Exercise 2.1

Let $d \in \mathbb{Z}$ be a square-free integer and consider $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$.

1. Find an integral basis for K.

   Proof. From exercise 1.2.2. we have that $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$ where

   $$\alpha = \begin{cases} \frac{1+\sqrt{d}}{2} & d \equiv 1 \mod 4 \\ \sqrt{d} & d \not\equiv 1 \mod 4. \end{cases}$$

   so the integral basis is $\mathcal{B} = \{1, \alpha\}$. $\square$

2. Using the basis, compute the discriminant of $K/\mathbb{Q}$.

   Proof. We have

   $$\Delta_K = \det \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1(b_1) & \sigma_1(b_2) \\ \sigma_2(b_1) & \sigma_2(b_2) \end{pmatrix}^2$$

   where σ_1 and σ_2 are the set of embeddings of K onto the complex numbers, and b_1 and b_2 are the integral basis of $\mathcal{O}_K$. If $d \equiv 1 \mod 4$, we have

   $$\Delta_K = \det \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1(b_1) & \sigma_1(b_2) \\ \sigma_2(b_1) & \sigma_2(b_2) \end{pmatrix}^2 = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{1+\sqrt{d}}{2} \\ 1 & \frac{1-\sqrt{d}}{2} \end{pmatrix}^2 = (-\sqrt{d})^2 = d.$$

   If $d \not\equiv 1 \mod 4$, we have

   $$\Delta_K = \det \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1(b_1) & \sigma_1(b_2) \\ \sigma_2(b_1) & \sigma_2(b_2) \end{pmatrix}^2 = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \sqrt{d} \\ 1 & -\sqrt{d} \end{pmatrix}^2 = (-2\sqrt{d})^2 = 4d.$$

   So the discriminant is

   $$\Delta_K = \begin{cases} d & d \equiv 1 \mod 4 \\ 4d & d \not\equiv 1 \mod 4 \end{cases} \tag{1}$$

   $\square$