

# Henselian Ring

(One) Motivation: given a scheme  $X$ , and a point  $x \in X$ , the local ring at  $x$ .

$$\mathcal{O}_{X,x} = \varinjlim_{\substack{x \in U \rightarrow X \\ \text{units open}}} \mathcal{O}_X(U)$$

Question: When we are considering étale topology, what property should it have?

And we also expect it truly like some "topologically trivial disk".

I. Definition of Henselian rings **Idea**: lift the property on fiber to the whole neighborhood

Def / Thm: Let  $(A, \mathfrak{m})$  be a local ring. Denote  $X = \text{Spec } A$ ,  $k = A/\mathfrak{m}$ ,  $x = [\mathfrak{m}] \in X$ . Also view it as a closed subscheme of  $X$ ,  $x: \text{Spec } k(x) \hookrightarrow \text{Spec } A$ .

TFAE:

- ① Any finite  $A$ -algebra  $B$  is a direct product of local rings  $\prod_{i=1}^r B_i$
- ①' for any finite morphism  $Y \rightarrow X$ , each connected component of  $Y$  has a unique closed point which maps to  $\text{Spec } B$
- ①'' For any finite morphism  $Y \rightarrow X$ ,  $\{\text{connected components of } Y\} \xleftarrow{\cong} \{\text{connected components of } X\}$
- ② For any étale morphism  $f: Y \rightarrow X$ , (write  $Y_x := \text{Spec } k(x) \cap Y$ )  
**Rmk**: in fact this ② can be extended to all smooth  $f: Y \rightarrow X$ 
  - important then any section of  $f_x: Y_x \rightarrow \text{Spec } k(x)$  is induced by a section of  $f$ .  
this data consists of a point  $y \in Y$  st.  $k(y) \xleftarrow{\cong} k(x)$
  - Recall: for finite étale & separated  $f: Y \rightarrow X$ ,  
 $\{\text{sections of } f\} \xleftarrow{\cong} \{\text{connected component of } Y \text{ mapping isomorphically to } X\}$ , so sections are determined by a value at one point. So the term ② says  
 $\{\text{sections of } f: Y \rightarrow X\} \xleftarrow{\cong} \{\text{sections of } f_x: Y_x \rightarrow \text{Spec } k(x)\}$

- ③ For any  $f(t) \in A[t]$ , denote  $\bar{f}(t) \in k[t]$  for its image in this quotient

If  $\bar{f}(t) = \bar{g}(t) \bar{h}(t)$  for some relatively prime monic polynomials  $\bar{g}(t), \bar{h}(t)$

Then  $\exists$  uniquely determined lifting  $g(t), h(t) \in A[t]$  s.t.  $f(t) = g(t)h(t)$ , and  $(g(t), h(t)) = A[t]$

③'  $f_1, \dots, f_n \in A[T_1, \dots, T_n]$ ; if  $\exists a = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in k^n$ , st.  $\bar{f}_i(a) = 0$   $i=1, \dots, n$ , and  $\det(\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial T_j})(a) \neq 0$ , then  $\exists b \in A^n$ , st.  $\bar{b} = a$  and  $f_i(b) = 0$ ,  $i=1, \dots, n$

Some part of proof:

- $\textcircled{1} \Leftrightarrow \textcircled{1}' \Leftrightarrow \textcircled{1}''$  is direct.

( $\textcircled{1} \Rightarrow \textcircled{1}'$ :  $Y = \text{Spec } B = \bigsqcup_{i=1}^r \text{Spec } B_i$ , each  $\text{Spec } B_i$  is connected component and  $\text{Spec } B_i \rightarrow \text{Spec } A$  finite  $\Rightarrow$  closed map so the unique closed pt of  $\text{Spec } B_i$  will map to  $x$ )

$\textcircled{1}' \Rightarrow \textcircled{1}''$ : for each connected component  $Y_i$ ,  $\textcircled{1}'$  says  $Y_i = \text{Spec } B_i$ , and  $A \rightarrow B_i$  is a local ring homo, so  $A/\mathfrak{m} \rightarrow B_i/\mathfrak{m}B_i$  is also local ring homo

$\textcircled{1}'' \Rightarrow \textcircled{1}$ : for each connected component  $Y_i$ ,  $\textcircled{1}''$  says  $Y_i = \text{Spec } B_i$ , and the finite  $k$ -algebra  $B_i/\mathfrak{m}B_i$  is connected, which can only be local ring (using the structure theorem of Artinian ring, [Atiyah-MacDonald, Thm 8.7])

So  $B_i$  is local ring.

- $\textcircled{1} \Rightarrow \textcircled{2}$ .

Unramified requires locally of finite type. After specialize  $Y$  at some nhbd of  $y$ , we assume  $Y$  affine &  $f: Y \rightarrow X$  is finite type, then unramified implies quasi-finite

since  $Y \rightarrow X$  is separated,  $X$  qcpt, Zariski main thm implies

$Y \rightarrow X$  factors as  $Y \xrightarrow{j} Y' \xrightarrow{f'} X$ .  $\textcircled{1}$  implies  $Y' = \bigsqcup_i \text{Spec } B_i$ ,

where  $B_i$  are local, finite over  $A$ .  $y$  belongs to some  $\text{Spec } B_i$ , then  $y$  must be the closed point in  $B_i$  (a version of going up? [Atiyah-MacDonald, Cor 5.9])

Then  $\text{Spec } B_i \subseteq Y$  since  $Y$  is open so contains all points specialize to  $y$

We know  $A \rightarrow B_i$  is finite étale, in particular finite flat  $\Rightarrow$  free of finite rank

And  $A/\mathfrak{m} \xrightarrow{\cong} B_i/\mathfrak{m}B_i$  has a section so  $A/\mathfrak{m} \rightarrow B_i/\mathfrak{m}B_i$  is isomorphism  $\Rightarrow B_i$  is a free  $A$ -mod of rank 1, i.e.  $A \xrightarrow{\cong} B_i$

Then  $\text{Spec } A \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Spec } B \hookrightarrow Y$  gives a section

- $\textcircled{0} \Rightarrow \textcircled{3}'$  Follows from the structure thm of étale morphism, i.e. étale morphism locally look like  $\text{Spec}(A/\mathfrak{f}(t))_b$
- $\textcircled{3}' \Rightarrow \textcircled{2}$  a technical trick, see [Milne Thm 4.2  $(d') \Rightarrow (e)$ ]  
(I even didn't read ...)
- $\textcircled{3} \Rightarrow \textcircled{1}/\textcircled{1}'/\textcircled{1}''$  idea:  $\textcircled{3}$  assures lifting the good property of fiber to the whole neighborhood, and at fiber they are Artinian.  
First prove  $B$  of the form  $A[T]/f(T)$ , then

$$(A[T]/f(T)) \otimes_{A/m} k = k[T]/\bar{f}(T) = \prod_i k[T]/\bar{f}_i(T) \text{ where } \bar{f}(T) = \prod \bar{f}_i(T)$$

$$\bar{f}(T) = \prod \bar{f}_i(T) \text{ lifts to } f(T) = \prod f_i(T),$$

$\bar{f}_i(T)$  power of irreducible  
 $\bar{f}_i, \bar{f}_j$  coprime

$$(f_i(T), f_j(T)) = A[T] \quad (i \neq j)$$

$$\text{By Chinese remainder } \Rightarrow A[T]/f(T) = \prod_i A[T]/f_i(T)$$

Each  $A[T]/f_i(T)$  is local because  $(A[T]/f_i(T)) \otimes A/m$  is local

(Here we use going up, so any maximal ideal in  $A[T]/f_i(T)$  lies over  $m$ )

Second, let  $B$  be an arbitrary finite  $A$ -algebra. Then  $B/mB$  is a finite

$k = A/m$ -alg, so is Artinian. By the structure thm of Artinian ring,

$B/mB \cong \prod_{i=1}^r B_i$  of local ring. Let  $\bar{e}_i = (0 \dots 1, \dots 0)$  be idempotents.

Take  $b \in B$  s.t.  $\bar{b}_i = e_i$ , and since  $B$  is finite over  $A \Rightarrow$  integral  $\Rightarrow \exists$  monic polynomial  $f_i(T) \in A[T]$  s.t.  $f_i(b_i) = 0$ .

Consider  $C_i = A[T]/f_i(T) \rightarrow B$ ,  $C_i/mC_i \rightarrow B/mB$   
 $T \mapsto b_i$

idempotents of  $B/mB$  in the image of  $C_i/mC_i \rightarrow B/mB$  easily lifts to  $C_i/mC_i$   
 (by the structure of Artinian rings)

Then lift  $b_i$  to an idempotent in  $C_i/mC_i$

Then according to first step, lift this idempotent to an idempotent in  $C_i$

Cor 1: If  $A$  is Henselian, then so is any finite local  $A$ -alg  $B$  and any quotient ring  $A/I$ .

Prop 1: If  $A$  is Henselian, then we have equivalence

$$\{ \text{cat of finite \'etale } A\text{-alg} \} \xrightarrow{\sim} \{ \text{cat of finite \'etale } k\text{-alg} \}$$

$$B \longrightarrow B \otimes_A k$$

Or more geometrically

$$\{ \text{cat of finite \'etale } Y \rightarrow \text{Spec } A \} \xrightarrow{\sim} \{ \text{cat of finite \'etale } \bar{Y} \rightarrow \text{Spec } k \}$$

$$Y \longrightarrow Y_x, \quad x = m \in \text{Spec } A$$

Proof: ①. Apply Def/Thm ①, only need to consider finite \'etale (local  $A$ -alg) /  $\text{Spec}(-)$

②.. Need to show  $\text{Hom}_X(Y', Y) \cong \text{Hom}_x(Y'_x, Y_x)$

In fact, we can show a more general lemma. (useful; and can also generalize: Be an  $\text{colim of \'etale } A\text{-alg}^s$ )

Lem 1: Let  $A \rightarrow R$  be a ring map, with  $(R, m)$  Henselian, local ring. Let  $B$  be an \'etale  $A$ -algebra. Write  $X = \text{Spec } A$ ,  $Y = \text{Spec } B$ ,  $Z = \text{Spec } R$ . Let  $x \in X$  st.  $z = [m]$  lies over  $x$ ;  $Y_x = \text{Spec } B \otimes_A k(x)$

Then  $\text{Hom}_X(Z, Y) \cong \text{Hom}_x(Z, Y_x)$

In other word, give a prime  $P_y$  of  $B$  st.  $m$  lies over  $P_y$ , and a  $k(x)$ -alg map  $k(y) \rightarrow k(x)$  we can uniquely determine a  $X$ -morphism  $Z \rightarrow Y$ , or  $A$ -algebra map  $B \rightarrow R$

Proof of Lem: Notice that  $\text{Hom}_X(Z, Y) = \{ \text{sections of projection } Z \times_X Y \rightarrow Z \}$

specialize at  $z \in Z$

$= \{ \text{sections of projection } z \times_X Y \rightarrow z \}$

$(z \times_X Y = z \times_X Y_x)$

$= \{ \text{sections of projection } z \times_X Y_x \rightarrow z \}$

(Def/Thm ②)

$= \text{Hom}_x(z, Y_x)$

Come back, in our case  $Y'$  is Henselian, and  $Y'_x = y' Y_x = y$  since they are étale local ring over  $X$

(3). essentially surjective: any local finite étale  $k$ -alg  $K$  has the form

$$K = k[T]/\overline{f(T)} \quad \overline{f(T)} \text{ monic irreducible separable}$$

so  $\overline{f(T)}' \neq 0$

Lift  $\overline{f(T)}$  to a monic  $f(T) \in A[T]$ . Then  $A[T]/\overline{f(T)}$  is a finite local ring over  $A$ , and  $f'(T)$  is not in the maximal ideal of  $A[T]$   
so is a unit in this local ring

$$\Rightarrow A[T]/\overline{f(T)} \text{ is finite étale over } A.$$

□

In particular, if  $k$  is already separably closed, any finite étale  $A$ -algebra is copies of  $A$

Def 2:  $(A, \mathfrak{m})$  is strictly Henselian, if  $(A, \mathfrak{m})$  is Henselian, and  $k = A/\mathfrak{m}$  is separably closed.

Important example:

Prop 2: Any complete local ring is Henselian ( $\Rightarrow$  Hensel's lemma in number theory)

Proof using ①: ([Fu, Prop 2.8.4. First method])

(The  
notation is  
a little bit  
different)

*First Method:* Let us verify that the condition 2.8.3 (i) holds. Let  $A$  be a finite  $R$ -algebra. Then  $A$  is complete with respect to the  $\mathfrak{m}$ -adic topology. Any maximal ideal of  $A$  lies over the maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$  of  $R$ . Since  $A/\mathfrak{m}A$  is finite over  $R/\mathfrak{m}$ , it is artinian. It follows that  $A$  has finitely many maximal ideals. Let  $\mathfrak{m}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{m}_n$  be all the maximal ideals of  $A$ . Then the nilpotent radical of  $A/\mathfrak{m}A$  is  $(\mathfrak{m}_1 \cap \dots \cap \mathfrak{m}_n)/\mathfrak{m}A$ . So there exists a positive integer  $k$  such that

$$(\mathfrak{m}_1 \cap \dots \cap \mathfrak{m}_n)^k \subset \mathfrak{m}A \subset \mathfrak{m}_1 \cap \dots \cap \mathfrak{m}_n.$$

Combined with the Chinese remainder theorem, we get

$$A \cong \varprojlim_i A/\mathfrak{m}^i A \cong \varprojlim_i A/\mathfrak{m}_1^i \cdots \mathfrak{m}_n^i \cong \varprojlim_i (A/\mathfrak{m}_1^i \times \cdots \times A/\mathfrak{m}_n^i) \cong \widehat{A}_{\mathfrak{m}_1} \times \cdots \times \widehat{A}_{\mathfrak{m}_n}$$

So  $A$  is a direct product of local rings.

Proof using ②: ([Milne, Prop 4.5])

$\text{Spec } B$

$Y \rightarrow X = \text{Spec } A$ ,  $Y_x \rightarrow \text{Spec}(x)$  has a section

$$\hookrightarrow \text{Spec } A/\mathfrak{m} \rightarrow Y_x \hookrightarrow Y$$

Since  $\text{Hom}_A(B, A/\mathfrak{m}) = \text{Hom}_A(B, A/\mathfrak{m}^2) = \text{Hom}_A(B, A/\mathfrak{m}^3) \dots$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Hom}_A(B, A/\mathfrak{m}) = \varprojlim_n \text{Hom}_A(B, A/\mathfrak{m}^n) = \text{Hom}_A(B, \varprojlim A) = \text{Hom}_A(B, A)$$

so  $\text{Hom}_A(B, A) \neq \emptyset$

Proof using ③': 半直述式法.

Another fun fact: If  $X$  is analytic mfld over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , then the local ring at a point  $x$  of  $X$  is Henselian.

Next goal is to answer the question at the beginning.

Let  $(A, \mathfrak{m})$  be a local ring,  $k = A/\mathfrak{m}$ .  $X = \text{Spec } A$ ,  $x = [\mathfrak{m}] \in X$

An étale neighborhood of  $(A, \mathfrak{m})$  consists of the following data  $(B, \mathfrak{q})$ :  $B$  is an étale  $A$ -algebra,  $\mathfrak{q}$  is a prime ideal lying over  $\mathfrak{m}$ . (or  $(X, x)$ )

$A$ -algebra,  $\mathfrak{q}$  is a prime ideal lying over  $\mathfrak{m}$ . We say this étale nbhd elementary

if  $A \rightarrow B$  induces an isomorphism of residue field at  $\mathfrak{q}$ ,  $k(x) \xrightarrow{\sim} k(\mathfrak{q})$

Caution:  $(B, \mathfrak{q})$  may not be

(i). Lem: The set of elementary étale nbhds form a filtered system.

Proof: (i). Exists étale nbhd

(ii).  $(\text{Spec } B, \mathfrak{q}), (\text{Spec } B', \mathfrak{q}')$  are two elementary étale nbhds

Then consider  $\underset{\text{Spec } A}{\text{Spec } B \times \text{Spec } B'} = \text{Spec } B \otimes_A B' = B''$

and a prime  $\mathfrak{q}'' := \mathfrak{q} \otimes B' + B \otimes \mathfrak{q}' \subseteq B \otimes_A B' = B''$  gives an elementary étale nbhd  $(B'', \mathfrak{q}'')$  of  $A$ , and  $(A, \mathfrak{m}) \rightarrow (B'', \mathfrak{q}'') \xrightarrow{\quad} (B - \mathfrak{q}'') \xrightarrow{\quad} (B', \mathfrak{q}')$

(iii) Two morphisms between étale nbhds  $(B, \mathfrak{q}) \xrightarrow{\varphi} (B', \mathfrak{q}')$

Let  $\text{Spec } B''$  be the connected component of  $\text{Spec } B'$  containing  $[\mathfrak{q}']$

Then  $(B'', \mathfrak{q}')$  is an étale nbhd of  $(A, \mathfrak{m})$ , and the composition

$(B, \mathfrak{q}) \xrightarrow{\varphi} (B', \mathfrak{q}') \rightarrow (B'', \mathfrak{q}')$  must be equal according to [Milne, Cor 3.13]

(consider sections of projection  $\underset{\text{Spec } A}{\text{Spec } B'' \times \text{Spec } B} \rightarrow \text{Spec } B''$ )

□

Def: Define  $A^n := \underset{(B, \mathfrak{q})}{\text{colim}} B$  to be the filtered colimit along elementary étale nbhds

(It consists of elements  $(B, q, f)$ , where  $f \in B$ , modulo equivalence that  $(B, q, f) \sim (B', q', f')$  if  $\exists (B, q) \xrightarrow{\Psi} (B'', q'')$ ,  $(B', q') \xrightarrow{\Psi} (B'', q'')$  s.t.  $\Psi(f) = \Psi(f')$

Prop 3. (1)  $A^h$  is a local ring with maximal ideal  $mA^h$ , and  $A/m \cong A^h/m^h$

(2)  $A^h$  is Henselian, and for any other Henselian ring  $(\tilde{A}, \tilde{m})$ , and

means  $\underbrace{\text{Hom}_{\text{loc}}(A^h, \tilde{A})}_{\text{local ring map}} = \text{Hom}_{\text{loc}}(A, \tilde{A})$ , which is the universal property of  $A^h$

Proof: (1). Since  $Bq$  can also be written as filtered colimit  $\underset{b \in Bq}{\text{colim}} B_b$

and  $(B_b, qB_b)$  are all elementary étale nbhds, we know

$A^h \cong \underset{(B, q)}{\text{colim}} Bq$ . Every maps  $(B_q, q) \rightarrow (B'_q, q')$  are local.

so this is a filtered colimit of local rings, thus  $A^h$  is local ring

with maximal ideal  $m^h := \underset{(B, q)}{\text{colim}} qB_q$  (Reason:  $A^h/m^h = \underset{(B, q)}{\text{colim}} (B_q - qB_q)$  consists of units)

Since  $A \rightarrow B$  is étale  $\Rightarrow qB_q = mB_q \Rightarrow m^h = \underset{(B, q)}{\text{colim}} mB_q = mA^h$

And  $A^h/m^h = \underset{(B, q)}{\text{colim}} B_q/qB_q = k = A/m$

(2).

• We first show  $(A^h, m^h)$  is Henselian. We want to verify Def/Prop ②.

Let  $Y \rightarrow \text{Spec } A^h$  be an étale morphism with a section at the fibre of  $[m^h]$ .

Let  $y \in Y$  be the image of this section; we also know  $k(y) = k$ . Shrink  $Y$  we assume  $Y$  is of

standard form, which means  $Y = \text{Spec } R_b$ , where  $R = A[T]/(f(T))$ , and  $b = \overline{b(T)} \in R$

s.t.  $f(T)$  is unit in  $R_b$ . We can find some elementary étale nbhd  $(B, q)$

s.t. the coefficients of  $f(T)$  and  $b(T)$  and all comes from  $B$ .

Then we can define  $R' := B[T]/(f(T))$ ,  $b = \overline{b(T)} \in R'$ , and  $Y' := \text{Spec } R'_b$

$$y' := mR'_b, \quad y' = [\psi_{y'}]$$

$$\text{So } \underset{\text{Spec}B}{\text{Spec}A^h} \times Y' = Y, \quad k(y') = R'_b/mR'_b = R_b/mR_b = k$$

Since  $Y'$  is étale over  $\text{Spec}B$ , so is étale over  $\text{Spec}A$ .

So  $(Y', y')$  is also an elementary étale nbhd of  $(\text{Spec}A, [m])$

Then we have a map  $(\text{Spec}A^h, [m^h]) \rightarrow (Y', y')$ . The graph of this map is is a section of  $Y \rightarrow \text{Spec}A^h$

- Second,  $\text{Hom}_{\text{loc}}(A^h, \tilde{A}) = \text{Hom}_{\text{loc}}(\text{colim}_{(B, q)} Bq, \tilde{A}) = \lim_{(B, q)} \text{Hom}_{\text{loc}}(Bq, \tilde{A})$  (2)

$\text{Hom}_{\text{loc}}(Bq, \tilde{A})$  consists of ring map  $B \xrightarrow{\varphi} \tilde{A}$  st.  $\varphi^{-1}(\tilde{m}) = q$

If we give a local homo  $A \rightarrow A^h$ , according to Lem 1, it uniquely determine a map  $B \rightarrow \tilde{A}$  st.  $\begin{array}{ccc} B & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & \tilde{A} \\ \downarrow & \nearrow & \cong \\ A & & \end{array}$

Combine the equation (2), we get a unique element in  $\text{Hom}_{\text{loc}}(A^h, \tilde{A})$

□

We call  $(A^h, m^h)$  the henselization of  $(A, m)$ .

For any scheme  $X, x \in X$  Similar as before, define the cat of (elementary) étale nbhd  $(U, u)$  at  $x$  whose opposite cat also forms a filtered system, we can also form  $\text{colim}_{(U, u)} \mathcal{O}_X(U)$ , which can be viewed as stalk of structure sheaf at  $x$  under étale topology.

Claim :  $\text{colim}_{(U, u)} \mathcal{O}(U) = \mathcal{O}_{X,x}^h$ .

The proof is not very hard, since the localization for a ring can also be constructed by colimit. For more details, see [Stacks, Tag 05KS]

There is also a similar notion called strict Henselization.

In this situation, we are considering geometric point: For a scheme  $X$ , a geometric point is a morphism  $x: \text{Spec} K \rightarrow X$  for some separably closed field  $K$ .

Now let  $(A, m)$  be a local ring with notations as before, i.e.  $x = [m] \in X = \text{Spec } A, k = A/m$

Fix a separably closed field  $k^{\text{sep}} \supseteq k$ . This sentence means we fix a geometric point  $\text{Spec } k^{\text{sep}} \rightarrow X$  with image  $x$ . We also denote this geometric point  $\bar{x}$ .

We can define the notion of étale nbhd for a geometric point. This notion consists of data  $(B, \eta, \alpha)$ , st  $B$  is étale  $A$ -algebra,  $\eta$  lies over  $m$ ,  $\alpha$  is a field map  $\alpha: k(\eta) \rightarrow k^{\text{sep}}$  st.

$$k(\eta) \xrightarrow{\alpha} k^{\text{sep}}$$

commutes

$\downarrow$

$k$

Similar as before, one can show the category of étale nbhd at a geometric point form a filtered system, and we can also define

$$A^{\text{sh}} := \underset{(B, \eta, \alpha)}{\text{colim}} B$$

We can similarly prove

(1)  $A^{\text{sh}}$  is a local ring with maximal ideal  $m^{\text{sh}} = mA^{\text{sh}}$ , and a natural geometric point

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} k & \longrightarrow & k & \longrightarrow & k^{\text{sep}} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ A & \longrightarrow & A^{\text{h}} & \longrightarrow & A^{\text{sh}} \end{array}$$

$\bar{x}^{\text{sh}}: \text{Spec } k^{\text{sep}} \rightarrow \text{Spec } A^{\text{sh}}$

We have Cartesian diagram

(in fact,  $k(m^{\text{sh}}) \cong k^{\text{sep}}$ )

(2)  $A^{\text{sh}}$  is strict Henselian and for any other strict Henselian ring  $(\tilde{A}, \tilde{m})$

$\text{Hom}_{\text{loc w/geom pt}}(A^{\text{sh}}, \tilde{A}) = \text{Hom}_{\text{loc w/geom pt}}(A, \tilde{A})$ , which is the universal property of  $A^{\text{sh}}$

$\hookrightarrow$  this means local ring homo, st. compatible with their natural geometric points.

We will call  $(A^{\text{sh}}, m^{\text{sh}})$  the strict Henselization of  $(A, m)$ .

Another construction of  $A^{sh}$  using  $A^h$ : According to Prop 1, to any finite separable extension  $\mathbb{F} \subseteq K \subseteq k^{sep}$ , we can construct a finite étale  $A^h$ -algebra  $A^h(k')$  st.  $A^h(k')/\mathfrak{m}_{A^h(k')} = k'$ . We can construct  $A^{sh}$  using  $\bigcup_{k \subseteq k' \subseteq k^{sep}} A^h(k')$

For any scheme  $X$ ,  $x : \text{Spec} k \rightarrow X$  is a geometric point. Similar as before, define the cat of étale nbhd  $(U, u, \alpha)$ , where  $U \rightarrow X$  is étale,  $u \in U$ ,  $\begin{array}{c} \alpha \\ \downarrow \text{Spec} k \\ \longrightarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} u \\ \downarrow x \\ X \end{array}$ , image of  $\alpha \circ u$ .

The opposite cat also forms a filtered system, We can also form  $\operatorname{colim}_{(U, u, \alpha)} (j_{X(U)})$ , which can be viewed as stalk of structure sheaf at the geom point  $x$  under étale topology.

Use similar argument as before, we have  $\operatorname{colim}_{(U,u,\alpha)} \mathcal{O}(U) = \mathcal{O}_{X,x}^{\text{sh}}$

## Some properties of (strict) Henselization.

- Functionality ( [stacks, tag o BSK] )

- $A \rightarrow A^h \rightarrow A^{sh}$  are faithfully flat ring maps;
  - $A \rightarrow A^h$ ,  $A^h \rightarrow A^{sh}$ ,  $A \rightarrow A^{sh}$  are formally étale } (since they are cōtriv of étale  $A$  of  $\mathfrak{p}$ )
  - $A$  is Noetherian  $\Leftrightarrow A^h$  is Noetherian  $\Leftrightarrow A^{sh}$  is Noetherian

If in this case we have :  $\hat{A} \cong (\hat{A}^h)$ ,  $\hat{A} \rightarrow A^{sh}$  is formally smooth

$$(\widehat{A})^{sh} = \widehat{A} \otimes_{\widehat{A}^h} \widehat{A}^h, \quad (\widehat{(A)}^{sh}) = (\widehat{A}^{sh}) \quad \dots$$

- $A \text{ is reduced} \Leftrightarrow A^h \text{ is reduced} \Leftrightarrow A^{sh} \text{ is reduced}$ ,  
 (normal) (normal) (normal)  
 (Cohen-Macaulay) (Cohen-Macaulay) (Cohen-Macaulay) for Noetherian local A  
 (regular) (regular) (regular) for Noetherian local A  
 (DVR) (DVR) (DVR) for Noetherian local A
  - $\dim(A) = \dim(A^h) = \dim(A^{sh})$
  - $\text{depth}(A) = \text{depth}(A^h) = \text{depth}(A^{sh})$  for Noetherian local A

Example :

*Examples 4.10.* (a) Let  $A$  be normal; let  $K$  be the field of fractions of  $A$ , and let  $K_s$  be a separable closure of  $K$ . The Galois group  $G$  of  $K_s$  over  $K$  acts on the integral closure  $B$  of  $A$  in  $K_s$ . Let  $\mathfrak{n}$  be a maximal ideal of  $B$  lying over  $\mathfrak{m}$ , and let  $D \subset G$  be the decomposition group of  $\mathfrak{n}$ , that is,  $D = \{\sigma \in G \mid \sigma(\mathfrak{n}) = \mathfrak{n}\}$ . Let  $A^h$  be the localization at  $\mathfrak{n}^D$  of the integral closure  $B^D$  of  $A$  in  $K_s^D$ . (Here

$$B^D = \{b \in B \mid \sigma(b) = b \text{ all } \sigma \in D\}$$

etc.) I claim that  $A^h$  is the Henselization of  $A$ .

Indeed, if  $A^h$  were not Henselian, there would exist a monic polynomial  $f(T)$  that is irreducible over  $A^h$  but whose reduction  $\bar{f}(T)$  factors into relatively prime factors. But from such an  $f$  one can construct a finite Galois extension  $L$  of  $K_s^D$  such that the integral closure  $A'$  of  $A^h$  in  $L$  is not local. This is a contradiction since the Galois group of  $L$  over  $K_s^D$  permutes the prime ideals of  $A'$  lying over  $\mathfrak{n}^D$  and hence cannot be a quotient of  $D$ . To see that  $A^h$  is the Henselization, one only has to show that it is a union of étale neighborhoods of  $A$ , but this is easy using (3.21).