

Existence of Rational Primitive Normal Pairs with Prescribed Norm and Trace

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Abstract : Let q and n be positive integers, then F_q denotes the finite field of q elements, and F_{q^n} denotes the extension of F_q of degree n . Also, F_q^* represents the multiplicative group of non-zero elements of F_q , and the generators of F_q^* are called primitive elements. A normal element α of a finite field F_{q^n} is such that $\{\alpha, \alpha^q, \dots, \alpha^{q^{n-1}}\}$ forms a basis for F_{q^n} over F_q . Primitive normal elements have several applications in coding theory and cryptography. So, establishing the existence of primitive normal elements under certain conditions is both theoretically important and a natural issue. In this article, we provide a sufficient condition for the existence of a primitive normal element α in F_{q^n} of a prescribed primitive norm and non-zero trace over F_q such that $f(\alpha)$ is also primitive, where $f(x) \in F_{q^n}(x)$ is a rational function of degree sum m . Particularly, we investigated the rational functions of degree sum 4 over F_{q^n} , where $q = 11^k$ and demonstrated that there are only 3 exceptional pairs (q, n) , $n \geq 7$ for which such kind of primitive normal elements may not exist. In general, we show that such elements always exist except for finitely many choices of (q, n) . To arrive to our conclusion, we used additive and multiplicative character sums.

Keywords : finite field, primitive element, normal element, norm, trace, character

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