

## Additional exercises Topics in Geometry, Fall 2008

Rings are always supposed to be commutative with 1.

**Exercise 1.** Let  $k$  be a field and let  $n$  be a positive integer. The *ring of polynomial functions*  $O(k^n)$  on  $k^n$  is the ring of functions  $f : k^n \rightarrow k$  such that there exists a polynomial  $g$  in  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  with  $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = g(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  for all  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in k^n$ .

- (i) Determine  $O(k)$  for  $k$  a finite field with  $q$  elements.
- (ii) Assume that  $k$  is an infinite field. Prove that  $O(k^n) \cong k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .

**Exercise 2.** Let  $A$  be a ring and let  $I$  be an ideal of  $A$ . The *radical*  $\sqrt{I}$  of  $I$  is defined as

$$\sqrt{I} = \{a \in A : \text{there exists } n > 0 \text{ such that } a^n \in I\}.$$

Prove:

- (i)  $\sqrt{I} \supseteq I$ ;
- (ii)  $\sqrt{I}$  is an ideal of  $A$ ;
- (iii)  $\sqrt{\sqrt{I}} = \sqrt{I}$ ;
- (iv)  $\sqrt{I}$  equals the intersection of all prime ideals containing  $I$ . (Hint: in order to prove the difficult inclusion, take an arbitrary  $a \notin \sqrt{I}$ . We want the existence of a prime ideal  $\mathfrak{p} \supseteq I$  such that  $a \notin \mathfrak{p}$ . Consider the collection of ideals  $J$  of  $A$  that contain  $I$  but have  $a \notin \sqrt{J}$ . Apply Zorn's Lemma to this (clearly non-empty) collection. Any maximal element of it will be a prime ideal.)

**Exercise 3.** Determine the irreducible components of  $Z(y^4 - x^6, y^3 - xy^2 - yx^3 + x^4)$  in  $\mathbb{A}^2$ .

**Exercise 4.** This exercise is devoted to a proof of the Cayley-Hamilton theorem: let  $k$  be a field, and let  $M_n(k)$  be the set of  $n$ -by- $n$  matrices with coefficients in  $k$ . For each  $M \in M_n(k)$  denote by  $\phi_M = \det(T \cdot \text{Id} - M) \in k[T]$  the characteristic polynomial of  $M$ . Then  $\phi_M(M) = 0$ . Note that we may assume that  $k$  is algebraically closed.

- (i) Give a natural identification of  $M_n(k)$  with  $\mathbb{A}_k^{n^2}$ , thus giving  $M_n(k)$  the structure of an affine variety.
- (ii) Show that the set  $CH := \{M \in M_n(k) : \phi_M(M) = 0\}$  is a Zariski closed subset of  $M_n(k)$ .
- (iii) Show that the set  $DEV := \{M \in M_n(k) : M \text{ has no double eigenvalues}\}$  is non-empty and Zariski open in  $M_n(k)$ .
- (iv) Show that  $DEV \subset CH$ . (Hint:  $CH$  contains all diagonal matrices).
- (v) Prove that  $CH = M_n(k)$ .

**Exercise 5.** Suppose  $I$  is an ideal of a ring  $R$ . Show that if  $\sqrt{I}$  is finitely generated, then for some integer  $N$  we have  $\sqrt{I}^N \subseteq I$ . Conclude that in a noetherian ring, the ideals  $I$  and  $J$  have the same radical iff there is some integer  $N$  such that  $I^N \subseteq J$  and  $J^N \subseteq I$ . Use Hilbert's Nullstellensatz to deduce that if  $I, J \subseteq A = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  are ideals and  $k$  is an algebraically closed field, then  $Z(I) = Z(J)$  iff  $I^N \subseteq J$  and  $J^N \subseteq I$  for some integer  $N$ .

**Exercise 6.** (Integrality) Let  $A$  be a subring of a ring  $B$ . We call an element  $b \in B$  *integral* over  $A$  if there exist  $a_0, \dots, a_{m-1} \in A$  such that  $b^m + a_{m-1}b^{m-1} + \dots + a_0 = 0$ . We call  $B$  integral over  $A$  if every element of  $B$  is integral over  $A$ .

- (i) Let  $b \in B$ . Prove that the following statements are equivalent: (1)  $b$  is integral over  $A$ ; (2)

$A[b]$  is a finitely generated  $A$ -module; (3)  $A[b]$  is contained in a subring  $C$  of  $B$  such that  $C$  is a finitely generated  $A$ -module. (Hint: in order to prove (3)  $\Rightarrow$  (1), write  $C = Af_1 + \dots + Af_n$ . For each  $i$  there are  $c_{ij} \in A$  such that  $b \cdot f_i = \sum_j c_{ij} \cdot f_j$ . In other words, the vector  ${}^t(f_1, \dots, f_n)$  is in the kernel of the matrix  $m_{ij} := b \cdot \delta_{ij} - c_{ij}$ . Use the adjoint matrix of  $m_{ij}$  to get from this that  $d \cdot f_i = 0$  for all  $i$ , where  $d$  is the determinant of  $m_{ij}$ . Since 1 is a linear combination of the  $f_i$ , we get then that  $d = 0$ . Finish by observing that  $d$  is a monic polynomial in  $b$  with coefficients in  $A$ .)

(ii) Let  $b_1, \dots, b_n$  be elements of  $B$ , each integral over  $A$ . Prove that the ring  $A[b_1, \dots, b_n]$  is a finitely generated  $A$ -module.

(iii) Prove that the set of elements of  $B$  which are integral over  $A$  is a subring of  $B$  containing  $A$ .

(iv) Let  $A \subseteq B \subseteq C$  be rings, and assume  $B$  integral over  $A$ , and  $C$  integral over  $B$ . Prove that  $C$  is integral over  $A$ .

(v) Let  $B$  be a domain and let  $A$  be a subring of  $B$  such that  $B$  is integral over  $A$ . Prove:  $B$  is a field  $\Leftrightarrow A$  is a field.

**Exercise 7.** Describe the maximal ideals of  $k[x]$  for various fields  $k$  such as  $k = \mathbb{R}$ ,  $k$  a finite field, ...

**Exercise 8.** Let  $X$  be an affine variety. For  $f$  in  $A(X)$  define  $D(f) = \{p \in X : f(p) \neq 0\}$  and  $Z(f) = X \setminus D(f) = \{p \in X : f(p) = 0\}$ . Prove:

(i)  $X = \cup_{i \in I} D(f_i) \Leftrightarrow \cap_{i \in I} Z(f_i) = \emptyset \Leftrightarrow$  the  $f_i$  generate  $A(X)$  as an ideal.

(ii) The  $D(f)$  with  $f$  running through  $A(X)$  form a basis for the Zariski topology on  $X$ .

(iii)  $X$  is quasi-compact, i.e., every covering of  $X$  with open subsets has a finite subcovering.

**Exercise 9.** Let  $S$  be a graded ring. An ideal  $\mathfrak{a} \subseteq S$  is called *homogeneous* if every  $f \in \mathfrak{a}$  has all its components in  $\mathfrak{a}$ . Prove:

(i) An ideal is homogeneous iff it can be generated by homogeneous elements.

(ii) The sum, product, intersection and radical of homogeneous ideals are homogeneous.

(iii) The homogeneous ideal  $\mathfrak{a}$  is prime iff for any two homogeneous elements  $f, g \in S$  one has that  $fg \in \mathfrak{a}$  implies  $f \in \mathfrak{a}$  or  $g \in \mathfrak{a}$ .

**Exercise 10.** Let  $k$  be a field, let  $n$  be a positive integer and let  $\mathbb{P}^n$  be projective  $n$ -space over  $k$ . Prove that there is a decomposition

$$\mathbb{P}^n = \mathbb{A}^n \sqcup \mathbb{A}^{n-1} \sqcup \dots \sqcup \mathbb{A}^1 \sqcup \mathbb{A}^0$$

in disjoint subsets. Compute the number of elements of  $\mathbb{P}^n$  for  $k$  a finite field of  $q$  elements.

**Exercise 11.** For any  $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , let  $S_d \subseteq S = k[x_0, \dots, x_n]$  be the  $k$ -vector space of homogeneous polynomials of degree  $d$ . Prove that  $\dim_k S_d = \binom{d+n}{n}$ .

**Exercise 12.** (Localisation) Let  $A$  be a ring and let  $S \subseteq A$  be a multiplicative subset, i.e., a subset  $S$  of  $A$  with  $1 \in S$  and closed under multiplication. Define a relation  $\equiv$  on  $A \times S$  as follows: let  $(a, s) \equiv (b, t) \Leftrightarrow u \cdot (at - bs) = 0$  for some  $u \in S$ .

(i) Prove that  $\equiv$  is an equivalence relation.

We denote by  $S^{-1}A$  the set of equivalence classes for  $\equiv$ .

(ii) Prove that  $S^{-1}A$  has a natural ring structure, and that there is a natural ring homomorphism  $\phi : A \rightarrow S^{-1}A$ .

For  $f \in A$  one usually denotes  $S^{-1}A$  for  $S = \{1\} \cup \{f^n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}}$  by  $A_f$ . For example, if  $A = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $f = 2$  then  $A_f$  is the ring of rational numbers  $a/b$  with  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $b$  is a power of 2.

(iii) Prove that  $A_f$  is the zero ring  $\Leftrightarrow f$  is nilpotent. Hence the map  $\phi$  of (ii) need not be injective.

For  $\mathfrak{p}$  a prime ideal of  $A$  one usually denotes  $S^{-1}A$  for  $S = A - \mathfrak{p}$  by  $A_{\mathfrak{p}}$ . For example, if  $A = \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\mathfrak{p} = (3)$  then  $A_{\mathfrak{p}}$  is the ring of rational numbers  $a/b$  with  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $b$  is not divisible by 3.

(iv) Prove that  $A_{\mathfrak{p}}$  has a unique maximal ideal.

A ring with a unique maximal ideal is called a *local ring*.

(v) Prove that  $S^{-1}A$  and  $\phi$  satisfy the following universal property: let  $g : A \rightarrow B$  be a ring homomorphism such that  $g(s)$  is a unit in  $B$  for all  $s$  in  $S$ . Then there is a unique ring homomorphism  $h : S^{-1}A \rightarrow B$  such that  $g = h \cdot \phi$ .

(vi) Prove that if  $A$  is a subring of a ring  $B$ , and  $B$  is integral over  $A$ , then  $S^{-1}B$  is integral over  $S^{-1}A$ .

**Exercise 13.** If  $A$  is a local ring with maximal ideal  $\mathfrak{m}$ , we call the field  $A/\mathfrak{m}$  the *residue field* of  $A$ .

(i) If  $B$  is a ring and  $\mathfrak{p}$  is a prime ideal of  $B$ , prove that the residue field of  $B_{\mathfrak{p}}$  is isomorphic to the field of fractions of the domain  $B/\mathfrak{p}$ .

(ii) Prove that a ring  $A$  is local iff the set of non-units of  $A$  is an ideal of  $A$ .

(iii) Prove that a local ring is not a direct sum of two rings.

**Exercise 14.** Let  $X$  be an affine variety. For non-constant  $f$  in  $A(X)$  let  $Y = D(f)$  be the corresponding quasi-affine variety. Prove that  $Y$  is (naturally isomorphic to) an affine variety, and describe the coordinate ring of  $Y$ . (Use localisation. See also Lemma I.4.2 in [HAG].)

**Exercise 15.** Let  $k$  be an algebraically closed field and let  $f_1, \dots, f_r \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Let  $g$  in  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be such that  $f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \dots = f_r(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0 \Rightarrow g(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0$ . Rephrase our proof that  $g \in \sqrt{(f_1, \dots, f_r)}$  (the Hilbert Nullstellensatz!) as follows.

(i) Let  $A = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/(f_1, \dots, f_r)$  and consider the localisation map  $A \rightarrow A_{\bar{g}}$ . Use the Weak Nullstellensatz to prove that  $A_{\bar{g}}$  is the zero ring.

(ii) Conclude that  $\bar{g}$  is nilpotent in  $A$ .

(iii) Conclude that  $g \in \sqrt{(f_1, \dots, f_r)}$ .

**Exercise 16.** Prove that  $X = Z(x^2 - y, y^2 - z)$  in  $\mathbb{A}^3$  is irreducible, and that  $X \cong \mathbb{A}^1$ . Prove that  $Z(x^2 - y^3) \subseteq \mathbb{A}^2$  is not isomorphic with  $\mathbb{A}^1$ . Give a bijective morphism from  $\mathbb{A}^1$  to  $Z(x^2 - y^3)$ .

**Exercise 17.** Let  $k$  be an algebraically closed field. Describe the prime ideals of  $k[x, y]$ . Describe the algebraic subsets of  $\mathbb{A}^2$ .

**Exercise 18.** Let  $k$  be an algebraically closed field of characteristic  $p > 0$ , and let  $f_1, \dots, f_r \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  be polynomials with coefficients in a finite field  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . Let  $X = Z(f_1, \dots, f_r) \subseteq \mathbb{A}^n$ .

(i) Show that the map  $F_q : X \rightarrow X$  given by  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto (x_1^q, \dots, x_n^q)$  is a morphism. We

call this map the  $q$ -th *Frobenius map*.

(ii) Show that  $F_q$  is bijective.

(iii) Show that  $F_q$  is not an isomorphism unless  $X$  is a point.

(iv) Describe the fixed point set of  $F_q$  and prove that it is finite.

**Exercise 19.** Let  $k$  be an algebraically closed field. Prove that  $PGL(2, k)$  acts via automorphisms on  $\mathbb{P}^1$ , and that the action is 3-transitive. Prove also that if a projective transformation of  $\mathbb{P}^1$  has three fix points, then it is the identity.

**Exercise 20.** More generally, prove that  $PGL(n + 1, k)$  acts via automorphisms on  $\mathbb{P}^n$ .

We call a collection of  $k \geq n + 2$  distinct points in  $\mathbb{P}^n$  to be *in general position* if no  $n + 1$  among them lie in a hyperplane. Let  $p_0, \dots, p_{n+1}$  be  $n + 2$  points in general position in  $\mathbb{P}^n$ . Prove that we can choose homogeneous coordinates such that  $p_0 = (1 : 0 : \dots : 0)$ ,  $p_1 = (0 : 1 : 0 : \dots : 0)$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $p_n = (0 : \dots : 0 : 1)$  and  $p_{n+1} = (1 : 1 : \dots : 1)$ .

Choose five points in general position in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . Show that there is a unique non-degenerate conic passing through them.

**Exercise 21.** (Classification of conics over  $\mathbb{C}$ ) Recall that a conic in the affine real plane  $\mathbb{R}^2$  (that is, the locus in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  defined by a quadratic equation with real coefficients) belongs to one of the following eight types:

(a) the empty set (as with  $x^2 + y^2 + 1 = 0$ );

(b) a single point (as with  $x^2 + y^2 = 0$ );

(c) a ‘double line’ ( $x^2 = 0$ );

(d) the union of two incident lines ( $xy = 0$ );

(e) the union of two parallel lines ( $x(x - 1) = 0$ );

(f) a parabola ( $y - x^2 = 0$ );

(g) a hyperbola ( $xy - 1 = 0$ );

(h) an ellipse ( $x^2 + 2y^2 - 1 = 0$ ).

Any two examples of one of these types differ only by a (real) projective linear transformation.

(i) Show that in the affine complex plane  $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  there are only five types of conics: types (a) and (b) disappear, and types (g) and (h) coincide.

(ii) Show that in the projective complex plane  $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  there are only three types of conics: they are represented by types (c), (d) and (h) from the above list. (Hint: this is a classification by the *rank* of a conic, where the rank of a quadratic form  $\sum_i a_{ii}x_i^2 + 2\sum_{i < j} a_{ij}x_ix_j$  is defined by the rank of the symmetric matrix  $(a_{ij})$ .)

(iii) Show that the different types in (i) correspond to the relative position of the conic and the line at infinity. More precisely, a parabola is a rank-3 conic tangent to the line at infinity, while an ellipse/hyperbola is a rank-3 conic meeting the line at infinity in two distinct points.

(iv) For a real conic  $C$ , complex conjugation acts in a natural way on the set of its complex-valued points. Assume that  $C$  belongs to type (g) or (h). Prove:  $C$  is a hyperbola iff its points at infinity are fixed under complex conjugation (i.e., real), and:  $C$  is an ellipse iff its points at infinity are conjugate.

**Exercise 22.** Let  $A = (a_0 : a_1 : a_2)$  and  $B = (b_0 : b_1 : b_2)$  be distinct points in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . Give an equation for the line  $AB$  passing through  $A$  and  $B$ .

**Exercise 23.** (Pascal's Theorem) Let  $C$  be a rank-3 conic in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ , and let  $A, B, C, A', B', C'$  be six distinct points on  $C$ . Prove that the points  $P = AB' \cap A'B$ ,  $Q = AC' \cap A'C$  and  $R = BC' \cap B'C$  are collinear.

**Exercise 24.** Let  $V$  be the projective variety of conics passing through four given points in general position in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . Assume that  $\text{char } k \neq 2$ . Show that the degenerate conics correspond to a proper algebraic subset of  $V$ , consisting of three points.

**Exercise 25.** Give an isomorphism between  $\mathbb{P}^1$  and  $Z(x^2 + y^2 - z^2) \subseteq \mathbb{P}^2$ . Parametrise all integer solutions to the equation  $x^2 + y^2 = z^2$ .

**Exercise 26.** (Noetherian modules) Let  $A$  be a ring and let  $M$  be an  $A$ -module.

(i) Prove that the following conditions on  $M$  are equivalent: every submodule of  $M$  is finitely generated; every ascending chain  $M_1 \subseteq M_2 \subseteq \dots$  of submodules of  $M$  becomes stationary; every non-empty set of submodules of  $M$  has a maximal element. A module satisfying these conditions is called *noetherian*.

(ii) Let  $0 \rightarrow M' \rightarrow M \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow 0$  be an exact sequence of  $A$ -modules. Prove:  $M$  is noetherian iff  $M'$  and  $M''$  are noetherian.

(iii) If  $M_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  are noetherian  $A$ -modules, then so is  $\bigoplus_{i=1}^n M_i$ . Prove this.

(iv) Assume that  $A$  is a noetherian ring and that  $M$  is a finitely generated  $A$ -module. Prove that  $M$  is noetherian.

**Exercise 27.** (Closedness can be checked locally) Let  $X$  be a topological space and  $Y \subseteq X$ . Prove:  $Y$  is closed in  $X \Leftrightarrow$  there is a covering  $X = \cup_i U_i$  with open subsets such that  $Y \cap U_i$  is closed in  $U_i$  for all  $i \Leftrightarrow$  for any covering  $X = \cup_i U_i$  with open subsets one has  $Y \cap U_i$  closed in  $U_i$  for all  $i$ .

**Exercise 28.** Let  $(A, \mathfrak{m})$  be a local ring and let  $M$  be a finitely generated  $A$ -module. Prove the following statements, all known as *Nakayama's Lemma*:

(i) If  $\mathfrak{m}M = M$ , then  $M = 0$ .

(ii) Let  $N$  be a submodule of  $M$ . If  $M = \mathfrak{m}M + N$  then  $M = N$ .

(iii) Let  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  be elements of  $M$  whose images in  $M/\mathfrak{m}M$  form a basis of this vector space. Then the  $x_i$  generate  $M$ .

**Exercise 29.** Let  $(A, \mathfrak{m})$  be a noetherian local domain with residue field  $k$ . Prove that the following conditions on  $A$  are equivalent:

(i)  $A$  is a euclidean domain;

(ii)  $A$  is a principal ideal domain;

(iii)  $\dim_k \mathfrak{m}/\mathfrak{m}^2 = 1$ .

If these conditions are satisfied,  $A$  is called a *discrete valuation ring*.

**Exercise 30.** Let  $U, V$  be open affine subvarieties of a variety  $X$ . Prove that  $U \cap V$  is again an affine variety.

**Exercise 31.** Consider the "folium of Descartes"  $X = Z(xyz - x^3 - y^3) \subseteq \mathbb{P}^2$ . Prove that  $X$  is birationally equivalent with  $\mathbb{P}^1$ . Are they isomorphic?

**Exercise 32.** Consider the quadric  $X = Z(x^2 + y^2 - z^2) \subseteq \mathbb{A}^3$ . Prove that  $X$  is birationally equivalent with  $\mathbb{A}^2$ . Are they isomorphic?

**Exercise 33.** Prove that  $\mathbb{P}^2$  is birationally equivalent with  $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ . Are they isomorphic?

**Exercise 34.** (i) Let  $X$  be a variety that is both projective and affine. Prove that  $X$  consists of a single point.

(ii) Let  $X$  be a projective variety,  $Y$  an affine variety, and  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  a morphism. Prove that  $f$  is constant.

**Exercise 35.** Let  $X$  be an affine variety and let  $X \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^n$  be a morphism. Is the image of  $X$  closed in  $\mathbb{A}^n$ ?

**Exercise 36.** (Elimination theory) Translate Theorem I.5.7A of [HAG] into the following statement: let  $X$  be a projective variety, and let  $Y$  be any variety. The projection  $p_Y : X \times Y \rightarrow Y$  is a closed map, i.e., it sends closed sets to closed sets. (Hint: first do the case  $X = \mathbb{P}^n$  and  $Y = \mathbb{A}^m$ .)

A variety  $X$  which has  $p_Y : X \times Y \rightarrow Y$  closed for all varieties  $Y$  is called *complete*. Is  $\mathbb{A}^1$  a complete variety?

**Exercise 37.** Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a morphism of varieties. We call  $\Gamma_f = \{(p, q) \in X \times Y : q = f(p)\}$  the *graph* of  $f$ .

(i) Prove that  $\Gamma_f$  is a closed subset of  $X \times Y$ .

(ii) Prove that the image of a projective variety under a morphism is closed. (Use (i) and elimination theory.)

(iii) Use (ii) to prove that any regular function on a projective variety is constant (this is Theorem I.3.4(a) of [HAG]).

**Exercise 38.** (Rigidity lemma) Let  $X, Y$  and  $Z$  be varieties, with  $X$  projective. Let  $f : X \times Y \rightarrow Z$  be a morphism. Suppose that there is a point  $y_0 \in Y$  such that  $f$  is constant on  $X \times \{y_0\}$ . Then  $f$  factors through the projection  $p_Y : X \times Y \rightarrow Y$ , i.e.,  $f$  is constant on every slice  $X \times \{y\}$ . (Hint: choose any point  $x_0 \in X$ , and define  $g : Y \rightarrow Z$  by  $g(y) = f(x_0, y)$ . To prove that  $f = g \cdot p_Y$ , it is enough to show that they agree on an open dense subset of  $X \times Y$ . If  $U$  is any open affine neighbourhood of  $z_0 = f(x_0, y_0)$ , consider the set  $W = p_Y(f^{-1}(Z \setminus U))$ . Prove that  $W$  is closed in  $Y$ , using elimination theory. By construction,  $y_0 \notin W$ , so that  $Y \setminus W$  is a dense open subset of  $Y$ . Use Exercise 34(ii) to show that  $f(X \times \{y\})$  is a point for any  $y \notin W$ .)

**Exercise 39.** Let  $X, Y$  be group varieties (cf. [HAG], Exerc. I.3.21) with  $X$  projective and let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a morphism. Prove that  $f$  is a homomorphism followed by a translation, i.e., prove that there is an  $y \in Y$  and a homomorphism  $g : X \rightarrow Y$  such that  $f(x) = g(x) + y$  for all  $x \in X$ . (Hint: after a translation we may assume that  $f(e_X) = e_Y$ . Rephrase the condition that  $f$  be a homomorphism in terms of the constancy of a certain map  $X \times X \rightarrow Y$ . Use the rigidity lemma to prove this constancy.)

As an application, prove that a projective group variety is commutative. A projective group variety is called an *abelian variety*.

**Exercise 40.** Let  $k$  be a field and let  $K$  be an extension field of  $k$ . A subset  $S$  of  $K$  is called *algebraically dependent* over  $k$  if for some positive integer  $n$  there exists a non-zero polynomial  $f$  in  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  such that  $f(s_1, \dots, s_n) = 0$  for some distinct  $s_1, \dots, s_n \in S$ .

We call  $S$  *algebraically independent* over  $k$  if  $S$  is not algebraically dependent over  $k$ . A *transcendence base* of  $K$  over  $k$  is a subset of  $K$  which is algebraically independent over  $k$  and is maximal in the collection of all algebraically independent subsets of  $K$ .

(i) Prove that  $K$  has a transcendence base over  $k$ .

(ii) Let  $S$  be algebraically independent over  $k$ , and let  $t \in K \setminus k(S)$ . Prove:  $S \cup \{t\}$  is algebraically independent over  $k$  iff  $t$  is transcendental over  $k(S)$ .

(iii) Again let  $S$  be algebraically independent over  $k$ . Prove:  $S$  is a transcendence base over  $k$  iff  $K$  is algebraic over  $k(S)$ .

(iv) Prove: if  $S$  is a finite transcendence base of  $K$  over  $k$ , then every transcendence base of  $K$  over  $k$  has the same number of elements as  $S$ . We call this number the *transcendence degree* of  $K$  over  $k$ , notation  $\text{trdeg}_k K$ .

**Exercise 41.** Show how the geometric version of Krull's Hauptidealsatz given in class follows from the algebraic version given in [HAG], Theorem I.1.11A.

**Exercise 42.** Prove that a group variety (cf. [HAG], Exerc. I.3.21) is non-singular.

**Exercise 43.** Compute the tangent lines to the conic  $Z(x_0^2 + x_1^2 - 2x_2^2) \subseteq \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$  that pass through  $(0 : 0 : 1)$ . Make it clear by means of a picture that these tangent lines can not be defined over  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**Exercise 44.** Compute the singularities of the Klein quartic curve  $Z(x^3y + y^3z + z^3x) \subseteq \mathbb{P}^2$ . (Note: the ground field may have any characteristic!)

**Exercise 45.** Compute the strict transforms in  $\text{Bl}_0(\mathbb{A}^2)$  of the plane curves given in [HAG], Exercise I.5.1.

**Exercise 46.** Let  $X$  be an affine variety and let  $p \in X$  be a point. Prove that the elements in  $T_{X,p}$  correspond 1-1 with the  $k$ -algebra homomorphisms  $\phi : A(X) \rightarrow k[\epsilon]/(\epsilon^2)$  with  $\phi(\mathfrak{m}_p) \subseteq (\epsilon)$ .

**Exercise 47.** If  $m > n$ , prove that there are no non-constant morphisms  $\mathbb{P}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ .

**Exercise 48.** Let  $k$  be an algebraically closed field. Compute the Hilbert function and polynomial for the ring

$$k[x, y, z, w]/(x, y) \cap (z, w)$$

corresponding to the disjoint union of two lines in  $\mathbb{P}^3$ . Compare these to the Hilbert function and polynomial of the ring corresponding to one projective line.

**Exercise 49.** Compute the Hilbert function and polynomial for the twisted cubic curve, cf. [HAG], Exercise I.2.9(b).

**Exercise 50.** (Posed by Matthijs van Duin) Let  $X$  be a variety such that the natural inclusion  $Q(O(X)) \rightarrow K(X)$  is an isomorphism. Is  $X$  quasi-affine?