

## 6 Divisors

**Exercise 6.1.** Let  $X$  be a scheme satisfying (\*). Then  $X \times \mathbb{P}^n$  also satisfies (\*) and  $\text{Cl}(X \times \mathbb{P}^n) \cong \text{Cl}(X) \times \mathbb{P}^n$ .

*Solution.* As in the proof of Proposition II.6.6 we see immediately that  $X \times \mathbb{P}^1$  is noetherian, integral, and separated. To see that it is regular in codimension one, note that it can be covered by (two) open affines of the form  $X \times \mathbb{A}^1$ . Each of these is shown to be regular in codimension one in the proof of II.6.6 and so  $X \times \mathbb{P}^1$  is regular in codimension one.

After Proposition II.6.5 and II.6.5 we have an exact sequence

$$\mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{i} \text{Cl}(X \times \mathbb{P}^1) \xrightarrow{j} \text{Cl} X \rightarrow 0$$

The first map sends  $n$  to  $nZ$  where  $Z$  is the closed subscheme  $\pi_2^{-1}\infty \subset X \times \mathbb{P}^1$  (where  $\pi_2 : X \times \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$  is the second projection), and the second is the composition of  $\text{Cl}(X \times \mathbb{P}^1) \rightarrow \text{Cl}(X \times \mathbb{A}^1) \xleftarrow{\sim} \text{Cl} X$ . Consider the map  $\text{Cl} X \rightarrow \text{Cl}(X \times \mathbb{P}^1)$  that sends  $\sum n_i Z_i$  to  $\sum n_i \pi_1^{-1} Z_i$ . The composition  $\text{Cl}(X) \rightarrow \text{Cl}(X \times \mathbb{P}^1) \rightarrow \text{Cl}(X \times \mathbb{A}^1) \xleftarrow{\sim} \text{Cl}(X)$  sends a prime divisor  $Z$  to  $\pi_1^{-1}Z$ , then  $(X \times \mathbb{A}^1) \cap \pi_1^{-1}Z$ , and then back to  $Z$  since  $(X \times \mathbb{A}^1) \cap \pi_1^{-1}Z$  is the preimage of  $Z$  under the projection  $X \times \mathbb{A}^1 \rightarrow X$ . Hence, the epimorphism in the exact sequence above is split.

We now show that the morphism  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \text{Cl}(X \times \mathbb{P}^1)$  is split as well, by defining a morphism  $\text{Cl}(X \times \mathbb{P}^1) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  which splits  $i$ . Let  $k : \text{Cl} X \rightarrow \text{Cl}(X \times \mathbb{P}^1)$  denote the morphism we used to split  $j$ . Then we send a divisor  $\xi$  to  $\xi - kj\xi$ . This is in the kernel of  $j$  (since  $jk = id$ ) and therefore in the image of  $i$ . So it remains only to see that  $i$  is injective.

Suppose that  $nZ \sim 0$  for some integer  $n$ . Taking the “other”  $X \times \mathbb{A}^1$  we have  $Z$  as  $\pi_2^{-1}0$  under the projection  $\pi_2 : X \times \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ . In the open subset  $X \times \mathbb{A}^1$  we have  $Z$  as  $X$  embedded at the origin. So the local ring of  $Z$  in the function field  $K(t)$  (where  $K$  is the function field of  $X$ ) is  $K[t]_{(t)}$ . Since  $nZ \sim 0$  there is a function  $f \in K(t)$  such that  $v_Z(f) = n$  and  $v_Y(f) = 0$  for every other prime divisor  $Y$ . So  $f$  is of the form  $t^n \frac{g(t)}{h(t)}$  where  $g, h \in K[t]$  and  $t \nmid g(t), h(t)$ . If the degree of  $g$  and  $h$  is 0 then changing coordinates back  $t \mapsto t^{-1}$  we see that  $v_Y(f) = -n$  where  $Y$  is another copy of  $X$  embedded at the origin, or infinity, depending on which coordinates we are using; the one opposite to  $Z$  at any rate. If one of  $g$  or  $h$  has degree higher than zero then, it will have an irreducible factor in  $K[t]$ , which will correspond to a prime divisor of the form  $\pi_2^{-1}x$  for some  $x \in \mathbb{P}^1$ , and the value of  $f$  will not be zero at this prime divisor. Hence, there is no rational function with  $(f) = nZ$  and so  $i$  is injective. Hence  $\text{Cl}(X \times \mathbb{P}^1) \cong \text{Cl}(X) \times \mathbb{Z}$ .

**Exercise 6.2.**

**Exercise 6.3.**

**Exercise 6.4.** Let  $k$  be a field of characteristic  $\neq 2$ . Let  $f \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be a square free nonconstant polynomial, i.e., in the unique factorization of  $f$  into ir-

reducible polynomials, there are no repeated factors. Let  $A = k[x_1, \dots, x_n, z]/(z^2 - f)$ . Show that  $A$  is an integrally closed ring.

*Solution.* Let  $B = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,  $L = \text{Frac } B$  and consider the quotient field  $K$  of  $A$ . In this field we have  $\frac{1}{g+zh} \frac{g-zh}{g-zh} = \frac{g-zh}{g^2-fh^2}$  since  $z^2 = f$  in  $A$ , and so every element can be written in the form  $g' + zh'$  where  $g', h' \in L$ . Hence,  $K = L[z]/(z^2 - f)$ . This is a degree 2 extension of  $L$  with automorphism  $\sigma : z \mapsto -z$  and is therefore Galois. So we have the situation of Problem 5.14 from Atiyah-Macdonald (with badly chosen notation). Let  $A^c$  be the integral closure of  $A$  in  $K$ . We will show that  $A = A^c$  by showing that for  $\alpha = f + zg \in K$  (with  $g, h \in L$ ) we have  $\alpha \in A^c$  if and only if  $f, g \in B$ .

The minimal polynomial of  $\alpha$  is  $X^2 - 2gX + (g^2 - h^2f)$ . So if  $g, h \in B$  then  $\alpha \in A^c$ . Conversely, suppose that  $\alpha \in A^c$ . Then  $\alpha + \sigma\alpha = 2f$  and  $\alpha - \sigma\alpha = 2g$  are both  $\sigma$  invariant and in  $A^c$  and are therefore in  $B$ , by the Atiyah-Macdonald exercise.

**Exercise 6.5.** Quadric Hypersurfaces. Let  $\text{char } k \neq 2$ , and let  $X$  be the affine quadric hypersurface  $\text{Spec } k[x_0, \dots, x_n]/(x_0^2 + x_1^2 + \dots + x_r^2)$ .

a Show that  $X$  is normal if  $r \geq 2$ .

b Show by a suitable linear change of coordinates that the equation of  $X$  could be written as  $x_0x_1 = x_2^2 + \dots + x_r^2$ . Now imitate the method of (6.5.2) to show that:

- (a) If  $r = 2$  then  $\text{Cl } X \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ ;
- (b) If  $r = 3$  then  $\text{Cl } X \cong \mathbb{Z}$ ;
- (c) If  $r \geq 4$  then  $\text{Cl } X = 0$ .

c Now let  $Q$  be the projective quadric hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^n$  defined by the same equation. Show that:

- (a) If  $r = 2$ ,  $\text{Cl } Q \cong \mathbb{Z}$ , and the class of a hyperplane section  $Q.H$  is twice the generator;
- (b) If  $r = 3$ ,  $\text{Cl } Q \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$ ;
- (c) If  $r \geq 4$ ,  $\text{Cl } Q \cong \mathbb{Z}$ , generated by  $Q.H$ .

d Prove Klein's theorem, which says that if  $r \geq 4$ , and if  $Y$  is an irreducible subvariety of codimension 1 on  $Q$ , then there is an irreducible hypersurface  $V \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n$  such that  $Y \cap Q = V$ , with multiplicity one. In other words,  $Y$  is a complete intersection.

*Solution.* a Let  $A = \text{Spec } k[x_0, \dots, x_n]/(x_0^2 + x_1^2 + \dots + x_r^2)$ . By taking  $f = x_1^2 + \dots + x_r^2$ , if we can show that  $f$  is square free, then we will have the situation of Exercise II.6.4 and so  $A$  will be integrally closed, implying that  $X$  is normal. But the polynomial  $f$  has degree 2 and so it is a product of at most 2 other nonconstant polynomials, which by degree, must be linear. Suppose  $\sum a_i x_i$  is a linear polynomial such that  $(\sum a_i x_i)^2 = f$ .

Then  $a_i^2 = 1$  for all  $i = 0, \dots, r$ , and  $2a_i a_j = 0$  for  $i \neq j \in \{0, \dots, r\}$ . But this implies that  $2 = 2a_i^2 a_j^2 = 0$  and we have assumed that  $k$  doesn't have characteristic 2. Hence  $f$  is square free.

- b We assume  $-1$  has a square root  $i$  in  $k$ , otherwise there isn't a suitable change of coordinates. Take the change of coordinates  $x_0 \mapsto \frac{y_0+y_1}{2}$  and  $x_1 \mapsto \frac{y_0-y_1}{i2}$ . Then  $x_0^2 + x_1^2 = y_0 y_1$ .

Let  $A = \text{Spec } k[x_0, \dots, x_n]/(x_0 x_1 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_r^2)$ . Now we imitate Example II.6.5.2. We take the closed subscheme of  $\mathbb{A}^{n+1}$  with ideal  $\langle x_1, x_2^2 + \dots + x_r^2 \rangle$ . This is a subscheme of  $X$  and is in fact  $V(x_1)$  considering  $x_1 \in A$ . We have an exact sequence

$$\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \text{Cl}(X) \rightarrow \text{Cl}(X - Z) \rightarrow 0$$

Now since  $V(x_1) \cap X = X - Z$  the coordinate ring of  $X - Z$  is

$$k[x_0, x_1, x_1^{-1}, x_2, \dots, x_n]/(x_0 x_1 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_r^2)$$

As in Example II.6.5.2 since  $x_0 = -x_1^{-1}(x_2^2 + \dots + x_r^2)$  in this ring we can eliminate  $x_0$  and since every element of the ideal  $(x_0 x_1 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_r^2)$  has an  $x_0$  term, we have an isomorphism between the coordinate ring of  $X - Z$  and  $k[x_1, x_1^{-1}, x_2, \dots, x_n]$ . This is a unique factorization domain so by Proposition II.6.2  $\text{Cl}(X - Z) = 0$ . So we have a surjection  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \text{Cl}(X)$  which sends  $n$  to  $n \cdot Z$ .

- $r = 2$  In this case the same reasoning as in Example II.6.5.2 works. Let  $\mathfrak{p} \subset A$  be the prime associated to the generic point of  $Z$ . Then  $\mathfrak{m}_{\mathfrak{p}}$  is generated by  $x_2$  and  $x_1 = x_0^{-1} x_2^2$  so  $v_Z(x_1) = 2$ . Since  $Z$  is cut out by  $x_1$  there can be no other prime divisors  $Y$  with  $v_Y(x_1) \neq 0$ . It remains to see that  $Z$  is not a principle divisor. If it were then  $\text{Cl}(X)$  would be zero and by Proposition II.6.2 this would imply that  $A$  is a unique factorization domain (since  $A$  is normal by the first part of this exercise) which would imply that every height one prime ideal is principle. Consider the prime ideal  $\langle x_1, x_2 \rangle$  of  $A$  which defines  $Z$ . Let  $\mathfrak{m} = (x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n)$ . we have  $\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{m}^2$  is a vector space of dimension  $n$  over  $k$  with basis  $\{\bar{x}_i\}$ . The ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$  contains  $\mathfrak{p}$  and its image in  $\mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{m}^2$  is a subspace of dimension at least 2. Hence,  $\mathfrak{p}$  cannot be principle.

- $r = 3$  We use Example II.6.6.1 and Exercise II.6.3(b). Using a similar change of coordinates as the beginning of this part of this exercise, we see that  $X$  is the affine cone of the projective quadric of Example II.6.6.1. This, by Exercise II.6.3(b) we have an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \text{Cl}(X) \rightarrow 0$ . We already know that  $\text{Cl}(X)$  is  $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Z}/n$  or  $0$ . Tensoring with  $\mathbb{Q}$  gives an exact sequence  $\mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}^2 \rightarrow \text{Cl}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow 0$  of  $\mathbb{Q}$  vector spaces. Hence,  $\text{Cl}(X) = \mathbb{Z}$ , as the other two cases contradict the exactness of the sequence of  $\mathbb{Q}$ -vector spaces.

$r \geq 4$  In this case we claim that  $Z$  is principle. Consider the ideal  $(x_1)$  in  $A$ . Its corresponding closed subset is  $Z$  and so if we can show that  $(x_1)$  is prime, then  $Z$  will be the principle divisor associated to the rational function  $x_1$ . Showing that  $(x_1)$  is prime is the same as showing that  $A/(x_1)$  is integral, which is the same as showing that  $\frac{k[x_0, \dots, x_n]}{(x_1, x_2^2 + \dots + x_r^2)}$  is integral since  $(x_1, x_0x_1 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_r^2) = (x_1, x_2^2 + \dots + x_r^2)$ . This is the same as showing that  $\frac{k[x_0, x_2, \dots, x_n]}{(x_2^2 + \dots + x_r^2)}$  is integral (where the variable  $x_1$  is missing on the top) which is the same as showing that  $f = x_2^2 + \dots + x_r^2$  is irreducible. Suppose  $f$  is a product of more than one nonconstant polynomial. Since it has degree two, it is the product of at most two linear polynomials, say  $a_0x_0 + a_2x_2 + \dots + a_nx_n$  and  $b_0x_0 + b_2x_2 + \dots + b_nx_n$ . Expanding the product of these two linear polynomials and comparing coefficients with  $f$  we find that (I)  $a_i b_i = 1$  for  $2 \leq i \leq r$ , and (II)  $a_i b_j + a_j b_i = 0$  for  $2 \leq i, j \leq r$  and  $i \neq j$ . Without loss of generality we can assume that  $a_2 = 1$ . The relation (I) implies that  $b_2 = 1$ , and in general,  $a_i = b_i^{-1}$  for  $2 \leq i \leq r$ . Putting this in the second relation gives (III)  $a_i^2 + a_j^2 = 0$  for  $2 \leq i \neq j \leq r$  and this together with the assumption that  $a_2 = 1$  implies that (IV)  $a_j^2 = -1$  for each  $2 < j \leq r$ . But if  $r \geq 4$  then we have from (III) that  $a_3^2 + a_4^2 = 0$  which contradicts (IV). Hence  $x_2^2 + \dots + x_r^2$  is irreducible, so  $\frac{k[x_0, x_2, \dots, x_n]}{(x_2^2 + \dots + x_r^2)}$  is integral, so  $A/(x_1)$  is integral, so  $(x_1)$  is prime and hence  $Z$  is the principle divisor corresponding to  $x_1$ . So  $\text{Cl}(X) = 0$ .

c For each of these we use the exact sequence of Exercise II.6.3(b).

$r = 2$  We have an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \text{Cl}(Q) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2 \rightarrow 0$  where the first morphism sends 1 to the class of  $H \cdot Q$  a hyperplane section. Tensoring with  $\mathbb{Q}$  we get an exact sequence  $\mathbb{Q} \xrightarrow{2} \text{Cl}(Q) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 0$  and so since  $\text{Cl}(Q)$  is an abelian group we see that it is  $\mathbb{Z} \oplus T$  where  $T$  is some torsion group. Tensoring with  $\mathbb{Z}/p$  for a prime  $p$  we get either  $\mathbb{Z}/2 \xrightarrow{0} \text{Cl}(Q) \otimes (\mathbb{Z}/2) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2 \rightarrow 0$  if  $p = 2$  or  $\mathbb{Z}/p \xrightarrow{2} \text{Cl}(Q) \otimes (\mathbb{Z}/p) \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 0$  if  $p \neq 2$ . Hence,  $T = 0$ , and so  $\text{Cl}(Q) \cong \mathbb{Z}$  and the class of a hyperplane section is twice the generator.

$r = 3$  This is Example II.6.6.1.

$r \geq 4$  We have an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \text{Cl}(Q) \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 0$ , hence,  $\text{Cl}(Q) = \mathbb{Z}$  and it is generated by  $Q \cdot H$ .

**Exercise 6.6.** Let  $X$  be the nonsingular plane cubic curve  $y^2z = x^3 - xz^2$  of (6.10.2).

a Show that three points  $P, Q, R$  of  $X$  are collinear if and only if  $P + Q + R = 0$  in the group law on  $X$ . (Note that the point  $P_0 = (0, 1, 0)$  is the zero element in the group structure on  $X$ ).

- b A point  $P \in X$  has order 2 in the group law on  $X$  if and only if the tangent line at  $P$  passes through  $P_0$ .
- c A point  $P \in X$  has order 3 in the group law on  $X$  if and only if  $P$  is an inflection point (an inflection point of a plane curve is a nonsingular point  $P$  of the curve, whose tangent line (Exercise I.7.3) has intersection multiplicity  $\geq 3$  with the curve at  $P$ .)
- d Let  $k = \mathbb{C}$ . Show that the points of  $X$  with coordinates in  $\mathbb{Q}$  form a subgroup of the group  $X$ . Can you determine the structure of this subgroup explicitly?

*Solution.* a Suppose that  $P, Q, R$  are collinear. Then there is a line  $L$  on which they all lie and since every line meets  $X$  in exactly three points (counting multiplicities)  $P, Q, R$  are the only points where  $L$  meets  $X$ . In  $\mathbb{P}^2$  any line is equivalent to  $z$  and so  $P + Q + R \sim 3P_0$  as divisors, hence  $(P - P_0) + (Q - P_0) + (R - P_0) \sim (P_0 - P_0)$  as divisors, and therefore  $P + Q + R = 0$  in the group law on  $X$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $P + Q + R = 0$  in the group law on  $X$ . If  $P, Q, R$  are not all distinct, then they are collinear in  $\mathbb{P}^2$  since any two points are collinear in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . Suppose they are distinct and consider the unique line  $L$  on which  $P$  and  $Q$  lie. This line intersects  $X$  in a unique third point  $T$  and we have  $P + Q + T \sim 3P_0$ . Hence,  $P + Q + T = 0$  in the group law on  $X$  and therefore  $R = -P - Q = T$ . So  $P, Q, R$  are collinear.

- b Recall that the tangent line to  $P$  is the unique line  $T_P(X)$  whose intersection multiplicity with  $X$  at  $P$  is  $> 1$  (Exercise I.7.3).

If  $P = P_0$  then certainly the tangent line passes through  $P_0$ . Suppose that  $P \neq P_0$  has order 2 and consider the tangent line  $T_P(X)$  to  $P$ . This line intersects  $X$  in three points (counting multiplicities) and since it hits  $P$  with multiplicity greater than one, these three points are  $P, P$  and  $R$  for some other point  $R$  (which is possibly also  $P$ ). Now  $P, P$  and  $R$  being collinear means that  $P + P + R = 0$  in the group law on  $X$ . But  $P$  has order 2 and so we see that  $R = 0 = P_0$ . Hence, the tangent line  $T_P(X)$  passes through  $P_0$ .

Conversely, suppose that the tangent line  $T_P(X)$  passes through  $P_0$ . Since  $P_0$  is the identity, it has order 2 so suppose that  $P \neq P_0$ . Again,  $T_P(X)$  hits  $X$  in three points (counting multiplicities) of which at least two are  $P$ , and since we have assumed that  $P_0 \neq P$  these three points are  $P, P$  and  $P_0$ . Hence,  $P + P + P_0 = 0$  and since  $P_0 = 0$  we see that  $P$  has order 2.

- c If  $P$  is an inflection point then the intersection multiplicity of  $T_P(X)$  and  $X$  at  $P$  is  $\geq 3$ . Since  $X$  has degree three it can't be more than three and so we see that it is exactly three. So the three points of  $X$  that  $T_P(X)$  hits, counting multiplicities, are all  $P$ , and so  $P + P + P = 0$  in the group law. Hence,  $P$  has order three.

Conversely, if  $P$  has order three then  $P + P + P = 0$  then the three points  $P, P, P$  are collinear. That is, there is a line  $L$  such that  $L$  intersects  $X$  in the unique point  $P$  with intersection multiplicity three. Since there is a unique line of  $\mathbb{P}^2$  that intersects  $X$  at  $P$  with multiplicity greater than one—the tangent line—we see that the tangent line intersects  $X$  at  $P$  with multiplicity three, and therefore  $P$  is an inflection point.

- d If the base field is  $\mathbb{C}$  then the elliptic curve is isomorphic as an abelian variety to the quotient of the complex plane by a lattice  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ .

**Exercise 6.7.** Let  $X$  be the nodal cubic curve  $y^2z = x^3 + x^2z$  in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . Imitate (6.11.4) and show that the group of Cartier divisors of degree 0,  $\text{CaCl}^0 X$ , is naturally isomorphic to the multiplicative group  $\mathbb{G}_m$ .

**Exercise 6.8.** a Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a morphism of schemes. Show that  $\mathcal{L} \mapsto f^*\mathcal{L}$  induces a homomorphism of Picard groups,  $f^* : \text{Pic } Y \rightarrow \text{Pic } X$ .

- b If  $f$  is a finite morphism of nonsingular curves, show that this homomorphism corresponds to the homomorphism  $f^* : \text{Cl } Y \rightarrow \text{Cl } X$  defined in the text, via the isomorphism of (6.16).

- c If  $X$  is a locally factorial integral closed subscheme of  $\mathbb{P}_k^n$ , and if  $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$  is the inclusion map, then  $f^*$  on  $\text{Pic}$  agrees with the homomorphism on divisor class groups defined in (Ex. 6.2) via the isomorphisms of (6.16).

**Exercise 6.9.** Singular curves.

**Exercise 6.10.** The Grothendieck Group  $K(X)$ . Let  $X$  be a noetherian scheme. We define  $K(X)$  to be the quotient of the free abelian group generated by all the coherent sheaves on  $X$ , by the subgroup generated by all expressions  $\mathcal{F} - \mathcal{F}' - \mathcal{F}''$ , whenever there is an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}' \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}'' \rightarrow 0$  of coherent sheaves on  $X$ . If  $\mathcal{F}$  is a coherent sheaf, we denote by  $\gamma(\mathcal{F})$  its image in  $K(X)$ .

- a If  $X = \mathbb{A}_k^1$ , then  $K(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ .
- b If  $X$  is any integral scheme, and  $\mathcal{F}$  a coherent sheaf, we define the rank of  $\mathcal{F}$  to be  $\dim_k \mathcal{F}_\xi$  where  $\xi$  is the generic point of  $X$ , and  $K = \mathcal{O}_\xi$  is the function field of  $X$ . Show that the rank function defines a surjective homomorphism  $\text{rank} : K(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ .
- c If  $Y$  is a closed subscheme of  $X$ , there is an exact sequence

$$K(Y) \rightarrow K(X) \rightarrow K(X - Y) \rightarrow 0$$

where the first map is extension by zero, and the second map is restriction.

*Solution.* a Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a coherent sheaf on  $X$ . Then  $\mathcal{F}$  corresponds to a finitely generated  $k[t]$ -module  $M$ . We take a presentation  $k[t]^{\oplus n} \rightarrow k[t]^{\oplus m} \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0$  of  $M$  and since  $k[t]$  is a principle ideal domain, we can

choose the first morphism to be injective.<sup>1</sup> Hence, we arrive at an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X^{\oplus n} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X^{\oplus m} \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow 0$  so in the Grothendieck group we have  $\gamma(\mathcal{F}) = (m - n)\gamma(\mathcal{O}_X)$ . So the morphism  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow K(X)$  sending  $n$  to  $n\gamma(\mathcal{O}_X)$  is surjective. To see that this morphism is injective, we use the rank homomorphism from the next part of this exercise to split it.

- b First we show that it defines a homomorphism. Let  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}' \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}'' \rightarrow 0$  be an exact sequence of coherent sheaves on  $X$ . Since this sequence is exact, it is exact at every stalk. In particular, it is exact at the stalk at the generic point  $\xi$ . So we have an exact sequence of finitely generated  $\mathcal{O}_\xi$ -modules  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}'_\xi \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_\xi \rightarrow \mathcal{F}''_\xi \rightarrow 0$ . Hence,  $\dim_K \mathcal{F}_\xi = \dim_K \mathcal{F}''_\xi + \dim_K \mathcal{F}'_\xi$ . So rank is a well-defined homomorphism.

To see that it is surjective, notice that  $\gamma(\mathcal{O}_X) \mapsto 1$ , and so  $n \cdot \gamma(\mathcal{O}_X) \mapsto n$ .

- c *Surjectivity on the right.* Every coherent sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $X - Y$  can be extended to a coherent sheaf  $\mathcal{F}'$  on  $X$  such that  $\mathcal{F}'|_{X-Y} = \mathcal{F}$  by Exercise II.5.15. So the morphism on the right is surjective.

*Exactness in the middle.* Suppose that  $\mathcal{F}$  is a coherent sheaf on  $X$  with support in  $Y$ . We will show (below) that there is a finite filtration  $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_0 \supseteq \mathcal{F}_1 \supseteq \dots \supseteq \mathcal{F}_n = 0$  such that each  $\mathcal{F}_i/\mathcal{F}_{i+1}$  is the extension by zero of a coherent sheaf on  $Y$ . Assuming we have such a finite filtration, we have  $\gamma(\mathcal{F}_i) = \gamma(\mathcal{F}_{i+1}) + \gamma(\mathcal{F}_i/\mathcal{F}_{i+1})$  in  $K(X)$  and so  $\gamma(\mathcal{F}) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \gamma(\mathcal{F}_i/\mathcal{F}_{i+1})$ . Hence, the class represented by  $\mathcal{F}$  is in the image of  $K(Y) \rightarrow K(X)$ . Now if  $\sum n_i \gamma(\mathcal{F}_i)$  is in the kernel of  $K(X) \rightarrow K(X - Y)$  the *Proof of claim.* Let  $i : Y \rightarrow X$  be the closed embedding of  $Y$  into  $X$  and consider the two functors  $i_* : \text{Coh}(Y) \rightarrow \text{Coh}(X)$  (Exercise II.5.5) and  $i^* : \text{Coh}(Y) \rightarrow \text{Coh}(X)$ . These functors are adjoint (page 110) and so we have a natural morphism  $\eta : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow i_* i^* \mathcal{F}$  for any coherent sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $X$ . Let  $\text{Spec } A$  be an open affine subscheme of  $X$  on which  $\mathcal{F}$  has the form  $\widetilde{M}$ . Closed subschemes of affine schemes correspond to ideals bijectively and so  $\text{Spec } A \cap Y = \text{Spec } A/I$  for some ideal  $I \subset A$  and the morphism  $\eta : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow i_* i^* \mathcal{F}$  restricted to  $\text{Spec } A$  has the form  $M \rightarrow M/IM$ . Thus we see that  $\eta$  is surjective. Let  $\mathcal{F}_0 = \mathcal{F}$  and define  $\mathcal{F}_j$  inductively as  $\mathcal{F}_j = \ker(\mathcal{F}_{j-1} \rightarrow i_* i^* \mathcal{F}_j)$ . It follows from our

<sup>1</sup>If  $N$  is a submodule of a free  $A$ -module  $M$  of rank  $n$  where  $A$  is an integral PID then  $N$  is free. Induction on  $n$ . If  $n = 1$  then a submodule is an ideal and since  $A$  is a PID the ideal is of the form  $(a)$  for some  $a \in A$ . Since  $A$  is integral the map  $b \mapsto ab$  is an isomorphism of modules. Now suppose  $M = A^n$ . Consider the submodule  $A^{n-1}$  of elements whose last component is zero. Then by the inductive hypothesis  $N' = A^{n-1} \cap N$  is free; let  $m_1, \dots, m_r$  be a basis for  $N'$  as a free  $A$ -module. If  $\pi : A^n \rightarrow A$  is projection onto the last component then its image is an ideal  $I$  of  $A$ . If  $I = 0$  then  $N' = N$  and we are done. If not, choose an element  $n \in N$  such that  $\pi n = a$  where  $(a) = I$ . Then we claim that  $N = N' \oplus An$ . Certainly,  $N' + An \subseteq N$ . If  $m \in N$  then  $m = (m - (\pi m)n) + (\pi m)n$  is a decomposition into an element of  $N'$  and of  $An$  so  $N' + An \supseteq N$  and therefore  $N' + An = N$ , so it remains to see that  $N' \oplus An \rightarrow N' + An$  is injective. Suppose  $(x, bn)$  is in the kernel. Then  $x + bn = 0$  and so  $\pi(x + bn) = 0$ . But  $\pi(x + bn) = ba$  and since  $A$  is integral this implies that  $b = 0$ . Hence,  $x + 0n = 0$  and so  $x = 0$ . So  $N' \oplus An \rightarrow N' + An = N$  is an isomorphism.

definition that each  $\mathcal{F}_i/\mathcal{F}_{i+1}$  is the extension by zero of a coherent sheaf on  $Y$  so we just need to show that the filtration  $\mathcal{F} \supseteq \mathcal{F}_1 \supseteq \dots$  is finite.

On our open affine we have  $\mathcal{F}_j|_{\text{Spec } A} = I^j M$ . Now the support of  $\widetilde{M}$  contained in the closed subscheme  $\text{Spec } A/I = V(I)$  so by Exercise II.5.6(b) we have  $\sqrt{\text{Ann } M} \supseteq \sqrt{I} \supseteq I$ . Since  $A$  is noetherian, every ideal is finitely generated. In particular,  $I$  is finitely generated. So there exists some  $N$  such that  $\text{Ann } M \supseteq I^N$  (see the proof of Exercise II.5.6(d) for details). Hence,  $0 = I^N M$  and so the filtration is finite when restricted to an open affine. Since  $X$  is noetherian, there is a cover by finitely many affine opens  $\{U_i\}$  and so if  $n_i$  is the point at which  $\mathcal{F}_i|_{U_i} = 0$  then  $\mathcal{F}_{\max\{n_i\}} = 0$ . So the filtration is finite.

**Exercise 6.11.** The Grothendieck Group of a Nonsingular Curve. Let  $X$  be a nonsingular curve over an algebraically closed field  $k$ .

- a For any divisor  $D = \sum n_i P_i$ , let  $\psi(D) = \sum n_i [k(P_i)] \in K(X)$  where  $k(P_i)$  is the skyscraper sheaf  $k$  at  $P_i$  and 0 elsewhere. If  $D$  is an effective divisor, let  $\mathcal{O}_D$  be the structure sheaf of the associated subscheme of codimension 1, and show that  $\psi(D) = [\mathcal{O}_D]$ . Then use (6.18) to show that for any  $D$ ,  $\psi(D)$  depends only on the linear equivalence class of  $D$ , so  $\psi$  defines a homomorphism  $\psi : \text{Cl } X \rightarrow K(X)$ .
- b For any coherent sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $X$ , show that there exists locally free sheaves  $\mathcal{E}_0$  and  $\mathcal{E}_1$  and an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow 0$ . Let  $r_0 = \text{rank } \mathcal{E}_0$ ,  $r_1 = \text{rank } \mathcal{E}_1$ , and define  $\det \mathcal{F} = (\wedge^{r_0} \mathcal{E}_0) \otimes (\wedge^{r_1} \mathcal{E}_1)^{-1} \in \text{Pic } X$ . Show that  $\det \mathcal{F}$  is independent of the resolution chosen, and that it gives a homomorphism  $\det : K(X) \rightarrow \text{Pic } X$ . Finally show that if  $D$  is a divisor, then  $\det(\psi(D)) = \mathcal{L}(D)$ .
- c If  $\mathcal{F}$  is any coherent sheaf of rank  $r$ , show that there is a divisor  $D$  on  $X$  and an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(D)^{\oplus r} \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{T} \rightarrow 0$ , where  $\mathcal{T}$  is a torsion sheaf. Conclude that if  $\mathcal{F}$  is a sheaf of rank  $f$ , then  $[\mathcal{F}] - r[\mathcal{O}_X] \in \text{im } \psi$ .
- d Using the maps  $\psi, \det, \text{rank}$ , and  $1 \mapsto [\mathcal{O}_X]$  from  $\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow K(X)$ , show that  $K(X) \cong \text{Pic } X \oplus \mathbb{Z}$ .

*Solution.* a We denote the associated subscheme of  $D$  also by  $D$ . So its sheaf of ideals is  $\mathcal{I}_D$ . For each closed point  $P \in X$  let  $\mathcal{F}_P$  be the skyscraper sheaf  $\text{coker}((\mathcal{I}_D)_P \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_P)$  at  $P$  and zero elsewhere. There are surjections  $\mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_P$  for each  $P$  and so we have an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_D \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \bigoplus_{P \in X} \mathcal{F}_P \rightarrow 0$$

Hence,  $\mathcal{O}_D \cong \bigoplus \mathcal{F}_P$  and so  $\gamma(\mathcal{O}_D) = \sum \gamma(\mathcal{F}_P)$ . Now consider  $\mathcal{F}_P$  for some  $P \in X$  with  $\mathcal{F}_P$  nonzero (there are only finitely many as there are only finitely many points in  $D$ ). Choose a representation  $\{(U_i, f_i)\}$  of the Cartier divisor corresponding to the Weil divisor  $D$ . Since  $D$  is effective,



this can be chosen so that  $f_i \in \Gamma(U_i, \mathcal{O}_{U_i})$  for each  $i$ , and in this case the sheaf of ideals  $\mathcal{I}_D$  is locally generated by  $f_i$  (by the definition on page 145). If  $U_i$  is an open that contains  $P$  then  $v_P(f_i) = n$ , where  $n$  is the coefficient of  $P$  in the sum  $D$ . So in the local ring  $\mathcal{O}_P$  we have  $f_i = t^n$  where  $t$  is a generator of  $\mathfrak{m}_P$ . The stalk of  $\mathcal{F}_P$  at  $P$  is by our definition above  $\text{coker}((\mathcal{I}_D)_P \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_P)$  which we can now see to be  $\mathcal{O}_P/\mathfrak{m}_P^n$ . For each  $i$  we have an exact sequence of  $\mathcal{O}_P$  modules  $0 \rightarrow \mathfrak{m}_P^i/\mathfrak{m}_P^{i+1} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_P/\mathfrak{m}_P^{i+1} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_P/\mathfrak{m}_P^i \rightarrow 0$  and we have isomorphisms of  $\mathcal{O}_P$ -modules  $\mathfrak{m}_P^i/\mathfrak{m}_P^{i+1} \cong \mathfrak{m}_P/\mathfrak{m}_P^2 \cong k$  so it follows that  $\gamma(\mathcal{F}_P) = n\gamma(k(P))$ . Combining this with the equality  $\gamma(\mathcal{O}_D) = \sum \gamma(\mathcal{F}_P)$  shows that  $\psi(D) = \gamma(\mathcal{O}_D)$ .

If  $D'$  is some other effective divisor in the same linear equivalence class as  $D$  then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(D) &= \gamma(\mathcal{O}_D) = \gamma(\mathcal{O}_X) - \gamma(\mathcal{I}_D) \\ &\stackrel{6.18}{=} \gamma(\mathcal{O}_X) - \gamma(\mathcal{L}(-D)) \stackrel{6.13}{=} \gamma(\mathcal{O}_X) - \gamma(\mathcal{L}(-D')) \\ &\stackrel{6.18}{=} \gamma(\mathcal{O}_X) - \gamma(\mathcal{I}_{D'}) = \gamma(\mathcal{O}_{D'}) = \psi(D') \end{aligned}$$

So  $\psi$  defines a homomorphism (for an arbitrary divisor  $D$ , write it as a difference of two effective divisors  $D = D_+ - D_-$  and then we have  $\psi(D) = \gamma(\mathcal{O}_{D_+}) - \gamma(\mathcal{O}_{D_-})$ ).

- b *Existence of the exact sequence.* By Corollary II.5.18 we can write  $\mathcal{F}$  as the quotient of a finite direct sum  $\mathcal{E}_0 = \oplus \mathcal{O}(n_i)$  of twisted structure sheaves  $\mathcal{O}(n_i)$  for various  $n_i$ . Let  $\mathcal{E}_1$  be the kernel of the map  $\mathcal{E}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ . At each closed point we then have an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}_1)_x \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_x^{\oplus n} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_x \rightarrow 0$$

That is,  $(\mathcal{E}_1)_x$  is a submodule of  $\mathcal{O}_x^{\oplus n}$ . But each  $\mathcal{O}_x$  is a reduced regular local ring of dimension one, and therefore a principle ideal domain (the only two ideals are zero since it is reduced, and  $\mathfrak{m}$  which is principle since  $\mathcal{O}_x$  is regular) and every submodule of a free module over a principle ideal domain is free. Hence  $(\mathcal{E}_1)_x$  is free for every closed point  $x$ . Then by Exercise II.5.7  $\mathcal{E}_1$  is locally free.

*Independence of  $\mathcal{E}_1$  and  $\mathcal{E}_0$ .* Suppose that we choose another locally free resolution  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow 0$ . Consider the sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{G} \rightarrow$

$\mathcal{E}_0 \oplus \mathcal{E}'_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow 0$ . We have a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
& & 0 & & 0 & & 0 \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{E}_1 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{E}_0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{F} \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \parallel \\
0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{G} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{E}_0 \oplus \mathcal{E}'_0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{F} \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{E}'_0 & \xlongequal{\quad} & \mathcal{E}'_0 & \longrightarrow & 0 \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
& & 0 & & 0 & & 0
\end{array}$$

and we know that the rows and the two right columns are exact. Hence, the left column is exact as well by the nine lemma. We also get a similar diagram using  $\mathcal{E}'_1, \mathcal{E}'_0$  in the top row which gives an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_0 \rightarrow 0$  as the left column. We know that  $\mathcal{G}$  is a locally free sheaf by the same argument we used to show that existence of the exact sequence and so using the isomorphism of exercise II.5.16(d) we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
(\wedge \mathcal{E}_0) \otimes (\wedge \mathcal{E}_1)^{-1} &\cong (\wedge \mathcal{E}_0) \otimes (\wedge \mathcal{E}_1)^{-1} \otimes (\wedge \mathcal{E}'_0)^{-1} \otimes (\wedge \mathcal{E}'_0) \\
&\cong (\wedge \mathcal{E}_0) \otimes (\wedge \mathcal{G})^{-1} \otimes (\wedge \mathcal{E}'_0) \\
&\cong (\wedge \mathcal{E}_0) \otimes (\wedge \mathcal{E}'_1)^{-1} \otimes (\wedge \mathcal{E}_0)^{-1} \otimes (\wedge \mathcal{E}'_0) \\
&\cong (\wedge \mathcal{E}'_0) \otimes (\wedge \mathcal{E}'_1)^{-1}
\end{aligned}$$

So the determinant is independent of the resolution chosen.

The map  $\det$  defines a homomorphism  $K(X) \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X)$ . We need to show that whenever we have an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}' \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}'' \rightarrow 0$  of coherent sheaves, it holds that  $\det \mathcal{F} \cong (\det \mathcal{F}') \otimes (\det \mathcal{F}'')$ . Let  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}' \rightarrow 0$  be an exact sequence, and  $\mathcal{E}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$  a surjective morphism with  $\mathcal{E}_0, \mathcal{E}'_0, \mathcal{E}'_1$  all locally free. We define  $\mathcal{G} = \ker(\mathcal{E}_0 \oplus \mathcal{E}'_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F})$

and  $\mathcal{H} = \ker \mathcal{E}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}''$  to obtain a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
& & 0 & & 0 & & 0 \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{E}'_1 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{G} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{H} \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{E}'_0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{E}_0 \oplus \mathcal{E}'_0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{E}_0 \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{F}' & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{F} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{F}'' \longrightarrow 0 \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
& & 0 & & 0 & & 0
\end{array}$$

whose columns and the lower two rows are exact by construction. Hence, by the nine lemma the top row is exact.  $\mathcal{G}$  and  $\mathcal{H}$  are locally free sheaves by the same argument we used to show the existence of the exact sequence above. using the isomorphism of exercise II.5.16(d) we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
\det \mathcal{F} &\cong (\wedge \mathcal{E}_0) \otimes (\wedge \mathcal{E}'_0) \otimes (\wedge \mathcal{G})^{-1} \\
&\cong (\wedge \mathcal{E}_0) \otimes (\wedge \mathcal{E}'_0) \otimes (\wedge \mathcal{H})^{-1} \otimes (\wedge \mathcal{E}'_1)^{-1} \\
&\cong \det \mathcal{F}' \otimes \det \mathcal{F}''
\end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $\det : K(X) \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X)$  is a well defined homomorphism.

For a divisor  $D$ ,  $\det(\psi(D)) = \mathcal{L}(D)$ . Suppose  $D$  is an effective divisor. Then we have an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_Y \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_D \rightarrow 0$  where  $Y$  is the corresponding closed subscheme. Since both  $\mathcal{O}_X$  and  $\mathcal{I}_Y$  are locally free of one, and by definition  $\psi(D) = \gamma(\mathcal{O}_D)$  we have  $\det(\psi(D)) = \mathcal{O}_X \otimes \mathcal{I}_Y^{-1} = \mathcal{I}_Y^{-1}$ . Then using Proposition II.6.18 this is equal to  $\mathcal{L}(-D)^{-1}$  and then by Proposition II.6.13 this is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{L}(D)$ . If  $D$  is not effective, write it as a difference of effective divisors and use the fact that  $\det$  and  $\psi$  are both group homomorphisms together with Proposition II.6.13.

- c To construct the injective morphism, the idea is to take a basis for the  $K(X)$ -vector space  $\mathcal{F}_\xi$ , and find a suitable  $\mathcal{L}(D)$  such that this basis gives global sections of  $\mathcal{L}(D) \otimes \mathcal{F}$ . This defines a morphism  $\mathcal{O}_X^{\oplus n} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(D) \otimes \mathcal{F}$  which we show to be injective, and then tensor everything with  $\mathcal{L}(D)^{-1}$ .

Cover  $X$  with finitely many open affines  $\{U_i = \text{Spec } A_i\}_{i=1}^n$ . On each of these, the restriction of  $\mathcal{F}$  has the form  $\widetilde{M_i}$  for some  $A_i$ -module  $M_i$ . Now consider the stalk  $\mathcal{F}_\xi$  of  $\mathcal{F}$  at the generic point. Since  $X$  is integral each  $A_i$  is integral and so the generic point appears as  $(0)$  in each  $U_i$ , so we have isomorphisms  $\mathcal{F}_\xi \cong (\text{Frac } A_i) \otimes_{A_i} M_i$  for each  $i$ . If  $e_1, \dots, e_n$  is a

basis for  $\mathcal{F}_\xi$  as a  $K(X)$ -vector space, then these isomorphisms gives each  $e_j$  as  $\frac{m_{ij}}{a_i}$  for some  $m_{ij} \in M_i$  and  $a_i \in A_i$  (if for some  $i$  the denominators of each  $\frac{m_{ij}}{a_i}$  were not the same, multiply by  $\frac{\prod_{k \neq j} a_{ik}}{\prod_{k \neq j} a_{ik}}$  to get  $\frac{m'_{ij}}{\prod_{k \neq j} a_{ik}}$ ). Now we want to use the  $a_i$  to define a Cartier divisor but  $\frac{a_i}{a_j}$  might not be in  $\mathcal{O}_X(U_i \cap U_j)$ . We rectify this by shrinking the  $U_i$  as follows. First define  $U'_i = U_i \setminus V(a_i)$  for each  $i$ . If  $\cup U'_i \neq X$  then its complement is a finite set of points (since  $X$  is a curve), each one of which is contained in  $V(a_i)$  for some  $i$  (since  $\{U_i\}$  was a cover). For each of these points  $x$ , choose a  $V(a_i)$  that it is in, and put it back in  $U_i$ . So if  $Z_i$  is the set of points in  $V(a_i)$  that we have decided to leave in  $U_i$ , we have  $U'_i = U_i \setminus (V(a_i) \setminus Z_i)$ . The end result is that for  $i \neq j$ , if  $x$  is a point in  $V(a_i) \cup V(a_j)$  then  $x \notin U'_i \cap U'_j$ . So  $V(a_i) \cap (U'_i \cap U'_j)$  and  $V(a_j) \cap (U'_i \cap U'_j)$  are both empty. It follows that  $a_i$  and  $a_j$  are both invertible in  $\mathcal{O}_X(U'_i \cap U'_j)$ .<sup>2</sup>

So we can define a Cartier divisor  $D' = \{(U'_i, a_i)\}$  whose associated sheaf is locally generated by  $\frac{1}{a_i}$  on  $U'_i$ . The point is that our basis vectors  $e_j$  from  $\mathcal{F}_\xi$  are now sections  $\frac{1}{a_i} \otimes m_{ij}$  of  $\Gamma(U'_i, \mathcal{L}(D') \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X} \mathcal{F})$ . Furthermore, these sections agree on the intersections and so we have global sections  $e_i \in \Gamma(X, \mathcal{L}(D') \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X} \mathcal{F})$  and this we obtain a morphism  $\mathcal{O}_X^{\oplus n} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(D') \otimes \mathcal{F}$ . We claim that this is injective. To see this, it will be enough to show that the  $\frac{1}{a_i} \otimes m_{ij}$  generate a free submodule of  $\Gamma(U'_i, \mathcal{L}(D') \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X} \mathcal{F})$ . To see this let  $M = \Gamma(U'_i, \mathcal{L}(D') \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X} \mathcal{F})$  and consider the morphism  $M \rightarrow M \otimes K(X)$ . Let  $A = \mathcal{O}_X(U'_i)$  and let  $A^n \rightarrow M$  be the morphism defined by sending  $(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  to  $\sum_j a_j \frac{1}{a_i} \otimes m_{ij}$ . If  $A^n \rightarrow M$  were to have a kernel, say  $N$ , then we would have an exact sequence

$$N \otimes K \rightarrow A^n \otimes K \rightarrow M \otimes K$$

but the second morphism is an isomorphism and so  $N \otimes K$  is zero. Hence the composition  $N \rightarrow N \otimes K \rightarrow A^n \otimes K$  is zero. But this is the same as the composition  $N \rightarrow A^n \rightarrow A^n \otimes K$ , and both of these maps are injective. Hence,  $N = 0$ .

So we have an injective morphism of sheaves  $\mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(D') \otimes \mathcal{F}$ . Now we need just tensor with  $\mathcal{L}(D')^{-1} = \mathcal{L}(D)$  and we obtain an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(D)^{\oplus n} \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{T} \rightarrow 0$  where  $\mathcal{T}$  is the cokernel of  $\mathcal{L}(D)^{\oplus n} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ . To see that  $\mathcal{T}$  is torsion, consider the stalk of this exact sequence at the generic point. We get an exact sequence of  $K(X)$ -vector spaces  $0 \rightarrow V' \rightarrow V \rightarrow V'' \rightarrow 0$  and the ranks of  $V'$  and  $V$  are the same. Hence  $\mathcal{T}_\xi = 0$  and  $\mathcal{T}$  is torsion.

To show that  $[\mathcal{F}] - r[\mathcal{O}_X]$  is in the image of  $\psi$  we first use the exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(D)^{\oplus r} \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{T} \rightarrow 0$  to see that  $[\mathcal{F}] - r[\mathcal{O}_X] = r[\mathcal{L}(D)] + [\mathcal{T}] - r[\mathcal{O}_X]$ . So if  $[\mathcal{T}]$  and  $[\mathcal{L}(D)] - [\mathcal{O}_X]$  are in the image of  $\psi$  then we are done.

<sup>2</sup>For any affine scheme  $\text{Spec } A$ , if  $a$  is not invertible, then  $(a)$  is a proper ideal of  $A$ , and therefore contained in some maximal idea (Zorn's Lemma)  $\mathfrak{m}$  which implies that  $a \in \mathfrak{m}$  and so  $\mathfrak{m} \in V(a)$ . Therefore, if  $V(a) = \emptyset$  then  $a$  is invertible.

(i)  $[\mathcal{L}(D)] - [\mathcal{O}_X]$  is in the image of  $\psi$ . As we saw in part (a) of this exercise, for effective divisors  $D$  there is an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(D) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_D \rightarrow 0$  (c.f. Proposition II.6.18) so in  $K(X)$  we have  $[\mathcal{O}_D] = [\mathcal{O}_X] - [\mathcal{L}(D)]$ . Now if  $D$  is not necessarily effective, then it can be written as a difference  $D = D_+ - D_-$  of effective divisors. Then we have  $\psi(D) = [\mathcal{O}_{D_+}] - [\mathcal{O}_{D_-}] = [\mathcal{O}_X] - [\mathcal{L}(D_+)] - [\mathcal{O}_X] + [\mathcal{L}(D_-)] = [\mathcal{L}(D_-)] - [\mathcal{L}(D_+)]$ . Now since  $\mathcal{L}(D_-)^{-1}$  is locally free, tensoring with it preserves exact sequences, so  $\Phi : [\mathcal{F}] \mapsto [\mathcal{F} \otimes \mathcal{L}(D_-)^{-1}]$  is a well defined (set) function on  $K(X)$ . So  $\Phi(\psi(D)) = \Phi([\mathcal{L}(D_-)] - [\mathcal{L}(D_+)]) = [\mathcal{O}_X] - [\mathcal{L}(D)]$ . But  $\psi(D) = \sum n_i [k(P_i)]$  where  $D = \sum n_i P_i$ . and so  $\psi(D)$  is unchanged by  $\Phi$ . Hence  $[\mathcal{O}_X] - [\mathcal{L}(D)]$  is in the image of  $\psi$ .

(ii)  $[\mathcal{T}]$  is in the image of  $\psi$ . By Exercise II.5.6 the support of  $\mathcal{T}$  is a closed subset of  $X$ . Since  $X$  is a curve, this is a finite set of points, so  $\mathcal{T} = \oplus \mathcal{T}_{P_i}$  is a finite sum of skyscraper sheaves. If we can show that  $[\mathcal{T}_P]$  is in the image of  $\psi$  for every coherent skyscraper sheaf  $\mathcal{T}_P$  then we are done. As we are not assuming  $X$  complete, it is enough to do this in the affine case. So suppose that  $X = \text{Spec } A$  and that  $\widetilde{M}$  is a coherent skyscraper sheaf, concentrated at the maximal prime  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec } A$ . For each  $i$  we have an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathfrak{p}^{i+1}M \rightarrow \mathfrak{p}^i M \rightarrow \mathfrak{p}^i M / \mathfrak{p}^{i+1}M \rightarrow 0$ . The  $A$ -module  $\mathfrak{p}^i M / \mathfrak{p}^{i+1}M$  is a finite rank  $A/\mathfrak{p}$ -module; that is, a finite dimensional vector space. Hence,  $\mathfrak{p}^i M / \mathfrak{p}^{i+1}M \cong (A/\mathfrak{p})^{\oplus n_i}$  for some  $n_i$ . The associated sheaf to  $A/\mathfrak{p}$  is the skyscraper sheaf  $k(P)$  and so by induction, we have  $[\widetilde{M}] = \sum_{i \geq 0} n_i [k(P)]$ , if this sum is finite. As the support of  $\widetilde{M}$  is  $\mathfrak{p}$ , Exercise II.5.6(b) shows that  $\sqrt{\text{Ann } M} = \mathfrak{p}$ . The ring  $A$  is noetherian and so  $\mathfrak{p}^N \subseteq \text{Ann } M$  for some  $N$ .<sup>3</sup> This means that  $\mathfrak{p}^N M = 0$ . Hence,  $n_j = 0$  for each  $j > N$  and so the sum  $[\widetilde{M}] = \sum_{i \geq 0} n_i [k(P)]$  is finite. Therefore,  $[\mathcal{T}]$  is in the image of  $\psi$ .

d The diagram is

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Pic } X & \xleftarrow{\det} & K(X) & \xleftarrow{n\gamma(\mathcal{O}_X)} & \mathbb{Z} \\ & \searrow \psi & & \searrow \text{rank} & \\ & & & & \end{array}$$

It is fairly evident that  $\text{rank}(n\gamma(\mathcal{O}_X)) = n$  and  $\det(n\gamma(\mathcal{O}_X)) = \mathcal{O}_X^{\otimes n} = \mathcal{O}_X = 1 \in \text{Pic}(X)$ . Furthermore, since  $\psi$  takes a divisor to a sum of skyscraper sheaves, and the rank of a skyscraper sheaf is zero, we have  $\text{rank} \circ \psi = 0$ . So we just need to show that  $\det \circ \psi = id_{\text{Pic } X}$ .

Suppose that  $D$  is an effective divisor and  $\mathcal{L}(D)$  the corresponding invertible sheaf. Then by part (a)  $\psi$  sends  $D$  to  $\gamma(\mathcal{O}_D) = \gamma(\mathcal{O}_X) - \gamma(\mathcal{I}_D)$ . By Proposition II.6.18 this is equal to  $\gamma(\mathcal{O}_X) - \gamma(\mathcal{L}(-D))$ . The homomorphism  $\det$  then takes this to  $\mathcal{O}_X \otimes (\mathcal{L}(-D))^\vee \cong (\mathcal{L}(-D))^\vee \cong \mathcal{L}(D)$ . Hence  $\det \circ \psi = id_{\text{Pic } X}$ .

<sup>3</sup>Since  $A$  is noetherian,  $\mathfrak{p}$  is finitely generated. Let  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  be generators. For each  $i$  there is some  $n_i$  such that  $a_i^{n_i} \in \text{Ann } M$ . Taking  $N$  high enough, every monomial of degree  $N$  in the  $a_i$  will contain at least one term of the form  $a_i^{n_i}$  with  $n_i > n_i$ . Hence,  $\mathfrak{p}^N \subseteq \text{Ann } M$ .

**Exercise 6.12.** *Let  $X$  be a complete nonsingular curve. Show that there is a unique way to define the degree of any coherent sheaf on  $X$ ,  $\deg \mathcal{F} \in \mathbb{Z}$ , such that:*

- a If  $D$  is a divisor,  $\deg \mathcal{L}(D) = \deg D$ ;*
- b If  $\mathcal{F}$  is a torsion sheaf then  $\deg \mathcal{F} = \sum_{P \in X} \text{length}(\mathcal{F}_P)$ ; and*
- c If  $0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}' \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}'' \rightarrow 0$  is an exact sequence, then  $\deg \mathcal{F} = \deg \mathcal{F}' + \deg \mathcal{F}''$ .*