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1.1 Regular Functions

See chapter 3 in the notes.

Some examples:

- X a manifold or an open set in \mathbb{R}^n has a ring of C^∞ functions.
- $X \subset \mathbb{C}$ has a ring of holomorphic functions.
- $X \subset \mathbb{R}$ has a ring of real analytic functions

These all share a common feature: it suffices to check if a function is a member on an arbitrary open set about a point, i.e. they are *local*.

Definition 1.0.1 (?).

Let X be an affine variety and $U \subseteq X$ open. A **regular function** on U is a function $\varphi : U \rightarrow k$ such that φ is “locally a fraction”, i.e. a ratio of polynomial functions.

More formally, for all $p \in U$ there exists a U_p with $p \in U_p \subseteq U$ such that $\varphi(x) = g(x)/f(x)$ for all $x \in U_p$ with $f, g \in A(X)$.

Example 1.1.

For X an affine variety and $f \in A(X)$, consider the open set $U := V(f)^c$. Then $\frac{1}{f}$ is a regular function on U , so for $p \in U$ we can take U_p to be all of U .

Example 1.2.

For $X = \mathbb{A}^1$, take $f = x - 1$. Then $\frac{x}{x-1}$ is a regular function on $\mathbb{A}^1 \setminus \{1\}$.

Example 1.3.

Let $X = V(x_1x_4 - x_2x_3)$ and

$$U := X \setminus V(x_2, x_4) = \{[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4] \mid x_1x_4 = x_2x_3, x_2 \neq 0 \text{ or } x_4 \neq 0\}.$$

Define

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi : U &\rightarrow K \\ [x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4] &\mapsto \begin{cases} \frac{x_1}{x_2} & \text{if } x_2 \neq 0 \\ \frac{x_3}{x_4} & \text{if } x_4 \neq 0 \end{cases}. \end{aligned}$$

This is well-defined on $\{x_2 \neq 0\} \cap \{x_4 \neq 0\}$, since $\frac{x_1}{x_2} = \frac{x_3}{x_4}$. Note that this doesn't define an element of k at $[0, 0, 0, 1] \in U$. So this is not globally a fraction.

Notation: we'll let $\mathcal{O}_X(U)$ is the ring of regular function on U .

Proposition 1.1(?)

Let $U \subset X$ be an affine variety and $\varphi \in \mathcal{O}_X(U)$. Then $V(\varphi) := \{x \in U \mid \varphi(x) = 0\}$ is closed in the subspace topology on U .

Proof.

For all $a \in U$ there exists $U_a \subset U$ such that $\varphi = g_a/f_a$ on U_a with $f_a, g_a \in A(X)$ with $f_a \neq 0$ on U_a .

Then

$$\{x \in U_a \mid \varphi(x) \neq 0\} = U_a \setminus V(g_a) \cap U_a$$

is an open subset of U_a , so taking the union over a again yields an open set. But this is precisely $V(\varphi)^c$. ■

Proposition 1.2.

Let $U \subset V$ be open in X an *irreducible* affine variety. If $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in \mathcal{O}_X(V)$ agree on U , then they are equal.

Proof.

$V(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)$ contains U and is closed in V . It contains $\bar{U} \cap V$, by an earlier lemma, X irreducible implies that $\bar{U} = X$ and so $V(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2) = V$. ■

Compare and contrast: Let $U \subset V \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be open. If $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in C^\infty(V)$ such that φ_1, φ_2 are equal when restricted $U \subset V$. Does this imply $\varphi_1 = \varphi_2$?

For \mathbb{R}^n , no, there exist smooth bump functions. You can make a bump function on $V \setminus U$ and extend by zero to U . For \mathbb{C} and holomorphic functions, the answer is yes, by the uniqueness of analytic continuation.

Definition 1.2.1 ((Important) Distinguished Opens).

A **distinguished open set** in an affine variety is one of the form

$$D(f) := X \setminus V(f) = \{x \in X \mid f(x) \neq 0\}.$$

Proposition 1.3.

The distinguished open sets form a base of the zariski topology.

Proof.

Given $f, g \in A(X)$, we can check:

1. Closed under finite intersections: $D(f) \cap D(g) = D(fg)$.
- 2.

$$U = X \setminus V(f_1, \dots, f_k) = V \setminus \bigcap V(f_i) = \bigcup D(f_i),$$

and any open set is a *finite* union of distinguished opens by the Hilbert basis theorem. ■

Proposition 1.4(?).

The regular functions on $D(f)$ are given by [.]