

D) Decomposition of primes

Objektyp: **Chapter**

Zeitschrift: **L'Enseignement Mathématique**

Band (Jahr): **34 (1988)**

Heft 1-2: **L'ENSEIGNEMENT MATHÉMATIQUE**

PDF erstellt am: **26.09.2024**

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If $d \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ then $\left\{1, \frac{1 + \sqrt{d}}{2}\right\}$ is an integral basis of A .

C) DISCRIMINANT

Let $\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2\}$ be an integral basis. Then

$$D = D_K = \det \begin{pmatrix} \text{Tr}(\alpha_1^2) & \text{Tr}(\alpha_1\alpha_2) \\ \text{Tr}(\alpha_1\alpha_2) & \text{Tr}(\alpha_2^2) \end{pmatrix}$$

is independent of the choice of the integral basis. It is called the discriminant of K . It is a non-zero integer.

If $d \equiv 2$ or $3 \pmod{4}$ then

$$D = \det \begin{pmatrix} \text{Tr}(1) & \text{Tr}(\sqrt{d}) \\ \text{Tr}(\sqrt{d}) & \text{Tr}(d) \end{pmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2d \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{so } D = 4d.$$

If $d \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ then

$$D = \det \begin{pmatrix} \text{Tr}(1) & \text{Tr}\left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{d}}{2}\right) \\ \text{Tr}\left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{d}}{2}\right) & \text{Tr}\left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{d}}{2}\right)^2 \end{pmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & \frac{1+d}{2} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{so } D = d.$$

Every discriminant is $D \equiv 0$ or $1 \pmod{4}$.

In terms of the discriminant,

$$A = \left\{ \frac{a + b\sqrt{D}}{2} \mid a, b \in \mathbf{Z}, \quad a^2 \equiv Db^2 \pmod{4} \right\}.$$

D) DECOMPOSITION OF PRIMES

Let $K = \mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{d})$, where d is a square-free integer, let A be the ring of integers of K .

The ideal $P \neq 0$ of A is a prime ideal if the residue ring A/P has no zero-divisors.

If P is a prime ideal there exists a unique prime number p such that $P \cap \mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{Z}p$, or equivalently, $P \supseteq Ap$.

If I, J are non-zero ideals of A , it is said that I divides J when there exists an ideal I_1 of A such that $I \cdot I_1 = J$.

The prime ideal P containing the prime number p divides the ideal Ap .

If I is a non-zero ideal of A then the residue ring A/I is finite. The norm of I is $N(I) = \#(A/I)$.

Properties of the norm:

If I, J are non-zero ideals, then $N(I \cdot J) = N(I) N(J)$.

If I divides J then $N(I)$ divides $N(J)$.

If $\alpha \in A$, $\alpha \neq 0$, then $N(A\alpha) = |N(\alpha)|$ (absolute value of the norm of α). In particular, if $a \in \mathbf{Z}$ then $N(Aa) = a^2$.

If the prime ideal P divides Ap then $N(P)$ is equal to p or to p^2 .

Every ideal $I \neq 0$ is, in unique way, the product of powers of prime ideals:

$$I = \prod_{i=1}^n P_i^{e_i}.$$

If I, J are non-zero ideals, if $I \supseteq J$ then I divides J .

Every ideal $I \neq 0$ may be generated by two elements, of which one may be chosen in \mathbf{Z} ; if $I \cap \mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{Z}n$ then $I = An + A\alpha$ for some $\alpha \in A$. In this case, the following notation is used: $I = (n, \alpha)$.

Consider now the special case where p is a prime number. Then Ap is of one of the following types:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} Ap = P^2, \quad \text{where } P \text{ is a prime ideal: } p \text{ is ramified in } K. \\ Ap = P, \quad \text{where } P \text{ is a prime ideal: } p \text{ is inert in } K. \\ Ap = P_1 P_2, \text{ where } P_1, P_2 \text{ are distinct prime ideals: } p \text{ is decomposed or splits in } K. \end{array} \right.$$

Note also that if $Ap = I \cdot J$, where I, J are any ideals (different from A), not necessarily distinct, then I, J must in fact be prime ideals.

I shall now indicate when a prime number p is ramified, inert or decomposed, and also give generators of the prime ideals of A . There are two cases: $p \neq 2$, $p = 2$.

Denote by $\left(\frac{d}{p}\right)$ the Legendre symbol, so

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left(\frac{d}{p}\right) = 0 \quad \text{when } p \text{ divides } d, \\ \left(\frac{d}{p}\right) = +1 \quad \text{when } d \text{ is a square modulo } p, \\ \left(\frac{d}{p}\right) = -1 \quad \text{when } d \text{ is not a square modulo } p. \end{array} \right.$$

Let $p \neq 2$.

- 1) If p divides d then $Ap = (p, \sqrt{d})^2$.
- 2) If p does not divide d and there does not exist $a \in \mathbf{Z}$ such that $d \equiv a^2 \pmod{p}$ then Ap is a prime ideal.
- 3) If p does not divide d and there exists $a \in \mathbf{Z}$ such that $d \equiv a^2 \pmod{p}$ then $Ap = (p, a + \sqrt{d})(p, a - \sqrt{d})$.

Hence

- 1) p is ramified if and only if $\left(\frac{d}{p}\right) = 0$.
- 2) p is inert if and only if $\left(\frac{d}{p}\right) = -1$.
- 3) p is decomposed if and only if $\left(\frac{d}{p}\right) = +1$.

Proof. The proof is divided into several parts.

- a) If $\left(\frac{d}{p}\right) = -1$ then Ap is a prime ideal.

Otherwise $Ap = P \cdot P'$ or P^2 , with $P \cap \mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{Z}p$. Let $\alpha \in A$ be such that $P = (p, \alpha) \supseteq A\alpha$ so $P \mid A\alpha$, hence p divides $N(P)$, which divides $N(A\alpha) = |N(\alpha)|$. If $p \mid \alpha$ then $\frac{\alpha}{p} \in A$ and $P = Ap \cdot \left(1, \frac{\alpha}{p}\right) = Ap$, which is absurd.

So $p \nmid \alpha$. Then,

$$\begin{cases} d \equiv 2 \text{ or } 3 \pmod{4} \\ d \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \alpha = a + b\sqrt{d}, & \text{with } a, b \in \mathbf{Z} \\ \alpha = \frac{a + b\sqrt{d}}{2}, & \text{with } a, b \in \mathbf{Z}, a \equiv b \pmod{2} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} N(\alpha) = a^2 - db^2 \\ N(\alpha) = \frac{a^2 - db^2}{4} \end{cases} \Rightarrow p \text{ divides } a^2 - db^2,$$

hence $a^2 \equiv db^2 \pmod{p}$ and so $p \nmid b$ (otherwise $p \mid a$, hence $p \mid \alpha$, which is absurd).

Let b' be such that $bb' \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$, so $(ab')^2 \equiv d \pmod{p}$, therefore either $p \mid d$ or $\left(\frac{d}{p}\right) = +1$, which is a contradiction.

b) If $\left(\frac{d}{p}\right) = 0$ then $Ap = (p, \sqrt{d})^2$.

Indeed, let $P = (p, \sqrt{d})$, so $P^2 = (p^2, p\sqrt{d}, d) = Ap\left(p, \sqrt{d}, \frac{d}{p}\right)$ since $\frac{d}{p} \in \mathbf{Z}$. But d is square-free, so $\gcd\left(p, \frac{d}{p}\right) = 1$, hence $P^2 = Ap$ and this implies that P is a prime ideal.

c) If $\left(\frac{d}{p}\right) = -1$ then $Ap = (p, a + \sqrt{d})(p, a - \sqrt{d})$, where $1 \leq a \leq p - 1$ and $a^2 \equiv d \pmod{p}$.

Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} (p, a + \sqrt{d})(p, a - \sqrt{d}) &= (p^2, pa + p\sqrt{d}, pa - p\sqrt{d}, a^2 - d) \\ &= Ap\left(p, a + \sqrt{d}, a - \sqrt{d}, \frac{a^2 - d}{p}\right) = Ap\left(p, a + \sqrt{d}, a - \sqrt{d}, 2a, \frac{a^2 - d}{p}\right) = Ap, \end{aligned}$$

because $\gcd(p, 2a) = 1$. If one of the ideals $(p, a + \sqrt{d})$, $(p, a - \sqrt{d})$ is equal to A , so is the other which is not possible.

So $(p, a + \sqrt{d})$, $(p, a - \sqrt{d})$ are prime ideals. They are distinct: if $(p, a + \sqrt{d}) = (p, a - \sqrt{d})$ then they are equal to their sum

$$(p, a + \sqrt{d}, a - \sqrt{d}) = (p, a + \sqrt{d}, a - \sqrt{d}, 2a) = A,$$

which is an absurd.

Finally, these three cases are exclusive and exhaustive, so the converse assertions are also true. \square

Note. If $d \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ and $d \equiv a^2 \pmod{p}$ then

$$(p, a + \sqrt{d}) = (p, l(a-1) + \omega),$$

where $\omega = \frac{1 + \sqrt{d}}{2}$ and $2l \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$. Hence, if $\left(\frac{d}{p}\right) \neq -1$ there exists $b \in \mathbf{Z}$, $0 \leq b \leq p - 1$, such that p divides $N(b + \omega)$ and moreover if $b = p - 1$ then $d \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$.

Indeed, $a + \sqrt{d} = a - 1 + 2\omega$. If $2l \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ then

$$(p, a + \sqrt{d}) = (p, (a-1) + 2\omega) = (p, l(a-1) + \omega).$$

If $\left(\frac{d}{p}\right) \neq -1$ then there exists a prime ideal P dividing Ap , where

$$P = (p, a + \sqrt{d}), 0 \leq a \leq p-1.$$

So $P = (p, b + \omega)$ with $0 \leq b \leq p-1$, $b \equiv l(a-1) \pmod{p}$.

Since $P \supseteq A(b + \omega)$ then p divides $N(P)$, which divides $N(b + \omega)$. Finally, if p divides $N(p-1 + \omega) = N\left(\frac{2p-1 + \sqrt{d}}{2}\right) = \frac{(2p-1)^2 - d}{4}$ then p divides $\frac{1-d}{4}$ so $d \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$.

Let $p = 2$.

If $d \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ then $A_2 = (2, \sqrt{d})^2$.

If $d \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ then $A_2 = (2, 1 + \sqrt{d})^2$.

If $d \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ then $A_2 = (2, \omega)(2, \omega')$.

If $d \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ then A_2 is a prime ideal.

Hence

- 1) 2 is ramified if and only if $d \equiv 2$ or $3 \pmod{4}$.
- 2) 2 is inert if and only if $d \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$.
- 3) 2 is decomposed if and only if $d \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$.

Proof. The proof is divided into several parts.

a) If $d \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ then A_2 is a prime ideal.

Otherwise, $A_2 = P \cdot P'$ or P^2 , with $P \cap \mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{Z}2$. Then there exists $\alpha \in A$ such that $P = (2, \alpha) \supseteq A\alpha$, so P divides $A\alpha$ and 2 divides $N(P)$, which divides $N(\alpha)$.

If $2 \mid \alpha$ then $P = A_2\left(1, \frac{\alpha}{2}\right) = A_2$, which is absurd. Thus

$$2 \nmid \alpha = \frac{a + b\sqrt{d}}{2}, \quad \text{with } a \equiv b \pmod{2}, \quad \text{so } N(\alpha) = \frac{a^2 - db^2}{4}.$$

From $2 \mid N(\alpha)$ then 8 divides $a^2 - db^2 \equiv a^2 - 5b^2 \equiv a^2 + 3b^2 \pmod{8}$.

If a, b are odd then $a^2 \equiv b^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$, so $a^2 + 3b^2 \equiv 4 \pmod{8}$, which is absurd. So a, b are even, $a = 2a'$, $b = 2b'$, and $\alpha = a' + b'\sqrt{d}$, 2 divides $N(\alpha) = a'^2 - db'^2$.

Since d is odd, then a', b' are both even or both odd.

If a', b' are even then 2 divides α , which is absurd.

If a', b' are odd then $\alpha = a' + b'\sqrt{d} = (\text{multiple of } 2) + 1 + \sqrt{d} = (\text{multiple of } 2) + 2\omega = (\text{multiple of } 2)$, which is absurd.

b) If $d \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ then $A_2 = (2, \omega)(2, \omega')$.

Indeed,

$$(2, \omega)(2, \omega') = \left(4, 2\omega, 2\omega', \frac{1-d}{4}\right) = A2 \left(2, \omega, \omega', \frac{1-d}{8}\right) = A2,$$

because $\omega + \omega' = 1$.

Also $(2, \omega) \neq (2, \omega')$, otherwise these ideals are equal to their sum $(2, \omega, \omega') = A$, because $\omega + \omega' = 1$.

c) If $d \equiv 2$ or $3 \pmod{4}$ then $A2 = (2, \sqrt{d})^2$, respectively $(2, 1 + \sqrt{d})^2$. First let $d = 4e + 2$ then

$$(2, \sqrt{d})^2 = (4, 2\sqrt{d}, d) = A2(2, \sqrt{d}, 2e+1) = A2,$$

so $(2, \sqrt{d})$ is a prime ideal.

Now, let $d = 4e + 3$, then

$$\begin{aligned} (2, 1 + \sqrt{d})^2 &= (4, 2 + 2\sqrt{d}, 1 + d + 2\sqrt{d}) = (4, 2 + 2\sqrt{d}, 4(e+1) + 2\sqrt{d}) \\ &= A2(2, 1 + \sqrt{d}, 2(e+1) + \sqrt{d}) = A2(2, 2e+1, 1 + \sqrt{d}, 2(e+1) + \sqrt{d}) = A2 \end{aligned}$$

and so $(2, 1 + \sqrt{d})$ is a prime ideal.

Finally, these three cases are exclusive and exhaustive, so the converse assertions also hold. \square

E) UNITS

The element $\alpha \in A$ is a unit if there exists $\beta \in A$ such that $\alpha\beta = 1$. The set U of units is a group under multiplication. Here is a description of the group of units in the various cases. First let $d < 0$.

Let $d \neq -1, -3$. Then $U = \{\pm 1\}$.

Let $d = -1$. Then $U = \{\pm 1, \pm i\}$, with $i = \sqrt{-1}$.

Let $d = -3$. Then $U = \{\pm 1, \pm \rho, \pm \rho^2\}$, with $\rho^3 = 1$, $\rho \neq 1$, i.e.

$$\rho = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{-3}}{2}.$$

Let $d > 0$. Then the group of units is the product $U = \{\pm 1\} \times C$, where C is a multiplicative cyclic group. Thus $C = \{\varepsilon^n \mid n \in \mathbf{Z}\}$, where ε is the smallest unit such that $\varepsilon > 1$. ε is called the fundamental unit.