

Chapter 2: Number Fields and Number Rings

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Exercise 2.28. Let $f(x) = x^3 + ax + b$, a and $b \in \mathbb{Z}$, and assume f is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} . Let α be a root of f .

(a) Show that $f'(\alpha) = -\frac{2a\alpha+3b}{\alpha}$.

(b) Show that $2a\alpha + 3b$ is a root of

$$\left(\frac{x-3b}{2a}\right)^3 + a\left(\frac{x-3b}{2a}\right) + b.$$

Use this to find $N_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]}(2a\alpha + 3b)$.

(c) Show that $\text{disc}(\alpha) = -(4a^3 + 27b^2)$.

(d) Suppose $\alpha^3 = \alpha + 1$. Prove that $\{1, \alpha, \alpha^2\}$ is an integral basis for $\mathbb{A} \cap \mathbb{Q}[\alpha]$. (See Exercise 2.27(e).) Do the same if $\alpha^3 + \alpha = 1$.

Proof of (a).

(1) Show that $\alpha \neq 0$. If α were 0, then $f(\alpha) = f(0) = b$. So $f(x) = x^3 + ax = x(x^2 + a)$ is reducible, contrary to the irreducibility of f .

(2) Since α be a root of f , $f(\alpha) = 0$, or $\alpha^3 + a\alpha + b = 0$, or $\alpha^3 = -a\alpha - b$.

(3)

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) = 3x^2 + a &\implies f'(\alpha) = 3\alpha^2 + a \\ &\iff \alpha f'(\alpha) = 3\alpha^3 + a\alpha & (\alpha \neq 0) \\ &\iff \alpha f'(\alpha) = 3(-a\alpha - b) + a\alpha & (\alpha^3 = -a\alpha - b) \\ &\iff \alpha f'(\alpha) = -2a\alpha - 3b. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So } f'(\alpha) = -\frac{2a\alpha+3b}{\alpha}.$$

□

Proof of (b).

(1) Since $\alpha^3 + a\alpha + b = 0$,

$$\left(\frac{(2a\alpha + 3b) - 3b}{2a}\right)^3 + a\left(\frac{(2a\alpha + 3b) - 3b}{2a}\right) + b = 0.$$

That is, $2a\alpha + 3b$ is a root of $\left(\frac{x-3b}{2a}\right)^3 + a\left(\frac{x-3b}{2a}\right) + b$.

- (2) $N_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]}(2a\alpha + 3b)$ is the product of three roots of $\left(\frac{x-3b}{2a}\right)^3 + a\left(\frac{x-3b}{2a}\right) + b$.
Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} N_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]}(2a\alpha + 3b) &= (2a)^3 \left[\left(\frac{-3b}{2a}\right)^3 + a \cdot \frac{-3b}{2a} + b \right] \\ &= 8a^3 \left[\frac{-27b^3}{8a^3} - \frac{b}{2} \right] \\ &= -27b^3 - 4a^3b. \end{aligned}$$

□

Proof of (c).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{disc}(\alpha) &= (-1)^{\frac{n(n-1)}{2}} N_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]}(f'(\alpha)) && \text{(Theorem 2.8)} \\ &= -N_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]} \left(-\frac{2a\alpha + 3b}{\alpha} \right) && (n = 3 \text{ and (a)}) \\ &= \frac{N_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]}(2a\alpha + 3b)}{N_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]}(\alpha)} \\ &= \frac{-27b^3 - 4a^3b}{b} && ((b)) \\ &= -27b^2 - 4a^3. \end{aligned}$$

□

Proof of (d).

- (1) (a) $\alpha^3 = \alpha + 1$, or $\alpha^3 - \alpha - 1 = 0$.
 (b) $f(x) = x^3 - x - 1$ is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} since $f(x)$ is irreducible over $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$.
 (c) $\text{disc}(\alpha) = -23$ (by (c)).
 (d) Since $\text{disc}(\alpha)$ is squarefree, the result is established (Exercise 2.27(e)).
- (2) (a) $\alpha^3 + \alpha = 1$, or $\alpha^3 + \alpha - 1 = 0$.
 (b) $f(x) = x^3 + x - 1$ is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} since $f(x)$ is irreducible over $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$.
 (c) $\text{disc}(\alpha) = -31$ (by (c)).
 (d) Since $\text{disc}(\alpha)$ is squarefree, the result is established (Exercise 2.27(e)).

□

Exercise 2.43. Let $f(x) = x^5 + ax + b$, a and $b \in \mathbb{Z}$, and assume f is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} . Let α be a root of f .

- (a) Show that $\text{disc}(\alpha) = 4^4a^5 + 5^4b^4$. (Suggestion: See Exercise 2.28.)
- (b) Suppose $\alpha^5 = \alpha + 1$. Prove that $\mathbb{A} \cap \mathbb{Q}[\alpha] = \mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$. ($x^5 - x - 1$ is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} ; this can be shown by reducing $\pmod{3}$.)
- (c) ...
- (d) ...

Proof of (a) (Exercise 2.28).

- (1) Show that $f'(\alpha) = -\frac{4a\alpha+5b}{\alpha}$.

- (a) Show that $\alpha \neq 0$. If α were 0, then $f(\alpha) = f(0) = b$. So $f(x) = x^5 + ax = x(x^4 + a)$ is reducible, contrary to the irreducibility of f .
- (b) Since α be a root of f , $f(\alpha) = 0$, or $\alpha^5 + a\alpha + b = 0$, or $\alpha^5 = -a\alpha - b$.
- (c)

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) = 5x^4 + a &\implies f'(\alpha) = 5\alpha^4 + a \\ &\iff \alpha f'(\alpha) = 5\alpha^5 + a\alpha & (\alpha \neq 0) \\ &\iff \alpha f'(\alpha) = 5(-a\alpha - b) + a\alpha & (\alpha^5 = -a\alpha - b) \\ &\iff \alpha f'(\alpha) = -4a\alpha - 5b. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So } f'(\alpha) = -\frac{4a\alpha+5b}{\alpha}.$$

- (2) Show that $4a\alpha + 5b$ is a root of

$$\left(\frac{x-5b}{4a}\right)^5 + a\left(\frac{x-5b}{4a}\right) + b.$$

Use this to show that $N_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]}(4a\alpha + 5b) = -4^4a^5b - 5^5b^5$.

- (a) Since $\alpha^5 + a\alpha + b = 0$,

$$\left(\frac{(4a\alpha + 5b) - 5b}{4a}\right)^5 + a\left(\frac{(4a\alpha + 5b) - 5b}{4a}\right) + b = 0.$$

That is, $4a\alpha + 5b$ is a root of $\left(\frac{x-5b}{4a}\right)^5 + a\left(\frac{x-5b}{4a}\right) + b$.

- (b) $N_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]}(4a\alpha + 5b)$ is the product of three roots of $\left(\frac{x-5b}{4a}\right)^5 + a\left(\frac{x-5b}{4a}\right) + b$. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} N_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]}(4a\alpha + 5b) &= (4a)^5 \left[\left(\frac{-5b}{4a}\right)^5 + a \cdot \frac{-5b}{4a} + b \right] \\ &= 4^5 a^5 \left[\frac{-5^5 b^5}{4^5 a^5} - \frac{b}{4} \right] \\ &= -5^5 b^5 - 4^4 a^5 b. \end{aligned}$$

(3) Show that $\text{disc}(\alpha) = 4^4a^5 + 5^4b^4$.

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{disc}(\alpha) &= (-1)^{\frac{n(n-1)}{2}} N_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]}(f'(\alpha)) && \text{(Theorem 2.8)} \\
&= N_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]} \left(-\frac{4a\alpha + 5b}{\alpha} \right) && (n = 5 \text{ and (1)}) \\
&= -\frac{N_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]}(4a\alpha + 5b)}{N_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\mathbb{Q}[\alpha]}(\alpha)} \\
&= -\frac{-4^4a^5b - 5^5b^5}{b} && ((2)) \\
&= 4^4a^5 + 5^4b^4.
\end{aligned}$$

□

Proof of (b)(Exercise 2.28).

- (1) $\alpha^5 = \alpha + 1$, or $\alpha^5 - \alpha - 1 = 0$.
- (2) $f(x) = x^5 - x - 1$ is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} since $f(x)$ is irreducible over $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$.
- (3) $\text{disc}(\alpha) = 881$ (by (a)).
- (4) Since $\text{disc}(\alpha)$ is squarefree (a prime number), the result is established (Exercise 2.27(e)).

□

Exercise 2.44. Let $f(x) = x^5 + ax^4 + b$, a and $b \in \mathbb{Z}$, and assume f is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} . Let α be a root of f and let d_1, d_2, d_3 and d_4 be as in Theorem 2.13.

- (a) Show that $\text{disc}(\alpha) = b^3(4^4a^5 + 5^5b)$.
- (b) ...
- (c) ...
- (d) ...

Proof of (a)(Exercise 2.28). ... □

Exercise 2.45. Obtain a formula for $\text{disc}(\alpha)$ if α is a root of an irreducible polynomial $x^n + ax + b$ over \mathbb{Q} . Do the same for $x^n + ax^{n-1} + b$.

Proof (Exercise 2.28). ... □