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D. Zack Garza

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We saw an interesting example of a function field in more than one variable which showed that valuations of rank larger than 1 can arise, but this does not happen for one variable function fields. That is, for K/k of transcendence degree 1, all valuations on K which are trivial on k are discrete. We'll now want to go farther and describe the places $\Sigma(K/k)$, which will be the set of points on an algebraic curve. Scheme-theoretically, this will literally be the set of closed points on a certain projective curve whose function field is K . Note that a priori, finding closed points on a curve over an arbitrary field is hard!

Recall that if A is a Dedekind domain such that $\text{ff}(A) = K$, then for all $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{mSpec}(A)$ there exists a discrete valuation $v_{\mathfrak{p}}$ on K . I.e., every maximal ideal induces a discrete valuation that is A -regular, so the valuation ring will contain A . How is this obtained? Take a nonzero $x \in K^{\times}$, and take the corresponding principal fractional ideal $\langle x \rangle := Ax$, which we can factor in a Dedekind domain as $Ax = \prod_{\mathfrak{p} \in \text{mSpec}(A)} \mathfrak{p}^{\alpha_{\mathfrak{p}}}$ with $\alpha_{\mathfrak{p}} \in \mathbb{Z}$. This looks like an infinite product, but for any fixed x , only finitely many α are nonzero. Note that these α are exactly what we're looking for: the \mathfrak{p} -adic evaluation of x is given precisely by $v_{\mathfrak{p}}(x) := \alpha_{\mathfrak{p}}$, where we are using unique factorization of ideals in Dedekind domains. Thus we have a map

$$\begin{aligned} v. : \text{mSpec}(A) &\rightarrow \Sigma(K/A) \\ \mathfrak{p} &\mapsto v_{\mathfrak{p}}. \end{aligned}$$

So this sends a maximal ideal to a place that is A -regular, and it turns out to be a bijection.

Proposition 1.0.1(?).

The map v is a bijection, and thus we may write

$$\Sigma(K/A) \cong \text{mSpec}(A).$$

Proof (?).

Claim: v is injective.

If $\mathfrak{p}_1, \mathfrak{p}_2 \in \text{mSpec}(A)$ are two different maximal ideals. Then there exists an element $x \in \mathfrak{p}_1 \setminus \mathfrak{p}_2$, and so $x^{-1} \in A_{\mathfrak{p}_2} \setminus A_{\mathfrak{p}_1}$. This follows since if x is not in \mathfrak{p}_2 , its \mathfrak{p}_2 -adic valuation is zero, and thus the \mathfrak{p}_2 -adic valuation of x^{-1} is $-0 = 0$ as well. On the other hand, since $x \in \mathfrak{p}_1$, its \mathfrak{p}_1 -adic valuation is positive and therefore $v_{\mathfrak{p}_1}(x^{-1}) < 0$ and x^{-1} is not in $A_{\mathfrak{p}_1}$.

Claim: v is surjective.

Let $v \in \Sigma(K/A)$, so $A \subset R_v$, i.e. take a valuation whose valuation ring contains A . Note that we're not assuming the valuation is discrete, this can be a general Krull valuation, but we're trying to show it's equal to a certain p -adic valuation. As always with a subring of a valuation ring, we can pull back the maximal ideal and consider $\mathfrak{m}_v \cap A \in \text{Spec}(A)$. We're hoping that this is a maximal ideal, since maximals correspond to valuations. Since we're in a Dedekind

domain, the only prime ideal we *don't* want this to be is the zero ideal of A , so suppose it were. Then $A^\bullet \subset R_v^\times$, and so $K^\times \subset R_v^\times$. This is because the only element of the maximal ideal that lies in A is zero, so every nonzero element of A is not in this maximal ideal and is thus a unit. But for any unit, its inverse is also a unit, yielding the inclusion $K^\times \subset R_v^\times$. The only way this could possibly happen is if $R_v = K$, which yields the trivial valuation ring. However, by definition, in $\Sigma(K/A)$ we've excluded the trivial valuation, so this ideal can not be zero.

So we can conclude that the pullback $\mathfrak{m}_v \cap A \in \text{mSpec}(A)$, and so $A_{\mathfrak{p}} \subset R_v$. This is from viewing elements in $A_{\mathfrak{p}}$ as quotients of elements in A whose denominator have \mathfrak{p} -adic valuation zero. Recall that we want to show that $R_v = A_{\mathfrak{p}}$. We know $R_v \subset K$ is a proper containment, and we can use the fact that a *discrete* valuation ring is maximal among all proper subrings of its fraction field. In other words, for R a DVR, there is no ring R' such that $R \subset R' \subset \text{ff}(R)$. How do you prove this? This is similar to an early exercise in commutative algebra, where we looked at all rings between \mathbb{Z} and \mathbb{Q} , which generalized to looking at all rings between a PID and its fraction field, and a DVR is a local PID. So proving this statement is actually easier.

This is enough to show that $A_{\mathfrak{p}} = R_v$, and this $v \sim v_{\mathfrak{p}}$. ■

Remark 1.0.2: What the idea? For a general one variable function field K/k , we'll produce affine Dedekind domains R with $k \subset R \subset K$ and $\text{ff}(R) = K$. This will give us subrings of this full ring of places that are mSpec of Dedekind domains. How many such domains will we need for their union to be the entire set of places? Just one won't work, since $\Sigma(K/k)$ is like a complete or projective object, and a projective variety of dimension 1 can't be covered by a single affine variety. However, it turns out that you can always cover it with 2 