

# M4P33 Algebraic Geometry

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## 0 Introduction

I will not follow a particular book, but everything I am going to say will be contained in one of the following books.

Lecture 1  
Friday  
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- I Shafarevich, Basic algebraic geometry, 1974
- R Hartshorne, Algebraic geometry, 1977
- J Harris, Algebraic geometry: a first course, 1992

# 1 Affine varieties

*Notation 1.1.*

- $R$  is a commutative ring with unity.
- $K$  is a field.
- $K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is the ring of polynomials in  $n$  variables.
- $\mathbb{A}^n$  is  $K^n$  as a set.

**Definition 1.2.** Let  $S \subseteq K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  then

$$Z(S) = \{x \in \mathbb{A}^n \mid \forall f \in S, f(x) = 0\}$$

is called the **zero locus** of  $S$ . Subsets of  $\mathbb{A}^n$  that are of this form are called **affine varieties**.

*Remark 1.3.* Some authors call **algebraic set** the object  $Z(S)$ . We will not follow this notation.

**Example 1.4.**

- Single points  $p = (p_1, \dots, p_n)$ .  $p = Z(S)$  where  $S = \{x_1 - p_1, \dots, x_n - p_n\}$ .
- $\mathbb{A}^n = Z(0)$ .
- $\emptyset = Z(1)$ .
- Subspaces of  $\mathbb{A}^n = K^n$ .
- If  $X = Z(f_1, \dots, f_n) \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n$  and  $Y = Z(g_1, \dots, g_m) \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n$  are affine varieties then

$$X \times Y = Z(f_1, \dots, f_n, g_1, \dots, g_m) \subseteq \mathbb{A}^{n+m}$$

is a variety.

*Remark 1.5.* If  $S \subseteq K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and  $I = \langle S \rangle$  then  $Z(S) = Z(I)$ .

**Theorem 1.6** (Hilbert's basis theorem). *If  $R$  is Noetherian then  $R[x]$  is Noetherian.*

**Corollary 1.7.** *Every ideal in  $K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is finitely generated.*

**Definition 1.8.** Let  $X \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n$  then

$$I(X) = \{f \in K[x_1, \dots, x_n] \mid \forall x \in X, f(x) = 0\}.$$

**Example 1.9.**  $I(p) = I((p_1, \dots, p_n)) = \langle x_1 - p_1, \dots, x_n - p_n \rangle$ .

Goal is

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \{\text{affine varieties in } \mathbb{A}^n\} & \leftrightarrow & \{\text{ideals of } K[x_1, \dots, x_n]\} \\ X & \mapsto & I(X) \\ Z(J) & \leftarrow & J \end{array}.$$

$$Z(I(X)) = X \text{ but } I(Z(J)) \supseteq J.$$

**Example 1.10.**  $J = \langle x^2 + 1 \rangle \subseteq \mathbb{R}[x] = I(\emptyset) = I(Z(x^2 + 1))$ .

**Proposition 1.11.**

- If  $X \subseteq Y$  then  $I(Y) \subseteq I(X)$ . If  $I \subseteq J$  then  $Z(J) \subseteq Z(I)$ .
- $X \subseteq Z(I(X))$  and  $S \subseteq I(Z(S))$ .
- If  $X$  is affine then  $Z(J(X)) = X$ . If  $X = Z(S)$  then take  $Z$  of  $S \subseteq I(Z(S))$ .

**Example 1.12.** Let  $J \subseteq \mathbb{C}[x]$ .  $J = \langle f \rangle$ , where  $f = (x - x_1)^{k_1} \dots (x - x_n)^{k_n}$ .

**Definition 1.13.** Let  $I \subseteq K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be an ideal.

$$I \subseteq \sqrt{I} = \{f \in K[x_1, \dots, x_n] \mid \exists n \in \mathbb{N}, f^n \in I\}.$$

If  $\sqrt{I} = I$ , we say  $I$  is a **radical ideal**. (Exercise:  $\sqrt{I}$  is an ideal,  $I \subseteq \sqrt{I}$ , and  $\sqrt{I} = \bigcap_{p \text{ prime}} p$ )

**Theorem 1.14** (Hilbert's Nullstellensatz).  $I(Z(J)) = \sqrt{J}$ . If  $\sqrt{J} = J$  then

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \{\text{affine varieties}\} & \leftrightarrow & \{\text{radical ideals}\} \\ X & \mapsto & I(X) \\ Z(J) & \leftarrow & J \end{array}.$$

**Proposition 1.15.**

1.  $Z(S) \cup Z(T) = Z(ST)$ .
2.  $\bigcap_i Z(S_i) = Z(\bigcup_i S_i)$ .
3.  $Z(0) = \mathbb{A}^n$  and  $Z(1) = \emptyset$ .

*Proof.*

1. If  $p \in Z(S) \cup Z(T)$ , then  $f(p) = 0$  for  $f \in S$  or  $f \in T$ , so  $f(p) = 0$  for  $f \in ST$ , where

$$ST = \left\{ \sum_{i \in I, I \text{ finite}} s_i t_i \right\} \subseteq S \cap T,$$

with equality if  $S + T = R$ . If  $p \in Z(ST)$ , there exists  $f$  such that  $f(p) = 0$  for  $f \in S$  or  $f(p) = 0$  for  $f \in T$ , so  $p \in Z(S) \cup Z(T)$ .

□

**Definition 1.16.** The **Zariski topology** on  $\mathbb{A}^n$  is the topology generated by closed sets of the form  $Z(S)$ . By the above proposition this is a topology.

**Example 1.17.**  $\mathbb{A}^1$  is not Hausdorff.

**Definition 1.18.** A topological space  $X$  is **irreducible** if it cannot be expressed as a union  $X = A \cup B$ , where  $A$  and  $B$  are proper and closed subsets.  $\emptyset$  is not considered irreducible.

**Example 1.19.**  $\mathbb{A}^1$ .

**Example 1.20.** Any non-empty open set of irreducible  $X$  is dense and irreducible. Suppose  $A$  is open then  $X = A^c \cup \overline{A}$ . Since  $X$  is irreducible then  $A^c = X$ , a contradiction, or  $\overline{A} = X$ . Suppose  $A$  is reducible. Let  $A = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$ , where  $B$  and  $C$  are closed. Then  $X = A^c \cup (B \cup C)$ .  $A^c = X$  or  $B \cup C = X$ , which are contradictions.

**Example 1.21.** If  $A$  is irreducible then  $\overline{A}$  is also irreducible. Suppose  $\overline{A}$  is not irreducible.  $\overline{A} = (\overline{A} \cap B) \cup (\overline{A} \cap C)$ . Take  $\bigcap A$ ,  $A = (A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)$ , a contradiction.

**Definition 1.22.** An affine variety is **irreducible** if it is irreducible as a topological space.

*Remark 1.23.* A **quasi-affine variety** is an open set of an affine variety.

**Proposition 1.24.**

1.  $I(X \cup Y) = I(X) \cap I(Y)$ .
2.  $Z(I(X)) = \overline{X}$  for any  $X \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n$ .

*Proof.*

1. If  $f \in I(X \cup Y)$  then  $f(p) = 0$  for all  $p \in X \cup Y$ , so  $f \in I(X)$  and  $f \in I(Y)$ .
2. We know that  $X \subseteq Z(I(X))$  hence  $\overline{X} \subseteq Z(I(X))$ . Now, let  $Y$  be a closed set containing  $X$ , that is  $X \subseteq Y$ . Then

$$I(Y) \subset I(X) \implies Z(I(X)) \subset Z(I(X)) = Y,$$

so any closed set containing  $Y$  contains  $Z(I(X))$ .

□

**Proposition 1.25.**  $X$  is irreducible if and only if  $I(X)$  is prime.

*Proof.*

$\implies$  Let  $f, g \in I(X)$ .

$$X \subseteq Z(fg) = Z(f) \cup Z(g) \implies X = (X \cap Z(f)) \cup (X \cap Z(g)).$$

$Z(f) \subseteq X$ , so  $f \in I(X)$ , or  $Z(g) \subseteq X$ , so  $g \in I(X)$ .

$\Leftarrow$  Exercise.

□

**Example 1.26.**  $\mathbb{A}^n$ .

**Definition 1.27.** If  $X \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n$ , the **coordinate ring** of  $X$  is

$$A(X) = \frac{A}{I(X)} = \frac{K[x_1, \dots, x_n]}{I(X)}.$$

**Example 1.28.** Let  $f \in K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be irreducible. If  $n = 3$ ,  $Z(f)$  is a surface. If  $n = 2$ ,  $Z(f)$  is a curve.

**Example 1.29.** Let  $y - x^2 \in K[x, y]$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} A(X) &= \frac{K[x, y]}{\langle y - x^2 \rangle} \cong K[x, x^2] \rightarrow K[x] \\ \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} x^i x^{2j} &= \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} x^{2j+i} \mapsto \sum_n b_n x^n \end{aligned}$$

**Example 1.30.** Let  $xy - 1 \in K[x, y]$ . Then

$$A(X) = \frac{K[x, y]}{\langle xy - 1 \rangle} \cong K\left[x, \frac{1}{x}\right].$$

$A(X)$  cannot be  $K[x]$ .

**Definition 1.31.** A **Noetherian** topological space  $X$  is a topological space such that if

$$C_1 \supseteq C_2 \supseteq \dots$$

is a decreasing chain of closed sets then there is a  $k$  such that  $C_k = C_{k+1} = \dots$ .

**Example 1.32.**  $\mathbb{A}^n$ . Recall that if  $A \subset B$  then  $I(B) \subset I(A)$ . So using the definition above,

$$I(C_1) \subseteq I(C_2) \subseteq \dots$$

Since  $K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is Noetherian then  $I(C_i)$  stabilises. So  $I(C_k) = I(C_{k+1}) = \dots$ , but taking  $Z$ , we recover  $C_k$  so  $C_k$  stabilises as well.

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**Theorem 1.33.** *If  $X$  is Noetherian then any non-empty closed subset can be expressed as a finite union of irreducible closed sets  $X = Y_1 \cup \dots \cup Y_n$ . Moreover, if we require that  $Y_i \subseteq Y_j$  then this expression is unique.*

*Proof.* Let  $C$  be the collection of closed sets that do not satisfy that property. Let  $Y$  be a minimum closed inside  $C$ , in particular  $Y$  is reducible, so  $Y = Y' \cup Y''$ , for  $Y', Y''$  closed. Hence  $Y', Y'' \notin C$ , so they can be expressed as a finite union of irreducibles, a contradiction. If  $Y_i \not\subseteq Y_j$ , then suppose

$$Y_1 \cup \dots \cup Y_n = X_1 \cup \dots \cup X_n.$$

Then  $Y_1 \subset X_1 \cup X_n$ , in particular  $Y_1 = \bigcup_j (Y_1 \cap X_j)$ , so there is a  $j$  such that  $Y_1 \cap X_j = Y_1$ , so  $Y_1 \subset X_j$ . We can assume  $j = 1$  and repeat the same argument to find that  $Y_1 = X_1$ , so consider  $\overline{Y \setminus Y_1} = Y_2 \cup \dots \cup Y_n$ . But

$$Y_2 \cup \dots \cup Y_n = X_2 \cup \dots \cup X_n,$$

and the result follows by induction.  $\square$

**Corollary 1.34.** *Any affine variety in  $\mathbb{A}^n$  can be expressed equally as a union of irreducible algebraic varieties.*

**Definition 1.35.** The **dimension** of a topological space is the supremum of  $n$  where

$$Y_0 \subset \dots \subset Y_n$$

is a sequence of irreducible closed sets.

**Example 1.36.** Dimension of  $\mathbb{A}^1$  is one.

**Definition 1.37.** Let  $A$  be a ring and  $\mathfrak{p}$  be a prime ideal, then the **height** of  $\mathfrak{p}$  is the supremum of  $n$  where

$$\mathfrak{p}_1 \subset \dots \subset \mathfrak{p}_n \subset \mathfrak{p},$$

where  $\mathfrak{p}_i$  are prime. The **Krull dimension** of  $A$  is

$$\sup_{\mathfrak{p} \text{ prime}} \text{height}(\mathfrak{p}).$$

**Proposition 1.38.** *If  $Y$  is affine then  $\dim(Y) = \dim(A(Y))$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $C$  be a closed and irreducible set  $C \subset Y$ , then  $I(C) \supset I(Y)$ , then  $I(C)$  is prime.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.39.** *Let  $K$  be a field and  $B$  be an integral domain which is a finitely generated algebra, then*

- $\dim(B)$  is the transcendence degree of  $K(B)$  over  $K$ , and
- if  $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq B$  is prime, then

$$\text{height}(\mathfrak{p}) + \dim\left(\frac{B}{\mathfrak{p}}\right) = \dim(B).$$

*Proof.* Atiyah Macdonald chapter 11.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.40** (Krull Hauptidealsatz). *Let  $A$  be a Noetherian ring and  $f \in A$  not a zero divisor and not a unit. Then every prime ideal containing  $f$  has height one.*

*Proof.* Atiyah Macdonald page 122.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.41.** *A Noetherian integral domain  $A$  is a UFD if and only if every prime ideal  $I$  of height one is principal.*

**Theorem 1.42.** *An irreducible variety  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n$  has dimension  $n - 1$  if and only if  $Y = Z(f)$  where  $f$  is an irreducible polynomial in  $K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .*

*Proof.*

$\implies$  If  $Y$  has dimension  $n - 1$  then  $I(Y)$  has height one, by the above proposition  $I(Y) = \langle f \rangle$ , so  $Y = Z(f)$ .

$\impliedby$  Let  $I = I(Y)$  then  $I$  is prime, by the Krull Hauptidealsatz we have that  $I$  has height one, so  $\dim(Y) = n - 1$ .  $\square$

## 2 Projective varieties

**Definition 2.1.** The **projective space**  $\mathbb{P}^n$  is defined as

$$\mathbb{P}^n = \frac{\mathbb{A}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\}}{\{x \sim \lambda x \mid \lambda \in K^*\}}.$$

A point in  $\mathbb{P}^n$  is written as  $[a_0 : \dots : a_n] = \overline{(a_0, \dots, a_n)}$ .

**Definition 2.2.** A **graded ring**  $R$  is a ring together with a decomposition

$$R = \bigoplus_{d \geq 0} R_d,$$

where  $R_d$  are abelian groups and  $R_k \cdot R_t \subseteq R_{k+t}$ .

**Example 2.3.**  $K[x_0, \dots, x_n]$  is a graded ring, where  $R_d$  are monomials of degree  $d$ .

*Notation 2.4.* Let  $A$  be  $K[x_0, \dots, x_n]$  without the grading and  $S$  be  $K[x_0, \dots, x_n]$  as a graded ring.

**Definition 2.5.** An ideal  $I \subseteq S$  is **homogeneous** if

$$I = \bigoplus_{d \geq 0} (I \cap S_d).$$

If  $f = f_0 + \dots + f_d$ , then  $f_i \in I$ .

*Remark 2.6.*  $I$  is homogeneous if and only if  $I = \langle f_0, \dots, f_n \rangle$ , where  $f_i$  are homogeneous.

**Lemma 2.7.** If  $I, J$  are homogeneous then

1.  $I + J$  is homogeneous,
2.  $IJ$  is homogeneous,
3.  $I \cap J$  is homogeneous, and
4.  $\sqrt{I}$  is homogeneous.

*Proof.*

4. Let  $f = f_0 + \dots + f_d \in \sqrt{I}$  then

$$f^n = (f_0 + \dots + f_d)^n = f_d^n + \dots \in I \quad \implies \quad f_d^n \in I \quad \implies \quad f_d \in \sqrt{I},$$

so  $f - f_d \in \sqrt{I}$ , by induction  $f_i \in \sqrt{I}$ .

□

**Definition 2.8.** If  $f$  is homogeneous of degree  $k$  then

$$f(\lambda \cdot x) = \lambda^k \cdot f(x),$$

in particular  $f(x) = 0$  if and only if  $f(\lambda \cdot x) = 0$ , so it makes sense to define

$$Z(f) = \{x \in \mathbb{P}^n \mid f(x) = 0\}.$$

More generally, if  $I \subseteq S$  is a homogeneous ideal then

$$Z(I) = \{x \in \mathbb{P}^n \mid f \in I \text{ homogeneous, } f(x) = 0\}.$$

**Definition 2.9.** A subset  $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n$  is called a **projective variety** if  $X = Z(T)$  for some homogeneous ideal  $T$ .



**Proposition 2.10.**

- $Z(S) \cup Z(T) = Z(ST)$ .
- $\bigcap_{\alpha} Z(S_{\alpha}) = Z(\bigcup_{\alpha} S_{\alpha})$ .
- $Z(0) = \mathbb{P}^n$  and  $Z(1) = \emptyset$ .

**Definition 2.11.** We define the **Zariski topology** on  $\mathbb{P}^n$  by taking closed sets to be  $Z(T)$  for some  $T$ .

**Definition 2.12.**

- A projective variety is **irreducible** if it is an irreducible topological space.
- An open subset of a projective variety is called a **quasi-projective variety**.
- The **dimension** of a projective variety is its dimension as a topological space.
- If  $T \subseteq S$  then

$$I(T) = \langle f \in S \mid f \text{ homogeneous, } \forall p \in T, f(p) = 0 \rangle.$$

**Definition 2.13.** If  $X$  is a projective variety the **homogeneous coordinate ring** is

$$S(X) = \frac{S}{I(X)}.$$

**Definition 2.14.** If  $f \in S$  is linear and homogeneous, we call  $Z(f)$  a **hyperplane**.

**Proposition 2.15.**

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_i : U_i = \mathbb{P}^n \setminus Z(x_i) &\rightarrow \mathbb{A}^n \\ [x_0 : \dots : x_n] &\mapsto \left( \frac{x_0}{x_i}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{x_i} \right) \end{aligned}$$

is a homeomorphism in the Zariski topology.

*Proof.* Let  $\phi = \phi_0$  and  $U = U_0$ , let  $C \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n$  be a closed set then we claim that  $\phi^{-1}(C)$  is closed. Indeed, let  $C = Z(S)$ , then  $\phi^{-1}(C) = Z(S') \cup U$  where

$$S' = \left\{ x_0^d \cdot f\left(\frac{x_1}{x_0}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{x_0}\right) \mid f \in S \right\}.$$

Similarly, let  $A \subseteq U$  is closed, we claim that  $\phi(A)$  is closed. Let  $\overline{A}$  be its closure in  $\mathbb{P}^n$ , then  $\overline{A} = Z(B)$ , so  $\phi(A) = Z(B')$  where

$$B' = \{f(1, x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid f \in B\}.$$

So we conclude that  $\phi$  is a homeomorphism. □

*Note.*  $\langle 1 \rangle = S$  and  $\langle x_0, \dots, x_n \rangle \subsetneq S$  map to  $\emptyset$  under  $Z$ . So in order to have a one-to-one correspondence we need the following.

- $Z(I) = \emptyset$  if and only if  $\sqrt{I} \supseteq \langle x_0, \dots, x_n \rangle$ . If we consider  $Z(I)$  in  $\mathbb{A}^{n+1}$ , note that  $x \in Z(I)$  if and only if  $\lambda x \in Z(I)$ . So  $Z(I) = \emptyset$  if and only if  $Z(I) \subseteq \{0\}$ . So  $\sqrt{I} \supseteq \langle x_0, \dots, x_n \rangle$ .
- $I(Z(J)) = \sqrt{J}$  if  $Z(J) \neq \emptyset$ , since  $I(Z(J)) = I(Z_a(J)) = \sqrt{J}$ .

**Corollary 2.16.**

$$\begin{aligned} \{ \text{projective varieties} \} &\longleftrightarrow \{ \text{homogeneous radical ideals not } \langle x_0, \dots, x_n \rangle \}, \\ \{ \text{irreducible projective varieties} \} &\longleftrightarrow \{ \text{homogeneous radical prime ideals} \}. \end{aligned}$$

**Example 2.17.**  $\mathbb{P}^n$  is irreducible.

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**Proposition 2.18.**

- $\mathbb{P}^n$  is Noetherian, that is satisfies the descending chain condition.
- Every projective variety can be written as a unique union of irreducible projective varieties. We call **irreducible components** the irreducible varieties in that decomposition.

**Theorem 2.19.** Let  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n$  be an irreducible projective variety. Then

$$\dim(S(Y)) = \dim(Y) + 1.$$

*Proof.* Let

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_i : U = \mathbb{P}^n \setminus Z(x_i) &\rightarrow \mathbb{A}^n \\ [x_0 : \dots : x_n] &\mapsto \left( \frac{x_0}{x_i}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{x_i} \right), \end{aligned}$$

and  $Y_i = \phi_i(Y \cap U_i)$ . Let

$$\begin{aligned} K[x_1, \dots, x_n] &\rightarrow (S(Y)_{x_i})_0 \\ f(x_1, \dots, x_n) &\mapsto \frac{x_i^{\partial f} f\left(\frac{x_1}{x_i}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{x_i}\right)}{x_i^{\partial f}}, \end{aligned}$$

then

$$A(Y_i) = \frac{K[x_1, \dots, x_n]}{I(Y_i)} \cong (S(Y)_{x_i})_0,$$

moreover  $S(Y)_{x_i} \cong A(Y_i)[x_i, x_i^{-1}]$ . So

$$\dim(S(Y)) = \dim(S(Y)_{x_i}) = \dim(A(Y_i)[x_i, x_i^{-1}]) = \text{tra}(K(Y_i)(x_i)) = \dim(Y_i) + 1.$$

Therefore if  $Y_i \neq \emptyset$ ,  $\dim(Y_i) = \dim(S(Y)) - 1$  for all  $i$ , but since  $U_i$  cover  $Y$  we have  $\dim(Y) = \max\{\dim(Y_i)\}$ . (Exercise: if  $\{U_n\}_n$  is a finite cover of a topological space  $Y$  then  $\dim(Y) = \max\{\dim(Y_i)\}$ ) Since  $\dim(Y_i)$  are the same if  $Y_i \neq \emptyset$ , we conclude that  $\dim(Y) = \dim(Y_d)$  for some  $d$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.20.** Every Noetherian topological space is compact.

*Proof.* Let  $X$  be a Noetherian topological space and let  $\{U_n\}$  be a cover of  $X$ . So consider  $C$ , the collection of the union of finitely many open sets of  $\{U_n\}$ . Since  $X$  is Noetherian  $C$  has a maximum element, say  $U_1 \cup \dots \cup U_n$ . If  $U_1 \cup \dots \cup U_n \subsetneq X$  then there is  $x \in X$  not in the union, and we can find another  $U_{\alpha_0} \ni x$ . But then

$$U_1 \cup \dots \cup U_n \cup U_{\alpha_0} \supsetneq U_1 \cup \dots \cup U_n,$$

a contradiction. So  $X = U_1 \cup \dots \cup U_n$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.21.**  $\mathbb{P}^n$ ,  $\mathbb{A}^n$ , affine varieties, and projective varieties are all compact in the Zariski topology.

**Definition 2.22.** A variety  $X$  is **complete** if for any other variety  $Y$ , the projection  $X \times Y \rightarrow Y$  is closed.

**Example 2.23.**  $\mathbb{P}^n$  is complete.  $\mathbb{A}^n$  is not complete.

Lecture 6  
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### 3 Morphisms

**Definition 3.1.** Suppose  $Y$  is a quasi-affine variety and  $p \in Y$ . We say that a function  $f : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1$  is **regular** at  $p$  if there are  $g, h \in K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and  $U \ni p$  such that  $f = g/h$  in  $U$  with  $h \neq 0$ . A function is **regular** if it is regular for every  $p \in Y$ .

**Example 3.2.** Local is not global. Let  $X = Z(x_1x_4 - x_2x_3) \subseteq \mathbb{A}^4$  and  $U = X \setminus Z(x_2, x_4)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \phi : \quad U &\rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1 \\ (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) &\mapsto \begin{cases} \frac{x_1}{x_2} & x_2 \neq 0 \\ \frac{x_3}{x_4} & x_4 \neq 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

is a regular function.

**Definition 3.3.** Let  $Y$  be a quasi-projective variety,  $f : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1$ , and  $p \in Y$ . We say that  $f$  is **regular** at  $p$  if there are  $g, h$  homogeneous polynomials of the same degree and an open set  $U \ni p$  such that  $f = g/h$  on  $U$  and  $h \neq 0$ .

**Lemma 3.4.** A regular function is continuous.

*Proof.* It is enough to show that  $f^{-1}(p)$  is closed. Since  $f$  is regular  $f = g/h$  on some neighbourhood  $U$ , then  $f^{-1}(p) \cap U = Z(g - ph) \cap U$ .  $\square$

**Remark 3.5.** If  $X$  is irreducible then  $f = g$  on  $U \subseteq X$ , then  $f = g$  on  $X$ . Because the set where  $f - g = 0$  is closed and dense.

**Definition 3.6.** We will use the term **variety** to denote an affine, quasi-affine, projective, or quasi-projective variety.

**Definition 3.7.** A **morphism** is  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  if  $f$  is continuous and for every  $U \subseteq Y$  and every function  $g : U \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1$  the composition  $g \circ f$  is regular.

**Remark 3.8.**

- Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  and  $g : Y \rightarrow Z$  then the composition  $g \circ f$  of these two morphisms is the composition of  $f$  and  $g$  as functions.
- A morphism  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is an **isomorphism** if there is a morphism  $g : Y \rightarrow X$  such that  $f \circ g = id$  and  $g \circ f = id$ .

**Definition 3.9.** Let  $X$  be a variety. Denote the set of all regular functions of  $X$  by  $\mathcal{O}(X)$ . If  $p \in X$  the **local ring** at  $p \in X$  is

$$\mathcal{O}_p = \varinjlim_{U \ni p} (\mathcal{O}(U)).$$

An element of  $\mathcal{O}_p$  is a pair  $(U, f)$ , where  $p \in U$  and  $f$  is regular at  $p$ , moreover  $(U, f) \sim (V, g)$  if  $f = g$  on  $U \cap V$ .

**Definition 3.10.** Let  $Y$  be an irreducible variety, the **function field**  $K(Y)$  of  $Y$  is the field whose elements are pairs  $(U, f)$  where  $U$  is open and  $f$  is regular on  $U$ , and

$$(U, f) + (V, g) = (U \cap V, f + g).$$

**Remark 3.11.**

- $K(Y)$  is indeed a field for if  $(U, f) \neq 0$  then  $U^{-1} = U \setminus Z(f)$ , so  $(U^{-1}, 1/f)$  is the inverse to  $(U, f)$ .
- $K(Y)$  is the quotient field of  $A(Y)$  or  $S(Y)$ .
- $\mathcal{O}(Y) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{O}_p \hookrightarrow K(Y)$  for all  $p \in Y$ .

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Friday  
25/01/19

**Theorem 3.12.** *If  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n$  is an irreducible affine variety with coordinate ring  $A(Y)$  then*

1.  $\mathcal{O}(Y) = A(Y)$ ,
2. for all  $p \in Y$ , if  $\mathfrak{m}_p = \{f \in A(Y) \mid f(p) = 0\}$  then we have a one-to-one correspondence

$$\{ \text{points of } Y \} \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \{ \text{maximal ideals of } A(Y) \},$$

3. for all  $p \in Y$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_p \cong A(Y)_{\mathfrak{m}_p}$  and  $\dim(\mathcal{O}_p) = \dim(Y)$ , and
4.  $K(Y)$  is the quotient field of  $A(Y)$ .

*Proof.*

1. Notice that there is a natural map  $A \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(Y)$  with kernel  $I(Y)$ , so there is an injection  $A(Y) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{O}(Y)$ , that is

$$A(Y) \subseteq \mathcal{O}(Y) \subseteq \bigcap_{p \in Y} \mathcal{O}_p = \bigcap_{\mathfrak{m}_p} A(Y)_{\mathfrak{m}_p} = A(Y),$$

so  $A(Y) = \mathcal{O}(Y)$ .

2. We know that points of  $Y$  correspond to maximal ideals  $\mathfrak{m}_p \supseteq I(Y)$ . Taking the quotient, we get maximal ideals inside  $A(Y)$ .
3. There is a natural map  $A(Y)_{\mathfrak{m}_p} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_p$ , which is injective by  $\alpha : A(Y) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{O}(Y)$ , and it is surjective by definition of  $\mathcal{O}_p$ . Moreover,

$$\dim(\mathcal{O}_p) = \dim(A_p)_{\mathfrak{m}_p} = \text{height}(\mathfrak{m}_p) = \dim(Y).$$

4. The quotient field of  $A(Y)$  is the quotient field of  $\mathcal{O}_p$  for all  $p$ , by 3, which is  $K(Y)$  by definition.

□

**Theorem 3.13.** *Let  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n$  be irreducible and projective. Then*

1.  $\mathcal{O}(Y) = K$ ,
2. for all  $p \in Y$ ,  $\mathfrak{m}_p$  as before,  $\mathcal{O}_p \cong (S(Y)_{\mathfrak{m}_p})_0$ , and
3.  $K(Y) \cong (S(Y)_{(0)})_0$ .

*Proof.* Recall that

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_i : U_i = \mathbb{P}^n \setminus Z(x_i) &\rightarrow \mathbb{A}^n \\ [x_0 : \cdots : x_n] &\mapsto \left( \frac{x_0}{x_i}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{x_i} \right) \end{aligned}$$

gives  $\phi_i^* : A(Y_i) \cong (S(Y)_{x_i})_0$  and  $Y_i = \phi_i(Y \cap U_i)$ .

1.  $K \subseteq \mathcal{O}(Y)$ . Take  $f \in \mathcal{O}(Y)$ , so  $f$  is regular at each  $Y_i$ , but  $\mathcal{O}(Y_i) \cong A(Y_i)$ , also by  $\phi_i^*$ ,  $A(Y_i) \cong (S(Y)_{x_i})_0$ . Thus  $f = g_i/x_i^{n_i}$ , where  $n_i = \deg(g_i)$ , in particular  $x_i^{n_i}f \in S(Y)_{n_i}$ . Now, set  $N \geq \sum_i n_i$ , then  $S(Y)_N \cdot f \subseteq S(Y)_N$ , so we can iterate this process to obtain  $S(Y)_N \cdot f^q \subseteq S(Y)_N$ . In particular  $x_0^N f \in S$ , hence  $S(Y)[f]$  is contained in  $x_0^{-N} S(Y)$ . Therefore  $f$  is integral since  $S(Y)[f]$  is finitely generated. There are  $a_i \in S$  such that

$$f^k + a_1 f^{k-1} + \cdots + a_k = 0.$$

Since  $f$  is homogeneous of degree zero we can take the constant terms of  $a_i$  and still have an equation, hence  $a_i \in K$ .

2. Let  $p \in Y$ , then  $p \in Y_i$ , by the previous theorem we know that  $\mathcal{O}_p \cong A(Y_i)_{\mathfrak{m}_p}$ . By  $\phi_i^*$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_p \cong \left( (S(Y)_{x_i})_{\mathfrak{m}_p} \right)_0$ , but since  $x_i \notin \mathfrak{m}_p$ , hence  $\mathcal{O}_p \cong \left( S(Y)_{\mathfrak{m}_p} \right)_0$ .
3. Recall that the quotient field of  $Y$  is  $K(Y) = K(Y_i)$ , but  $K(Y_i)$  is the quotient field of the coordinate ring  $A(Y_i)$ , by  $\phi_i^*$ , this is  $\left( S(Y)_{(0)} \right)_0$ .

□

Lecture 8  
Monday  
28/01/19

**Proposition 3.14.** *Let  $X$  be an irreducible variety and  $Y$  be an irreducible affine variety, then we have a bijection*

$$\alpha : \text{Hom}(X, Y) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}(A(Y), \mathcal{O}(X)),$$

*the set of morphisms from  $X$  to  $Y$  to the set of  $K$ -algebra homomorphisms.*

*Proof.* Given a morphism  $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$ , by definition of morphism,  $\phi$  takes regular functions at  $Y$  to regular functions at  $X$ . So if  $f \in A(Y)$  then  $\phi \circ f \in \mathcal{O}(X)$ . Conversely, let  $h : A(Y) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(X)$  be a homomorphism of  $K$ -algebras. Recall that  $A(Y) = A/I(Y) = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I(Y)$ . Take  $\overline{x_i} \in A(Y)$  and let  $y_i = h(\overline{x_i}) \in \mathcal{O}(X)$  and define

$$\begin{aligned} \psi : X &\rightarrow \mathbb{A}^n \\ p &\mapsto (y_1(p), \dots, y_n(p)) \end{aligned}$$

We claim that  $\text{Im}(\psi) \subseteq Y$ , but since  $Y = Z(I(Y))$ , it is enough to show that if  $f \in I(Y)$  then  $f(\psi(p)) = 0$ .

$$f(\psi(p)) = f(y_1(p), \dots, y_n(p)) = f(h(\overline{x_1}(p)), \dots, h(\overline{x_n}(p))) = h(f(x_1, \dots, x_n))(p) = 0.$$

□

**Lemma 3.15.** *If  $X, Y$  are as before then  $\psi : X \rightarrow Y$  is a morphism if and only if  $\psi_i = x_i \circ \psi$  are regular functions.*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\psi_i$  are regular functions, then if  $p$  is a polynomial  $p \circ \psi$  is regular, but since regular functions are quotients of polynomials, we conclude that  $f \circ \psi$  is regular for any regular function  $f$ . □

**Corollary 3.16.** *If  $X, Y$  are affine then  $X \cong Y$  if and only if  $A(X) \cong A(Y)$ .*

**Corollary 3.17.** *The correspondence  $X \mapsto A(X)$  induces an arrow reversing correspondence between the category of affine varieties and the category of  $K$ -integral domains.*

Lecture 9 is a problem class.  
Lecture 10 is a problem class.

Lecture 9  
Tuesday  
29/01/19  
Lecture 10  
Friday  
01/02/19

## 4 Rational maps

Lecture 11  
Monday  
04/02/19

**Definition 4.1.** Let  $X, Y$  be varieties. A **rational map**  $f : X \dashrightarrow Y$  is a pair  $(U, f_U)$  where  $U \subseteq X$  is open and  $f_U$  is a morphism on  $U$  and we identify  $(U, f_U) \sim (V, g_V)$  if  $f_U = g_V$  on  $U \cap V$ .

**Lemma 4.2.** If  $X, Y$  are varieties and  $\phi, \psi : X \rightarrow Y$  such that  $\phi = \psi$  on  $U \subseteq X$ , then  $\phi = \psi$  on  $X$ .

*Proof.* We can assume that  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n$  for some  $n$ , and hence we reduce to the case where  $Y = \mathbb{P}^n$ . So the product is  $\phi \times \psi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n \times \mathbb{P}^n$ . Let  $\Delta \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n \times \mathbb{P}^n = Z(x_i y_j - x_j y_i)$ . Since  $\phi = \psi$  on  $U$ ,  $(\phi \times \psi)(U) \subseteq \Delta$ , so  $(\phi \times \psi)(\overline{U}) = (\phi \times \psi)(X) \subseteq \Delta$ .  $\square$

**Definition 4.3.**

- A **dominant rational map** is a rational map  $f : X \dashrightarrow Y$ , such that  $f_U(U)$  is dense for some, and hence all,  $(U, f_U)$ .
- A **birational map** is a dominant rational map  $f : X \dashrightarrow Y$  such that  $f$  admits an inverse  $g : Y \dashrightarrow X$ .

**Theorem 4.4.** For any two varieties  $X, Y$  we have a correspondence

$$\{ \text{dominant rational maps } f : X \rightarrow Y \} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \{ K\text{-algebra homomorphisms } K(Y) \rightarrow K(X) \}.$$

*Proof.* Given a rational map  $f : X \dashrightarrow Y$  and let  $g \in K(Y)$ . Let  $f_U$  be a representative of  $f$  then we have that if  $(V, g) = g$ ,  $g \circ f_U \in K(X)$ . Since we can cover  $Y$  using affine varieties, we can assume  $Y$  is affine then  $K(Y) = K(A(Y))$ . If we start with a homomorphism  $\theta : K(Y) \rightarrow K(X)$ , let  $y_1, \dots, y_n \in A(Y)$  be the generators of  $A(Y)$ , then  $\theta(y_i) \in K(X)$ . We can find  $U$  such that  $\theta(y_i)$  are regular at  $U$ . Then this induces a map  $A(Y) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(U)$ . But then we have a morphism  $U \rightarrow Y$ , and moreover this is the inverse of the map we defined previously.  $\square$

**Definition 4.5.**

- A field extension  $L/K$  is **separably generated** if there is a transcendence basis  $\{x_i\}$  for  $L/K$  such that  $L$  is a separable algebraic extension of  $K(\{x_i\})$ .
- Primitive element theorem. If  $L/K$  is finite and separable then  $L/K(\alpha)$  for some  $\alpha \in L$ . If  $L$  is infinite and  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n$  are generators for  $L/K$  then  $\alpha = c_1 \beta_1 + \dots + c_n \beta_n$  for  $c_i \in K$ .
- If  $K$  is perfect, any finitely generated extension  $L/K$  is separably generated.

**Theorem 4.6.** Any variety  $X$  of dimension  $n$  is birational to a hypersurface  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n+1}$ .

*Proof.* Since  $K(X) = K$  is finitely generated, by the theorem above it is separably generated. So we can find a transcendence basis  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in K$  such that  $K/k(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is finite and separable. By the primitive element theorem,  $K = k(x_1, \dots, x_n, y)$  for some  $y$  which is algebraic over  $k(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , so  $y$  is the solution of a polynomial equation  $f$  in  $k(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ . In particular if we clear denominators we get a polynomial  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n, y)$  in  $\mathbb{A}^{n+1}$ , by taking  $Z(f)$  we get a hypersurface and taking its projective closure we get a hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^{n+1}$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 4.7.** The following are equivalent.

- $F : X \dashrightarrow Y$  is birational.
- There exist  $U, V$  such that  $F : U \rightarrow V$  is an isomorphism.
- $K(Y) \cong K(X)$ .

**Definition 4.8.** The **blow-up** of  $\mathbb{A}^n$  at the origin  $0$ , denoted by  $\widetilde{\mathbb{A}^n}$ , is  $Z(x_i y_j - x_j y_i) \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n \times \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \widetilde{\mathbb{A}^n} & \hookrightarrow & \mathbb{A}^n \times \mathbb{P}^{n-1} \\ & \searrow \pi & \downarrow \pi_1 : (x, y) \mapsto x \\ & & \mathbb{A}^n \end{array}$$

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**Proposition 4.9.**

1. Let  $P \in \mathbb{A}^n$ , if  $P \neq 0$  then  $\pi^{-1}(P)$  is a single point, and  $\widetilde{\mathbb{A}^n} \setminus \pi^{-1}(0) \cong \mathbb{A}^n \setminus \{0\}$ .
2.  $\pi^{-1}(0) \cong \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ .
3. Points of  $\pi^{-1}(0)$  are in one-to-one correspondence with the set of lines through the origin.
4.  $\widetilde{\mathbb{A}^n}$  is irreducible.

*Proof.*

1. If  $P \neq 0$  then  $y_j = x_j y_i / x_i$  and this is true for every  $j$ , so this gives a unique point in  $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ .
2. Obvious.
3. A line through the origin is given by  $x_i = t a_i$  for  $t \neq 0$ . Taking  $\pi^{-1}$  of this line we get  $x_i = t a_i$  and  $y_i = t a_i = a_i$ . In other words if  $x \neq 0$ ,  $\pi^{-1}(X) = (X, [X])$ .
4.  $\widetilde{\mathbb{A}^n} \setminus \pi^{-1}(0) \cong \mathbb{A}^n \setminus \{0\}$  is dense and irreducible, by 3.

□

**Definition 4.10.** If  $Y \ni 0$  is a closed subvariety of  $\mathbb{A}^n$  we define the **blow-up** of  $Y$  at 0 by  $\widetilde{Y} = \overline{\pi^{-1}(Y \setminus \{0\})}$ . More generally, we can blow-up any point by taking an affine change of coordinates. We also get a birational map  $\pi : \widetilde{Y} \rightarrow Y$ .

**Example 4.11.** Let  $Y = Z(y^2 - x^2(x+1))$ . The equations of the blow-up are

$$\begin{cases} y^2 = x^2(x+1) \\ xu = yt \end{cases},$$

where  $[t : u] \in \mathbb{P}^1$ . Suppose  $t \neq 0$ .

$$\begin{cases} y^2 = x^2(x+1) \\ y = xu \end{cases} \implies (xu)^2 = x^2(x+1) \implies x^2(u^2 - x - 1) = 0.$$

**Example 4.12.** Let  $y^2 = x^3$ .

$$\begin{cases} y^2 = x^3 \\ y = xu \end{cases} \implies (xu)^2 = x^3 \implies x^2(u^2 - x) = 0.$$

## 5 Nonsingular varieties

**Definition 5.1.** Let  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n$  be an affine variety of dimension  $r$ , and suppose  $I(Y) = \langle f_1, \dots, f_k \rangle$ .  $Y$  is **nonsingular** at  $P \in Y$  if  $\text{rank} \left( \frac{\partial f_i(P)}{\partial x_j} \right) = n - r$ .  $Y$  is **nonsingular** if it is nonsingular at every  $P \in Y$ .

Lecture 13  
Friday  
08/02/19

**Example 5.2.** Let  $x^2 = x^4 + y^4 \subseteq \mathbb{A}^2$ , so  $f = x^2 - x^4 - y^4$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2x - 4x^3 = 0 &\implies x(1 - 2x^2) = 0 \implies x = 0 \text{ or } 2x^2 = 1, \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = -9y^3 = 0 &\implies y = 0 \implies x^2 = x^4 \implies x = 0 \text{ or } x^2 = 1, \end{aligned}$$

so  $\text{Sing}(Y) = \{(0, 0)\}$ .

**Example 5.3.** Let  $Y = Z(f) = Z(y^2 - x^3)$ .

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = -3x^2 = 0, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 2y = 0,$$

so  $\text{Sing}(Y) = \{(0, 0)\}$ .

**Definition 5.4.** Let  $A$  be a Noetherian local ring with maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$ , and residue field  $A/\mathfrak{m} = K$ .  $A$  is a **regular local ring** if  $\dim_K(\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{m}^2) = \dim(A)$ .

*Note.*  $(\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{m}^2)^*$  is called the **Zariski-tangent space**.

Claim that  $\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{m}^2$  is a  $K$ -vector space for  $K = A/\mathfrak{m}$ .

**Theorem 5.5.** Let  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n$  be an affine variety. Then  $Y$  is nonsingular at  $P$  if and only if  $\mathcal{O}_P$  is a regular local ring.

*Proof.* Let  $P = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in Y$  with corresponding maximal ideal  $I_P = \langle x_1 - a_1, \dots, x_n - a_n \rangle$ . We define a map

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_P: A = K[x_1, \dots, x_n] &\rightarrow K^n \\ f &\mapsto \left( \frac{\partial f(P)}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial f(P)}{\partial x_n} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $\theta((x_i - a_i)(x_j - a_j)) = 0$ , hence  $\theta_P(I_P^2) = 0$ , in particular we have an isomorphism  $I_P/I_P^2 \cong K^n$ . By the isomorphism, if  $\alpha = I(Y) = \langle f_1, \dots, f_t \rangle$  then the rank of  $\frac{\partial f_i(P)}{\partial x_j}$  corresponds to the dimension of  $\alpha$  under the isomorphism, which is  $\bar{\alpha}$  in  $I_P/I_P^2$ ,  $(\alpha + I_P)/I_P^2$ . Now  $\mathcal{O}_P = (A/\alpha)_{I_P}$ . If  $\mathfrak{m} = (I_P + \alpha)/\alpha$  then  $\mathfrak{m}^2 = (I_P^2 + \alpha)/\alpha$ , so  $\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{m}^2 = I_P/(I_P^2 + \alpha)$ . So

$$r = \dim \left( \frac{\mathfrak{m}}{\mathfrak{m}^2} \right) = \dim \left( \frac{I_P}{I_P^2 + \alpha} \right) = \dim \left( \frac{I_P}{I_P^2} \right) - \dim \left( \frac{I_P^2 + \alpha}{I_P^2} \right) = n - \text{rank} \left( \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j} \right).$$

So  $\mathcal{O}_P$  is regular if and only if  $\text{rank} \left( \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j} \right) = n - r$ . □

**Definition 5.6.** Let  $X$  be a variety.  $X$  is **nonsingular** at  $P$  if  $\mathcal{O}_P$  is a regular local ring.

**Theorem 5.7.** Let  $Y$  be a variety. Then  $\text{Sing}(Y)$  is a proper and closed set. The set of nonsingular points of  $Y$  is open and dense.

*Proof.* Prove that  $\text{Sing}(Y)$  is closed, first. We know that the rank of the Jacobian is at most  $n - r$ , therefore the singular points occurs when the rank is less than  $n - r$ , which is to say that  $\text{Sing}(Y)$  is given by the vanishing of the  $(n - r) \times (n - r)$  minors of  $\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}$  and  $I(Y)$ , hence is closed. To prove that it is proper  $\text{Sing}(Y) \subsetneq Y$ . □

Lecture 14 is a problem class.  
Lecture 15 is a problem class.

Lecture 14  
Monday  
11/02/19  
Lecture 15  
Tuesday  
12/02/19



## 6 Intersections in projective space

Lecture 16  
Friday  
15/02/19

**Theorem 6.1.** *Let  $Y, Z \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n$  be varieties, with  $\dim(Y) = r$  and  $\dim(Z) = s$  then every irreducible component has dimension at least  $r + s - n$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $Z$  is a hypersurface. Then if  $Y \subseteq Z$  the theorem holds, and if  $Y \not\subseteq Z$  the theorem is true by homework 1. Let  $Z$  be general. Consider the diagonal in  $\mathbb{A}^{2n}$  given by the image of the isomorphism  $P \mapsto P \times P$ , then  $Y \cap Z$  corresponds to  $(Y \times Z) \cap \Delta$ . Recall that

$$\Delta = Z(x_1 - y_1) \cap \cdots \cap Z(x_n - y_n),$$

by the first case  $n$  times we have that each irreducible component has dimension

$$(r + s) - n - 2n = r + s - n.$$

□

**Theorem 6.2.** *Let  $Y, Z \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n$  be varieties, where  $\dim(Y) = r$  and  $\dim(Z) = s$ , then each irreducible component of  $Y \cap Z$  has dimension at least  $r + s - n$ . Moreover, if  $r + s - n \geq 0$  then  $Y \cap Z \neq \emptyset$ .*

*Proof.* Take the affine cone of  $Y$  and  $Z$ ,  $C(Y)$  and  $C(Z)$ , since  $0 \in C(Y) \cap C(Z)$  we apply the previous theorem to get

$$(r + 1) + (s + 1) - (n + 1) = r + s - n + 1,$$

so therefore  $Y \cap Z \neq \emptyset$ . □

**Definition 6.3.** A **numerical polynomial** is a polynomial  $f \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  such that  $f(n) \in \mathbb{Z}$  for  $n \gg 0$ , for  $n$  sufficiently large.

**Theorem 6.4.**

1. If  $f \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  is a numerical polynomial then there are  $c_0, \dots, c_r \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that

$$f(x) = c_0 \binom{x}{r} + \cdots + c_r \binom{x}{0}.$$

2. If for  $n \gg 0$   $\Delta f = f(n+1) - f(n) = q$  and  $q$  is a numerical polynomial, then there exists  $p$  such that for  $n \gg 0$   $p(n) = f(n)$ .

*Proof.*

1. By linear algebra we can find  $c_0, \dots, c_r \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that

$$f(x) = c_0 \binom{x}{r} + \cdots + c_r \binom{x}{0},$$

then

$$\Delta f = c_0 \binom{x}{r-1} + \cdots + c_{r-1} \binom{x}{0}.$$

By induction on the degree of  $f$  we have that  $c_0, \dots, c_{r-1} \in \mathbb{Z}$ , but since  $f(n) \in \mathbb{Z}$  for  $n \gg 0$  then  $c_r \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

2. If

$$q = c_0 \binom{x}{r} + \cdots + c_r \binom{x}{0},$$

set

$$p = c_0 \binom{x}{r+1} + \cdots + c_r \binom{x}{1}.$$

$\Delta p = q$  gives  $\Delta(f - p)(n) = 0$ .

□

**Definition 6.5.**

- Let  $S$  be a graded ring. A graded  $S$ -module is a module  $M$  with a decomposition

$$M = \bigoplus_{d \in \mathbb{Z}} M_d,$$

such that  $S_k \cdot M_d \subseteq M_{d+k}$ .

- Let  $l \in \mathbb{Z}$ . The twisted module  $M(l)$  is the graded  $S$ -module given by  $M(l)_k = M_{l+k}$ .
- $\text{Ann}(M) = \{x \in S \mid xM = 0\}$ .

**Theorem 6.6.** Let  $M$  be a finitely generated graded  $S$ -module. Then there is a filtration

$$0 = M^0 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq M^r = M,$$

such that  $M^i/M^{i-1} \cong (S/\mathfrak{p}_i)(l_i)$  for some  $\mathfrak{p}_i$  prime ideals and  $l_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ , such that

- prime  $\mathfrak{p} \supseteq \text{Ann}(M)$  if and only if  $\mathfrak{p} \subseteq \mathfrak{p}_i$ , that is  $\mathfrak{p}_i$  are minimal primes of  $M$ , and
- for each minimal prime  $\mathfrak{p}$  of  $M$  the number of times  $\mathfrak{p}$  appears in the set  $\{\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_r\}$  is  $\text{len}_{S_{\mathfrak{p}}}(M_{\mathfrak{p}})$ .

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**Definition 6.7.** Let  $\mathfrak{p}$  be a minimal prime of a graded  $S$ -module  $M$ . Then the **multiplicity** of  $M$  at  $\mathfrak{p}$  is  $\text{len}_{S_{\mathfrak{p}}}(M_{\mathfrak{p}})$ .

**Definition 6.8.** Let  $M$  be a graded  $S = K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ -module. The **Hilbert function** of  $M$  is  $\phi_M(l) = \dim_K(M_l)$ .

**Theorem 6.9.** Let  $M$  be a graded  $S = K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ -module. Then for  $n \gg 0$ , there is a unique polynomial  $P_M \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$  such that  $\phi_M(n) = P_M(n)$ .  $P_M$  is called the **Hilbert polynomial**. It is a polynomial of degree  $\dim(Z(\text{Ann}(M)))$ .

*Proof.* By the previous theorem,  $M$  has a filtration

$$0 = M^0 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq M^r = M,$$

such that  $M^i/M^{i-1}$  is of the form  $(S/\mathfrak{p}_i)(l_i)$ . Without loss of generality we can assume  $M = S/\mathfrak{p}$ , since  $l_i$  amounts to a translation  $z \mapsto z + l_i$ . If  $\mathfrak{p} = \langle x_0, \dots, x_n \rangle$  then  $S/\mathfrak{p} \cong K$ , in particular  $\phi_M(l_i) = 0$  if  $l_i > 0$ , but then take  $P_M = 0$ . We can assume  $\dim(0) = -1$  and  $\dim(\emptyset) = -1$ . Suppose  $\mathfrak{p} \neq \langle x_0, \dots, x_n \rangle$ . Then there is  $x_i \notin \mathfrak{p}$  and consider the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow M \xrightarrow{x_i} M \rightarrow \frac{M}{x_i M} = M'' \rightarrow 0.$$

Taking Hilbert function we get that

$$\phi_{M''}(l) = \phi_M(l) - \phi_M(l-1) = \Delta \phi_M(l-1).$$

Note that  $\text{Ann}(M'') = \text{Ann}(M) \cup \{x_i\}$ , so  $Z(\text{Ann}(M'')) = Z(\mathfrak{p}) \cap Z(x_i)$ . Note that

$$\dim(\text{Ann}(M'')) = \dim(Z(\mathfrak{p})) - 1,$$

so we apply induction over  $\dim(\text{Ann}(M))$ . Thus  $\phi_{M''}$  agrees with a polynomial  $P_{M''}(n)$  for  $n \gg 0$  but then  $\Delta \phi_M = P_{M''}$  for  $n \gg 0$ , so  $\phi_M$  agrees with a polynomial of degree

$$\dim(\text{Ann}(M'')) + 1 = \dim(Z(\mathfrak{p})).$$

□

**Definition 6.10.** If  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n$  of dimension  $r$ , the **Hilbert polynomial** of  $Y$  is the Hilbert polynomial of  $S(Y)$ . The degree of  $Y$  is  $r!$  times the leading coefficient of  $P_Y$ .

**Theorem 6.11.**

1. If  $Y \neq \emptyset$ , then  $\deg(Y)$  is a positive integer.
2.  $\deg(\mathbb{P}^n) = 1$ .
3. If  $Y = Y_1 \cup Y_2$  with  $\dim(Y_i) = r$  and  $\dim(Y_1 \cap Y_2) < r$  then  $\deg(Y) = \deg(Y_1) + \deg(Y_2)$ .
4. If  $H$  is a hypersurface generated by  $f$  then  $\deg(H) = \deg(f)$ .

*Proof.*

1. Obvious.

2.

$$\phi_{\mathbb{P}^n}(z) = \binom{z+n}{n} = \frac{1}{n!}(z) \dots (n+1) = \frac{1}{n!}z^n + \dots$$

3. Let  $I = I(Y)$ ,  $I_1 = I(Y_1)$ , and  $I_2 = I(Y_2)$ . Consider the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \frac{S}{I} \rightarrow \frac{S}{I_1} \oplus \frac{S}{I_2} \rightarrow \frac{S}{I_1 + I_2} \rightarrow 0.$$

Taking Hilbert function,

$$\phi_{\frac{S}{I_1 + I_2}} = \phi_{\frac{S}{I_1} \oplus \frac{S}{I_2}} - \phi_{\frac{S}{I}}.$$

Since  $Z(I_1 + I_2) = Y_1 \cap Y_2$  and  $\dim(Y_1 \cap Y_2) < r$  we have that  $\phi_{S/I_1 \oplus S/I_2}$  and  $\phi_{S/I}$  have the same leading coefficients, hence  $\deg(Y) = \deg(Y_1) + \deg(Y_2)$ .

4. Suppose  $\deg(f) = d$  then consider the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow S(-d) \xrightarrow{f} S \rightarrow \frac{S}{\langle f \rangle} \rightarrow 0.$$

Taking Hilbert functions,

$$\phi_{\frac{S}{\langle f \rangle}}(z) = \phi_S(z) - \phi_S(z-d) = \binom{z+n}{n} - \binom{z-d+n}{n} = \frac{d}{(n-1)!}z^{n-1} + \dots$$

□

Let  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n$  be a projective variety and  $H$  a hypersurface then  $Y \cap H = Z_1 \cup \dots \cup Z_k$ , where each  $Z_j$  has dimension  $r-1 = \dim(Y) - 1$ . Suppose  $I(Z_j) = \mathfrak{p}_j$ , then each  $\mathfrak{p}_j$  is a minimal prime of  $S/(I_Y + I_H)$ , then the **intersection multiplicity**  $i(Y, H; Z_j)$  is the multiplicity of  $S/(I_Y + I_H)$  at  $\mathfrak{p}_j$ .

**Theorem 6.12.** Let  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n$  be a variety and  $H$  a hypersurface such that  $Y \not\subseteq H$ . If  $Y \cap H = Z_1 \cup \dots \cup Z_k$  then

$$\sum_{j=1}^k i(Y, H; Z_j) \deg(Z_j) = \deg(Y) \deg(H).$$

**Corollary 6.13** (Bézout's theorem). If  $Y, H \subseteq \mathbb{P}^2$  are curves and  $Y \cap H = \{P_1, \dots, P_k\}$  then

$$\sum_{j=1}^k i(Y, H; P_j) = \deg(Y) \deg(H).$$

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*Proof.* Suppose  $H$  is generated by  $f$ , where  $\deg(f) = d$ , and let  $I = I(Y)$ .

$$0 \rightarrow \left(\frac{S}{I}\right)(-d) \xrightarrow{f} \frac{S}{I} \rightarrow \frac{S}{I+I_H} \rightarrow 0.$$

Taking Hilbert polynomials we get

$$\phi_{\frac{S}{I+I_H}}(z) = \phi_{\frac{S}{I_Y}}(z) + \phi_{\frac{S}{I_Y}}(z-d).$$

Let  $\deg(Y) = e$ , then the right hand side is

$$\frac{e}{r!}z^r + \dots - \left(\frac{e}{r!}(z-d)^r + \dots\right) = \frac{de}{(r-1)!}z^{r-1} + \dots$$

Now on the left hand side, by the structure theorem, there is a filtration

$$0 = M^0 \subseteq \dots \subseteq M^s = M,$$

where  $M = S/(I_Y + I_H)$ . Then

$$P_M = \sum_{i=1}^s P_i = \sum_{i=1}^s P_{\frac{M^i}{M^{i-1}}},$$

where each  $M^i/M^{i-1} = (S/\mathfrak{p}_i)(l_i)$ . Since we want to compare the leading coefficient from this with the one from the right hand side, we only care about the  $P_i$ 's with degree  $r-1$ . So the  $\mathfrak{p}_j = I(Z_j)$  and the leading term is

$$\frac{\sum_{j=1}^k i(Y, H; Z_j) \deg(Z_j)}{(r-1)!} + \dots$$

□

## 7 The 27 lines on a smooth cubic surface

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**Theorem 7.1.** *Let  $S \subseteq \mathbb{P}^3$  be a nonsingular cubic surface given by a polynomial  $f(x, y, z, t)$ . Then  $S$  has exactly 27 lines.*

We start with a lemma.

**Lemma 7.2.**

1. *Given a point  $p \in S$  then there are at most three lines through  $p$ . If there are two or three they must be spheres.*
2. *Every plane  $\pi$  intersect  $S$  in*
  - *an irreducible cubic,*
  - *a conic and a line, or*
  - *three distinct lines.*

*Proof.*

1.  $l \subseteq S$  gives  $T_p(l) = l \subseteq T_p(S)$ , by 2  $T_p(S)$  intersect  $S$  in at most three lines.
2. We have to prove that there are no multiple lines in the intersection  $S \cap \pi$ . Changing coordinates if necessary, we can suppose  $\pi = \{f = 0\}$  and  $l = \{z = 0\}$  is the line in the intersection.

$$f = z^2 \cdot a(x, y, z, t) + t \cdot b(x, y, z, t).$$

Claim that  $S$  is singular at  $z = t = b = 0$ .

$$Jac(f) = (z^2 a_x + t b_x \quad z^2 a_y + t b_y \quad 2za + z^2 a_z + t b_z \quad z^2 a_t + b + t b_t).$$

Since  $S$  is smooth there are no multiple lines.

□

**Lemma 7.3.**  *$S$  has a line.*

*Proof.* Let  $P \in S$  and consider  $T_P(S)$ . Then  $T_P(S)$  intersects  $S$  in a plane cubic  $C = S \cap T_P(S)$  which is singular at  $P$ . Otherwise we are done. Then  $C$  has to be a nodal or a cuspidal curve. So assume that  $C$  is a cuspidal curve, and change coordinates if necessary, assume that  $P = [0 : 0 : 1 : 0]$  and  $T_P(S) = \{t = 0\}$ . So the equation of  $f$  has the shape

$$f = x^2 z - y^3 + g t,$$

for some  $g$  of homogeneous degree two. We consider the point  $P_\alpha = [1 : \alpha : \alpha^3 : 0] \in C \subset S$ , consider the plane  $x = 0$  and the line  $P_\alpha Q$  in  $\mathbb{P}^3$  passing through  $P_\alpha$  and intersecting this plane  $x = 0$  at  $Q = (0, y, z, t)$ . The line through  $P_\alpha$  and  $Q$  is  $\lambda P_\alpha + \mu Q$  and it lies inside  $S$  if

$$f(\lambda P_\alpha + \mu Q) = 0.$$

After expanding this we have  $P_\alpha Q \subset S$  if and only if  $a(y, z, t) = b(y, z, t) = c(y, z, t) = 0$  for  $a, b, c$  to be determined. There is a polynomial  $R(\alpha)$  of degree 27 such that  $R(\alpha) = 0$  if and only if  $a = b = c$  have a common zero. □