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12. LOCALLY COMPACT FIELDS.

A locally compact field is a field K provided with a locally compact topology such that K is a topological group under addition and $K \setminus \{0\}$ is a topological group under multiplication. IN THIS SECTION K IS A NON-DISCRETE LOCALLY COMPACT FIELD.

Let m be a Haar measure on (the additive group) K . For every $a \in K$, $X \mapsto m(aX)$ is a left invariant measure on the Borel σ -algebra of K . By the uniqueness of the Haar measure there exists a function $D : K \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ for which

$$m(aX) = D(a)m(X) \quad (a \in K; X \subset K \text{ Borel}).$$

Evidently,

$$D(ab) = D(a)D(b) \quad (a, b \in K)$$

and

$$D(a^{-1}) = \frac{1}{D(a)} \quad (a \in K, a \neq 0).$$

$0 \in K$ has a compact neighborhood C ; this C is an infinite set (K is not discrete) but has finite measure. It follows that $m(\{x\}) = 0$ for every $x \in K$. Thus,

$$D(a) = 0 \text{ if and only if } a = 0.$$

12.1. LEMMA. D is continuous.

Proof. Let $a \in K$, $c > D(a)$. Choose a compact $X \subset K$, $m(X) > 0$. By the regularity of m there exists an open $U \supset aX$ such that $m(U) < cm(X)$. According to Lemma 3.2 the set $W := \{x \in K : xX \subset U\}$ is an open set containing a . For all $x \in W$ we have $D(x)m(X) \leq m(U) < cm(X)$, i.e. $D(x) < c$.

Thus, $\{x \in K : D(x) < c\}$ is open for every $c \in \mathbb{R}$. Further, for $c > 0$ we have $\{x \in K : D(x) > c\} = \{x \in K \setminus \{0\} : D(x^{-1}) < c^{-1}\}$. Hence, D is continuous.

Apparently, $\{0\}$ is the intersection of the open sets $\{x : D(x) < n^{-1}\}$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$). Exercise 3.L implies:

12.2. THEOREM. K is metrizable.

If x_1, x_2, \dots is a sequence that is contained in a compact set $C \subset K$ and if $\lim D(x_n) = 0$, then $\lim x_n = 0$.

In fact, assume that this conclusion is false. Then 0 has an open neighborhood U such that $C \setminus U$ contains x_n for infinitely many n . As $C \setminus U$ is compact the sequence x_1, x_2, \dots must have a subsequence y_1, y_2, \dots that lies in $C \setminus U$ and converges to some $y \in C \setminus U$. Consequently, $D(y) = \lim D(y_n) = \lim D(x_n) = 0$, so $y = 0$. But $0 \notin C \setminus U$.

12.3. THEOREM. For every $c \geq 0$ the set $\{x \in K : D(x) \leq c\}$ is compact.

Proof. Let $c \geq 0$; set $A := \{x : D(x) \leq c\}$. By Theorem 12.2, A is closed.

Choose an open neighborhood U of 0 with compact closure and let $W := \{x \in K : xU \subset U\}$. This W is a neighborhood of 0 because $W \supset \{x : x\bar{U} \subset U\}$ (apply Lemma 3.2); and W has compact closure because for every $a \in U \setminus \{0\}$, W is contained in the compact set $\bar{U}a^{-1}$. Furthermore,

if $a, b \in W$, then $ab \in W$.

Take $s \in W$, $0 < D(s) < 1$. (Such s exist since K is not discrete.) W is a semigroup under multiplication, so that

$$W \subset s^{-1}W \subset s^{-2}W \subset \dots$$

We have $s, s^2, s^3, \dots \in \bar{W}$ and $\lim D(s^n) = \lim D(s)^n = 0$.

By the remark we made before formulating this theorem it follows that $\lim s^n = 0$. Then $\lim s^n x = 0$ for all $x \in K$. A fortiori, for every x there exists an n such that $s^n x \in W$.

Thus,

$$\bigcup_n s^{-n}W = K.$$

We prove that $A \subset s^{-n}W$ for some n . (Then A , being a closed subset of the compact $s^{-n}\bar{W}$, is itself compact.)

If A is not contained in any $s^{-n}W$ then it must intersect infinitely many of the sets $s^{-n-1}W \setminus s^{-n}W$, i.e. there exists a subsequence n_1, n_2, \dots of $1, 2, \dots$ and there exist $x_1, x_2, \dots \in A$ such that $x_i \in s^{-n_i-1}W \setminus s^{-n_i}W$ for each i . Now each $x_i s^{n_i}$ lies

in the compact set $s^{-1}\overline{W}$, and $\lim D(x_i)D(s)^{n_i} = 0$. Hence, $\lim x_i s^{n_i} = 0$. But each $x_i s^{n_i}$ lies in the closed set $K \setminus W$ which does not contain 0: contradiction.

12.4. COROLLARY. K is σ -compact.

12.5. COROLLARY. A sequence $x_1, x_2, \dots \in K$ converges to 0 if and only if $\lim D(x_n) = 0$.

Proof. The "only if" is true because of the continuity of D , the "if" because of Theorem 12.3 and the boundedness of a converging sequence of real numbers.

For the dual group \hat{K} of K we use the additive notation:

$$(\chi_1 + \chi_2)(x) = \chi_1(x)\chi_2(x) \quad (\chi_1, \chi_2 \in \hat{K}; x \in K)$$

and 0 denotes the constant function 1 on K . From the σ -compactness of K it follows that \hat{K} is metrizable (Exercise 7.C).

The following definition makes \hat{K} into a vector space over K :

$$(x\chi)(y) := \chi(xy) \quad (\chi \in \hat{K}; x, y \in K).$$

The scalar multiplication $(x, \chi) \mapsto x\chi$ is continuous $K \times \hat{K} \rightarrow \hat{K}$. To prove this statement, let $\lim x_n = x$ in K , $\lim \beta_n = \beta$ in \hat{K} , let $C \subset K$ be compact and $\epsilon > 0$: we prove $x\beta - x_n\beta_n \in N(C; \epsilon)$ for large n . The set $C' := \{x, x_1, x_2, \dots\}$ is compact, so that $C'C$ is also compact. For all n ,

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{y \in C} |(x\beta)(y) - (x_n\beta_n)(y)| &\leq \sup_{y \in C} |\beta(xy) - \beta(x_n y)| + \\ &\quad \sup_{y \in C} |\beta(x_n y) - \beta_n(x_n y)| \leq \\ &\leq \sup_{y \in C} |\beta(xy - x_n y) - 1| + \sup_{z \in C'C} |\beta(z) - \beta_n(z)|. \end{aligned}$$

For large n , $\beta - \beta_n \in N(C'C; \frac{1}{3}\epsilon)$, i.e. $\sup_{z \in C'C} |\beta(z) - \beta_n(z)| \leq \frac{1}{3}\epsilon$.

By Lemma 3.2 there exists a neighborhood U of 0 for which $UC \subset \{z \in K : |\beta(z) - 1| < \frac{1}{3}\epsilon\}$. If n is large enough, then $x - x_n \in U$, so $|\beta(xy - x_n y) - 1| < \frac{1}{3}\epsilon$ for all $y \in C$ and

$$\sup_{y \in C} |\beta(xy - x_n y) - 1| \leq \frac{1}{3}\epsilon. \quad \text{This proves that } x\beta - x_n\beta_n \in N(C; \epsilon)$$

for large n .

Choose $\beta \in \hat{K}$, $\beta \neq 0$. For $x \in K$ set $\Phi(x) := x\beta$. Then Φ is injective and continuous $K \rightarrow K\beta$. We prove that Φ is a homeomorphism $K \rightarrow K\beta$ and that $K\beta$ is closed in \hat{K} . It suffices to prove

(*) if $a_1, a_2, \dots \in K$ and if $\gamma := \lim a_n \beta$ exists, then the sequence a_1, a_2, \dots converges to some $a \in K$, and $\gamma = a\beta$.

Let $a_1, a_2, \dots \in K$ and $\gamma = \lim a_n \beta$. If the sequence $D(a_1), D(a_2), \dots$ is bounded there is a compact set $A \subset K$ containing all the a_n (Theorem 12.3). The restriction of Φ to A is then a homeomorphism $A \rightarrow \Phi(A) \subset K\beta$, and we are done. Otherwise the sequence $1, 2, \dots$ has a subsequence n_1, n_2, \dots such that $\lim D(a_{n_i}) = \infty$. Then $\lim D(a_{n_i}^{-1}) = 0$, so $\lim a_{n_i}^{-1} = 0$ and $0 = 0\gamma = (\lim a_{n_i}^{-1})(\lim a_{n_i} \beta) = \lim a_{n_i}^{-1} a_{n_i} \beta = \beta$, which is a contradiction.

Suppose $K\beta \neq \hat{K}$. Then \hat{K} has a non-trivial character that is 1 on K (Theorem 7.2 (b)). By the Duality Theorem there is an $a \in K$, $a \neq 0$ such that $(x\beta)(a) = 1$ ($x \in K$). Then $\beta(xa) = 1$ for all x , so $\beta = 0$, and we again have a contradiction.

We have thus proved:

12.6. THEOREM. Choose $\beta \in \hat{K}$, $\beta \neq 0$. The map $x \mapsto x\beta$ is a homeomorphism and a group isomorphism of K onto \hat{K} .

Suppose K contains a non-zero compact subgroup C (under addition). Take $c \in C$, $c \neq 0$. Then every $a \in K$ lies in a compact subgroup of K (viz. $ac^{-1}C$).

It follows now from the corollary (8.3) to the Structure Theorem for locally compact abelian groups that K contains an open subgroup that is either isomorphic to \mathbb{R}^m (some $m \in \mathbb{N}$) or compact.

Case I. Let Φ be a homeomorphism-and-isomorphism of an m -dimensional vector space E onto an open subgroup of K . Choose $a \in K$, $a \neq 0$ and $b \in \Phi(E)$, $b \neq 0$. Then $a^{-1}b\Phi(E)$ is an open subgroup of K , so $\Phi(E) \cap a^{-1}b\Phi(E)$ is an open subgroup of $\Phi(E)$. But E has no proper open subgroups, so $\Phi(E) \subset a^{-1}b\Phi(E)$,

and $a=ab^{-1}b \in ab^{-1}a^{-1}b \Phi(E) = \Phi(E) : \Phi \text{ maps } E \text{ onto } K$.

Let $e := \Phi^{-1}(1)$. Define $\varphi: R \rightarrow K$ by $\varphi(\lambda) := \Phi(\lambda e)$. Then φ is an isomorphism of R onto a subfield R of K . It is not hard to prove that

$$\Phi\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i a_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \varphi(\lambda_i) \Phi(a_i) \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}; \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n \in R; a_1, \dots, a_n \in E).$$

(Prove the formula for rational $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ first.) Then K is a finite dimensional vector space over R , hence is an algebraic extension of R . But R is isomorphic to \mathbb{R} , so $\dim_R K \leq 2$. Thus, for E we may take either \mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C} . It is easy to see that in either case Φ is multiplicative ($\Phi(xy) = \Phi(x) \Phi(y)$), so that K , as a topological field, is isomorphic to either \mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C} .

Case II. Let U be a compact open subgroup of K . Set $W := \{x \in K : xU \subset U\}$. As in the proof of Theorem 12.3 W is a neighborhood of 0, \bar{W} is compact, and $ab \in W$ for all $a, b \in W$. But this time U is closed and a subgroup of K : consequently W is a compact open subring of K .

We prove

(*) if $a \in K$ and $D(a) < 1$, then $D(1-a) = 1$.

Let $a \in K$, $D(a) < 1$. Then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a^n = 0$ (Corollary 12.5), so $a^N \in W$ for some $N \in \mathbb{N}$.

$$W' := W + aW + a^2W + \dots + a^{N-1}W$$

is a compact open subgroup and $aW' \subset W'$. Therefore, $(1-a)W' \subset W'$, so $D(1-a) \leq 1$. But also $(1+a+a^2+\dots+a^N)W' \subset W'$, so $D(1+a+\dots+a^N) \leq 1$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$). Now $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1+a+\dots+a^n) = (1-a)^{-1}$. Hence, $D((1-a)^{-1}) \leq 1$, i.e. $D(1-a) \geq 1$.

This proves (*). But (*) leads to

(**) if $a, b \in K$ and $D(a) < D(a+b)$, then $D(a+b) = D(b)$.

In fact, if $D(a) < D(a+b)$, then $D(\frac{a}{a+b}) < 1$, so $1 = D(1 - \frac{a}{a+b}) = D(\frac{b}{a+b})$, whence $D(a+b) = D(b)$.

By (**), for all $a, b \in K$,

$$D(a+b) \leq \max(D(a), D(b)).$$

In particular, D determines a metric d by

$$d(a,b) := D(a-b).$$

By Corollary 12.5, the topology of K is just the one induced by d .

A valuation on a field F is a map $x \mapsto |x|$ of F into \mathbb{R} such that

- (i) $|x| \geq 0$ for all $x \in F$; $|x| = 0$ if and only if $x = 0$.
- (ii) $|x+y| \leq |x| + |y|$ ($x, y \in F$).
- (iii) $|xy| = |x||y|$ ($x, y \in F$).

Such a valuation is non-Archimedean if (ii) can be strengthened to

$$(ii^*) \quad |x+y| \leq \max(|x|, |y|) \quad (x, y \in F).$$

Every valuation $|\cdot|$ on F induces a metric d by

$$d(x,y) := |x-y|,$$

which turns F into a topological field.

In the above we have proved the following.

12.7. THEOREM. (PONTYAGIN-KOWALSKY). If K is connected, it is isomorphic (as a topological field) to either \mathbb{R} or \mathbb{C} . Otherwise there is a non-Archimedean valuation on K which induces the given topology of K .

12.A. EXERCISE. Let K be a (non-discrete) locally compact field with a non-Archimedean valuation. Then, as a locally compact abelian group, K is not compactly generated. (In particular, K is not compact.)

12.B. EXERCISE The p -adic numbers.

Let p be a prime number. Every non-zero rational number x can be written in the form $p^n \frac{a}{b}$ where $n, a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ while neither a nor b is divisible by p ; we then set $D(x) := p^{-n}$. (This definition is unambiguous: if $p^n \frac{a}{b} = p^{n'} \frac{a'}{b'}$ and a, b, a', b' are not divisible by p , then $n = n'$.) Further, we $D(0) := 0$.

This D is determined by the following properties.

$$D(p) = p^{-1}, \quad D(0) = 0;$$

$$D(m) = 1 \text{ if } m \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ is not divisible by } p;$$

$$D(xy) = D(x)D(y) \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{Q}).$$

D is a non-Archimedean valuation on \mathbb{Q} .

By \mathbb{Q}_p we denote the completion of \mathbb{Q} relative to the metric induced by D . Then D has a unique continuous extension to \mathbb{Q}_p ; we denote this extension by $|\cdot|_p$. The metric on \mathbb{Q}_p turns out to be

$$(x, y) \mapsto |x - y|_p \quad (x, y \in \mathbb{Q}_p).$$

Addition and multiplication have unique continuous extensions $\mathbb{Q}_p \times \mathbb{Q}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}_p$. Thus, \mathbb{Q}_p becomes a non-Archimedean valued field, complete relative to the metric induced by its valuation $|\cdot|_p$.

The elements of \mathbb{Q}_p are called p-adic numbers.

The closure of \mathbb{Z} in \mathbb{Q}_p is isometric and isomorphic to the group \mathbb{Z}_p of p-adic integers. (See Exercise 7.A.)

We view \mathbb{Z}_p as a (compact) subgroup of \mathbb{Q}_p . Then

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

(Hint to proving the inclusion \supset . Let $x \in \mathbb{Q}_p$, $|x|_p \leq 1$ and let $\varepsilon > 0$. Choose $n \in \mathbb{N}$ so that $p^{-n} < \varepsilon$. There exist $k, l \in \mathbb{Z}$, $l \neq 0$ so that $|x - \frac{k}{l}|_p < p^{-n}$; then $|\frac{k}{l}|_p \leq 1$. We may assume that l is not divisible by p . Then p^n and l are relatively prime and there exists an $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $k - ml$ is divisible by p^n . Now $|x - m|_p < \varepsilon$.)

\mathbb{Q}_p is locally compact.

If m is a Haar measure on \mathbb{Q}_p , then

$$m(aX) = |a|_p m(X) \quad (a \in \mathbb{Q}_p; X \subset \mathbb{Q}_p \text{ Borel}).$$

