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Proposition 1.1 (*Gluing*).

Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a map of ringed spaces such that there exists an open cover $U_i \rightrightarrows X$ such that $f|_{U_i}$ is a morphism of ringed spaces. Then f itself is a morphism of ringed spaces.

Recall that we proved part (a).

Proof (part b).

We want to show that f^* sends sections of \mathcal{O}_Y to sections of \mathcal{O}_X (e.g. regular functions pullback). Let $V \subset Y$ be open and $\varphi \in \mathcal{O}_Y(V)$, then

$$f^*\varphi|_{U_i \cap f^{-1}(V)} \left(f^*\varphi|_{U_i \cap f^{-1}(V)} \right)^* \varphi \in \mathcal{O}_X(U_i f^{-1}(V)).$$

Since pullback commutes with restriction, $f^*\varphi$ is the unique k -valued function for which

$$f^*\varphi|_{U_i \cap f^{-1}V} = f|_{U_i \cap f^{-1}V}^* \varphi.$$

and all of the latter functions agree on overlaps $U_i \cap U_j$. This by unique gluing, $f^*\varphi \in \mathcal{O}_X(f^{-1}(V))$. ■

Proposition 1.2 (?).

Let $U \subset X$ be open in an affine variety and let $Y \subset \mathbb{A}^n$ be another affine variety. Then the morphisms $U \rightarrow Y$ of ringed spaces are the maps of the form $f = [f_1, \dots, f_n] : U \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^n$ such that $f(U) \subset Y$ and $f_i \in \mathcal{O}_X(U)$ for all i .

Proof .

\implies : Assume that $f : U \rightarrow Y$ is a morphism. Then the coordinate functions $Y \xrightarrow{y_i} \mathbb{A}^1$ are regular functions, since they generate $\mathcal{O}_Y(Y) = k[y_1, \dots, y_n]/I(Y)$. Then f^*y_i is a regular function, so define $f_i := f^*y_i$. But then $f = [f_1, \dots, f_n]$.

\impliedby : Conversely suppose $f := [f_1, \dots, f_n] : U \rightarrow Y \subset \mathbb{A}^n$ is a map such that $f_i \in \mathcal{O}_U(U)$. We want to show that f is a morphism, i.e. that the pullback of every regular function is regular. We thus need to show

1. f is continuous, and
2. f^* pulls back regular functions.

For 1, suppose Z is closed, then it suffices to show $f^{-1}(Z)$ is closed. Then $Z = V(g_1, \dots, g_n)$ for some $g_i \in A(Y)$. So we can write

$$f^{-1}(Z) = \left\{ x \in U \mid g_i(f_1(x), \dots, f_n(x)) = 0 \forall i \right\}.$$

The claim is that the functions g_i are regular, i.e. in $\mathcal{O}_U(U)$, because the g_i are polynomials in regular functions, which form a ring.

This is the common vanishing locus of m regular functions on U . By lemma 3.4, the vanishing locus of a regular function is closed, so $f^{-1}(Z)$ is closed.

For 2, let $\varphi \in \mathcal{O}_Y(W)$ be a regular function on $W \subset Y$ open. Then

$$\begin{aligned} f^*\varphi &= \varphi \circ f : f^{-1}(W) \rightarrow K \\ x &\mapsto \varphi(f_1(x), \dots, f_n(x)). \end{aligned}$$

We want to show that this is a regular function. Since the f_i are regular functions, they are locally fractions, so for all $x \in f^{-1}(W)$ there is a neighborhood of $U_x \ni x$ such that (by intersecting finitely many neighborhoods) all of the f_i are fractions a_i/b_i .

Then at a point $p = [f_i(x)]$ in the image, there exists an open neighborhood W_p in W such that $\varphi = U/V$. But then $\varphi[a_i/b_i] = (U/V)([a_i/b_i])$, which is evaluation of a fraction of functions on fractions. ■

Example 1.1.

Let $Y = V(xy - 1)$ and $U \subset \mathbb{A}^1$ be $D(x)$, so $U = \mathbb{A}^1 \setminus \{0\}$. Note that $A(Y) = k[x, y]/\langle xy - 1 \rangle$ and $A(\mathbb{A}^1) = k[t]$, and $f_1 = t, f_2 = t^{-1} \in \mathcal{O}_U(U)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} [f_1, f_2] : U &\rightarrow Y \subset \mathbb{A}^2 \\ p &\mapsto \left[p, \frac{1}{p} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the image lies in Y .

Conversely, there is a map

$$\begin{aligned} V(xy - 1) &\rightarrow U = D(0) \subset \mathbb{A}^1 \\ [x, y] &\mapsto x. \end{aligned}$$

This a morphism from $V(xy - 1)$ to \mathbb{A}^1 , since the coordinates are regular functions. Since the image is contained in U , the definitions imply that this is in fact a morphism of ringed spaces. We

thus have maps $U \xrightarrow{[t, t^{-1}]} V(xy - 1)$ and $V(xy - 1) \xrightarrow{x} U$ which are mutually inverse, so these are isomorphic as ringed spaces.

Thus maps of affine varieties (or their open subsets) are given by functions whose coordinates are regular.

Corollary 1.3(?).

Let X, Y be affine varieties, then there is a correspondence

$$\begin{aligned} \{\text{Morphisms } X \rightarrow Y\} &\iff \{k\text{-algebra morphisms } A(Y) \rightarrow A(X)\} \\ X \rightarrow Y &\mapsto A(Y) \rightarrow A(X) \\ f &\mapsto f^* \mathcal{O}_Y(Y) = \mathcal{O}_X(X). \end{aligned}$$

Thus there is an equivalence of categories between reduced k -algebras and ???.

Proof .

We have a map in the forward direction. Conversely, given a k -algebra morphism $g : A(Y) \rightarrow A(X)$, we need to construct a morphism f such that $f^* = g$. Let $Y \subset \mathbb{A}^n$ with coordinate functions y_1, \dots, y_n . Then $f_i = g(y_i) \in A(X) = \mathcal{O}_X(X)$. Set $f = [f_1, \dots, f_n]$. Then by the proposition, f is a morphism to \mathbb{A}^n .

Let $h \in A(\mathbb{A}^n)$, then

$$\begin{aligned} (f^*h)(x) &= h(f(x)) \\ &= h([f_1(x), \dots, f_n(x)]) \\ &= h(g(y_1), \dots, g(y_n)) \\ &= g(h)(x) \quad \text{since } g \text{ is an algebra morphism, } h \text{ is a polynomial} \end{aligned}$$

which follows since $f_i(x) = g(y_i)(x)$, where $g : A(Y) \rightarrow A(X)$. So $f^*(h) = g(h)$ for all $h \in A(\mathbb{A}^n)$, so the pullback of f is g . We now need to check that it's contained in the image. Let $h \in I(Y)$, then $f^*(h) = g(h) = 0$ since $h = 0 \in A(Y)$. So $\text{im}(f) \subset Y$. Since the coordinate f_i are regular, this is a morphism, and we have $f^* = g$ as desired. ■

Example 1.2.

Isomorphisms are not necessarily bijective morphisms. Let $X = V(y^2 - x^3) \subset \mathbb{A}^2$.

Then there is a morphism

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi : \mathbb{A}^1 &\rightarrow X \\ t &\mapsto [t^2, t^3], \end{aligned}$$

since the coordinates t^2, t^3 are regular functions. Then φ is a bijection, since we can define a

piecewise inverse

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi^{-1} : X &\rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1 \\ [x, y] &\mapsto \begin{cases} y/x & x \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}.\end{aligned}$$

However, φ^{-1} is not a morphism. For instance, pulling back the function t yields $(\varphi^{-1})^* t \notin A(X)$, since it is equal to the map $[x, y] \mapsto y/x$ for $x \neq 0$ and 0 if $x = y = 0$, which is not a regular function. Since φ is a morphism, we can consider the corresponding map of k -algebras

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi^* : A(X) &\rightarrow A(\mathbb{A}^1) \\ k[x, y]/\langle y^2 - x^3 \rangle &\mapsto k[t] \\ x &\mapsto t^2 \\ y &\mapsto t^3.\end{aligned}$$