

Elliptic curves over (alg. closed) fields

References (Hartshorne) Ch. IV, [RW2] Ch. 26

[Silverman]

k a field

curve: geom. connected smooth projective k -scheme
of dim 1

Def (1) An abelian variety over k is a geometrically connected smooth proper k -group scheme.

(2) An elliptic curve over k is an abelian variety over k of dimension 1.

Prop Can show that every ab. var / k is projective. (For curves we have shown this in AG3.)

Recall (AG3, Problem 19)

Let G/k be a group scheme. Then $\Omega_{G/k}$ is a free \mathcal{O}_G -module.

Therefore, if E/k is an elliptic curve, $\Omega_{E/k} \cong \mathcal{O}_E$ and E has genus 1. Furthermore, the natural elt. of the group scheme structure gives us a distinguished point $0 \in E(k)$.

Rigidity lemma. ([AW1] Lemma 16.55)

k a field, X/k geom. reduced, geom. conn., prop.,
 $X(k) \neq \emptyset$.

Y/k integral, Z/k separated

$f: X \times Y \rightarrow Z$ morph of k -schemes s.t. for some $y \in Y(k)$,

$f|_{X_y}$ factors through a pt $z \in Z(k)$.

Then f factors through $p_2: X \times Y \rightarrow Y$

Proof let $x \in X(k)$, $g := f \circ (x \times \text{id}_Y) \circ p_2$

Want: $g = f$, i.e. $\text{Eq}(f, g) = X \times Y$

Let $z \in U \subseteq Z$ open affine.

Since X/h prop, p_2 is closed. Now $p_2^{-1}(y) \subseteq f^{-1}(U)$

by assumption, so there exists $y \in V \subseteq Y$ open st. $p_2^{-1}(V) \subseteq f^{-1}(U)$.

Let $y' \in V$. Obtain $f|_{X_{y'}} : X_{y'} := X \otimes_{k(y')} \rightarrow U \otimes_{k(y')}$
prop $/k(y')$, affine $/k(y')$
geom. reduced
+ geom. conn.,

so $f|_{X_{y'}}$ factors through a $k(y')$ -valued pt of $U \otimes_{k(y')}$.

Hence $\text{Eq}(f, g)$ contains $X \times V$, a dense open subset

of $X \times Y$. (Since Y integral, $V \subseteq Y$ is dense. For

$U \subseteq X \times Y$ non-empty open, $f(X \times Y \setminus U)$ is closed, so

$Y \setminus f(X \times Y \setminus U)$ intersects V . It follows that $U \cap (X \times V) \neq \emptyset$.)

Since $\text{Eq}(f, g)$ is closed in $X \times Y$

(Z being separated), and $X \times Y$ is reduced

(because X is geom. reduced and Y is reduced,

see [AW] Prop. 5.49), the claim follows.

Corollary Let k be a field.

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(1) Let X, Y be ab. var. / k , and let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a morphism of k -schemes which maps e_X to e_Y . Then f is a homomorphism of group schemes.

(2) Let X be an ab. var. / k . Then the group law on X is commutative.

(3) The group structure on X is uniquely determined by the choice of the neutral element $0 \in X(k)$.

Proof (1) Consider
$$X \times X \rightarrow Y \times Y \xrightarrow{m_Y} Y$$

$$(a, a') \mapsto (f(a), f(a'))^{-1}$$

Apply the rigidity lemma with $X=Y=A$, $Z=B$ to show that this morphism factors through p_1 , and through p_2 , and hence is constant.

(2) Apply (1) to the inverse of the group law.

(3) Follows directly from (1).

Then let E/k be a curve. The foll. are equiv:

- (1) E has genus 1 and $0 \in E(k)$
- (2) E carries the structure of a k -group scheme
(with neutral element $0 \in E(k)$).

From them and rigidity, obtain equivalence of cat.: $\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{ell. curves} \\ k \end{array} \right) = \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{curves of genus 1} \\ \text{with a distinguished} \\ \text{pt } 0 \in E(k) \end{array} \right)$

(2) \Rightarrow (1): see above

(1) \Rightarrow (2): (I) geometric construction,
check that this is a gp variety, structure
(error: see Problem Sheet 2)

(II) show that we have an Isom.

$$E \rightarrow \underline{\text{Pic}}_E^0$$

A functor $(\text{Sch}/k)^{\text{op}} \rightarrow (\text{sets})$ where the
right hand side is a group functor, and
apply the Yoneda lemma.

Proof of (1) \Rightarrow (2) via identification with Pic^0

E/k a genus 1 with $O \in E(k)$ fixed point.

Claim have bijection [AG2, Pbm. 32]

$$v^0 : E(k) \longrightarrow \text{Pic}^0(E) := \{L \in \text{Pic}(E); \deg(L) = 0\}$$

$$x \longmapsto \mathcal{O}_E([x]) \otimes \mathcal{O}_E([O])^\vee$$

Proof of claim. injective. $v^0(x) = v^0(y) \Rightarrow [x] \sim [y]$,

hence $x=y$ by [AG2, Pbm 50] ($h(\mathcal{O}_E([x])) = 1$)

[In fact, for any curve C of genus > 0 (i.e. $\neq \mathbb{P}^1$),

$[x] \sim [y]$ implies $x=y$:

say $[x] - [y] = \text{div}(f)$.

Then f defines $E \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{P}^1_k$ surjective,

$f^*[O] = [x]$. Thus $\deg(f) = 1$, so f is isomorphism.

surjective. for $L \in \text{Pic}^0(E)$, $L \otimes \mathcal{O}_E([O])$ has

degree 1, and hence $h(L \otimes \mathcal{O}_E([O])) = 1$. Thus

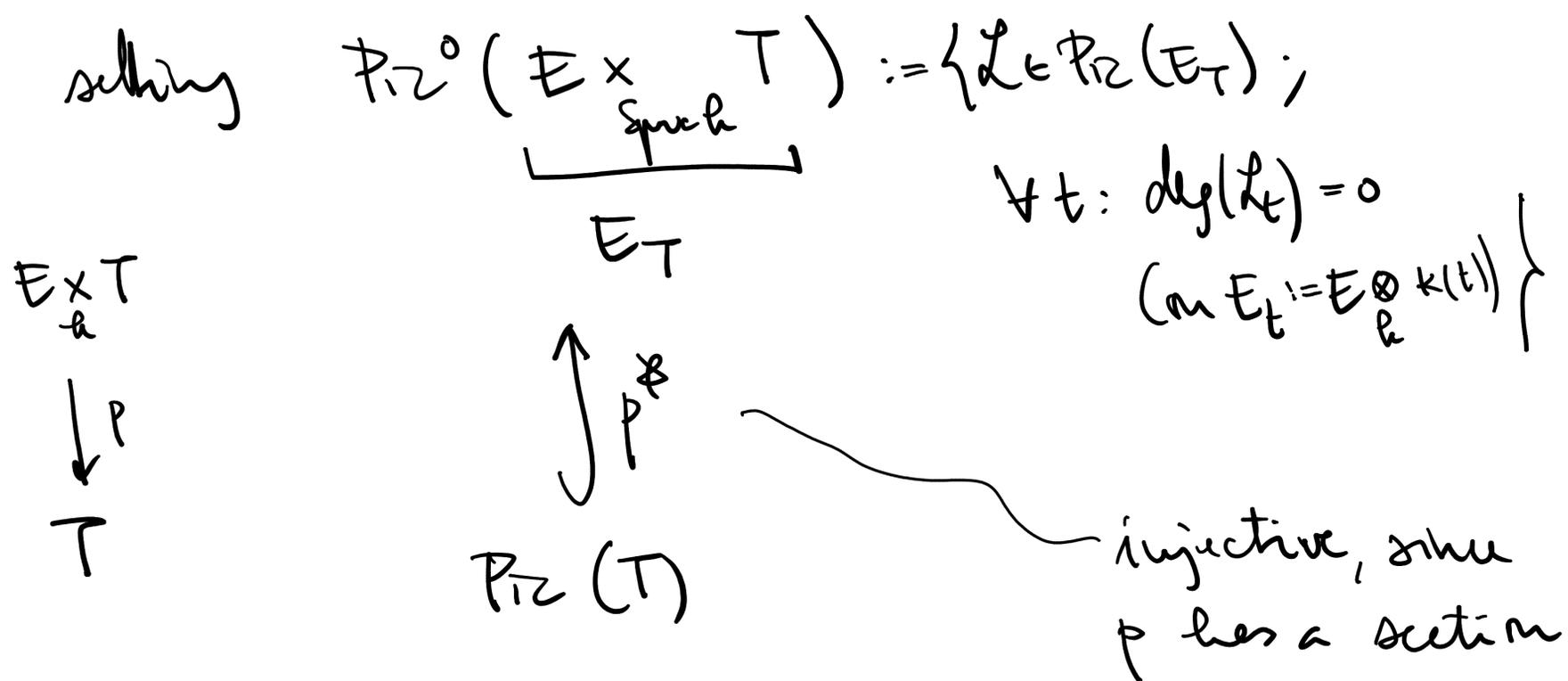
there exists a (unique) eff. divisor $[x]$ on E

with $L \otimes \mathcal{O}_E([O]) = \mathcal{O}_E([x])$.

Since $\text{Pic}^0(E)$ is an (abelian) group by definition, we obtain a group structure on $E(k)$.

We still need to show, however, that E is a group scheme, i.e. that the group structure (addition, inverse) is given by morphisms of k -schemes.

To this end, we extend the def'n of Pic^0 so as to obtain a functor $(\text{Ab}/k)^\circ \rightarrow (\text{Ab. Groups})$,



and $\underline{\text{Pic}}_{E/k}^\circ : (\text{Ab}/k)^\circ \rightarrow (\text{Ab. Grp})$, $T \mapsto \text{Pic}^0(E_T) /_{p^*} (\text{Pic}(T))$.

Proposition ([GW1] Prop. 14.22)

Let $X \rightarrow S$ be a flat morphism of schemes,

$Y \subseteq X$ a closed subscheme which is locally on X defined by a single equation.

Assume that for every $s \in S$, the inclusion of fibers $Y_s \subset X_s$ makes Y_s an eff.-Cartier divisor on X_s (i.e. locally defined by one non-zero divisor)

If moreover S and X are locally noetherian, or if the morphism $X \rightarrow S$ is locally a finite presentation, then

Y is flat over S and $Y \subset X$ is an effective Cartier divisor.

(See also [GW2] Prop. 19.28,

Cor 19.31 (1);

Compare AG3, Lemma 4.6)

effective Cartier divisor (on a general scheme):

closed subscheme defined locally by one equation given by a non-zero divisor.

See [GW1] (11.11) for the notion of (not nec. eff.)

Cartier divisor on a general scheme.

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Theorem (Fiber criterion for flatness)

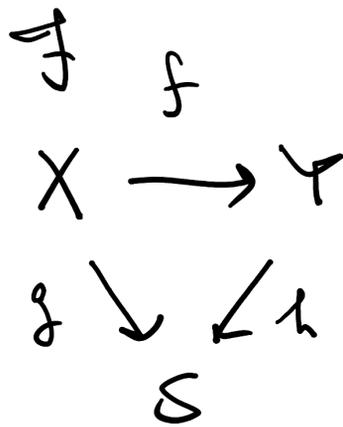
[GW1, Thm 14.25]

Let S be a scheme,

$g: X \rightarrow S, h: Y \rightarrow S$ morphisms,

$f: X \rightarrow Y$ a morphism of S -schemes,

\mathcal{F} a quasi-coherent \mathcal{O}_X -module.



Let $x \in X, y = f(x), s = g(x) = h(y)$ so that $\mathcal{F}_x \neq 0$.

Assume that

- S, X, Y lo. noetherian + \mathcal{F} coherent
- or
- g, h lfp, \mathcal{F} of finite presentation

Then the following are equivalent:

(i) \mathcal{F} is g -flat at x , and $\mathcal{F}_s := \mathcal{F}|_{X_s}$ is f_s -flat at x

(ii) h is flat at y and \mathcal{F} is f -flat at x . $f_s: X_s \rightarrow \text{Spec } k(s)$

For the difficult direction (i) \rightarrow (ii) the key input is the "local criterion for flatness"

Important special cases:

① $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{O}_X \rightsquigarrow X$ flat/ Y ?

② $X = Y \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{F}$ flat/ X ?

Local criterion for flatness (special case)

Let $A \rightarrow B$ be a local homom. of local noeth. rings, M a finitely generated B -module.

Let $\mathfrak{m} \subsetneq A$ be a proper ideal.

The foll. are equivalent:

(i) M is flat / A

(ii) $M/\mathfrak{m}M$ is flat / A/\mathfrak{m} and the natural homom.

$$\text{gr}_{\mathfrak{m}}^n(A) \otimes_{\text{gr}_0^{\mathfrak{m}}(A)} \text{gr}_d^{\mathfrak{m}}(\Gamma) \longrightarrow \text{gr}^n(M) := \bigoplus_{\mathfrak{m}^n M / \mathfrak{m}^{n+1} M}$$

is a isomorphism.

(iii) $M/\mathfrak{m}M$ is flat over A/\mathfrak{m} and $\mathfrak{m} \otimes_A \Gamma \rightarrow M$

is surjective.

Notation.

$t \in T \rightsquigarrow E_t := E \otimes_{\mathbb{k}} k(t)$, the fiber of E_T over t

$\alpha \in E(T) \rightsquigarrow (\alpha, \text{id}_T): T \rightarrow E_T$,

a closed immersion

which defines an eff. Cartier divisor

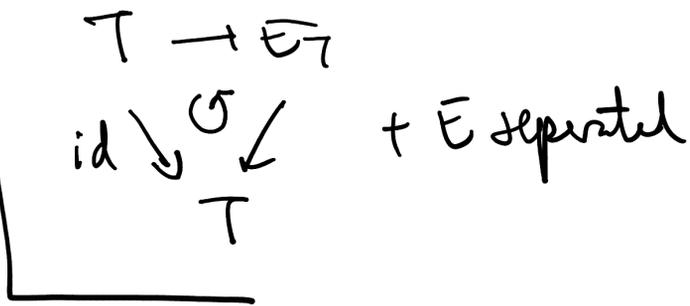
(We need to check that the ideal

sheaf \mathcal{J} defining $T \hookrightarrow E_T$ is a line bundle, or

equivalently, of finite presentation and flat

(and thus locally free of finite rank; it is clear,

e.g., by looking at fibers, that the rank must be = 1).



We would like to apply the fiber criterion for

flatness ("special case ②") $X=Y := E_T \quad \mathcal{F} = \mathcal{J}$



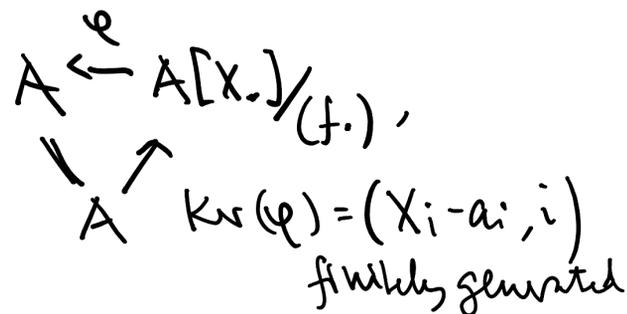
- $E_T \rightarrow T$ flat, \mathcal{F} flat/T, \mathcal{F}_t flat/ $E_t \quad \forall t$

- need to check:

\mathcal{J} of finite presentation,

but that is easy: locally on rings

("Weil div = Cartier div." on the smooth curve E_t)



Denote the corresponding

line bundle by $\mathcal{O}_{E/T}(x)$

(:= the dual of the
ideal sheaf
defining $\text{im}(x, \text{id}_T)$)

Special case:

$\mathcal{O}_{E/T}(\mathcal{O}_T)$,

$\mathcal{O}_T: T \rightarrow \text{Spec } k \xrightarrow{\circ} E.$

In view of the Yoneda lemma, it is then enough to show that

Claim For all T , the map (clearly functorial in T)

$$E(T) \rightarrow \underline{P}_{E/k}^{\circ}(T),$$

$$x \mapsto \mathcal{O}_{E_T/T}(x) \otimes \mathcal{O}_{E_T/T}(\mathcal{O}_T)^{\vee},$$

is bijective.

Note that whenever T is the spec of a field, then the construction coincides with the bijection we discussed already.

Proof of claim. We construct a map in the other direction and show that the two maps are inverse to each other.

Given $Z \in \underline{P}_{E/k}^{\circ}(T)$, write $Z' := Z \otimes \mathcal{O}_{E_T/T}(\mathcal{O}_T)$, a line bundle on E_T which is fibrewise of degree 1.

Denote the restriction to E_t by Z'_t .

Now for $\mathcal{L} \in \text{Pic}^0(E_T)$.

Want: \exists unique $\alpha: T \rightarrow E \quad \exists \mathcal{M} \in \text{Pic}(T)$:

$$\mathcal{L} \cong \mathcal{O}_{E_T}(\alpha) \otimes \mathcal{O}_{E_T}(\mathcal{O}_T)^\vee \otimes p^* \mathcal{M},$$

LOW $\mathcal{L}' \cong \mathcal{O}_{E_T}(\alpha) \otimes p^* \mathcal{M}.$

For $t \in T$, $\dim_{k(t)} H^0(E_t, \mathcal{L}'_t) = \deg(\mathcal{L}'_t) = 1,$

$\dim_{k(t)} H^1(E_t, \mathcal{L}'_t) = 0$ by RR / Serre duality



Cohomology
and base change
for the proper
morphism $E_T \rightarrow T$,
[AW2] Cor 23.144,
cf. AG3 Thm 4.3

$$\begin{aligned} R^1 p_* \mathcal{L}' &= 0 && \text{(since } p^1(k(t)) \text{ surj } \forall t) \\ p_* \mathcal{L}' &\text{ loc. free} && \text{(since } p^1 \text{ surj. +} \\ &(\text{rank } 1) && \text{ } p^0 \text{ surj.]} \\ &&& R^1 p_* \mathcal{L}' = 0, \\ &&& \text{so loc. free} \\ &&& \text{+ } p^{-1} \text{ surj.} \\ &&& \text{+ formation of } p_* \mathcal{L}' \text{ commutes with} \\ &&& \text{base change} \end{aligned}$$

May now replace \mathcal{L} by $\mathcal{L} \otimes (p^* p_* \mathcal{L}')^\vee$

$\rightarrow p_* \mathcal{L}' \cong \mathcal{O}_T$ (by the projection formula).

Then $1 \in \Gamma(T, \mathcal{O}_T) = \Gamma(E_T, \mathcal{L}')$ defines an
eff. Cartier divisor on E_T with assoc. line bundle \mathcal{L}'
 \iff closed subscheme $Z \subset E_T$. (cf. AG2
Problem 33)

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This construction is compatible with base change,
in particular $Z_t \subset E_t$ is eff. Cartier div. of
degree 1 for all $t \in T$.

Then $Z \rightarrow T$ is flat over T by [AG1, Prop. 14.22], see above.

Also: Z finite / T

There are different ways of showing this:

- locally on T , we can find an embedding

$$E_T \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}_T^N \quad (\text{in fact, we will see later that } N=2 \text{ works})$$

which we can arrange so that $Z \cap V_+(X_2) = \emptyset$

$\Rightarrow Z$ is proper and affine / T (and we may assume T affine)

Then use

Lemma Let $f: Z \rightarrow T$ be a proper and affine morphism of schemes. Then f is finite.

Proof (for T noetherian) WLOG T affine.

By coherence of (higher) direct images, $f_* \mathcal{O}_Z$ is a coherent \mathcal{O}_T -module, thus $\Gamma(Z, \mathcal{O}_Z)$ is a finite $\Gamma(T, \mathcal{O}_T)$ -module.

General case: e.g., [Liu, Algebraic Geometry and Arithmetic Curves] Lemma 3.2.17.

- With (much) more effort, one can show the following result (a consequence of Zariski's Main Theorem):

Theorem. For a morphism $f: X \rightarrow Y$ the foll. are equiv.:

(i) f finite

(ii) f is quasi-finite ($\hat{=}$ finite type and all fibres are finite sets)

and proper

(Reference: [AW1] Cor 12.89.

For Y locally noetherian, see [Stacks] 0206 for a different proof which relies on the theorem of formal functions.)

So the morphism $Z \rightarrow T$ is finite, flat and locally of finite pres.,

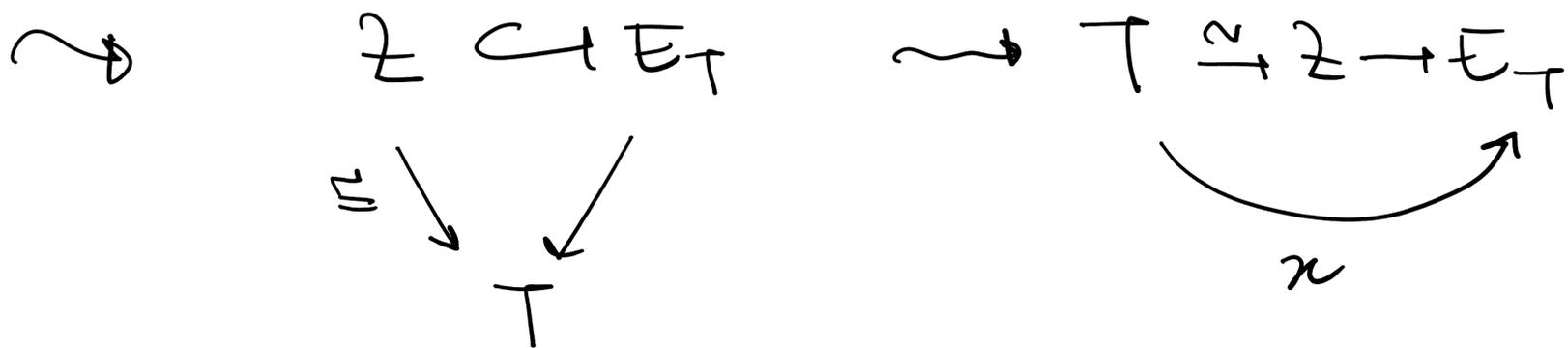
$\leadsto Z \rightarrow T$ finite locally free of rank 1,

hence an isomorphism.

Lemma Let $\varphi: R \rightarrow S$ be a ring homomorphism so that S is a locally free R -module of rank 1 via φ . Then φ is an isom. (check that 1 is a basis of S).

AW1, Cor. 12.19

or Stacks 02KB



This defines the desired map. It is not too hard to check that the two maps are inverse to each other.

Remark Degree of a divisor

For k a field,
 C/k a curve,

$D = \sum_{\substack{x \in C \\ \text{closed}}} n_x [x]$ a (Weil) divisor,

We define $\deg(D) = \sum_x n_x [k(x) : k]$.

- If k is alg. closed, then $k(x) = k$ for all $x \in C$ closed, so we can omit the terms $[k(x) : k]$.
- If k is not alg. closed, it is important to include the degrees of the residue field extension. For example, this ensures that principal divisors on (proper) curves have degree 0.

Example: $k = \mathbb{R}$, $C = \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{R}}^1$, $K(C) = \mathbb{R}(X)$

$$D = \operatorname{div} \left(\frac{X^2 + 1}{X^2} \right) = [\pm i] - 2[0].$$

$$= [\pm i] - 2[0]$$

$$\operatorname{deg} \left(\operatorname{div} \left(\frac{X^2 + 1}{X^2} \right) \right)$$

$$= 0$$

Aside The Picard functor

It is quite generally an interesting question whether, for a scheme X the set \mathcal{P} (iso. classes of) line bundles can be equipped with a geometric structure

\implies whether the Picard functor is representable.

Naive version: X an S -scheme

$$(\text{Isb}/S)^{\text{op}} \rightarrow (\text{Isb}), \quad T \mapsto \text{Pic}(X \times_S T)$$

Problem: not a sheaf for the Zariski topology!

There are tools to deal with this. For simplicity, we restrict to the following situation:

References: [GW2] Ch. 27 and the references given there,
[BLR, Néron models] Ch. 8

Theorem (representability of Picard functor)

[AW2]

(27.21),

(27.22)

and references
given there

Let $f: X \rightarrow S$ be a morphism.

Assume (a) $f_* \mathcal{O}_X = \mathcal{O}_S$ compatibly with
base change

(b) f has a section

Define

$$\underline{\text{Pic}}_{X/S}(T) := \text{Pic}(X \times_S T) / \text{Pic}(T)$$

$$\rightarrow \underline{\text{Pic}}_{X/S}: (\text{Sch}/S)^{\text{op}} \rightarrow (\text{Ab Grp})$$

Can show: $\underline{\text{Pic}}_{X/S}$ is a sheaf

for the Zariski topology (cf HAG)

[and even for the "fpqc topology"]

e.g. f flat, proper,
of finite pres.,
with geom. reduced
+ geom. connected
fibers

cf HAG Prop 46/

[AW2] Cor 29.63

(1) If $S = \text{Spec } k$, k a field, and f is proper,
then $\underline{\text{Pic}}_{X/k}$ is representable by a separated
scheme $\text{Pic}(X/k)$.

(2) If f is flat, projective, of finite presentation
and with geom. integral fibers, then $\underline{\text{Pic}}_{X/S}$
is representable by a separated S -scheme
locally of finite presentation.

The identity component of the Picard scheme

One can define the "identity component" $\underline{\text{Pic}}_{X/S}^0 \subset \text{Pic}_{X/S}$.

In the situations of the representability theorems, this

is a subgroup scheme o.t. for every $s \in S$,

$$(\text{Pic}_{X_s/k(s)})^0 = (\text{Pic}_{X/S})^0 \times_S \text{Spec } k(s) \subset \text{Pic}_{X/S} \times_S \text{Spec } k(s) = \text{Pic}_{X_s/k(s)}$$

is the identity component of the $k(s)$ -group scheme

$$\text{Pic}_{X_s/k(s)}$$

[GW2] section (27.24)

Important special cases:

- Let $C \rightarrow S$ be a smooth proper rel. curve with geometrically connected fibres [and admitting a section].

Then $\underline{\text{Pic}}_{C/S}^0$ is a smooth proper S -group scheme with geom. connected fibres of relative dim. g .

(Say that $\underline{\text{Pic}}_{C/S}^0$ is abelian scheme / S . For $S = \text{Spec } k$ a field, it is an ab. variety.)

We have
$$\underline{\text{Pic}}_{C/S}^0(T) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{L} \in \text{Pic}_{C/S}(T); \\ \mathcal{L} \text{ has degree } 0 \text{ on each} \\ \text{fiber of } C_T \rightarrow T \end{array} \right\}$$

The S -scheme $\underline{\text{Pic}}_{C/S}^0$ is called the Jacobian of the relative curve C/S . This construction behaves functorially in C .

Abel-Jacobi map:

Assume there exists a line bundle Z on C s.t. $\deg(Z_s) = 1$ for all s . (E.g. S the spectrum of a field k , $C(k) \neq \emptyset$)

Then morphism $C \rightarrow \underline{\text{Pic}}_{C/S}^0$
 $x \mapsto \mathcal{O}_C(x) \otimes Z^\vee$

If all fibers C_s have genus > 0 , then this is a closed immersion.

The abelian variety "almost" determines the curve C , up to isomorphism (Theorem of Torelli, see [AW2] Prop 27.287 for the statement and references).

- The dual abelian variety of an ab variety, more generally, dual abelian scheme

For an abelian variety A over a field k ,

$A^\vee = \underline{\text{Pic}}^0_{A/k}$ is an abelian variety of dimension $\dim A$, called the dual abelian variety of A .

\leadsto functor $(\text{AbVar}/k)^{\text{op}} \rightarrow (\text{AbVar}/k)$, $A \mapsto A^\vee$.

Similarly as for finite-dim'l v.s., one has natural morphism $A \rightarrow A^{\vee\vee}$ which is an isomorphism.

(Sometimes, but not in general, $A^\vee \cong A$.)

For L a line bundle on A , have $\eta_L: A \rightarrow A^\vee$
 $a \mapsto t_a^* L \otimes L^{-1}$.

(This is a group scheme homomorphism. Once we know that A^\vee is an abelian variety, this follows since it clearly maps $0 \mapsto 0$. When this result is proved as a step towards the representability of the dual abelian variety, it is called the "Theorem of the square".)

Can show: (1) L ample $\implies \varphi_L$ surjective

(i.e. some power of L is $\cong \mathcal{O}(1)$ for some embedding $A \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}_k^N$)

(show that $(L \otimes [-1]^* L)|_{\ker(\varphi_L)}$ is at same time ample and trivial)

(2) $L \in \text{Pic}^0 \iff \varphi_L \equiv 0$, i.e. L is "translation invariant"

(" \implies ", admitting (1) + projectivity of A : choose \mathcal{U} ample

and write $L = t_a^* \mathcal{U} \otimes \mathcal{U}^{-1}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} t_b^* L \otimes L^{-1} &= t_b^* (t_a^* \mathcal{U} \otimes \mathcal{U}^{-1}) \otimes (t_a^* \mathcal{U})^{-1} \otimes \mathcal{U} \\ &= \underbrace{t_{a+b}^* \mathcal{U} \otimes \mathcal{U}^{-1}}_{\| \varphi_{\mathcal{U}} \text{ isomom}} \otimes t_b^* \mathcal{U}^{-1} \otimes t_a^* \mathcal{U}^{-1} \otimes \mathcal{U}^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\left(t_a^* \mathcal{U} \otimes \mathcal{U}^{-1} \otimes t_b^* \mathcal{U} \otimes \mathcal{U}^{-1} \right)$$

Since Pic^0 is connected and contains the trivial line bundle \mathcal{O}_A , every $L \in \text{Pic}^0(k)$ is algebraically equivalent to 0 (and since Pic^0 is the connected component of the trivial line bundle, $\text{Pic}^0(k)$ consists precisely of all line bundles on A alg.-equiv. to \mathcal{O}_A).

For $\varphi: A \rightarrow A^V$, get $\Delta^* (\text{id} \times \varphi)^* \mathcal{P}$, a line bundle on A ,
 where \mathcal{P} is the universal object of the representable
 functor $\underline{\text{Pic}}_{A/k}^0$ (\mathcal{P} is a line bundle on $A \times A^V$)

(This is not the inverse construction to $\mathcal{L} \mapsto \varphi_{\mathcal{L}}$.)

But after suitable modifications, one obtains
 close connection

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{surjective homom.} \\ A \xrightarrow{\lambda} A^V \text{ st. } \lambda^V = \lambda \end{array} \right\} \longleftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{embeddings} \\ A \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}_{k^N}^N \end{array} \right\}$$