Title

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1 | Tuesday, December 01

Last time: we started discussing smoothness.

Definition 1.0.1 (Tangent Space)
The **tangent space** T_pX of a variety X at a point $p \in X$ is defined as $V\left(\left\{f_1 \;\middle|\; f \in I(U_i),\, U_i \ni p = 0 \text{ affine}\right\}\right)$ where f_1 denotes the degree 1 part.

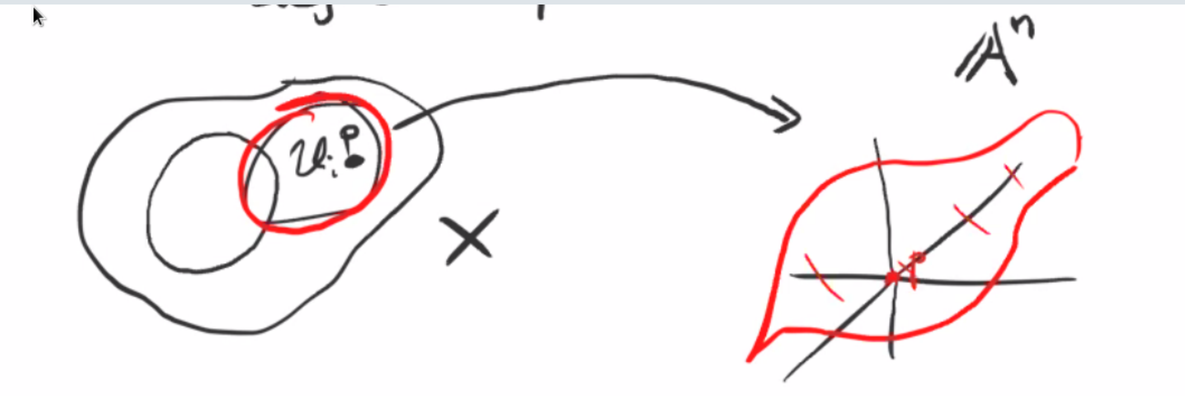

Figure 1: Image

Remark 1.0.2: We've really only defined it for affine varieties and $p = 0$, but this is a local definition. Note that this is also not a canonical definition, since it depends on the affine chart U_i.

Example 1.0.3 *(?):* Consider $T_0V(xy) = V(f_1 \mid f \in \langle xy \rangle) = V(0) = \mathbb{A}^2$, since every polynomial in this ideal has degree at least 2. Letting $X = V(xy)$, note that we could embed $X \hookrightarrow \mathbb{A}^3$ as $X \cong V(xy, z)$. In this case we have $T_0X = V(f_1 \mid f \in \langle xy, z \rangle) = V(z) \cong \mathbb{A}^2$. So we get a vector space of a different dimension from this different affine embedding, but $\dim T_0X$ is the same.

Example 1.0.4 *(?):* Let $X = V_p(xy - z^2) \subset \mathbb{P}^2$, which is a projective curve. What is T_pX for $p = [0:1:0]$? Take an affine chart $\{y \neq 0\} \cap X$, noting that $\{y \neq 0\} \cong \mathbb{A}^2$. We could dehomogenize the ideal $\left\langle xy - z^2 \right\rangle\Big|_{y=1} = \left\langle x - z^2 \right\rangle$. Thus $X \cap D(y) = V(x - z^2) \subset \mathbb{A}^2$ and the point $[0:1:0] \in X$ gives $(0,0)$ in this affine chart. Then $T_pX = V(f_1 \mid f \in \left\langle x - z^2 \right\rangle) = V(x)$. Then $f = (x - z^2)g$ implies that $f_1 = (xg)_1 = g_0 x$, the constant term of g multiplied by x, since z^2 kills any degree 1 part of g. So T_pX is a line.

Example 1.0.5 *(?):* Take X to be the union of the coordinate axes in $\mathbb{A}^3$.

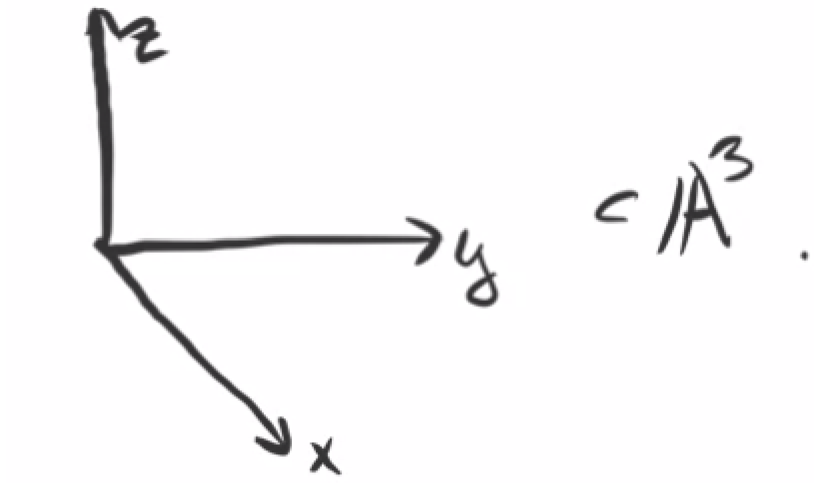

Figure 2: Image

Then $I(X) = \langle xy, yz, xz \rangle$ and $T_0X = V(f_1 \mid f \in I(X)) = V(0) = \mathbb{A}^3$, since the minimal degree of any such polynomial is 2. Note that $\dim X = 1$ but $\dim T_0X = 3$

Example 1.0.6 ***(?):*** Take $V(xy(x-y)) \subset \mathbb{A}^2$:

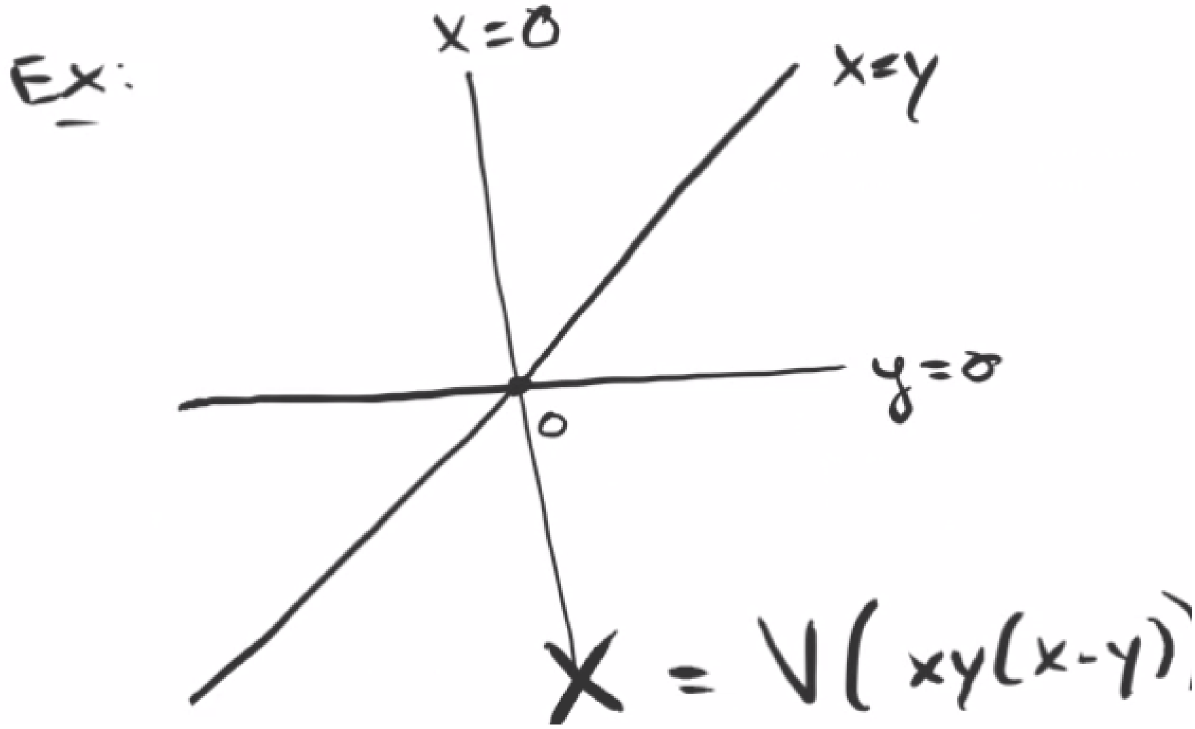

Figure 3: Image

Then $T_0 X = V(0) = \mathbb{A}^2$.

Remark 1.0.7: We will prove that $\dim T_p X$ is invariant under choice of affine embedding.