

It turns out to be fruitful to slightly generalize the notion of an affine K -variety so that all commutative K -algebras arise as coordinate rings. These generalized varieties are called affine schemes and can, for example, be defined via

$$\{\text{affine } K\text{-schemes}\} := \text{CAlg}_K^{\text{op}}.$$

The Zariski topology.

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. A subset

$$V \subseteq K^n$$

is called Zariski closed if

$$V = V(f_1, \dots, f_r) \quad ; \quad f_i \in K[X_1, \dots, X_n],$$

i.e., if V is an affine K -variety.

By Lemma 4.7, we have an inclusion-reversing bijection:

$$\left\{ V \in K^n \right\} \cong \left\{ I \subseteq K[x_1, \dots, x_n] \text{ ideal} \right\}$$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Zariski-closed} \\ \text{with } \sqrt{I} = I \end{array} \right\}$

$$V \longmapsto I(V)$$

$$V(I) \longleftarrow I$$

Proposition 4.9. The Zariski-closed subsets form the closed subsets of a topology on K^n .

Proof We have $K^n = V(0)$ and $\emptyset = V(1)$.

Suppose $V = V(I)$ and $W = V(J)$ $\mathbb{Z}$ -closed.

Then we claim that

$$V \cup W = V(I \cap J).$$

Clear: $V \cup W \subseteq V(I \cap J)$.

Let $x \notin V \cup W$ then there exists $f \in I : f(x) \neq 0$

and $g \in J : g(x) \neq 0$. But then $f \cdot g(x) \neq 0$ with

$f \cdot g \in I \cap J$. Thus $x \notin V(I \cap J)$.

Now suppose we are given $\{V_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in A}$ possibly infinite family of $\mathbb{Z}$ -closed subsets $V_\alpha = V(I_\alpha)$.

Then we have

$$\bigcap_{a \in A} V_a = V(\langle \bigcup_{a \in A} I_a \rangle)$$

where $\langle \bigcup_{a \in A} I_a \rangle$ is the smallest ideal containing $\bigcup_{a \in A} I_a$. Note that, by Krassatz,

$$\langle \bigcup_{a \in A} I_a \rangle = (f_1, \dots, f_r)$$

so that $\bigcap_{a \in A} V_a$ is indeed an affine variety. $\square$

The topology from Prop 4.4 is called the Zariski topology on K^n . Further, we define the Zariski topology on any subset $X \subseteq K^n$ to be the induced topology, i.e., $Y \subseteq X$ is closed iff $\exists V \subseteq K^n$ Zariski closed with $Y = V \cap X$. In particular, we obtain the Zariski topology on an affine variety V , and we have

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} W \subseteq V \\ Z\text{-closed} \end{array} \right\} \cong \left\{ \begin{array}{l} I(W) \subseteq I \subseteq K[x_1, \dots, x_n] \\ \sqrt{I} = I \end{array} \right\}.$$

Generalized points.

Let $V \in \text{Var}_K$ and $R \in \text{Calg}_K$. An R -valued point of V is a homomorphism

$$\mathcal{O}(V) \rightarrow R$$

of K -algebras. We denote by $V(R)$ the set of R -valued points of V .

Example 4.9. Let

$$V \subseteq K^n$$

affine K -variety. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} V(K) &= \text{Hom}_K(\mathcal{O}(V), K) \\ &\cong \text{Hom}_K(K[x_1, \dots, x_n] / I(V), K) \\ &\cong \{ (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in K^n \mid \forall f \in I(V) : f(x) = 0 \} \\ &= V. \end{aligned}$$

The point $u \in V(\mathcal{O}(V))$ corresponding to $\text{id} : \mathcal{O}(V) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(V)$ is called the universal point of V .

The K -algebra

$$K[\varepsilon] := K[X]/(X^2) \quad \text{with } \varepsilon := \bar{X}$$

is called the algebra of dual numbers.

The elements of $K[\varepsilon]$ are thus of the form

$$f(\varepsilon) = f_0 + f_1 \varepsilon \quad \text{with } f_0, f_1 \in K.$$

We note the following homomorphisms (!) of K -algs :

- $\pi : K[\varepsilon] \rightarrow K, f(\varepsilon) \rightarrow f_0$
- $\alpha : K[\varepsilon] \times_K K[\varepsilon] \rightarrow K[\varepsilon], (f(\varepsilon), g(\varepsilon)) \mapsto f_0 + (f_1 + g_1)\varepsilon$
- for every $\lambda \in K$:

$$\sigma_\lambda : K[\varepsilon] \rightarrow K[\varepsilon], f(\varepsilon) \mapsto f_0 + \lambda f_1 \varepsilon$$

Example 4.10. Let $V \in \text{Var}_K$. Consider the map

$$\pi_x : V(K[\varepsilon]) \longrightarrow V(K), \varphi \longmapsto \pi \circ \varphi.$$

For a given K -valued point $x \in V(K)$, we define the tangent space of V at x to be

$$T_x V := \pi_*^{-1}(x).$$

Postcomposition with α and $\{\sigma_\lambda \mid \lambda \in K\}$ equips (HW6) the set $T_x V$ with the structure of a K -vector space.

Linear algebraic groups.

Let $\mathcal{C}$ be category with finite products. In particular, $\mathcal{C}$ has a final object denoted by 1 .

We define a group object in $\mathcal{C}$ to be an object $G \in \mathcal{C}$ equipped with

- a unit morphism

$$e : 1 \rightarrow G$$

- a multiplication morphism

$$m : G \times G \rightarrow G$$

- an inversion morphism

$$i : G \rightarrow G$$

satisfying

$$G \times G \times G \rightarrow G$$

$\uparrow$

$$1. \text{ associativity : } m \circ (m \times \text{id}) = m \circ (\text{id} \times m)$$

$$2. \text{ unitality : } m \circ (e \times \text{id}) = m \circ (\text{id} \times e) = \text{id}$$

$$3. \text{ inverses : } m \circ (\text{id} \times i) \circ d = \text{id} = m \circ (i \times \text{id}) \circ d$$

$$\text{where } d : G \rightarrow G \times G.$$

Example 4.11. A group object in Set is a group.

Definition 4.12. A linear algebraic group is a group object in Var_K .

Note that the equivalence $\text{Var}_K \simeq (\text{Alg}_K^{\text{f.d.}})^{\text{op}}$ allows us to equivalently describe a linear algebraic group G in terms of its coordinate ring $R := \mathcal{O}(G)$:

- counit: $\varepsilon: R \rightarrow K$
- comultiplication: $\mu: R \rightarrow R \otimes_K R$
- coinversion: $\tau: R \rightarrow R$

in Alg_K satisfying the opposites of 1., 2., and 3.

Example 4.13. Let $G = GL(n, K)$ considered as an affine variety as in Example 4.2. In particular, the coordinate ring of $GL(n, K)$ is given by

$$\mathcal{O}(GL(n, K)) = K[x_{ij}, z] / (\det(xz - 1)).$$

We observe that the maps

$$e: A_K^0 \rightarrow GL(n, K), \quad pt \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & 1 \end{pmatrix} = I$$

$$\cdot m : G \times G \longrightarrow G$$

$$((X_{ij}, \det(X)^{-1}), (Y_{ij}, \det(Y)^{-1})) \longmapsto ((X \cdot Y)_{ij}, \det(XY)^{-1})$$

$$\cdot i : G \longrightarrow G,$$

$$(X_{ij}, \det(X)^{-1}) \longmapsto ((X^{\#}, \det(X)^{-1})_{ij}, \det(X))$$

adjunct matrix

are defined by polynomial expressions so that they are morphisms in Var_K . This makes $GL(n, K)$ a linear algebraic group.

Example 4.14. The special linear group $SL(n, K)$ is a linear algebraic group. In fact, it is a Zariski-closed subgroup of $GL(n, K)$:

$$SL(n, K) \leq GL(n, K).$$

Derivations and Lie algebras

Let V be an affine k -variety with coordinate ring $R := k[V]$.

We consider $R[\varepsilon] := R \otimes_k k[\varepsilon]$ and the map

$$\pi_x: V(R[\varepsilon]) \rightarrow V(R)$$

on generalized points. Let $u \in V(R)$ be the universal point. We define

$$\text{Vect}(V) := "T_u V" = \pi_x^{-1}(u)$$

to be the set of vector fields on V . Slightly generalizing Example 4.10, the set $\text{Vect}(V)$ admits a k -vector space structure.

Let $\xi \in \text{Vect}(V)$ vector field and $x \in V(k)$, then

we obtain a tangent vector $\xi_x \in T_x V$ via

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \xi_x: R & \xrightarrow{\xi} & R \otimes_k k[\varepsilon] & \xrightarrow{x \otimes \text{id}} & k[\varepsilon] \\ & & & \parallel & \downarrow \pi \\ & & & & k \end{array}$$

x $\searrow$

This explains the terminology "vector field".

Let $\text{Der}_K(R)$ denote the set of K -linear derivations on R , i.e., K -linear maps $\delta: R \rightarrow R$ satisfying the Leibniz rule: $\delta(r \cdot s) = \delta(r)s + r\delta(s)$.

The set $\text{Der}_K(R)$ forms a K -vector space via

$$(\lambda\delta)(r) = \lambda\delta(r) \quad ; \quad \lambda \in K$$

$$(\delta_1 + \delta_2)(r) = \delta_1(r) + \delta_2(r) \quad , \quad \delta_i \in \text{Der}_K(R).$$

Proposition 4.16. There is a canonical isomorphism

$$\text{Vect}(V) \cong \text{Der}_K(\mathcal{O}(V))$$

of K -vector spaces.

Proof Using the decomposition

$$R[\varepsilon] \cong R \oplus R\varepsilon$$

as R -modules, we may express $\xi \in \text{Vect}(V)$

$$\xi = \text{id} + \delta \cdot \varepsilon$$

for some map $\delta: R \rightarrow R$. The requirement that

$$\xi: R \rightarrow R[\varepsilon]$$

is a homomorphism of K -algebras, is equivalent

to δ being a derivation, e.g.

$$\delta(rs) = rs + \delta(rs) \cdot \varepsilon$$

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(r) \cdot \delta(s) &= (r + \delta(r)\varepsilon) \cdot (s + \delta(s)\varepsilon) \\ &= rs + (\delta(r) \cdot s + r \cdot \delta(s))\varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

□

Let $\delta_1, \delta_2 \in \text{Der}_K(R)$. Then the map

$$[\delta_1, \delta_2] := \delta_1 \circ \delta_2 - \delta_2 \circ \delta_1 : R \rightarrow R$$

is again a K -linear derivation (!).

Prop. 4.17. The operation $[-, -]$ on $\text{Der}_K(R)$ has the following properties:

1. $[-, -]$ is K -linear in each component,
2. $\forall x, y \in \text{Der}_K(R) : [x, y] = -[y, x]$
3. $\forall x, y, z \in \text{Der}_K(R) : [x, [y, z]] = [[x, y], z] + [y, [x, z]]$

Proof. Direct computation.

A K -vector space $\mathfrak{g}$, equipped with an operation

$$[-, -] : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$$

satisfying 1., 2., and 3. as in Prop. 4.17 is called a Lie algebra. We have thus constructed a Lie algebra structure on the K -vector space of vector fields on V / K -linear derivations of $\mathcal{O}(V)$.

Now suppose that G is a linear algebraic group. Let $g, h \in G$ and $v \in T_h G$ be a tangent vector.

Then, interpreting

$$g \in G = G(K) \hookrightarrow G(K[\varepsilon])$$

and using the multiplication map

$$G(K[\varepsilon]) \times G(K[\varepsilon]) \rightarrow G(K[\varepsilon])$$

$$(g, v) \longmapsto g \cdot v$$

we obtain a "translated" tangent vector $g \cdot v \in T_{gh} G$. (!)

A vector field $\xi \in \text{Vect}(G)$ is called left-invariant if

$$\forall g, h \in G : \xi_{gh} = g \xi_h.$$

Proposition 4.18. Let $\mathcal{L}(G) \subseteq \text{Vect}(G)$ denote the set of left-invariant vector fields on G . Then

(1) The Lie bracket on $\text{Vect}(G)$ restricts to $\mathcal{L}(G)$ so that $\mathcal{L}(G) \subseteq \text{Vect}(G)$ becomes a sub Lie algebra.

(2) The map $\mathcal{L}(G) \rightarrow T_e G, \xi \mapsto \xi_e$ defines an isomorphism of k -vector spaces.

Proof (1) Under the isomorphism

$$\text{Vect}(G) \cong \text{Der}_k(R) \quad ; \quad R = \mathcal{O}(G).$$

the left invariance of $\xi = \text{id} + \delta \varepsilon$ translates to the property (!)

$$\forall g, h \in G, \forall \varphi \in \mathcal{O}(G) : \delta(\varphi(g, -))(h) = \delta(\varphi)(gh)$$

This property is preserved under $\delta, - \circ$ (!).

(2) We define an inverse to the map

$$\Xi : \mathcal{L}(G) \rightarrow T_e G, \xi \mapsto \xi_e$$

as follows:

Let $R := \mathcal{O}(G)$ and let

$$u \in \mathcal{U}(R) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{U}(R[\varepsilon])$$

be the universal point of G ($u = \text{id}: R \rightarrow R$).

We then consider, for $v \in T_e G$, the multiplication

$$\mathcal{U}(R[\varepsilon]) \times \mathcal{U}(R[\varepsilon]) \rightarrow \mathcal{U}(R[\varepsilon])$$

$$(u, v) \mapsto u \cdot v$$

to obtain the vector field (!) $u \cdot v \in \text{Vect}(G)$ given by "universal translation".

By construction (!), we have $u \cdot v \in \mathcal{Z}(G)$, and define

$$\mathcal{I}: T_e G \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(G), v \mapsto u \cdot v.$$

It is then straightforward to verify that $\mathcal{I}$ and $\mathcal{J}$ are inverse to one another. $\square$

By Prop 4.18, we thus arrive at the statement that the tangent space $\mathfrak{g} = T_e G$ to a linear algebraic group at the identity $e \in G$ admits a canonical Lie algebra structure.

This is an algebraic analog of the (perhaps familiar) analogous statement for Lie groups.

Side note: Sophus Lie also introduced Lie groups in his study of symmetries of the solutions of differential equations.

Examples 4.20.

(1) Let $G = GL(n, K)$ with coordinate ring

$$\mathcal{O}(GL(n, K)) = K[x_{ij}, Y] / (\det(X)Y - 1).$$

A R -valued point of $GL(n, K)$:

$$\begin{aligned} G(R) &= \text{Hom}_K(\mathcal{O}(GL(n, K)), R) \\ &= GL(n, R) \end{aligned}$$

For $R = K[\varepsilon]$, we obtain $X \in GL(n, K[\varepsilon])$

$$X = A + B \cdot \varepsilon \quad \text{with } A, B \in K^{n \times n}$$

such that $\det(X) \in K[\varepsilon]^\times$.

$$X \in T_e GL(n, K) \Leftrightarrow X = I + B\varepsilon.$$

Then $\det(X) = 1 + \varepsilon \text{tr}(B)$ which is

always a unit with inverse $1 - \varepsilon \operatorname{tr}(B)$.

Therefore

$$T_e \mathcal{C}(G, K) \cong \{ I + B\varepsilon \mid B \in K^{n \times n} \} \cong K^{n \times n} \\ = \mathfrak{gl}_n(K)$$

The Lie bracket is just given by the commutator of matrices

$$[B_1, B_2] = B_1 \circ B_2 - B_2 \circ B_1. \quad (*)$$

(2) For any Zariski closed subgroup $G \subseteq \mathcal{C}(G, K)$, we have

$$\mathfrak{g} = T_e G \subseteq T_e \mathcal{C}(G, K) = K^{n \times n} = \mathfrak{gl}_n(K)$$

with Lie bracket obtained by restriction of $(*)$.

For example: $G = \mathrm{SL}(n, K)$, we get for $\mathbb{R}$ -valued points

$$G(\mathbb{R}) = \mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{R}).$$

Thus

$$T_e \mathrm{SL}(n, K) = \{ I + B\varepsilon \mid \overbrace{\det(I + B\varepsilon)}^{1 + \varepsilon \operatorname{tr}(B)} = 1 \} \\ \cong \{ B \in K^{n \times n} \mid \operatorname{tr}(B) = 0 \} \cong \mathfrak{sl}_n(K).$$