

Etale Morphism

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- 1 Etale morphism of nonsingular algebraic varieties
- 2 Etale morphism of arbitrary varieties
- 3 Unramified morphism
- 4 Etale Morphism of Schemes

$k :=$ algebraic closed field.

Definition (M1)

Let W and V be nonsingular algebraic varieties over k . A regular map $\phi : W \rightarrow V$ is said to be **etale** at $Q \in W$ if the map $d\phi : \text{Tgt}_Q(W) \rightarrow \text{Tgt}_{\phi(Q)}(V)$ on tangent spaces is an isomorphism, and ϕ is said to be **etale** if it is etale at every point of W .

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According to the Inverse function theorem, a smooth map $f : M \rightarrow N$ is a local diffeomorphism if and only if the derivative $Df_p : T_p M \rightarrow T_{f(p)} N$ is a linear isomorphism for all points $p \in M$.

Etale morphism of nonsingular algebraic varieties



Tangent Spaces

Definition (Milner, AG)

Let $W \subset \mathbb{A}^m$ be an algebraic subset of \mathbb{A}^m , and let $\mathfrak{a} = I(W)$. The tangent space $\text{Tgt}_Q(W)$ to W at a point $Q = (a_1, \dots, a_m)$ of W is the subspace of the vector space with origin Q cut out by the linear equations

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\delta F}{\delta X_i} \Big|_Q (X_i - a_i) = 0 \quad F \in \mathfrak{a}.$$

Consider the regular map

$$\phi : \mathbb{A}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^n, \quad (P_1(a_1, \dots, a_m), \dots, P_n(a_1, \dots, a_m)).$$

We think of ϕ being given by the equations

$$Y_i = P_i(X_1, \dots, X_m), \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

It corresponds to the map of rings $\phi^* : k[Y_1, \dots, Y_n] \rightarrow k[X_1, \dots, X_m]$ sending Y_i to $P_i(X_1, \dots, X_m)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$. Let $a \in \mathbb{A}^m$, and let $b = \phi(a)$. Define $(d\phi)_a : \text{Tgt}_a(\mathbb{A}^m) \rightarrow \text{Tgt}_b(\mathbb{A}^n)$ to be the map such that

$$(dY_i)_b \circ (d\phi)_a = \sum \frac{\delta P_i}{\delta X_j} \Big|_a (dX_j)_a.$$

Proposition (Milner, Etale Cohomology)

Let $\phi : U \rightarrow V$ be a regular map, where U and V both equal \mathbb{A}^m . Then ϕ is etale at (a_1, \dots, a_m) if and only if the Jacobian matrix $\left(\frac{\delta(X_i \circ \phi)}{\delta Y_j} \Big|_{(a_1, \dots, a_m)} \right)$ is nonsingular. (Here X_i is the i -th coordinate function on V and Y_j is the j th coordinate function on U .)

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Example

Consider the map $x \mapsto x^n : \mathbb{A}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1$. Since $\frac{dX^n}{dX} = nX^{n-1}$. We see from that the map is etale at no point of \mathbb{A}^1 if the characteristic of k divides n , and that otherwise it is etale at all $x \neq 0$.

Etale morphism of arbitrary varieties



Tangent Cone

Definition (Milner, Etale Cohomology)

Let $\phi : W \rightarrow V$ be a regular map of varieties over k . Then ϕ is said to be **etale** at $Q \in W$ if it induces an isomorphism $C_{\phi(Q)}(V) \rightarrow C_Q(W)$ of tangent cones (as k -algebra).

Etale morphism of arbitrary varieties



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Definition (Milner, Algebraic Geometry)

Let V be an algebraic subset of \mathbb{A}^m , and let $\mathfrak{a} = I(V)$. Assume that $P = (0, \dots, 0) \in V$. Define \mathfrak{a}_* to be the ideal generated by the polynomial F_* for $F \in \mathfrak{a}$, where F_* is the leading form of F . The **geometric tangent cone** at P , $C_P(V)$ is $V(\mathfrak{a}_*)$, and the **tangent cone** is the pair $(V(\mathfrak{a}_*), k[X_1, \dots, X_n]/\mathfrak{a}_*)$.

Example

The tangent cone at the origin to the curve

$$V : Y^2 = X^3$$

is defined by the equation

$$Y^2 = 0.$$

Thus it is the line $Y = 0$ with multiplicity 2. The map $t \mapsto (t^2, t^3) : \mathbb{A}^1 \rightarrow V$ is not etale at the origin because the map

$$x \mapsto 0, y \mapsto 0 : k[x, y]/y^2 \rightarrow k[t]$$

is defines on the tangent cones is not an isomorphism.

Definition (Milner, Etale Cohomology)

Let A be a local ring with maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} . The **associated graded ring** is

$$\mathrm{gr}(A) = \sum_{i \geq 0} \mathfrak{m}^i / \mathfrak{m}^{i+1}.$$

The multiplication on $\mathrm{gr}(A)$ is induced by the multiplication

$$a, b \mapsto ab : \mathfrak{m}^i \times \mathfrak{m}^j \rightarrow \mathfrak{m}^{i+j}.$$

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Proposition (Milner, Algebraic Geometry)

The map $k[X_1, \dots, X_n]/\mathfrak{a}_ \rightarrow \mathrm{gr}(\mathcal{O}_P)$ sending the class of X_i in $k[X_1, \dots, X_n]/\mathfrak{a}_*$ to the class of X_i in $\mathrm{gr}(\mathcal{O}_P)$ is an isomorphism.*

Proposition (Atyah-Mc.Donald, Commutative Algebra)

Let $\alpha : A \rightarrow B$ be a local homomorphism of local rings. Then α induces an isomorphism on the associated ring rings if and only if it induces an isomorphism on the completions.

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Definition (Milner, Etale Cohomology)

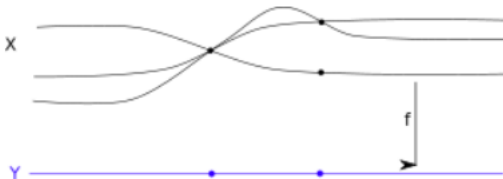
Let $\phi : W \rightarrow V$ be a regular map of varieties over a field k . We say that ϕ is etale at $w \in W$ if, for some algebraic closure k^{al} of k , $\phi_{k^{al}} : W_{k^{al}} \rightarrow V_{k^{al}}$ is etale at points of $W_{k^{al}}$ mapping to w .

Unramified morphism



Motivation

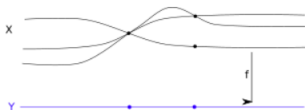
In this section, we use the material from Youcis,
<https://ayoucis.wordpress.com/2014/04/06/unramified-morphisms/>
To understand the idea behind unramified morphisms, let us look at a picture (taken from Wikipedia)





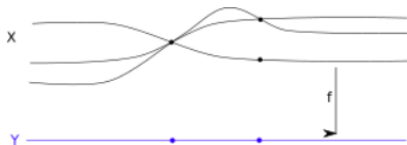
Unramified morphism

Open Diagonal



Figure

Let us suppose that we have a morphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$. Considering the fiber product $X \times_Y X$ and diagonal $\Delta_X \subset X \times_Y X$. Now, a point of ramification, call it c is one where two sheets come together. In other words, taking a sequence of points (x_n, x'_n) in $X \times_Y X \setminus \Delta_X$, where x_n is in one of the sheets coming together and x'_n is in other, whose limit is precisely the point (c, c) .



Figure

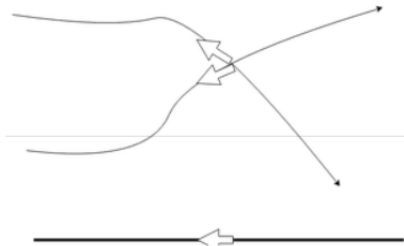
This gives us one way to define ramifiedness, i.e., $X \times_Y X \setminus \Delta_X$ is not closed. Thus, if we want to force this to not happen, we merely want to specify that $X \times_Y X \setminus \Delta_X$ is closed, that is, Δ_X is open.

Unramified morphism



Unicity of Tangent Vector Lifts

Let's consider, once again, a morphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$. Let's fix a point $y \in Y$, and a point $x \in X$ which is in the fiber $f^{-1}(y)$. Given a tangent vector p of X based at x we can push it forward, through f , to a tangent vector p of X based at y . Or, in other terms, we have the derivative map $df_x : T_x X \rightarrow T_y Y$.



Unramified morphism



Compact Riemann Surfaces

Let's recall that if $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is a non-constant map of compact Riemann surfaces, then we define the *ramification index* of a point $p \in X$ as follows. There exists a unique integer $e_p \geq 1$ such that, up to a change of coordinates, f looks like $z \mapsto z^{e_p}$ near p . Intuitely, this says that near p , f always looks like a e_p -to-1 cover of its image.

Unramified morphism



Meromorphic Functions

Let us denote the meromorphic function fields of X and Y by $M(X)$ and $M(Y)$ respectively. We know that our map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ induces a morphism $f^* : M(Y) \rightarrow M(X)$. For our point $p \in X$ we have the subring $\mathcal{O}_p \subset M(X)$ consisting of those meromorphic functions which are holomorphic at p . If $q := f(p)$, then we similarly have the subring $\mathcal{O}_q \subset M(Y)$. In conclusion, the mapping $M(Y) \rightarrow M(X)$ induces a mapping $\mathcal{O}_q \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_p$. Also, we have $\mathfrak{m}_q \mathcal{O}_p = \mathfrak{m}_p^{\text{ep}}$. In conclusion, we would get that $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is unramified at p if and only if $\mathfrak{m}_q \mathcal{O}_p = \mathfrak{m}_p$.

Unramified morphism



Unramifiedness for the Extension of Residue Fields

Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is morphism of schemes, with $y = f(x)$ and $[k(x) : k(y)] = n$ To make hidden points become seen, we need to move to the geometric setting. Or, in other words, we need to base change our situation to $\overline{k(y)}$ where all points become visible.

Unramified morphism



Unramifiedness for the Extension of Residue Fields

Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is morphism of schemes, with $y = f(x)$ and $[k(x) : k(y)] = n$. To make hidden points become seen, we need to move to the geometric setting. Or, in other words, we need to base change our situation to $\overline{k(y)}$ where all points become visible.

But, the base change of $k(x)$ to $\overline{k(y)}$ is merely $k(x) \otimes_{k(y)} \overline{k(y)}$. So, we would want to say that $k(x)/k(y)$ is unramified if and only if $k(x) \otimes_{k(y)} \overline{k(y)}$ has n points. But, this happens precisely when $k(x)/k(y)$ is separable.

Definition (Morphism of finite type, Stacks)

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

- i. We say that $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is of **finite type** at $x \in X$ if there exists an affine open neighborhood $\text{Spec}(A) = U \subset X$ of x and an affine open $\text{Spec}(R) = V \subset Y$ with $f(U) \subset V$ such that the induced ring map $R \rightarrow A$ is of finite type.
- ii. We say that f is **locally of finite type** if it is of finite type at every point of X .

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Theorem (Milner, Etale Cohomology)

Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be locally of finite type and let $x \in X$. Then, the following are equivalent:

- i. If $y = f(x)$, then $\mathfrak{m}_y \mathcal{O}_{X,x} = \mathfrak{m}_x$, and $k(x)/k(y)$ is a finite separable extension.
- ii. The quality $(\Omega_{X/Y})_x = 0$ holds.
- iii. There is a neighborhood U of x for which the restriction of the diagonal map $\Delta : X \rightarrow X \times_Y X$ is an open immersion.

Lemma (Qing Liu)

Let $B = A[T_1, \dots, T_n]$, let $F \in B$, and let $C = B/FB$. Then

$$\Omega_{C/A} = \left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} C dT_i \right) / C dF,$$

where $dF = \sum_i (\delta F / \delta T_i) dT_i$.

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Example

Let us first consider the natural example of a map $\mathbb{A}_k^n \rightarrow \mathbb{A}_k^m$, where k is a field, and $n > m$. To check this map whether unramified or not, we need to compute $\Omega_{\mathbb{A}^n/\mathbb{A}^m} = \widetilde{\Omega}_{A/B}$, where $B = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ and $A = k[x_1, \dots, x_m]$. Since B is free A -algebra of rank $n - m$, it follows from the basis theory of differentials that $\Omega_{B/A}$ is a free B -module of rank $n - m$.

Unramified morphism



Example

Field Example

Let $f : \text{Spec}(L) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(K)$ where L/K is a finite field extension. In particular, if L/K is finite and separable, then f is unramified. To prove this, we must merely show that $\Omega_{L/K} = 0$. But, since L/K is finite separable, the primitive element theorem tells us that $L = K[x]/(\rho(x))$ for some irreducible, separable $\rho(x) \in K[x]$. So,

$$\Omega_{L/K} = Ldx/Ld(\rho(x)) = Ldx/L\rho(x)'dx$$

which, if we write $L = K[x]/(\rho(x))$ is the same as $K[x]/(\rho(x), \rho(x)')$. But, this is equal to zero since ρ is separable so that $(\rho(x), \rho(x)') = K[x]$.

Unramified morphism



Relation to Number theory

Just to recall, suppose that $R \subset S$ is an integral extension of Dedekind domains. Then, for any non-zero prime $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$, we can look at its extension to S , defined to be $\mathfrak{p}S$. Note that $\mathfrak{p}S$ is a proper ideal of S . Indeed, since $R \subset S$ is an integral extension, the Lying over Theorem implies that there is some prime $\mathfrak{P} \in \text{Spec}(S)$ resting to \mathfrak{p} . Thus, $\mathfrak{p}S \subset \mathfrak{P}$. Thus, since S is a Dedekind domain, we can factor $\mathfrak{p}S$ as a finite product of primes

$$\mathfrak{p}S = \mathfrak{P}_1^{e_1} \dots \mathfrak{P}_n^{e_n}.$$

We claim that $R \subset S$ is unramified at a prime $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec}(R)$ if and only if $\text{Spec}(S) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(R)$ is unramified at all prime $\mathfrak{P} \in \text{Spec}(S)$ which lie above \mathfrak{p} . Indeed, note that for any prime \mathfrak{P}_i lying above \mathfrak{p} , we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{p}S_{\mathfrak{P}_i} &= (\mathfrak{p}S)_{\mathfrak{P}_i} \\ &= (\mathfrak{P}_1^{e_1} \cdots \mathfrak{P}_n^{e_n})_{\mathfrak{P}_i} \\ &= (\mathfrak{P}_1 S_{\mathfrak{P}_i})^{e_1} \cdots (\mathfrak{P}_n S_{\mathfrak{P}_i})^{e_n} \\ &= (\mathfrak{P}_i S_{\mathfrak{P}_i})^{e_i}. \end{aligned}$$

But, $\text{Spec}(S) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(R)$ being unramified (in algebraic geometry sense) at \mathfrak{P}_i , is equivalent to $\mathfrak{p}S_{\mathfrak{P}_i} = \mathfrak{P}_i S_{\mathfrak{P}_i}$. So, we see that being unramified at \mathfrak{P}_i is equivalent to $e_i = 1$.

Definition

A morphism $\phi : Y \rightarrow X$ of schemes is etale if it is flat and unramified.

A homomorphism of rings $f : A \rightarrow B$ is etale if $\text{Spec}(B) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(A)$ is etale. Equivalently, it is etale if

- i. B is finitely generated A -algebra
- ii. B is a flat A -algebra
- iii. for all maximal ideas \mathfrak{n} of B , $B_{\mathfrak{n}}/f(\mathfrak{p})B_{\mathfrak{n}}$ is a finite separable field extension of $A_{\mathfrak{p}}/\mathfrak{p}A_{\mathfrak{p}}$.

Proposition

For a regular map $\phi : Y \rightarrow X$ of varieties over an algebraically closed field, the definition of etale in scheme agrees with that in classical.

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Lemma

Let $\phi : A \rightarrow B$ be a local homomorphism of local rings. If

- i. ϕ is injective
 - ii. the map on residue fields $A/\mathfrak{m}_A \rightarrow B/\mathfrak{m}_B$ is an isomorphism.
 - iii. ϕ is unramified, and
 - iv. B is finite A -algebra,
- then ϕ is an isomorphism.

Etale Morphism of Schemes



Jacobian Conjecture

Every etale map $\phi : \mathbb{A}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^n$ is an isomorphism. If write $\phi = (P_1, \dots, P_n)$, then this becomes the statement:

if $\det \left(\frac{\delta P_i}{\delta X_j}(a) \right)$ is never zero (for $a \in k^n$), then ϕ has a inverse.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING