

- (1) (25%) Let  $p$  be a prime number. Show that a finite  $p$ -group has nontrivial center. Find a *non-commutative group* of order  $p^4$ , non-isomorphic to a direct product of smaller order groups.

- (2) (25%) Let  $\mathcal{O}$  be a commutative ring. Prove the follow.

- (a) Suppose ideals in  $\mathcal{O}$  satisfy the descending chain condition: if ideals

$$\mathcal{O} \supseteq I_1 \supseteq I_2 \supseteq \cdots I_k \supseteq \cdots,$$

then there exists some  $n$  such that  $I_k = I_n$ , for all  $k \geq n$ . Then  $\mathcal{O}$  is Noetherian.

- (b) If  $\mathcal{O}$  is Noetherian, then the formal power series ring  $\mathcal{O}[[x]]$  is also Noetherian.

- (3) (25%) Let  $F$  be a field of characteristic 0 and  $f(x) \in F[x]$  be a degree 4 (not necessary irreducible) polynomial. Let  $K = F(\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3, \theta_4)$ , where  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_4$  are distinct roots of  $f(x)$ . Define

$$\xi = (\theta_1 + \theta_2)(\theta_3 + \theta_4).$$

Show that  $\xi$  satisfies a degree 3 polynomial  $g(x) \in F[x]$  and if  $L$  denote the splitting field of  $g(x)$  over  $F$ , then  $K = L(\sqrt{\alpha}, \sqrt{\beta})$ , for some  $\alpha, \beta \in L$ .

- (4) (25%) Let  $F$  be a field and let  $M_n(F)$  denote the ring of all  $n \times n$  matrices over  $F$ . For a subset  $S \subset M_n(F)$ , let  $\text{span}_F(S) \subset M_n(F)$  denote the linear  $F$ -subspace spanned by  $S$ . We say that  $S$  is *strong*, if every non-zero element in  $\text{span}_F(S)$  has non-zero determinant. Let  $A$  be a matrix in  $M_n(F)$ . Prove that the set  $S_A := \{I_n, A, A^2, \dots, A^k, \dots\}$  is strong if and only if the minimal polynomial of  $A$  is irreducible in  $F[x]$ , and in this case  $\text{span}_F(S_A)$  is actually a subfield of  $M_n(F)$ .