

On the computation of norm residue symbols Bouw, J.

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Chapter 2

Local fields: facts and notation

Let p be a prime. Let F be a finite field extension of \mathbf{Q}_p and let d be its degree. We will call such a field F a local field. Let \mathcal{O} be its ring of integers with maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} , residue field $k=\mathcal{O}/\mathfrak{m}$ and unit group $U=\mathcal{O}^*$. We write $\bar{}:\mathcal{O}\to k$ for the residue map. For $i\in\mathbf{Z}_{\geq 1}$ we set $U_i=1+\mathfrak{m}^i$. We call U_1 the group of principal units. By $v:F^*\to\mathbf{Z}$ we denote the surjective valuation. Sometimes we denote v by ord. Let $f=[k:\mathbf{F}_p]$ be its residue field degree and let e=d/f=v(p) be its ramification index. If (p-1)|e, define $r\in\mathbf{Z}_{\geq 0}$ by $p^r\mid |e/(p-1)$, that is, $p^r\mid e/(p-1)$, but $p^{r+1}\nmid e/(p-1)$. We denote a root of unity of order p^s , with $s\in\mathbf{Z}_{\geq 1}$, by ζ_{p^s} . Note that if $\zeta_{p^s}\in F$, then $s\leq r+1$. We set $q=p^f=|k|$. Let $\gamma\in\mathcal{O}$ such that $\mathcal{B}=\{1,\overline{\gamma},\overline{\gamma}^2,\ldots,\overline{\gamma}^{f-1}\}$ is a basis of k over \mathbf{F}_p . Let π be a prime element of F, so $v(\pi)=1$. We emphasize that we make a fixed choice of γ and π . As explained in the introduction, these elements are used to represent the elements of F. We define $u_0\in\mathcal{O}^*=U$ by

$$p = -u_0 \pi^e$$
.

Set $\mu_{q-1} = \{ x \in F : x^{q-1} = 1 \}.$

DEFINITION 2.1. The map $\omega: k^* \longrightarrow \mu_{q-1}$, such that $\omega(a)$ with $a \in k^*$ is the unique (q-1)-th root of unity with the property that $\omega(a) \equiv a \pmod{\mathfrak{m}}$, is called the *Teichmüller character* and $\omega(a)$ is called the *Teichmüller representative* of a. We also define $\omega(0) = 0$.

For the proof of the existence of the Teichmüller character we refer to [21, Ch. 3, section 4.4]. The map ω is a multiplicative, so for $a, b \in k$ we have $\omega(a) \cdot \omega(b) = \omega(a \cdot b)$.

DEFINITION 2.2. A digit is an element of \mathcal{O} of the form $\sum_{j=0}^{f-1} d_j \gamma^j \in \mathcal{O}$ with $d_j \in \mathbf{Z}$ and $0 \leq d_j < p$. The set of digits is denoted by \mathcal{C} . The digits represent the elements of the residue field of F, that is, the reduction map $\mathcal{C} \to k$ is a bijection.

DEFINITION 2.3. Let $m \in \mathbf{Z}$ and $m = e \cdot h + l$ with h and l integers and $0 \le l < e$. We define $\pi_m = \pi^l \cdot p^h \in F^*$. Note that $v(\pi_m) = m$.

PROPOSITION 2.4. Every element $x \in F^*$ can be represented by an expression of the form $\sum_{n=t}^{\infty} c_n \pi_n$ with $t \in \mathbf{Z}$, $c_n \in \mathcal{C}$ and $c_t \neq 0$. This representation is unique. Any element of the ring of integers \mathcal{O} of F has a unique representation of the form $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n \pi_n$ with $c_n \in \mathcal{C}$.

PROOF. This is a standard fact of local fields.

For each $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$ we have \mathbb{F}_p -linear isomorphisms

$$\sigma_i : k \to U_i/U_{i+1}$$

$$c \mapsto \overline{1 + \omega(c)\pi_i}$$

and

$$\sigma_i': k \to U_i/U_{i+1}$$

$$c \mapsto \overline{1 + \omega(c)\pi^i}.$$

Proposition 2.5.

- i. The sequence $1 \to U_1 \to \mathcal{O}^* \to k^* \to 1$ is exact and splits uniquely. The map $U_1 \times k^* \to \mathcal{O}^*$ with $(v, w) \to v \cdot \omega(w)$ is a group isomorphism.
- ii. The sequence $1 \to \mathcal{O}^* \to F^* \to \mathbf{Z} \to 0$ is exact and every choice of a prime element gives a splitting.
- iii. The multiplicative group U_1 is a \mathbf{Z}_p -module.

PROOF. (i) The inclusion map $U_1 \to \mathcal{O}^*$ is injective and the map $\mathcal{O}^* \to k^*$ is a surjection. A splitting $k^* \to \mathcal{O}^*$ has image in μ_{q-1} and one easily sees that the Teichmüller character splits the sequence uniquely. See also [15, Appendix].

- (ii) Follows easily.
- (iii) In [9, Teil II, section 15.2], expressions of the form η^g with $\eta \in U_1$ and $g \in \mathbf{Z}_p$ are defined as follows: $\eta^g = \lim_{n \to \infty} \eta^{g(n)}$ where g(n) is a sequence of positive integers converging to g in \mathbf{Z}_p . One can prove that for every pair of principal units η_1 and η_2 and for every $g, g' \in \mathbf{Z}_p$ we have: $(\eta_1 \cdot \eta_2)^g = \eta_1^g \cdot \eta_2^g$ and $\eta^{g+g'} = \eta^g \cdot \eta^{g'}$ and finally $\eta^{gg'} = (\eta^g)^{g'}$. From this it follows that U_1 has a \mathbf{Z}_p -module structure.

Corollary 2.6. The map

$$\mathbf{Z} \times k^* \times U_1 \mapsto F^*$$

 $(M, c, u) \mapsto \pi^M \cdot \omega(c) \cdot u$

is an isomorphism of groups.

Proof. This follows from Proposition 2.5.

In order to do computations in the uncountable field F, one needs to approximate elements. Let $N \in \mathbf{Z}_{\geq 1}$. We set $\mathcal{O}_N = \mathcal{O}/\mathfrak{m}^N$, which is a finite ring of cardinality q^N . By abuse of notation, we often denote the reduction map $\mathcal{O} \to \mathcal{O}_N$ by $\bar{}$. We can write an element in \mathcal{O}_N uniquely as $\sum_{h=0}^{N-1} c_h \pi_h$ (by abuse of notation), with $c_h \in \mathcal{C}$. We say that we approximate an element of $x \in \mathcal{O}$ in precision N if its reduction in \mathcal{O}_N is given.

We remark that for $N \geq 1$ Corollary 2.6 induces isomorphisms $F^*/U_N \cong \mathbf{Z} \times \mathcal{O}_N^* \cong \mathbf{Z} \times k^* \times U_1/U_N$.

We use subscripts to stress which field we are working in. For example, \mathcal{O}_F will denote the ring of integers of F.