

## 4. Morphisms

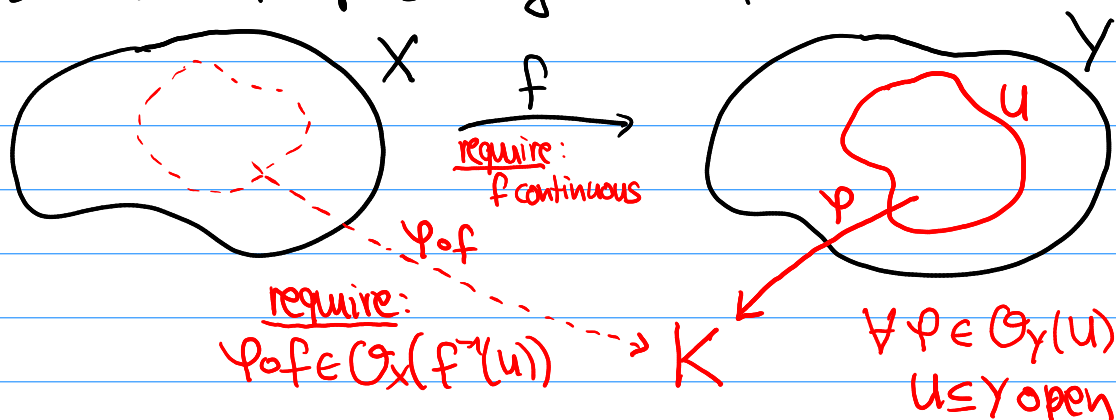
### Big picture

→ have defined affine varieties  $X$  and regular functions

$$X \cong_{\text{open}} U \longrightarrow \mathbb{A}^1$$

→ now: define arbitrary morphisms  $X \rightarrow Y$  between aff. var.

→ Key idea: if we know what "nice" (eg. regular) functions on  $X, Y$  are, we recognize "nice maps" (eg. morphisms)  $X \rightarrow Y$  as those maps preserving these functions.



↳ This idea works for arbitrary top. spaces  $X, Y$  with sheaves  $\mathcal{O}_X, \mathcal{O}_Y$  of rings.

### Def. (Ringed spaces)

(a) A ringed space is a top. space  $X$  together with a sheaf of rings on  $X$  (denoted:  $\mathcal{O}_X$ , the structure sheaf)

Write:  $(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$  or simply  $X$

(b)  $X$  affine variety  $\leadsto$  always take  $\mathcal{O}_X =$  regular fcb.

(c) An open subset  $U \subseteq X$  is a ringed space with respect to the sheaf  $\mathcal{O}_U = \mathcal{O}_X|_U$  restricted from  $X$ .

(One issue for picture above:

Not clear in general what  $\psi \circ \varphi \in \mathcal{O}_X(f^{-1}(U))$  means!  $\nabla$

[ $\varphi \in \mathcal{O}_Y(U)$  is some element of some ring]

Solution: restrict to sheaves of rings that are functions to  $K$ .

Convention From now to Chapter 12 (Schemes):

Assume for every ringed space  $(X, \mathcal{F})$  that for  $U \subseteq X$  open, we have

$$\mathcal{F}(U) \subseteq \{ \varphi: U \rightarrow K : U \text{ function} \}$$

pointwise addition & multiplication

↑ assume:  $\mathcal{F}(U)$  contains the constant fcts. to  $K$ .  
 • restriction maps of  $\mathcal{F}$  = usual restrict. of fcts.

Summary Every sheaf of rings is assumed to be a sheaf of  $K$ -valued functions.



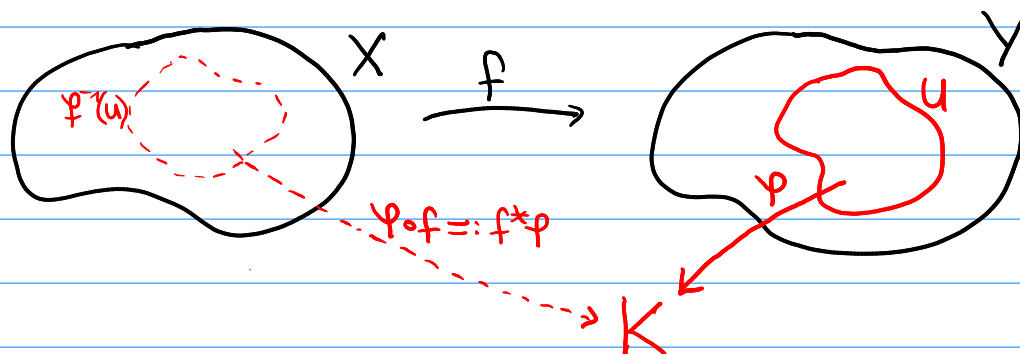
assuming all sections are functions to  $K$

using ringed spaces to define morphisms

Def (Morphisms of ringed spaces)

Let  $\varphi: X \rightarrow Y$  be a map of ringed spaces.

(a) For any map  $\psi: U \rightarrow K$  from an open subset  $U \subseteq Y$ , we denote the composition  $\psi \circ \varphi: \varphi^{-1}(U) \rightarrow K$  by  $\varphi^* \psi$ . It is called the pull-back of  $\psi$  by  $\varphi$ .



(b) The map  $f$  is called a morphism (of ringed spaces) if it is continuous and for all open subsets  $U \subseteq Y$  and  $\varphi \in \mathcal{O}_Y(U)$  we have

$$\underbrace{f^* \varphi}_{\substack{\text{Know what } f^* \varphi \text{ is} \\ \text{as a function on } f^{-1}(U)}} \in \mathcal{O}_X(f^{-1}(U)) \subseteq \{ \psi : f^{-1}(U) \rightarrow K \}$$

$\Rightarrow$  pulling back by  $f$  gives a  $K$ -algebra morphism

$$\begin{aligned} f^* : \mathcal{O}_Y(U) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(f^{-1}(U)) \\ \varphi &\longmapsto f^* \varphi. \end{aligned}$$

(c) We say that  $f$  is an isomorphism (of ringed spaces) if it has a two-sided inverse, i.e. if it is bijective and both  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  and  $f^{-1}: Y \rightarrow X$  are morphisms.

In particular:

(Iso) morphisms of (open subsets of) affine varieties  
 = (Iso) morphisms as ringed spaces.

Rmks

(a)  $f$  continuous ensures  $f^{-1}(U) \subseteq X$  open for  $U \subseteq Y$  open

(b) Without our Convention (sheaves of rings = sheaves of fcts.)

$\rightsquigarrow$  Data of morphism  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  would have to include ring morphisms

$$f^* : \mathcal{O}_Y(U) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(f^{-1}(U))$$

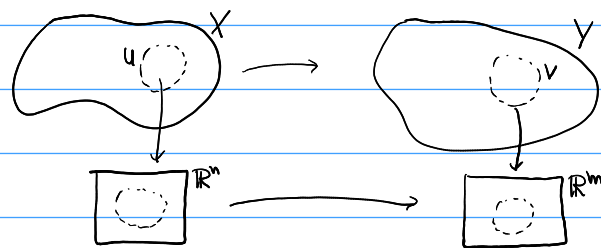
This we'll do later when discussing schemes.

## Exercise for differential geometers

(a) Given a smooth real manifold  $X$ , define the sheaf  $\mathcal{O}_X^{\text{sm}}$  of smooth functions on  $X$ .

(b) Show that a map  $X \xrightarrow{f} Y$  of such

manifolds is smooth if and only if  $(X, \mathcal{O}_X^{\text{sm}}) \xrightarrow{f} (Y, \mathcal{O}_Y^{\text{sm}})$  is a morphism.



## Properties of morphisms of ringed spaces

The following are some basic results on morphisms of ringed spaces  $X, Y, \dots$  which follow from the definition

(a) The **identity** map  $\text{id}_X: X \rightarrow X$  is a morphism.

(b) For  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  and  $g: Y \rightarrow Z$  morphisms of ringed spaces, also the **composition**  $g \circ f: X \rightarrow Z$  is a morphism.

make Ringed Spaces a Category!

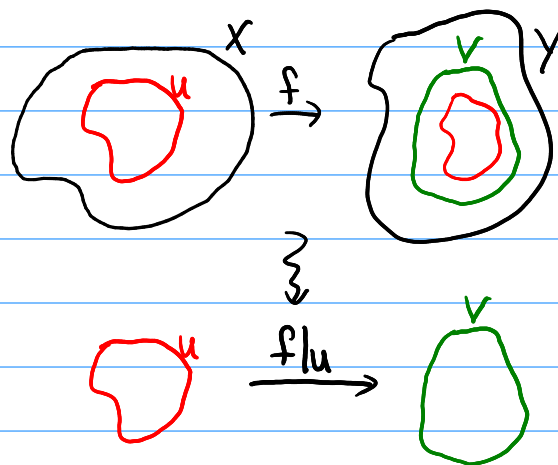
(c) **Restrictions** of morphisms are morphisms:

If  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is a morphism of ringed spaces and  $U \subseteq X, V \subseteq Y$  are open subsets such that

$$f(U) \subseteq V$$

then also  $f|_U: U \rightarrow V$  is a morphism of ringed spaces.

Special example: the inclusion  $U \hookrightarrow X$  of any open subset  $U$



Subtle exercise Show that the notion of isomorphism from the first defin. we gave is equivalent to the notion of isomorphism in the category RingedSpaces.

Next instead of starting w/ morphism  $X \rightarrow Y$  and restricting to open subsets of  $X$ , we can also start with an open cover  $X = \bigcup U_i$  of  $X$  and morphisms  $U_i \rightarrow Y$  and glue them together.

Lem Let  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  be a (set-theoretic) map of ringed spaces. Assume that there is an open cover  $\{U_i : i \in I\}$  of  $X$  such that all restrictions  $f|_{U_i}: U_i \rightarrow Y$  are morphisms. Then  $f$  is a morphism.

Proof By def. of morphisms, we have to check two properties:

(a)  $f$  is continuous: Open being contin. can be checked on an open cover.  
Let  $V \subseteq Y$  be open.

$$\Rightarrow f^{-1}(V) = \bigcup_{i \in I} (U_i \cap f^{-1}(V)) = \bigcup_{i \in I} \underbrace{(f|_{U_i})^{-1}(V)}_{\substack{\text{open in } U_i \text{ since } f|_{U_i} \text{ morph., hence continuous} \\ \Rightarrow \text{open in } X}}$$

$\leadsto f^{-1}(V)$  open as union of opens.

(b)  $f$  pulls back sections of  $\mathcal{O}_Y$  to sections of  $\mathcal{O}_X$ :  
Let  $V \subseteq Y$  be open,  $\varphi \in \mathcal{O}_Y(V)$ .

Then

$$(\varphi^* \varphi) \Big|_{U_i \cap f^{-1}(V)} = \underbrace{(f|_{U_i \cap f^{-1}(V)})^* \varphi}_{\substack{\text{morphism as restrict. of} \\ \text{morphism } f|_{U_i}}} \in \mathcal{O}_X(U_i \cap f^{-1}(V))$$

$\mathcal{O}_X$  sheaf and on open cover  $f^{-1}(V) = \bigcup_{i \in I} (U_i \cap f^{-1}(V))$  have sections  $(\varphi^* \varphi) \Big|_{U_i \cap f^{-1}(V)}$  which agree on overlaps  $U_i \cap U_j \cap f^{-1}(V)$ .

$\Rightarrow$  by gluing property of sheaves there is some section  $\psi \in \mathcal{O}_X(f^{-1}(V))$  restricting to  $(\varphi^* \varphi) \Big|_{U_i \cap f^{-1}(V)}$

$\Rightarrow \psi = f^* \varphi$  is section of  $\mathcal{O}_X$  on  $f^{-1}(V)$ . □

## Morphisms between affine varieties

↪ apply general concept of morph. of ringed spaces to (open subsets of) affine varieties.

Prop (Morphisms between affine varieties)

Let  $U$  be an open subset of the affine variety  $X$  and  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n$  be another affine variety. Then the morphisms  $f: U \rightarrow Y$  are exactly the maps of the form

$$f = (\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n) : U \rightarrow Y, \quad x \mapsto (\varphi_1(x), \dots, \varphi_n(x)) \quad (*)$$

with  $\varphi_i \in \mathcal{O}_X(U)$  for all  $i=1, \dots, n$ .

In particular:  $\{\text{morphisms } U \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1\} \cong \mathcal{O}_X(U)$ .

Pf [Every morphism  $f$  is of form  $(*)$ ]

First assume  $f: U \rightarrow Y$  is a morphism.

For  $i=1, \dots, n$ , the  $i$ th coordinate function  $Y \rightarrow K, y=(y_1, \dots, y_n) \mapsto y_i$  is a regular function on  $Y$ .

⇒  $\varphi_i := f^* y_i \in \mathcal{O}_X(f^{-1}(Y)) = \mathcal{O}_X(U)$  is regular by definition

$\varphi_i = i$ -th coordinate of map  $f$  ⇒  $f = (\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n)$  has desired form.

Every map  $f$  of the form  $(*)$  is a morphism

Let  $f = (\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n) : U \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^n$  with  $\varphi_i \in \mathcal{O}_X(U)$  and  $f(U) \subseteq Y$ .

→  $f$  is continuous:  $Z \subseteq Y$  closed  $\rightsquigarrow Z = V_Y(g_1, \dots, g_r)$  w/  $g_i \in A(Y)$

⇒  $f^{-1}(Z) = \{x \in U : \underbrace{g_i(\varphi_1(x), \dots, \varphi_n(x))}_{\text{polynomial}} = 0 \text{ for } i=1, \dots, r\}$

$g_i = \text{polynomial} \in \mathcal{O}_X(U)$  since  $\mathcal{O}_X(U)$  is  $K$ -algebra

Ex  $g_1(y_1, y_2) = 3y_1^2 + y_1 \cdot y_2 + 5, \varphi_1(x) = \frac{x_1}{x_2}, \varphi_2(x) = \frac{1}{x_1+1}$

↪  $g_1(\varphi_1(x), \varphi_2(x)) = 3 \cdot \left(\frac{x_1}{x_2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{x_1}{x_2}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{x_1+1}\right) + 5 \rightsquigarrow$  still regular funct. ✓

⇒  $f^{-1}(Z) = \underbrace{V(\underbrace{g_1 \circ f}_{\in \mathcal{O}_X(U)})}_{\text{closed [Lem 3.4] in } U} \cap \dots \cap \underbrace{V(\underbrace{g_r \circ f}_{\text{closed}})}_{\text{closed}} \text{ closed in } U.$

→  $f$  pulls back regular fcts. to regular fcts.

$\psi \in \mathcal{O}_y(W)$  regular function,  $a \in f^{-1}(W)$ ,  $y = f(x) \in W$

⇒  $\psi = \frac{g}{h}$  around  $y$  for  $g, h \in A(Y)$

⇒  $f^*\psi = \frac{g(\varphi_1(x), \dots, \varphi_n(x))}{h(\varphi_1(x), \dots, \varphi_n(x))}$  ←  $\varphi_i =$  quotients of polynomials in  $X = (x_1, x_2, \dots)$  Around  $x=a$

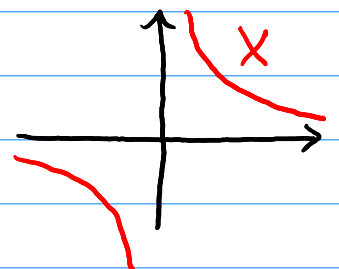
⇒ after expanding polynomials  $g, h$ , this becomes quotient of polynomials in  $x$ .

⇒  $f^*\psi \in \mathcal{O}_x(f^{-1}(W))$

⇒  $f$  is a morphism. □

Exa  $X = V(xy-1) \subseteq \mathbb{A}^2$ ,  $Y = \mathbb{A}^1$

⇒  $f: X \rightarrow Y, (x, y) \mapsto x$  is morphism.

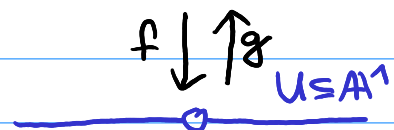


$U = \mathbb{A}^1 \setminus \{0\} \subseteq \mathbb{A}^1$ , then

$g: U \rightarrow X, x \mapsto (x, 1/x)$

$x \in \mathcal{O}_x(W)$        $1/x \in \mathcal{O}_y(W)$

is also morphism.



We have:  $g \circ f = id_X, f \circ g = id_U \Rightarrow (U, \mathcal{O}_U) \xrightleftharpoons[f]{g} (X, \mathcal{O}_X)$  are inverse isomorphisms!

Note Here we see that it was important to allow regular fcts. with denominators!

## Morphisms of affine varieties via coordinate rings

For affine varieties, their morphisms are entirely described by homomorph. of their coordinate rings (in opposite direction)

Cor For any two affine varieties  $X, Y$ , there is a bijection

$$\left\{ \text{morphisms } X \rightarrow Y \right\} \xleftrightarrow{1:1} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} K\text{-algebra homomorph.} \\ A(Y) \rightarrow A(X) \end{array} \right\}$$
$$f \longmapsto f^*$$

Pf By def:  $f^*: \underbrace{\mathcal{O}_Y(Y)}_{A(Y)} \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(f^{-1}(Y)) = \underbrace{\mathcal{O}_X(X)}_{A(X)}$  ring hom.

Conversely: Let  $g: A(Y) \rightarrow A(X)$  be ring hom.

Assume  $Y \subseteq A^m$  and let  $y_1, \dots, y_m \in A(Y)$  be coord. funct.

$\leadsto \varphi_i = g(y_i) \in A(X)$  and we set

$$\varphi = (\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_m): X \longrightarrow A^m.$$

Then: for any  $h \in K[y_1, \dots, y_m]$  we have

$$(\star) \quad (\varphi^* h)(x) = h(f(x)) = h(\underbrace{\varphi_1(x)}_{g(y_1)(x)}, \dots, \underbrace{\varphi_m(x)}_{g(y_m)(x)}) = g(h(y_1, \dots, y_m))(x)$$

$\uparrow$   $g$  is  $K$ -algebra morphism  
 $\leadsto$  commutes w/  $+$ ,  $\cdot$ , thus also w/ poly.  $h$ .

Claim 1  $f(X) \subseteq Y$

Indeed: for  $h \in I(Y) \leadsto f^* h = g(h) = 0 \in A(X)$

$\Rightarrow \forall x \in X: f(x) \in V(h)$

$\Rightarrow f(X) \subseteq V(I(Y)) \stackrel{\text{Nullstellensatz}}{=} Y.$

Claim 2  $f$  is a morphism. Indeed: coord. fcts.  $\varphi_i \in \mathcal{O}_X(X)$  + Pro above

Claim 3  $f^* = g \leadsto$  Yes by  $(\star)$ . □



Cor  $\{\text{isomorphisms } X \xrightarrow{\sim} Y\} \cong \{\text{isomorphisms } K(Y) \xrightarrow{\sim} K(X)\}$

If  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  isom w/ inverse  $g: Y \rightarrow X$

$\Rightarrow f^*: K(Y) \rightarrow K(X)$  " " " "  $g^*: K(X) \rightarrow K(Y)$

Indeed:

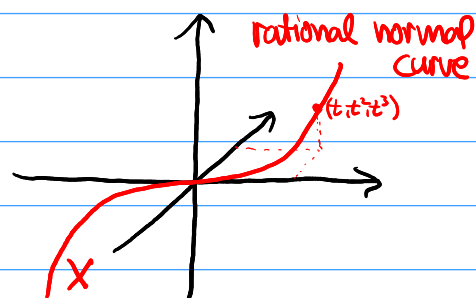
$f^* \circ g^* = (g \circ f)^* = (\text{id}_X)^* = \text{id}_{K(X)}$ ; similar  $g^* \circ f^* = \text{id}_{K(Y)}$   $\square$

Exa  $X = V(y-x^2, z-x^3) \subseteq \mathbb{A}^3$

$\Rightarrow A(X) = K[x, y, z] / \langle y-x^2, z-x^3 \rangle$

$\cong K[x] = A(\mathbb{A}^1)$

$\Rightarrow X \cong \mathbb{A}^1$  via  $(x, y, z) \mapsto x$ .



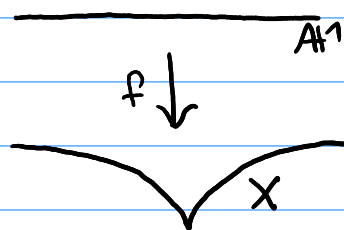
Exercise Show that the set of automorphisms

$$\text{Aut}(\mathbb{A}^1) = \{f: \mathbb{A}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1 : f \text{ isomorphism}\}$$

is given by the functions  $f(x) = ax+b$ ,  $a \in K^\times, b \in K$ .

Exa (Isomorphisms  $\neq$  bijective morphisms)

Let  $X = V(x^2-y^3) \subseteq \mathbb{A}^2$  be the cubic curve on the right



$$f: \mathbb{A}^1 \rightarrow X, t \mapsto (t^3, t^2)$$

(0,0) is "singular point" in sense defined in Ch. 10

is a morphism which is bijective with (set-theoretic) inverse map:

$$f^{-1}: X \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1, (x, y) \mapsto \begin{cases} x/y & \text{if } y \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } y = 0 \end{cases}$$

But:  $f$  is not an isomorphism (i.e.  $f^{-1}$  is not a morphism)!

$\leadsto f^*: A(X) = K[x, y] / \langle x^2-y^3 \rangle \rightarrow K[t]$  }  $t \in K[t]$  not in image of  $f^*$   
 not an iso.  $\left. \begin{array}{l} [x] \mapsto t^3 \\ [y] \mapsto t^2 \end{array} \right\}$

## Products of affine varieties revisited

Have seen  $X, Y$  affine varieties  $\Rightarrow X \times Y$  aff. var.,  $A(X \times Y) = A(X) \otimes A(Y)$

Now: give abstract characterization of product  $X \times Y$

(Later: use such property to define products of abstract varieties)

Preparation  $X \subseteq A^n, Y \subseteq A^m$  aff. varieties

$\Rightarrow \pi_X: X \times Y \rightarrow X, (x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_m) \mapsto (x_1, \dots, x_n)$

is a morphism (components = regular fcts. on  $X \times Y$ )

similar:  $\pi_Y: X \times Y \rightarrow Y$ .

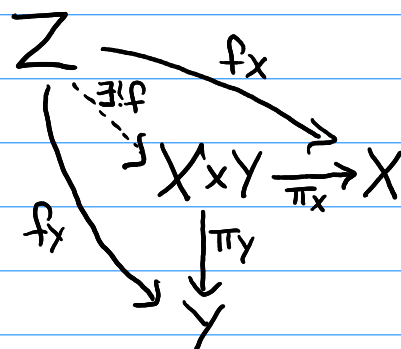
Pro (Universal property of products)

Let  $X, Y$  be affine varieties

and let  $\pi_X, \pi_Y$  be the projections from  $X \times Y$  to  $X, Y$ , respectively.

Then for any affine variety  $Z$

and morphisms  $f_X: Z \rightarrow X$   
 $f_Y: Z \rightarrow Y$



there is a unique morphism  $f: Z \rightarrow X \times Y$  such that

$$f_X = \pi_X \circ f \quad \text{and} \quad f_Y = \pi_Y \circ f. \quad (+)$$

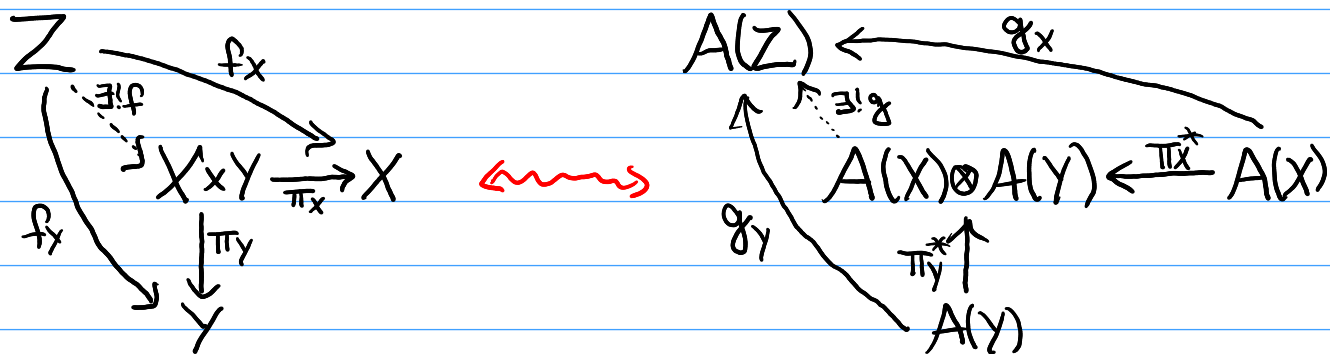
Slogan Giving a morphism to  $X \times Y$  is the same as giving a morphism to  $X$  and to  $Y$ .

$$\rightsquigarrow \text{Mor}(Z, X \times Y) \xrightarrow[\text{bijection}]{\sim} \text{Mor}(Z, X) \times \text{Mor}(Z, Y)$$
$$f \longmapsto (\pi_X \circ f, \pi_Y \circ f)$$

Pf  $f: Z \rightarrow X \times Y, z \mapsto (f_X(z), f_Y(z))$  is only set-theoretic map w/ (+)

This is a morphism: all coordinates of maps  $f_X, f_Y$  given by regular functions  $\Rightarrow$  same is true for  $f$ .  $\square$

## Interpretation in terms of coordinate rings



Note

$$\pi_x^*(\alpha) = \alpha \otimes 1 \in A(X) \otimes A(Y)$$

For all  $K$ -algebra homomorphism

$$g_x: A(X) \longrightarrow A(Z)$$

$$g_y: A(Y) \longrightarrow A(Z)$$

there exists a unique  $K$ -alg. hom.

$$g: A(X) \otimes A(Y) \longrightarrow A(Z)$$

Satisfying  $g \circ \pi_x^* = g_x$ ,  $g \circ \pi_y^* = g_y$ .

universal property of tensor products of  $K$ -algebras

## Correspondence between aff. varieties & fin. generated reduced $K$ -algebras

Have seen:  $X \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n$  affine variety

$$\Rightarrow A(X) = K[x_1, \dots, x_n] / \underbrace{I(X)}_{\text{radical ideal}} \Rightarrow A(X) \text{ is finitely generated reduced } K\text{-algebra}$$

Now, we present the opposite direction:

Construction Let  $R$  be a f.g. reduced  $K$ -algebra

Pick generators  $b_1, \dots, b_n$  of  $R$  as  $K$ -algebra

$\Rightarrow$  obtain a surjective  $K$ -algebra homomorphism

$$g: K[x_1, \dots, x_n] \rightarrow R, f \mapsto f(b_1, \dots, b_n).$$

Isomorphism theorem:  $R \cong K[x_1, \dots, x_n] / \mathfrak{J}$  with  $\mathfrak{J} = \ker(g)$ .

$R$  reduced  $\Rightarrow \mathfrak{J}$  is radical ideal

$\leadsto X = V(\mathfrak{J})$  is affine variety in  $\mathbb{A}^n$  with  $A(X) \cong R$ .

Construction depended on choice of generators  $b_1, \dots, b_n \in R$

Different choice  $\leadsto X' \subseteq \mathbb{A}^m \leftarrow$  can choose diff. number of gens.

But then:

$$A(X) \cong R \cong A(X') \xrightarrow{\text{Gr}} X \cong X' \text{ (as ringed spaces)}$$

$\leadsto$  give slight re-definition of "affine variety" to be more intrinsic

Def From now on, an affine variety will be a ringed space that is isomorphic to an affine variety  $X \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n$  in the old sense.  $\leadsto$  topology, reg. functions,  $A(X) = \mathcal{O}_X(X)$  still make sense!

Note Could call  $X \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n$  an embedded affine variety, and  $(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$  an abstract affine variety.

For simplicity, we'll just keep using "affine variety".

## Illustration

embedded affine variety



$A^n$

$X$

abstract affine variety



$(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$

## Categorical interpretation (aside)

Can summarize the above as a correspondence of categories:

→ Affine Varieties:

- objects: affine varieties  $X = (X, \mathcal{O}_X)$  **new sense**
- Morphisms:  $X \rightarrow Y$  morphism (of ringed spaces)

→ Finitely Generated Reduced  $K$ -algebras

- Objects:  $R$  f.g. red.  $K$ -alg.
- Morphisms:  $R \rightarrow S$   $K$ -alg. morphism

Then:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Affine Varieties} & \xrightarrow{F} & \text{Finitely Generated Reduced } K\text{-algebras} \\ X & \longmapsto & R = \mathcal{O}_X(X) \\ (X \xrightarrow{f} Y) & \longmapsto & (\mathcal{O}_X(X) \xleftarrow{f^*} \mathcal{O}_Y(Y)) \end{array}$$

is a contravariant functor that is an equivalence of categories  
**arrows change direction**

- ↳ bijective on equiv. classes of objects
- ↳  $\text{Mor}(X, Y) \cong \text{Mor}(\mathcal{O}_Y, \mathcal{O}_X)$

Later Build geometric objects (affine schemes) corresponding to more general rings.

## Open subsets of affine varieties

Some open subsets  $U \subseteq X$  of aff. varieties are aff. varieties themselves

Pro (Distinguished open subsets are affine varieties)

Let  $X$  be an affine variety and let  $f \in A(X)$ . Then the distinguished open subset  $D(f)$  is an affine variety with coordinate ring  $A(D(f)) \cong A(X)_f$ .

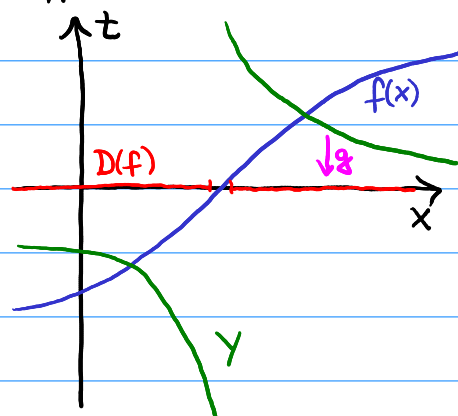
Proof: We have

$$Y = \{ (x, t) \in X \times \mathbb{A}^1 : t \cdot f(x) = 1 \} \subseteq X \times \mathbb{A}^1$$

is an affine variety as the vanishing locus of the polynomial  $t \cdot f(x) - 1 \in A(X \times \mathbb{A}^1)$  of the aff. var.  $X \times \mathbb{A}^1$ .

Have projection morphism

$$g: Y \longrightarrow D(f) \\ (x, t) \longmapsto x$$



with inverse

$$g^{-1}: D(f) \longrightarrow Y \\ x \longmapsto (x, \underbrace{\frac{1}{f(x)}}_{\in \mathcal{O}_x(D(f))})$$

$\Rightarrow D(f)$  is an affine variety and we have seen earlier

$$A(D(f)) \cong \mathcal{O}_x(D(f)) \underset{\text{Pro}}{\cong} A(X)_f. \quad \square$$

However, not all open subsets of aff. varieties are aff. varieties:

Ex 9 ( $A^2 \setminus \{0\}$  is not an affine var.)

We have seen for  $U = A^2 \setminus \{0\} \subseteq A^2$  that

$$\mathcal{O}_U(U) \cong \mathcal{O}_{A^2}(U) \cong K[x_1, x_2] \cong \mathcal{O}_{A^2}(A^2) \quad (**)$$

If  $U$  was an affine variety  $\xrightarrow{\text{Cor}}$   $(**)$  implies  $U \cong A^2$   
with morphism given by  
the identity  $\Leftarrow$  contradict.

the inclusion

$$\text{id}: U \rightarrow A^2$$

$$\text{satisfies } \text{id}^*: \mathcal{O}_{A^2}(A^2) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{O}_U(U)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{id must be isom. } \Leftarrow \perp$$

However:  $U$  is covered by dist. opens  $\underbrace{D(x_1), D(x_2)}_{\text{affine varieties}} \subseteq A^2$

Next chapter

Look more generally at ringed spaces which have covers by affine varieties.