

# Contents

<b>Preface</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Historical Aspects of the Resolution of Algebraic Equations</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Approximating the Roots of an Equation . . . . .	1
1.2 Construction of Solutions by Intersections of Curves . . . . .	2
1.3 Relations with Trigonometry . . . . .	2
1.4 Problems of Notation and Terminology . . . . .	3
1.5 The Problem of Localization of the Roots . . . . .	4
1.6 The Problem of the Existence of Roots . . . . .	5
1.7 The Problem of Algebraic Solutions of Equations . . . . .	6
Toward Chapter 2 . . . . .	7
<b>2 Resolution of Quadratic, Cubic, and Quartic Equations</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1 Second-Degree Equations . . . . .	9
2.1.1 The Babylonians . . . . .	9
2.1.2 The Greeks . . . . .	11
2.1.3 The Arabs . . . . .	11
2.1.4 Use of Negative Numbers . . . . .	12
2.2 Cubic Equations . . . . .	13
2.2.1 The Greeks . . . . .	13
2.2.2 Omar Khayyam and Sharaf ad Din at Tusi . . . . .	13
2.2.3 Scipio del Ferro, Tartaglia, Cardan . . . . .	14
2.2.4 Algebraic Solution of the Cubic Equation . . . . .	15
2.2.5 First Computations with Complex Numbers . . . . .	16
2.2.6 Raffaele Bombelli . . . . .	17

2.2.7	François Viète . . . . .	18
2.3	Quartic Equations . . . . .	18
	Exercises for Chapter 2 . . . . .	19
	Solutions to Some of the Exercises . . . . .	22
<b>3</b>	<b>Symmetric Polynomials</b>	<b>25</b>
3.1	Symmetric Polynomials . . . . .	25
3.1.1	Background . . . . .	25
3.1.2	Definitions . . . . .	26
3.2	Elementary Symmetric Polynomials . . . . .	27
3.2.1	Definition . . . . .	27
3.2.2	The Product of the $X - X_i$ ; Relations Between Coefficients and Roots . . . . .	27
3.3	Symmetric Polynomials and Elementary Symmetric Polynomials . . . . .	29
3.3.1	Theorem . . . . .	29
3.3.2	Proposition . . . . .	31
3.3.3	Proposition . . . . .	32
3.4	Newton's Formulas . . . . .	32
3.5	Resultant of Two Polynomials . . . . .	35
3.5.1	Definition . . . . .	35
3.5.2	Proposition . . . . .	35
3.6	Discriminant of a Polynomial . . . . .	37
3.6.1	Definition . . . . .	37
3.6.2	Proposition . . . . .	37
3.6.3	Formulas . . . . .	38
3.6.4	Polynomials with Real Coefficients: Real Roots and Sign of the Discriminant . . . . .	38
	Exercises for Chapter 3 . . . . .	39
	Solutions to Some of the Exercises . . . . .	44
<b>4</b>	<b>Field Extensions</b>	<b>51</b>
4.1	Field Extensions . . . . .	51
4.1.1	Definition . . . . .	51
4.1.2	Proposition . . . . .	52
4.1.3	The Degree of an Extension . . . . .	52
4.1.4	Towers of Fields . . . . .	52
4.2	The Tower Rule . . . . .	53
4.2.1	Proposition . . . . .	53
4.3	Generated Extensions . . . . .	54
4.3.1	Proposition . . . . .	54
4.3.2	Definition . . . . .	55
4.3.3	Proposition . . . . .	55
4.4	Algebraic Elements . . . . .	55
4.4.1	Definition . . . . .	55

4.4.2	Transcendental Numbers . . . . .	55
4.4.3	Minimal Polynomial of an Algebraic Element . . . . .	56
4.4.4	Definition . . . . .	56
4.4.5	Properties of the Minimal Polynomial . . . . .	57
4.4.6	Proving the Irreducibility of a Polynomial in $\mathbf{Z}[X]$ . . . . .	57
4.5	Algebraic Extensions . . . . .	59
4.5.1	Extensions Generated by an Algebraic Element . . . . .	59
4.5.2	Properties of $K[a]$ . . . . .	59
4.5.3	Definition . . . . .	60
4.5.4	Extensions of Finite Degree . . . . .	60
4.5.5	Corollary: Towers of Algebraic Extensions . . . . .	61
4.6	Algebraic Extensions Generated by $n$ Elements . . . . .	61
4.6.1	Notation . . . . .	61
4.6.2	Proposition . . . . .	61
4.6.3	Corollary . . . . .	62
4.7	Construction of an Extension by Adjoining a Root . . . . .	62
4.7.1	Definition . . . . .	62
4.7.2	Proposition . . . . .	62
4.7.3	Corollary . . . . .	63
4.7.4	Universal Property of $K[X]/(P)$ . . . . .	63
	Toward Chapters 5 and 6 . . . . .	64
	Exercises for Chapter 4 . . . . .	64
	Solutions to Some of the Exercises . . . . .	69
<b>5</b>	<b>Constructions with Straightedge and Compass</b>	<b>79</b>
5.1	Constructible Points . . . . .	79
5.2	Examples of Classical Constructions . . . . .	80
5.2.1	Projection of a Point onto a Line . . . . .	80
5.2.2	Construction of an Orthonormal Basis from Two Points	80
5.2.3	Construction of a Line Parallel to a Given Line Passing Through a Point . . . . .	81
5.3	Lemma . . . . .	82
5.4	Coordinates of Points Constructible in One Step . . . . .	82
5.5	A Necessary Condition for Constructibility . . . . .	83
5.6	Two Problems More Than Two Thousand Years Old . . . . .	84
5.6.1	Duplication of the Cube . . . . .	85
5.6.2	Trisection of the Angle . . . . .	85
5.7	A Sufficient Condition for Constructibility . . . . .	85
	Exercises for Chapter 5 . . . . .	87
	Solutions to Some of the Exercises . . . . .	90
<b>6</b>	<b><math>K</math>-Homomorphisms</b>	<b>93</b>
6.1	Conjugate Numbers . . . . .	93
6.2	$K$ -Homomorphisms . . . . .	94
6.2.1	Definitions . . . . .	94

6.2.2 Properties . . . . .	94
6.3 Algebraic Elements and $K$ -Homomorphisms . . . . .	95
6.3.1 Proposition . . . . .	95
6.3.2 Example . . . . .	96
6.4 Extensions of Embeddings into $\mathbb{C}$ . . . . .	97
6.4.1 Definition . . . . .	97
6.4.2 Proposition . . . . .	97
6.4.3 Proposition . . . . .	98
6.5 The Primitive Element Theorem . . . . .	99
6.5.1 Theorem and Definition . . . . .	99
6.5.2 Example . . . . .	100
6.6 Linear Independence of $K$ -Homomorphisms . . . . .	101
6.6.1 Characters . . . . .	101
6.6.2 Emil Artin's Theorem . . . . .	101
6.6.3 Corollary: Dedekind's Theorem . . . . .	102
Exercises for Chapter 6 . . . . .	102
Solutions to Some of the Exercises . . . . .	103
<b>7 Normal Extensions</b>	<b>107</b>
7.1 Splitting Fields . . . . .	107
7.1.1 Definition . . . . .	107
7.1.2 Splitting Field of a Cubic Polynomial . . . . .	108
7.2 Normal Extensions . . . . .	108
7.3 Normal Extensions and $K$ -Homomorphisms . . . . .	109
7.4 Splitting Fields and Normal Extensions . . . . .	109
7.4.1 Proposition . . . . .	109
7.4.2 Converse . . . . .	110
7.5 Normal Extensions and Intermediate Extensions . . . . .	110
7.6 Normal Closure . . . . .	111
7.6.1 Definition . . . . .	111
7.6.2 Proposition . . . . .	111
7.6.3 Proposition . . . . .	111
7.7 Splitting Fields: General Case . . . . .	112
Toward Chapter 8 . . . . .	113
Exercises for Chapter 7 . . . . .	113
Solutions to Some of the Exercises . . . . .	115
<b>8 Galois Groups</b>	<b>119</b>
8.1 Galois Groups . . . . .	119
8.1.1 The Galois Group of an Extension . . . . .	119
8.1.2 The Order of the Galois Group of a Normal Extension of Finite Degree . . . . .	120
8.1.3 The Galois Group of a Polynomial . . . . .	120
8.1.4 The Galois Group as a Subgroup of a Permutation Group . . . . .	120

8.1.5 A Short History of Groups . . . . .	121
8.2 Fields of Invariants . . . . .	122
8.2.1 Definition and Proposition . . . . .	122
8.2.2 Emil Artin's Theorem . . . . .	122
8.3 The Example of $\mathbf{Q}[\sqrt[3]{2}, j]$ : First Part . . . . .	124
8.4 Galois Groups and Intermediate Extensions . . . . .	126
8.5 The Galois Correspondence . . . . .	126
8.6 The Example of $\mathbf{Q}[\sqrt[3]{2}, j]$ : Second Part . . . . .	128
8.7 The Example $X^4 + 2$ . . . . .	128
8.7.1 Dihedral Groups . . . . .	128
8.7.2 The Special Case of $D_4$ . . . . .	129
8.7.3 The Galois Group of $X^4 + 2$ . . . . .	130
8.7.4 The Galois Correspondence . . . . .	130
8.7.5 Search for Minimal Polynomials . . . . .	132
Toward Chapters 9, 10, and 12 . . . . .	133
Exercises for Chapter 8 . . . . .	133
Solutions to Some of the Exercises . . . . .	139
<b>9 Roots of Unity</b>	<b>149</b>
9.1 The Group $U(n)$ of Units of the Ring $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ . . . . .	149
9.1.1 Definition and Background . . . . .	149
9.1.2 The Structure of $U(n)$ . . . . .	150
9.2 The Möbius Function . . . . .	151
9.2.1 Multiplicative Functions . . . . .	151
9.2.2 The Möbius Function . . . . .	151
9.2.3 Proposition . . . . .	151
9.2.4 The Möbius Inversion Formula . . . . .	152
9.3 Roots of Unity . . . . .	153
9.3.1 $n$ -th Roots of Unity . . . . .	153
9.3.2 Proposition . . . . .	153
9.3.3 Primitive Roots . . . . .	153
9.3.4 Properties of Primitive Roots . . . . .	153
9.4 Cyclotomic Polynomials . . . . .	153
9.4.1 Definition . . . . .	153
9.4.2 Properties of the Cyclotomic Polynomial . . . . .	153
9.5 The Galois Group over $\mathbf{Q}$ of an Extension of $\mathbf{Q}$ by a Root of Unity . . . . .	156
Exercises for Chapter 9 . . . . .	157
Solutions to Some of the Exercises . . . . .	163
<b>10 Cyclic Extensions</b>	<b>179</b>
10.1 Cyclic and Abelian Extensions . . . . .	179
10.2 Extensions by a Root and Cyclic Extensions . . . . .	179
10.3 Irreducibility of $X^p - a$ . . . . .	180
10.4 Hilbert's Theorem 90 . . . . .	181

10.4.1 The Norm . . . . .	181
10.4.2 Hilbert's Theorem 90 . . . . .	182
10.5 Extensions by a Root and Cyclic Extensions: Converse . . . . .	182
10.6 Lagrange Resolvents . . . . .	183
10.6.1 Definition . . . . .	183
10.6.2 Properties . . . . .	183
10.7 Resolution of the Cubic Equation . . . . .	184
10.8 Solution of the Quartic Equation . . . . .	186
10.9 Historical Commentary . . . . .	188
Exercises for Chapter 10 . . . . .	188
Solutions to Some of the Exercises . . . . .	190
<b>11 Solvable Groups</b>	<b>195</b>
11.1 First Definition . . . . .	195
11.2 Derived or Commutator Subgroup . . . . .	196
11.3 Second Definition of Solvability . . . . .	196
11.4 Examples of Solvable Groups . . . . .	197
11.5 Third Definition . . . . .	197
11.6 The Group $A_n$ Is Simple for $n \geq 5$ . . . . .	198
11.6.1 Theorem . . . . .	198
11.6.2 $A_n$ Is Not Solvable for $n \geq 5$ , Direct Proof . . . . .	199
11.7 Recent Results . . . . .	199
Exercises for Chapter 11 . . . . .	200
Solutions to Some of the Exercises . . . . .	203
<b>12 Solvability of Equations by Radicals</b>	<b>207</b>
12.1 Radical Extensions and Polynomials Solvable by Radicals . . . . .	207
12.1.1 Radical Extensions . . . . .	207
12.1.2 Polynomials Solvable by Radicals . . . . .	208
12.1.3 First Construction . . . . .	208
12.1.4 Second Construction . . . . .	208
12.2 If a Polynomial Is Solvable by Radicals, Its Galois Group Is Solvable . . . . .	209
12.3 Example of a Polynomial Not Solvable by Radicals . . . . .	209
12.4 The Converse of the Fundamental Criterion . . . . .	210
12.5 The General Equation of Degree $n$ . . . . .	210
12.5.1 Algebraically Independent Elements . . . . .	210
12.5.2 Existence of Algebraically Independent Elements . . . . .	211
12.5.3 The General Equation of Degree $n$ . . . . .	211
12.5.4 Galois Group of the General Equation of Degree $n$ . . . . .	211
Exercises for Chapter 12 . . . . .	212
Solutions to Some of the Exercises . . . . .	214
<b>13 The Life of Évariste Galois</b>	<b>219</b>

<b>14 Finite Fields</b>	<b>227</b>
14.1 Algebraically Closed Fields . . . . .	227
14.1.1 Definition . . . . .	227
14.1.2 Algebraic Closures . . . . .	228
14.1.3 Theorem (Steinitz, 1910) . . . . .	228
14.2 Examples of Finite Fields . . . . .	229
14.3 The Characteristic of a Field . . . . .	229
14.3.1 Definition . . . . .	229
14.3.2 Properties . . . . .	229
14.4 Properties of Finite Fields . . . . .	230
14.4.1 Proposition . . . . .	230
14.4.2 The Frobenius Homomorphism . . . . .	231
14.5 Existence and Uniqueness of a Finite Field with $p^r$ Elements . . . . .	231
14.5.1 Proposition . . . . .	231
14.5.2 Corollary . . . . .	232
14.6 Extensions of Finite Fields . . . . .	233
14.7 Normality of a Finite Extension of Finite Fields . . . . .	233
14.8 The Galois Group of a Finite Extension of a Finite Field . . . . .	233
14.8.1 Proposition . . . . .	233
14.8.2 The Galois Correspondence . . . . .	234
14.8.3 Example . . . . .	234
Exercises for Chapter 14 . . . . .	235
Solutions to Some of the Exercises . . . . .	243
<b>15 Separable Extensions</b>	<b>257</b>
15.1 Separability . . . . .	257
15.2 Example of an Inseparable Element . . . . .	258
15.3 A Criterion for Separability . . . . .	258
15.4 Perfect Fields . . . . .	259
15.5 Perfect Fields and Separable Extensions . . . . .	259
15.6 Galois Extensions . . . . .	260
15.6.1 Definition . . . . .	260
15.6.2 Proposition . . . . .	260
15.6.3 The Galois Correspondence . . . . .	260
Toward Chapter 16 . . . . .	260
<b>16 Recent Developments</b>	<b>261</b>
16.1 The Inverse Problem of Galois Theory . . . . .	261
16.1.1 The Problem . . . . .	261
16.1.2 The Abelian Case . . . . .	262
16.1.3 Example . . . . .	262
16.2 Computation of Galois Groups over $\mathbb{Q}$ for Small-Degree Polynomials . . . . .	262
16.2.1 Simplification of the Problem . . . . .	263
16.2.2 The Irreducibility Problem . . . . .	263

16.2.3 Embedding of $G$ into $S_n$ . . . . .	263
16.2.4 Looking for $G$ Among the Transitive Subgroups of $S_n$	264
16.2.5 Transitive Subgroups of $S_4$ . . . . .	264
16.2.6 Study of $\Phi(G) \subset A_n$ . . . . .	265
16.2.7 Study of $\Phi(G) \subset D_4$ . . . . .	266
16.2.8 Study of $\Phi(G) \subset \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$ . . . . .	267
16.2.9 An Algorithm for $n = 4$ . . . . .	268
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>271</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>277</b>