

Exercises 2.1

1. \mathbb{C} has elements which are not algebraic over \mathbb{Q} , such as π and e , so $\mathbb{C} : \mathbb{Q}$ is a transcendental extension. By Proposition 2.1 every finite extension is algebraic, so $\mathbb{C} : \mathbb{Q}$ is not finite.
2. (a) $[\mathbb{Q}(\alpha) : \mathbb{Q}] = 2$. Basis $\{1, \alpha\}$. (b, c): $[\mathbb{Q}(\alpha) : \mathbb{Q}] = 3$. Basis $\{1, \alpha, \alpha^2\}$.
 (d, e, f): $[\mathbb{Q}(\alpha) : \mathbb{Q}] = 4$. Basis $\{1, \alpha, \alpha^2, \alpha^3\}$.
3. (a) $[\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{7}) : \mathbb{Q}] = 2$. Basis is $\{1, \sqrt{7}\}$.
 (b) $\{1, \sqrt{2}\}$ is a basis for $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$ over \mathbb{Q} .
 $\{1, 2^{1/3}, 2^{2/3}\}$ is a basis for $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})$ over \mathbb{Q} .
 By the same reasoning as in Examples 2.1.4 (ii), $\{1, 2^{1/3}, 2^{2/3}\}$ is also a basis for $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt[3]{2})$ over $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$, and $[\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt[3]{2}) : \mathbb{Q}] = 3 \times 2 = 6$.
 A basis is $\{1, 2^{1/3}, 2^{1/2}, 2^{2/3}, 2^{5/6}, 2^{7/6}\}$. (Can take $2^{1/6}$ instead of $2^{7/6}$.)
 (c) $[\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}, \sqrt{5}) : \mathbb{Q}] = 8$.
 Basis $\{1, \sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}, \sqrt{5}, \sqrt{6}, \sqrt{10}, \sqrt{15}, \sqrt{30}\}$.
4. $[L : K] = 3 \times 3 = 9$.
 $\{1, \alpha, \alpha^2\}$ is a basis for M over K . $\{1, \beta, \beta^2\}$ is a basis for L over M .
 Hence, as in the proof of the tower law,
 $\{1, \beta, \beta^2, \alpha, \alpha\beta, \alpha\beta^2, \alpha^2, \alpha^2\beta, \alpha^2\beta^2\}$ is a basis for L over K .

5. Suppose z is a non-real zero of f with modulus $r \in \mathbb{Q}$. Then $z = re^{i\theta}$ for some $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$, so $\mathbb{Q}(z) = \mathbb{Q}(e^{i\theta})$. By Examples 2.1.4 (iii), $[\mathbb{Q}(z) : \mathbb{Q}]$ is a multiple of 2.

But f (divided if necessary by its leading coefficient) is the minimal polynomial of z over \mathbb{Q} , so $[\mathbb{Q}(z) : \mathbb{Q}] = \partial f$ which is odd (given). We have a contradiction so $r \notin \mathbb{Q}$, i.e. $|z|$ is not rational.

6. From Ex. 1.4 Q.3, $t^4 - 2pt^2 + (p^2 - p)$ is the minimal polynomial of α over \mathbb{Q} .

This is a quadratic in t^2 . Its other zeros, the conjugates of α , are found to be $-\alpha, \beta, -\beta$ where $\beta = \sqrt{p + \sqrt{p}}$. By Proposition 2.3, $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha) \cong \mathbb{Q}(\beta)$.

If $\sqrt{p-1} \in \mathbb{Q}$ then $p-1 = k^2$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Q}$.

Then $\alpha^2\beta^2 = p^2 - p = p(p-1) = pk^2$, so $\alpha\beta = k\sqrt{p}$.

Now $\sqrt{p} = p - \alpha^2 \in \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$, so $\beta = \frac{k\sqrt{p}}{\alpha} \in \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$. Thus $\mathbb{Q}(\beta) \subset \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$.

As $\mathbb{Q}(\beta) \cong \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$, it follows that $\mathbb{Q}(\beta) = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$.

7. $(\beta - i)^3 = 2$ so $\beta^3 - 3i\beta^2 - 3\beta + i = 2$. Hence $i = \frac{\beta^3 - 3\beta - 2}{3\beta^2 - 1}$.

Thus i is obtained from β and rationals by field operations, so $i \in \mathbb{Q}(\beta)$.

Then also $2^{1/3} = \beta - i \in \mathbb{Q}(\beta)$.

It follows that $\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/3}, i) \subset \mathbb{Q}(\beta)$. Also $\beta \in \mathbb{Q}(2^{1/3}, i)$ so $\mathbb{Q}(\beta) \subset \mathbb{Q}(2^{1/3}, i)$.

Thus $\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/3}, i) : \mathbb{Q}$ is the simple extension $\mathbb{Q}(\beta) : \mathbb{Q}$.

8. (a) $K \subset K(\alpha) \subset L$, so by the tower law, $[L : K] = [L : K(\alpha)][K(\alpha) : K]$.

Thus $[K(\alpha) : K]$ divides $[L : K]$.

- (b) If $[L : K]$ is a prime p , part (a) gives $[K(\alpha) : K] = 1$ or p .

As $K(\alpha) \neq K$, $[K(\alpha) : K] \neq 1$ so $[K(\alpha) : K] = p$.

Thus $[L : K(\alpha)] = 1$, so $L = K(\alpha)$, i.e. α is a primitive element for $L : K$.

- (c) We have $[K(\alpha, \beta) : K] = [K(\alpha, \beta) : K(\alpha)][K(\alpha) : K]$
 $= [K(\alpha, \beta) : K(\beta)][K(\beta) : K]$.

Thus both m and n divide $[K(\alpha, \beta) : K]$ so, as $\gcd(m, n) = 1$, mn divides $[K(\alpha, \beta) : K]$.

By Proposition 2.4, $[K(\alpha, \beta) : K(\alpha)] \leq n$, so $[K(\alpha, \beta) : K] \leq mn$.

Hence $[K(\alpha, \beta) : K] = mn$,

so $[K(\alpha, \beta) : K(\alpha)] = n$, which equals $[K(\beta) : K]$.

Exercises 2.2

1. (a) An angle of $\frac{\pi}{8}$. Yes: construct a right angle, bisect it and bisect it again.

- (b) An acute angle $\frac{\theta}{3}$, where $\cos \theta = \frac{1}{3}$.

$\cos \theta = 4 \cos^3 \frac{\theta}{3} - 3 \cos \frac{\theta}{3}$, so if $u = \cos \frac{\theta}{3}$ we have $\frac{1}{3} = 4u^3 - 3u$,

i.e. $12u^3 - 9u - 1 = 0$.

$12u^3 - 9u - 1$ is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} by EIC with $p = 3$ and Proposition 1.13. Thus $[\mathbb{Q}(u) : \mathbb{Q}] = 3 \neq 2^m$, so u is not constructible, hence nor is $\frac{\theta}{3}$.

- (c) A triangle equal in area to a given pentagon. Yes. The pentagon can be reduced to a quadrilateral and then

a triangle of equal area by methods similar to Example 7 on page 30 of the notes.

(d) A circle with circumference equal to the perimeter of a given square. No. If the square has side a then the circle has radius r where $2\pi r = 4a$, so $r = \frac{2a}{\pi}$ which is not constructible in general.

(e) A regular heptagon. No. 7 is prime, but it is not of the form $2^m + 1$.

(f) $60 = 2^2 \times 3 \times 5$, a product of a power of 2 and distinct Fermat primes, so by Proposition 2.9 the polygon can be constructed.

2. Start with a line, construct another line at an angle θ to it, then a third line making an angle ϕ with the second one. The first and last lines contain an angle $\theta + \phi$. A similar method gives $\theta - \phi$.

OR: $\cos(\theta + \phi) = \cos \theta \cos \phi - \sin \theta \sin \phi$ and $\cos(\theta - \phi) = \cos \theta \cos \phi + \sin \theta \sin \phi$

As $\cos \theta$ is constructible, so is $\sin \theta = \sqrt{1 - \cos^2 \theta}$. The product, sum and difference of constructible numbers are constructible, so $\cos(\theta + \phi)$ and $\cos(\theta - \phi)$ are constructible, hence so are $\theta + \phi$ and $\theta - \phi$.

3. Take $5\theta = \phi$, so $\theta = \frac{\phi}{5}$ and $\cos 5\theta = \frac{5}{6}$. Then $\frac{5}{6} = 16 \cos^5 \theta - 20 \cos^3 \theta + 5 \cos \theta$,

so $96 \cos^5 \theta - 120 \cos^3 \theta + 30 \cos \theta - 5 = 0$.

Thus $\cos \theta$ is a zero of $96t^5 - 120t^3 + 30t - 5$. This is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} by EIC with $p = 5$, so $[\mathbb{Q}(\cos \theta) : \mathbb{Q}] = 5$.

As 5 is not a power of 2, $\cos \theta$ is not a constructible real number. Hence θ is not a constructible angle, so ϕ cannot

be divided into five equal parts by construction.

4. An angle of n degrees, where $n \in \mathbb{N}$, is constructible if and only if n is an integer multiple of 3. For a proof of this see, for example,

<http://planetmath.org/constructibleangleswithintegervaluesindegrees>

(a) $= 39^\circ$ so is constructible. (b) $= 40^\circ$ so is not constructible.

(c) is not an integer number of degrees, so we cannot tell.

5. $\sum_{i=0}^{2n} (-r)^i$ has first term 1, common ratio $-r$ and $2n + 1$

terms, so it equals $\frac{1 - (-r)^{2n+1}}{1 - (-r)}$. As $2n + 1$ is odd,

$(-1)^{2n+1} = -1$ so the sum equals $\frac{1 + r^{2n+1}}{1 + r}$.

Clearly this sum is an integer, so $1 + r$ divides $1 + r^{2n+1}$. Taking $r = 2^{2^k}$ and $2n + 1 = a$ (odd), $m = a(2^k)$, it follows that $1 + 2^{2^k}$ divides $1 + 2^m$, as required.

Thus if $a > 1$, $1 + 2^{a(2^k)}$ has a factor $1 + 2^{2^k}$ so it is composite. Hence if $1 + 2^{2^k}$ (which is certainly odd) is prime, we must have $a = 1$ so $m = 2^k$ for some $k \geq 0$.

Exercises 2.3

1. The splitting fields can be described (not necessarily uniquely) as

Q.3: (a) $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha, \omega)$, (b) $\mathbb{Q}(\omega)$, (c) \mathbb{Q} , (d) $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha, \omega)$,
(e) $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3}(e^{\pi i/18} + e^{-\pi i/18}))$.

Q.9: (a) $\mathbb{Q}(i\sqrt{6}, \sqrt{2})$, (b) $\mathbb{Q}(i\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{3})$.

2. (a) $t^4 + 5t^2 + 6 = (t^2 + 2)(t^2 + 3) = (t + i\sqrt{2})(t - i\sqrt{2})(t + i\sqrt{3})(t - i\sqrt{3})$ over its splitting field $\mathbb{Q}(i\sqrt{2}, i\sqrt{3})$.

(b) Solving as a quadratic in t^2 we find that $t^4 + 3t^2 - 1$ has zeros $\pm\alpha, \pm\beta$ where $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{2\sqrt{13} - 6}$ and $\beta = \frac{1}{2}i\sqrt{2\sqrt{13} + 6}$,

so $t^4 + 3t^2 - 1 = (t - \alpha)(t + \alpha)(t - \beta)(t + \beta)$.

$\alpha\beta = i$ so $\beta \notin \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$, so the splitting field is $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha, \beta)$, or equivalently $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha, i)$ or $\mathbb{Q}(\beta, i)$.

(c) $t^7 - 1$ has zeros equal to the seventh roots of 1, i.e. $e^{2k\pi i/7}, k = 0, \dots, 6$. The splitting field is $\mathbb{Q}(e^{2\pi i/7})$.

Let $\varepsilon = e^{2\pi i/7}$; then $t^7 - 1 = (t - 1)(t - \varepsilon)(t - \varepsilon^2)(t - \varepsilon^3)(t - \varepsilon^4)(t - \varepsilon^5)(t - \varepsilon^6)$.

3. $(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{7})^2 = 10 + 2\sqrt{21}$.

Let $y = x^2$, so $f(x) = y^2 - 20y + 16$ with roots $y = 10 \pm 2\sqrt{21}$.

Thus the zeros of f are $\pm(\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{7}), \pm(\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{7})$. $L = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3}, \sqrt{7})$.

$f = (t^2 - 2\sqrt{3}t - 4)(t^2 + 2\sqrt{3}t - 4)$ over $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})$,

or $f = (t^2 - 2\sqrt{7}t + 4)(t^2 + 2\sqrt{7}t + 4)$ over $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{7})$.

4. (a) $\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/2}) : \mathbb{Q}$ is normal, as $\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/2})$ is the splitting field of $t^2 - 2 \in \mathbb{Q}[t]$.

(b) $\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/6}) : \mathbb{Q}$ is not normal, as $t^6 - 2 \in \mathbb{Q}[t]$ has one zero in $\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/6})$ but its other zeros in \mathbb{C} are not real, so are not in $\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/6})$.

(c) $\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/6}) : \mathbb{Q}(2^{1/3})$ is normal, as $\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/6})$ is the splitting field of $t^2 - 2^{1/3} \in \mathbb{Q}(2^{1/3})[t]$.

(d) $\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/6}) : \mathbb{Q}(2^{1/2})$ is not normal, as $t^3 - 2^{1/2} \in \mathbb{Q}(2^{1/2})[t]$ has one zero in $\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/6})$ but its other zeros in \mathbb{C} are not real, so are not in $\mathbb{Q}(2^{1/6})$.

(e) We have seen that $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3})$. The minimal polynomial of $\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{3}$ over \mathbb{Q} is $\mu = t^4 - 10t^2 + 1$ which has zeros $\pm(\sqrt{2} \pm \sqrt{3})$. These are all in $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3})$, which is thus the splitting field of μ over \mathbb{Q} . Hence $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}) : \mathbb{Q}$ is a normal extension.

(f) $\mathbb{Q}(5^{1/7})$. Consider the polynomial $f = t^7 - 5$. One zero of f is $5^{1/7}$, but the other zeros in \mathbb{C} are not real, so are not in $\mathbb{Q}(5^{1/7})$. Thus $\mathbb{Q}(5^{1/7}) : \mathbb{Q}$ is not a normal extension.

(g) $\mathbb{Q}(e^{2\pi i/5}) : \mathbb{Q}$ is normal, as $\mathbb{Q}(e^{2\pi i/5})$ is the splitting field over \mathbb{Q} of Φ_5 (or of $t^5 - 1$).

5. (a) $f(t - 1) = (t - 1)^6 - (t - 1)^3 + 1$
 $= t^6 - 6t^5 + 15t^4 - 20t^3 + 15t^2 - 6t + 1 - (t^3 - 3t^2 + 3t - 1) + 1$
 $= t^6 - 6t^5 + 15t^4 - 21t^3 + 18t^2 - 9t + 3$ which is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} by EIC with $p = 3$.

(b) If $\alpha^6 - \alpha^3 + 1 = 0$ then $\alpha^3 = \frac{1}{2}(1 \pm \sqrt{-3}) = \frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{i\sqrt{3}}{2}$
 $= e^{\pi i/3}$ or $e^{5\pi i/3}$.

(c) We have $\varepsilon^6 = e^{2\pi i/3} = \omega$.

The values of α^3 found in (b) are ε^3 and ε^{15} so $\alpha = \varepsilon, \varepsilon\omega, \varepsilon\omega^2, \varepsilon^5, \varepsilon^5\omega, \varepsilon^5\omega^2$.

Hence the zeros of f are $\varepsilon, \varepsilon^5, \varepsilon^7, \varepsilon^{11}, \varepsilon^{13}, \varepsilon^{17}$.

(d) The splitting field L must contain ε as this is a zero of f , so $L \subset \mathbb{Q}(\varepsilon)$.

All powers of ε are in $\mathbb{Q}(\varepsilon)$, so $\mathbb{Q}(\varepsilon)$ contains all the zeros of f . No smaller field contains ε , so $\mathbb{Q}(\varepsilon)$ is the splitting field of f .

The minimal polynomial of ε over \mathbb{Q} is $f = t^6 - t^3 + 1$, as this is monic, irreducible over \mathbb{Q} and has ε as a zero.

(e) $[\mathbb{Q}(\varepsilon) : \mathbb{Q}] = \partial f = 6$. A basis is $\{1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^2, \varepsilon^3, \varepsilon^4, \varepsilon^5\}$. The extension is normal, as $\mathbb{Q}(\varepsilon)$ is a splitting field over \mathbb{Q} .

(f) $g(1)$ and $g(-1)$ are not zero, so by the RRT g has no linear factor in $\mathbb{Q}[t]$. As g is cubic, this is enough to show that it is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} .

(g) The Vieta substitution $x = z + \frac{1}{z}$ gives

$g = z^3 + \frac{1}{z^3} - 1 = \frac{z^6 - z^3 + 1}{z^3}$. The values of z which make this zero are the values of α found in (c).

Thus the zeros of g are $\varepsilon + \frac{1}{\varepsilon}, \varepsilon^5 + \frac{1}{\varepsilon^5}, \varepsilon^7 + \frac{1}{\varepsilon^7}$.

Using $\varepsilon^{18} = 1$, these are $\varepsilon + \varepsilon^{17}, \varepsilon^5 + \varepsilon^{13}, \varepsilon^7 + \varepsilon^{11}$. All three zeros are real as they are sums of conjugate pairs, or because $\Delta(g) = 108 - 27 = 81 > 0$.

(h) $\Delta(g)$ has a rational square root, so by Proposition 2.11 the splitting field of g is $\mathbb{Q}(\varepsilon + \varepsilon^{17})$.

6. The polynomial $(t - \alpha_1)(t - \alpha_2) \cdots (t - \alpha_m)$ is not necessarily in $K[t]$, i.e. when it is expanded the coefficients may not be in K .

7. From Proposition 1.6 the zeros of ρ are obtained from the zeros of f by field operations, so they are in the splitting field of f . Hence the splitting field of ρ is contained in that of f .

Suppose f is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} and let α_1 be a zero of f , so $[\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_1) : \mathbb{Q}] = \partial f = 4$. If α_1 is constructible, there is an intermediate field K_1 , between \mathbb{Q} and $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_1)$, such that $[\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_1) : K_1] = [K_1 : \mathbb{Q}] = 2$. Then $K_1 = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{\varepsilon})$ for some $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{Q}$.

Thus the minimal polynomial of α_1 over K_1 is quadratic, say $\mu = t^2 + pt + q$ where $p, q \in K_1$. f is also a polynomial in $K_1[t]$ having α_1 as a zero, so $\mu \mid f$. Hence both zeros of μ are zeros of f .

Let α_2 be the other zero of μ . Then $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = -p = a + b\sqrt{\varepsilon}$ for some $a, b, \varepsilon \in \mathbb{Q}$, so $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2$ is constructible.

Letting α_3, α_4 be the other zeros of f , we have $\alpha_3 + \alpha_4 = -(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2)$, which is also constructible, hence so is $u = (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2)(\alpha_3 + \alpha_4)$ which is a zero of ρ . Thus $[\mathbb{Q}(u) : \mathbb{Q}] \neq 3$, so ρ is reducible over \mathbb{Q} .

Let $f = t^4 + t - 5$. Then $f(1) = -3$, $f(2) = 13$, so f has a real zero $\alpha \in (1, 2)$.

Trying $\pm 1, \pm 5$, we see that f has no rational zeros by the Rational root theorem. We can also check that it has no quadratic factors. Hence f is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} , so it is the minimal polynomial of α over \mathbb{Q} . Thus $[\mathbb{Q}(\alpha) : \mathbb{Q}] = 4$, which is a power of 2.

$\rho = t^3 + 20t + 1$, which is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} by the Rational root theorem as $\partial\rho \leq 3$, $\rho(-1) \neq 0$, $\rho(1) \neq 0$. Hence by the above, α is not constructible.

8. As $\chi(K) = 0$, K has infinitely many elements so $\{\alpha + k\beta : k \in K\}$ is an infinite set.

However, the fields $K(\alpha + k\beta)$ cannot all be distinct since they contain K , and are contained in $K(\alpha, \beta)$, and we are told that there are only finitely many such fields.

Thus we can find (infinitely many) pairs $k_1, k_2 \in K$ such that $K(\alpha + k_1\beta) = K(\alpha + k_2\beta)$.

For such k_1, k_2 we have that both $\alpha + k_1\beta$ and $\alpha + k_2\beta$ are in the field $K(\alpha + k_1\beta)$, hence so is their difference

$(k_1 - k_2)\beta$.

As $k_1 - k_2 \in K \subset K(\alpha + k_1\beta)$, it follows that $\beta \in K(\alpha + k_1\beta)$.

But then also $\alpha = (\alpha + k_1\beta) - k_1\beta \in K(\alpha + k_1\beta)$, so $K(\alpha, \beta) \subset K(\alpha + k_1\beta)$.

Clearly $K(\alpha + k_1\beta) \subset K(\alpha, \beta)$, so we have $K(\alpha, \beta) = K(\alpha + k_1\beta)$, i.e. $\alpha + k_1\beta$ is a primitive element for the extension $K(\alpha, \beta) : K$.

Now let $K(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$ where the number of intermediate fields is finite. We have seen that this is a simple extension of K when $n = 2$. (It is trivially so when $n = 1$.)

Assume it is true for some n , so there exists γ such that $K(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) = K(\gamma)$.

Then $K(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n+1}) = K(\gamma, \alpha_{n+1}) = K(\gamma + k\alpha_{n+1})$ for some $k \in K$, as shown above.

Hence the result holds for $n + 1$, so by induction it is true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.