
Abelian Varieties



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1 The First Properties of Abelian Varieties

1.1 Definition and examples of Abelian Varieties

Theorem 1.1 (Rigidity Lemma). Let $\pi_i : X \rightarrow Y_i$ be proper morphisms of varieties over a field \mathbf{k} for $i = 1, 2$. Suppose that π_1 is a fibration and π_2 contracts $\pi_1^{-1}(y_0)$. Then there exists a rational map $\varphi : Y_1 \dashrightarrow Y_2$ such that $\pi_2 \circ \varphi = \pi_1$ and φ is well-defined near $Y_1 \setminus \{y_0\}$.

Definition 1.2. Let S be a scheme. An *abelian scheme over S* is a group object in the category \mathbf{Sch}_S such that the structure morphism is proper, smooth and a fibration. If $S = \operatorname{Spec} \mathbf{k}$ for some field \mathbf{k} , then it is called an *abelian variety over \mathbf{k}* .

Example 1.3.

Example 1.4.

Example 1.5.

In the following, we will always assume that A is an abelian variety over a field \mathbf{k} of dimension d .

Temporarily, we will use the notation e_A, m_A, i_A to denote the identity section, multiplication morphism and inversion morphism of an abelian variety A .

Proposition 1.6. Let A be an abelian variety. Then A is smooth.

Proof. Note that there is an open subset $U \subset A$ which is smooth. Then apply the left translation morphism l_a . \square

Proposition 1.7. Let A be an abelian variety. Then the cotangent bundle Ω_A is trivial, i.e., $\Omega_A \cong \mathcal{O}_A^{\oplus d}$ where $d = \dim A$.

Proof. Yang: To be completed. □

Lemma 1.8. Let $p : X \times Y \rightarrow Z$ be a proper morphism of varieties over \mathbf{k} such that p contracts $\{x_0\} \times Y$ for some point $x_0 \in X$. Then there exists a unique morphism $f : Y \rightarrow Z$ such that $p = f \circ p_Y$.

Proof. Yang: To be completed. □

Theorem 1.9. Let A and B be abelian varieties. Then any morphism $f : A \rightarrow B$ with $f(e_A) = e_B$ is a group homomorphism.

Proof. Yang: To be completed. □

Proposition 1.10. Let A be an abelian variety. Then A is an abelian group.

Proof. Note that a group is abelian if and only if the inversion map is a homomorphism of groups. Then the conclusion follows from Theorem 1.9. □

From now on, we will use the notation $0, +, [-1]_A, t_a$ to denote the identity section, addition morphism, inversion morphism and translation by a of an abelian variety A . For every $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$, the homomorphism of multiplication by n is defined as

$$[n]_A : A \xrightarrow{\Delta} A \times A \xrightarrow{[n-1]_A \times \text{id}_A} A \times A \xrightarrow{+} A,$$

where Δ is the diagonal morphism.

Proposition 1.11. Let A be an abelian variety over \mathbf{k} and n a positive integer. Then the multiplication by n morphism $[n]_A : A \rightarrow A$ is finite surjective and étale.

Proof. Yang: To be completed. □

1.2 Complex abelian varieties

Theorem 1.12. Let A be a complex abelian variety. Then A is a complex torus, i.e., there exists a lattice $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{C}^d$ such that $A \cong \mathbb{C}^d / \Lambda$. Conversely, let $A = \mathbb{C}^n / \Lambda$ be a complex torus for some lattice Λ . Then A is a complex abelian variety if and only if Λ Yang: To be completed.

2 Picard Groups of Abelian Varieties

2.1 Pullback along group operations

Theorem 2.1 (Seesaw Theorem). Let A be an abelian variety over \mathbf{k} .

Theorem 2.2 (Theorem of the cube). Let X, Y, Z be completed varieties over \mathbf{k} and \mathcal{L} a line bundle on $X \times Y \times Z$. Suppose that there exist $x \in X(\mathbf{k}), y \in Y(\mathbf{k}), z \in Z(\mathbf{k})$ such that the restriction $\mathcal{L}|_{\{x\} \times Y \times Z}$, $\mathcal{L}|_{X \times \{y\} \times Z}$ and $\mathcal{L}|_{X \times Y \times \{z\}}$ are trivial. Then \mathcal{L} is trivial.

Proof. Yang: To be completed. □

Remark 2.3. If we assume the existence of the Picard scheme, then the theorem of the cube can be deduced from the Rigidity Lemma. Yang: To be completed.

Proposition 2.4. Let A be an abelian variety over \mathbf{k} , $f, g, h : X \rightarrow A$ morphisms from a variety X to A and \mathcal{L} a line bundle on A . Then

$$(f + g + h)^* \mathcal{L} \cong (f + g)^* \mathcal{L} \otimes (f + h)^* \mathcal{L} \otimes (g + h)^* \mathcal{L} \otimes f^* \mathcal{L}^{-1} \otimes g^* \mathcal{L}^{-1} \otimes h^* \mathcal{L}^{-1}.$$

Proof. Yang: To be completed. □

Proposition 2.5. Let A be an abelian variety over \mathbf{k} , $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and \mathcal{L} a line bundle on A . Then we have

$$[n]_A^* \mathcal{L} \cong \mathcal{L}^{\otimes \frac{1}{2}(n^2+n)} \otimes [-1]_A^* \mathcal{L}^{\otimes \frac{1}{2}(n^2-n)}.$$

Proof. Yang: To be completed. □

Theorem 2.6 (Theorem of the square). Let A be an abelian variety over \mathbf{k} , $x, y \in A(\mathbf{k})$ two points and \mathcal{L} a line bundle on A . Then

$$t_{x+y}^* \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{L} \cong t_x^* \mathcal{L} \otimes t_y^* \mathcal{L}.$$

Remark 2.7. We can define a map

$$\Phi_{\mathcal{L}} : A(\mathbf{k}) \rightarrow \text{Pic}(A), \quad x \mapsto t_x^* \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{L}^{-1}.$$

Then theorem of the square implies that $\Phi_{\mathcal{L}}$ is a homomorphism of groups. When we vary \mathcal{L} , this gives an action of $A(\mathbf{k})$ on $\text{Pic}(A)$. Yang: To be completed.

2.2 Positivity

Theorem 2.8. Let A be an abelian variety over \mathbf{k} . Then A is projective.

Proof. Yang: To be completed. □

2.3 Isogenies and finite subgroups

Theorem 2.9. Let A be an abelian variety of dimension d over \mathbf{k} . Then the subgroup $A[n]$ of n torsion points is finite and we have

(a) if n is coprime to $\text{char}(\mathbf{k})$, then $A[n] \cong (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^{2d}$;

(b) if $n = p^k$ for $p = \text{char}(\mathbf{k}) > 0$

Proof. Yang: To be completed. □

2.4 Dual abelian varieties

Theorem 2.10. Let A be an abelian variety over k . Then $\text{Pic}^0(A)$ has a natural structure of an abelian variety, called the *dual abelian variety* of A , denoted by A^\vee .

Proposition 2.11.