

Lecture 3

3 Cyclotomic Field

3.1 Root of Unity

- $\zeta_n = e^{2\pi i/n} = \cos 2\pi/n + i \sin 2\pi/n$.
- Cyclotomic field : $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)$.
- If $d|n$, then $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_d) \subset \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)$.
- Primitive root of unity : ζ_n^m where $(n, m) = 1$. Then $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n) = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n^m)$.
- Euler function : $\varphi(n) = \#\{m \in \mathbb{Z}; (n, m) = 1, 1 \leq m \leq n\}$

3.2 Cyclotomic Polynomial

- The cyclotomic polynomial is a monic polynomial whose roots are primitive roots of unity :

$$\Phi_n(X) = \prod_{1 \leq m \leq n, (n, m) = 1} (X - \zeta_n^m).$$

- Then,

$$\prod_{d|n} \Phi_d(X) = X^n - 1,$$

and by Möbius inversion formula, we have

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

where μ is the Möbius function defined for $n = p_1^{e_1} p_2^{e_2} \cdots p_m^{e_m}$ by

$$\mu(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 1, \\ (-1)^m & \text{if } e_1 = e_2 = \cdots = e_m = 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Since the left hand side of (1) is polynomial, the denominator of the right hand side divides the numerator. Also the denominator is monic, it implies that $\Phi_n(X)$ is a integer polynomial.

- **Example :** $\Phi_6(X) = \frac{(X^6 - 1)(X - 1)}{(X^3 - 1)(X^2 - 1)} = X^2 - X + 1$

- **Theorem 3.2.1 :** $\Phi_n(X)$ is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} . In particular, $\text{Irr}_{\mathbb{Q}}(\zeta_n) = \Phi_n(X)$ and $[\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n) : \mathbb{Q}] = \varphi(n)$.

To show this, we need two lemmas.

- **Lemma 3.2.2 :** Let p be a prime number and $h(X)$ a polynomial with integer coefficients. Then

$$(h(X))^p \equiv h(X^p) \pmod{p}$$

Proof. Apply induction on the degree of h . If $\deg h = 0$, the assertion is nothing but the Fermat's little theorem. Suppose $h = aX^m + g$ where $\deg g < \deg h$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (h(X))^p &\equiv a^p X^{pm} + (g(X))^p \pmod{p} \\ &\equiv a(X^p)^m + g(X^p) \pmod{p} \\ &= h(X^p) \end{aligned}$$

and we are done. □

- **Lemma 3.2.3 :** Let p be a prime number and suppose that $(n, p) = 1$. Then, $X^n - 1$ does not have a multiple root in \mathbb{F}_p .

Proof. Suppose that q is a root of $X^n - 1 = 0$ over \mathbb{F}_p . Then $q \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ and we have

$$X^n - 1 \equiv (X - q)(X^{n-1} + qX^{n-2} + \cdots + q^{n-1}) \pmod{p}.$$

Substituting q in X in the right factor of the right hand side, and we obtain $nq^{n-1} \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ by the assumption. □

- *Proof of Theorem 3.2.1.* Let ζ be a primitive n -th root of unity. Assume that $\Phi_n(X) = g(X)h(X)$ and that g is irreducible and $g(\zeta) = 0$. Choose a prime p such that $(p, n) = 1$. Then since $\Phi_n(\zeta^p) = 0$, either $g(\zeta^p) = 0$ or $h(\zeta^p) = 0$.

Suppose the later is the case. Then since $h(X^p) = 0$ has a root $x = \zeta$, $h(X^p)$ is divisible by $g(X)$ and hence $h(X^p) = g(X)f(X)$. By Lemma 3.2.2, the left hand side equals $(h(X))^p \pmod{p}$ so that $h(X)$ and $g(X)$ have a common root in \mathbb{F}_p . Then since $g(X)h(X) \equiv \Phi_n(X) \pmod{p}$, $\Phi_n(X)$ has a multiple root in \mathbb{F}_p . On the other hand, $\Phi_n(X)$ is a factor of $X^n - 1$ over \mathbb{Q} , and $X^n - 1$ does not have a multiple root in \mathbb{F}_p by Lemma 3.2.3, and hence so does $\Phi_n(X)$ in \mathbb{F}_p . This is a contradiction, and $g(\zeta^p) = 0$. In other word, we have shown that if a primitive root ζ is a root of $g(X)$, then ζ^p is also a root of $g(X)$ provided that $(n, p) = 1$.

The rest done by induction since all primitive roots are obtained from ζ_n by taking a prime power coprime to n successively. □

3.3 $\mathbb{Q}(\cos \frac{2m\pi}{n})$

- $\zeta_n^m + \zeta_n^{-m} = 2 \cos \frac{2m\pi}{n}$.
- A candidate for the irreducible polynomial of $\cos \frac{2m\pi}{n}$ over \mathbb{Q} :

$$\Psi_n(X) = \prod_{1 \leq m \leq n/2, (m,n)=1} \left(X - \cos \frac{2m\pi}{n} \right).$$

- **Theorem 3.3.1** : Let $n = 3$ or $n \geq 5$, m a positive integer such that $(n, m) = 1$. Then, $\Psi_n(X)$ is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} . In particular, $\text{Irr}_{\mathbb{Q}}(\cos \frac{2m\pi}{n}) = \Psi_n(X)$ and $[\mathbb{Q}(\cos \frac{2m\pi}{n}) : \mathbb{Q}] = \varphi(n)/2$.

Proof. Rewriting

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_n(X) &= \prod_{1 \leq m \leq n/2, (n,m)=1} (X - \zeta_n^m)(X - \zeta_n^{-m}) \\ &= \prod_{1 \leq m \leq n/2, (n,m)=1} (X^2 - 2X \cos \frac{2m\pi}{n} + 1), \end{aligned}$$

we see that every fundamental symmetric polynomials of

$$\left\{ \cos \frac{2m\pi}{n} ; (n, m) = 1, 1 \leq m \leq n/2 \right\}$$

has value in \mathbb{Q} . Thus $\Psi_n(X) \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$.

Suppose $\Psi_n(X)$ is not irreducible over \mathbb{Q} , then the factorization of $\Psi_n(X)$ over \mathbb{Q} implies a factorization of $\Phi_n(X)$ over \mathbb{Q} , which is a contradiction. \square

3.4 Homework

1. Suppose $n = p_1^{e_1} p_2^{e_2} \cdots p_m^{e_m}$. Show

$$\varphi(n) = n \prod_j \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_j} \right).$$

2. Compute $\Phi_{105}(X)$, and find degree of which 2 appears as a coefficient.
3. Show that if n is odd, then $\Phi_{2n}(X) = \Phi_n(-X)$
4. (1) Show $\sqrt{-7} \in \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_7)$.
(2) Show $\sqrt{13} \in \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{13})$.
5. Suppose $p > 2$ is prime. Then $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_p)$ contains a real quadratic number field if and only if $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$.

6. Suppose $n = 3$ or $n \geq 5$, and show that the constant term of $\Psi_n(X)$ is

$$\begin{cases} 2^{-\varphi(n)/2}p & \text{if } n = 4p^e \geq 8 \text{ and } p \text{ prime,} \\ 2^{-\varphi(n)/2} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

7. (1) Find the order of 2 in \mathbb{F}_{11} , and show that $(X^{11} - 1)/(X - 1) \in \mathbb{F}_2[X]$ is irreducible.
- (2) Find the order of 2 in \mathbb{F}_{17} , and show that $(X^{17} - 1)/(X - 1) \in \mathbb{F}_2[X]$ factors into the product of two polynomials of degree 8.