Problems for the Qualifying Examination in Algebra at GSU - Prepared by F. Enescu and Y. Yao. Date: August 21 2009

- (1) Let R be a ring with identity, S the ring of all  $n \times n$  matrices with entries in R, and J a subset of S. Prove that J is a two-sided ideal of S if and only if J equals the set of all  $n \times n$  matrices with entries in a two-sided ideal I of R.
- (2) Let E be the splitting field of  $X^4 + 1$  over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Compute the Galois group of E over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . How many intermediate fields K (with  $\mathbf{Q} \subseteq K \subseteq E$ ) are normal extensions of  $\mathbf{Q}$ ? Please explain your answer fully.
- (3) Show there is no simple group of order 48.
- (4) Let M be the quotient of  $\mathbb{Z}^4$  modulo the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -submodule generated by the column vectors of the following  $4 \times 5$  matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 12 & 12 & 0 & 48 \\ -12 & 12 & 0 & -24 & 12 \\ 24 & -12 & 48 & 48 & 60 \\ 12 & -12 & 36 & 24 & 24 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Find the Smith normal form of A. Then express M as a direct sum of cyclic  $\mathbb{Z}$ -modules. What are the free rank, the invariant factors, and the elementary divisors of M?

- (5) (i) Let  $k \subseteq K$  be a field extension. Assume that every polynomial irreducible in k[X] is irreducible in K[X]. Show that k is algebraically closed in K.
  - (ii) Show that any algebraic field extension of a perfect field is perfect.
- (6) Let R be a (commutative) domain. Show that the intersection of all maximal ideals of R[X] is the zero ideal.