25 The ring of adeles, strong approximation

25.1 Introduction to adelic rings

Recall that we have a canonical injection

$$\mathbb{Z} \hookrightarrow \hat{\mathbb{Z}} := \varprojlim_n \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \simeq \prod_p \mathbb{Z}_p,$$

that embeds $\mathbb{Z}$ into the product of its nonarchimedean completions. Each of the rings $\mathbb{Z}_p$ is compact, hence $\hat{\mathbb{Z}} = \prod_p \mathbb{Z}_p$ is compact (by Tychonoff's theorem). If we consider the analogous product $\prod_p \mathbb{Q}_p$ of the completions of $\mathbb{Q}$, each of the local fields $\mathbb{Q}_p$ is locally compact (as is $\mathbb{Q}_\infty = \mathbb{R}$), but the product $\prod_p \mathbb{Q}_p$ is **not locally compact**.

To see where the problem arises, recall that for any family of topological spaces $(X_i)_{i\in I}$ (where the index set I is any set), the product topology on $X := \prod X_i$ is defined as the weakest topology that makes all the projection maps $\pi_i\colon X \to X_i$ continuous; it is thus generated by open sets of the form $\pi_i^{-1}(U_i)$ with $U_i \subseteq X_i$ open. Every open set in X is a (possibly empty or infinite) union of open sets of the form

$$\prod_{i\in S} U_i \times \prod_{i\notin S} X_i,$$

with $S \subseteq I$ finite and each $U_i \subseteq X_i$ open (these sets form a *basis* for the topology on X). In particular, every open $U \subseteq X$ satisfies $\pi_i(U) = X_i$ for all but finitely many $i \in I$. Unless all but finitely many of the X_i are compact, the space X cannot possibly be locally compact for the simple reason that no compact set C in X contains a nonempty open set (if it did then we would have $\pi_i(C) = X_i$ compact for all but finitely many $i \in I$). Recall that to be locally compact means that for every $x \in X$ there is an open U and compact C such that $x \in U \subseteq C$.

To address this issue we want to take the product of the fields $\mathbb{Q}_p$ (or more generally, the completions of any global field) in a different way, one that yields a locally compact topological ring. This is the motivation of the *restricted product*, a topological construction that was invented primarily for the purpose of solving this number-theoretic problem.

25.2 Restricted products

This section is purely about the topology of restricted products; readers already familiar with restricted products should feel free to skip to the next section.

Definition 25.1. Let (X_i) be a family of topological spaces indexed by $i \in I$, and let (U_i) be a family of open sets $U_i \subseteq X_i$. The *restricted product* $\prod(X_i, U_i)$ is the topological space

$$\prod(X_i, U_i) := \{(x_i) : x_i \in U_i \text{ for almost all } i \in I\} \subseteq \prod X_i$$

with the basis of open sets

$$\mathcal{B} := \left\{\prod V_i : V_i \subseteq X_i \text{ is open for all } i \in I \text{ and } V_i = U_i \text{ for almost all } i \in I\right\},$$

where *almost all* means all but finitely many.

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For each $i \in I$ we have a projection map $\pi_i\colon \prod(X_i, U_i) \to X_i$ defined by $(x_i) \mapsto x_i$; each π_i is continuous, since if W_i is an open subset of X_i, then $\pi_i^{-1}(W_i)$ is the union of all basic opens sets $\prod V_i \in \mathcal{B}$ with $V_i = W_i$, which is an open set.

As sets, we always have

$$\prod U_i \subseteq \prod(X_i, U_i) \subseteq \prod X_i,$$

but in general the restricted product topology on $\prod(X_i, U_i)$ is not the same as the subspace topology it inherits from $\prod X_i$; it has more open sets. For example, $\prod U_i$ is an open set in $\prod(X_i, U_i)$, but unless $U_i = X_i$ for almost all i (in which case $\prod(X_i, U_i) = \prod X_i$), it is not open in $\prod X_i$, and it is not open in the subspace topology on $\prod(X_i, U_i)$ because it does not contain the intersection of $\prod(X_i, U_i)$ with any basic open set in $\prod X_i$.

Thus the restricted product is a strict generalization of the direct product; the two coincide if and only if $U_i = X_i$ for almost all i. This is automatically true whenever the index set I is finite, so only infinite restricted products are of independent interest.

Remark 25.2. The restricted product does not depend on any particular U_i. Indeed,

$$\prod(X_i, U_i) = \prod(X_i, U_i')$$

whenever $U_i' = U_i$ for almost all i; note that the two restricted products are not merely isomorphic, they are identical, both as sets and as topological spaces. It is thus enough to specify the U_i for all but finitely many $i \in I$.

Each $x \in X := \prod(X_i, U_i)$ determines a (possibly empty) finite set

$$S(x) := \{i \in I : x_i \notin U_i\}.$$

Given any finite $S \subseteq I$, let us define

$$X_S := \{x \in X : S(x) \subseteq S\} = \prod_{i \in S} X_i \times \prod_{i \notin S} U_i.$$

Notice that $X_S \in \mathcal{B}$ is an open set, and we can view it as a topological space in two ways, both as a subspace of X or as a direct product of certain X_i and U_i. Restricting the basis $\mathcal{B}$ for X to a basis for the subspace X_S yields

$$\mathcal{B}_S := \left\{\prod V_i : V_i \subseteq \pi_i(X_S) \text{ is open and } V_i = U_i = \pi_i(X_S) \text{ for almost all } i \in I\right\},$$

which is the standard basis for the product topology, so the two topologies on X_S coincide.

We have $X_S \subseteq X_T$ whenever $S \subseteq T$, thus if we partially order the finite subsets $S \subseteq I$ by inclusion, the family of topological spaces $\{X_S : S \subseteq I \text{ finite}\}$ with inclusion maps $\{i_{ST}\colon X_S \hookrightarrow X_T | S \subseteq T\}$ forms a *direct system*, and we have a corresponding *direct limit*

$$\varinjlim_S X_S := \coprod X_S / \sim,$$

which is the quotient of the coproduct space (disjoint union) $\coprod X_S$ by the equivalence relation $x \sim i_{ST}(x)$ for all $x \in S \subseteq T$.[1] This direct limit is canonically isomorphic to the restricted product X, which gives us another way to define the restricted product; before proving this let us recall the general definition of a direct limit of topological spaces.

[1] The topology on $\coprod X_S$ is the weakest topology that makes the injections $X_S \hookrightarrow \coprod X_S$ continuous; its open sets are disjoint unions of open sets in the X_S. The topology on $\coprod X_S/\sim$ is the weakest topology that makes the quotient map $\coprod X_S \to \coprod X_S/\sim$ continuous; its open sets are images of open sets in $\coprod X_S$.

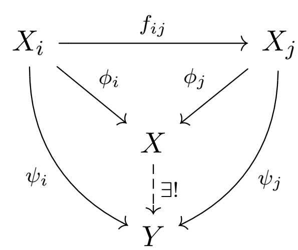
Definition 25.3. A *direct system* (or *inductive system*) in a category is a family of objects $\{X_i : i \in I\}$ indexed by a directed set I (see Definition 8.7) and a family of morphisms $\{f_{ij} \colon X_i \to X_j : i \le j\}$ such that each f_{ii} is the identity and $f_{ik} = f_{jk} \circ f_{ij}$ for all $i \le j \le k$.

Definition 25.4. Let (X_i, f_{ij}) be a direct system of topological spaces. The *direct limit* (or *inductive limit*) of (X_i, f_{ij}) is the quotient space

$$X = \varinjlim X_i := \coprod_{i \in I} X_i / \sim,$$

where $x_i \sim f_{ij}(x_i)$ for all $i \le j$. It is equipped with continuous maps $\phi_i \colon X_i \to X$ that are compositions of the inclusion maps $X_i \hookrightarrow \coprod X_i$ and quotient maps $\coprod X_i \twoheadrightarrow \coprod X_i / \sim$ and satisfy $\phi_i = \phi_j \circ f_{ij}$ for $i \le j$.

The topological space $X = \varinjlim X_i$ has the universal property that if Y is another topological space with continuous maps $\psi_i \colon X_i \to Y$ that satisfy $\psi_i = \psi_j \circ f_{ij}$ for $i \le j$, then there is a unique continuous map $X \to Y$ for which all of the diagrams



commute (this universal property defines the direct limit in any category with coproducts).

We now prove that that $\prod(X_i, U_i) \simeq \varinjlim X_S$ as claimed above.

Proposition 25.5. *Let (X_i) be a family of topological spaces indexed by $i \in I$, let (U_i) be a family of open sets $U_i \subseteq X_i$, and let $X := \prod(X_i, U_i)$ be the corresponding restricted product. For each finite $S \subseteq I$ define*

$$X_S := \prod_{i \in S} X_i \times \prod_{i \notin S} U_i \subseteq X,$$

and inclusion maps $i_{ST} \colon X_S \hookrightarrow X_T$, and let $\varinjlim X_S$ be the corresponding direct limit.

There is a canonical homeomorphism of topological spaces

$$\varphi \colon X \xrightarrow{\sim} \varinjlim X_S$$

that sends $x \in X$ to the equivalence class of $x \in X_{S(x)} \subseteq \coprod X_S$ in $\varinjlim X_S := \coprod X_S / \sim$, where $S(x) := \{i \in I : x_i \notin U_i\}$.

Proof. To prove that the map $\varphi \colon X \to \varinjlim X_S$ is a homeomorphism, we need to show that it is (1) a bijection, (2) continuous, and (3) an open map.

(1) For each equivalence class $\mathcal{C} \in \varinjlim X_S := \coprod X_S / \sim$, let $S(\mathcal{C})$ be the intersection of all the sets S for which $\mathcal{C}$ contains an element of $\coprod X_S$ in X_S. Then $S(x) = S(\mathcal{C})$ for all $x \in \mathcal{C}$, and $\mathcal{C}$ contains a unique element for which $x \in X_{S(x)} \subseteq \coprod X_S$ (distinct $x, y \in X_S$ cannot be equivalent). Thus φ is a bijection.

(2) Let U be an open set in $\varinjlim X_S = \coprod X_S / \sim$. The inverse image V of U in $\coprod X_S$ is open, as are the inverse images V_S of V under the canonical injections $\iota \colon X_S \hookrightarrow \coprod X_S$. The union of the V_S in X is equal to $\varphi^{-1}(U)$ and is an open set in X; thus φ is continuous.

(3) Let U be an open set in X. Since the X_S form an open cover of X, we can cover U with open sets $U_S := U \cap X_S$, and then $\coprod U_S$ is an open set in $\coprod X_S$. Moreover, for each $x \in \coprod U_S$, if $y \sim x$ for some $y \in \coprod X_S$ then y and x must correspond to the same element in U; in particular, $y \in \coprod U_S$, so $\coprod U_S$ is a union of equivalence classes in $\coprod X_S$. It follows that its image in $\varinjlim X_S = \coprod X_S / \sim$ is open. □

Proposition 25.5 gives us another way to construct the restricted product $\prod(X_i, U_i)$: rather than defining it as a subset of $\prod X_i$ with a modified topology, we can instead construct it as a limit of direct products that are subspaces of $\prod X_i$.

We now specialize to the case of interest, where we are forming a restricted product using a family $(X_i)_{i\in I}$ of locally compact spaces and a family of open subsets (U_i) that are almost all compact. Under these conditions the restricted product $\prod(X_i, U_i)$ is locally compact, even though the product $\prod X_i$ is not unless the index set I is finite.

Proposition 25.6. *Let $(X_i)_{i\in I}$ be a family of locally compact topological spaces and let $(U_i)_{i\in I}$ be a corresponding family of open subsets $U_i \subseteq X_i$ almost all of which are compact. Then the restricted product $X := \prod(X_i, U_i)$ is locally compact.*

Proof. We first note that for each finite set $S \subseteq I$ the topological space

$$X_S := \prod_{i\in S} X_i \times \prod_{i\notin S} U_i$$

can be viewed as a finite product of locally compact spaces, since all but finitely many U_i are compact, and the product of these is compact (by Tychonoff's theorem), hence locally compact. A finite product of locally compact spaces is locally compact, since we can construct compact neighborhoods as products of compact neighborhoods in each factor (in a finite product, products of open sets are open and products of compact sets are compact); thus the X_S are locally compact, and they cover X (since each $x \in X$ lies in $X_{S(x)}$). It follows that X is locally compact, since each $x \in X_S$ has a compact neighborhood $x \in U \subseteq C \subseteq X_S$ that is also a compact neighborhood in X (the image of C under the inclusion map $X_S \to X$ is certainly compact, and U is open in X because X_S is open in X). □

25.3 The ring of adeles

Recall that for a global field K (a finite extension of $\mathbb{Q}$ or $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$), we use M_K to denote the set of places of K (equivalence classes of absolute values), and for any $v \in M_K$ we use K_v to denote the corresponding local field (the completion of K with respect to v). When v is nonarchimedean we use $\mathcal{O}_v$ to denote the valuation ring of K_v, and for nonarchimedean v we define $\mathcal{O}_v := K_v$.[2]

Definition 25.7. Let K be a global field. The *adele ring*[3] of K is the restricted product

$$\mathbb{A}_K := \prod (K_v, \mathcal{O}_v)_{v\in M_K},$$

which we may view as a subset (but not a subspace!) of $\prod_v K_v$; indeed

$$\mathbb{A}_K = \left\{ (a_v) \in \prod K_v : a_v \in \mathcal{O}_v \text{ for almost all } v \right\}.$$

[2]Per Remark 25.2, as far as the topology goes it doesn't matter how we define $\mathcal{O}_v$ at the finite number of archimedean places, but we would like each $\mathcal{O}_v$ to be a topological ring, which motivates this choice.

[3]In French one writes *adèle*, but it is common practice to omit the accent when writing in English.

For each $a \in \mathbb{A}_K$ we use a_v to denote its projection in K_v; we make $\mathbb{A}_K$ a ring by defining addition and multiplication component-wise.

For each finite set of places S we have the subring of *S-adeles*

$$\mathbb{A}_{K,S} := \prod_{v \in S} K_v \times \prod_{v \notin S} \mathcal{O}_v,$$

which is a direct product of topological rings. By Proposition 25.5, $\mathbb{A}_K \simeq \varinjlim \mathbb{A}_{K,S}$ is the direct limit of the S-adele rings, which makes it clear that $\mathbb{A}_K$ is also a topological ring.[4]

The canonical embeddings $K \hookrightarrow K_v$ induce a canonical embedding

$$\begin{aligned} K &\hookrightarrow \mathbb{A}_K \\ x &\mapsto (x, x, x, \ldots). \end{aligned}$$

Note that for each $x \in K$ we have $x \in \mathcal{O}_v$ for all but finitely many v. The image of K in $\mathbb{A}_K$ is the subring of *principal adeles* (which of course is also a field).

We extend the normalized absolute value $\| \ \|_v$ of K_v (see Definition 13.17) to $\mathbb{A}_K$ via

$$\|a\|_v := \|a_v\|_v,$$

and define the *adelic absolute value* (or *adelic norm*)

$$\|a\| := \prod_{v \in M_K} \|a\|_v \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$$

which we note converges to zero unless $\|a\|_v = 1$ for all but finitely many v, in which case it is effectively a finite product.[5] For $\|a\| \neq 0$ this is equal to the size of the *M_K-divisor* $(\|a\|_v)$ we defined in Lecture 15 (see Definition 15.1). For any nonzero principal adele a we necessarily have $\|a\| = 1$, by the product formula (Theorem 13.21).

Example 25.8. For $K = \mathbb{Q}$ the adele ring $\mathbb{A}_\mathbb{Q}$ is the union of the rings

$$\mathbb{R} \times \prod_{p \in S} \mathbb{Q}_p \times \prod_{p \notin S} \mathbb{Z}_p$$

where S varies over finite sets of primes (but note that the topology is the restricted product topology, not the subspace topology in $\prod_{p \leq \infty} \mathbb{Q}_p$). We can also write $\mathbb{A}_\mathbb{Q}$ as

$$\mathbb{A}_\mathbb{Q} = \left\{ a \in \prod_{p \leq \infty} \mathbb{Q}_p : \|a\|_p \leq 1 \text{ for almost all } p \right\}.$$

Proposition 25.9. *The adele ring $\mathbb{A}_K$ of a global field K is locally compact and Hausdorff.*

Proof. Local compactness follows from Proposition 25.6, since the local fields K_v are all locally compact and all but finitely many $\mathcal{O}_v$ are valuation rings of a nonarchimedean local field, hence compact ($\mathcal{O}_v = \{x \in K_v : \|x\|_v \leq 1\}$ is a closed ball). The product space $\prod_v K_v$ is Hausdorff, since each K_v is Hausdorff, and the topology on $\mathbb{A}_K \subseteq \prod K_v$ is finer than the subspace topology, so $\mathbb{A}_K$ is also Hausdorff. $\square$

[4] By definition it is a topological space that is also a ring; to be a topological ring is a stronger condition (the ring operations must be continuous), but this property is preserved by direct limits so all is well.

[5] For $v \nmid \infty$, if $\|a\|_v < 1$ then $\|a\|_v \leq 1/2$, since $\|a\|_v := q^{-v(a_v)}$ for some prime power q.

Proposition 25.9 implies that the additive group of $\mathbb{A}_K$ (which is sometimes denoted $\mathbb{A}_K^+$ to emphasize that we are viewing it as a group rather than a ring) is a locally compact group, and therefore has a Haar measure that is unique up to scaling, by Theorem 13.14. Each of the completions K_v is a local field with a Haar measure μ_v, which we normalize as follows:

- $\mu_v(\mathcal{O}_v) = 1$ for all nonarchimedean v;
- $\mu_v(S) = \mu_{\mathbb{R}}(S)$ for $K_v \simeq \mathbb{R}$, where $\mu_{\mathbb{R}}(S)$ is the Lebesgue measure on $\mathbb{R}$;
- $\mu_v(S) = 2\mu_{\mathbb{C}}(S)$ for $K_v \simeq \mathbb{C}$, where $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}(S)$ is the Lebesgue measure on $\mathbb{C} \simeq \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$.

Note that the normalization of μ_v at the archimedean places is consistent with the measure μ on $K_{\mathbb{R}} \simeq \mathbb{R}^r \times \mathbb{C}^s \simeq \mathbb{R}^n$ induced by the canonical inner product on $K_{\mathbb{R}} \subseteq K_{\mathbb{C}}$ that we defined in Lecture 14 (see §14.2).

We now define a measure μ on $\mathbb{A}_K$ as follows. We take as a basis for the σ-algebra of measurable sets all sets of the form $\prod_v B_v$, where each B_v is a measurable set in K_v with $\mu_v(B_v) < \infty$ such that $B_v = \mathcal{O}_v$ for almost all v (the σ-algebra is then generated by taking countable intersections, unions, and complements in $\mathbb{A}_K$). We then define

$$\mu\left(\prod_v B_v\right) := \prod_v \mu_v(B_v).$$

It is easy to verify that μ is a Radon measure, and it is clearly translation invariant since each of the Haar measures μ_v is translation invariant and addition is defined component-wise; note that for any $x \in \mathbb{A}_K$ and measurable set $B = \prod_v B_v$ the set $x + B = \prod_v (x_v + B_v)$ is also measurable, since $x_v + B_v = \mathcal{O}_v$ whenever $x_v \in \mathcal{O}_v$ and $B_v = \mathcal{O}_v$, and this applies to almost all v. It follows from uniqueness of the Haar measure (up to scaling) that μ is a Haar measure on $\mathbb{A}_K$ which we henceforth adopt as our normalized Haar measure on $\mathbb{A}_K$.

We now want to understand the behavior of the adele ring $\mathbb{A}_K$ under base change. Note that the canonical embedding $K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{A}_K$ makes $\mathbb{A}_K$ a K-vector space, and if L/K is any finite separable extension of K (also a K-vector space), we may consider the tensor product

$$\mathbb{A}_K \otimes L,$$

which is also an L-vector space. As a topological K-vector space, the topology on $\mathbb{A}_K \otimes L$ is just the product topology on $[L:K]$ copies of of $\mathbb{A}_K$ (this applies whenever we take a tensor product of topological vector spaces, one of which has finite dimension).

Proposition 25.10. *Let L be a finite separable extension of a global field K. There is a natural isomorphism of topological rings*

$$\mathbb{A}_L \simeq \mathbb{A}_K \otimes_K L$$

that makes the following diagram commute

$$\begin{array}{ccc} L & \xrightarrow{\ \sim\ } & K \otimes_K L \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbb{A}_L & \xrightarrow{\ \sim\ } & \mathbb{A}_K \otimes_K L \end{array}$$

Proof. On the RHS the tensor product $\mathbb{A}_K \otimes_K L$ is isomorphic to the restricted product

$$\prod_{v\in M_K}(K_v \otimes_K L,\, \mathcal{O}_v \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_K} \mathcal{O}_L).$$

Explicitly, each element of $\mathbb{A}_K \otimes_K L$ is a finite sum of elements of the form $(a_v)\otimes x$, where $(a_v)\in\mathbb{A}_K$ and $x\in L$, and there is a natural isomorphism of topological rings

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{A}_K \otimes_K L &\xrightarrow{\sim} \prod_{v\in M_K}(K_v \otimes_K L,\, \mathcal{O}_v \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_K} \mathcal{O}_L)\\ (a_v)\otimes x &\mapsto (a_v \otimes x).\end{aligned}$$

Here we are using the general fact that tensor products commute with direct limits (restricted direct products can be viewed as direct limits via Proposition 25.5).[6]

On the LHS we have $\mathbb{A}_L := \prod_{w\in M_L}(L_w, \mathcal{O}_w)$. But note that $K_v \otimes_K L \simeq \prod_{w|v} L_w$, by Theorem 11.19 and $\mathcal{O}_v \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_K} \mathcal{O}_L \simeq \prod_{w|v}\mathcal{O}_w$, by Corollary 11.22. These isomorphisms preserve both the algebraic and the topological structures of both sides, and it follows that

$$\mathbb{A}_K \otimes_K L \simeq \prod_{v\in M_K}(K_v \otimes_K L,\, \mathcal{O}_v \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_K} \mathcal{O}_L) \simeq \prod_{w\in M_L}(L_w, \mathcal{O}_w) = \mathbb{A}_L$$

is an isomorphism of topological rings. The image of $x\in L$ in $\mathbb{A}_K\otimes_K L$ via the canonical embedding of L into $\mathbb{A}_K \otimes_K L$ is $1\otimes x = (1,1,1,\ldots)\otimes x$, whose image $(x,x,x,\ldots)\in\mathbb{A}_L$ is equal to the image of $x\in L$ under the canonical embedding of L into its adele ring $\mathbb{A}_L$. ☐

Corollary 25.11. *Let L be a finite separable extension of a global field K of degree n. There is a natural isomorphism of topological K-vector spaces (and locally compact groups)*

$$\mathbb{A}_L \simeq \mathbb{A}_K \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathbb{A}_K$$

that identifies $\mathbb{A}_K$ with the direct sum of n copies of $\mathbb{A}_K$, and this isomorphism restricts to an isomorphism $L \simeq K\oplus\cdots\oplus K$ of the principal adeles of $\mathbb{A}_L$ with the n-fold direct sum of the principal adeles of $\mathbb{A}_K$.

Theorem 25.12. *For each global field L the principal adeles $L \subseteq \mathbb{A}_L$ form a discrete cocompact subgroup of the additive group of the adele ring $\mathbb{A}_L$.*

Proof. Let K be the rational subfield of L (so $K=\mathbb{Q}$ or $K=\mathbb{F}_q(t)$). It follows from Corollary 25.11 that if the theorem holds for K then it holds for L, so we will prove the theorem for K. Let us identify K with its image in $\mathbb{A}_K$ (the principal adeles).

To show that the topological group K is discrete in the locally compact group $\mathbb{A}_K$, it suffices to show that 0 is an isolated point. Consider the open set

$$U = \{a\in\mathbb{A}_K : \|a\|_\infty < 1 \text{ and } \|a\|_v \le 1 \text{ for all } v<\infty\},$$

where ∞ denotes the unique infinite place of K (either the real place of $\mathbb{Q}$ or the place corresponding to the degree valuation $v_\infty(f/g) = \deg f - \deg g$ of $\mathbb{F}_q(t)$). The product formula (Theorem 13.21) implies $\|a\| = 1$ for all nonzero $a\in K\subseteq\mathbb{A}_K$, so $U\cap K = \{0\}$.

To prove that the quotient $\mathbb{A}_K/K$ is compact, we consider the set

$$W := \{a\in\mathbb{A}_K : \|a\|_v \le 1 \text{ for all } v\}.$$

[6] In general, tensor products *do not* commute with infinite direct products; their is always a natural map $(\prod_n A_n)\otimes B \to (\prod_n (A_n\otimes B)$, but it need be neither a monomorphism or an epimorphism. This is another motivation for using restricted direct products to define the adeles, so that base change works as it should.

If we let $U_\infty \coloneqq \{x \in K_\infty : \|x\|_\infty \le 1\}$, then

$$W = U_\infty \times \prod_{v<\infty} \mathcal{O}_v \subseteq \mathbb{A}_{K,\{\infty\}} \subseteq \mathbb{A}_K$$

is a product of compact sets and therefore compact. We will show that W contains a complete set of coset representatives for K in $\mathbb{A}_K$. This implies that $\mathbb{A}_K/K$ is the image of the compact set W under the (continuous) quotient map $\mathbb{A}_K \to \mathbb{A}_K/K$, hence compact.

Let $a = (a_v)$ be any element of $\mathbb{A}_K$. We wish to show that $a = b + c$ for some $b \in W$ and $c \in K$, which we will do by constructing $c \in K$ so that $b = a - c \in W$.

For each $v < \infty$ define $x_v \in K$ as follows: put $x_v \coloneqq 0$ if $\|a_v\|_v \le 1$ (almost all v), and otherwise choose $x_v \in K$ so that $\|a_v - x_v\|_v \le 1$ and $\|x_v\|_w \le 1$ for $w \ne v$. To show that such an x_v exists, let us first suppose $a_v = r/s \in K$ with $r, s \in \mathcal{O}_K$ coprime (note that $\mathcal{O}_K$ is a PID), and let $\mathfrak{p}$ be the maximal ideal of $\mathcal{O}_v$. The ideals $\mathfrak{p}^{v(s)}$ and $\mathfrak{p}^{-v(s)}(s)$ are coprime, so we can write $r = r_1 + r_2$ with $r_1 \in \mathfrak{p}^{v(s)}$ and $r_2 \in \mathfrak{p}^{-v(s)}(s) \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K$, so that $a_v = r_1/s + r_2/s$ with $v(r_1/s) \ge 0$ and $w(r_2/s) \ge 0$ for all $w \ne v$. If we now put $x_v \coloneqq r_2/s$, then $\|a_v - x_v\|_v = \|r_1/s\|_v \le 1$ and $\|x_v\|_w = \|r_2/s\|_w \le 1$ for all $w \ne v$ as desired. We can approximate any $a'_v \in K_v$ by such an $a_v \in K$ with $\|a'_v - a_v\|_v < \epsilon$ and construct x_v as above so that $\|a_v - x_v\|_v \le 1$ and $\|a'_v - x_v\|_v \le 1 + \epsilon$; but for sufficiently small ϵ this implies $\|a_v - x_v\|_v \le 1$, since the nonarchimedean absolute value $\|\ \|_v$ is discrete.

Finally, let $x \coloneqq \sum_{v<\infty} x_v \in K$ and choose $x_\infty \in \mathcal{O}_K$ so that

$$\|a_\infty - x - x_\infty\|_\infty \le 1.$$

For $K = \mathbb{Q}$ we can take $x_\infty \in \mathbb{Z}$ to be the nearest integer to the rational number $a_\infty - x$, and for $K = \mathbb{F}_q(t)$, if $a_\infty - x = f/g$ with $f, g \in \mathbb{F}_q[t]$ coprime, we can write $f = gh + u$ for some $h, u \in \mathbb{F}_q[t]$ with $\deg u < \deg g$ and then take $x_\infty \coloneqq -h$.

Now let $c \coloneqq \sum_{v\le\infty} x_v \in K \subseteq \mathbb{A}_K$, and let $b \coloneqq a - c$. Then $a = b + c$, with $c \in K$, and we claim that $b \in W$. For each $v < \infty$ we have $x_w \in \mathcal{O}_v$ for all $w \ne v$ and

$$\|b\|_v = \|a - c\|_v = \left\| a_v - \sum_{w\le\infty} x_w \right\|_v \le \max\left(\|a_v - x_v\|_v, \max(\{\|x_w\|_v : w \ne v\})\right) \le 1,$$

by the nonarchimedean triangle inequality. For $v = \infty$ we have $\|b\|_\infty = \|a_\infty - c\|_\infty \le 1$ by our choice of x_∞, and $\|b\|_v \le 1$ for all v, so $b \in W$ as claimed and the theorem follows. □

Corollary 25.13. *For any global field K the quotient $\mathbb{A}_K/K$ is a compact group.*

Proof. As explained in Remark 14.3, this follows immediately (in particular, the fact that K is a discrete subgroup of $\mathbb{A}_K$ implies that it is closed and therefore $\mathbb{A}_K/K$ is Hausdorff). □

25.4 Strong approximation

We are now ready to prove the strong approximation theorem, an important result that has many applications. We begin with an adelic version of the Blichfeldt-Minkowski lemma.

Lemma 25.14 (Adelic Blichfeldt-Minkowski lemma)**.** *Let K be a global field. There is a positive constant B_K such that for any $a \in \mathbb{A}_K$ with $\|a\| > B_K$ there exists a nonzero principal adele $x \in K^\times \subseteq \mathbb{A}_K$ for which $\|x\|_v \le \|a\|_v$ for all $v \in M_K$.*

Proof. Let $b_0 := \operatorname{covol}(K)$ be the measure of a fundamental region for K in $\mathbb{A}_K$ under our normalized Haar measure μ on $\mathbb{A}_K$ (by Theorem 25.12, K is cocompact, so b_0 is finite). Now define

$$b_1 := \mu\left(\left\{z \in \mathbb{A}_K : \|z\|_v \le 1 \text{for all } v \text{ and } \|z\|_v \le \tfrac{1}{4} \text{ if } v \text{ is archimedean}\right\}\right).$$

Then $b_1 \neq 0$, since K has only finitely many archimedean places. Now let $B_K := b_0/b_1$.

Suppose $a \in \mathbb{A}_K$ satisfies $\|a\| > B_K$. We know that $\|a\|_v \le 1$ for all almost all v, so $\|a\| > B$ implies that $\|a\|_v = 1$ for almost all v. Let us now consider the set

$$T := \left\{t \in \mathbb{A}_K : \|t\|_v \le \|a\|_v \text{ for all } v \text{ and } \|t\|_v \le \tfrac{1}{4}\|a\|_v \text{ if } v \text{ is archimedean}\right\}.$$

From the definition of b_1 we have

$$\mu(T) = b_1\|a\| > b_1 B_K = b_0;$$

this follows from the fact that the Haar measure on $\mathbb{A}_K$ is the product of the normalized Haar measures μ_v on each of the K_v. Since $\mu(T) > b_0$, the set T is not contained in any fundamental region for K, so there must be distinct $t_1, t_2 \in T$ with the same image in $\mathbb{A}_K/K$, equivalently, whose difference $x = t_1 - t_2$ is a nonzero element of $K \subseteq \mathbb{A}_K$. We have

$$\|t_1 - t_2\|_v \le \begin{cases} \max(\|t_1\|_v, \|t_2\|_v) \le \|a\|_v & \text{nonarch. } v; \\ \|t_1\|_v + \|t_2\|_v \le 2 \cdot \frac{1}{4}\|x\|_v \le \frac{1}{2}\|a\|_v & \text{real } v; \\ (\|t_1 - t_2\|_v^{1/2})^2 \le (\|t_1\|_v^{1/2} + \|t_2\|_v^{1/2})^2 \le (2 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\|a\|_v^{1/2})^2 \le \|a\|_v & \text{complex } v. \end{cases}$$

Here we have used the fact that the normalized absolute value $\| \ \|_v$ satisfies the nonarchimedean triangle inequality when v is nonarchimedean, $\| \ \|_v$ satisfies the archimedean triangle inequality when v is real, and $\| \ \|_v^{1/2}$ satisfies the archimedean triangle inequality when v is complex. Thus $\|x\|_v = \|t_1 - t_2\|_v \le \|a\|_v$ for all places $v \in M_K$ as desired. □

Remark 25.15. Lemma 25.14 should be viewed as an analog of Mikowski's lattice point theorem (Thoerem 14.11) and a generalization of Proposition 15.9. In Theorem 14.11 we have a discrete cocompact subgroup Λ in a real vector space $V \simeq \mathbb{R}^n$ and a sufficiently large symmetric convex set S that must contain a nonzero element of Λ. In Lemma 25.14 the lattice Λ is replaced by K, the vector space V is replaced by $\mathbb{A}_K$, the symmetric convex set S is replaced by the set

$$L(a) := \{x \in \mathbb{A}_K : \|x\|_v \le \|a\|_v \text{ for all } v \in M_K\},$$

and sufficiently large means $\|a\| > B_K$, putting a lower bound on $\mu(L(a))$. Proposition 15.9 is actually equivalent to Lemma 25.14 in the case that K is a number field: use the M_K-divisor $c := (\|a\|_v)$ and note that $L(c) = L(a) \cap K$.

Theorem 25.16 (Strong Approximation)**.** *Let $M_K = S \sqcup T \sqcup \{w\}$ be a partition of the places of a global field K with S finite. Given any $a_v \in K$ and $\epsilon_v \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ with $v \in S$, there exists an $x \in K$ for which*

$$\|x - a_v\|_v \le \epsilon_v \text{ for all } v \in S,$$
$$\|x\|_v \le 1 \text{ for all } v \in T,$$

(note that there is no constraint on $\|x\|_w$).

Proof. Let $W = \{z \in \mathbb{A}_K : \|z\|_v \le 1 \text{ for all } v \in M_K\}$ as in the proof of Theorem 25.12. Then W contains a complete set of coset representatives for $K \subseteq \mathbb{A}_K$, so $\mathbb{A}_K = K + W$. For any nonzero $u \in K \subseteq \mathbb{A}_K$ we also have $\mathbb{A}_K = K + uW$: given $c \in \mathbb{A}_K$ write $u^{-1}c \in \mathbb{A}_K$ as $u^{-1}c = a + b$ with $a \in K$ and $b \in W$ and then $c = ua + ub$ with $ua \in K$ and $ub \in uW$. Now choose $z \in \mathbb{A}_K$ such that

$$0 < \|z\|_v \le \epsilon_v \text{ for } v \in S, \quad 0 < \|z\|_v \le 1 \text{ for } v \in T, \quad \|z\|_w > B \prod_{v \ne w} \|z\|_v^{-1},$$

where B is the constant in the Blichfeldt-Minkowski Lemma 25.14 (this is clearly possible: every $z = (z_v)$ with $\|z_v\|_v \le 1$ is an element of $\mathbb{A}_K$). We have $\|z\| > B$, so there is a nonzero $u \in K \subseteq \mathbb{A}_K$ with $\|u\|_v \le \|z\|_v$ for all $v \in M_K$.

Now let $a = (a_v) \in \mathbb{A}_K$ be the adele with a_v given by the hypothesis of the theorem for $v \in S$ and $a_v = 0$ for $v \notin S$. We have $\mathbb{A}_K = K + uW$, so $a = x + y$ for some $x \in K$ and $y \in uW$. Therefore

$$\|x - a_v\|_v = \|y\|_v \le \|u\|_v \le \|z\|_v \le \begin{cases} \epsilon_v & \text{for } v \in S, \\ 1 & \text{for } v \in T, \end{cases}$$

as desired. □

Corollary 25.17. *Let K be a global field and let w be any place of K. Then K is dense in the restricted product $\prod_{v \ne w}(K_v, \mathcal{O}_v)$.*

Remark 25.18. Theorem 25.16 and Corollary 25.17 can be generalized to algebraic groups; see [1] for a survey.

References

[1] Andrei S. Rapinchuk, *Strong approximation for algebraic groups*, Thin groups and superstrong approximation, MSRI Publications **61**, 2013.

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