

Number Fields

1.

- Prerequisites:
- Some knowledge of rings, fields, vector spaces and rudiments of Galois Theory.
 - Also, shall assume basic topics in Discrete Maths.
 - Shall appeal at the beginning to:

Symmetric Function Theorem: Let R be any ring. Every symmetric polynomial in $R[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ is expressible as a polynomial over R in the elementary symmetric functions s_1, \dots, s_n , where $(t+x_1) \cdots (t+x_n) = t^n + s_1 t^{n-1} + \dots + s_n$. i.e., $s_1 = x_1 + \dots + x_n$, $s_2 = x_1 x_2 + \dots + x_{n-1} x_n$, \dots , $s_n = x_1 \cdots x_n$.

Thus the symmetric polynomials form a ~~ring~~ polynomial ring in $R[s_1, \dots, s_n]$.

Proof: See, for example, P.M. Cohn, "Algebra, vol I" (Wiley 1982), P.178

Frequently, one refers to the division algorithm. For integers, this states that if a, b are positive integers, then \exists integers q, r ~~st~~ such that $a = bq + r$ with $0 \leq r < b$.

For polynomials it states that if $a(x), b(x)$ are polynomials over a field K , then \exists polynomials $q(x), r(x)$ over K such that $a(x) = b(x)q(x) + r(x)$, with $\deg r(x) < \deg b(x)$.

1. Foundations

1.1. Algebraic Number.

An algebraic number α is a zero of a polynomial $p(x)$ with rational coefficients. The minimal polynomial for α is the polynomial p as above of least degree and with leading coefficient of 1, i.e., the polynomial is monic.

The conjugates of α are the zeroes $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ of p , the minimal polynomial for α . Here the polynomial is considered to be defined over \mathbb{C} , the complex numbers, so the degree of p is n . We call n the degree of α .

Notes: (i) The minimal polynomial p for α is also the minimal polynomial for α_j ($j=1, \dots, n$).

Proof: Let p_j be the minimal polynomial for α_j . Then by the division algorithm, p_j divides p . Hence α is a zero of either p_j or p/p_j , so that $p = p_j$ by the minimal property of p .

(ii) All the α_j ($j=1, \dots, n$) are distinct.

Proof: by (i) we have $(p, p') = 1$, where p' is the derivative of p . Hence p cannot have a squared linear factor, i.e. the α_j are distinct.

(iii) If $R(x)$ is a polynomial such that $R(\alpha_j) = 0$ for some j , then $R(\alpha_j) = 0 \forall j$. (Here, R has rational coefficients, thus the minimal polynomial for α divides R).

The totality of all algebraic numbers forms a field. Clear, since $\alpha + \beta$ is a zero of $\prod_{i=1}^m \prod_{j=1}^n (x - (\alpha_i + \beta_j))$, where $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m$ and β_1, \dots, β_n are the conjugates of α and β respectively. Here the polynomial has rational coefficients in view of the symmetric function theorem. Also, $\frac{1}{\beta}$, for $\beta \neq 0$, is a zero of $x^n p(\frac{x}{\beta})$, a polynomial with rational coefficients, where p is the minimal polynomial for β .

We shall denote the field of all algebraic numbers by \mathcal{A} . Note that a zero of a polynomial P with algebraic coefficients is itself algebraic; for if $P(x) = \alpha_n x^n + \dots + \alpha_1 x + \alpha_0$ and $P(\alpha) = 0$, then $Q(\alpha) = 0$, with $Q(x) = \prod_{i=1}^n (\alpha_n^{(i)} x^n + \dots + \alpha_0^{(i)})$, where $\alpha_j^{(i)}$ runs through all the conjugates of α_j ($j=1, \dots, n$) and here $Q(x)$ has rational coefficients by the symmetric function theorem.

1.2. Algebraic Number Field.

Let α be an algebraic number, and let \mathbb{Q} denote the rational number field. We define the field $K = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$, the algebraic number field generated by α over \mathbb{Q} , as the set of elements $P(\alpha)$, where P is any polynomial with coefficients in \mathbb{Q} . The set can be regarded as embedded in \mathbb{C} , whence we have the usual operations of addition and multiplication. With these, the set forms a field (a subfield of \mathbb{C}). This is clear; eg, $P(\alpha) + Q(\alpha) = (P+Q)(\alpha)$, $P(\alpha)Q(\alpha) = (PQ)(\alpha)$. The only axiom that needs an element of proof is the division axiom. Accordingly, suppose that $P(\alpha) \neq 0$. Then, from the division algorithm, we have $P(x)R(x) + Q(x)S(x) = 1$, where $Q(x)$ is the minimal polynomial for α , and $R(x), S(x)$ have coefficients in \mathbb{Q} . Note here that $(P(x), Q(x)) = 1$, since $P(\alpha) \neq 0$. Now, putting $x = \alpha$ in the above equation, we obtain $P(\alpha)R(\alpha) = 1$, and so $\frac{1}{P(\alpha)} = R(\alpha)$ is in K , as required.

The degree of K is defined as the degree of α , say n . Then, by the division algorithm, K consists of all elements $a_0 + a_1 \alpha + \dots + a_{n-1} \alpha^{n-1}$, with a_0, \dots, a_{n-1} in \mathbb{Q} . Now let $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ be the conjugates of α . We define $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n$ as the embeddings of K into \mathbb{C} (monomorphisms) given by $\sigma_j(\alpha) = \alpha_j$. This gives conjugate fields K_1, \dots, K_n , where $K_j = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha_j)$.

If $\theta = p(\alpha)$ is the typical element in K , we define the field conjugates of θ as $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n$, where $\theta_j = p(\alpha_j) = \sigma_j(\theta)$. Further, we call the polynomial $(x - \theta_1) \dots (x - \theta_n)$ the field polynomial of θ .

The field polynomial is a power of the minimal polynomial.

Proof: Let q be the field polynomial for θ ($\in K$) and p the minimal polynomial for θ .

We write $q = p^m r$ for some polynomial r with $(r, p) = 1$. Now, if $r \neq 1$, then $r(\theta_j) = 0$ for some j . We have $\theta_j = p(\alpha_j)$, (assuming $\theta = p(\alpha)$). Hence, $r(p(\alpha_j)) = 0$. But $rp(x) \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$ and so note (iii) above gives $r(p(\alpha_j)) = 0 \forall j$. It follows that p divides r . Contradiction - $(r, p) = 1$. (See also: Stewart & Tall, p. 43).

Note that the degree of K is independent of the choice of generator, for we have K a vector space over \mathbb{Q} with basis $1, \alpha, \dots, \alpha^{n-1}$. Hence the dimension $[K:\mathbb{Q}]$ of the vector space is the degree of K . Hence any other generator β will have the same degree. (Alternatively, observe that the minimal polynomial for β divides the field polynomial, whence $\text{degree } \beta \leq \text{degree } \alpha$; similarly, $\text{degree } \alpha \leq \text{degree } \beta$. Hence the result).

Now let $K = \mathbb{Q}(\beta)$ be an algebraic number field. We define $K = K(\alpha)$ for an algebraic number α as the field consisting of all expressions $p(\alpha)$ where p is a polynomial with coefficients in K .

Proposition: K is also an algebraic number field over \mathbb{Q} . If we have $K = K(\alpha) = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha, \beta) = \mathbb{Q}(u\alpha + v\beta)$ for some integers u, v .

Proof: Let $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ and β_1, \dots, β_m be the conjugates of α, β . We choose u, v such that $u(\alpha_i - \alpha_{i'}) + v(\beta_j - \beta_{j'}) \neq 0 \forall i, i', j, j'$ except $i=i', j=j'$. For brevity, let $w_{i,j} = u\alpha_i + v\beta_j$, and assume $\alpha = \alpha_1, \beta = \beta_1$, so that $w := w_{1,1} = u\alpha + v\beta$. We introduce the polynomial $Q(x) = \prod_{i=1}^n \prod_{j=1}^m (x - w_{i,j})$ and put $R(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j Q(x)/(x - w_{i,j})$. Here, $R(x)$ is a polynomial, and by the symmetric function theorem, it has coefficients in \mathbb{Q} . Further, putting $x = w$, we get $\beta = \beta_1 = R(w)/Q'(w)$, where Q' is the derivative of Q . Hence $\beta \in \mathbb{Q}(w)$. Similarly $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}(w)$, and so $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha, \beta) = \mathbb{Q}(u\alpha + v\beta)$, as required.

We define the degree of K over k as $[K:k]$, the degree of x over k (i.e. the degree of the minimal polynomial for x with coefficients in k). Then from the dimension theorem for vector spaces, we get $[K:\mathbb{Q}] = [K:k][k:\mathbb{Q}]$. (The dimension theorem states that if H, K, L are fields and $H \subseteq K \subseteq L$, then the dimensions satisfy $[L:H] = [L:K][K:H]$).

1.3. Algebraic Integers.

An algebraic number α is called an algebraic integer if the minimal polynomial for α has integer coefficients (still with a leading 1). [Note that for $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$, the minimal polynomial is $x - \alpha$ and so the definition gives the ordinary integers in this case].

The totality of algebraic integers forms a ring \mathcal{O} .

Note: conjugates of an algebraic integer are also algebraic integers.

Let $p(x)$ be the minimal polynomial for an algebraic number α . One calls the lowest common multiple of the denominators of the coefficients of $p(x)$ the denominator a of α . Thus, the denominator a is the least positive integer such that $ap(x)$ has relatively prime integer coefficients.

Corollary 1: $a\alpha$ is an algebraic integer.

Proof: We have $a^n p(x) = Q(ax)$ for some monic Q with ordinary integer coefficients. (If $p(x) = x^n + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \dots + a_0$, then $Q(x) = x^n + a \cdot a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \dots + a^n a_0$).

Corollary 2: $a\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_m$ is an algebraic integer for any distinct conjugates $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m$ of α .

Proof: We shall prove that if $f(x) = \beta_k x^k + \dots + \beta_0 \in \mathcal{O}[x]$, and $f(\alpha) = 0$, then $\frac{f(x)}{x - \alpha} \in \mathcal{O}[x]$. The corollary follows on taking $f(x) = a p(x)$, for then $\frac{f(x)}{x - \alpha_i} \in \mathcal{O}[x]$, where α_i runs through all the conjugates of α other than $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m$, whence $a(x - \alpha_1) \dots (x - \alpha_m) \in \mathcal{O}[x]$, and so the constant coefficient $a\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_m$ (ignoring sign) is in \mathcal{O} as required.

The assertion is proved by induction on k (assuming $\beta_k \neq 0$). It holds trivially for $k=1$.

Now consider $\varphi(x) = f(x) - \beta_R x^{R-1}(x-\delta)$. This is a polynomial of degree $\leq R-1$, and we have $\varphi(\delta) = 0$. Further, we have $\varphi(x) \in \mathcal{O}[x]$, since $\beta_R \delta \in \mathcal{O}$ as in corollary 1, i.e. $\beta_R^{R-1} f(x) = g(\beta_R x)$ for some monic $g(x) \in \mathcal{O}[x]$. The required assertion follows by induction.

1.4. Units

An algebraic integer ε is called a unit if $\frac{1}{\varepsilon}$ is an algebraic integer.

[Note: in \mathbb{Q} , the algebraic integers are called rational integers. Then, ε is a unit iff $\varepsilon = \pm 1$]

Alternatively, ε is a unit iff $\varepsilon_1 \cdots \varepsilon_n = \pm 1$, where $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n$ are the conjugates of ε .

Proof: If $\varepsilon_1 \cdots \varepsilon_n = \pm 1$, then $\frac{1}{\varepsilon_1} = \pm \varepsilon_2 \cdots \varepsilon_n$, and so if $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_1 \in \mathcal{O}$, then $\varepsilon_2, \dots, \varepsilon_n \in \mathcal{O}$ (by note at start of §1.3) and so, since \mathcal{O} is a ring, we have $\frac{1}{\varepsilon_1} \in \mathcal{O}$.

Conversely, if $\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \in \mathcal{O}$, then $\frac{1}{\varepsilon_1}, \dots, \frac{1}{\varepsilon_n}$, i.e. the conjugates of $\frac{1}{\varepsilon_1}$, must belong to \mathcal{O} , whence, by the ring property of \mathcal{O} , $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n$ are units. But then $\varepsilon_1 \cdots \varepsilon_n$ is a rational integer and a unit, so $\varepsilon_1 \cdots \varepsilon_n = \pm 1$.

Note: the product of units in \mathcal{O} is again a unit, and the units form a multiplicative group, which we denote by U .

Remark: if K is an algebraic number field then again the algebraic integers in K form a ring \mathcal{O}_K , and the units in K form a multiplicative group U_K .

1.5. Norm and Trace

Let α be any algebraic number, with conjugates $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$. We define the (absolute) norm and trace of α as $N\alpha = \alpha_1 \cdots \alpha_n$ and $T_\alpha = \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_n$. Thus, ε is a unit iff $N_\varepsilon = \pm 1$.

Now let K be an algebraic number field and let $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n$ be the monomorphisms from K to \mathbb{C} . If θ is any element of K , we define the relative norm and trace on K by $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\theta) = \sigma_1(\theta) \cdots \sigma_n(\theta)$, $T_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\theta) = \sigma_1(\theta) + \dots + \sigma_n(\theta)$.

Then clearly, $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\theta\varphi) = N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\theta) N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\varphi)$, $T_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\theta + \varphi) = T_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\theta) + T_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\varphi)$.

Also, by the property of the field polynomial, we have $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}\theta = (N\theta)^m$, $T_{K/\mathbb{Q}}\theta = mT\theta$, for some integer m . Note that when θ is an algebraic integer, $N\theta, T\theta$ are rational integers.

1.6 Basis and Determinant

Let K be an algebraic number field. Then there is a basis ψ_1, \dots, ψ_n of K as a vector space over \mathbb{Q} . We define the discriminant of the basis as $\Delta(\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n) = [\det(\sigma_i(\psi_j))]^2$

Then we have $\Delta(\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n) = \det \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1(\psi_1) & \dots & \sigma_n(\psi_1) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \sigma_1(\psi_n) & \dots & \sigma_n(\psi_n) \end{pmatrix} \det \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1(\psi_1) & \dots & \sigma_n(\psi_1) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \sigma_1(\psi_n) & \dots & \sigma_n(\psi_n) \end{pmatrix} = \det(T_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\psi_i \psi_j))$.

Now suppose we have another basis for K over \mathbb{Q} , say ψ'_1, \dots, ψ'_n . Then $\psi'_i = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} \psi_j$, rational a_{ij} . Let $A = \det(a_{ij}) \neq 0$ as change-of-basis matrix.

Clearly, we have, $\Delta(\psi'_1, \dots, \psi'_n) = A^2 \Delta(\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n) \quad \circledast$

If $K = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$, then we can take $\psi_j = \alpha^{j-1}$, and $\Delta(1, \alpha, \dots, \alpha^{n-1})$ is the square of a Vandermonde determinant, whence $\Delta(1, \alpha, \dots, \alpha^{n-1}) = \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (\sigma_i(\alpha) - \sigma_j(\alpha))^2$.

Since α is a generator for K over \mathbb{Q} we have $\sigma_i(\alpha) \neq \sigma_j(\alpha)$ ($i \neq j$), whence $\Delta(1, \alpha, \dots, \alpha^{n-1}) \neq 0$. It follows from $\textcircled{*}$ that $\Delta(\psi'_1, \dots, \psi'_n) \neq 0$ for all bases ψ'_1, \dots, ψ'_n of K over \mathbb{Q} .

Now consider the ring \mathcal{O}_K of algebraic integers in K . A basis for \mathcal{O}_K over \mathbb{Z} is called an integral basis for K . Thus w_1, \dots, w_n is an integral basis for K iff every element θ of \mathcal{O}_K can be expressed in the form $\theta = u_1 w_1 + \dots + u_n w_n$ for some rational integers u_1, \dots, u_n .

Theorem: An integral basis always exists for K .

Proof: Note first that there certainly exists an \mathcal{O}_K -basis for K over \mathbb{Q} with elements in \mathcal{O}_K ; for instance, we could take $1, \alpha, \dots, (\alpha x)^{n-1}$ where x is the denominator for α . Now, any \mathcal{O}_K -basis for K over \mathbb{Q} , say w_1, \dots, w_n , the discriminant $\Delta(w_1, \dots, w_n)$ is a rational integer by symmetry (since $w_j \in \mathcal{O}_K$, where $\Delta \in \mathcal{O}_K$). Thus there exist elements w_1, \dots, w_n in \mathcal{O}_K such that $|\Delta(w_1, \dots, w_n)|$ takes its smallest value.

We proceed to prove that w_1, \dots, w_n is an integral basis for K .

Accordingly, let θ be any element of \mathcal{O}_K . Then certainly there exist rationals u_1, \dots, u_n such that $\theta = u_1 w_1 + \dots + u_n w_n$. We have to show that, since $\theta \in \mathcal{O}_K$, these u_i 's are in fact integers. But if, say, $u_1 = u + v$, with u an integer and $0 < v < 1$, then, on writing $w'_1 = \theta - u w_1 = v w_1 + u_2 w_2 + \dots + u_n w_n$, we would have an \mathcal{O}_K -basis for K over \mathbb{Q} , namely w'_1, w_2, \dots, w_n , and from $\textcircled{*}$, we would have $\Delta(w'_1, w_2, \dots, w_n) = v^2 \Delta(w_1, \dots, w_n)$, where $V = \det \begin{pmatrix} v & & & \\ & u_2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & u_n \end{pmatrix} = v$. Since $0 < v < 1$, this contradicts the minimal property of $|\Delta(w_1, \dots, w_n)|$. The theorem follows.

It is clear from the proof above that $|\Delta(w_1, \dots, w_n)|$ takes the same value for any integral basis for K , for the determinant of the transformation from one integral basis to another is an integer and so ± 1 . Now, by $\textcircled{*}$, the determinant is squared and so the value of $|\Delta(w_1, \dots, w_n)|$ is unchanged.

We define $\Delta(w_1, \dots, w_n)$ for an integral basis as the discriminant of K .

Exercise: prove that if $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n$ are elements of \mathcal{O}_K such that $\Delta(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n)$ is square-free then $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n$ is an integral basis for K .

1.7. The Quadratic Field.

Consider $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$, where d is a square-free integer (positive or negative). Then the elements of K have the form $x + y\sqrt{d}$, with $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$. We determine an integral basis for K .

Accordingly, suppose $x + y\sqrt{d} \in \mathcal{O}_K$. Then $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(x + y\sqrt{d})$ and $T_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(x + y\sqrt{d}) \in \mathbb{Z}$. (Also clear from minimal polynomial). Hence, $x^2 - dy^2$ and $2x \in \mathbb{Z}$. Since d is square-free, it follows that $x = \frac{1}{2}u$, $y = \frac{1}{2}v$, where u, v are integers. Further, 4 divides $u^2 - dv^2$.

Now, if $d \equiv 2$ or $3 \pmod{4}$, then since a square $\equiv 0$ or $1 \pmod{4}$, it follows that $u^2 = v^2 = 0 \pmod{4}$, i.e. u, v are even, whence x and y are integers, and $1, \sqrt{d}$ is an integral basis for k .

If $d \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, the only other possibility, then u, v have the same parity (i.e. $u \equiv v \pmod{2}$), and so, on writing $x + y\sqrt{d} = \frac{1}{2}(u-v) + \frac{1}{2}v(1+\sqrt{d})$, and noting that $\frac{1}{2}(u-v)$ and v are integers, we see that $1, \frac{1}{2}(1+\sqrt{d})$ is an integral basis for k .

The discriminant of k is thus $4d$ when $d \equiv 2$ or $3 \pmod{4}$, and d when $d \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, since $\begin{vmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2}(1+\sqrt{d}) \\ 1 & \frac{1}{2}(1-\sqrt{d}) \end{vmatrix} = \sqrt{d}$.

2. Ideals.

2.1. Origins.

Not every algebraic number field has a unique factorisation. Consider, for example, $k = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$. An integral basis is $1, \sqrt{-5}$. Then, $21 = 3 \cdot 7 = (1+2\sqrt{-5})(1-2\sqrt{-5})$.

Now, disregarding units, $3, 7, 1 \pm 2\sqrt{-5}$ cannot be further factorised in \mathcal{O}_k .

Suppose, for instance, $3 = \alpha\beta$, where $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{O}_k$. Then $N_\alpha N_\beta = 9$, so if neither α nor β were a unit we would have $N_\alpha = 3$. But this is impossible since it implies $x^2 + 5y^2 = 3$ for integers x, y , and there is no such solution.

Note that the units in $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$ are given by $x^2 + 5y^2 = \pm 1$ (since $N(x+y\sqrt{-5}) = x^2 + 5y^2$), where $x = \pm 1, y = 0$. So, the only units in k are ± 1 .

Similarly, $7, 1 \pm 2\sqrt{-5}$ cannot factorise further. Hence $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$ does not have a unique factorisation.

Ideals were introduced by Kummer, Dedekind, etc. to restore the property.

2.2. Definitions.

Let k be an algebraic number field and let \mathcal{O}_k be the ring of integers of k .

An ideal in k is a non-empty subset of \mathcal{O}_k , denoted by \mathfrak{a} , say, such that

- (i) if $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathfrak{a}$, then $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 \in \mathfrak{a}$.
- (ii) if $\alpha \in \mathfrak{a}, \beta \in \mathcal{O}_k$, then $\alpha\beta \in \mathfrak{a}$.

Theorem: every ideal \mathfrak{a} in k is finitely generated. That is, there exist elements $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m$ in \mathfrak{a} such that \mathfrak{a} is the set of all elements $\alpha_1\beta_1 + \dots + \alpha_m\beta_m$ with β_1, \dots, β_m in \mathcal{O}_k . We write $\mathfrak{a} = [\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m]$.

Proof: Clearly given $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m$ as above, the set of all $\alpha_1\beta_1 + \dots + \alpha_m\beta_m$ with β_1, \dots, β_m in \mathcal{O}_k satisfies (i) and (ii), whence it is an ideal.

Conversely, if \mathfrak{a} is an ideal, then there is an integral basis for \mathfrak{a} , i.e. a set $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n$ of elements of \mathfrak{a} such that every element α in \mathfrak{a} can be expressed in the form $u_1\gamma_1 + \dots + u_n\gamma_n$ with rational integers u_1, \dots, u_n . The

verification follows as in section 1.6, for if w_1, \dots, w_n is an integral basis for \mathcal{O}_K and α is any element of \mathfrak{a} , then $\alpha w_1, \dots, \alpha w_n$ are in \mathfrak{a} (and play the same rôle as $1, a\theta, \dots, (a\theta)^{n-1}$ in 1.6), and then we deduce that we can take for $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n$ any set of elements of \mathfrak{a} such that $|\Delta(\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n)|$ takes its smallest value. Now, if $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n$ is an integral basis for \mathfrak{a} then we have $\mathfrak{a} = [\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n]$.

We define the product $\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b}$ of ideals $\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{b}$ in K as the set of all elements $a_1b_1 + \dots + a_t b_t$ with a_1, \dots, a_t in \mathfrak{a} and b_1, \dots, b_t in \mathfrak{b} . Plainly, if $\mathfrak{a} = [\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n], \mathfrak{b} = [\beta_1, \dots, \beta_r]$, then $\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b} = [\alpha_1\beta_1, \dots, \alpha_n\beta_r]$. Further, we have $\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{a}$ (commutativity) and $(\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b})\mathfrak{c} = \mathfrak{a}(\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{c})$ (associativity).

We say that \mathfrak{a} divides \mathfrak{b} if there is an ideal \mathfrak{c} such that $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{c}$.

We define \mathfrak{a}^k as $\mathfrak{a} \cdot \mathfrak{a}$ (k times) and $\mathfrak{a}^0 = \mathfrak{e} = [1] = \mathcal{O}_K$.

2.3. Principal Ideals.

An ideal \mathfrak{a} is said to be principal if $\mathfrak{a} = [\alpha]$ for some $\alpha \in \mathcal{O}_K$. If $[\alpha] = [\beta]$, then α/β and $\beta/\alpha \in \mathcal{O}_K$, i.e. α/β is a unit in \mathcal{O}_K , and we say that α and β are associated in K .

Theorem: For any ideal \mathfrak{a} in K there is \mathfrak{b} in K such that $\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b}$ is principal. In fact, there is an ideal \mathfrak{b} such that $\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b} = [c]$ with $c \in \mathbb{Z}$.

[We can define \mathfrak{a}^{-1} as $\mathfrak{b}/[c]$, i.e. if $\mathfrak{b} = [\beta_1, \dots, \beta_r]$, then \mathfrak{a} can be defined as $[\frac{\beta_1}{c}, \dots, \frac{\beta_r}{c}]$, termed a fractional ideal, by extending the original definition to allow generators in K of the form β/c with $\beta \in \mathcal{O}_K, c \in \mathbb{Z}$. The original ideals are then called integral ideals. Then obviously $\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{a}^{-1} = \mathfrak{e}$]

Proof (constructive): Let $\mathfrak{a} = [\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_m]$ with $\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_m \in \mathcal{O}_K$. Put $f(x) = \alpha_m x^m + \dots + \alpha_0$. Consider the polynomial $F(x) = N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(f(x))$, that is, $F(x) = \prod_{j=1}^m \{\alpha_m^{(j)} x^m + \dots + \alpha_0^{(j)}\}$, where $\alpha_0^{(j)}, \dots, \alpha_m^{(j)}$ are $\sigma_j(\alpha_0), \dots, \sigma_j(\alpha_m)$ respectively, the field conjugates. Then $F(x) = f(x)g(x)$, and $g(x) \in \mathcal{O}_K[x]$, since $F(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$. (Note that certainly $\alpha_0^{(j)}, \dots, \alpha_m^{(j)} \in \mathcal{O}_K$, whence $g(x) \in \mathcal{O}_K[x]$).

Now let $g(x) = \beta_1 x^r + \dots + \beta_0$ and put $\mathfrak{b} = [\beta_1, \dots, \beta_0]$.

Further, let c be the highest common factor of the coefficients of $F(x)$. We have to show that $\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b} = [c]$. First, we verify that $\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b}$ is contained in $[c]$. In fact, it suffices to show that $\alpha_r \beta_s \in [c]$ for all r, s . But α_r/α_m is an elementary symmetric polynomial in the zeroes of f , and similarly for β_s/β_1 in terms of $g(x)$.

Hence, $\alpha_r \beta_s = \alpha_m \beta_1 \delta_{rs}$, where δ_{rs} is a product of elementary symmetric functions in the zeroes of f and g and these are precisely the zeroes of F . Since $c^{-1} \alpha_m \beta_1$ is the leading coefficient in $c^{-1} F$ and the latter $\in \mathbb{Z}[x]$, it follows from Corollary 2 in section 1.3 that $c^{-1} \alpha_r \beta_s \in \mathcal{O}$ for all r, s and thus $\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b}$ is contained in $[c]$.

Secondly, we show that $[c]$ is contained in $\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b}$. Now c is the hcf of the coefficients of $F(x)$, whence it is a linear combination of these coefficients with multipliers in \mathbb{Z} , (Note - if $c = \text{hcf}(a_0, \dots, a_t)$, then $c = a_0 b_0 + \dots + a_t b_t$ with $b_0, \dots, b_t \in \mathbb{Z}$, and the coefficients of F are themselves linear combinations of the $\alpha_r \beta_s$ ($0 \leq r \leq m, 0 \leq s \leq r$), since $F = fg$. Hence c is in $\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b}$ and the theorem follows.

Corollary 1: If $\underline{a} \subseteq \underline{b} \subseteq$ then $\underline{a} = \underline{b}$.

Proof: Obvious on multiplying by \underline{a}^{-1} (fractional ideals), or considering ideal \underline{d} , which exists from the theorem, such that $\underline{a} \subseteq \underline{d} = \underline{b}$. Then $\underline{a} \subseteq \underline{d} = \underline{b} \subseteq \underline{d}$, i.e. $\underline{a}[\underline{d}] = \underline{b}[\underline{d}]$ and it is now clear that $\underline{a} = \underline{b}$ (consider generators).

Corollary 2: $\underline{a} | \underline{b} \Leftrightarrow$ every element of \underline{b} is in \underline{a} .

Proof: (\Rightarrow) if $\underline{a} | \underline{b}$ then $\underline{b} \subseteq \underline{a} \subseteq$ for some ideal \underline{c} . From the definition of $\underline{a} \subseteq$ in terms of generators, we get $\underline{b} \subseteq \underline{a}$, trivially.

(\Leftarrow) if every element of \underline{b} is in \underline{a} then $\underline{b} \subseteq \underline{a}^{-1}$ is contained in \mathcal{O}_K , i.e. $\underline{b} = \underline{a} \subseteq$ for some \subseteq as required. Alternatively, avoiding fractional ideals, we observe that $\exists \subseteq$ such that $\underline{a} \subseteq = [\underline{c}]$, whence every element of $\underline{b} \subseteq$ is in $[\underline{c}]$. Hence $[\underline{c}]$ divides $\underline{b} \subseteq$, i.e. $\underline{a} \subseteq$ divides $\underline{b} \subseteq$, and the result now follows from corollary 1.

2.4. Prime Ideals

An ideal \underline{p} in K is said to be prime if it is divisible only by itself and \subseteq . Our object is to establish the analogue of the fundamental theorem of arithmetic, i.e. every ideal \underline{a} in K can be expressed essentially uniquely as $\underline{p}_1^{j_1} \cdots \underline{p}_k^{j_k}$ for some prime ideals $\underline{p}_1, \dots, \underline{p}_k$ and some nonnegative integers j_1, \dots, j_k .

Proof: (i) To get $\underline{a} = \underline{p}_1^{j_1} \cdots \underline{p}_k^{j_k}$, it suffices to show that every ideal has only finitely many divisors.

(ii) To get uniqueness, it suffices to show that if $\underline{p} | \underline{a} \underline{b}$ then $\underline{p} | \underline{a}$ or $\underline{p} | \underline{b}$.

Verification: (i) By the theorem above, $\exists \underline{b}$ such that $\underline{a} \underline{b} = [\underline{c}]$, $\underline{c} \in \mathbb{Z}$, whence every divisor \underline{d} of \underline{a} must divide $[\underline{c}]$. Now, by corollary 2, \underline{c} is in \underline{d} . Further, every element $\alpha \in \mathcal{O}_K$ can be written as $\underline{c}\beta + \gamma$, where $\beta, \gamma \in \mathcal{O}_K$ and γ can take at most c^n values, for we have $\alpha = u_1 w_1 + \dots + u_n w_n$ in terms of a basis for K , and the observation follows on writing $u_j = c q_j + r_j$ with $0 \leq r_j < c$ so that $\beta = q_1 w_1 + \dots + q_n w_n$, $\gamma = r_1 w_1 + \dots + r_n w_n$.

Applying this to each of the generators $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m$, say, of \underline{d} , so that $\alpha_j = \underline{c}\beta_j + \gamma_j$, we obtain $\underline{d} = [\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_m, \underline{c}]$, whence there are only finitely many possibilities for \underline{d} .

(ii) For this we need the definition of $\underline{a} + \underline{b}$. Namely, if $\underline{a} = [\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m]$ and $\underline{b} = [\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n]$, then $\underline{a} + \underline{b} = [\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_n]$. Note that it is the same as the set of $a+b$ with a in \underline{a} and b in \underline{b} , and so is independent of choice of generators. Also, $\underline{d} = \underline{a} + \underline{b}$ is the greatest common divisor of $\underline{a}, \underline{b}$, i.e. $\underline{d} | \underline{a}$, $\underline{d} | \underline{b}$, and every divisor of \underline{a} and \underline{b} also divides \underline{d} . Now if $\underline{p} | \underline{a} \underline{b}$ and $\underline{p} \nmid \underline{a}$, then $\underline{a} + \underline{p} = \subseteq$. This gives $\underline{a} \underline{b} + \underline{p} \underline{b} = \subseteq$ and hence $\underline{p} | \underline{b}$. This establishes unique factorisation for ideals.

2.5. Norms of Ideals

An element α of \mathcal{O}_K is said to be divisible by an ideal \underline{a} in K if $\alpha \in [\underline{a}]$. If now $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{O}_K$ and \underline{a} divides $\alpha - \beta$, we write $\alpha \equiv \beta \pmod{\underline{a}}$. This is an equivalence relation, and the number of equivalence classes is finite, for we have $\underline{a} \underline{b} = [\underline{c}]$, $\underline{c} \in \mathbb{Z}$, for some \underline{b} , and by 2.4, there are only finitely many classes $\pmod{[\underline{c}]}$. Note that if $\alpha \not\equiv \beta \pmod{\underline{a}}$ then $\alpha \not\equiv \beta \pmod{[\underline{c}]}$. The number of equivalence classes $\pmod{\underline{a}}$ is defined as the norm, $N_{\underline{a}}$, of \underline{a} .

Main Property: $N_{\mathbb{Q}} N_{\mathbb{Q}} = N(\mathbb{Q})$ for all ideals $\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{b}$ in K .

Proof: In view of the fundamental theorem on representation by prime ideals (ie, $\mathfrak{a} = \mathfrak{p}_1^{j_1} \cdots \mathfrak{p}_l^{j_l}$) it suffices to prove the result when $\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{b}$ are prime ideals. In fact, we shall assume only that $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{p}$, a prime ideal. Thus we have to show that $N_{\mathbb{Q}} N_{\mathfrak{p}} = N(\mathbb{Q})$. Now, let α be an element in \mathbb{Q} but not in $\mathbb{Q}\mathfrak{p}$ (such an α exists, else $\mathbb{Q}\mathfrak{p}$ divides \mathbb{Q} , whence $\mathfrak{p} | \mathbb{Q}$). We shall show that $\sigma + \alpha\mathfrak{p}$ runs through all representatives in the congruence classes mod $\mathbb{Q}\mathfrak{p}$ as σ, \mathfrak{p} run through the representatives mod \mathbb{Q}, \mathfrak{p} . Then $N(\mathbb{Q}\mathfrak{p}) = N_{\mathbb{Q}} N_{\mathfrak{p}}$.

We need two facts: (i) the $\sigma + \alpha\mathfrak{p}$ are incongruent mod $\mathbb{Q}\mathfrak{p}$,

(ii) if $\beta \in \mathbb{Q}$ then $\beta \equiv \sigma + \alpha\mathfrak{p} \pmod{\mathbb{Q}\mathfrak{p}}$ for some σ, \mathfrak{p} . The result then follows.

Now, (i) is obvious, for if $\sigma + \alpha\mathfrak{p} \equiv \sigma' + \alpha\mathfrak{p}' \pmod{\mathbb{Q}\mathfrak{p}}$, then $\sigma \equiv \sigma' \pmod{\mathbb{Q}}$, as $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$.

This gives $\sigma = \sigma'$ and then we obtain $\mathfrak{p} \equiv \mathfrak{p}' \pmod{\mathfrak{p}}$, so that $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{p}'$.

To establish (ii), we note first that $\beta \equiv \sigma \pmod{\mathbb{Q}}$ for some σ . But $\mathbb{Q} = [\alpha] + \mathbb{Q}\mathfrak{p}$, since \mathfrak{p} is a prime ideal. Hence $\beta - \sigma$ is given by $\alpha\beta' + \delta$, where $\beta' \in \mathbb{Q}$ and $\delta \in \mathbb{Q}\mathfrak{p}$.

This gives $\beta \equiv \sigma + \alpha\beta' \pmod{\mathbb{Q}\mathfrak{p}}$. Further, $\beta' \equiv \mathfrak{p} \pmod{\mathfrak{p}}$, whence $\alpha\beta' \equiv \alpha\mathfrak{p} \pmod{\mathbb{Q}\mathfrak{p}}$.

Thus, $\beta \equiv \sigma + \alpha\mathfrak{p} \pmod{\mathbb{Q}\mathfrak{p}}$, which is (ii).

Formula for $N_{\mathbb{Q}}$: If $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n$ is a basis for \mathbb{Q} (ie, $u_1\delta_1 + \dots + u_n\delta_n$ gives all elements of \mathbb{Q} for integers u_1, \dots, u_n) and w_1, \dots, w_n is an integral basis for K , then $N_{\mathbb{Q}} = \left[\frac{\Delta(\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n)}{\Delta(w_1, \dots, w_n)} \right]^{1/2}$.
(Note: $\Delta(w_1, \dots, w_n)$ is the discriminant of K .)

Proof: We shall show that \exists a basis $\delta'_1, \dots, \delta'_n$ for \mathbb{Q} of the form: $\delta'_1 = a_{11}w_1$, $\delta'_2 = a_{21}w_1 + a_{22}w_2, \dots, \delta'_n = a_{n1}w_1 + \dots + a_{nn}w_n$, where a_{ij} are integers, $a_{jj} > 0$. Since $\Delta(\delta'_1, \dots, \delta'_n) = \Delta(\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n)$, we have to verify $N_{\mathbb{Q}} = \left(\frac{\Delta(\delta'_1, \dots, \delta'_n)}{\Delta(w_1, \dots, w_n)} \right)^{1/2}$. But,

$\Delta(\delta'_1, \dots, \delta'_n) = (a_{11} \cdots a_{nn})^2 \Delta(w_1, \dots, w_n)$, thus we have to verify that $N_{\mathbb{Q}} = a_{11} \cdots a_{nn}$.

But it will be clear from the construction of $\delta'_1, \dots, \delta'_n$ that the numbers $u_1w_1 + \dots + u_nw_n$ with $0 \leq u_i < a_{ii}$ ($1 \leq i \leq n$) are incongruent mod \mathbb{Q} , and they represent all congruence classes mod \mathbb{Q} . Hence $N_{\mathbb{Q}} = a_{11} \cdots a_{nn}$ as required.

To construct $\delta'_1, \dots, \delta'_n$, consider the element $a_{n1}w_1 + \dots + a_{nn}w_n$ in \mathbb{Q} , and choose it so that $a_{nn} > 0$ and minimal. (We cannot have $a_{nn} = 0$ for all elements in \mathbb{Q} , since there is a basis $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n$). Call this δ'_n . Now if $\alpha = u_1w_1 + \dots + u_nw_n$ is any element in \mathbb{Q} , then $u_n = r a_{nn} + s$ with $0 \leq s < a_{nn}$, and then $\alpha - r\delta'_n = a_{n-1,1}w_1 + \dots + a_{n-1,n-1}w_{n-1} + sw_n$, and here $s = 0$ by the minimal choice of a_{nn} . Now, proceeding similarly with $a_{n-1,1}w_1 + \dots + a_{n-1,n-1}w_{n-1}$, taking $a_{n-1,n-1}$ positive and minimal and defining this as δ'_{n-1} we get the required basis.

Corollary 1: $N[\alpha] = |N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha)|$

Proof: Apply the formula with $\delta_j = \alpha w_j$ ($1 \leq j \leq n$). Clearly $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n$ is a basis for $[\alpha]$ and $\Delta(\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n) = (\sigma_1(\alpha) \cdots \sigma_n(\alpha))^2 \Delta(w_1, \dots, w_n)$. Further, by definition, $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\alpha) = \sigma_1(\alpha) \cdots \sigma_n(\alpha)$.

Corollary 2: There is a unique prime \mathfrak{p} such that if \mathfrak{p} is a prime ideal in K , then $\mathfrak{p} | \mathbb{Q}$.

Proof: First we observe that $\mathbb{Q} | N_{\mathbb{Q}}$ for any ideal \mathbb{Q} in K , for if $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n$ represent all the congruence classes mod \mathbb{Q} so that $N = N_{\mathbb{Q}}$, then also $\delta_1 + 1, \dots, \delta_n + 1$ represent all the congruence classes.

Hence, $\mathfrak{D}_1 + \dots + \mathfrak{D}_n \equiv (\mathfrak{D}_1 + 1) + \dots + (\mathfrak{D}_n + 1) \pmod{\mathfrak{a}}$, so $N \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{a}}$, so $\mathfrak{a} \mid N\mathfrak{a}$.

Now let \mathfrak{f} be a prime ideal. Then $\mathfrak{f} \mid N\mathfrak{f}$. Plainly, the least integer p such that $\mathfrak{f} \mid p$ is a prime, since $\mathfrak{f} \mid m \Rightarrow \mathfrak{f} \mid n$ or $\mathfrak{f} \mid m$. Further, p is unique, for if $\mathfrak{f} \mid p'$ for some $p' \neq p$, then $\exists a, a'$ such that $ap + a'p' = 1$, whence $\mathfrak{f} \nmid 1$, which is impossible.

Corollary 3: We have $N_{\mathfrak{f}} = p^f$ for some rational integer f , which is called the degree of \mathfrak{f} .

Proof: we have $[p] = \mathfrak{f}^g$ for some ideal \mathfrak{a} . By the main property for norms, this gives $p^n = N_{\mathfrak{f}} N_{\mathfrak{a}}$, since by Corollary 1, $N[p] = |N_{\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Q}} p| = p^n$. Hence $N_{\mathfrak{f}} = p^f$.

Definition: If $p = \mathfrak{f}_1^{e_1} \dots \mathfrak{f}_l^{e_l}$ (we omit the square brackets around p) as a canonical product of prime ideals, then we call e_1, \dots, e_l the ramification indices of $\mathfrak{f}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{f}_l$.

Corollary 4: The degrees and ramification indices f_j and e_j of \mathfrak{f}_j , ($1 \leq j \leq l$)

satisfy $e_1 f_1 + \dots + e_l f_l = n$, where $n = [k: \mathbb{Q}]$.

Proof: We have $N[p] = (N_{\mathfrak{f}_1})^{e_1} \dots (N_{\mathfrak{f}_l})^{e_l}$, whence $p^n = p^{e_1 f_1} \dots p^{e_l f_l}$, and the assertion follows.

3. Units.

3.1. Minkowski's Theorem.

By a convex body we mean a bounded open set of points in Euclidean n -space, i.e. set contains $\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y$ ($0 < \lambda < 1$) whenever it contains x and y . A set of points is said to be symmetrical about the origin if it contains $-x$ whenever it contains x . By a lattice Λ , we mean a set of points $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$, and with $x_i = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} u_j$ where the matrix (a_{ij}) has real entries and u_1, \dots, u_n run through all the integers. The determinant $d(\Lambda)$ of Λ is defined as $|\det(a_{ij})|$.

Minkowski's Theorem: If S is a convex body symmetrical about the origin and if the volume V of S satisfies $V > 2^n d(\Lambda)$, then S contains a point of Λ other than the origin.

Proof*: It suffices to establish that if R is a bounded set with volume $V = d(\Lambda)$ then \exists points x, y in R such that $x - y \in \Lambda$. (This is Blichfeldt's Theorem). To get Minkowski's Theorem, we apply Blichfeldt with $R = \frac{1}{2}S$, then $x - y = \frac{1}{2}(2x - 2y)$ and since $2x, 2y$ are in S and S is convex and symmetric, we have $x - y \in S$.

To establish Blichfeldt, we consider the part R_u of R in the cell of Λ with lower vertex u . If R'_u is the translation of R_u to the unit cell with lower vertex the origin and if V_u is the volume of R_u , then since $V = \sum_u V_u = \sum_u V'_u$ and $V > d(\Lambda)$ by hypothesis, we have $\exists u, w$ in Λ ($u \neq w$), such that R'_u, R'_w overlap. Hence $\exists x, y$ in R such that $x - y = u - w$. Then $x - y = u - w \in \Lambda$, as required.

The main application of Minkowski's Theorem is Minkowski's Linear Forms Theorem. This states that if $L_i = \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij} x_j$ ($1 \leq i \leq n$) are real linear forms with $\Delta = \det(c_{ij}) \neq 0$, and if $\lambda_1 > 0, \dots, \lambda_n > 0$, $\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_n > |\Delta|$, then \exists integers x_1, \dots, x_n , not all zero, with $|L_i| < \lambda_i$ ($1 \leq i \leq n$)

Proof: Apply Minkowski's Theorem with S as the hypercube $|x_i| < \lambda_i$, with volume $V = 2^n \lambda_1 \dots \lambda_n$. The lattice is defined by the L_i .

There is a refined version of the linear forms theorem to the effect that if $\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_n = |\Delta|$ then the same assertion holds with $|\lambda_i| < \lambda_i$ replaced by $|\lambda_i| \leq \lambda_i$.

Proof: From the crude version we have, for any integer $m > 0$, integers $x_1^{(m)}, \dots, x_n^{(m)}$ such that $|\lambda_i| < \lambda_i + \frac{1}{m}$, $|\lambda_i| < \lambda_i$ ($2 \leq i \leq n$). Then, by compactness, a subsequence converges to a point x_1, \dots, x_n as required.

3.2. Dirichlet's Unit Theorem.

This asserts that $\exists r = s+t-1$ fundamental units $\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_r$ in $K = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$ such that every unit in K can be expressed uniquely in the form $p \epsilon_1^{m_1} \dots \epsilon_r^{m_r}$, where m_1, \dots, m_r are rational integers and p is a root of unity. Here, s is the number of real numbers in $\sigma_1(\alpha), \dots, \sigma_n(\alpha)$ and t is the number of complex conjugate pairs in this set. Thus $n = s+2t$. The theorem shows that U_K is a finitely generated multiplicative group. Proof involves an application of the linear forms theorem.

3.3. Quadratic Fields.

Let $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$, d a square-free integer. If $d < 0$ we say K is an imaginary quadratic field, and we have $s=0$, $t=1$, $r=s+t-1$, whence, by Dirichlet, every unit in K is a root of unity.

If $d > 0$, say K is real quadratic, and we have $s=2$, $t=0$, $r=s+t-1$, whence, by Dirichlet, every unit in K is given by $\pm \epsilon^m$ for some ϵ , where $m = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$

Here we are using the fact that the only real roots of unity are ± 1 . (For a direct proof, see, for example, "Concise Introduction to the Theory of Numbers" by Baker).

Determination of units in imaginary quadratic fields is easy. Recall $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$ has integral basis $1, \sqrt{d}$ ($d \equiv 2, 3 \pmod{4}$) and $1, \frac{1}{2}(1+\sqrt{d})$ ($d \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$), and discriminant D , which is $4d$ ($d \equiv 2, 3 \pmod{4}$) or d ($d \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$). Now if $\alpha = x+y\sqrt{d}$, then $N\alpha = x^2 - dy^2$, and if $\alpha = x + \frac{1}{2}y(1+\sqrt{d})$, then $N\alpha = (x + \frac{1}{2}y)^2 - \frac{1}{4}dy^2$. Thus the units are given by $x^2 - dy^2 = \pm 1$ ($d \equiv 2, 3 \pmod{4}$) and $x^2 + xy + \frac{1}{4}(1-d)y^2 = \pm 1$ ($d \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$).

If $D < -4$ then these equations have only the solutions (in integers x, y) given by $x = \pm 1, y = 0$. Hence units are ± 1 .

If $d = -1$, that is if $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$ is the Gaussian field, then the units are given by $x^2 + y^2 = \pm 1$, and the solutions are $x = \pm 1, y = 0$; $x = 0, y = \pm 1$. Hence the units are $\pm 1, \pm i$.

If $d = -3$, (the only other possibility if $D < 0$), then the units are given by $x^2 + xy + y^2 = \pm 1$, and the solutions are $x = \pm 1, y = 0$; $x = 0, y = \pm 1$; $x = 1, y = -1$; $x = -1, y = 1$. Hence the units are $\pm 1, \frac{1}{2}(\pm 1 \pm i\sqrt{3})$.

Note that these agree with Dirichlet's Theorem, since the units are roots of unity, namely zeroes of $x^2 - 1$ ($D < -4$), $x^4 - 1$ ($d = -1$), $x^6 - 1$ ($d = -3$).

The theory of units in real quadratic fields is closely related to the solutions of the Pell equation, that is $x^2 - dy^2 = 1$. Consider more generally $x^2 - dy^2 = m$. This can be written as $N(x+y\sqrt{d}) = m$, and we shall assume $m > 0$. Then, $N[x+y\sqrt{d}] = m$, where $[x+y\sqrt{d}]$ is the principal ideal in $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$. Now, since $\mathfrak{a} | N\mathfrak{a}$, and we have unique factorisation of ideals, there are only finitely many $\mathfrak{a} \in \mathcal{O}_K$ such that $N[\mathfrak{a}] = m$. Further, $[\mathfrak{a}] = [\mathfrak{a}']$ iff \mathfrak{a} and \mathfrak{a}' are associated. Hence

$x + y\sqrt{d}$ is associated to one of a finite set s_1, \dots, s_k of elements of \mathcal{O}_K (determinable from the factorisation of $[m]$ into prime ideals). This gives $x + y\sqrt{d} = \pm \varepsilon^j s_q$ for some integer j and some $q \in \{1, \dots, k\}$. Hence, $x = \pm \frac{1}{2} (\varepsilon^j s_q + \bar{\varepsilon}^j \bar{s}_q)$, $y = \pm \frac{1}{2\sqrt{d}} (\varepsilon^j s_q - \bar{\varepsilon}^j \bar{s}_q)$, where the bar signifies complex conjugation.

The question remains as to the determination of ε . This involves continued fractions. In fact, if $x^2 - dy^2 = 1$, then $x - \sqrt{d}y = \frac{1}{x + \sqrt{d}y}$, where $|\sqrt{d} - \frac{x}{y}| < \frac{1}{2y^2}$, and so $\frac{x}{y}$ is convergent to \sqrt{d} . ($\sqrt{d} = [a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots, a_2, a_1, 2a_0]$)

4. Factorisation.

4.1. Elements in ideals.

We need a result of the form: if \mathfrak{a} is an ideal in K and d is the discriminant of K , then \exists an element θ in \mathfrak{a} such that $|N\theta| \leq c N_{\mathbb{Q}} \sqrt{|d|}$, where c is a constant depending only on the degree of K , or, more precisely, on s, t where $n = s + 2t$ as in the last chapter. We shall prove this here with $c = 1$ and remark on other values later.

Theorem: In every ideal \mathfrak{a} of $K = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$ there is an element θ such that $|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}} \theta| \leq N_{\mathbb{Q}} \sqrt{|d|}$, where d is the discriminant of K .

Proof: i) Totally real case. This means that $\sigma_1(\alpha), \dots, \sigma_n(\alpha)$ are all real ($n = [K:\mathbb{Q}]$). Let $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n$ be a basis for \mathfrak{a} and let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ be positive real numbers with $\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_n = N_{\mathbb{Q}} \sqrt{|d|}$. Then, by the refined form of Minkowski's linear forms theorem, there exist integers x_1, \dots, x_n such that $\theta = x_1 \delta_1 + \dots + x_n \delta_n$ satisfies $|\sigma_j(\theta)| \leq \lambda_j$ ($1 \leq j \leq n$). Note that the hypotheses of Minkowski's Theorem are satisfied since the determinant of the $\sigma_j(\theta)$ is $\sqrt{|\Delta(\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n)|}$ and by chapter 2 we have $N_{\mathbb{Q}} = \sqrt{|\Delta(\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n)|} / \sqrt{|d|}$, i.e. the determinant is $\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_n$ by definition of the λ 's. Now we have $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}} \theta = \sigma_1(\theta) \dots \sigma_n(\theta)$, and so $|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\theta)| \leq \lambda_1 \dots \lambda_n$, whence the result.

ii) The general case. We suppose that $\sigma_1(\alpha), \dots, \sigma_s(\alpha)$ are real, $\sigma_{s+1}(\alpha), \dots, \sigma_{s+t}(\alpha)$ are complex, with complex conjugates $\bar{\sigma}_{s+t+1}(\alpha), \dots, \bar{\sigma}_{s+2t}(\alpha)$, respectively. ($n = s + 2t$).

Proof, as above, that we solve the inequalities $|\sigma_j(\theta)| \leq \lambda_j$ ($1 \leq j \leq s$), $|\operatorname{re} \sigma_j(\theta)| \leq \frac{\lambda_j}{\sqrt{2}}$ (for $s+1 \leq j \leq s+t$), $|\operatorname{im} \sigma_j(\theta)| \leq \frac{\lambda_j}{\sqrt{2}}$ ($s+t+1 \leq j \leq s+2t$). Then the hypotheses of Minkowski's linear forms theorem are again satisfied, since the determinant of the linear system is $2^{-t} \sqrt{|\Delta(\delta_1, \dots, \delta_n)|} = \lambda_1 \dots \lambda_s (\lambda_{s+t} / \sqrt{2})^2 \dots (\lambda_{s+2t} / \sqrt{2})^2$. To verify the calculation of the determinant, first add $\operatorname{re} \sigma_j(\theta)$ ($s+1 \leq j \leq s+t$) to $\operatorname{im} \sigma_j(\theta)$ ($s+1 \leq j \leq s+t$) to get $\sigma_j(\theta)$ (rows $s+1$ to $s+t$), then multiply ~~rows~~ rows $s+t+1$ to n by 2, take out a factor 2^{-t} to compensate, and then subtract rows $s+1$ to $s+t$ (i.e. $\sigma_j(\theta)$) from rows $s+t+1$ to n . This gives, except for sign, the conjugates of $\sigma_{s+1}(\theta), \dots, \sigma_{s+t}(\theta)$, i.e. $\bar{\sigma}_{s+t+1}(\theta), \dots, \bar{\sigma}_n(\theta)$. Finally, note that we have $|\sigma_j(\theta)| \leq \lambda_j$ for all j . (Using $|\sigma_j(\theta)| = \sqrt{(\operatorname{re} \sigma_j(\theta))^2 + (\operatorname{im} \sigma_j(\theta))^2}$).

4.2. Ideal Classes.

We say ideals $\underline{a}, \underline{b}$ in K are equivalent if \exists principal ideals $[\vartheta], [\varphi]$ such that $[\vartheta]\underline{a} = [\varphi]\underline{b}$. This is an equivalence relation, and the number of equivalence classes is finite.

Lemma: Every ideal \underline{a} is equivalent to an ideal \underline{b} with $N\underline{b} \leq \sqrt{|d|}$

Proof: There is an ideal \underline{c} such that $\underline{a}\underline{c}$ is principal. Further, by the theorem above, $\exists \vartheta$ in \underline{c} such that $|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\vartheta)| \leq N\underline{c}\sqrt{|d|}$. Now $\underline{c} | [\vartheta]$, so $[\vartheta] = \underline{b}\underline{c}$, and $|N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\vartheta)| = N\underline{b}N\underline{c}$. So we get $N\underline{b} \leq \sqrt{|d|}$. Further, \underline{a} is equivalent to \underline{b} since $\underline{a}(\underline{b}\underline{c}) = \underline{b}(\underline{a}\underline{c})$ and $\underline{b}\underline{c} = [\vartheta]$, $\underline{a}\underline{c} = [\varphi]$ are principal.

The number of ideal classes is denoted by h ; it is called the class number of K . The classes form a group under multiplication [i.e. $(cl \underline{a}) \cdot (cl \underline{b}) = cl(\underline{a}\underline{b})$]. The group is abelian, and the identity element is the class of principal ideals.

The order of the class group is h , and hence \underline{a}^h is principal for all ideals \underline{a} in K .

In the case $h=1$ we have \underline{a} principal for every \underline{a} in K and thus K has unique factorisation.

Note: In every ideal class there is an ideal \underline{b} such that $N\underline{b} \leq c\sqrt{|d|}$, where $c = \frac{(4/\pi)^t n!}{n^n}$.

Here, c is called Minkowski's constant. The result follows from a more refined application of the Geometry of Numbers; it depends on the inequality of the arithmetic and geometric means, i.e. $(a_1 \dots a_n)^{1/n} \leq \frac{1}{n}(a_1 + \dots + a_n)$. [See Stewart and Tall].

Example: Let $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-5})$. Here, $n=2, s=0, t=1$, and $d=-20$. Hence, by the note above, there is an ideal \underline{b} in K such that $N\underline{b} \leq (\frac{4}{\pi})(\frac{1}{2})\sqrt{20} < 3$. This gives $N\underline{b} = 1$ or 2 .

Now, if $N\underline{b} = 1$ then $\underline{b} = \underline{e}$. If $N\underline{b} = 2$ then $\underline{b} | 2$. But $2 = [2, 1 + \sqrt{-5}]^2$ as a product of prime ideals (either direct or by next section), whence $\underline{b} = [2, 1 + \sqrt{-5}]$. Further, \underline{b} is not principal since $N\underline{b} = 2$, and $x^2 + 5y^2 = 2$ is not soluble in integers x and y .

We conclude that $h=2$.

4.3. Dedekind's Theorem

This applies when \mathcal{O}_K (ring of integers of K) has a power integral basis, i.e. when $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$, or $1, \alpha, \dots, \alpha^{n-1}$ is an integral basis for K for some α in \mathcal{O}_K . We take f as the minimal polynomial for α . Suppose that p is any prime. Let \bar{f} be the polynomial obtained by replacing each coefficient in f by its residue mod p , i.e. $\bar{f} \equiv f \pmod{p}$, in $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ (mod p -field).

Dedekind's Theorem: If $\bar{f} = \bar{p}_1^{e_1} \dots \bar{p}_r^{e_r}$ as a product of irreducible monic polynomials $\bar{p}_1, \dots, \bar{p}_r$ in $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$, then $[p] = \mathfrak{p}_1^{e_1} \dots \mathfrak{p}_r^{e_r}$ as a product of prime ideals $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_r$, where $\mathfrak{p}_j = [p, \bar{p}_j(\alpha)]$

Proof: We have $\mathfrak{p}_j = [p, \bar{p}_j(\alpha)]$ as the kernel of the mapping $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha] \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})[\bar{\alpha}_j]$, where $\bar{\alpha}_j$ is any zero of \bar{p}_j . Obviously, \mathfrak{p}_j is contained in the kernel (since $p \rightarrow 0$ and $\bar{p}_j(\alpha) \rightarrow \bar{p}_j(\bar{\alpha}_j) = 0$), and if $q(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ and $q(x) \rightarrow 0$, then $\bar{q}(\bar{\alpha}_j) = 0$ ($\bar{q} \equiv q \pmod{p}$), but \bar{p}_j is irreducible, whence $\bar{q} = \bar{p}_j \bar{s}$, with $\bar{s}(x) \in (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})[x]$ and so $q(x)$ is in \mathfrak{p}_j , that is the kernel is in \mathfrak{p}_j . It

follows from properties of kernels that \mathfrak{p}_j is a prime ideal.

[Or directly: consider $\mathfrak{p} = \underline{a}\underline{b}$ and choose $\sigma \in \mathfrak{a}, p \in \underline{b}$ so that $\sigma = a(\alpha), p = b(\alpha)$ for some $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$, and from $\bar{a}(\bar{\alpha}_j)\bar{b}(\bar{\alpha}_j) = 0$ we have either $\bar{a}(\bar{\alpha}_j) = 0$ or $\bar{b}(\bar{\alpha}_j) = 0$, so $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq \mathfrak{p}_j$ or $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq \mathfrak{p}_j$].

Now, we have $\mathfrak{p}_j^{e_j} \subset [p, (\bar{p}_j(\alpha))^{e_j}]$ and so $\mathfrak{p}_1^{e_1} \cdots \mathfrak{p}_c^{e_c} \subset [p, (\bar{p}_1(\alpha))^{e_1} \cdots (\bar{p}_c(\alpha))^{e_c}] = [p, \bar{f}(\alpha)] = [p]$, since $\bar{f} \equiv f \pmod{p}$ and $f(\alpha) = 0$.

It remains to show that $[p] \subset \mathfrak{p}_1^{e_1} \cdots \mathfrak{p}_c^{e_c}$. But $N_{\mathfrak{p}_j} = p^{f_j}$, where f_j is the degree of $\bar{p}_j(x)$, and this is the same as the degree of $\bar{p}_j(x)$. [since every element of \mathfrak{p}_j is congruent mod \mathfrak{p}_j to an element of the form $a_0 + a_1\alpha + \cdots + a_{f_j-1}\alpha^{f_j-1}$ ($0 \leq a_r < p$)].

Finally, $N[p] = p^n$ and $N(\mathfrak{p}_1^{e_1} \cdots \mathfrak{p}_c^{e_c}) = p^{e_1 f_1 + \cdots + e_c f_c}$, and since \bar{f} is monic we have $\text{degree } \bar{f} = n = e_1 f_1 + \cdots + e_c f_c$. This gives $[p] = \mathfrak{p}_1^{e_1} \cdots \mathfrak{p}_c^{e_c}$, as required.

4.4. The Quadratic Field.

Let $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$. Suppose first that $d \equiv 2, 3 \pmod{4}$. Then $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{d}]$. Thus by Dedekind's Theorem, we have three possibilities:

- (i) $x^2 - d$ reduces mod p into two distinct factors. Then $\left(\frac{d}{p}\right) = 1$ and $p = \mathfrak{p}\mathfrak{p}'$, where $\mathfrak{p}' \neq \mathfrak{p}$ and $N_{\mathfrak{p}} = N_{\mathfrak{p}'} = p$.
- (ii) $x^2 - d$ reduces mod p to a square. Then $x^2 - d = (x - a)^2 \pmod{p}$, whence $p \mid D = 4d$, so that $\left(\frac{D}{p}\right) = 0$, $p = \mathfrak{p}^2$, $N_{\mathfrak{p}} = p$.
- (iii) $x^2 - d$ is irreducible mod p , then $\left(\frac{d}{p}\right) = -1$, $N_{\mathfrak{p}} = p^2$, $p = \mathfrak{p}$.

Now suppose that $d \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$. Then $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}\left[\frac{1}{2}(1 + \sqrt{d})\right]$. The minimal polynomial for $\frac{1}{2}(1 + \sqrt{d})$ is $x^2 + x + \frac{1}{4}(1 - d)$, say $f(x)$, and $4f(x) = (2x + 1)^2 - d$. Hence if p is odd, then we have the possibilities (i), (ii), (iii) as above.

If $p = 2$, then we have to consider the cases $d \equiv 1$ or $5 \pmod{8}$.

When $d \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$, then $f(x) = x(x + 1) \pmod{2}$ and so $p = \mathfrak{p}\mathfrak{p}'$ as in (i).

When $d \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$, then $f(x)$ is irreducible mod 2 and so $p = \mathfrak{p}$ as in (iii).

On defining the character $\chi(p) = \left(\frac{D}{p}\right)$ we see that for $d \equiv 2, 3 \pmod{4}$ and $s > 1$ we have $\prod_{\mathfrak{p}, p} (1 - (N_{\mathfrak{p}})^{-s}) = (1 - p^{-s}) \prod (1 - \chi(p)p^{-s})$.

The same holds for $d \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ if we define the character χ so that $\chi(2) = \left(\frac{2}{|D|}\right)$.

This gives: $\zeta_K(s) = \zeta(s) L(s, \chi)$, where $\zeta_K(s)$ is the Dedekind Zeta Function: $\zeta_K(s) = \sum_{\mathfrak{a}} (N_{\mathfrak{a}})^{-s} = \prod_{\mathfrak{p}} (1 - (N_{\mathfrak{p}})^{-s})^{-1}$, ζ is the Riemann Zeta Function: $\zeta(s) = \sum_n n^{-s} = \prod_p (1 - p^{-s})^{-1}$, and L is the L-function:

$$L(s, \chi) = \sum_n \frac{\chi(n)}{n^s} = \prod_p (1 - \chi(p)p^{-s})^{-1}.$$

Here, the sums and products all converge for $s > 1$, and in fact for any complex $s = \sigma + it$ with $\sigma > 1$.

Note on ramification indices: If $p = \mathfrak{p}_1^{e_1} \cdots \mathfrak{p}_c^{e_c}$ in canonical factorisation then e_1, \dots, e_c are called the ramification indices of $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_c$. They satisfy $\sum e_j f_j = n$. If $e_j = n$ we say \mathfrak{p}_j is totally ramified (since $p = \mathfrak{p}_j^n$). If $e_j = 1$ we say \mathfrak{p}_j is unramified.

4.5. The Cyclotomic Field.

Let q be an integer > 2 . The q th cyclotomic field is defined as $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)$, where ζ is the q th root of unity $e^{2\pi i/q}$. We shall discuss only the case q prime.

- (i) minimal polynomial. We have $\zeta^q = 1$ and so ζ is a zero of the q th cyclotomic polynomial $\Phi_q(x) = x^{q-1} + x^{q-2} + \dots + 1$. This is irreducible and thus the minimal polynomial for ζ , for by Eisenstein's theorem, the polynomial $\Phi_q(x+1) = \frac{(x+1)^q - 1}{x} = x^{q-1} + \binom{q}{1}x^{q-2} + \dots + \binom{q}{q-1}$ is irreducible. Hence we conclude that $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)$ has degree $q-1$, and the conjugates of ζ are $\zeta, \zeta^2, \dots, \zeta^{q-1}$.
- (ii) integral basis. This is given by $1, \zeta, \dots, \zeta^{q-2}$ (Proof - see, e.g., Borevich/Shafarevich). This gives as discriminant $(-1)^{\frac{1}{2}(q-1)} \cdot q^{q-2}$ (exercise!).
- (iii) factorisation of primes. We have $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[\zeta]$ and so Dedekind's Theorem is applicable. Further, $x^q - 1$ and its derivative are relatively prime in the mod p field, where $\Phi_q(x)$ has no repeated factors mod p . We conclude that $p = \mathfrak{p}_1 \cdot \dots \cdot \mathfrak{p}_f$ for distinct prime ideals $\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_f$, i.e., all the prime ideals in $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)$ are unramified.

There is an equation $\zeta_K(s) = \zeta(s) \prod_{\chi \neq \chi_0} L(s, \chi)$ analogous to that for the quadratic field.

