

Part III - Local Fields

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0 Introduction

This is a first class in graduate algebraic number theory. Something we'd like to do is solve diophantine equations, e.g. $f(x_1, \dots, x_r) \in \mathbb{Z}[x_1, \dots, x_r]$. In general, solving $f(x_1, \dots, x_r) = 0$ is very difficult. A simpler question we might consider is solving $f(x_1, \dots, x_r) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$, or $\pmod{p^2}$, $\pmod{p^3}$, etc. Local fields package all of this information together.

1 Absolute values

Definition 1.1. Let K be a field. An **absolute value** on K is a function $|\cdot| : K \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ satisfying:

- (1) $|x| = 0 \iff x = 0$.
- (2) $|xy| = |x||y| \forall x, y \in K$.
- (3) $|x + y| \leq |x| + |y| \forall x, y \in K$ (triangle inequality).

We say that $(K, |\cdot|)$ is a **valued field**. Examples:

- Take $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$ with the usual absolute value $|a + ib| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$. We call this $|\cdot|_\infty$.

- For K any field, we have the trivial absolute value $|x| = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x = 0 \\ 1 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$

We will ignore this in this course.

- Take $K = \mathbb{Q}$ and p a prime. For $0 \neq x \in \mathbb{Q}$, write $x = p^n \frac{a}{b}$ where $(a, p) = (b, p) = 1$. Then the **p -adic absolute value** is defined to be

$$|x|_p = \begin{cases} 0 & x = 0 \\ p^{-n} & x = p^n \frac{a}{b}. \end{cases}$$

We can check the axioms:

- (1) The first axiom is clear.

- (2)

$$|xy|_p = \left| p^{n+m} \frac{ac}{bd} \right|_p = p^{-(n+m)} = |x|_p |y|_p.$$

- (3) WLOG let $m \geq n$. Then

$$|x + y|_p = \left| p^n \left(\frac{ad + p^{m-n}bc}{bd} \right) \right|_p \leq p^{-n} = \max(|x|_p, |y|_p).$$

Any absolute value $|\cdot|$ on K induces a metric $d(x, y) = |x - y|$ on K , hence induces a topology on K .

Definition 1.2. Suppose we have two absolute values $|\cdot|, |\cdot|'$ on K . We say these absolute values are **equivalent** if they induce the same topology. An equivalence class is called a **place**.

Proposition 1.1. Let $|\cdot|, |\cdot|'$ be (nontrivial) absolute values on K . Then the following are equivalent:

- (i) $|\cdot|$ and $|\cdot|'$ are equivalent.
- (ii) $|x| < 1 \iff |x'| < 1 \forall x \in K$.
- (iii) $\exists c \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ such that $|x|^c = |x'| \forall x \in K$.

Proof. (i) \implies (ii): $|x| < 1 \iff x^n \rightarrow 0$ with respect to $|\cdot| \iff x^n \rightarrow 0$ with respect to $|\cdot|'$ (since the topologies are the same) $\iff |x'| < 1$.

(ii) \implies (iii): Note that $|x|^c = |x'| \iff c \log |x| = \log |x'|$. Take $a \in K^\times$ such that $|a| > 1$. This exists since $|\cdot|$ is nontrivial. We need to show that $\forall x \in K^\times$,

$$\frac{\log |x|}{\log |a|} = \frac{\log |x'|}{\log |a'|}.$$

Assume $\frac{\log |x|}{\log |a|} < \frac{\log |x'|}{\log |a'|}$. Choose $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $\frac{\log |x|}{\log |a|} < \frac{m}{n} < \frac{\log |x'|}{\log |a'|}$. We then have

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{cases} n \log |x| < m \log |a| \\ n \log |x'| > m \log |a'| \end{cases} \\ \implies & \left| \frac{x^n}{a^m} \right| < 1, \left| \frac{x^n}{a^m} \right|' > 1, \end{aligned}$$

a contradiction. The other inequality is analogous.

(iii) \implies (i): Clear, since they have the same open balls. \square

Remark. $|\cdot|_\infty^2$ on \mathbb{C} is not an absolute value by our definition (doesn't satisfy the triangle inequality). Some authors replace the triangle inequality by the condition $|x + y|^\beta \leq |x|^\beta + |y|^\beta$ for some fixed $\beta \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$. The equivalence classes are the same in either case.

In this course, we will mainly be interested in the following:

Definition 1.3. An absolute value $|\cdot|$ on K is said to be **non-archimedean** if it satisfies the **ultrametric inequality**

$$|x + y| \leq \max(|x|, |y|).$$

If $|\cdot|$ is not non-archimedean, we say it is **archimedean**.

Example 1.1. • $|\cdot|_\infty$ on \mathbb{R} is archimedean.

• $|\cdot|_p$ on \mathbb{Q} is non-archimedean.

Lemma 1.2. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be non-archimedean and $x, y \in K$. If $|x| < |y|$, then $|x - y| = |y|$.

Proof. On the one hand, $|x - y| \leq \max(|x|, |y|) = |y|$ (using $|x| = |-x|$).

On the other, $|y| \leq \max(|x|, |x - y|) = |x - y|$. \square

Convergence is easier in non-archimedean fields:

Proposition 1.3. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be non-archimedean and $(x_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ a sequence on K . If $|x_n - x_{n+1}| \rightarrow 0$, then $(x_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ is Cauchy. In particular, if K is complete, then the sequence converges.

Proof. For $\epsilon > 0$, choose N such that $|x_n - x_{n+1}| < \epsilon$ for $n \geq N$. Then for $N < n < m$,

$$|x_n - x_m| = |(x_n - x_{n+1}) + (x_{n+1} - x_{n+2}) + \dots + (x_{m-1} - x_m)| < \epsilon,$$

so (x_n) is Cauchy. \square

Example 1.2. For $p = 5$, we can construct a sequence in \mathbb{Q} satisfying:

- (i) $x_n^2 + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{5^n}$,
- (ii) $x_n \equiv x_{n+1} \pmod{5^n}$.

We construct it by induction. Take $x_1 = 2$. Now suppose we've constructed x_n and write $x_n^2 + 1 = a \cdot 5^n$ and set $x_{n+1} = x_n + b \cdot 5^n$. We compute

$$x_{n+1}^2 + 1 = x_n^2 + 2bx_n5^n + b^25^{2n} + 1 = a5^n + 2bx_n5^n + \underbrace{b^25^{2n}}_{\equiv 0 \pmod{5^{n+1}}} + 1.$$

Hence we choose b such that $a + 2bx_n \equiv 0 \pmod{5}$ and we're done.

Now (ii) tells us that (x_n) is Cauchy, but we claim it doesn't converge. Suppose it does, $x_n \rightarrow l \in \mathbb{Q}$. Then $x_n^2 \rightarrow l^2 \in \mathbb{Q}$. But by (i), $x_n^2 \rightarrow -1$, so $l^2 = -1$, a contradiction.

This tells us that $(\mathbb{Q}, |\cdot|_5)$ is not complete.

Definition 1.4. The p -adic numbers \mathbb{Q}_p are the completion of \mathbb{Q} with respect to $|\cdot|_p$.

Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be a non-archimedean valued field. For $x \in K$ and $r \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$, we define $B(x, r) = \{y \in K \mid |y - x| < r\}$ and $\overline{B} = \{y \in K \mid |y - x| \leq r\}$ to be the open and closed balls of radius r .

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Lemma 1.4. (i) If $z \in B(x, r)$, then $B(z, r) = B(x, r)$, i.e. open balls don't have centers.

(ii) If $z \in \overline{B}(x, r)$, then $\overline{B}(x, r) = \overline{B}(z, r)$.

(iii) $B(x, r)$ is closed.

(iv) $\overline{B}(x, r)$ is open.

Proof. (i) Let $y \in B(x, r)$. Then $|x - y| < r \implies |z - y| = |(z - x) + (x - y)| \leq \max(|z - x|, |x - y|) < r$, so $B(x, r) \subset B(z, r)$. The reverse inclusion is analogous.

(ii) Analogous to (i) by replacing $<$ with \leq .

(iii) Let $y \in K \setminus B(x, r)$. If $z \in B(x, r) \cap B(y, r)$, then $B(x, r) = B(z, r) = B(y, r)$ by (i), so $y \in B(x, r)$, a contradiction. Hence $B(x, r) \cap B(y, r) = \emptyset$. Since y was arbitrary, $K \setminus B(x, r)$ is open, so $B(x, r)$ is closed.

(iv) If $z \in \overline{B}(x, r)$, then $B(z, r) \subset \overline{B}(z, r) \stackrel{(ii)}{=} \overline{B}(x, r)$.

□

2 Valuation rings

Definition 2.1. Let K be a field. A **valuation** on K is a function $v : K^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

(i) $v(xy) = v(x) + v(y)$.

(ii) $v(x + y) \geq \min(v(x), v(y))$.

Fix $0 < \alpha < 1$. If v is a valuation on K , then $|x| = \begin{cases} \alpha^{v(x)} & x \neq 0 \\ 0 & x = 0 \end{cases}$ determines

a non-archimedean absolute value on K . Conversely, a non-archimedean absolute value on K determines a valuation $v(x) = \log_\alpha |x|$.

Remark. We ignore the trivial evaluation $v(x) = 0 \forall x \in K$, which corresponds to the trivial absolute value.

Definition 2.2. We say valuations v_1, v_2 are equivalent if $\exists c \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ such that $v_1(x) = cv_2(x) \forall x \in K^\times$.

Example 2.1. • If $K = \mathbb{Q}$, $v_p(x) = -\log_p |x|_p$ is the p -adic valuation.

• Let k be a field. Let $K = k(t) = \text{Frac}(k[t])$ be a rational function field. We let

$$v \left(t^n \frac{f(t)}{g(t)} \right) = n$$

for $f, g \in k[t]$, $f(0) \neq 0, g(0) \neq 0$. This is called a t -adic valuation.

- Let $K = k((t)) = \text{Frac}(k[[t]]) = \{\sum_{i=n}^{\infty} a_i t^i \mid a_i \in k, n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$, the field of formal Laurent series over k . We define

$$v\left(\sum_i a_i t^i\right) = \min\{i \mid a_i \neq 0\},$$

the t -adic valuation on K .

Definition 2.3. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be a non-archimedean valued field. The **valuation ring** of K is defined to be

$$\mathcal{O}_K = \{x \in K \mid |x| \leq 1\}.$$

(i.e. the closed unit ball, $\mathcal{O}_K = \overline{B}(0, 1)$, or $\mathcal{O}_K = \{x \in K^\times \mid v(x) \geq 0\} \cup \{0\}$).

Proposition 2.1. (i) \mathcal{O}_K is an open subring of K .

- (ii) The subsets $\{x \in K \mid |x| \leq r\}$ and $\{x \in K \mid |x| < r\}$ for $r \leq 1$ are open ideals in \mathcal{O}_K .

- (iii) $\mathcal{O}_K^\times = \{x \in K \mid |x| = 1\}$.

Proof. (i) We find:

- $|0| = 0$ and $|1| = 1$, so $0, 1 \in \mathcal{O}_K$.
- If $x \in \mathcal{O}_K$, then $|-x| = |x| \implies -x \in \mathcal{O}_K$.
- If $x, y \in \mathcal{O}_K$, then $|x + y| \leq \max(|x|, |y|) \leq 1$, so $x + y \in \mathcal{O}_K$.
- If $x, y \in \mathcal{O}_K$, then $|xy| = |x||y| \leq 1$, so $xy \in \mathcal{O}_K$.

Thus \mathcal{O}_K is a subring, and since $\mathcal{O}_K = \overline{B}(0, 1)$, it is open.

- (ii) As $r \leq 1$, $\{x \in K \mid |x| \leq r\} = \overline{B}(0, r) \subset \mathcal{O}_K$, so it is open. We find:

- If $x, y \in \overline{B}(0, r)$, then $|x + y| \leq \max(|x|, |y|) \leq r$, so $x + y \in \overline{B}_r$.
- If $x \in \mathcal{O}_K, y \in \overline{B}_r$, then $|xy| = |x||y| \leq 1 \cdot |y| \leq r$, so $xy \in \overline{B}_r$.

Hence this is an open ideal. The proof for $\{x \in K \mid |x| < r\}$ is analogous.

- (iii) Note that $|x||x^{-1}| = |xx^{-1}| = 1$. Thus $|x| = 1 \iff |x^{-1}| = 1 \iff x, x^{-1} \in \mathcal{O}_K \iff x \in \mathcal{O}_K^\times$.

□

Notation. Let $\mathfrak{m} = \{x \in \mathcal{O}_K \mid |x| < 1\}$. It turns out this is a maximal ideal in \mathcal{O}_K . Also let $\mathfrak{k} = \mathcal{O}_K/\mathfrak{m}$, the residue field.

Corollary 2.2. \mathcal{O}_K is a **local ring** (i.e. a ring with a unique maximal ideal) with unique maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} .

Proof. Let \mathfrak{m}' be a maximal ideal. If $\mathfrak{m}' \neq \mathfrak{m}$, then $\exists x \in \mathfrak{m}' \setminus \mathfrak{m}$. Hence $|x| = 1$, so by (iii) above, x is a unit, so $\mathfrak{m}' = \mathcal{O}_K$, a contradiction. \square

Example 2.2. $K = \mathbb{Q}$ with $|\cdot|_p$. Then $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}_{(p)} = \{\frac{a}{b} \in \mathbb{Q} \mid p \nmid b\}$. In this case, $\mathfrak{m} = p\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$ and $\mathfrak{k} = \mathbb{F}_p$.

Definition 2.4. Let $v : K^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a valuation. If $v(K^\times) \cong \mathbb{Z}$, then we say v is a **discrete valuation**. In this case, K is said to be a **discretely valued field**.

An element $\pi \in \mathcal{O}_K$ is said to be a **uniformizer** if $v(\pi) > 0$ and $v(\pi)$ generates $v(K^\times)$.

Example 2.3. • $K = \mathbb{Q}$ with the p -adic valuation and $K = k(t)$ with the t -adic valuation are discretely valued fields.

- $K = k(t)(t^{\frac{1}{2}}, t^{\frac{1}{4}}, t^{\frac{1}{8}}, \dots)$ with the t -adic valuation is not a discretely valued field.

Remark. If v is a discrete valuation, we can scale v , i.e. replace it with an equivalent valuation such that $v(K^\times) = \mathbb{Z}$. Such v are called **normalized valuations**. Then π is a uniformizer $\iff v(\pi) = 1$.

Lemma 2.3. Let v be a valuation on K . Then the following are equivalent:

- (i) v is discrete;
- (ii) \mathcal{O}_K is a PID;
- (iii) \mathcal{O}_K is Noetherian;
- (iv) \mathfrak{m} is principal.

Proof. (i) \implies (ii): $\mathcal{O}_K \subset K$, so \mathcal{O}_K is an integral domain. Let $I \subset \mathcal{O}_K$ be a nonzero ideal and pick $x \in I$ such that $v(x) = \min\{v(a) \mid a \in I, a \neq 0\}$, which exists as v is discrete. Then we claim that $x\mathcal{O}_K = \{a \in \mathcal{O}_K \mid v(a) \geq v(x)\}$ is equal to I . The inclusion $x\mathcal{O}_K \subset I$ is clear, as I is an ideal. For $x\mathcal{O}_K \supset I$, let $y \in I$, then $v(x^{-1}y) = v(y) - v(x) \geq 0 \implies y = x(x^{-1}y) \in x\mathcal{O}_K$.

(ii) \implies (iii): Clear, as being a PID means every ideal is generated by one element, i.e. by finitely many.

(iii) \implies (iv): Write $\mathfrak{m} = x_1\mathcal{O}_K + \dots + x_n\mathcal{O}_K$ and WLOG assume $v(x_1) \leq v(x_2) \leq \dots \leq v(x_n)$. Then $x_2, \dots, x_n \in x_1\mathcal{O}_K$, since $x_1\mathcal{O}_K = \{a \in \mathcal{O}_K \mid v(a) \geq v(x_1)\}$, so $\mathfrak{m} = x_1\mathcal{O}_K$.

(iv) \implies (i): Let $\mathfrak{m} = \pi\mathcal{O}_K$ for some $\pi \in \mathcal{O}_K$ and let $c = v(\pi)$. Then if $v(x) > 0$, i.e. $x \in \mathfrak{m}$, then $v(x) \geq c$. Thus $v(K^\times) \cap (0, c) = \emptyset$. Since $v(K^\times)$ is a subgroup of $(\mathbb{R}, +)$, we have $v(K^\times) = c\mathbb{Z}$. \square

Remark. Let v be a discrete valuation on K , $\pi \in \mathcal{O}_K$ a uniformizer. For $x \in K^\times$, let $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $v(x) = nv(\pi)$. Then $u = x\pi^{-n} \in \mathcal{O}_K^\times$ and $x = u\pi^n$. In particular, $K = \mathcal{O}_K \left[\frac{1}{\pi} \right]$ and hence $K = \text{Frac}(\mathcal{O}_K)$.

Definition 2.5. A ring R is called a **discrete valuation ring** (DVR) if it is a PID with exactly one nonzero prime ideal (which is then necessarily maximal).

Lemma 2.4. (i) Let v be a discrete valuation on K . Then \mathcal{O}_K is a DVR.

(ii) Let R be a DVR. Then there exists a valuation v on $K = \text{Frac}(R)$ such that $R = \mathcal{O}_K$.

Proof. (i) \mathcal{O}_K is a PID by the previous lemma, hence any nonzero prime ideal is maximal. Since \mathcal{O}_K is a local ring, it is a DVR.

(ii) Let R be a DVR with maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} . Then $\mathfrak{m} = (\pi)$ for $\pi \in R$. Since PIDs are UFDs, we can write any nonzero $x \in R$ uniquely as $\pi^n u$ for some $n \geq 0$, u a unit (since π is the only prime). Then any $y \in K^\times$ can be written uniquely as $\pi^m u$, $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. Define $v(\pi^m u) = m$. Exercise: check that this is a valuation and $R = \mathcal{O}_K$. □

Example 2.4. $\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$, $R[[t]]$ for R a field are DVRs.

3 p -adic numbers

Recall that \mathbb{Q}_p is the completion of \mathbb{Q} with respect to $|\cdot|_p$. It is an exercise on example sheet 1 to show that \mathbb{Q}_p is a field. Moreover, $|\cdot|_p$ extends to \mathbb{Q}_p and the associated valuation is discrete (example sheet again).

Definition 3.1. The **ring of p -adic integers** \mathbb{Z}_p is the valuation ring

$$\mathbb{Z}_p = \{x \in \mathbb{Q}_p \mid |x|_p \leq 1\}.$$

Facts. \mathbb{Z}_p is a DVR and has a principal maximal ideal $p\mathbb{Z}_p$. In \mathbb{Z}_p , all nonzero ideals are given by $p^n \mathbb{Z}_p$.

Proposition 3.1. \mathbb{Z}_p is the closure of \mathbb{Z} inside \mathbb{Q}_p . In particular, \mathbb{Z}_p is the completion of \mathbb{Z} with respect to $|\cdot|_p$.

Proof. We need to show \mathbb{Z} is dense in \mathbb{Z}_p . Note \mathbb{Q} is dense in \mathbb{Q}_p . Since $\mathbb{Z}_p \subset \mathbb{Q}_p$ is open, $\mathbb{Z}_p \cap \mathbb{Q}$ is dense in \mathbb{Z}_p . But

$$\mathbb{Z}_p \cap \mathbb{Q} = \{x \in \mathbb{Q} \mid |x|_p \leq 1\} = \left\{ \frac{a}{b} \in \mathbb{Q} \mid p \nmid b \right\} = \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}.$$

Thus it suffices to show that \mathbb{Z} is dense in $\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$. Let $\frac{a}{b} \in \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$ with $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $p \nmid b$. For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, choose $y_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $by_n \equiv a \pmod{p^n}$. Then $y_n \rightarrow \frac{a}{b}$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

For the last part, note that \mathbb{Z}_p is complete (as it is a closed subset of a complete space) and $\mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Z}_p$ is dense. \square

Inverse limits. Let $(A_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ be a sequence of sets/groups/rings together with homomorphisms $\phi_n : A_{n+1} \rightarrow A_n$ (called **transition maps**). Then the **inverse limit** of $(A_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ is the set/group/ring

$$\varprojlim_n A_n = \left\{ (a_n)_{n=1}^\infty \in \prod_{n=1}^\infty A_n \mid \phi_n(a_{n+1}) = a_n \ \forall n \right\}.$$

Fact. If A_n is a group/ring, then the inverse limit is also a group/ring. Here the group/ring operations are defined componentwise. Let $\theta_m : \varprojlim_n A_n \rightarrow A_m$ denote the natural projection.

The inverse limit satisfies the following universal property:

Proposition 3.2. For any set/group/ring B together with homomorphisms $\psi_n : B \rightarrow A_n$ such that the following diagram commutes,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} B & \xrightarrow{\psi_{n+1}} & A_{n+1} \\ & \searrow \psi_n & \downarrow \phi_n \\ & & A_n \end{array}$$

there exists a unique homomorphism $\psi : B \rightarrow \varprojlim_n A_n$ such that $\theta_n \circ \psi = \psi_n$ for all n .

Proof. Define $\psi : B \rightarrow \prod_{n=1}^\infty A_n$ by $b \mapsto (\psi_n(b))_{n=1}^\infty$. Then $\psi_n = \theta_n \circ \psi_{n+1} \implies \psi(b) \in \varprojlim_n A_n$. This map is clearly unique (determined by $\psi_n = \phi_n \circ \psi_{n+1}$), and is a homomorphism of sets/groups/rings. \square

Definition 3.2. Let $I \subset R$ be an ideal (in a ring R). The **I -adic completion** of R is the ring $\hat{R} = \varprojlim_n R/I^n$ where $R/I^{n+1} \rightarrow R/I^n$ is the natural projection.

Note that there exists a natural map $i : R \rightarrow \hat{R}$ by the universal property (since there exist maps $R \rightarrow R/I^n$).

Definition 3.3. We say R is **I -adically complete** if i is an isomorphism.

Fact. $\ker(i : R \rightarrow \hat{R}) = \bigcap_{n=1}^\infty I^n$ (check!).

Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be a non-archimedean valued field and $\pi \in \mathcal{O}_K$ such that $|\pi| < 1$.

Proposition 3.3. Assume K is complete with respect to $|\cdot|$. Then:

- (i) $\mathcal{O}_K \cong \varprojlim_n \mathcal{O}_K / \pi^n \mathcal{O}_K$ (i.e. \mathcal{O}_K is π -adically complete)¹.
- (ii) Every $x \in \mathcal{O}_K$ can be written uniquely as $x = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a_i \pi^i$ with $a_i \in A$, where $A \subset \mathcal{O}_K$ is a set of coset representatives for $\mathcal{O}_K / \pi \mathcal{O}_K$. Moreover, any such power series converges (in \mathcal{O}_K).

Proof. (i) K is complete and $\mathcal{O}_K \subset K$ is closed, so \mathcal{O}_K is complete. If $x \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \pi^n \mathcal{O}_K$, then $v(x) \geq nv(\pi) \forall n \implies x = 0$, hence the natural map $\mathcal{O}_K \rightarrow \varprojlim_n \mathcal{O}_K / \pi^n \mathcal{O}_K$ is injective.

For surjectivity, let $(x_n)_{n=1}^{\infty} \in \varprojlim_n \mathcal{O}_K / \pi^n \mathcal{O}_K$ and for each n , let $y_n \in \mathcal{O}_K$ be a lifting² of $x_n \in \mathcal{O}_K / \pi^n \mathcal{O}_K$. Then $y_n - y_{n+1} \in \pi^n \mathcal{O}_K$, thus $(y_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ is a Cauchy sequence in \mathcal{O}_K . Let $y_n \rightarrow y \in \mathcal{O}_K$. Then y maps to $(x_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ in $\varprojlim_n \mathcal{O}_K / \pi^n \mathcal{O}_K$.

- (ii) Left as exercise on example sheet 1. □

Corollary 3.4. (i) $\mathbb{Z}_p \cong \varprojlim_n \mathbb{Z} / p^n \mathbb{Z}$.

- (ii) Every element in \mathbb{Q}_p can be written uniquely as $x = \sum_{i=n}^{\infty} a_i p^i$ where we have $a_i \in \{0, 1, \dots, p-1\}$.

Proof. (i) By the previous proposition, it suffices to show that $\mathbb{Z} / p^n \mathbb{Z} \cong \mathbb{Z}_p / p^n \mathbb{Z}_p$. Let $f_n : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p / p^n \mathbb{Z}_p$ be the natural map. Then $\ker(f_n) = \{x \in \mathbb{Z} \mid |x|_p \leq p^{-n}\} = p^n \mathbb{Z}$, thus the natural map $\mathbb{Z} / p^n \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p / p^n \mathbb{Z}_p$ is injective. For surjectivity, take $\bar{z} \in \mathbb{Z}_p / p^n \mathbb{Z}_p$ and $c \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ a lift. Since \mathbb{Z} is dense in \mathbb{Z}_p , there exists $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $x \in c + p^n \mathbb{Z}_p$ ($p^n \mathbb{Z}_p$ is open in \mathbb{Z}_p). Then $f_n(x) = \bar{z}$, so $\mathbb{Z} / p^n \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p / p^n \mathbb{Z}_p$ is surjective.

- (ii) Follows from the second part of the previous proposition applied to $p^{-n}x \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ for some $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. □

Example 3.1. We have $\frac{1}{1-p} = 1 + p + p^2 + p^3 + \dots$ in \mathbb{Q}_p .

¹There a bit of abuse of notation here – really, \mathcal{O}_K is (π) -adically complete.

²Given a surjective map $G \rightarrow G'$, a lift of an element $x \in G'$ is a choice of $y \in G$ such that $y \mapsto x$ under this map.

4 Complete valued fields

4.1 Hensel's lemma

Theorem 4.1 (Hensel's lemma, version 1). Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be a complete discretely valued field. Let $f(x) \in \mathcal{O}_K[x]$ and assume $\exists a \in \mathcal{O}_K$ such that $|f(a)| < |f'(a)|^2$ for $f'(a)$ the formal derivative. Then there exists a unique $x \in \mathcal{O}_K$ such that $f(x) = 0$ and $|x - a| < |f'(a)|$.

Proof. Let $\pi \in \mathcal{O}_K$ be a uniformizer and let $r = v(f'(a))$ where v is a normalized valuation, i.e. $v(\pi) = 1$. We inductively construct a sequence (x_n) in \mathcal{O}_K such that

- (i) $f(x_n) \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^{n+2r}}$.
- (ii) $x_{n+1} \equiv x_n \pmod{\pi^{n+r}}$.

Take $x_1 = a$, so $f(x_1) \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^{1+2r}}$. Now suppose we've constructed x_1, \dots, x_n satisfying the conditions. Then define $x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}$. Since $x_n \equiv x_1 \pmod{\pi^{r+1}}$, $v(f'(x_n)) = v(f'(x_1)) = r$ and hence $\frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)} \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^{n+r}}$ by (i). It follows that $x_{n+1} \equiv x_n \pmod{\pi^{n+r}}$, so (ii) holds.

Note that for X, Y indeterminates, we can write $f(X + Y) = f_0(X) + f_1(X)Y + f_2(X)Y^2 + \dots$, where $f_i \in \mathcal{O}_K[X]$ and $f_0(X) = f(X)$, $f_1(X) = f'(X)$. Thus $f(x_{n+1}) = f(x_n) + f'(x_n)c + f_2(x_n)c^2 + \dots$ for $c = -\frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}$. Since $c \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^{n+r}}$ and $v(f_i(x_n)) \geq 0$, we have $f(x_{n+1}) \equiv f(x_n) + cf'(x_n) \pmod{\pi^{n+2r+1}}$ (since the other terms vanish), but this is $\equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^{n+2r+1}}$, so (i) holds.

This gives the construction of (x_n) . Property (ii) implies that (x_n) is Cauchy, so let $x \in \mathcal{O}_K$ be the limit, $x_n \rightarrow x$. Then $f(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(x_n) = 0$ by property (i). Moreover, (ii) implies $a = x_1 \equiv x_n \pmod{\pi^{r+1}} \forall n$, so $a \equiv x \pmod{\pi^{r+1}}$, thus $|x - a| < |f'(a)|$.

For uniqueness, suppose x' also satisfies $f(x') = 0$ and $|x' - a| < |f'(a)|$. Set $\delta = x' - x \neq 0$. Then $|x' - a| < |f'(a)|$ and $|x - a| < |f'(a)|$, so the ultrametric inequality implies $|\delta| = |x' - x| < |f'(a)| = |f'(x)|$ (since $a \equiv x \pmod{\pi^{r+1}}$). But

$$0 = f(x') = f(x + \delta) = \underbrace{f(x)}_{=0} + f'(x)\delta + \underbrace{\delta^2 \dots}_{|\cdot| \leq |\delta|^2}.$$

Hence $|f'(x)\delta| \leq |\delta|^2 \implies |f'(x)| \leq |\delta|$, a contradiction. \square

Corollary 4.2. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be a complete discretely valued field, let $f(x) \in \mathcal{O}_K[x]$ and let $\bar{c} \in k = \mathcal{O}_K/\mathfrak{m}$ be a simple root of $\bar{f}(x) = f(x) \pmod{\mathfrak{m}} \in k[x]$. Then there exists a unique $x \in \mathcal{O}_K$ such that $f(x) = 0$ and $x \equiv \bar{c} \pmod{\mathfrak{m}}$.

Proof. Apply Hensel's lemma to a lift $c \in \mathcal{O}_K$ of \bar{c} . Then $|f(c)| < 1 = |f'(c)|^2$ since $f'(c)$ is a simple root. \square

Example 4.1. Consider $f(x) = x^2 - 2$, which has a simple root mod 7. Thus $\sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{Z}_p \subset \mathbb{Q}_7$.

Corollary 4.3. $\mathbb{Q}_p^\times / (\mathbb{Q}_p^\times)^2 \cong \begin{cases} (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2 & \text{if } p > 2. \\ (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^3 & \text{if } p = 2. \end{cases}$

Proof. First consider $p > 2$. Let $b \in \mathbb{Z}_p^\times$. Applying the previous corollary to $f(x) = x^2 - b$, we find that $b \in (\mathbb{Z}_p^\times)^2$ if and only if $b \in (\mathbb{F}_p^\times)^2$. Thus $\mathbb{Z}_p^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p^\times / (\mathbb{F}_p^\times)^2$ has kernel $(\mathbb{Z}_p^\times)^2$, so induces an isomorphism $\mathbb{Z}_p^\times / (\mathbb{Z}_p^\times)^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p^\times / (\mathbb{F}_p^\times)^2 \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ (since $\mathbb{F}_p^\times = \mathbb{Z}/(p-1)\mathbb{Z}$).

We have an isomorphism $\mathbb{Z}_p^\times \times \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}_p^\times$ given by $(u, n) \mapsto up^n$. Then $\mathbb{Q}_p^\times / (\mathbb{Q}_p^\times)^2 \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2$.

If $p = 2$, let $b \in \mathbb{Z}_2^\times$. Consider $f(x) = x^2 - b$, so $f'(x) = 2x \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$. Instead now let $b \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$. Then $|f(1)|_2 \leq 2^{-3} < 2^{-2} = |f'(1)|_2^2$. Hensel's lemma now implies that $b \in (\mathbb{Z}_2^\times)^2 \iff b \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$. Thus $\mathbb{Z}_2^\times / (\mathbb{Z}_2^\times)^2 \cong (\mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z})^\times = (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2$. Again using $\mathbb{Q}_2^\times \cong \mathbb{Z}_2^\times \times \mathbb{Z}$, we obtain that $\mathbb{Q}_2^\times / (\mathbb{Q}_2^\times)^2 \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^3$. \square

Remark. The proof of Hensel's lemma uses the iteration $x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}$. We can think of the proof as the non-archimedean analogue of the Newton-Raphson method.

Theorem 4.4 (Hensel's lemma, version 2). Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be a complete discretely valued field and $f(x) \in \mathcal{O}_K[x]$. Suppose $\bar{f}(x) = f(x) \pmod{\mathfrak{m}} \in k[x]$ factorizes as $\bar{f}(x) = \bar{g}(x)\bar{h}(x) \in k[x]$ with $\bar{g}(x), \bar{h}(x)$ coprime. Then there is a factorization $f(x) = g(x)h(x)$ in $\mathcal{O}_K[x]$ with $\bar{g}(x) \equiv g(x) \pmod{\mathfrak{m}}$, $\bar{f}(x) \equiv f(x) \pmod{\mathfrak{m}}$ and $\deg(\bar{g}) = \deg(g)$.

Proof. Left as an exercise on example sheet 1. \square

Corollary 4.5. Let $f(x) = a_n x^n + \dots + a_0 \in k[x]$ with $a_0 \dots a_n \neq 0$. If $f(x)$ is irreducible, then $|a_i| \leq \max(|a_0|, |a_n|)$ for all i .

Proof. By scaling, assume $f(x) \in \mathcal{O}_K[x]$ with $\max(|a_i|) = 1$. Then we need to show that $\max(|a_0|, |a_n|) = 1$. If not, let r be minimal such that $|a_r| = 1$, so $0 < r < n$. Then

$$\bar{f}(x) = x^r(a_r + \dots a_n x^{n-r}) \pmod{\mathfrak{m}}.$$

By Hensel's lemma version 2, $f(x) = g(x)h(x)$ with $\deg(g) = r$, contradicting irreducibility. \square

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5 Teichmüller lifts

Definition 5.1. A ring R of characteristic $p > 0$ is **perfect** if the Frobenius map $x \mapsto x^p$ is a bijection.

A field of characteristic p is **perfect** if it is perfect as a ring.

Remark. Since $\text{char } R = p$, $(x + y)^p = x^p + y^p$, so the Frobenius map is a ring homomorphism.

Example 5.1. (i) \mathbb{F}_{p^n} is perfect and $\overline{\mathbb{F}_p}$ is perfect.

(ii) Non-example. $\mathbb{F}_p[t]$ is not perfect since $t \notin \text{Im}(\text{Frob})$.

(iii) $\mathbb{F}_p(t^{\frac{1}{p^\infty}}) = \mathbb{F}_p\left(t, t^{\frac{1}{p}}, t^{\frac{1}{p^2}}, \dots\right)$ is a perfect field, known as the **perfection** of $\mathbb{F}_p(t)$.

Fact. A field k of characteristic $p > 0$ is perfect if and only if any finite extension of k is separable.

Theorem 5.1. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be a complete discretely valued field such that the residue field $k = \mathcal{O}_K/\mathfrak{m}$ is a perfect field of characteristic $p > 0$. Then there exists a unique map $[\cdot] : k \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_K$ such that

(i) $a \equiv [a] \pmod{\mathfrak{m}} \forall a \in k$,

(ii) $[ab] = [a][b] \forall a, b \in k$.

Moreover, if $\text{char } \mathcal{O}_K = p$, then $[\cdot]$ is a ring homomorphism (i.e. it also preserves addition).

Definition 5.2. The element $[a] \in \mathcal{O}_K$ is called the **Teichmüller lift** of a .

Lemma 5.2. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be a complete discretely valued field³ and fix $\pi \in \mathcal{O}_K$ a uniformizer. Let $x, y \in \mathcal{O}_K$ be such that $x \equiv y \pmod{\pi^k}$ for $k \geq 1$. Then $x^p \equiv y^p \pmod{\pi^{k+1}}$.

Proof. Let $x = y + u \cdot \pi^k$ for some $u \in \mathcal{O}_K$. Then

$$x^p = \sum_{i=0}^p \binom{p}{i} y^{p-i} (u\pi^k)^i = y^p + \sum_{i=1}^p \binom{p}{i} y^{p-i} (u\pi^k)^i.$$

Since $\text{char } \mathcal{O}_K/\pi\mathcal{O}_K = p$, we have $p \in \pi\mathcal{O}_K$. Thus $\binom{p}{i} y^{p-i} (u\pi^k)^i \in \pi^{k+1}\mathcal{O}_K \forall i \geq 1$, so $x^p \equiv y^p \pmod{\pi^{k+1}}$. \square

³(do we need the residue field to be perfect here? lectures said let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be as in above theorem).

Proof of Theorem 5.1. Let $a \in k$. For each $i > 0$, we choose a lift $y_i \in \mathcal{O}_K$ of $a^{\frac{1}{p^i}}$ and define $x_i = y_i^{p^i}$. We claim that (x_i) is a Cauchy sequence and its limit $x_i \rightarrow x$ is independent of the choice of y_i .

By construction, $y_i \equiv y_{i+1}^p \pmod{\pi}$. By our previous lemma and induction on k , we have that $y_i^{p^k} \equiv y_{i+1}^{p^{k+1}} \pmod{\pi^{k+1}}$ and hence $x_i \equiv x_{i+1} \pmod{\pi^{i+1}}$ (by taking $k = i$) and hence (x_i) is Cauchy, so $x_i \rightarrow x \in \mathcal{O}_K$.

Suppose (x'_i) arises from another choice of y'_i lifting $a^{\frac{1}{p^i}}$. Then (x'_i) is Cauchy and $x'_i \rightarrow x'$. Let

$$x'' = \begin{cases} x_i & i \text{ even.} \\ x'_i & i \text{ odd.} \end{cases}$$

Then x''_i arises from the lifting $y'' = \begin{cases} y_i & i \text{ even.} \\ y'_i & i \text{ odd.} \end{cases}$. Then x''_i is Cauchy with subsequences converging to both x and x' , so $x = x'$, so our limit is independent of the choice of liftings (y_i) . We define $[a] = x$. Then $x_i \equiv y_i^{p^i} \equiv \left(a^{\frac{1}{p^i}}\right)^{p^i} \equiv a \pmod{\pi}$, so $x \equiv a \pmod{\pi}$, giving us the first property.

Now let $b \in k$ and choose $u_i \in \mathcal{O}_K$ a lift of $b^{\frac{1}{p^i}}$ and let $z_i = u_i^{p^i}$. Then $[b] = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} z_i$. Now $u_i y_i$ is a lift of $(ab)^{\frac{1}{p^i}}$, hence

$$[ab] = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} (u_i y_i)^{p^i} = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} x_i z_i = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} x_i \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} z_i = [a][b],$$

giving us the second property.

If $\text{char } K = p$, then $u_i + y_i$ is a lift of $a^{\frac{1}{p^i}} + b^{\frac{1}{p^i}} = (a + b)^{\frac{1}{p^i}}$. Then

$$[a + b] = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} (y_i + u_i)^{p^i} = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} y_i^{p^i} + u_i^{p^i} = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} x_i + z_i = [a] + [b].$$

Finally, it is easy to check that $[0] = 0$ and $[1] = 1$ (take $y_i = 0$ and $y_i = 1$). So $[\]$ is a ring homomorphism.

For uniqueness, let $\phi : K \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_K$ be another map of the desired form. Then for $a \in k$, $\phi\left(a^{\frac{1}{p^i}}\right)$ is a lift of $a^{\frac{1}{p^i}}$. It follows that

$$[a] = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \phi\left(a^{\frac{1}{p^i}}\right)^{p^i} = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \phi(a) = \phi(a).$$

□

Example 5.2. For $K = \mathbb{Q}_p$, what does $[\] : \mathbb{F}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$ look like? Take $a \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$, so $[a]^{p-1} = [a^{p-1}] = [1] = 1$. Hence $[a]$ is a $(p-1)^{\text{th}}$ root of unity.

More generally:

Lemma 5.3. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be a complete discretely valued field. If $k = \mathcal{O}_K/\mathfrak{m} \subset \overline{\mathbb{F}_p}$ (which implies that k is perfect), then $[a] \in \mathcal{O}_K$ is a root of unity $\forall a \in k^\times$.

Proof. $a \in k^\times \implies a \in \mathbb{F}_{p^n}$ for some $n \implies [a]^{p^n-1} = [a^{p^n-1}] = [1] = 1$. \square

Theorem 5.4. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be a complete discretely valued field of characteristic $p > 0$. Assume $k = \mathcal{O}_K/\mathfrak{m}$ is perfect. Then $K \cong k((t))$.

Proof. Since $K = \text{Frac}(\mathcal{O}_K)$, it suffices to show that $\mathcal{O}_K \cong k[[t]]$. For this, fix $\pi \in \mathcal{O}_K$ a uniformizer and let $\square : k \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_K$ be the Teichmüller map. Define $\phi : k[[t]] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_K$ by $\phi(\sum_{i=0}^\infty a_i t^i) = \sum_{i=0}^\infty a_i \pi^i$. Then ϕ is a ring homomorphism since \square is a ring homomorphism, but it is also a bijection by Proposition 3.3. \square

6 Extensions of complete valued fields

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Theorem 6.1. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be a complete discretely valued field and let L/K be a finite extension of degree n . Then:

- (i) $|\cdot|$ extends uniquely to an absolute value $|\cdot|_L$ on L defined by

$$|y|_L = |N_{L/K}(y)|^{1/n}.$$

- (ii) L is complete with respect to $|\cdot|_L$.

Recall. If L/K is a finite extension, then $N_{L/K} : L \rightarrow K$ is defined by $N_{L/K}(y) = \det_K(\text{mult}(y))$ where $\text{mult}(y) : L \rightarrow L$ is the K -linear map given by multiplication by y .

Facts:

- The norm is multiplicative, i.e. $N_{L/K}(xy) = N_{L/K}(x)N_{L/K}(y)$.
- Let $X^n + a_{n-1}X^{n-1} + \dots + a_0 \in K[X]$ be the minimal polynomial of $y \in L$. Then $N_{L/K}(y) = \pm a_0^m$ for some $m \geq 1$. In particular, $N_{L/K}(x) = 0 \iff x = 0$.

Definition 6.1. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be a nonarchimedean valued field and V a vector space over K . Then a **norm** on V is a function $\|\cdot\| : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ satisfying

- $\|x\| = 0 \iff x = 0$.
- $\|\lambda x\| = |\lambda| \cdot \|x\| \forall x \in V, \lambda \in K$.
- $\|x + y\| \leq \max(\|x\|, \|y\|) \forall x, y \in V$.

Example 6.1. If V is finite-dimensional and e_1, \dots, e_n is a basis for V , then the **sup norm** $\|\cdot\|_{\text{sup}}$ on V is defined by $\|x\|_{\text{sup}} = \max_i |x_i|$, where $x = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i e_i$.

Exercise: $\|\cdot\|_{\sup}$ is a norm.

Definition 6.2. Two norms $\|\cdot\|_1, \|\cdot\|_2$ on V are **equivalent** if there exist constants $C, D \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ such that

$$C\|x\|_1 \leq \|x\|_2 \leq D\|x\|_1 \quad \forall x \in V.$$

Fact. A norm defines a topology on V and equivalent norms induce the same topology (since an open ball in one topology is both contained in and contains an open ball in the other topology).

Proposition 6.2. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be complete and nonarchimedean and let V be a finite dimensional vector space over K . Then V is complete with respect to $\|\cdot\|_{\sup}$.

Proof. Let (v_i) be a Cauchy sequence in V and let e_1, \dots, e_n be a basis for V . Write $V_i = \sum_{j=1}^n x_j^i e_j$, then $(x_j^i)_{i=1}^\infty$ is a Cauchy sequence in K . Let $x_j^i \rightarrow x_j \in K$, then we can check that $v_i \rightarrow v = \sum_{j=1}^n x_j e_j$. \square

Theorem 6.3. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be complete and nonarchimedean and let V be a finite dimensional vector space over K . Then any two norms on V are equivalent. In particular, V is complete with respect to any norm.

Proof. Since equivalence defines an equivalence relation on the set of norms, it suffices to show that any norm $\|\cdot\|$ is equivalent to the sup norm $\|\cdot\|_{\sup}$ with respect to some basis. Let e_1, \dots, e_n be a basis for V .

For the upper bound, set $D = \max \|e_i\|$. Then if $x = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i e_i$, then $\|x\| = \max_i \|x_i e_i\| = \max_i |x_i| \|e_i\| \leq D \max_i |x_i| = D\|x\|_{\sup}$.

To find C such that $C\|\cdot\|_{\sup} \leq \|\cdot\|$, we induct on $n = \dim V$. If $n = 1$, then $\|x\| = \|x_1 e_1\| = |x_1| \|e_1\| = \|x\|_{\sup} \|e_1\|$, so take $C = \|e_1\|$.

For $n > 1$, set $V_i = \langle e_1, \dots, e_{i-1}, e_{i+1}, \dots, e_n \rangle$. By induction, the norm on V_i is equivalent to the sup norm, so V_i is complete with respect to $\|\cdot\|$, hence closed. Then the translate $e_i + V_i$ is also closed for all i , hence

$$S = \bigcup_{i=1}^n e_i + V_i$$

is a closed subset not containing zero. Hence $\exists C > 0$ such that $S \cap B(0, C) = \emptyset$, where $B(0, c) = \{x \in V \mid \|x\| < c\}$. We claim this C works. To see this, let $0 \neq x = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i e_i$ and suppose $|x_j| = \max_i |x_i|$. Then $\|x\|_{\sup} = |x_j|$ and $\frac{1}{x_j} x \in S$ (since the j^{th} coefficient will be equal to 1). Thus $\|\frac{1}{x_j} x\| \geq C$, so $\|x\| \geq C|x_j| = C\|x\|_{\sup}$.

Finally, V is complete since it is complete with respect to $\|\cdot\|_{\sup}$. \square

Proof of Theorem 6.1. We first show that $|\cdot|_L = |N_{L/K}(\cdot)|^{1/n}$ satisfies the three absolute value axioms.

- (i) $|y|_L = 0 \iff |N_{L/K}(y)|^{1/n} = 0 \iff N_{L/K}(y) = 0 \iff y = 0.$
- (ii) $|y_1 y_2|_L = |N_{L/K}(y_1 y_2)|^{1/n} = |N_{L/K}(y_1)|^{1/n} |N_{L/K}(y_2)|^{1/n} = |y_1|_L |y_2|_L.$
- (iii) For this, we need some preparation:

Definition 6.3. Let $R \subset S$ be a subring. We say $s \in S$ is **integral** over R if s is a root of a monic polynomial with coefficients in R , i.e. monic $f \in R[X]$ such that $f(s) = 0$.

The **integral closure** $R^{\text{int}(S)}$ of R in S is the set of elements of S that are integral over R , i.e.

$$R \subset R^{\text{int}(S)} = \{s \in S \mid s \text{ is integral over } R\}.$$

We say R is **integrally closed** in S if $R^{\text{int}(S)} = R$.

Proposition 6.4. $R^{\text{int}(S)}$ is a subring of S . Moreover, $R^{\text{int}(S)}$ is integrally closed in S .

Proof. Exercise on example sheet 2. □

Lemma 6.5. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be a nonarchimedean valued field. Then \mathcal{O}_K is integrally closed in K .

Proof. Let $x \in K$ be integral over \mathcal{O}_K . WLOG assume $x \neq 0$. Let $f(X) = X^n + a_{n-1}X^{n-1} + \dots + a_0 \in \mathcal{O}_K[X]$ such that $f(x) = 0$. Then

$$x = -a_{n-1} - \dots - a_0 \frac{1}{x^{n-1}}.$$

If $|x| > 1$, then we have that $|-a_{n-1} - \dots - a_0 \frac{1}{x^{n-1}}| \leq 1$ by the ultrametric inequality, contradiction. Thus $|x| \leq 1$, so $x \in \mathcal{O}_K$. □

Now we show (iii): Set $\mathcal{O}_L = \{y \in L \mid |y|_L \leq 1\}$. We claim that \mathcal{O}_L is the integral closure of \mathcal{O}_K inside L . In particular, \mathcal{O}_L is a subring of L .

Assuming this, let $x, y \in L$ and WLOG assume $|x|_L \leq |y|_L$. Then we have $\left|\frac{x}{y}\right|_L \leq 1 \implies \frac{x}{y} \in \mathcal{O}_L$. Since \mathcal{O}_L is a ring, $1 \in \mathcal{O}_L$, so $1 + \frac{x}{y} \in \mathcal{O}_L$ and hence $\left|1 + \frac{x}{y}\right|_L \leq 1$, so $|x + y|_L \leq |y|_L = \max(|x|_L, |y|_L)$, giving the ultrametric inequality property.

To prove the claim, take $0 \neq y \in L$ and let $f(X) = X^d + a_{d-1}X^{d-1} + \dots + a_0 \in K[X]$ be the minimal monic polynomial for y . We claim y is integral over $\mathcal{O}_K \iff f(X) \in \mathcal{O}_K[X]$.

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(\Leftarrow): This direction is clear.

(\Rightarrow): Let $g(x) \in \mathcal{O}_K[X]$ be monic such that $g(y) = 0$. Then $f \mid g$ in $K[X]$ and hence every root of f is a root of g . Hence every root of f considered in \overline{K} is integral over \mathcal{O}_K . Hence the a_i are integral over \mathcal{O}_K for $0 \leq i \leq d-1$. Hence $a_i \in \mathcal{O}_K$ by a lemma from last time.

By the corollary of the second version of Hensel's lemma, $|a_i| \leq \max(|a_0|, 1)$. By a property of the norm $N_{L/K}$, we have $N_{L/K}(y) = \pm a_0^m \in \mathcal{O}_K$. Hence $y \in \mathcal{O}_L \iff |N_{L/K}(y)| \leq 1 \iff |a_0| \leq 1$, so by our corollary this happens $\iff |a_i| \leq 1 \forall i$, i.e. $a_i \in \mathcal{O}_K \forall i$, so y is integral.

Since $N_{L/K}(x) = x^n$ for $x \in K$, $|x|_L$ extends $|\cdot|$ on K . If $|\cdot|'_L$ is another absolute value on L extending $|\cdot|$, then $|\cdot|_L, |\cdot|'_L$ are norms on L , which are equivalent and hence induce the same topology on L , so $|\cdot|'_L = |\cdot|_L^c$ for some $c > 0$. But since they both extend $|\cdot|$ on K , we must have $c = 1$.

(ii): Theorem 6.3 implies the result, as L is complete with respect to the sup norm. \square

Corollary 6.6. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be a complete, nonarchimedean discretely valued field and L/K a finite extension. Then

- (i) L is discretely valued with respect to $|\cdot|_L$.
- (ii) \mathcal{O}_L is the integral closure of \mathcal{O}_K in L .

Proof. (i) Fix v , the valuation on K responding to our absolute value, and let v_L be the valuation on L extending v . Let $n = [L : K]$. For $y \in L^\times$, $|y|_L = |N_{L/K}(y)|^{1/n}$, so $v_L(y) = \frac{1}{n}v(N_{L/K}(y))$, so $v_L(L^\times) \subset \frac{1}{n}v(K^\times)$. Since $v(K^\times)$ is discrete, so is v_L .

(ii) This was proved in the proof of the previous theorem. \square

Corollary 6.7. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be complete, nonarchimedean, and discretely valued and let \overline{K}/K be the algebraic closure of K . Then $|\cdot|$ extends uniquely to an absolute value $|\cdot|_{\overline{K}}$ on \overline{K} .

Proof. Let $x \in \overline{K}$, then $x \in L$ for some finite extension L/K . Define $|\cdot|_{\overline{K}} = |x|_L$. This is well-defined (i.e. independent of L) by uniqueness in Theorem 6.1 (for any L, L' , consider an extension containing both).

The axioms for $|x|_{\overline{K}}$ to be an absolute value can be checked over finite extensions.

Uniqueness again follows from the finite case: if two absolute values disagree on some value, then consider a finite extension containing that value. \square

Remark. $|\cdot|_{\overline{K}}$ on \overline{K} is never discrete. For example, if $K = \mathbb{Q}_p$, then $\sqrt[n]{p} \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ and $\forall n \geq 0$, $v_p(\sqrt[n]{p}) = \frac{1}{n}v_p(p) = \frac{1}{n}$, giving a non-discrete valuation. Furthermore, $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ is not complete with respect to $|\cdot|_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}}$. Showing this is an exercise on example sheet 2. On the sheet we also show that if we take \mathbb{C}_p , the completion of $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ with respect to $|\cdot|_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}}$, then \mathbb{C}_p is algebraically closed.

Proposition 6.8. Let L/K is a finite extension of complete discretely valued fields with $n = [L : K]$. Assume that

- (i) \mathcal{O}_K is compact.
- (ii) The extension k_L/k of residue fields is finite and separable.

Then there exists $\alpha \in \mathcal{O}_L$ such that $\mathcal{O}_L = \mathcal{O}_K[\alpha]$.

Remark. We will later see that (i) implies (ii).

Proof. We'll choose $\alpha \in \mathcal{O}_L$ such that:

- (i) $\exists \beta \in \mathcal{O}_K[\alpha]$ a uniformizer for \mathcal{O}_L .
- (ii) $\mathcal{O}_K[\alpha] \rightarrow k_L$ is surjective.

First note that k_L/k is separable, so $\exists \bar{\alpha} \in k$ such that $k_L = k(\bar{\alpha})$. Let $\alpha \in \mathcal{O}_L$ be a lift of $\bar{\alpha}$ and $g(X) \in \mathcal{O}_K[X]$ a monic lift of the minimal polynomial of $\bar{\alpha}$. Also fix $\pi_L \in \mathcal{O}_L$ a uniformizer. Then $\bar{g}(X) \in k[X]$ is irreducible and separable, so $\bar{\alpha}$ is a simple root of \bar{g} , so $g(\alpha) \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi_L}$ and $g'(\alpha) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{\pi_L}$.

If $g(\alpha) \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi_L^2}$, then

$$g(\alpha + \pi_L) \equiv g(\alpha) + \pi_L g'(\alpha) \pmod{\pi_L^2}.$$

Thus $v_L(g(\alpha + \pi_L)) = v_L(\pi_L g'(\alpha)) = v_L(\pi) = 1$ for v_L the normalized valuation on L . Hence either $v_L(g(\alpha)) = 1$ or $v_L(g(\alpha + \pi_L)) = 1$. Possibly replacing α by $\alpha + \pi_L$, we may assume that $g(\alpha)$ is a uniformizer, i.e. $v_L(g(\alpha)) = 1$.

Now set $\beta = g(\alpha) \in \mathcal{O}_K[\alpha]$, a uniformizer. Then $\mathcal{O}_K[\alpha] \subset L$ is the image of a continuous map $\mathcal{O}_K^n \rightarrow L$ given by $(x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}) \mapsto \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} x_i \alpha^i$. Since \mathcal{O}_K is compact, $\mathcal{O}_K[\alpha]$ is compact, hence closed.

We have a closed subring of \mathcal{O}_L , so to show it is \mathcal{O}_L , it is enough to show it is dense. Since $k_L = k(\bar{\alpha})$, $\mathcal{O}_K[\alpha]$ contains a set of coset representatives for the residue field $k_L = \mathcal{O}_L/\beta\mathcal{O}_L$. Take $y \in \mathcal{O}_L$. By Proposition 3.3, we can write $y = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \lambda_i \beta^i$ with $\lambda_i \in \mathcal{O}_K[\alpha]$. Then $y_m = \sum_{i=0}^m \lambda_i \beta^i \in \mathcal{O}_K[\alpha]$ gives a Cauchy sequence converging to y . Then $y \in \mathcal{O}_K[\alpha]$ since $\mathcal{O}_K[\alpha]$ is closed. \square

7 Local fields

Definition 7.1. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be a valued field. We say K is a **local field** if it is complete and locally compact (i.e. every point contains a compact neighborhood).

Example 7.1. \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{C} are local fields.

Proposition 7.1. Let $(K, |\cdot|)$ be a nonarchimedean complete valued field. Then the following are equivalent:

- (i) K is locally compact (so K is a nonarchimedean local field).
- (ii) \mathcal{O}_K is compact.
- (iii) The associated valuation v is discrete and $k = \mathcal{O}_K/\mathfrak{m}$ is finite.