

Intersective A_5 polynomials with two irreducible factors

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It is a joint work with Jack Sonn. A monic polynomial in one variable with rational integer coefficients is called *intersective* if it has a root modulo m for all positive integers m , and *nontrivially intersective* if in addition it has no rational root, "intersective" will always mean "nontrivially intersective". Let G be a finite noncyclic group and let $r(G)$ be the smallest number of irreducible factors of an intersective polynomial with Galois group G over \mathbb{Q} . There is a group-theoretically defined lower bound for $r(G)$, given by the smallest number $s(G)$ of proper subgroups of G having the property that the union of the conjugates of those subgroups is G and their intersection is trivial. This follows from

Proposition. *Let K/\mathbb{Q} be a finite Galois extension with (noncyclic) Galois group G . The following are equivalent:*

1. *K is the splitting field of a product $f = g_1 \cdots g_m$ of m irreducible polynomials of degree greater than 1 in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ and f has a root in \mathbb{Q}_p for all (finite) primes p .*
2. *G is the union of the conjugates of m proper subgroups H_1, \dots, H_m , the intersection of all these conjugates is trivial, and for all (finite) primes \mathfrak{p} of K , the decomposition group $G(\mathfrak{p})$ is contained in a conjugate of some H_i .*

We will call an intersective polynomial $f(x)$ with Galois group G over \mathbb{Q} *optimally intersective for G* if the above lower bound $s(G)$ for $r(G)$ is attained, i.e. $f(x)$ is the product of $s(G)$ irreducible factors. Accordingly, a Galois extension K/\mathbb{Q} with Galois group G will be called an *optimally intersective realization of G* if it is the splitting field of a polynomial which is optimally intersective for G . In fact, for all finite solvable groups there exist infinitely many disjoint optimally intersective realizations. Among the (non-cyclic) alternating groups A_n , $s(A_n) = 2$ if and only if $n \in \{4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$. In the case of A_4 , there is a direct and explicit proof (showed by *Lee, Spearman and Yang*). We will prove the following theorem

Theorem. *There exist infinitely many disjoint optimally intersective realizations of A_5 .*

which says that the same result holds for the non-solvable group A_5 .