

# LOCAL FIELDS

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## § Absolute values

Def An absolute value on a field  $K$  is a function

$$|\cdot| : K \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \quad \text{s.t.}$$

$$(i) |x| = 0 \iff x = 0$$

$$(ii) |xy| = |x| \cdot |y|$$

$$(iii) |x+y| \leq |x| + |y|.$$

If in addition

$\forall x, y \in K$

$$(iii)' \quad |x+y| \leq \max(|x|, |y|)$$

it is called ultrametric or non-Archimedean,  
otherwise Archimedean

Immediate consequences:

$$|x^n| = |x|^n \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$|1/x| = 1/|x|$$

$$|1| = 1, \quad |-1| = 1,$$

generally  $|u| = 1$  for  
every unit of unity.

Ex  $K = \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$

$| \cdot | = | \cdot |_{\infty}$  usual absolute value (Archimedean)

Ex  $K$  any

$|x| = \begin{cases} 1 & x \in K^{\times} \\ 0 & x = 0 \end{cases}$  trivial absolute value

Ex  $K$  finite ( $\mathbb{F}_p, \mathbb{F}_q$ ), or  $K = \overline{\mathbb{F}_p}$

All  $x \neq 0$  are roots of unity  $\Rightarrow$  every  $| \cdot |$  is trivial.

Main examples:

Ex (p-adic absolute value)  $K = \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $p$  prime,  
pick  $r > 0$   $\alpha \in (0, 1)$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 1.1 : & \mathbb{Q} & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \\
 & 0 & \longmapsto & 0 \\
 & p^{n \frac{a}{b}} & \longmapsto & \alpha^n \\
 & (p \nmid a, b, n \in \mathbb{Z}) & & 
 \end{array}$$

check  
←

(i) ✓

(ii) ✓

$$(iii)' \quad \left| p^n \frac{a}{b} + p^m \frac{c}{d} \right| =$$

$$= \left| p^{\min(m,n)} \underbrace{(\dots)}_{\text{no } p \text{ in denominator}} \right| \leq \left| p^{\min(m,n)} \right|$$

$$= \alpha^{\min(m,n)} = \max(\alpha^n, \alpha^m).$$

✓

Ex (Order of vanishing at  $a$ )

$$K = \mathbb{C}(x) = \left\{ \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \mid f, g \in \mathbb{C}[x], g \neq 0 \right\}$$

function field in one variable; fix  $0 < \alpha < 1$ .

Pick  $a \in \mathbb{C}$ , let

$$v_a : K^* \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}_{>0}$$

$$(x-a)^n \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \longmapsto \alpha^n$$

$$v_\infty : \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \longmapsto \alpha \quad \deg g - \deg f$$

$f(a) \neq 0, g(a) \neq 0$

## § Equivalence & Ostrowski's Thm

From now on all abs. values are non-trivial.

Def Two abs. values  $|\cdot|_1$  and  $|\cdot|_2$  are equivalent if  $\exists c \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  s.t.  $|x|_2 = |x|_1^c \quad \forall x \in K$ .

Ex Different  $\alpha$ 's in examples above  $\Rightarrow$  equivalent absolute values.

Def Normalised  $p$ -adic absolute value  $|\cdot|_p$  on  $\mathbb{Q}$  is one with  $\alpha = \frac{1}{p}$ .  $|p^n \frac{a}{b}|_p = \frac{1}{p^n}$



$$\underline{\text{Ex}} \quad |2^{10}3^2|_2 = 2^{-10}$$

$$|2^{10}3^2|_3 = 3^{-2}$$

$$|2^{10}3^2|_p = 1 \quad \text{all } p \neq 2, 3.$$

$$|2^{10}3^2|_\infty = 2^{10}3^2$$

So "  $x, y \in \mathbb{Q}$  close to each other w.r. to  $|\cdot|_p$  "  
 $\Leftrightarrow x \equiv y \pmod{\text{high power of } p}$  "

Thm (Ostrowski) Every abs. value  $| \cdot |$  on  $\mathbb{Q}$  is equivalent to either  $| \cdot |_{\infty}$  or  $| \cdot |_p$  for some  $p$ .

Proof Step 1 for  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $a, b > 1$

$$|b| \leq \max(|a|^{\log_a b}, 1) \quad (*)$$

Indeed, write  $b^n$  in base  $a$ ,

$$b^n = c_m a^m + \dots + c_1 a + c_0, \quad c_i \in \{0, \dots, a-1\}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 |b^n| &\leq |c_m| \cdot |a|^m + \dots + |c_0| \\
 &\leq (m+1) \cdot M \cdot \max(|a|^m, \dots, |a|, |1|) \\
 &\quad \left( \max(|1|, \dots, |a-1|) \right) \\
 &\leq (n \log_q b + 1) \cdot M \cdot \max(|a|^{n \log_q b}, 1)
 \end{aligned}$$

Take  $n^{\text{th}}$  root, let  $n \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow (*)$

Step 2 Suppose  $| \cdot |$  unbounded on  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

So  $|b| > 1$  for some  $b \in \mathbb{N}$ .

For any  $a > 1$ ,

$$1 < |b| <^{(*)} \max(|a|^{\log_a b}, 1) \Rightarrow$$

•  $|a| > 1$  for all  $a > 1$ .

•  $|b| \leq |a|^{\log_a b} = |a|^{\frac{\log b}{\log a}}$

and (swap  $a \leftrightarrow b$ )  
 $|a| \leq |b|^{\log_b a} = |b|^{\frac{\log a}{\log b}}$

$$\text{So } |b|^{\frac{1}{\log b}} \leq |a|^{\frac{1}{\log a}} \leq |b|^{\frac{1}{\log b}}$$

$\Rightarrow$  all equal to some constant  $\Rightarrow$

$$|a| = a^c \quad \text{some } c \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\cdot| \sim |\cdot|_{\infty}.$$

Step 3 Suppose  $|\cdot|$  is bounded on  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

So  $|a| \leq 1$  all  $a \in \mathbb{N}$

If all  $|a| = 1 \Rightarrow$  trivial absolute value

If some  $|a| < 1$  write  $a = p_1^{n_1} \cdots p_k^{n_k}$ , get

$|p| < 1$ , some prime  $p \in \{p_1, \dots, p_k\}$

Enough to show  $|a| = 1$  all primes  $q \neq p$

( $\Rightarrow |\cdot| \sim |\cdot|_p$ ).

Suppose not, so

$$|p| < 1, |q| < 1 \quad p \neq q$$

Take  $n$  large, so

$$|p^n| < \frac{1}{2}, |q^n| < \frac{1}{2}$$

Write  $1 = ap^n + bq^n \quad a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$1 = |1| \leq \underbrace{|a|}_{\leq 1} \cdot \underbrace{|p^n|}_{< \frac{1}{2}} + \underbrace{|b|}_{\leq 1} \cdot \underbrace{|q^n|}_{< \frac{1}{2}} < 1 \quad \downarrow$$

Note For  $x \in \mathbb{Q}^{\times}$  we have a product formula

$$\prod |x| = 1 \quad \left[ \leftarrow x = \pm p_1^{a_1} \dots p_k^{a_k} \right]$$

all normalised abs.  
values on  $\mathbb{Q}$

$$| \cdot | = | \cdot |_{\infty}, | \cdot |_2, | \cdot |_3, \dots$$

$$|x|_{\infty} = p_1^{a_1} \dots p_k^{a_k}$$

$$|x|_{p_i} = p_i^{-a_i}$$

$$|x|_q = 1 \quad q \neq p_i$$

& take the product ]



## Analogues

$K$  number field Every abs. value on  $K$  is either

$\sim | \cdot |_{\mathfrak{p}}$        $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K$  prime ideal       $\leftarrow$  non-Arch

$\sim | \cdot |_{\sigma}$        $\sigma: K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$  embedding       $\leftarrow$  Arch.

An equivalence class of abs. values on  $K$  is called a place ("real", "complex", "finite").

$K = \mathbb{C}(t)$  Every abs. value on  $K$  which is trivial on  $\mathbb{C}$  is either

$$\sim | \cdot |_a \quad a \in \mathbb{C} \quad \left[ | (x-a)^n \frac{f}{g} |_a = \alpha^n \right]$$

$$\sim | \cdot |_\infty \quad \left[ |f|_\infty = \alpha^{-\deg f} \right]$$

Generally  $K = k(C)$ ,  $C$  nonsing. proj. curve /  $k = \bar{k}$

Every abs. value on  $K$ , trivial on  $k$ , is

$$\sim | \cdot |_P \quad P \in C(k) \text{ point.}$$

## § Independence

Lemma  $|\cdot|_1, |\cdot|_2$  (non-trivial) abs. values on  $K$ . Then

$$(1) |\cdot|_1 \sim |\cdot|_2 \iff (2) |x|_1 < 1 \Rightarrow |x|_2 < 1$$

Pf (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2) clear  
(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1) EXC\*.

More generally,

Thm  $| \cdot |_1, \dots, | \cdot |_n$  inequivalent abs. values on  $K$ .

Then  $\exists a \in K$  s.t.  $|a|_1 > 1$  but  $|a|_2 < 1, \dots, |a|_n < 1$ .

Pf By induction on  $n$ .

$n = 2$  Lemma.

$n > 2$  Take  $b, c \in K$  s.t.

$$|b|_1 > 1, |b|_2, \dots, |b|_{n-1} < 1$$

$$|c|_1 > 1, |c|_n < 1.$$

$$\text{If } |b|_n < 1 \quad a := b$$

$$\text{If } |b|_n = 1 \quad a := cb^r \quad r \text{ large}$$

$$\text{If } |b|_n > 1 \quad a := \frac{cb^r}{1+b^r} \quad r \text{ large} \quad \square$$

Cor  $\exists a \in K$  s.t.  $a$  is arb. close to 1 in  $|\cdot|_1$   
& arb. close to 0 in  $|\cdot|_2, \dots, |\cdot|_n$ .

pf Pick  $b$  s.t.  $|b|_1 > 1$ , but  $|b|_2 < 1, \dots, |b|_n < 1$   
and let  $a := \frac{b^r}{1+b^r}$   $r$  large.  $\square$

Cor (Weak Approximation)

$|\cdot|_1, \dots, |\cdot|_h$  inequivalent absolute values on  $K$   
 $a_1, \dots, a_n \in K, \quad \varepsilon > 0.$

Then  $\exists a \in K$  s.t. all  $|a - a_i|_i < \varepsilon.$

pf Take  $b_i$  close to 1 in  $|\cdot|_i$ , to 0 in all others,

and let  $a := a_1 b_1 + \dots + a_n b_n.$   $\square$

Note for  $K = \mathbb{Q}$  this is basically Chinese Remainder

Theorem:  $\exists a \in \mathbb{Q}$  s.t.  $a \equiv a_i \pmod{p_i^{k_i}}$

(plus real condition, e.g.  $a < 0$  or  $1 < a < 1.01$ )

Note Consequently, no relations between fin. many.  
abs. values like

$$\prod |x|_i = 1 \quad \forall x \in K^\times$$

for finitely many abs. values.

## § Archimedean abs. values

Thm (Ostrowski II) If  $|\cdot|$  Archimedean  
abs. value on  $K$ , there exists  $i: K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$   
s.t.  $|\cdot| \sim$  usual abs. value on  $\mathbb{C}$  restricted to  $K$ .



## § Non-Archimedean abs. values & valuations

1.1 non-Archimedean abs. value on  $K$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$

$\Rightarrow v(x) = \log_{\alpha} |x|$  is a valuation

(and conversely  $v \Rightarrow |x| := \alpha^{v(x)}$ ).

Def A valuation is a function  $K^{\times} \xrightarrow{v} \mathbb{R}$  s.t.

$$(1) \quad v(xy) = v(x) + v(y)$$

$$(2) \quad v(x+y) \geq \min(v(x), v(y))$$

- We extend  $v$  to  $K$  by letting  $v(0) = \infty$ .
- We call  $v$  and  $cv$  ( $c \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  constant) equivalent
- $v$  is a group hom.  $K^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , so its image is a subgroup of  $\mathbb{R}$ , called the value group of  $v$ .  
If it is discrete (i.e.  $= c\mathbb{Z}$ ) we call  $v$  a discrete valuation and normalised if  $v(K^\times) = \mathbb{Z}$ .

$$\underline{\mathbb{C}}x \quad K = \mathbb{Q}, \quad p \text{ prime}$$

$$v_p \left( p^n \frac{a}{b} \right) := n$$

$p$ -adic valuation  
(normalised discrete).

$$\underline{\mathbb{C}}x \quad K = \mathbb{C}(x), \quad a \in \mathbb{C}$$

$$v_a \left( (x-a)^n \frac{f}{g} \right) = n$$

order of  
vanishing at  $a$   
(- " -)

$$v_\infty \left( \frac{f}{g} \right) = \deg g - \deg f$$

order of vanishing  
at  $\infty$   
(- " -)

Algebraic properties

$$v: K^* \longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad \text{valuation} \quad (\leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{abs. value} \\ 1.1 \end{array})$$

$\mathcal{O} = \{x \in K \mid v(x) \geq 0\}$  is a ring.  $(= \{x \in K \mid |x| \leq 1\})$   
closed unit ball).

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} v(x) \geq 0, v(y) \geq 0 \Rightarrow v(xy) = v(x) + v(y) \geq 0 \\ v(x \pm y) \geq \min(v(x), v(y)) \geq 0. \end{array} \right].$$

This ring  $\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}_v$  is called the valuation ring of  $v$   
(or ring of integers).

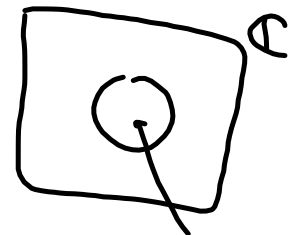
Note Uses non-Archimedean, e.g.

Units

$$\mathcal{O}^\times = \{x \in K \mid v(x) = 0\}$$

and

$\mathfrak{m} = \{x \in K \mid v(x) > 0\}$  is an ideal in  $\mathcal{O}$ .



$$\mathcal{O} = \{x \in \mathbb{C} \mid |x| \leq 1\}$$

not a ring.

( $\leftrightarrow |x| = 1$   
unit sphere).

( $\leftrightarrow |x| < 1$   
open unit ball).

In particular  $\mathfrak{m}$  is a maximal ideal, and the  
unique maximal ideal of  $\mathcal{O}$ .

So  $\mathcal{O}$  is a local ring.

$k = \mathcal{O}/\mathfrak{m}$  is the residue field of  $v$ .

$$\underline{Ex} \quad v_p: \mathbb{Q}^x \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

$$p^n \frac{a}{b} \longrightarrow n \quad (p \nmid a, b).$$

$$K = \mathbb{Q}$$

$$\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}_v = \left\{ p^n \frac{a}{b} \mid n \geq 0 \right\} \cup \{0\}$$

numbers with no  $p$ 's in the denominator; ring

$$\mathcal{O}^x = \left\{ \frac{a}{b} \mid p \nmid a, b \right\} \text{ units}$$

$$\mathfrak{m} = \left\{ p^n \frac{a}{b} \mid n > 0 \right\} \cup \{0\} \text{ maximal}$$

$$\mathbb{O}/\mathfrak{m} \cong \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 5/3 & \xrightarrow{\quad} & 5/3 \in \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \\ & \text{reduce} & \\ & \text{mod } p & \end{array}$$