -module the endomorphism ring  $\text{Hom}_R(M, M)$  is a division ring.
3. Consider the  $\mathbb{C}[x]$ -module structure on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  defined by

$$p(x) \cdot v = (p(A))(v),$$

where  $v \in \mathbb{C}^n$ ,  $p(x) \in \mathbb{C}[x]$ , and  $A$  is the  $n \times n$ -matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & & & & 0 \\ i & & & & \\ & 0 & & & \\ & & i & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & & i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

(where  $i^2 = -1$ ). Decompose  $\mathbb{C}^n$  according to the structure theorem for modules over principle ideal domains.

4. Let  $V$  be an  $n$ -dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{R}$ . Establish a canonical isomorphism between  $\Lambda^k(V)$  and  $\Lambda^{n-k}(V^*) \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \Lambda^n(V)$ , where  $k$  is any fixed positive integer less or equal  $n$  and  $V^*$  is the space dual to  $V$ . (A canonical isomorphism between two vector spaces  $V'$  and  $V''$  is an isomorphism which does not depend on the choice of bases in  $V'$  and  $V''$ ).



Algebra Qualifier, Part C. November, 1996

1. Suppose  $E$  is a Galois extension field of degree 7 over  $F$ .  
What can you say about a group of automorphisms of  $E$  whose elements fix each element of  $F$ ? Prove your answer.
2. Let  $E$  be the field obtained from the rationals  $\mathbb{Q}$  by adjoining a cube root of 3. Determine the Galois group of  $E$  (over  $\mathbb{Q}$ ).
3. Let  $f$  be a polynomial of degree  $n$  over  $F$  and let  $E$  be a splitting field of  $f$  over  $F$ . Prove that the degree of  $E$  over  $F$  is at most  $n!$ .
4. What can you say about the cardinality of an algebraic closure of the field of 3 elements? Sketch a proof of your answer.
5. Let  $F$  be a field of 4 elements. Prove that there exists an extension field of degree 2 over  $F$ .

Algebra Qualifying Exam, 1996, Part 1

Attempt any 5.

1. Let  $F$  be a field. Prove that  $F$  contains a unique smallest subfield  $F_0$  and that  $F_0$  is isomorphic to either  $\mathbb{Q}$  or to  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  for some prime  $p$ .
2. Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with identity. Prove that a polynomial ring in more than one variable is not a principal ideal domain.
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## Algebra Qualifier, Part II

1. Describe all maximal ideals in the polynomial ring  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Prove your answer.
2. Let  $R$  be a ring. A left  $R$ -module  $M$  is called *simple* iff  $M \neq \{0\}$  and  $M$  has no proper submodule. Prove that for any simple left  $R$ -module the endomorphism ring  $\text{Hom}_R(M, M)$  is a division ring.
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1. Let  $F$  be a field. Prove that  $F$  contains a unique smallest subfield  $F_0$  and that  $F_0$  is isomorphic to either  $\mathbb{Q}$  or to  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  for some prime  $p$ .
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## Algebra Qualifier, Part II

1. Describe all maximal ideals in the polynomial ring  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Prove your answer.
2. Let  $R$  be a ring. A left  $R$ -module  $M$  is called *simple* iff  $M \neq \{0\}$  and  $M$  has no proper submodule. Prove that for any simple left  $R$ -module the endomorphism ring  $\text{Hom}_R(M, M)$  is a division ring.
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where  $v \in \mathbb{C}^n$ ,  $p(x) \in \mathbb{C}[x]$ , and  $A$  is the  $n \times n$ -matrix

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1. Suppose  $E$  is a Galois extension field of degree 7 over  $F$ .  
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5. Let  $F$  be a field of 4 elements. Prove that there exists an extension field of degree 2 over  $F$ .

August 26, 1995

Algebra Qualifier, Part I

1. Define normal subgroup. Give an example of a subgroup that is normal and one that is not.
2. Let the group  $G$  operate on the set  $S$ , and suppose that  $s, t \in S$  are in the same orbit under the operation. Show that the isotropy groups  $G_s$  and  $G_t$  are conjugate. That is, there exists  $g \in G$  such that  $g^{-1}G_s g = G_t$ . (Recall that  $G_s = \{g \in G \mid gs = s\}$ .)
3. Let  $p$  be a prime integer and let  $G$  be a finite  $p$ -group. Show that  $G$  has a nonzero center.
4. Let  $G$  be a finite group of order  $p^n q$ ,  $p$  and  $q$  primes with  $p > q$ . Show that  $G$  is not simple.
5. Show that every group of order  $p^2$ ,  $p$  a prime, is abelian.
6. Let  $p$  be a prime integer and let  $Z(p^\infty)$  be the subgroup of the additive group  $\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$  generated by the cosets of the form  $1/p^i$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $i \geq 0$ . Let  $A$  be a subgroup of a finitely generated group  $B$ . Show that any homomorphism  $f : A \rightarrow Z(p^\infty)$  extends to a homomorphism  $g : B \rightarrow Z(p^\infty)$ .



Algebra Qualifying Exam Part B August 27, 1995

In problems 1, 2 and 4,  $R$  is a commutative ring with 1, and all  $R$ -modules considered are assumed to be unitary.

1. a) Define: an  $R$ -module is projective.

b) Prove that if  $R$  is a field then any  $R$ -module is projective.

2. a) Given  $R$ -modules  $M$  and  $N$ , and their tensor product

$$A = M \otimes_R N$$

as an abelian group, state a way of making each element of  $R$  act on  $A$  so that  $A$  becomes an  $R$ -module.

b) Prove that the action you gave in part a) is well-defined.

3. a) Suppose  $F$  is a given field, and that  $c$  and  $d$  are two distinct elements of  $F$ . Determine the number of similarity classes of matrices (over  $F$ ) with characteristic polynomial

$$(x-c)^2(x-d)^2 .$$

b) State the result for finite abelian groups which corresponds to your result for part a).

4. Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module, and let  $H$  be the set of all  $m$  in  $M$  such that  $rm = 0$  implies  $r = 0$  or  $m = 0$ .

a) Prove that if  $R$  is a principal ideal domain (PID) and  $M$  is cyclic then  $H$  is a submodule of  $M$ .

b) Is the result in part a) true if the hypothesis that  $R$  be a PID is just deleted? -- Give a proof or counterexample.

Algebra Qualifying Exam, 1995. Part 3

1. Let  $\alpha = \sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2}}$ .
  - (a) Find the minimum polynomial of  $\alpha$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . What are its other roots?
  - (b) Prove that  $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$  is the splitting field of  $\alpha$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .
  - (c) Write down all the automorphisms of  $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .
  - (d) Prove that the Galois group of  $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)/\mathbb{Q}$  is cyclic.
  - (e) Determine the intermediate fields of the extension  $\mathbb{Q} \subset \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$ .
2. (a) Let  $p$  be a prime and let  $F = \mathbb{Z}_p$ . Determine the number of irreducible polynomials of type  $x^2 + cx + d$  where  $c, d \in F$ .
  - (b) Let  $f(x)$  be one of the polynomials described in (a). Prove that  $K = F[x]/(f)$  is a field containing  $p^2$  elements, and that the elements of  $K$  have the form  $a + b\alpha$  where  $a, b \in F$  and  $\alpha$  is a root of  $f$  in  $K$ . Prove also that every such element  $a + b\alpha$  with  $b \neq 0$  is a root of an irreducible quadratic polynomial in  $F[x]$ .
  - (c) Show that every polynomial of degree 2 in  $F[x]$  has a root in  $K$ . (Hint: Any two fields containing  $p^2$  elements are isomorphic.)
3. Determine the splitting field of the polynomial  $f(x) = (x^2 - 2x - 1)(x^2 - 2x - 7)$ .

August 26, 1995

Algebra Qualifier, Part I

1. Define normal subgroup. Give an example of a subgroup that is normal and one that is not.
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3. Let  $p$  be a prime integer and let  $G$  be a finite  $p$ -group. Show that  $G$  has a nonzero center.
4. Let  $G$  be a finite group of order  $p^n q$ ,  $p$  and  $q$  primes with  $p > q$ . Show that  $G$  is not simple.
5. Show that every group of order  $p^2$ ,  $p$  a prime, is abelian.
6. Let  $p$  be a prime integer and let  $Z(p^\infty)$  be the subgroup of the additive group  $\mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$  generated by the cosets of the form  $1/p^i$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $i \geq 0$ . Let  $A$  be a subgroup of a finitely generated group  $B$ . Show that any homomorphism  $f : A \rightarrow Z(p^\infty)$  extends to a homomorphism  $g : B \rightarrow Z(p^\infty)$ .

Algebra Qualifying Exam Part B August 27, 1995

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2. a) Given  $R$ -modules  $M$  and  $N$ , and their tensor product  $A = M \otimes_R N$  as an abelian group, state a way of making each element of  $R$  act on  $A$  so that  $A$  becomes an  $R$ -module.  
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3. a) Suppose  $F$  is a given field, and that  $c$  and  $d$  are two distinct elements of  $F$ . Determine the number of similarity classes of matrices (over  $F$ ) with characteristic polynomial  $(x-c)^2(x-d)^2$ .  
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4. Let  $M$  be an  $R$ -module, and let  $H$  be the set of all  $m$  in  $M$  such that  $rm = 0$  implies  $r = 0$  or  $m = 0$ .  
a) Prove that if  $R$  is a principal ideal domain (PID) and  $M$  is cyclic then  $H$  is a submodule of  $M$ .  
b) Is the result in part a) true if the hypothesis that  $R$  be a PID is just deleted? -- Give a proof or counterexample.

Algebra Qualifying Exam, 1995, Part 3

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  - (e) Determine the intermediate fields of the extension  $\mathbb{Q} \subset \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$ .
2. (a) Let  $p$  be a prime and let  $F = \mathbb{Z}_p$ . Determine the number of irreducible polynomials of type  $x^2 + cx + d$  where  $c, d \in F$ .
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August 26, 1995

Algebra Qualifier, Part I

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Algebra Qualifying Exam Part B August 27, 1995

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August 26, 1995

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Algebra Qualifying Exam Part B August 27, 1995

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August 26, 1995

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February 12, 1994

Algebra Qualifier. Part 1

1. Give an example of a polynomial  $p(x) \in Z_{10}[x]$  of degree  $n$  for some  $n$  which has more than  $n$  zeros. Can you give an example of such a polynomial in  $Z_{13}[x]$ . Explain your answer.
  
2. (a) Find all the subgroups of  $Z_{18}$ .  
(b) Find all the ideals in the ring  $Z_{18}$ .  
(c) Which of these ideals are maximal and which are prime?
  
3. Prove that every group of order 45 has a normal subgroup of order 9.
  
4. Let  $G$  be a group of order  $p^n$ . Assume that the center  $Z(G)$  has order  $\geq p^{n-1}$ . Prove that  $G$  is abelian.
  
5. Let  $G$  be a finite group and let  $N$  be a normal subgroup of  $G$ . Let  $\phi : G \rightarrow G/N$  be the canonical homomorphism. If  $H$  is a subgroup of order  $|G/N|$  prove that  $\phi^{-1}(H)$  is a subgroup of order  $|H||N|$ .

February 12, 1994

Algebra Qualifier. Part II

1. Find all possible Jordan forms for  $8 \times 8$  matrices with minimal polynomial  $x^2(x-1)^3$ .

2. Let

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & A & \longrightarrow & B & \longrightarrow & C & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ & & \downarrow \alpha & & \downarrow \beta & & \downarrow \gamma & & \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & A' & \longrightarrow & B' & \longrightarrow & C' & \longrightarrow & 0 \end{array}$$

be a commutative diagram of  $R$ -modules and homomorphisms such that each row is exact. If two of the vertical maps are injective, what about the third? Consider all three cases.

3. Prove or disprove that every  $2 \times 2$  matrix over  $Z[X]$  is diagonalizable by row and column operations.

4. Which of the implications: free  $\Leftrightarrow$  projective  $\Leftrightarrow$  torsionfree hold? Give proofs or counterexamples.

5. Compute  $\text{Hom}_Z(Z_2, R)$  where  $R$  is the additive group of real numbers.



February 12, 1994

Algebra Qualifier, Part III

1. Let  $K \subseteq F$  be fields and  $a, b \in F$  algebraic over  $K$ .
  - (a) State and prove an upper bound for the degree of the product  $ab$  over  $K$ .
  - (b) Give an example showing your bound is sharp.
2. Let  $F$  be a field and  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(F)$ . Let  $K = \{u \in F \mid \sigma(u) = u\}$ .
  - (a) Prove that  $K$  is a field.
  - (b) If  $\sigma^n = \text{identity}$  and  $\sigma^k \neq \text{identity}$  for  $k < n$ , prove  $[F : K] = n$ .
3. Determine the irreducible factorization and Galois group of the polynomial  $X^{16} - X$ 
  - (a) over  $F_4$ .
  - (b) over  $F_8$ .
4. (a) Define Galois extension.
  - (b) Let  $K$  be a subfield of the complex numbers which is a Galois extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$ , the rationals. Prove or disprove that complex conjugation takes  $K$  onto itself and defines an automorphism of  $K$ .
5. Assume  $\pi$  is a transcendental number.
  - (a) Show  $X^3 + \pi X + 6$  is irreducible over  $\mathbb{Q}(\pi)$  ( $\mathbb{Q}$  = the rational numbers).
  - (b) Determine the Galois group of  $X^3 + \pi X + 6$  over  $\mathbb{Q}(\pi)$ .

## MATH 201A

1. Describe all groups  $G$  which contain no proper subgroup.
2. Let  $G$  be a cyclic group of order  $n$  and  $H$  a cyclic group of order  $m$ . Describe all homomorphisms from  $G$  to  $H$ .
3. (a) Prove that every subgroup of index 2 is normal.  
(b) Give an example of a subgroup of index 3 in a group  $G$  which is not normal. (Hint: Take  $G$  to be of order 6.)
4. Prove that a group  $G$  of order 224 cannot be simple. (Hint: Show by counting that if  $G$  has more than one Sylow 2-subgroup, then it has only one Sylow 7-subgroup.)
5. For which integers  $n \geq 5$  is the cyclic subgroup of the symmetric group  $S_n$  generated by  $(1\ 2\ 3\ 4\ 5)$  a normal subgroup of  $S_n$ ?

MATH 201B

1. Let

$$p(x) = x^2 + x + 1, \quad q(x) = x^4 + 3x^3 + x^2 + 6x + 10.$$

Find all integers  $n \geq 10$  such that  $p(x)$  divides  $q(x)$  in the ring  $\mathbb{Z}_n[x]$ .

2. Let  $R$  be a commutative ring and  $I$  an ideal of  $R$ . Let  $M$  be an ideal of  $R$  containing  $I$ , and let  $\overline{M} = M/I$  be the corresponding ideal of  $R/I$ . Prove that  $M$  is maximal if and only if  $\overline{M}$  is maximal.

3. A module  $M$  for a ring  $R$  is called *simple* if  $M \neq \{0\}$  and  $M$  has no proper submodule, i.e. if  $N \subseteq M$  is a submodule, then  $N = \{0\}$  or  $M$ . Let  $M$  and  $M'$  be two simple modules and let  $\phi : M \rightarrow M'$  be a module homomorphism. Prove that  $\phi$  is either zero or an isomorphism.

4. Let  $I$  be an ideal in a ring  $R$ . Prove that, if  $R/I$  is a free  $R$ -module, then  $I = \{0\}$ .

5. (a) Prove that a module  $P$  over a ring  $R$  is projective if and only if, for any surjective homomorphism of  $R$ -modules

$$\phi : N \rightarrow N',$$

the corresponding homomorphism of abelian groups

$$\text{hom}_R(P, N) \rightarrow \text{hom}_R(P, N')$$

is surjective.

(b) Prove that

$$\mathbb{Z}_2 \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}_5 = 0.$$

September 8, 1993

Algebra Qualifier. Part I

1. Prove that every group of order 15 is cyclic.
2. Recall that the commutator subgroup of a group  $G$  is the subgroup  $G'$  generated by the elements  $aba^{-1}b^{-1}$  where  $a, b \in G$ .
  - (i) Prove that  $G' \trianglelefteq G$  and that  $G/G'$  is abelian.
  - (ii) If  $G = S_4$  prove that  $G' = A_4$ . Find the commutator subgroup of  $A_4$ .
3. Show that the group generated by the two elements  $a, b$  with relations  $a^3 = 1, b^2 = 1, ba = a^2b$  is isomorphic to  $S_3$ .
4. Find the number of orbits in  $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$  under the action of the subgroup of  $S_8$  generated by  $(1, 3)$  and  $(2, 4, 7)$ .
5. Let  $R$  be the ring  $Z_6$  and  $S = \{1, 2, 4\}$ . Prove that  $S^{-1}R$  is a field and identify the field. If  $T = \{1, 3\}$ , is  $T^{-1}R$  a field?
6. Let  $R$  be a local ring and  $f : R \rightarrow R'$  a surjective ring homomorphism. Prove that  $R'$  is local.
7. Let  $R$  be an integral domain and  $X$  an indeterminate over  $R$ . Show that for  $a, b \in R, a$  a unit of  $R, X \mapsto aX + b$  extends to an automorphism of  $R[X]$  which is the identity on  $R$ . Calculate the inverse of this automorphism.



Algebra Qualifier. Part III

1. (a) Define “simple algebraic extension  $F/K$  of fields”.
- (b) Show that if  $F/K$  is a simple algebraic extension of degree  $n$  then  $|Aut_K(F)| \leq n$ .
- (c) Give an example of a simple algebraic extension  $F/K$  where  $|Aut_K(F)| < n$ .
2. Assuming that  $e$  is transcendental over the rationals  $Q$ , prove that so is  $e + \sqrt{2}$ .
3. Let  $F$  be a finite field and  $F_1, F_2$  subfields of  $F$ . State and prove a formula for  $|F_1 \cap F_2|$  in terms of  $|F_1|$  and  $|F_2|$ .
4. Compute the Galois group of  $X^3 + 3$  over the rationals  $Q$ , the reals  $R$ , and  $Z_7$ .
5. Prove or disprove that the degree of the splitting field of a polynomial of degree  $n$  divides  $n!$ .

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Algebra Qualify Exam  
Part 1

1. Let  $|G| = p^n$ . Prove that for each  $0 \leq k \leq n$   $G$  has a normal subgroup of order  $p^k$ .
2. Let  $G$  be a group containing an element of order different from 1 or 2. Prove that  $G$  has a non-identity automorphism.
3. Prove that a commutative ring with identity is local iff for all  $r, s \in R, r + s = 1_R$  implies  $r$  or  $s$  is a unit.
4. Prove that  $\mathbb{Z}[x]$  is not a principal ideal domain.
5. Prove that in the <sup>ring</sup> $\mathbb{Z}$  the following conditions are equivalent
  - a.  $I$  is prime
  - b.  $I$  is maximal
  - c.  $I = (p)$  with  $p$  prime.

original

## Algebra qualifer, Part II

II.1 Describe all maximal ideals in  $\mathbb{Z}[x]/((x-a)^n)$ , where  $n, a \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $n \geq 1$ . Prove your answer .

II.2. Let  $A$  be a left module over a ring  $R$ . Construct a canonical  $R$ -module homomorphism

$$\theta : A \rightarrow A^{**},$$

where, for any left or right  $R$ -module  $B$ ,  $B^* := \text{Hom}_R(B, R)$ . Give a sufficient condition on  $R$  and  $A$  for  $\theta$  to be an isomorphism.

II.3. Let  $R$  be a non-zero commutative ring with unity such that every submodule of any free  $R$ -module of finite rank is itself free. Prove that  $R$  is a principal ideal domain.

II.4. Prove that any maximal linearly independent subset  $X$  of a (left) vector space  $V$  over a division ring  $D$  is a basis of  $V$ .



Algebra Qualifying Exam  
Part C

1. (i) Define separable extension, perfect field.  
(ii) Give an example of an imperfect field.  
(iii) Prove that every finite field is perfect.
2. Prove from scratch that every finite field admits algebraic extensions of arbitrarily large degree.
- ~~3. State and prove the theorem on the primitive element.~~
4. Let  $K \subset E \subset F$  be fields. Prove or disprove:
  - (i) If  $F$  is Galois over  $K$ , then  $F$  is Galois over  $E$ .
  - (ii) If  $F$  is Galois over  $K$ , then  $E$  is Galois over  $K$ .
  - (iii) If  $F$  is Galois over  $E$  and  $E$  is Galois over  $K$ , then  $F$  is Galois over  $K$ .
5. Compute the Galois group of  $X^4 - 5$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

I.P.  
2.R.