

**Comprehensive Examination in Algebra**  
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**PART I:** Do three of the following problems.

1. Let  $G$  be a finite (not necessarily abelian) group, and let  $n$  be a positive integer relatively prime to  $|G|$ . Prove that the function

$$G \xrightarrow{g \mapsto g^n} G$$

is surjective. (This surjectivity amounts to saying that every element of  $G$  has an “ $n$ th root” in  $G$ .)

2. Let  $A$  be an additive abelian group. Recall that  $mA = \{m \cdot a : a \in A\}$  is a subgroup of  $A$ , for all integers  $m$ . (You do not have to prove this fact). We say that  $A$  is *divisible* provided  $nA = A$  for all nonzero integers  $n$ . Prove that a nonzero, finitely generated, additive abelian group cannot be divisible.
3. Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with identity. The *Jacobson radical* of  $R$ , denoted  $J(R)$ , is the intersection of all of the maximal ideals of  $R$ .
  - (a) Prove that  $a \in R$  is contained in  $J(R)$  if and only if  $1 + ar$  is a unit in  $R$  for all  $r \in R$ .
  - (b) Let  $k$  be a field. Prove that the Jacobson radical of  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is the zero ideal, where  $n$  is a positive integer.
4.
  - (a) Prove, if  $n$  is an integer greater than 2, that there exists a field extension of degree  $n$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$  that is not normal. (Be careful to completely justify your assertions.)
  - (b) Give an example (with proof) of a field extension  $K/F$  of finite degree that is not separable.

**Part II:** Do two of the following problems.

1. Let  $G$  be a group of order  $224 = 7 \cdot 2^5$ . Prove that  $G$  is not simple. (You may not use Burnside's " $p^a q^b$  Theorem.")
2. Let  $R$  be a PID, and let  $M$  be a finitely generated, nonzero (left)  $R$ -module. Assume further that  $M$  is *completely faithful*: For all nonzero ideals  $I$  of  $R$ , and all nonzero submodules  $N$  of  $M$ , the submodule

$$I.N = \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{\ell} a_k \cdot n_k \mid a_k \in I, n_k \in N, \ell = 1, 2, \dots \right\}$$

is also nonzero. (You do not have to prove that  $I.N$ , in the preceding, is a submodule of  $M$ .) Prove that  $M$  is a free  $R$ -module.

3. Let  $p_1, \dots, p_n$  be pairwise distinct prime positive integers, and set

$$F = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p_1}, \dots, \sqrt{p_n}).$$

- (a) Prove that  $F$  is a Galois extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$ .
- (b) Prove that  $[F : \mathbb{Q}] = 2^n$ .
- (c) Set  $G = \text{Gal}(F/\mathbb{Q})$ . Prove that  $G$  is abelian and that every non-identity element of  $G$  has order 2.
- (d) Fix  $i$ , with  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Show that there exists  $\sigma \in G$  such that  $\sigma(\sqrt{p_i}) = -\sqrt{p_i}$  and such that  $\sigma(\sqrt{p_j}) = \sqrt{p_j}$  for all  $j \neq i$ .
- (e) Use the preceding to show that  $F = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p_1} + \dots + \sqrt{p_n})$ .