Places

Unit 6

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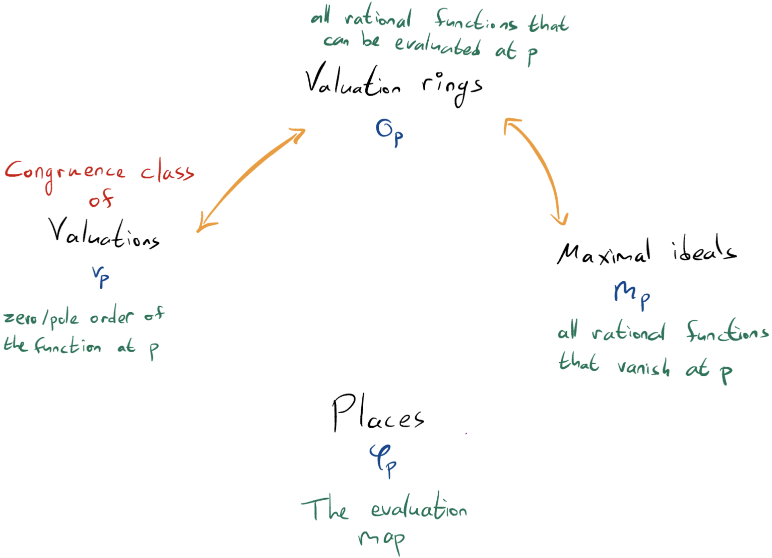
So far


all rational functions that can be evaluated at p
Valuation rings
$\mathcal{O}_p$
Congruence class of Valuations
v_p
zero/pole order of the function at p
Maximal ideals
m_p
all rational functions that vanish at p
Places
φ_p
The evaluation map

Overview

1. Places
2. Examples
3. Trivial and equivalent places
4. Basic properties
5. The residue field
6. Places and valuation rings
7. Example

Adjoining ∞ to a field

Let K be a field. We adjoin to K an element ∞ and extend the operations so that

$$\begin{array}{ll} \forall a \in \mathsf{K} & a \pm \infty = \pm\infty + a = \infty \\ \forall a \in \mathsf{K}^\times & a \cdot \infty = \infty \cdot a = \infty \cdot \infty = \infty \\ \forall a \in \mathsf{K} & \dfrac{a}{\infty} = 0 \\ \forall a \in \mathsf{K}^\times & \dfrac{a}{0} = \infty. \end{array}$$

Moreover, the expressions

$$\infty \pm \infty \qquad 0 \cdot \infty \qquad \infty \cdot 0 \quad \frac{0}{0} \quad \frac{\infty}{\infty}$$

are undefined.

You should think of a as the result of an evaluation and interpret ∞ as evaluation was impossible due to a pole.

Places

In the definition, think of F as a field of functions whereas K is the field of possible evaluation outcomes at some fixed point.

Definition 1 (Place)

Let F, K be fields. A map

$$\varphi : \mathsf{F} \to \mathsf{K} \cup \{\infty\}$$

is called a place if

1. $\varphi(1) = 1$
2. $\varphi(a + b) = \varphi(a) + \varphi(b)$ whenever at least one of $\varphi(a), \varphi(b)$ is not ∞ (or, if you prefer, $\{\varphi(a), \varphi(b)\} \neq \{\infty\}$.)
3. $\varphi(ab) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$ whenever $\{\varphi(a), \varphi(b)\} \neq \{0, \infty\}$.

Overview

1. Places
2. Examples
3. Trivial and equivalent places
4. Basic properties
5. The residue field
6. Places and valuation rings
7. Example

Places - examples

Example

For a prime p let $\mathbb{F}_p$ be the field of size p. Recall that $\mathbb{F}_p \cong \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$. Denote by $\psi : \mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{F}_p$ the projection map $\psi(z) = z + p\mathbb{Z}$.

We extend the ring homomorphism ψ to a place

$$\varphi : \mathbb{Q} \to \mathbb{F}_p \cup \{\infty\}$$

as follows:

Given $q \in \mathbb{Q}$ write $q = \frac{a}{b}$ with $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ coprime.

Define,

$$\varphi(q) = \begin{cases} \frac{\psi(a)}{\psi(b)}, & p \text{ does not divide } b; \\ \infty, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

I leave it for you as an exercise to show that φ is indeed a place.

Places - examples

Example

Let E be a field and $p(x) \in \mathrm{E}[x]$ irreducible. Let

$$\psi : \mathrm{E}[x] \to \mathrm{L} = \mathrm{E}[x] \big/ \langle p(x) \rangle$$

be the projection map $\psi(f(x)) = f(x) + \langle p(x) \rangle$.

We extend the ring homomorphism ψ to a place

$$\varphi : \mathrm{E}(x) \to \mathrm{L} \cup \{\infty\}$$

as follows: Given $f(x) \in \mathrm{E}(x)$ write $f(x) = \frac{a(x)}{b(x)}$ with $a(x), b(x) \in \mathrm{E}[x]$ coprime, and define

$$\varphi(f(x)) = \begin{cases} \frac{\psi(a(x))}{\psi(b(x))}, & p(x) \text{ does not divide } b(x); \\ \infty, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Places - examples

Example

Recall that

$$\psi : \mathsf{E}[x] \to \mathsf{L} = \mathsf{E}[x] \big/ \langle p(x) \rangle$$

is the projection map $\psi(f(x)) = f(x) + \langle p(x) \rangle$.

In the special case $p(x) = x - \alpha$ we can think of ψ as "evaluating at α" since then

$$\psi : \mathsf{E}[x] \to \mathsf{L} = \mathsf{E}[x] \big/ \langle x - \alpha \rangle \cong \mathsf{E},$$

and for every $f(x) \in \mathsf{E}[x]$,

$$\psi(f(x)) = f(x) + \langle x - \alpha \rangle = f(\alpha) + \langle x - \alpha \rangle.$$

Moreover, note that $f(\alpha)$ is the only representative in the coset $\psi(f(x))$ that is an element of E.

Places - examples

Example

$$\psi : \mathsf{E}[x] \to \mathsf{L} = \mathsf{E}[x] \big/ \langle x - \alpha \rangle \cong \mathsf{E}.$$

Now, $\varphi : \mathsf{E}(x) \to \mathsf{L} \cup \{\infty\}$ is given by

$$\varphi(f(x)) = \begin{cases} \frac{\psi(a(x))}{\psi(b(x))}, & x - \alpha \text{ does not divide } b(x); \\ \infty, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
$$= \begin{cases} \frac{a(\alpha) + \langle x - \alpha \rangle}{b(\alpha) + \langle x - \alpha \rangle}, & b(\alpha) \neq 0; \\ \infty, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Under the identification of L with E as given by

$$g(x) + \langle x - \alpha \rangle \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad g(\alpha),$$

we can write

$$\varphi(f(x)) = \begin{cases} \frac{a(\alpha)}{b(\alpha)}, & b(\alpha) \neq 0; \\ \infty, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Overview

1. Places
2. Examples
3. Trivial and equivalent places
4. Basic properties
5. The residue field
6. Places and valuation rings
7. Example

Trivial places

A quick reminder re field homomorphisms.

A field homomorphism $\psi : \mathrm{F} \to \mathrm{K}$ is always a monomorphism. Indeed, as ψ is a ring homomorphism, $\ker \psi$ is an ideal of F. The only ideals of F are 0 and F. But $\varphi(1) = 1$ and so $1 \notin \ker \psi$. Thus, $\ker \psi = 0$, implying ψ is a monomorphism.

By the above remark, ψ is thought of as a field embedding $\mathrm{F} \hookrightarrow \mathrm{K}$. Namely, we can identify F with $\varphi(\mathrm{F}) \subseteq \mathrm{K}$.

Definition 2

A place $\varphi : \mathrm{F} \to \mathrm{K} \cup \{\infty\}$ is called trivial if $\varphi(a) \neq \infty$ for all $a \in \mathrm{F}$.

By the above reminder, a trivial place is a field embedding, and vice versa.

Equivalent places

Definition 3

Two places $\varphi : \mathsf{F} \to \mathsf{K} \cup \{\infty\}$, $\varphi' : \mathsf{F} \to \mathsf{K}' \cup \{\infty\}$ are equivalent if $\forall a \in \mathsf{F}$,

$$\varphi(a) \neq \infty \quad \iff \quad \varphi'(a) \neq \infty.$$

We note that a trivial place $\varphi : \mathsf{F} \to \mathsf{K} \cup \{\infty\}$ is equivalent to the identity field isomorphism $\mathrm{id}_{\mathsf{F}} : \mathsf{F} \to \mathsf{F}$.

For distinct $\alpha, \beta \in \mathsf{K}$, the places $\varphi_\alpha, \varphi_\beta$ of $\mathsf{K}(x)$ that correspond to $x - \alpha$ and $x - \beta$ are not equivalent. Indeed,

$$\varphi_\alpha\left(\frac{1}{x-\alpha}\right) = \infty \qquad \varphi_\beta\left(\frac{1}{x-\alpha}\right) = \frac{1}{\beta - \alpha}.$$

So, distinct points in the field K give rise to distinct places of $\mathsf{K}(x)$.

Same holds for any two distinct irreducible polynomials.

Overview

1. Places
2. Examples
3. Trivial and equivalent places
4. Basic properties
5. The residue field
6. Places and valuation rings
7. Example

Basic properties of places

Claim 4

Let $\varphi : \mathsf{F} \to \mathsf{K} \cup \{\infty\}$ be a place. Then,

1. $\varphi(0) = 0$.
2. $\varphi(-a) = -\varphi(a)$. In particular, $\varphi(a) = \infty \iff \varphi(-a) = \infty$.
3. If $\varphi(a), \varphi(b) \neq \infty$ then $\varphi(a+b) \neq \infty$.
4. $\varphi(a) = \infty \iff \varphi(a^{-1}) = 0$.

Proof.

As for Item (1),

$$\varphi(1) = \varphi(1+0) = \varphi(1) + \varphi(0) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \varphi(0) = 0.$$

□

Basic properties of places

Proof.

$$\varphi(1) = \varphi(1+0) = \varphi(1) + \varphi(0) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \varphi(0) = 0.$$

In the above derivation there are two subtleties:

1. $\varphi(1) = 1 \neq \infty$ and so the second equality holds.
2. The implication follows by "canceling $\varphi(1)$". However, we should be careful. $\varphi(1) = 1$ and so we need to show that

$$1 = 1 + \varphi(0) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \varphi(0) = 0.$$

If $\varphi(0) = \infty$ then $1 = 1 + \infty$ - a contradiction. Thus, $\varphi(0) \neq \infty$ and so the entire expression is in the field K which allows us to substract 1 and deduce $\varphi(0) = 0$.

□

Basic properties of places

Proof.

As for the second item, if $\varphi(a) \neq \infty$ then

$$0 = \varphi(0) = \varphi(a + (-a)) = \varphi(a) + \varphi(-a).$$

Now, if $\varphi(-a) = \infty$ then we would get

$$0 = \varphi(a) + \infty$$

a contradiction. Thus, $\varphi(-a) \in \mathrm{K}$, implying $\varphi(-a) = -\varphi(a)$.

If on the other hand $\varphi(a) = \infty$ and $\varphi(-a) \neq \infty$ then the RHS is $\infty \neq 0$.

Basic properties of places

Proof.

To prove the third item, we recall that

$$\varphi(a) \neq \infty \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad a \in \mathsf{K}.$$

Thus, our assumption implies that $a, b \in \mathsf{K}$, and so $a + b \in \mathsf{K}$. This then implies $\varphi(a + b) \neq \infty$.

Basic properties of places

Proof.

As for the fourth item,

$$1 = \varphi(1) = \varphi(aa^{-1}).$$

If $\varphi(a) = \infty$ and $\varphi(a^{-1}) \neq 0$ then

$$1 = \varphi(aa^{-1}) = \varphi(a)\varphi(a^{-1}) = \infty.$$

Hence, $\varphi(a) = \infty \implies \varphi(a^{-1}) = 0$.

On the other hand, if $\varphi(a^{-1}) = 0$ and $\varphi(a) = c \neq \infty$ then

$$1 = \varphi(a)\varphi(a^{-1}) = c \cdot 0 = 0$$

which again is a contradiction.

Overview

1. Places
2. Examples
3. Trivial and equivalent places
4. Basic properties
5. The residue field
6. Places and valuation rings
7. Example

The residue field

Claim 5

Let $\varphi : \mathsf{F} \to \mathsf{K} \cup \{\infty\}$ be a place. Then, $\bar{\mathsf{F}} = \varphi(\mathsf{F}) \setminus \{\infty\}$ is a subfield of K.

Proof.

It easy to see that $\bar{\mathsf{F}}$ is closed under addition and multiplication. E.g., if $\alpha, \beta \in \bar{\mathsf{F}}$ then $\exists a, b \in \mathsf{F}$ s.t. $\alpha = \varphi(a)$, $\beta = \varphi(b)$. Thus,

$$\alpha + \beta = \varphi(a) + \varphi(b) = \varphi(a + b),$$

and so $\alpha + \beta \in \bar{\mathsf{F}}$.

Similarly, $\bar{\mathsf{F}}$ is closed under negation.

Proof.

It is left to show $\bar{F} \setminus \{0\}$ is closed under multiplicative inverse.

Let $\alpha \in \bar{F} \setminus \{0\}$ and let $a \in F$ s.t. $\varphi(a) = \alpha$. Note that $\varphi(a^{-1}) \neq \infty$ as otherwise, Claim 4 would imply $\varphi(a) = 0$.

Thus,

$$\alpha^{-1} = \varphi(a)^{-1} = \varphi(a^{-1}) \in \bar{F},$$

where the last equality follows since

$$1 = \varphi(1) = \varphi(a \cdot a^{-1}) = \varphi(a)\varphi(a^{-1}),$$

where for the last equality we used the fact that $\varphi(a) \neq 0$.

Lastly, we recall that $\varphi(1) = 1$ and so $1 \in \bar{F}$. □

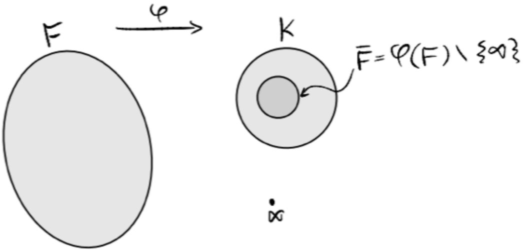
The residue field

Definition 6 (The residue field)

Let $\varphi : F \to K \cup \{\infty\}$ be a place. The field,

$$\bar{F} = \varphi(F) \setminus \{\infty\}$$

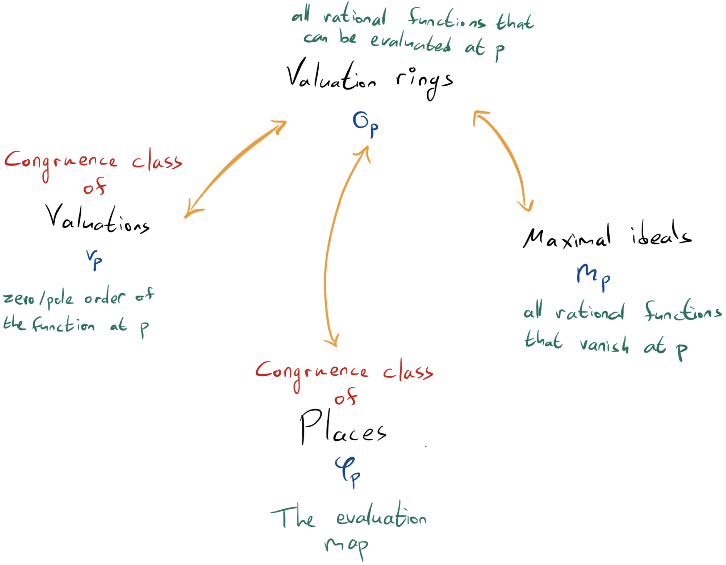
is called the residue field of φ.



Overview

1. Places
2. Examples
3. Trivial and equivalent places
4. Basic properties
5. The residue field
6. Places and valuation rings
7. Example

Places and valuation rings



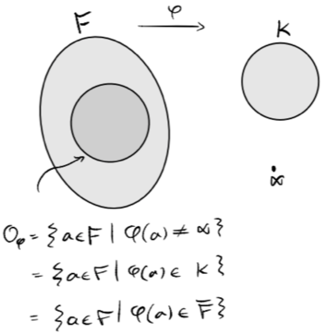
Places and valuation rings

Claim 7

Let $\varphi : F \to K \cup \{\infty\}$ be a place. Then,

$$\mathcal{O}_\varphi = \{a \in F \mid \varphi(a) \neq \infty\}$$

is a valuation ring with $\operatorname{Frac} \mathcal{O}_\varphi = F$.



Proof.

First, $\varphi(1) = 1$ by the definition of a place and so $1 \in \mathcal{O}_\varphi$.

To prove that $\mathcal{O}_\varphi$ is closed under addition, we use Claim 4 to get

$$\begin{aligned} a, b \in \mathcal{O}_\varphi \quad &\iff \quad \varphi(a), \varphi(b) \neq \infty \\ &\implies \quad \varphi(a+b) \neq \infty \\ &\iff \quad a+b \in \mathcal{O}_\varphi. \end{aligned}$$

That $\mathcal{O}_\varphi$ is closed under multiplication is proven by a similar argument. Thus, $\mathcal{O}_\varphi$ is a subring of F.

We turn to prove that $\mathcal{O}_\varphi$ is a valuation ring with field of fractions F.

Take $a \in \mathrm{F}^\times$ with $a \notin \mathcal{O}_\varphi$. Then, $\varphi(a) = \infty$ and so, by Claim 4, $\varphi(a^{-1}) = 0 \neq \infty$. Thus, $a^{-1} \in \mathcal{O}_\varphi$. We further conclude that $\operatorname{Frac} \mathcal{O}_\varphi = \mathrm{F}$.

Places and valuation rings

Claim 8

Let $\varphi : \mathsf{F} \to \mathsf{K} \cup \{\infty\}$ be a place. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{O}_\varphi^\times &= \{a \in \mathsf{F} \mid \varphi(a) \notin \{0, \infty\}\} \\ &= \{a \in \mathcal{O}_\varphi \mid \varphi(a) \neq 0\} \\ &= \mathcal{O}_\varphi \setminus \ker \varphi. \end{aligned}$$

Proof.

By Claim 4,

$$\begin{aligned} a \in \mathcal{O}_\varphi^\times \quad &\iff \quad a, a^{-1} \in \mathcal{O}_\varphi \\ &\iff \quad \varphi(a), \varphi(a^{-1}) \neq \infty \\ &\iff \quad \varphi(a) \notin \{0, \infty\}. \end{aligned}$$

□

Places and valuation rings

Claim 9

Let $\varphi, \varphi' : \mathsf{F} \to \mathsf{K} \cup \{\infty\}$ be equivalent places. Then,

$$\mathcal{O}_\varphi = \mathcal{O}_{\varphi'}.$$

Proof.

This is straightforward by definition. Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{O}_\varphi &= \{a \in \mathsf{F} \mid \varphi(a) \neq \infty\} \\ &= \{a \in \mathsf{F} \mid \varphi'(a) \neq \infty\} \\ &= \mathcal{O}_{\varphi'}. \end{aligned}$$

□

Let K, F be fields and let $\varphi : \mathsf{F} \to \mathsf{K} \cup \{\infty\}$ be a place. We denote by $[\varphi]$ the equivalent class of φ.

Places and valuation rings

Theorem 10

The map

$$[\varphi] \mapsto \mathcal{O}_\varphi$$

is a bijection between the congruence classes of places of F and valuation rings with fraction field F.

Proof.

First, by Claim 9, the map is well-defined.

The one to one property is obvious. We prove that the mapping is onto.

Let R be a valuation ring with $\mathrm{Frac}\,\mathrm{R} = \mathrm{F}$. Let $\mathfrak{m}$ be R's maximal ideal and let $\mathrm{K} = \mathrm{R}/\mathfrak{m}$.

We extend the projection map $\psi : \mathrm{R} \to \mathrm{K}$ to F by setting $\psi(a) = \infty$ for all $a \in \mathrm{F} \setminus \mathrm{R}$. We turn to show that ψ is a place.

Proof.

Let $a, b \in \mathrm{F}$. We wish to show that

$$\psi(a+b) = \psi(a) + \psi(b)$$

whenever (at least) one of $\varphi(a), \varphi(b)$ is not ∞.

Case 1. $\psi(a), \psi(b) \neq \infty$ immediately follows.

Case 2. $\psi(a) \neq \infty$ and $\psi(b) = \infty$. Then,

$$\psi(a) + \psi(b) = \psi(a) + \infty = \infty.$$

On the other hand, $a + b \notin \mathrm{R}$ as otherwise $b = (a+b) - a \in \mathrm{R}$, and so $\psi(a+b) = \infty$.

Proof.

We turn to show that $\psi(ab) = \psi(a)\psi(b)$ when $\{\psi(a), \psi(b)\} \neq \{0, \infty\}$.

Case 1. $\psi(a), \psi(b) \neq \infty$ immediately follows.

Case 2. $\psi(a) = \infty$ and $\psi(b) \neq 0$. Then, $a \notin \mathrm{R}$. Further,

$$\psi(b^{-1}) \neq \infty$$

as otherwise $\psi(b) = 0$. Thus, $b^{-1} \in \mathrm{R}$. Now, if $\psi(ab) \neq \infty$ then $ab \in \mathrm{R}$ and so

$$a = (ab)b^{-1} \in \mathrm{R},$$

in contradiction to $a \notin \mathrm{R}$. Thus,

$$\psi(ab) = \infty = \psi(a)\psi(b).$$

Overview

1 Places

2 Examples

3 Trivial and equivalent places

4 Basic properties

5 The residue field

6 Places and valuation rings

7 Example

Example

Recall the example from the previous unit. Let $\mathsf{K} = \mathbb{F}_q$, let

$$f(x, y) = y^2 - x^3 + x \in K[x, y],$$

and consider the domain

$$C_f = \mathsf{K}[x, y] \Big/ \langle f(x, y) \rangle$$

whose field of fractions is denoted by $\mathsf{K}_f = \operatorname{Frac} C_f$. We proved that

$$\mathcal{O}_\circ = \left\{ \frac{a(x)}{b(x)} + y \frac{c(x)}{d(x)} \;\middle|\; b(0), d(0) \neq 0 \right\},$$

with the understanding that $a(T), b(T) \in \mathsf{K}[T]$ are coprime and so are $c(T), d(T) \in \mathsf{K}[T]$. Moreover,

$$\mathfrak{m}_\circ = \left\{ \frac{a(x)}{b(x)} + y \frac{c(x)}{d(x)} \;\middle|\; b(0), d(0) \neq 0 \text{ and } a(0) = 0 \right\}.$$

Example

$$\mathcal{O}_{\circ} = \left\{ \frac{a(x)}{b(x)} + y\frac{c(x)}{d(x)} \;\middle|\; b(0), d(0) \neq 0 \right\},$$

$$\mathfrak{m}_{\circ} = \left\{ \frac{a(x)}{b(x)} + y\frac{c(x)}{d(x)} \;\middle|\; b(0), d(0) \neq 0 \text{ and } a(0) = 0 \right\}.$$

We claim that $\mathcal{O}_{\circ} \big/ \mathfrak{m}_{\circ} \cong \mathsf{K}$. Indeed, consider the ring homomorphism

$$\psi : \mathcal{O}_{\circ} \to \mathsf{K}$$
$$\frac{a(x)}{b(x)} + y\frac{c(x)}{d(x)} \;\mapsto\; \frac{a(0)}{b(0)}.$$

ψ is well-defined as $b(0) \neq 0$ for every element of $\mathcal{O}_{\circ}$. Clearly, $\ker \psi = \mathfrak{m}_{\circ}$, and so $\mathcal{O}_{\circ} \big/ \mathfrak{m}_{\circ} \cong \mathsf{K}$ by the first isomorphism theorem.

Example

Following the proof of Theorem 10, we extend the projection map

$$\psi : \mathcal{O}_\mathfrak{o} \to \mathsf{K}$$

to

$$\varphi_\mathfrak{o} : \mathsf{K}_f \to \mathsf{K}$$

by setting $\varphi_\mathfrak{o}(a) = \infty$ for all $a \in \mathsf{K}_f \setminus \mathcal{O}_\mathfrak{o}$.

Thus,

$$\varphi_\mathfrak{o}\left(\frac{a(x)}{b(x)} + y\frac{c(x)}{d(x)}\right) = \begin{cases} \frac{a(0)}{b(0)}, & b(0) \neq 0 \text{ and } d(0) \neq 0; \\ \infty, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$