

Title

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Review: Regular functions. Given an affine variety X and $U \subseteq X$ open, a *regular function* $\varphi : U \rightarrow k$ is one locally (wrt the zariski topology) a fraction. We write the set of regular functions as \mathcal{O}_X .

Example 1.1.

$X = V(x_1x_4 - x_2x_3)$ on $U = V(x_2, x_4)^c$, the following function is regular:

$$\varphi : U \rightarrow k$$
$$x \mapsto \begin{cases} \frac{x_1}{x_2} & x_2 \neq 0 \\ \frac{x_3}{x_4} & x_4 \neq 0 \end{cases}.$$

Note that this is not globally a fraction.

Definition 1.0.1 (Distinguished Open Sets).

A *distinguished open set* $D(f) \subseteq X$ for some $f \in A(X)$ is $V(f)^c := \{x \in X \mid f(x) \neq 0\}$.

These are useful because the $D(f)$ form a base for the zariski topology.

Proposition 1.1 (?).

For X an affine variety, $f \in A(X)$, we have

$$\mathcal{O}_X(D(f)) = \left\{ \frac{g}{f^n} \mid g \in A(X), n \in \mathbb{N} \right\}.$$

Proof .

The first reduction we made was that $\varphi \in \mathcal{O}_X(D(f))$ is expressible as $\frac{g_a}{f_a}$ on distinguished opens $D(f_a)$ covering $D(f)$. We also noted that

$$\frac{g_a}{f_a} = \frac{g_b}{f_b} \text{ on } D(f_a) \cap D(f_b) \implies f_b g_a = f_a g_b \text{ in } A(X).$$

The second step was writing $D(f) = \cup D(f_a)$, and so $V(f) = \cap_a V(f_a)$ implies that $f \in I(V(\{f_a \mid a \in U\}))$. By the Nullstellensatz, $f \in \sqrt{\langle f_a \mid a \in U \rangle}$, so $f^N = \sum k_a f_a$ for some N . So construct $g = \sum k_a g_a$, then compute

$$g f_b = \sum_a k_a g_a f_b = \sum_a k_a g_b f_a = g_b \sum k_a f_a = g_b f^N.$$

Thus $g/f^N = g_b/f_b$ for all b , and we can thus conclude

$$\varphi := \left\{ \frac{g_b}{f_b} \text{ on } D(f_b) \right\} = g/f^N.$$

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Corollary 1.2(?).

For X an affine variety, $\mathcal{O}_X(X) = A(X)$.

⚠ **Warning:** For k not algebraically closed, the proposition and corollary are both false. Take $X = \mathbb{A}^1/\mathbb{R}$, then $\frac{1}{x^2+1} \in \mathbb{R}(x)$, but $\mathcal{O}_X(X) \neq A(X) = \mathbb{R}[x]$.

Definition 1.2.1 (Localization).

Let R be a ring and S a set closed under multiplication, then the localization at S is defined by

$$R_S := \{r/s \mid r \in R, s \in S\} / \sim.$$

where $r_1/s_1 \sim r_2/s_2 \iff s_3(s_2 r_1 - s_1 r_2) = 0$ for some $s_3 \in S$.

Example 1.2.

Let $f \in R$ and take $S = \{f^n \mid n \geq 1\}$, then $R_f := R_S$.

Corollary 1.3(?).

$\mathcal{O}_X(D(f)) = A(X)_f$ is the localization of the coordinate ring.

These requires some proof, since the LHS literally consists of functions on the topological space $D(f)$ while the RHS consists of formal symbols.

Proof .

Consider the map

$$\begin{aligned} A(X)_f &\rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(D(f)) \\ "g/f^n" &\mapsto g/f^n : D(f) \rightarrow k. \end{aligned}$$

By definition, there exists a $k \geq 0$ such that

$$f^k(f^m g - f^n g') = 0 \implies f^k(f^m g - f^n g') = 0 \text{ as a function on } D(f).$$

Since $f^k \neq 0$ on $D(f)$, we have $f^m g = f^n g'$ as a function on $D(f)$, so $g/f^n = g'/f^m$ as functions on $D(f)$. ■