

Lecture: 15 - 16

[[Home](#)] [[PDF](#)]

Topics: Conjugate elements, Automorphism and Traces

Conjugate elements with respect to a subfield

In theorem 2.14 we saw that if $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ is a root of an irreducible polynomial f over \mathbb{F} then all the roots of f are represented by:

$$\alpha, \alpha^q, \alpha^{q^2}, \dots, \alpha^{q^{m-1}}$$

Theorem 2.14:

Irreducible poly in $\mathbb{F}[x]$ of degree m has a root in \mathbb{F} .

To address elements of a field which are q -th powers of each other we introduced the notion of conjugates. (Def 2.17)

Two properties of conjugate elements given by 2.18 and Corollary 2.19

Prop: 2.18

The conjugates of $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q$ with respect to any subfield \mathbb{F} have the same order in the group \mathbb{F}_q^\times .

Proof:

Since \mathbb{F}_q^\times is cyclic group by theorem 2.8, the result follows from Theorem 1.15(ii) and the fact that every power of characteristic of \mathbb{F}_q is relatively prime to the order $q-1$ of \mathbb{F}_q^\times .

Corollary 2.19

Result at 2.18 if α is a primitive element of \mathbb{F} , then so are also its conjugate with respect to any subfield of \mathbb{F} .

Example

Example of conjugate element in \mathbb{F}_{16} with respect to different subfields.

Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_{16}$ be a root of:

$$f(x) = x^4 + x + 1 \in \mathbb{F}_2[x]$$

Then the conjugate of α with respect to \mathbb{F}_2 are:

$$\alpha, \alpha^2, \alpha^4 = \alpha + 1, \alpha^8 = \alpha^2 + 1$$

Each of them being a primitive element of \mathbb{F}_{16}

The conjugates of α with respect to \mathbb{F}_4 are α and $\alpha^4 = \alpha + 1$.

Automorphism for fields over a subfield

With automorphism σ of \mathbb{F} over \mathbb{F}_q . We mean an automorphism that fixes an element of \mathbb{F}_q .

We then require that:

σ be a one-to-one mapping from \mathbb{F} onto itself.

And the following holds:

$$\begin{aligned}\forall \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F} \\ \sigma(\alpha + \beta) &= \sigma(\alpha) + \sigma(\beta) \\ \sigma(\alpha \cdot \beta) &= \sigma(\alpha) \cdot \sigma(\beta) \\ \sigma(a) &= a, \forall a \in \mathbb{F}\end{aligned}$$

Characterisation of all distinct automorphisms of \mathbb{F} over \mathbb{F}

Definition 2.21

Distinct automorphisms of \mathbb{F} over \mathbb{F} are exactly the mapping:

$$\sigma_0, \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_{m-1}$$

defined by $\sigma_j(\alpha + \beta) = \sigma_j(\alpha) + \sigma_j(\beta)$ because of theorem 1.46, so that σ_j is an endomorphism of \mathbb{F} .

Furthermore $\sigma_j(\alpha) = 0$ iff $\alpha = 0$ and so σ_j is *one-to-one*. Since \mathbb{F} is a finite set, σ_j is an epimorphism and therefore an automorphism of \mathbb{F} .

Moreover we have $\sigma_j(a) = a$ for all $a \in \mathbb{F}$ by lemma 2.3 and so each σ_j is an automorphism of \mathbb{F} over \mathbb{F} .

The mapping $\sigma_0, \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_{m-1}$ are distinct since they attain distinct values for primitive elements of \mathbb{F}

Now suppose that σ is an arbitrary automorphism of \mathbb{F} over \mathbb{F} .

Let β be a primitive element (generator) of \mathbb{F} and let

$$f(x) = x^m + a_{m-1} \cdot x^{m-1} + \dots + a_0 \in \mathbb{F}_2[x]$$

be its minimal polynomial over \mathbb{F} .

Then we have that:

$$\begin{aligned}0 &= \sigma(\beta^m + a_{m-1} \cdot \beta^{m-1} + \dots + a_0) \\ &= \sigma(\beta^m) + a_{m-1} \cdot \sigma(\beta^{m-1}) + \dots + a_0\end{aligned}$$

So that $\sigma(\beta)$ is a root of f in \mathbb{F}

It follows from Theorem 2.14 that: $\sigma(\beta) = \beta^{q^j}$ for some $j \in [0 \leq j \leq m-1]$

Since σ is a homomorphism, we get that $\sigma(\alpha) = \alpha^{q^j}$ for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$.

On the basis of 2.21, it is evident that conjugates of $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}$ with respect to \mathbb{F} are obtained by applying all automorphisms of \mathbb{F} over \mathbb{F} to element α .

The automorphisms of \mathbb{F} over \mathbb{F} form a group with the operation being the usual composition of mappings.

The information provided in Theorem 2.21 shows that this group of automorphisms of \mathbb{F} over \mathbb{F} is a cyclic group of order m generated by σ_1

Construction of irreducible polynomials

An irreducible polynomial over \mathbb{F} of degree n remains irreducible over \mathbb{F}_k iff k and n are relative prime.

Relative prime: Two primes that don't divide each other. **Coprime:** where you have common factors.

$$21 = (1), (3), 7, 21$$

$$24 = (1), 2, (3), 4, 6, 8, 12, 24$$

They share 1 and 3 as divisors, 21 and 24 are then *coprime*.

Example 1

Polynomial $x^2 + x + 1$ is irreducible over \mathbb{F}_2 degree 2 The it is irreducible over \mathbb{F}_2 is n is a odd number.

Example 2

Polynomial $x^3 + x + 1$ is irreducible over \mathbb{F}_2 degree 3 Then it is irreducible over \mathbb{F}_2 iff n is not dividible by 3.

Traces of elements of finite fields

Section 3, p50

In this section we adopt again the viewpoint of regarding $F = \mathbb{F}$ of the finite fields $K = \mathbb{F}$ as a vectorspace over K (Chapter 1, section 4).

Then F has dimention m over K , and if $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m\}$ is a basis of F over K , each element $\alpha \in F$ can be uniquerly represented in the form:

$$\alpha = c_1 \cdot \alpha_1 + \dots + c_m \cdot \alpha_m$$

with $c_j \in K$ for $1 \leq j \leq m$

We introduce an important mapping fraom $F \rightarrow K$ which will turn out to be linear.

Let $\alpha \in F$, Then the sum of all **conjugates** of α with respect to K is called "The trace of α over K " and is denoted by:

$$Tr_{F/K}(\alpha)$$

Definition 2.22

For $\alpha \in F = \mathbb{F}$ and $K = \mathbb{F}$

The trace of $Tr_{F/K}(\alpha)$ of α over K is defined by:

$$Tr_{F/K}(\alpha) = \alpha + \alpha^q + \dots + \alpha^{q^{m-1}}$$

If K is a **prime subfield** of F then $Tr_{F/K}(\alpha)$ is called the **absolute trace** of α and simply denoted $Tr_F(\alpha)$

In other words, the trace of α over K is the sum of all the conjugates of α with respect to K .

Still another description of the trace may be obtained as follows.

Let $f \in K[x]$ be the minimal polynomial of α over K . It's degree d is a divisor of m .

Then $g(x) = f(x)^{m/d} \in K$ is called the charateristic polynomial α over K .

By theorem 2.14, the roots of f in F are given by:

$$\alpha, \alpha^q, \dots, \alpha^{q^{d-1}}$$

And then a remark following 2.17 implies that the roots of g in F are precisley the conjugages of α with respect to K .

Hence:

$$\begin{aligned} g(x) &= x^m + a_{m-1} \cdot x^{m-1} + \dots + a_0 \\ &= (x - \alpha) \cdot (x - \alpha^q) \cdot \dots \cdot (x - \alpha^{q^{m-1}}) \end{aligned}$$

And a comparison of coefficients show that:

$$\text{Tr}_{F/K}(\alpha) = -a_{m-1}$$

In particular, $\text{Tr}_{F/K}(\alpha)$ is always an element of K

Theorem 2.23 Holds all 5 properties of the trace function.

Let $K = \mathbb{F}$ and $F = \mathbb{F}$ Then the trace function $\text{Tr}_{F/K}$ satisfies the following properties:

i)

$$\text{Tr}_{F/K}(\alpha + \beta) = \text{Tr}_{F/K}(\alpha) + \text{Tr}_{F/K}(\beta), \forall \alpha, \beta \in F$$

ii)

$$\text{Tr}_{F/K}(c \cdot \alpha) = c \cdot \text{Tr}_{F/K}(\alpha), \forall c \in K, \forall \alpha \in F$$

iii)

$\text{Tr}_{F/K}(\alpha)$ is linear transformation from F onto K , when both F and K are viewed as vector spaces over K .

iv)

$$\text{Tr}_{F/K}(a) = m \cdot a, \forall a \in K$$

m is coming from \mathbb{F}

v)

$$\text{Tr}_{F/K}(\alpha^q) = \text{Tr}_{F/K}(\alpha), \forall \alpha \in \mathbb{F}$$

Where q is from \mathbb{F}

Proof (p.51)

Main takeaway i) and ii) make iii) $\text{Tr}_{F/K}(\alpha)$ into a linear transformation. It is sufficient to show that $\alpha \in F$ with $\text{Tr}_{F/K}(\alpha) \neq 0$

$\text{Tr}_{F/K}(\alpha) = 0$ iff α is a root of the polynomial:

$\alpha^q - \alpha \in \mathbb{F}$

But since this polynomial can have at most q^{m-1} roots in F and F has q^m elements. We have are done, $F_{q^{m-1}} \neq F_{q^m} \square$

Theorem 2.25

Let F be a finite extension of $K = \mathbb{F}$. Then for $\alpha \in F$ we have: $\text{Tr}_{F/K}(\alpha) = 0$ iff $\alpha = \beta^q - \beta$ for some $\beta \in F$.

Proof

Suppose $\alpha \in F = \mathbb{F}$ with $\text{Tr}_{F/K}(\alpha) = 0$ and let β be a root of $x^q - x - \alpha$ in some extension field of F . Then $\beta^q - \beta = \alpha$ and:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \text{Tr}_{F/K}(\alpha) \\ RHS &= \alpha + \alpha^q + \dots + \alpha^{q^{q-1}} \\ &= (\beta^q - \beta) + (\beta^q - \beta)^q + \dots + (\beta^q - \beta)^{q^{q-1}} \\ &= (\beta^q - \beta) + (\beta^{q^2} - \beta^q) + \dots + (\beta^{q^m} - \beta^{q^{m-1}}) \\ &= (\beta^{q^m} - \beta) \end{aligned}$$

So that $\beta \in F$

□

Theorem 2.26 Transitivity of Trace

Let K be a finite field. Let F be a finite extension of K and E be a finite extension of F ($K \subseteq F \subseteq E$), K is the smallest field

$$\text{Tr}_{E/K}(\alpha) = \text{Tr}_{F/K}(\text{Tr}_{E/F}(\alpha)), \forall \alpha \in E$$

Proof is on page 53.

Basis of finite files over their subfields

Chapter 2, 3

If $F = \mathbb{F}$ and $K = \mathbb{F}$ then F can be viewed as an m dimensional vector space over K .

If $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m$ is a basis of F over K , then each element α in F can be uniquely represented on the form:

$$\alpha = c_1 \cdot \alpha_1 + \dots + c_m \cdot \alpha_m$$

with $c_1, \dots, c_m \in K$

There can be several different basis. There are three particular basis

- Dual basis
- Polynomial basis
- Normal basis

Definition 2.30 Dual basis

Let K be a finite field and F a finite extension of K .

Then two bases $\{\alpha, \alpha_m\}$ and $\{\beta, \beta_m\}$ of F over K are said to be dual (complementary) bases if for $1 \leq i, j \leq m$:

$$\text{Tr}_{F/K}(\alpha_i \cdot \beta_j) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{for } i \neq j \\ 1, & \text{for } i = j \end{cases}$$

The dual basis is uniquely determined since its definition implies that the coefficient $c_j \alpha, 1 \leq j \leq m$ in 2.04 are given by:

$$c_j(\alpha) = \text{Tr}_{F/K}(\beta_j \cdot \alpha), \forall \alpha \in F$$

and by Theorem 2.24 the element $\beta_j \in F$ is uniquely determined by the linear transformation c_j .

Definition 2.32 Normal basis

Let $K = \mathbb{F}$ and $F = \mathbb{F}$.

Then a basis of F over K on the form $\{\alpha, \alpha^q, \dots, \alpha^{q^{m-1}}\}$.

Consists of a suitable element $\alpha \in F$ and its conjugate with respect to K is called the normal basis of F over K .

The basis $\{\alpha, \alpha^2, 1 + \alpha + \alpha^2\}$ of \mathbb{F}_8 over \mathbb{F}_2

is a normal basis of \mathbb{F}_8 over \mathbb{F}_2 since $1 + \alpha + \alpha^2 = \alpha^4$.

Definition: Polybasis

A basis F over K of the form:

$$1, \alpha, \alpha^2, \dots, \alpha^{m-1}$$

with α defining element of F over K .

That is $F = K(\alpha)$ is called a polynomial basis.

If α is a primitive element of F then $1, \alpha, \alpha^2, \dots, \alpha^{m-1}$ is a polynomial basis.

Example 2.31

Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_8$ be a root of the irreducible polynomial

$$x^3 + x^2 + 1 \in \mathbb{F}_2[x]$$

Then $\mathbb{F}_8 = \mathbb{F}_2(\alpha)$ and $1, \alpha, \alpha^2, \alpha^3$ is a polynomial basis

On the other hand $1, \alpha, \alpha^2, 1 + \alpha + \alpha^2$ is a basis dual to itself and it is also a normal basis over \mathbb{F}_2

Since $1 + \alpha + \alpha^2 = \alpha^4$,

then $1, \alpha, \alpha^2, 1 + \alpha + \alpha^2$ is a normal basis over \mathbb{F}_2