
Contents

1	Field extensions	1
1.1	Constructions with ruler and compass	1
1.2	Fields	3
1.3	Field extensions	9
1.4	Some classical impossibilities	15
1.5	Symmetric functions	19
1.6	Appendix: Transcendence of e and π	22
	Exercises	26
2	Roots	31
2.1	Ring of remainders	31
2.2	Splitting extensions	34
2.3	Algebraically closed fields; algebraic closure	35
2.4	Appendix: Structure of polynomial rings	40
2.5	Appendix: Quotient rings	43
2.6	Appendix: Puiseux's theorem	45
	Exercises	50
3	Galois theory	55
3.1	Homomorphisms of an extension in an algebraic closure	55
3.2	Automorphism group of an extension	59
3.3	The Galois group as a permutation group	64
3.4	Discriminant; resolvent polynomials	68
3.5	Finite fields	73
	Exercises	75
4	A bit of group theory	83
4.1	Groups (quick review of basic definitions)	83

VIII Contents

4.2	Subgroups	84
4.3	Group actions	86
4.4	Normal subgroups; quotient groups	87
4.5	Solvable groups; nilpotent groups	90
4.6	Symmetric and alternating groups	92
4.7	Matrix groups	96
	Exercises	100
5	Applications	107
5.1	Constructibility with ruler and compass	107
5.2	Cyclotomy	108
5.3	Composite extensions	113
5.4	Cyclic extensions	116
5.5	Equations with degrees up to 4	118
5.6	Solving equations by radicals	125
5.7	How (not) to compute Galois groups	129
5.8	Specializing Galois groups	132
5.9	Hilbert's irreducibility theorem	139
	Exercises	145
6	Algebraic theory of differential equations	151
6.1	Differential fields	151
6.2	Differential extensions; construction of derivations	154
6.3	Differential equations	158
6.4	Picard-Vessiot extensions	160
6.5	The differential Galois group; examples	164
6.6	The differential Galois correspondence	169
6.7	Integration in finite terms, elementary extensions	170
6.8	Appendix: Hilbert's Nullstellensatz	177
	Exercises	179
	Examination problems	181
	References	189
	Index	191