

# Algebraic Curves

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## Lecture 1: Introduction

Fri 25 Feb

Let  $K$  be a field, given a set of polynomials  $S = \{f_1, \dots\}$ , we can consider  $V(S) = \{(x_1, \dots) \in K^n \mid f_i(x_1, \dots) = 0 \forall i\}$ .

Notice that if  $a_1, \dots \in K[x_1, \dots]$  then also  $\sum_i a_i(x) f_i(x) = 0$  only depends on the ideal generated by  $S$ .

If  $I(S)$  happens to be prime, we call  $V$  an algebraic variety.

## 1 Affine algebraic sets

### 1.1 Recollection on commutative algebra

All rings are commutative and with unit.

Let  $R$  be a ring.

- $R$  is an integral domain, or just domain if there are no zero divisors, ie,  $\forall a, b \in R$  s.t.

$$a \cdot b = 0 \implies a = 0 \text{ or } b = 0$$

- Any domain can be embedded into its quotient ring.
- A proper ideal  $I$  is maximal if it's not contained in any other proper ideal
- A proper ideal  $I$  is prime if

$$\forall a, b \in R, ab \in I \implies a \in I \text{ or } b \in I$$

- A proper ideal  $I$  is radical if

$$a^n \in I \implies a \in I$$

- For any ideal  $I \subset R$ , the radical  $\sqrt{I}$  is the smallest radical ideal containing  $I$

#### Lemme 1

- $I \subset R$  is maximal  $\iff R/I$  is a field

#### Lemme 2

- $I \subset R$  is prime  $\iff R/I$  is a domain

#### Lemme 3

- radical  $\iff R/I$  has no nilpotent elements.

Given a subset  $S \subset R$  we can consider the ideal generated by  $S$

$$I(S) = \left\{ \sum_i a_i s_i \right\}$$

$I$  is finitely generated if  $I = I(S)$  with  $S$  finite.

- We say that  $R$  is Noetherian  $\iff$   $\nexists$  a chain of strictly increasing ideals. Equivalently, every ideal is finitely generated.

**Theorème 4**

- *In fact, hilbert's basis theorem says that, if  $R$  is Noetherian, then  $R[x]$  is noetherian.*

In particular  $K[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is Noetherian

- $I$  is in principal if it is generated by one element.
- A domain is called a principal ideal domain (PID) if every ideal is principal.
- $a \in R$  is irreducible if  $a$  is not a unit, nor zero and if

$$a = b.c$$

then either  $b$  or  $c$  are units.

- A pid  $(a) \subset R$  is prime  $\iff a$  is irreducible.
- $R$  is a UFD if  $R$  is a domain and elements in  $R$  can be factored uniquely up to units and reordering into irreducible elements.

**Theorème 5**

$R$  is a UFD  $\implies R[x]$  is a UFD

And, if  $R$  is a PID, then  $R$  is a UFD

**Theorème 6 (Gauss Lemmma)**

- *$R$  is a UFD and  $a \in R[X]$  irreducible, then also  $a \in Q(R)[X]$  is irreducible.*

- Localization

Let  $R$  be a domain, if  $S \subset R$  is a multiplicative subset, then the localization of  $R$  at  $S$  is defined as

$$S^{-1}R = \left\{ x \in Q(R) \mid x = \frac{a}{b}, b \in S \right\}$$

If  $M$  is an  $R$ -module, we have similarly

$$S^{-1}M = \left\{ \frac{m}{s} \mid m \in M, s \in S \right\} / \left\{ \frac{m}{s} = \frac{m'}{s'} \iff ms' = sm' \right\}$$

If  $p \subset R$  is a prime ideal, then its complement is a multiplicative subset and we define

$$R_p = (R \setminus p)^{-1}R$$

- There is a 1-1 correspondence between  $p \subset R$  prime and ideals of  $R_p$ , furthermore  $R_p$  is a local ring
- Localization is exact, in particular, given  $I \subset p$  the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow I \rightarrow R \rightarrow R/I \rightarrow 0$$

gets sent to

$$0 \rightarrow I_p \rightarrow R_p \rightarrow (R/I)_p \rightarrow 0$$

ie. localization commutes with taking quotients.

## 1.2 Polynomial rings

For  $a \in \mathbb{N}^n$ , we set

$$X^a = X_1^{a_1} \dots \in k[X_1, \dots]$$

Thus for any  $F \in k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ , we can write it as

$$F = \sum_{a \in \mathbb{N}^n} \lambda_a X^a$$

$F$  is homogeneous or a form of degree  $d$  if the coefficients  $\lambda_a = 0$  unless  $a_1 + \dots + a_n = d$ .

Any  $F$  can be written uniquely as  $F = F_0 + \dots + F_d$  where  $F_i$  is a form of degree  $i$ .

The derivative of  $F = \sum_{a \in \mathbb{N}^n} \lambda_a X^a$  with respect to  $X_i$  is  $F_{X_i} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial X_i}$ .

If  $F$  is a form of degree  $d$  we have

**Théorème 7 (Euler's theorem)**

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial F}{\partial X_i} X_i = dF$$

## Lecture 2: Affine space and algebraic sets

Wed 02 Mar

### 1.3 Affine spaces and algebraic sets

Let  $k$  be a field.

**Definition 1**

For every  $n \geq 0$  the affine  $n$ -space  $\mathbb{A}_k^n$  is the set  $k^n$ .

In particular  $\mathbb{A}^0$  is a point,  $\mathbb{A}^1$  is a line,  $\mathbb{A}^2$  the affine plane.  
 Given a subset  $S \subset k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  of polynomials, we set

$$V(S) = \{x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{A}^n \mid f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0 \forall f \in S\}$$

If  $S$  is finite, we write  $V(f_1, \dots, f_k)$  for  $V(S)$ .

If the set  $S$  is a singleton, then we call  $V(S)$  a hyperplane.

Any subset of  $\mathbb{A}^n$  is algebraic if  $V = V(S)$  for some subset of polynomials.

### Lemme 8

- Let  $S \subset k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  and  $I$  the ideal generated by  $S$ , then  $V(S) = V(I)$ .
- Let  $\{I_\alpha\}$  be a collection of ideals, then

$$V\left(\bigcup_{\alpha} I_{\alpha}\right) = \bigcap_{\alpha} V(I_{\alpha})$$

- If  $I \subset J$  then  $V(J) \subset V(I)$
- For polynomials  $f, g \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , then  $V(f) \cup V(g) = V(f \cdot g)$   
 For ideals  $I, J$  ideals, then  $V(I) \cup V(J) = V(I \cdot J)$  where  $IJ = \{fg \mid f \in I, g \in J\}$
- For  $a = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{A}^n$ ,  $v(\{x_1 - a_1, \dots\}) = \{a\}$

### Preuve

1. Let  $h \in \sum_i f_i g_i \in I$  with  $f_i \in S$  and  $x \in V(S)$ , then  $f_i(x) = 0 \forall i$   
 hence  $h(x) = 0 \implies x \in V(I) \implies V(S) \subset V(I)$ .  
 Furthermore, if  $x \in V(I)$ , then in particular  $f(x) = 0 \forall f \in S \subset I$ ,  
 hence  $x \in V(S)$  and  $V(S) \supset V(I)$
2. Let  $x \in V(\bigcup_{\alpha} I_{\alpha})$ , then for any  $\alpha$  and  $f \in I_{\alpha}$ , we must have  $f(x) = 0$ ,  
 hence  $x \in V(I_{\alpha}) \implies x \in \bigcap_{\alpha} V(I_{\alpha})$ .  
 Conversely, if  $x \in \bigcap_{\alpha} V(I_{\alpha})$  and  $f \in \bigcup_{\alpha} I_{\alpha}$ , then  $f \in I_{\alpha}$  for some  $\alpha$ ,  
 then  $f(x) = 0$  hence  $x \in V(\bigcup_{\alpha} I_{\alpha})$  □

By Hilbert's basis theorem  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is Noetherian hence every ideal is finitely generated.

### Corollaire 9

Every algebraic set  $V \subset \mathbb{A}^n$  is of the form

$$V = V(f_1, \dots, f_k) = V(f_1) \cap \dots \cap V(f_k)$$

## 1.4 Ideals of a set of points and the nullstellensatz

Using the previous section, we have a map

$$V : \{ \text{Ideals in } k[X_1, \dots, X_N] \} \mapsto \{ \text{algebraic sets in } \mathbb{A}^n \}$$

Conversely, for any subset  $X \subset \mathbb{A}^n$  we define

$$I(X) := \{ f \in k[X_1, \dots, X_N] \mid f(x) = 0 \forall x \in X \} \subset k[X_1, \dots, X_N]$$

### Lemme 10

1. If  $X \subset Y$  then  $I(X) \supset I(Y)$
2. For  $J \subset k[X_1, \dots, X_N]$  an ideal  $I(V(J)) \supset J$
3. For  $W \subset \mathbb{A}^n$  algebraic,  $V(I(W)) = W$

### Preuve

1. Let  $f \in I(Y)$ , then  $f$  vanishes on  $X$  and hence  $f \in I(X)$
2.  $I(V(J)) = \{ f \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n] \mid f(x) = 0 \forall x \in V(J) \} \supset J$
3. By definition  $V(I(X)) \supset X$  for any  $X$ .  
If in addition, if  $X = V(J)$  algebraic, then  $V(I(X)) = V(I(V(J))) \subset V(J) = X$   $\square$

There are essentially two reasons why  $I(V(J)) \supsetneq J$  in general

1.  $J = (x^n) \subset k[x] \implies V(x^n) = \{0\}$  and  $I(\{0\}) = (x)$
2.  $(x^2 + 1) \subset \mathbb{R}[x]$  and  $I(\emptyset) = \mathbb{R}[X]$

### Lemme 11

For any  $X \subset \mathbb{A}^n$ ,  $I(X)$  is a radical ideal

### Preuve

If  $f^n \in I(X)$  for some  $n$ , then  $f(x)^n = 0$  and hence  $f(x) = 0$   $\square$

So the first phenomenon is related to the fact that  $J$  is not radical, the second is related to the fact that  $\mathbb{R}$  is not algebraically closed.

### Theorème 12 (Hilbert's Nullstellensatz)

Let  $K$  be algebraically closed,  $J \subset k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ , then

$$I(V(J)) = \sqrt{J}$$

Using this, there is a one to one correspondence

$$\{ \text{radical ideals in } k[X_1, \dots, X_n] \} \leftrightarrow \{ \text{algebraic subsets of } \mathbb{A}^n \}$$



**Theorème 13 (Weak Nullstellensatz)**

Let  $K$  be algebraically closed, every maximal ideal  $I \subset K[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  is of the form  $I = \{x_1 - a_1, \dots, x_n - a_n\}$  with  $a = (a_i) \in \mathbb{A}^n$

**Corollaire 14**

Let  $I \subset K[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  be any ideal, then  $V(I)$  is a finite set  $\iff K[X_1, \dots, X_n]/I$  is a finite dimensional  $K$ -vector space.

In this case

$$|V(I)| \leq \dim_k K[X_1, \dots, X_n]/I$$

**Preuve**

Let  $I \subset K[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  be any ideal and  $P_1, \dots, P_n \subset V(I)$  distinct.

We can choose (Exercise)  $F_1, \dots, F_r \in K[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  s.t.  $F_i(P_j) = \delta_{ij}$ , then we write  $f_1, \dots, f_r$  for the residues of  $F_1, \dots, F_r$  in  $K[X_1, \dots, X_n]/I$ .

We claim  $f_1, \dots, f_r$  are linearly independent.

Indeed suppose  $\sum_i \lambda_i f_i = 0$ , this implies  $\sum_i \lambda_i F_i \in I$  hence  $0 = \sum \lambda_i F_i(P_j)$  which implies  $\lambda_j = 0$ , hence the  $f_i$  are linearly independent.

It follows that  $\dim_k K[X_1, \dots, X_n]/I < \infty \implies |V(I)| < \infty$  and in this case  $\dim_k K[X_1, \dots, X_n]/I \geq |V(I)|$ .

Now assume  $V(I)$  is a finite set  $\{P_1, \dots, P_r\} \subset \mathbb{A}^n$  and write  $P_i = (a_{i1}, \dots, a_{in})$  and define  $F_j = \prod_{i=1}^r (X_j - a_{ij})$ .

By construction  $F_j \in I(V(I)) = \sqrt{I}$

$\exists N > 0$  such that  $F_j^N \in I$ .

Hence  $f_j^N = 0$  in  $K[X_1, \dots, X_n]/I$ , but  $f_j^N = (x_j^{Nr}) + \text{lower order terms}$ .

This means that  $x_j^{Nr}$  is a  $K$ -linear combination of  $\{1, \dots, x_j^{Nr-1}\}$ .

This means that  $x_j^s$  is a linear combination for any  $s > 0$ .

Hence taking products for different  $j$ 's, we see that the set  $\{x_1^{m_1}, \dots, x_n^{m_n}\}$  generates  $K[X_1, \dots, X_n]/I$   $\square$

Due to these theorems, we'll always suppose  $K$  is algebraically closed.

**Lecture 3: Irreducible sets**

Fri 11 Mar

**1.5 Irreducible sets****Definition 2 (Irreducible set)**

An algebraic set  $V \subset \mathbb{A}^n$  is irreducible if  $\forall W_1, W_2 \subset \mathbb{A}^n$  algebraic s.t.  $V = W_1 \cup W_2$ , then either  $W_1 = V$  or  $W_2 = V$

**Example**

— Let  $V = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subset \mathbb{A}^n$  is irreducible iff  $n = 1$

- Let  $f(X, Y) = Y(X^2 - Y)$ ,  $V = V(f) \subset \mathbb{A}^2$  is not irreducible by taking  $W_1 = V(Y)$ ,  $W_2 = V(X^2 - Y)$

**Proposition 16**

An algebraic set  $V$  is irreducible iff  $I(V)$  is prime.

**Preuve**

If  $I(V)$  is not prime, let  $F_1, F_2 \notin I(V)$  s.t.  $F_1, F_2 \in I(V)$ , then we can write  $V = (V \cap V(F_1)) \cup (V \cap V(F_2))$ .

Conversely, if  $V = W_1 \cup W_2$  and  $W_i \neq V$ , then  $I(W_i) \subsetneq I(V)$ , pick  $F_i \in I(W_i) \setminus I(V)$ , then  $F_1 F_2 \in I(W_1) \cap I(W_2) = I(V)$ .  $\square$

If  $V \subset \mathbb{A}^n$  is irreducible, we can decompose it into a union of irreducible sets. The union is always finite as the polynomial ring is noetherian.

**Theorème 17 (Theorem name)**

Every  $V \subset \mathbb{A}^n$  algebraic can be written uniquely ( up to ordering) as a union of irreducible sets.

$$V = V_1 \cup \dots \cup V_k$$

where the  $V_i$ 's are irreducible and  $V_i \not\subset V_j \forall i \neq j$

**Definition 3 (Irreducible Components)**

The  $V_1 \dots V_k$  are irreducible components of  $V$ .

**Remarque**

Applying  $I$  in theorem 1.9, we get

$$I(V) = I(V_1) \cap \dots \cap I(V_k)$$

and  $I(V_i)$  is the primary decomposition of  $I(V)$

In general, it is quite difficult to find this decomposition.

For hypersurfaces, it's easy, for  $I(F)$ , write  $F = F_1^{\alpha_1} \cdot \dots \cdot F_k^{\alpha_k}$ , then  $V(F) = V(F_1) \cup \dots \cup V(F_k)$ .

## 1.6 Algebraic subsets of $\mathbb{A}^2$

**Lemme 19**

Let  $F, G \in k[X, Y]$  with no common factors, then  $V(F) \cap V(G)$  is a finite set of points.

**Preuve**

By Gauss's lemma,  $F, G$  have no common factors in  $k(X)[Y]$ . Since  $k(x)[Y]$  is a PID  $\exists A, B \in k(X)$  such that

$$AF + BG = 1$$

Now there exists  $C \in k[X]$  such that  $AC, BC \in k[X]$ .

Let  $(x, y) \in V(F, G)$ , then  $C(x) = 0$  and hence there are only finitely many  $x$ 's possible.

By symmetry, the same is true for the  $Y$  coordinate, hence  $|V(F, G)| < \infty$   $\square$

Using this, we can now classify all algebraic subsets of  $\mathbb{A}^2$ .

**Corollaire 20**

The irreducible algebraic subsets of  $\mathbb{A}^2$  are  $\mathbb{A}^2, V(F)$  with  $F$  irreducible or singletons.

## 2 Affine algebraic varieties

**Definition 4 (Affine algebraic variety)**

An affine algebraic variety is an irreducible affine algebraic set.

### 2.1 Zariski topology

**Definition 5 (Zariski topology)**

The Zariski-topology on  $\mathbb{A}^n$  is the topology whose open sets are complements of algebraic sets.

**Lemme 21**

This indeed defines a topology on  $\mathbb{A}^n$

**Preuve**

Certainly  $\emptyset, \mathbb{A}^n$  are algebraic, hence their complements are open.

Let  $\{U_i\}$  be a family of open sets, ie. such that

$$U_i = \mathbb{A}^n \setminus V(I_i)$$

Then

$$\bigcup U_i = \bigcup \mathbb{A}^n \setminus V(I_i) = \mathbb{A}^n \setminus \bigcap_i V(I_i) = \mathbb{A}^n \setminus V\left(\bigcup_i I_i\right)$$

Similarly, if  $U_1, U_2$  are open, then

$$U_1 \cap U_2 = \mathbb{A}^n \setminus V(I_1 \cup I_2)$$

$\square$

| is again open.

### Example

If  $n = 1$ , then algebraically closed sets are either  $\mathbb{A}^1$ ,  $\emptyset$  or finite union of points so the Zariski topology is the cofinite topology. Hence the open sets are huge.

#### Definition 6

For  $V \subset \mathbb{A}^n$  an algebraic variety or set, the Zariski topology on  $V$  is just the subspace topology.

#### Definition 7 (New definition of irreducibility)

A non-empty subset  $V$  of a topological space  $X$  is irreducible if it cannot be expressed as  $V = W_1 \cup W_2$  where  $W_1, W_2 \subsetneq V$  are closed subsets.

#### Lemme 23

A non-empty open subset of an irreducible topological space is again irreducible and dense.

Furthermore, if  $V \subset X$  is irreducible, then so is  $\overline{V}$

The proof is an exercise.

#### Definition 8 (Quasi-affine algebraic variety)

A quasi-affine variety is an open subset of an affine variety.

### Remarque

By the lemma above, quasi-affine variety are also irreducible.

## 2.2 Regular functions and coordinate rings

Regular functions are the natural "continuous" functions on algebraic varieties.

### 2.2.1 Affine case

#### Definition 9

Let  $V \subset \mathbb{A}^n$  be an affine algebraic variety.

A map

$$f : V \rightarrow K = \mathbb{A}^1$$

is regular if  $\exists F \in k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  such that

$$f(X) = F(X) \forall X \in V$$

The set  $\Gamma(V)$  of regular functions on  $V$  is a ring with the usual pointwise multiplication and addition. and is called the coordinate ring of  $V$ .

**Lemme 25**

If  $I = I(V)$  for some prime, then

$$\Gamma(V) \simeq k[X_1, \dots, X_n] / I(V)$$

In particular,  $\Gamma(V)$  is a domain.

**Preuve**

By definition, we have a surjective morphism

$$k[X_1, \dots, X_n] \rightarrow \Gamma(V)$$

Now note that  $F \in \ker \phi \iff F(X) = 0 \forall x \in V \iff F \in I(V)$  □

**Definition 10 (Subobjects)**

An affine subvariety of  $V$  is an affine variety contained in  $V$ .

**Lemme 26**

There is a one-to-one correspondence between  $V$  and  $\Gamma(V)$  where

$$\begin{aligned} \{ \text{algebraic subsets of } V \} &\leftrightarrow \{ \text{radical ideals of } \Gamma(V) \} \\ \{ \text{algebraic subvarieties of } V \} &\leftrightarrow \{ \text{prime ideals of } \Gamma(V) \} \\ \{ \text{points of } V \} &\leftrightarrow \{ \text{maximal ideals of } \Gamma(V) \} \end{aligned}$$

The proof is again an exercise.

**Definition 11 (Morphism)**

A morphism  $\phi : V \rightarrow W$  between affine algebraic varieties  $V \subset \mathbb{A}^n, W \subset \mathbb{A}^m$  is a map such that  $\exists$  polynomials  $T_1, \dots, T_m \in k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  such that

$$\phi(X) = (T_1(X), \dots, T_m(X))$$

Then  $\phi$  is an isomorphism if there exists a morphism  $\psi$  such that  $\phi \circ \psi = \text{Id}$  and  $\psi \circ \phi = \text{Id}$ .

**Example**

Take  $V(X^2 - Y) \subset \mathbb{A}^2$  the the projection  $p : V(X^2 - Y) \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1$  on the first

coordinate is an isomorphism with inverse  $\psi(X) = (X, X^2)$ .

A non-example of a bijective map which is not an isomorphism :

$\phi : \mathbb{A}^1 \rightarrow V(Y^2 - X^3), \phi(t) = (t^2, t^3)$ .

One can check that  $\phi$  is bijective but not an isomorphism.

## Lecture 4: Morphisms of Affine Varieties

Fri 18 Mar

In general any morphism  $\phi : V \rightarrow W$  induces a morphism of rings ( of  $k$ -algebras)  $\tilde{\phi} : \Gamma(W) \rightarrow \Gamma(V)$  by composition, ie.

$$\tilde{\phi}(f) = f \circ \phi$$

### Proposition 28

This defines a one to one correspondence

$$\{ \text{Morphisms } \phi : V \rightarrow W \} \leftrightarrow \{ k\text{-algebra homomorphisms } \tilde{\phi} : \Gamma(W) \rightarrow \Gamma(V) \}$$

In particular  $\phi$  is an isomorphism iff  $\tilde{\phi}$  is an isomorphism.

#### Preuve

Need to construct for any  $\alpha : \Gamma(W) \rightarrow \Gamma(V)$  a morphism  $\bar{\alpha} : V \rightarrow W$  s.t.

$$\tilde{\bar{\alpha}} = \alpha$$

Suppose  $V \subset \mathbb{A}^n, W \subset \mathbb{A}^m$  and write

$$\Gamma(V) = k[x_1, \dots, x_n] / I(V) \text{ and } \Gamma(W) = k[y_1, \dots, y_m] / I(W)$$

Choose lifts  $T_i$  of  $\alpha([Y_i])$  in  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .

In particular  $\forall f \in \Gamma(W)$  and  $F$  a lift, then

$$\alpha(f) = F(T_1, \dots, T_m) \mod I(V)$$

Then define  $T : \mathbb{A}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^m : x \mapsto (T_1(x) \dots T_m(x))$ .

We claim that  $T(V) \subset W$ .

From the diagram, we see that for any  $G \in I(W)$ ,  $G(T_1, \dots, T_m) \in I(V)$ , hence for any  $v \in V$ ,  $0 = G(T_1, \dots, T_m)(v) = G(T(v))$  which means that  $T(v) \in W$ .

Now

$$\tilde{\bar{\alpha}} : \Gamma(W) \rightarrow \Gamma(V)$$

satisfies  $\forall v \in V \forall f \in \Gamma(W)$

$$\tilde{\bar{\alpha}}(v) = f(\bar{\alpha}(v)) = f(T(v)) = \alpha(f(v)) \implies \tilde{\bar{\alpha}} = \alpha \quad \square$$

**Definition 12**

The quotient field  $K(V)$  of  $\Gamma(V)$  is called the field of rational function on  $V$ .

Let  $f \in K(V)$  is defined at a point  $p \in V$  if we can write  $f$  as the quotient  $f = \frac{a}{b}$  and  $b(p) \neq 0$ .

The pole set of  $f \in K(V)$  is the set of points where  $f$  is not defined.

**Remarque**

$\Gamma(V)$  is not a UFD in general, and so the presentation  $f = \frac{a}{b}$  is not unique.

**Example**

$V = (xy - zw) \subset \mathbb{A}^4$  and let  $\bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z}, \bar{w} \in \Gamma(V)$  be the respective images.

Then  $f = \frac{\bar{x}}{\bar{y}} = \frac{\bar{z}}{\bar{w}}$ .

Hence  $f$  is defined whenever  $Y \neq 0$  or  $w \neq 0$

Hence the pole set of  $f$  is  $\{Y = 0\} \cap \{W = 0\}$

**Definition 13 (Local Ring)**

The local ring of  $V$  at a point  $p \in V$  is a subring  $\mathcal{O}_p(V)$  defined by

$$\mathcal{O}_p(V) = \{f \in K(V) | f \text{ defined at } p\}$$

We have natural inclusions  $\Gamma(V) \subset \mathcal{O}_p(V) \subset K(V)$

**Remarque**

$\Gamma(V), \mathcal{O}_p(V)$  and  $K(V)$  are intrinsic to  $V$ , ie. if  $V \simeq W$  then  $\Gamma(V) \simeq \Gamma(W)$  and  $\mathcal{O}_p(V) \simeq \mathcal{O}_{p'}(W)$

**Proposition 32**

Let  $p \in V$  and  $m_p \subset \Gamma(V)$  be the corresponding maximal ideal, then

$$\mathcal{O}_p(V) \simeq \Gamma(V)_{m_p}$$

In particular  $\mathcal{O}_p(V)$  is a noetherian local domain and we have that

$$\Gamma(V) = \bigcap_{p \in V} \mathcal{O}_p(V) \subset K(V)$$

**Preuve**

Recall that  $m_p = \{f \in \Gamma(V) | f(p) = 0\}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(V)_{m_p} &= \left\{ f \in K(V) | f = \frac{a}{b}, b \notin m_p \right\} \\ &= \mathcal{O}_p(V) \end{aligned}$$

The rest follows from standard properties of localization.

In particular for any domain  $R$  we have that

$$R = \bigcap_{m \in R, m \text{ maximal}} R_m$$

□

Notice that the notions of regular functions is sufficient to define morphisms of local rings etc.

How can we extend this to quasi-affine varieties?

### Example

Consider  $V(XY - 1) \subset \mathbb{A}^2$ .

There is a natural projection  $\phi : V(XY - 1) \rightarrow x \in \mathbb{A}^1$ .

The image of  $\phi$  is  $\mathbb{A}^1 \setminus \{0\}$  quasi-affine and we'd like  $\phi$  to be an isomorphism, ie.

$$\phi^{-1}(x) = (x, \frac{1}{x})$$

I.e. the map  $x \rightarrow \frac{1}{x}$  should be a regular function on  $\mathbb{A}^1 \setminus \{0\}$ .

### Definition 14

Let  $V \subset \mathbb{A}^n$  be quasi-affine.

A map  $f : V \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1 = k$  is called regular if  $\forall v \in V$  there exists an open neighbourhood  $v \in U \subset V$  and  $g, h \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  s.t.  $h(V) \neq 0 \forall x \in U$  and  $f(x) = \frac{g(x)}{h(x)}$

Why do we need the  $U$ ?

### Example

Consider again  $V = V(XY - ZW) \setminus V(Y, W)$  and consider  $f = \frac{x}{w} = \frac{z}{y}$  on  $V$ .

None of the two presentations works on  $V$

### Definition 15

Let  $\mathcal{O}(V)$  be the ring of regular functions on  $V$

### Remarque

$f : V \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1 : x \mapsto \frac{1}{x}$  is regular.

Then we may take  $U = V$ , it is not hard to see that

$$\mathcal{O}(V) = k[x][\frac{1}{x}, \frac{1}{x^2}, \dots]$$

In particular  $\mathcal{O}(V) \supsetneq \Gamma(\mathbb{A}^1)$

If  $V \subset \mathbb{A}^n$  is affine, then we have  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(V) : F \mapsto (v \mapsto F(v))$ .

### Proposition 36

For  $V$  affine, we have that  $\Gamma(V) \simeq \mathcal{O}(V)$ .



**Preuve**

We have  $O(V) \subset O_p(V) \forall p \in V$  hence  $\Gamma(V) \hookrightarrow O(V) \hookrightarrow \bigcap_{p \in V} O_p(V) = \Gamma(V)$   $\square$

**Lemme 37**

Let  $V$  be a quasi-affine subset and  $f : V \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1$  regular, then  $f$  is continuous (with respect to the Zariski topology)

**Preuve**

It is enough to show that  $f^{-1}(X)$  is closed for any closed  $X$ .

Without loss of generality  $X = \{x\}$ .

Let  $V = \bigcup_i U_i$  a cover such that  $f|_{U_i} = \frac{g_i}{h_i}$  and  $h_i \neq 0$  on  $U_i$ .

Then  $f^{-1}(X) \cap U_i = \left\{ v \in U_i \mid f(v) = \frac{g_i(v)}{h_i(v)} \right\} = \{v \in U_i \mid x \cdot h_i(v) - g_i(v) = 0\}$  which is an algebraic set.

Hence  $f^{-1}(X) \cap U_i$  is closed which implies  $f^{-1}(X)$  is closed.  $\square$

**Corollaire 38**

Let  $f, g \in O(V)$  and  $U \subset V$  non empty and open s.t.  $f|_U = g|_U$  then  $f = g$

**Preuve**

Using an exercise, open subsets are dense, since  $f, g$  are continuous

$$f|_U = g|_U \implies f|_{\text{cl } U} = g|_{\text{cl } U} \implies f|_{\text{cl } V} = g|_{\text{cl } V} \implies f = g \quad \square$$

**Remarque**

Let  $U \subset V$  open, then the restriction of functions induces  $\mathcal{O}(V) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(U)$ .

i.e.  $\mathcal{O}(-)$  defines a sheaf of  $k$ -algebras on  $V$ .

Using this one can define a general algebraic as a topological space  $X$  with some sheaf  $\mathcal{O}_X$  which locally looks like a quasi-affine variety  $V$  with  $\mathcal{O}(-)$ .

We'll define  $\mathcal{O}_p(V)$  and  $K(V)$  for  $V$  quasi-affine, but these depend only on "local structure".

We can guess  $\mathcal{O}_p(V) = \mathcal{O}_p(\text{cl } V)$  and similarly for the quotient field.

### 3 (Quasi-)Projective and general algebraic varieties

Affine varieties usually "go to infinity" when we draw them.

This leads to complications in the theory

### Example

Two distinct lines in  $\mathbb{A}^2$  they will intersect in 1 point unless they're parallel

## 3.1 Projective space

### Definition 16 (Projective n-space)

$\mathbb{P}^n$  is the set

$$\mathbb{P}^n = K^{n+1} \setminus \{0\} / \sim$$

Where we identify

$$(x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) \sim (y_1, \dots, y_{n+1}) \text{ if } \exists \lambda \in K^* \text{ s.t. } x_i = \lambda y_i$$

Elements in  $\mathbb{P}^n$  are called points.

If  $p \in \mathbb{P}^n$  is the equivalence classe of  $(x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) \in \mathbb{A}^{n+1}$  we write

$$p = [x_1 : \dots : x_n]$$

$x_1, \dots, x_n$  are the homogenous coordinates of  $p$ .

### Remarque

Any point in  $\mathbb{A}^n \setminus \{0\}$  defines a line through the origin and  $x, y \in \mathbb{A}^n \setminus \{0\}$  define the same line iff  $x = \lambda y$

## Lecture 5: Projective varieties

Fri 25 Mar

While the  $i$ -th coordinate  $x_i$  of a point  $[x_1 : \dots : x_{n+1}] \in \mathbb{P}^n$  is not well defined, the equation  $x_i = 0$  or  $x_i \neq 0$  is well defined.

Hence we can write

$$U_i = \{[x_1 : \dots : x_n] | x_i \neq 0\}$$

Clearly  $\mathbb{P}^n = \cup_i U_i$ .

Furthermore for all  $i$ , we have a bijection

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_i : \mathbb{A}^n &\rightarrow U_i \\ (x_1, \dots, x_n) &\mapsto [x_1 : \dots : x_{i-1} : 1 : x_{i+1} : \dots : x_{n+1}] \end{aligned}$$

And this is clearly a bijection.

We'll see in a bit, that the  $\phi_i$ 's provide an open cover of  $\mathbb{P}^n$  by  $\mathbb{A}^n$

### Definition 17

The set

$$H_\infty := \mathbb{P}^n \setminus U_{n+1} = \{x \in \mathbb{P}^n | x_{n+1} = 0\}$$

is called the hyperplane at infinity.

One can identify  $H_\infty = \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$   
Thus

$$\mathbb{P}^n = U_{n+1} \coprod H_\infty = \mathbb{A}^n \coprod \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$$

### Exemple

$\mathbb{P}^0 = \text{point}$

$\mathbb{P}^1 = \mathbb{A}^1 \coprod \text{point}$  is called the projective line.

Similarly  $\mathbb{P}^2$  is called the projective plane.

## 3.2 Projective algebraic sets

For a general  $F \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , the equation  $F(x) = 0, x \in \mathbb{P}^n$  doesn't make sense.

But it does if  $F$  is homogeneous, say of degree  $d$ , since then

$$F(\lambda x) = \lambda^d F(x) = 0 \forall x \in \mathbb{A}^{n+1}, \lambda \in k^*$$

### Definition 18 (Projective set)

For any set  $S \subset k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  of homogeneous polynomials we set

$$V(S) = \{[x_1 : \dots : x_n] \in \mathbb{P}^n \mid F(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0 \forall F \in S\}$$

A subset of  $\mathbb{P}^n$  is algebraic if it is of the form  $V(S)$  as above.

### Exemple

Take  $V(X^2 - YZ) \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ , how to draw it?

We draw the intersections  $V \cap U_i$

### Definition 19 (Homogeneous ideal)

An ideal  $I \subset k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is homogeneous if it is generated by homogeneous elements.

Then for  $I$  a homogeneous ideal we set

$$V(I) = V(T) \subset \mathbb{P}^n$$

where  $T$  is the set of forms in  $I$ .

### Remarque

Since the ring is noetherian, we can always find a finite number of homogeneous generators.

For  $I = (x_1, \dots, x_{n+1})$  we have  $V(I) = \emptyset$ , we denote this ideal by  $I_+$ , it's called the irrelevant ideal.

**Exemple**

$(x, y^2)$  is homogeneous,  $(x + y^2, y^2)$  is also homogeneous but  $(x + y^2)$  is not.

**Lemme 46**

$I$  is a homogeneous ideal if and only if for every  $F \in I$ , if we write  $F = \sum_{i \geq 0} F_i$  with  $F_i$  homogeneous of degree  $i$ .

**Preuve**

Let  $G^{(1)}, \dots, G^{(k)}$  be a set of homogeneous generators of  $I$  with degrees  $d_1, \dots, d_k$ .

Any  $F = \sum F_i$  can be written as  $F = \sum A^{(i)} G^{(i)}$  for some  $A^{(i)}$ .

Since the degree is additive we get  $F_j = \sum A_{j-d_i}^{(i)} G^{(i)}$

For the other direction, let  $G^{(1)}, \dots, G^{(k)}$  any set of generators, then  $G_j^{(i)} \in I$  and then the set of  $G_j^{(i)}$  is a set of generators.  $\square$

Furthermore, the sum, the product, the intersection and the radical of homogeneous ideals are homogeneous.

A homogeneous ideal is prime if for any homogeneous  $f, g \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$

$$fg \in I \implies f \in I \text{ or } g \in I$$

**Definition 20 (Zariski topology)**

We define the Zariski topology on  $\mathbb{P}^n$  by taking the open sets to be the complements of algebraic sets.

This defines a topology using the properties above.

**Definition 21**

An algebraic set  $V \subset \mathbb{P}^n$  is irreducible if it is irreducible as a topological space.

As in the affine case, there is a correspondence

$$\{ \text{Algebraic subsets in } \mathbb{P}^n \} \leftrightarrow \{ \text{Homogeneous ideals in } k[x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}] \}$$

Where  $I(V)$  is the ideal generated by  $\{F \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n] \mid F \text{ homogeneous}, F(v) = 0 \forall v \in V\}$

**Remarque**

If we need to distinguish between the affine and projective correspondence we'll write  $V_a, I_a$  and  $V_p, I_p$  respectively.

**Definition 22 (Cone)**

For  $V \subset \mathbb{P}^n$  algebraic, we define the cone over  $V$  as

$$C(V) = \{(x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) \in \mathbb{A}^{n+1} \mid [x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}] \in V\} \cup \{(0, \dots, 0)\}$$

**Lemme 48**

1. For  $V \neq \emptyset$ , then

$$I_p(V) = I_a(C(V))$$

2. If  $I \subsetneq k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  homogeneous, then

$$C(V_p(I)) = V_a(I)$$

**Preuve**

1.  $G \in I_p(V)$  homogeneous and  $(x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) \in C(V)$ , then

$$G(x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) = 0$$

Conversely, if  $G \in I_a(C(V))$  write

$$G = \sum_i G_i, \quad G_i \text{ homogeneous}$$

Then, for every  $x \in C(V)$  and  $\lambda \in k^*$  we have  $\lambda x \in C(V)$  hence

$$0 = G(\lambda x) = \sum_i \lambda^i G_i(x)$$

Let  $\tilde{G}(y) = \sum_i y^i G_i(x) \in K[Y]$ , this has infinitely many 0's.

Which in turn implies  $G_i \in I_p(V)$

2. Notice for  $G$  homogeneous non-constant, then

$$C(V_p(G)) = V_a(G)$$

Since  $I$  is generated by homogeneous polynomials, the statement holds.

□

**Proposition 49 (Projective nullstellensatz)**

Let  $I$  be a homogeneous ideal, then

- If  $V_p(I) = \emptyset$ , then  $\sqrt{I} = k[x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}]$  or  $\sqrt{I} = I_+$
- If  $V_p(I) \neq \emptyset$  then  $I_p(V_p(I)) = \sqrt{I}$

**Preuve**

- If  $V_p(I) = \emptyset \iff V_a(I) \subset \{(0, \dots, 0)\}$  which implies  $\sqrt{I} \supset (x_1, \dots, x_{n+1})$ .

$$— I_p(V_p(I)) = I_a(C(V_p(I))) = I_a(V_a(I)) = \sqrt{I} \quad \square$$

### Corollaire 50

*There is a one-to-one correspondence between radical homogeneous ideals and projective algebraic sets.*

*Furthermore  $V_p(I)$  is irreducible  $\iff I$  is prime.*

### Remarque

*Points in  $\mathbb{P}^n$  do not correspond to maximal ideals.*

We can also relate affine and projective algebraic sets through the charts

$$\phi_i : \mathbb{A}^n \rightarrow U_i$$

We'll focus on  $\phi := \phi_{n+1} : \mathbb{A}^n \rightarrow U := U_{n+1}$

For  $F \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  homogeneous, we define

$$F_*(x_1, \dots, x_n) = F(x_1, \dots, x_n, 1)$$

Conversely, for  $G \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , we write

$$G = \sum_{i=0}^d G_i \text{ and define } G^*(x_1, \dots, x_{n+1}) = x_{n+1}^d G_0 + \dots + G_d = X_{n+1}^d G\left(\frac{x_1}{x_{n+1}}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{x_{n+1}}\right)$$

### Definition 23 (Homogenization)

$(\cdot)_*$  and  $(\cdot)^*$  are called dehomogenisation and homogenization.

For  $I$  an ideal, we denote by  $I^*$  be the homogeneous ideal generated by  $\{F^* | F \in I\}$ .

Conversely, if  $V = V_a(I)$ , we write

$$V^* = V_p(I^*)$$

$V^*$  is called the projective closure of  $V$  in  $\mathbb{P}^n$ .

Similarly if  $I$  is homogeneous, then

$$I_* = \{F_* | F \in I\}$$

and if  $V = V_p(I)$ , we set  $V_* = V_a(I_*)$

### Example

Let  $F = X_1^2 - X_2$ , then

$$F^* = X_1^2 - X_2 X_3$$

**Lemme 53**

If  $V \subset \mathbb{A}^n$  is closed, then  $\phi(V) = V^* \cap U$

Conversely, if  $V \subset \mathbb{P}^n$  is closed then  $\phi^{-1}(V \cap U) = V_*$

In particular  $\phi$  is a homeomorphism

**Preuve**

Recall that  $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = [x_1 : \dots : x_n : 1]$ .

For  $V \subset \mathbb{A}^n$  write  $V = V_a(F_1, \dots, F_k)$  then

$$V^* = V_p(F_1^*, \dots, F_k^*)$$

But  $F_i^* = X_{n+1}^d F_i(\frac{x_1}{x_{n+1}}, \dots, \frac{x_n}{x_{n+1}})$   $F_i(v) = 0 \iff F_i^*(\phi(v)) = 0 \implies \phi(V) = V^* \cap U$  □