

## POLYNOMIALS WITH A GIVEN CYCLIC GALOIS GROUP

JIŘÍ CIHLÁŘ, JAROSLAV FUKA, AND MARTIN KUŘIL

**ABSTRACT.** For every natural number  $n$  such that  $2n + 1$  is a prime, we present an explicit monic irreducible  $n^{\text{th}}$  degree polynomial with integer coefficients whose Galois group over the field of all rational numbers is isomorphic to the cyclic group  $\mathbf{Z}_n$ . The discriminant of the splitting field of the presented polynomial is equal to  $(2n + 1)^{n-1}$ .

The topic of our paper is a special case of the Inverse Galois Problem. Recall this problem: Is a finite group  $G$  realizable over the field of all rational numbers  $\mathbf{Q}$ ? In other words, is there an extension  $\mathbf{Q} \prec F$  such that  $\text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} F \simeq G$ ? Note that this question only asks about the existence of an extension  $\mathbf{Q} \prec F$ . The second step is to construct a polynomial  $f(x) \in \mathbf{Q}[x]$  whose splitting field over  $\mathbf{Q}$  is  $F$ , and so whose Galois group  $\text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} f$  is  $G$ .

Note that the Kronecker-Weber Theorem states: Every finite abelian extension of  $\mathbf{Q}$  is a subfield of a cyclotomic field. So, if  $G$  is a finite abelian group,  $f(x) \in \mathbf{Q}[x]$  is an irreducible polynomial whose splitting field over  $\mathbf{Q}$  is  $F$  and  $\text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} F \simeq G$ , then there exists a root of unity  $\xi$  such that  $F$  is a subfield of  $\mathbf{Q}(\xi)$ .

We are interested in the following task: A natural number  $n$  is given. Find a monic irreducible  $n^{\text{th}}$  degree polynomial  $f$  with integer coefficients such that its Galois group over the field of all rational numbers  $\mathbf{Q}$  is isomorphic to the cyclic group  $\mathbf{Z}_n$ , i.e.  $\text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} f \simeq \mathbf{Z}_n$ .

It is easy to see that there are infinitely many polynomials solving our task. We formulate this in our Proposition 1 below.

More interesting is to present an explicit polynomial solving our task. In our theorem we give such a presentation in the case that  $2n + 1$  is a prime number. Note that there exist infinitely many natural numbers  $n$  with the property  $2n + 1$  is a prime.

**Lemma 1.** *If  $n$  is a natural number then there is an irreducible polynomial  $f \in \mathbf{Q}[x]$  such that  $f$  has degree  $n$  and the Galois group of  $f$  over  $\mathbf{Q}$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbf{Z}_n$ .*

---

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 12F12, 11R20.

*Key words and phrases.* Galois group of a polynomial, discriminant of a number field.

*Proof.* See [1, page 187, Corollary 4.5].  $\square$

**Lemma 2.** *Let*

$$f(x) = x^n + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + a_{n-2}x^{n-2} + \dots + a_2x^2 + a_1x + a_0 \in \mathbf{Q}[x].$$

*For any  $q \in \mathbf{Q}$ ,  $q \neq 0$ , we put*

$$f_q(x) = x^n + qa_{n-1}x^{n-1} + q^2a_{n-2}x^{n-2} + \dots + q^{n-1}a_1x + q^na_0.$$

*Then the following holds:*

- (i)  $\text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} f_q = \text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} f$
- (ii)  $f$  is irreducible if and only if  $f_q$  is irreducible.

*Proof.* (i) It is easy to see that  $f(\alpha) = 0 \iff f_q(q\alpha) = 0$ , which implies that the splitting fields over  $\mathbf{Q}$  of the polynomials  $f$  and  $f_q$  are the same. Consequently,  $\text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} f_q = \text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} f$ .

- (ii) Let  $f(\alpha) = f_q(q\alpha) = 0$ . Then  $f$  is irreducible  $\iff [\mathbf{Q}(\alpha) : \mathbf{Q}] = n$ . Similarly,  $f_q$  is irreducible  $\iff [\mathbf{Q}(q\alpha) : \mathbf{Q}] = n$ . Since  $\mathbf{Q}(\alpha) = \mathbf{Q}(q\alpha)$ , we have  $f$  is irreducible if and only if  $f_q$  is irreducible.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $n$  be a natural number. There exist infinitely many monic irreducible  $n^{\text{th}}$  degree polynomials with integer coefficients whose Galois groups over  $\mathbf{Q}$  are isomorphic to  $\mathbf{Z}_n$ .*

*Proof.* By Lemma 1, there is an irreducible polynomial  $f \in \mathbf{Q}[x]$  such that  $f$  has degree  $n$  and  $\text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} f \simeq \mathbf{Z}_n$ . We may assume that  $f$  is monic,

$$f(x) = x^n + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + a_{n-2}x^{n-2} + \dots + a_2x^2 + a_1x + a_0.$$

Clearly, there is a non zero integer  $l$  with the property  $la_0, la_1, \dots, la_{n-1} \in \mathbf{Z}$ . For any natural number  $m$ , the polynomial  $f_{ml}$  is a monic irreducible  $n^{\text{th}}$  degree polynomial with integer coefficients whose Galois group over  $\mathbf{Q}$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbf{Z}_n$  (see Lemma 2). The polynomials  $f_{ml}$  are pairwise distinct because the numbers  $m^n l^n a_0$  are pairwise distinct (note that  $a_0 \neq 0$  since  $f$  is irreducible).  $\square$

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $n, j$  be integers,  $0 \leq n$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq \frac{n}{2}$ . Then*

$$\sum_{k=0}^j (-1)^k \binom{n-k}{k} \binom{n-2k}{j-k} = 1.$$

*Proof.* At first,

$$\begin{aligned} \binom{n-k}{k} \binom{n-2k}{j-k} &= \frac{(n-k)!}{k!(n-2k)!} \cdot \frac{(n-2k)!}{(j-k)!(n-k-j)!} \\ &= \frac{(n-k)!}{k!(j-k)!(n-k-j)!} \cdot \frac{j!}{j!} \\ &= \binom{j}{k} \binom{n-k}{j}. \end{aligned}$$

So, we have to prove the identity

$$\sum_{k=0}^j (-1)^k \binom{j}{k} \binom{n-k}{j} = 1.$$

We use generating functions. Put

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \binom{j}{k} x^k, \quad g(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{n-j+k}{j} x^k.$$

The  $j$ th coefficient of the product  $f(x)g(x)$  is equal to  $\sum_{k=0}^j (-1)^k \binom{j}{k} \binom{n-k}{j}$ . Consequently, we would like to show that the  $j$ th coefficient of  $f(x)g(x)$  is equal to 1. Clearly,  $f(x) = (1-x)^j$ . Further,

$$\begin{aligned} g(x) &= \frac{1}{x^{n-2j}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{j!} (x^{n-j+k})^{(j)} \\ &= \frac{1}{j!} \cdot \frac{1}{x^{n-2j}} \cdot \left( x^{n-j} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k \right)^{(j)} \\ &= \frac{1}{j!} \cdot \frac{1}{x^{n-2j}} \cdot \left( x^{n-j} \cdot \frac{1}{1-x} \right)^{(j)} \\ &= \frac{1}{j!} \cdot \frac{1}{x^{n-2j}} \cdot \sum_{i=0}^j \binom{j}{i} (x^{n-j})^{(i)} \left( \frac{1}{1-x} \right)^{(j-i)} \\ &= \frac{1}{j!} \cdot \frac{1}{x^{n-2j}} \cdot x^{n-j} \cdot j! \cdot \frac{1}{(1-x)^{j+1}} + \\ &\quad \frac{1}{j!} \cdot \frac{1}{x^{n-2j}} \sum_{i=1}^j \frac{j!}{i!(j-i)!} (n-j) \dots (n-j-i+1) x^{n-j-i} \frac{(j-i)!}{(1-x)^{j-i+1}} \\ &= \frac{x^j}{(1-x)^{j+1}} + \sum_{i=1}^j \binom{n-j}{i} \frac{x^{j-i}}{(1-x)^{j-i+1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x)g(x) &= \frac{x^j}{1-x} + \sum_{i=1}^j \binom{n-j}{i} x^{j-i} (1-x)^{i-1} \\ &= (x^j + x^{j+1} + x^{j+2} + \dots) + \sum_{i=1}^j \binom{n-j}{i} x^{j-i} (1-x)^{i-1}. \end{aligned}$$

The polynomial  $\binom{n-j}{i} x^{j-i} (1-x)^{i-1}$  has degree  $j-1$ , for any  $i = 1, 2, \dots, j$ . Thus the  $j$ th coefficient of the product  $f(x)g(x)$  is really equal to 1.  $\square$

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $n$  be a natural number such that  $2n + 1$  is a prime. Let*

$$f(x) = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq \frac{n}{2}} (-1)^k \binom{n-k}{k} x^{n-2k} + \sum_{0 \leq k < \frac{n}{2}} (-1)^k \binom{n-k-1}{k} x^{n-2k-1}.$$

*Then  $f$  is a monic irreducible  $n$ th degree polynomial with integer coefficients such that  $\text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} f \simeq \mathbf{Z}_n$ .*

*Proof.* Put  $p = 2n + 1$ ,  $\xi = \cos \frac{2\pi}{p} + i \sin \frac{2\pi}{p}$ . At first, we prove that  $\text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} \mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi}) \simeq \mathbf{Z}_n$ . The following holds (see [1, page 135, 1.24.4]):

$$\text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} \mathbf{Q}(\xi) \simeq \mathbf{Z}_p^\times \simeq \mathbf{Z}_{p-1} = \mathbf{Z}_{2n}.$$

So,  $\text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} \mathbf{Q}(\xi)$  contains a (unique) subgroup  $H$  of index  $n$ . Let  $\tau \in \text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} \mathbf{Q}(\xi)$ ,  $\tau(\xi) = \xi^{p-1} = \frac{1}{\xi}$ . The automorphism  $\tau$  has order 2 since  $\tau^2(\xi) = \tau(\tau(\xi)) = \tau(\frac{1}{\xi}) = \frac{1}{\tau(\xi)} = \xi$ . So,  $H = \langle \tau \rangle$ . We will show that  $H' = \{u \in \mathbf{Q}(\xi) \mid \tau(u) = u\} = \mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})$ . Then, by the Fundamental Theorem of Galois Theory ([1, page 129, Theorem 1.22]),  $\mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})$  is normal over  $\mathbf{Q}$  and

$$\text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} \mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi}) \simeq \text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} \mathbf{Q}(\xi)/H \simeq \mathbf{Z}_n.$$

Now, we show that really  $H' = \mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})$ . Since  $\tau(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi}) = \tau(\xi) + \tau(\frac{1}{\xi}) = \frac{1}{\xi} + \xi$ , it holds  $\xi + \frac{1}{\xi} \in H'$ . It gives  $\mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi}) \prec H'$ . Altogether,

$$\mathbf{Q} \prec \mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi}) \prec H' \prec \mathbf{Q}(\xi).$$

By the Tower Theorem ([1, page 89, Proposition 2.1]),

$$[\mathbf{Q}(\xi) : \mathbf{Q}] = [\mathbf{Q}(\xi) : H'] \cdot [H' : \mathbf{Q}] = [\mathbf{Q}(\xi) : \mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})] \cdot [\mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi}) : \mathbf{Q}].$$

We know that  $[\mathbf{Q}(\xi) : \mathbf{Q}] = 2n$ . Further, by the Fundamental Theorem of Galois Theory,  $[\mathbf{Q}(\xi) : H'] = (H : \langle i_{\mathbf{Q}(\xi)} \rangle) = o(H) = 2$ . It remains to show that  $[\mathbf{Q}(\xi) : \mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})] = 2$ . Put  $g(x) = x^2 - (\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})x + 1$ . Clearly,  $g(x) \in \mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})[x]$  and  $g(\xi) = 0$ . Suppose that  $g(x)$  is reducible over  $\mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})$ . Then  $g(x) = (x - \alpha)(x - \beta)$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})$ . Thus  $0 = g(\xi) = (\xi - \alpha)(\xi - \beta)$ ,  $\xi = \alpha$  or  $\xi = \beta$ ,  $\xi \in \mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})$ . But then  $\xi \in H'$ ,  $\tau(\xi) = \xi$ ,  $\frac{1}{\xi} = \xi$ ,  $1 = \xi^2$ . It is a contradiction. Consequently,  $g(x)$  is irreducible over  $\mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})$ . Remember that  $g(\xi) = 0$ . So,  $g(x)$  is the minimal polynomial of  $\xi$  over  $\mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})$ . Then  $[\mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})(\xi) : \mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})] = \deg(g) = 2$ . But  $\mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})(\xi) = \mathbf{Q}(\xi)$  which yields  $[\mathbf{Q}(\xi) : \mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})] = 2$ .

Let us denote

$$u_i = \xi^i + \xi^{p-i} = \xi^i + \frac{1}{\xi^i}, i \geq 1, u_0 = 1.$$

We have

$$u_0 + u_1 + u_2 + \cdots + u_n = 0.$$

We will also use the next formulas for  $u_1^k$  which can be derived from the Binomial Theorem ( $k \geq 0$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} u_1^k &= \left( \xi + \frac{1}{\xi} \right)^k \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^k \binom{k}{i} \xi^i \left( \frac{1}{\xi} \right)^{k-i} \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^k \binom{k}{i} \xi^{2i-k} \\ &= \sum_{0 \leq i < \frac{k}{2}} \left( \binom{k}{i} \xi^{2i-k} + \binom{k}{k-i} \xi^{2(k-i)-k} \right) + \underbrace{\binom{k}{\frac{k}{2}} \xi^0}_{\text{for } k \text{ even}} \\ &= \sum_{0 \leq i < \frac{k}{2}} \binom{k}{i} \left( \xi^{k-2i} + \frac{1}{\xi^{k-2i}} \right) + \underbrace{\binom{k}{\frac{k}{2}} u_0}_{\text{for } k \text{ even}} \\ &= \sum_{0 \leq i < \frac{k}{2}} \binom{k}{i} u_{k-2i} + \underbrace{\binom{k}{\frac{k}{2}} u_0}_{\text{for } k \text{ even}} \\ &= \sum_{0 \leq i \leq \frac{k}{2}} \binom{k}{i} u_{k-2i}. \end{aligned}$$

We have already shown that  $[\mathbf{Q}(u_1) : \mathbf{Q}] = n$ . Clearly,  $f$  is a monic  $n$ th degree polynomial with integer coefficients. Suppose that  $f(u_1) = 0$ . Then, since  $[\mathbf{Q}(u_1) : \mathbf{Q}] = n$  and  $\deg(f) = n$ ,  $f$  is a minimal polynomial of  $u_1$  over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . So,  $f$  is irreducible. Since  $\mathbf{Q}(u_1)$  is normal over  $\mathbf{Q}$ ,  $f \in \mathbf{Q}[x]$  is irreducible,  $f(u_1) = 0$ , it follows that  $\mathbf{Q}(u_1)$  is a splitting field of the polynomial  $f$  over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Thus  $\text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} f = \text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} \mathbf{Q}(u_1) \simeq \mathbf{Z}_n$ . We have just seen that it remains to prove the equality  $f(u_1) = 0$ . Let us compute:

$$\begin{aligned} f(u_1) &= \sum_{0 \leq k \leq \frac{n}{2}} (-1)^k \binom{n-k}{k} u_1^{n-2k} + \sum_{0 \leq k < \frac{n}{2}} (-1)^k \binom{n-k-1}{k} u_1^{n-2k-1} \\ &= \sum_{0 \leq k \leq \frac{n}{2}} (-1)^k \binom{n-k}{k} \cdot \sum_{0 \leq i \leq \frac{n}{2}-k} \binom{n-2k}{i} u_{n-2k-2i} \\ &\quad + \sum_{0 \leq k < \frac{n}{2}} (-1)^k \binom{n-k-1}{k} \cdot \sum_{0 \leq i < \frac{n}{2}-k} \binom{n-2k-1}{i} u_{n-2k-1-2i} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{0 \leq k \leq \frac{n}{2}} \sum_{0 \leq i \leq \frac{n}{2} - k} (-1)^k \binom{n-k}{k} \binom{n-2k}{i} u_{n-2(k+i)} \\
&\quad + \sum_{0 \leq k < \frac{n}{2}} \sum_{0 \leq i < \frac{n}{2} - k} (-1)^k \binom{n-1-k}{k} \binom{n-1-2k}{i} u_{n-1-2(k+i)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Put  $j = k + i$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
f(u_1) &= \sum_{0 \leq j \leq \frac{n}{2}} \sum_{k=0}^j (-1)^k \binom{n-k}{k} \binom{n-2k}{j-k} u_{n-2j} \\
&\quad + \sum_{0 \leq j < \frac{n}{2}} \sum_{k=0}^j (-1)^k \binom{n-1-k}{k} \binom{n-1-2k}{j-k} u_{n-1-2j} \\
&= \sum_{0 \leq j \leq \frac{n}{2}} u_{n-2j} \cdot \sum_{k=0}^j (-1)^k \binom{n-k}{k} \binom{n-2k}{j-k} \\
&\quad + \sum_{0 \leq j < \frac{n}{2}} u_{n-(2j+1)} \cdot \sum_{k=0}^j (-1)^k \binom{n-1-k}{k} \binom{n-1-2k}{j-k}.
\end{aligned}$$

It follows from Lemma 3 that

$$\begin{aligned}
f(u_1) &= \sum_{0 \leq j \leq \frac{n}{2}} u_{n-2j} + \sum_{0 \leq j < \frac{n}{2}} u_{n-(2j+1)} \\
&= u_0 + u_1 + u_2 + \cdots + u_n \\
&= 0.
\end{aligned}$$

The proof of our theorem is complete.  $\square$

*Problem 1.* Formulate and prove analogous theorems for natural numbers  $n$  such that  $kn + 1$  is a prime ( $k = 3, 4, 5, \dots$ ).

*Remark 1.* For some concrete values of  $n$  ( $n = 5, 8, 9, 11$ ), the polynomial from the theorem can be found in the Appendix of the book [3].

At the end of our article, we would like to show that the discriminant of the splitting field (over the field of all rational numbers  $\mathbf{Q}$ ) of the polynomial  $f(x)$  from our theorem is equal to  $(2n+1)^{n-1}$ . For the definition of the discriminant of an algebraic number field see [2, page 176].

Recall the notation. Let  $n$  be a natural number such that  $2n+1$  is a prime. We put  $p = 2n+1$ ,  $\xi = \cos \frac{2\pi}{p} + i \sin \frac{2\pi}{p}$ ,  $u_i = \xi^i + \xi^{p-i} = \xi^i + \frac{1}{\xi^i}$  ( $i \geq 1$ ).

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $A$  be the ring of all algebraic integers in  $\mathbf{Q}(\xi)$ . Then  $A$  is a free abelian group with basis  $\{1, \xi, \dots, \xi^{p-2}\}$ .*

*Proof.* [4, page 82, Statement **U**].  $\square$

**Lemma 5.**  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  is an integral basis for the ring  $D$  of algebraic integers in  $\mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})$ .

*Proof.* Let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in \mathbf{Q}$ ,  $a_1 u_1 + a_2 u_2 + \dots + a_n u_n = 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 \xi + a_1 \xi^{2n} + a_2 \xi^2 + a_2 \xi^{2n-1} + \dots + a_n \xi^n + a_n \xi^{n+1} &= 0, \\ a_1 + a_1 \xi^{2n-1} + a_2 \xi + a_2 \xi^{2n-2} + \dots + a_n \xi^{n-1} + a_n \xi^n &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since the minimal polynomial of  $\xi$  over  $\mathbf{Q}$  is  $x^{2n} + x^{2n-1} + \dots + x + 1$ , we have  $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_n = 0$  and the elements  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . As  $[\mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi}) : \mathbf{Q}] = n$ , we have  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$  is a basis for  $\mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})$  over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Now, we want to show that  $D = \mathbf{Z}u_1 + \mathbf{Z}u_2 + \dots + \mathbf{Z}u_n$ . Since  $\xi$  is an algebraic integer and the set of algebraic integers forms a ring, we have  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in D$ . So, it remains to prove the inclusion  $D \subseteq \mathbf{Z}u_1 + \mathbf{Z}u_2 + \dots + \mathbf{Z}u_n$ . Let  $d \in D$ . There exist  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n \in \mathbf{Q}$  such that  $d = b_1 u_1 + b_2 u_2 + \dots + b_n u_n$ . We are going to prove that  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n$  are integers. By Lemma 4, since clearly  $D \subseteq A$ , there exist integers  $c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{2n-1}$  such that  $d = c_0 + c_1 \xi + \dots + c_{2n-1} \xi^{2n-1}$ . Recall that  $1 = -\xi - \xi^2 \dots - \xi^{2n}$ . We have obtained the following expressions for  $d$ :

$$\begin{aligned} d &= b_1 \xi + b_1 \xi^{2n} + b_2 \xi^2 + b_2 \xi^{2n-1} + \dots + b_n \xi^n + b_n \xi^{n+1}, \\ d &= (c_1 - c_0) \xi + (c_2 - c_0) \xi^2 + \dots + (c_{2n-1} - c_0) \xi^{2n-1} - c_0 \xi^{2n}. \end{aligned}$$

The elements  $1, \xi, \dots, \xi^{2n-1}$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Consequently, the elements  $\xi, \xi^2, \dots, \xi^{2n}$  are also linearly independent over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Now, we compare our two expressions for  $d$  and get the equalities

$$b_i = c_i - c_0$$

for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . We see that  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n$  are integers.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.** *The discriminant of the splitting field of the polynomial  $f(x)$  from the theorem is equal to  $(2n+1)^{n-1}$ .*

*Proof.* We have shown in the proof of the theorem that  $\mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})$  is a splitting field of the polynomial  $f(x)$  over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Let us denote the discriminant of  $\mathbf{Q}(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi})/\mathbf{Q}$  by  $\delta$ . According to the definition, in view of Lemma 5,

$$\delta = \text{discr}(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n).$$

Let  $1 \leq i \leq 2n$ ,  $\tau_i \in \text{Gal}_{\mathbf{Q}} \mathbf{Q}(\xi)$ ,  $\tau_i(\xi) = \xi^i$ . Then

$$\tau_i(u_1) = \tau_i\left(\xi + \frac{1}{\xi}\right) = \tau_i(\xi) + \frac{1}{\tau_i(\xi)} = \xi^i + \frac{1}{\xi^i} = u_i.$$

Since  $f(u_1) = 0$  (see the proof of our theorem),  $f(u_i) = 0$  and  $f$  is the minimal polynomial of  $u_i$  over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Note that the coefficient of the polynomial  $f$  at  $x^{n-1}$  is  $(-1)^0 \binom{n-0-1}{0} = 1$ . Thus  $\text{Tr}(u_i) = -1$ . Let  $1 \leq j < i \leq n$ . We can compute

$$u_i u_j = \left(\xi^i + \frac{1}{\xi^i}\right) \left(\xi^j + \frac{1}{\xi^j}\right) = \xi^{i+j} + \xi^{i-j} + \frac{1}{\xi^{i-j}} + \frac{1}{\xi^{i+j}} = u_{i+j} + u_{i-j},$$

$$\mathrm{Tr}(u_i u_j) = \mathrm{Tr}(u_{i+j} + u_{i-j}) = \mathrm{Tr}(u_{i+j}) + \mathrm{Tr}(u_{i-j}) = (-1) + (-1) = -2.$$

Similarly, for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,

$$u_i u_i = \left( \xi^i + \frac{1}{\xi^i} \right) \left( \xi^i + \frac{1}{\xi^i} \right) = \xi^{2i} + 1 + 1 + \frac{1}{\xi^{2i}} = u_{2i} + 2,$$

$$\mathrm{Tr}(u_i u_i) = \mathrm{Tr}(u_{2i} + 2) = \mathrm{Tr}(u_{2i}) + \mathrm{Tr}(2) = -1 + 2n.$$

The traces of elements were computed using the elementary facts mentioned in [4, pages 16-17, Paragraph 10]. Finally,

$$\delta = \det \begin{pmatrix} 2n-1 & -2 & \dots & -2 \\ -2 & 2n-1 & \dots & -2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -2 & -2 & \dots & 2n-1 \end{pmatrix} = (2n+1)^{n-1}. \quad \square$$

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors thank the referee for his suggestions about the paper.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] M. H. Fenrick. *Introduction to the Galois correspondence*. Birkhäuser Boston, Inc., Boston, MA, second edition, 1998.
- [2] K. Ireland and M. Rosen. *A classical introduction to modern number theory*, volume 84 of *Graduate Texts in Mathematics*. Springer-Verlag, New York, second edition, 1990.
- [3] G. Malle and B. H. Matzat. *Inverse Galois theory*. Springer Monographs in Mathematics. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1999.
- [4] P. Ribenboim. *Algebraic numbers*. Wiley-Interscience [A Division of John Wiley & Sons, Inc.], New York-London-Sydney, 1972. Pure and Applied Mathematics, Vol. 27.

*Received November 6, 2013.*

JIŘÍ CIHLÁŘ,  
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS,  
FACULTY OF SCIENCE,  
J. E. PURKYNE UNIVERSITY  
CESKE MLADÉZE 8  
400 96 USTI NAD LABEM  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
*E-mail address:* jiri.cihlar@ujep.cz

MARTIN KUŘIL (CORRESPONDING AUTHOR),  
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS,  
FACULTY OF SCIENCE,  
J. E. PURKYNE UNIVERSITY  
CESKE MLADÉZE 8  
400 96 USTI NAD LABEM  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
*E-mail address:* martin.kuril@ujep.cz