Number Fields

January 23, 2020

1 Algebraic Numbers and Algebraic Integers; Number Fields

Here, we will use F to denote any field containing $\mathbb{Q}$, for instance $F = \mathbb{C}$. Recall that an element $\alpha \in F$ is ***algebraic*** (over $\mathbb{Q}$) if it is the root of some polynomial in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$. If so, there is a unique monic polynomial $m_\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ of minimal degree with $m_\alpha(\alpha) = 0$, called the ***minimal polynomial*** of α. The ***degree*** of α is the degree of m_α

Proposition 1.1. *Suppose $\alpha \in F$ is algebraic. Then m_α is irreducible in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$, and if $f \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$, then $f(\alpha) = 0 \iff m_\alpha | f$.*

Proof. If $m_\alpha = fg$, then $f(\alpha)g(\alpha) = 0$, and since fields are integral domains we have $f(\alpha) = 0$ or $g(\alpha) = 0$. By minimality of degree, f or g is constant.

If $f(\alpha) = 0$, we write $f = gm_\alpha + h$, with $g, h \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$, and $\deg h < \deg m_\alpha$. Then $h(\alpha) = f(\alpha) - g(\alpha)m_\alpha(\alpha) = 0$, and so by minimality $h = 0$ and $m_\alpha | f$.

I.e. $\{f : f(\alpha) = 0\}$ is a principal ideal in $\mathbb{Q}[x]$ generated by m_α $\square$

If $\alpha \in F$, define $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$ to be the smallest subfield of F containing α. Explicitly, it can be shown that $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha) = \left\{\frac{f(\alpha)}{g(\alpha)} : f, g \in \mathbb{Q}[x], g(\alpha) \neq 0\right\}$.

Proposition 1.2. *If $\alpha \in F$ is algebraic of degree n, then $1, \alpha, \ldots, \alpha^{n-1}$ is a $\mathbb{Q}$-basis for $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$. Conversely, if $[\mathbb{Q}(\alpha : \mathbb{Q}] \coloneqq \dim_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$ is finite, say n, then α is algebraic of degree n.*

Proof. Consider the homomorphism $\phi : \mathbb{Q}[x] \to F; f \mapsto f(\alpha)$. Then $\ker(\phi) = (m_\alpha)$ which is maximal, so $\operatorname{im} \phi$ is a field, and hence equal to $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$. As $\deg m_\alpha = n$, a basis for $\mathbb{Q}[x]/(m_\alpha)$ is $1, x, \ldots, x^{n-1}$, and hence $1, \alpha, \ldots, \alpha^{n-1}$ is a basis for $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$.

For the converse part, if $[\mathbb{Q}(\alpha) : \mathbb{Q}] = n < \infty$, then $1, \alpha, \ldots, \alpha^n$ are linearly dependent and so α is algebraic of some degree. By the first part, this degree is n. $\square$

Proposition 1.3. *$\{\alpha \in F : \alpha$ algebraic$\}$ is a subfield of F.*

Galois theory. It is enough to prove that it is closed under $+$, $\times$ and inverse. For $+$ and $\times$ see **1.6** below for a stronger statement. If $0 \neq \alpha$ is algebraic, then $\sum^n b_j \alpha^j = 0 \implies \sum^n b_{n-j}(\alpha^{-1})^j = 0$, and so α^{-1} is algebraic. $\square$

$\alpha \in F$ is an ***algebraic integer*** if there is a monic polynomial $f \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ with $f(\alpha) = 0$.

Lemma 1.5.

1. *Let $\alpha \in F$. Then the following are equivalent:*
   (a) *α is an algebraic integer*
   (b) *α is algebraic and $m_\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$*
   (c) *$\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$ is a finitely generated $\mathbb{Z}$-module*

   If these hold, then $1, \alpha, \ldots, \alpha^{d-1}$ is a $\mathbb{Z}$-bases for $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$, with $d = \deg \alpha$.
2. *$\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$ is an algebraic integer $\iff \alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$*

Recall the notation that, if $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n \in F$, then $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n]$ is the smallest subring of F containing $\{\alpha_i : i \in [n]\}$, i.e. the set of all finite sums of terms of the form $A\alpha_1^{i_1} \ldots \alpha_n^{i_n}$ for $A, i_1, \ldots, i_n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Proof.

1. $\underline{a. \implies b.}$ Suppose $f(\alpha) = 0, f \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$, f monic. Then **1.1** gives that $f = gm_\alpha$ for some $g \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ necessarily monic. Gauss's lemma from GRM gives us that m_α, g are in $\mathbb{Z}[x]$.

   $\underline{b. \implies c.}$ Write $m_\alpha = x^d + \sum_{j=1}^{d-1} b_j x^j$, for $b_j \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $\alpha^d = -\sum_{j=1}^{d-1} b_j \alpha^j$, from which we say that every α^n is a $\mathbb{Z}$-linear combination of $1, \alpha, \ldots, \alpha^{d-1}$. So $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$ is generated by $1, \alpha, \ldots, \alpha^{d-1}$ as a $\mathbb{Z}$-module. There is no linear relation between $1, \alpha, \ldots, \alpha^{d-1}$, as $d = \deg \alpha$. So $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$ is finitely generated and $1, \alpha, \ldots, \alpha^{d-1}$ is a $\mathbb{Z}$-basis.

   $\underline{c. \implies a.}$ Assume $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$ is finitely generated by $g_1(\alpha), \ldots, g_r(\alpha)$. For some $g_i \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$. Let $k = \max\{\deg g_i\}$. Then $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$ is certainly generated by $1, \alpha, \ldots, \alpha^k$ as a $\mathbb{Z}$-module. So $\alpha^{k+1} = \sum_{j=0}^{k} b_j \alpha^j$ for $b_j \in \mathbb{Z}$, and so α is an algebraic integer.
2. $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q} \implies m_\alpha = x - \alpha$, and so α is an algebraic integer $\iff \alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$ using $(a) \iff (b)$.

□

Theorem 1.6. *If $\alpha, \beta \in F$ are algebraic integers, then so are $\alpha\beta, \alpha \pm \beta$.*

Proof. The $\mathbb{Z}$-module $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha, \beta]$ is generated by $\{\alpha^i \beta^j : 0 \leq i < \deg \alpha; 0 \leq j < \deg \beta\}$, and so is finitely generated. Hence so is the submodule $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha\beta] \subseteq \mathbb{Z}[\alpha, \beta]$. So $\alpha\beta$ is an algebraic integer by **1.4**. The same applies for $\alpha + \beta, \alpha - \beta$. □

Now to introduce the main characters of this course:

An ***algebraic number field*** (or just ***number field***) is a field $K \supset \mathbb{Q}$ which is a finite extension, i.e. $[K : \mathbb{Q}] < \infty$. The ***ring of integers of K***, written $\mathfrak{o}_K$, is the set of algebraic integers in K. By **1.6** it is a ring. It is useful to have the converse:

Proposition 1.7. *Let $\alpha \in F$ be algebraic. Then for some $0 \neq b \in \mathbb{Z}, b\alpha$ is an algebraic integer.*

Proof. Exercise. □

Theorem 1.8 (Primitive Element). *If K is a number field, then $K = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$ for some $\alpha \in K$.*

Proof. Done in Galois theory. □

2 Quadratic Fields

K is a ***quadratic field*** if $[K:\mathbb{Q}] = 2$. In this case, let $\alpha \in K \setminus \mathbb{Q}$. The minimal polynomial m_α is a quadratic, and so solving we get $\alpha = x + \sqrt{y}$[1] for $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}, y \neq 0$. Since y is not a rational square, we can write y uniquely as $z^2 d$ for $z \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus \{0\}$, $d \neq 0, 1$ a square-free integer. So $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d}) = \mathbb{Q}[x]/(x^2 - d)$. If $d' \neq d$ also square-free, then $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d}) \not\cong \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d'})$.

Now we want to compute $\mathfrak{o}_K$. Let $\alpha = u + v\sqrt{d} \in K$ for $u, v \in \mathbb{Q}$. If $v = 0, \alpha \in \mathfrak{o}_K \iff \alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$. Otherwise, $\alpha \notin \mathbb{Q}$, and $m_\alpha = x^2 - 2ux + (u^2 - dv^2)$. So $\alpha \in \mathfrak{o}_K \iff 2u \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $u^2 - dv^2 \in \mathbb{Z}$.

If $u \in \mathbb{Z}$, then $dv^2 \in \mathbb{Z}$, and since d is square-free, we must have $v \in \mathbb{Z}$. Otherwise, $u = \frac{2a+1}{2}, a \in \mathbb{Z}$, and we must have $4dv^2 - (2a+1)^2 \in 4\mathbb{Z}$, which holds if and only if $v = \frac{k}{2}, k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $dk^2 \equiv 1 \mod 4$. If $d \equiv 1 \mod 4$, this holds if and only if k is odd, and if d is not $1 \mod 4$, then this congruence cannot hold.

In conclusion,

Theorem 2.1. *If $d \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0, 1\}$ is square-free, and $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$, then:*

1. *If $d \not\equiv 1 \mod 4$, then $\mathfrak{o}_K = \{u + v\sqrt{d} : u, v \in \mathbb{Z}\} = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{d}]$.*
2. *If $d \equiv 1 \mod 4$, then $\mathfrak{o}_K = \{u + v\sqrt{d} : u, v \in \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}, u - v \in \mathbb{Z}\} = \mathbb{Z}[\frac{1+\sqrt{d}}{2}]$*

Examples: If $d = -3$, then $\mathfrak{o}_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})} = \mathbb{Z}[\frac{1+\sqrt{-3}}{2}] = \mathbb{Z}[\xi_3]$.

Note that, for a general number field K, we needn't have $\mathfrak{o}_K = \mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$ for $\alpha \in K$, and in fact for $\deg K > 2$ this method is unlikely to be practical for computing $\mathfrak{o}_K$.

3 Embeddings

Let K be a number field with $[K : \mathbb{Q}] = n$.

Theorem 3.1. *There are precisely n homomorphisms $\sigma_i : K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$. These are called the* **complex embeddings** *of K. More generally, if $\mathbb{Q} \subset F \subset K$ are number fields, then each of the $[F : \mathbb{Q}]$ complex embeddings of F extend to exactly $[K : F]$ complex embeddings of K.*

Proof. (Galois Theory). Assume $K = \mathbb{Q}(\theta) = \mathbb{Q}[x]/(m_\theta)$ by the theorem of the primitive element. Then to give $\sigma : K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is the same as to give $\phi : \mathbb{Q}[x] \to \mathbb{C}$ with $\phi(m_\theta) = 0$. If $z = \phi(x)$, then $\phi(m_\theta) = m_\theta(z)$, giving a bijection $\{\sigma : K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}\} \leftrightarrow \{\text{roots of } m_\theta \in \mathbb{C}\}$, coming from $\sigma \mapsto \sigma(\theta)$. The second part is the same as the first, but replacing $\mathbb{Q}$ by F since θ has degree $[K : F]$ over F. □

Remarks:

1. If $K \subset \mathbb{C}$ we can choose σ to be the inclusion.
2. For some $r \in \{0, \ldots, n\}$, exactly r of the σ_i will be ***real***, i.e. $\sigma_i(K) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. The remaining embeddings will then come in complex conjugate pairs $\sigma_i, \overline{\sigma_i}$. So $n = r + 2s$, where r is the number of real embeddings, and s is the number of complex conjugate pairs of embeddings.

[1] By $\sqrt{y}$ we just mean some $\beta \in K$ with $\beta^2 = y$

Examples:

$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$. We have two cases:

$d > 0$. There are 2 real embeddings: $\sigma_1 : \sqrt{d} \mapsto +\sqrt{d} \in \mathbb{R}$, and $\sigma_2 : \sqrt{d} \mapsto -\sqrt{d} \in \mathbb{R}$. So $(r, s) = (2, 0)$.

$d < 0$. There is now one pair of complex embeddings, given by $\sigma_1 : \sqrt{d} \to \mathrm{i}\sqrt{|d|}; \sigma_2 : \sqrt{d} \to -\mathrm{i}\sqrt{|d|}$. So $(r, s) = (0, 1)$.

$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt[3]{2})$. We have 1 real embedding $\sqrt[3]{2} \mapsto \sqrt[3]{2} \in \mathbb{R}$, and the two complex embeddings $\sqrt[3]{2} \mapsto \omega^{\pm 1}\sqrt[3]{2} \in \mathbb{C}$, so $(r, s) = (1, 1)$.

Proposition 3.2. *If $\alpha \in K$, then the complex numbers $\sigma_i(\alpha)$ are the complex roots of m_α, each taken $n/\deg(\alpha)$ times.*

Proof. Apply the 2^{nd} part of **3.1** with $F = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$. $\square$

4 Norm and Trace

Given K a number field, $\alpha \in K$, define a map $u_\alpha : K \to K$ by $u_\alpha(x) = \alpha x$. K is a $\mathbb{Q}$-vector space, and u_α is a $\mathbb{Q}$-linear map. Define:

- f_α to be the ***characteristic polynomial*** of u_α, so $f_\alpha = \det(x - u_\alpha) \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$, monic
- $\mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha) = \det(u_\alpha) \in \mathbb{Q}$, the ***norm*** of α
- $\mathrm{Tr}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha) = \mathrm{tr}(u_\alpha) \in \mathbb{Q}$, the ***trace*** of α

More explicitly, let $\beta_1, \ldots, \beta_n$ be a $\mathbb{Q}$-basis for K. Then $\alpha\beta_i = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ji}\beta_j$ for some $A \in M_{n,n}(\mathbb{Q})$. Then $f_\alpha = \det(x \cdot I_n - A), \mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha) = \det(A), \mathrm{Tr}_{K/\mathbb{Q}} = \mathrm{tr}(A)$. As an exercise, work these out for $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$.

Proposition 4.1.

$$\mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha\beta) = \mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha)\,\mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\beta)$$
$$\mathrm{Tr}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha + \beta) = \mathrm{Tr}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha) + \mathrm{Tr}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\beta)$$

Proof. From the definition, $u_{\alpha\beta} = u_\alpha u_\beta$, and $u_{\alpha+\beta} = u_\alpha + u_\beta$, so the result follows from linear algebra. $\square$

Theorem 4.2.

1. *The minimal polynomial of u_α is m_α, and $f_\alpha \prod_{i=1}^n (x - \sigma_i(\alpha)) = m_\alpha^{n/d}$, where $\deg(\alpha) = d$.*
2. *$\mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha) = \prod_{i=1}^n \sigma_i(\alpha), \mathrm{Tr}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i(\alpha)$.*

We call the $\sigma_i(\alpha)$ the **conjugates** *of α.*

Proof. Note that *1.* $\implies$ *2.*, because $\det u_\alpha = (-1)^n f_\alpha(0)$, the product of the eigenvalues, and $\mathrm{tr}\, u_\alpha = -(\text{coeff. of } x^{n-1} \text{ in } f_\alpha)$.

For *1.*, we first do the case $\deg \alpha = n$, i.e. $K = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$. Then $f_\alpha, m_\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ are monic of degree n, and if $\beta \in K$ then $f_\alpha(\alpha)\beta = f_\alpha(u_\alpha)\beta = 0$ by Cayley-Hamilton. So $f_\alpha(\alpha) = 0 \implies m_\alpha = f_\alpha$.

In general, if $[K : \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)] = \frac{n}{d}$, then $K \cong \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)^{\oplus(n/d)}$, and then $f_\alpha =$ (char. poly. of u_α on $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha))^{n/d} = m_\alpha^{n/d} = \prod_{i=1}^n (x - \sigma_i(\alpha))$. □

Corollary 4.3.

1. *Let $\alpha \in K$. Then $\alpha = 0 \iff \mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha) = 0$.*
2. *Let $\alpha \in \mathfrak{o}_K$. Then $f_\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$, and $\mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha), \mathrm{Tr}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha) \in \mathbb{Z}$. Moreover, $\mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha) \in \{\pm 1\}$ if and only if $\alpha \in \mathfrak{o}_k^*$ is a* **unit***, i.e. $\alpha^{-1} \in \mathfrak{o}_k$.*

Proof.

1. $\alpha = 0 \iff \sigma_i(\alpha) = 0$ for all i.
2. $m_\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$, so $f_\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$, and hence $\mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha), \mathrm{Tr}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha) \in \mathbb{Z}$, since they are coefficients of f_α up to a choice of sign.

   If α is a unit, then $\mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha)\,\mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha^{-1}) = \mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha\alpha^{-1}) = \mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(1) = 1$, and so $\mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha)$ is a unit and an integer, so in $\{\pm 1\}$.

   If $\mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha) \in \{\pm 1\}$, $f_\alpha = x^n + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} b_i x^i \pm 1$, so $f_\alpha(\alpha) = 0 \implies \alpha \cdot \left(\alpha^{n-1} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} b_i \alpha^{i-1}\right) = \mp 1$, so $\alpha^{-1} \in \mathfrak{o}_K$ and we have an explicit representation of α^{-1}.

□

Note that we can also define, if $\mathbb{Q} \subset F \subset K$ the relative trace $\mathrm{Tr}_{K/F}(\alpha), \mathrm{N}_{K/F}(\alpha)$ as the trace/determinant of u_α viewed as an F-linear map from $K \simeq F^{[K:F]}$ to itself, and we have that:

$$\mathrm{Tr}_{K/\mathbb{Q}} = \mathrm{Tr}_{F/\mathbb{Q}} \cdot \mathrm{Tr}_{K/F} \qquad \mathrm{N}_{K/\mathbb{Q}} = \mathrm{N}_{F/\mathbb{Q}} \cdot \mathrm{N}_{K/F}$$

5 Some Modules from GRM

Proposition 5.1. *G is a finitely generated abelian group written additively with no torsion, i.e. no elements of finite order, and a finite set of generators $x_1, \ldots, x_n$. Let $H \subset G$ be the subgroup generated by $y_1, \ldots, y_n \in G$, where $y_i = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ji} x_j$ for some $A \in Mat_{n,n}(\mathbb{Z})$ Then if* $\det(A) \neq 0$*, H has finite index in G, with $(G : H) = |\det A|$.*

Proof. Using Smith normal form, $A = PDQ$ for P, Q, D integer $n \times n$ matrices where $\det P, \det Q \in \{\pm 1\}$ and $D = diag(d_1, \ldots, d_n)$ for $d_i \geq 0$, $d_i | d_{i+1}$. Then $G/H \cong \mathbb{Z}/d_1\mathbb{Z} \times \ldots \times \mathbb{Z}/d_n\mathbb{Z}$, where $\mathbb{Z}/0\mathbb{Z} = \mathbb{Z}$.

Hence if $|\det A| = \prod_i d_i \neq 0$, then G/H contains no $\mathbb{Z}$ terms and has dimension $\prod_i d_i = |\det A|$. □

Let V be a $\mathbb{Q}$-vector space, and $\dim(V) = n < \infty$. Let $H \subset V$ be a subgroup, viewed as a sub-$\mathbb{Z}$-module. Then define:

$$\mathrm{rank}(H) = \dim(\mathrm{span}(H)) \in \{0, 1, \ldots, n\}$$

Proposition 5.2. *If H is finitely generated as an abelian group then $H = \bigoplus_{i=1}^r \mathbb{Z} v_i$ where $r = \mathrm{rank}(H)$ and $x_1, \ldots, x_r \in V$ are linearly independent.*

Proof. H has no torsion as V is a $\mathbb{Q}$-vector space, so by classification H is an abelian group freely generated by some $x_1, \ldots, x_r$. If $a_i \in \mathbb{Q}$ and $\sum a_i x_i = 0$ in V, then clearing denominators we have $\sum b_i x_i = 0$ with $b_i \in \mathbb{Z}$. So we must have $b_i = 0$ for all i, so $a_i = 0$ and the x_i are linearly independent, and $r = \operatorname{rank}(H)$ by the definition of rank. □

6 Discriminants and Integral Bases

Let $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n \in K$. Define the ***discriminant***

$$\operatorname{Disc}(\alpha_1) = \operatorname{Disc}(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n) = \det(\operatorname{Tr}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha_i \alpha_j))i, j) \in \mathbb{Q}$$

Theorem 6.1.

1. $\operatorname{Disc}(\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n) = \det(\sigma_i(\alpha_j))^2$.
2. $\operatorname{Disc}(\alpha_i) \neq 0 \iff \alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n$ *is a* $\mathbb{Q}$*-basis for* K.
3. *If* $\beta_i = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ji} \alpha_j$ *for* $A \in Mat_{n,n}(\mathbb{Q})$*, then* $\operatorname{Disc}(\beta_i) = (\det A)^2 \operatorname{Disc}(\alpha_i)$
4. *Suppose* (α_i) *is a* $\mathbb{Q}$*-basis. Then* $\operatorname{Disc}(\alpha_i)$ *depends only on the subgroup* $\mathbb{Z}\alpha_1 + \ldots + \mathbb{Z}\alpha_n \in K$.

Proof.

1. Let $\Delta = (\sigma_i(\alpha_j))_{ij} \in Mat_{n,n}(\mathbb{C})$. Then $(\Delta^t \Delta)_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^n \sigma_k(\alpha_i)\sigma_k(\alpha_j) = \sum_{k=1}^n \sigma_k(\alpha_i \alpha_j) = \operatorname{Tr}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha_i \alpha_j)$

   So $(\det \Delta)^2 = \det(\Delta^t \Delta) = \det \operatorname{Tr}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha_i \alpha_j)$.
2. If $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n$ is not a $\mathbb{Q}$-bases, then there are some $b_1, \ldots, b_n \in \mathbb{Q}$, not all 0, with $\sum b_j \alpha_j = 0$. Then for all i, $0 = \sigma_i\left(\sum_{j=1}^n b_j \alpha_j\right) = \sum_{j=1}^n b_j \sigma_i(\alpha_j)$, and so $\det \Delta = 0$, hence $\operatorname{disc}(\alpha_i) = 0$.

□