



SMR.637/20

**ADVANCED WORKSHOP ON ARITHMETIC ALGEBRAIC
GEOMETRY**
(31 August - 11 September 1992)

Abelian Varieties

P. Schneider
Mathematisches Institut
Universität zu Köln
Weyertal 86-90
5000 Köln 41
Germany

These are preliminary lecture notes, intended only for distribution to participants

ABELIAN VARIETIES

Peter Schneider

k a field, $\bar{k}$ its algebraic closure.

A variety V over k is a separated scheme of finite type over $\text{Spec}(k)$ which is geometrically integral.

§1 Basic definitions

A group variety over k is a variety G over k together with k -morphisms

$$\mu: G \times G \rightarrow G \quad (\text{multiplication})$$

$$\iota: G \rightarrow G \quad (\text{inverse})$$

$$\varepsilon: \text{Spec}(k) \rightarrow G \quad (\text{unit section})$$

such that the following diagrams commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G \times G \times G & \xrightarrow{\mu \times \text{id}} & G \times G \\ \text{id} \times \mu \downarrow & & \downarrow \mu \\ G \times G & \xrightarrow{\mu} & G \end{array}$$

(associativity)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & G \times G & \\ (\text{id}, \varepsilon) \nearrow & \downarrow \mu & \searrow \\ G & = & G \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} & G \times G & \\ (\varepsilon, \text{id}) \nearrow & \downarrow \mu & \searrow \\ G & = & G \end{array}$$

(unit element)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & G \times G & \\ (\text{id}, \iota) \nearrow & \searrow \mu & \\ G & \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} & G \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} & G \times G & \\ (\iota, \text{id}) \nearrow & \searrow \mu & \\ G & \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} & G \end{array}$$

(inverse)

A homomorphism $f: G \rightarrow H$ of group varieties G and H over k is a k -morphism such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G \times G & \xrightarrow{f \times f} & H \times H \\ \mu \downarrow & & \downarrow \mu \\ G & \xrightarrow{f} & H \end{array}$$

commutes.

Note: For any k -scheme S we have a group structure on the set $G(S)$ of S -valued points of G : Given $a, b \in G(S)$, i.e., $a, b: S \rightarrow G$ define

$$a \cdot b: S \xrightarrow{(a, b)} G \times G \xrightarrow{\mu} G$$

$$\alpha^{-1}: S \xrightarrow{\alpha} G \xrightarrow{\pi} G$$

and $1.: S \rightarrow \text{Spec}(k) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} G$.

Homomorphisms induce group homomorphisms on $G(S)$.

Translation maps: For any $a \in G(k)$ there is the isomorphism

$$\cdot t_a: G \xrightarrow{(a, \text{id})} G \times G \xrightarrow{\mu} G$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc} t_a: G(S) & \longrightarrow & G(S) \\ b & \longmapsto & a \cdot b \end{array} \right)$$

Fact: Any group variety G is smooth.

Proof: G is smooth if $G/\bar{k}$ is smooth,

$G/\bar{k}$ integral $\Rightarrow G/\bar{k}$ has nonempty open subvariety U which is smooth
 $\Rightarrow t_a(U)$ is smooth $\Rightarrow G/\bar{k} = \bigcup_{a \in G(\bar{k})} t_a(U)$ is smooth.

Definition: An abelian variety A over k is a group variety over k which is complete, i.e., proper over $\text{Spec}(k)$.

(We will write μ always as $+$ $\rightarrow$ see later for reason.)

§2 Rigidity

Proposition: Let $f: V \times W \rightarrow U$ be a morphism of k -varieties where V is complete; if $f(V \times \{v_0\}) = \{u_0\} = f(\{v_0\} \times W)$ holds for some $v_0 \in V(k)$, $w_0 \in W(k)$ and $u_0 \in U(k)$ then f is constant.

Proof: We may assume $k = \bar{k}$.

The reason is: There are no nonconstant maps from a complete to an affine variety.

How do we use that?

Let $p: V \times W \rightarrow W$ be the projection map: is proper and therefore closed; let $U_0 \subseteq U$ be an open affine neighbourhood of u_0 .

For any $w \in W(k)$ we have

$$f(V \times \{w\}) \subseteq U_0 \iff V \times \{w\} \cap f^{-1}(U \setminus U_0) = \emptyset \iff w \notin p(f^{-1}(U \setminus U_0))$$

!!
 $\mathbb{Z}$ closed in W !

reason implies now: $f|_{V \times \{w\}} = \text{constant}$ for any closed point in $W \setminus \mathbb{Z}$,
 Hilbert's Nullstellensatz $\Rightarrow$ closed points are dense in $W \setminus \mathbb{Z}$,

moreover $f(\{v_0\} \times \{w\}) = \{u_0\}$ by assumption,
 hence $f|_{V \times (W \setminus Z)} = \text{constant}$ with value u_0 .

But $W \setminus Z$ open in W $\left. \begin{array}{l} \\ v_0 \notin Z \Rightarrow W \setminus Z \neq \emptyset \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow W \setminus Z$ dense in W (since W irreducible)
 $\Rightarrow V \times (W \setminus Z)$ dense in $V \times W$
 $\Rightarrow f = \text{constant}$.

Corollary: Every morphism $f: A \rightarrow B$ of abelian varieties is the composite of a homomorphism $g: A \rightarrow B$ and a translation t_b where $b := +f(0) \in B(k)$

$$f = t_b \circ g$$

Proof: Replace f by $t_{-f(0)} \circ f$; it remains to show:
 $f(0) = 0 \Rightarrow f$ homomorphism.

Consider the morphism

$$\varphi := f \circ \mu_A - \mu_B \circ (f \times f): A \times A \rightarrow B$$

$$(a, a') \mapsto f(a+a') - f(a) - f(a')$$

we have to show that $\varphi = 0$.

But $\varphi(A \times \{0\}) = \{0\} = \varphi(\{0\} \times A)$ so that rigidity applies.

Corollary: Any abelian variety is commutative.

Proof: Previous Corollary $\Rightarrow$ the inverse $\iota: A \rightarrow A$ is a homomorphism, but this can only be true for a commutative group law.

§3 Abelian varieties over the complex numbers

$k = \mathbb{C}$, A an abelian variety over $\mathbb{C}$ of dimension g ,

$A(\mathbb{C})$ is a complex manifold of dimension g

(write small open subsets by equations for which the Jacobi matrix has maximal rank — possible by smoothness, use implicit function theorem to get a chart),

A irreducible $\Rightarrow A(\mathbb{C})$ connected,

A complete $\Rightarrow A(\mathbb{C})$ compact,

A group variety $\Rightarrow A(\mathbb{C})$ is a complex Lie group.

How do compact connected complex Lie groups look like?

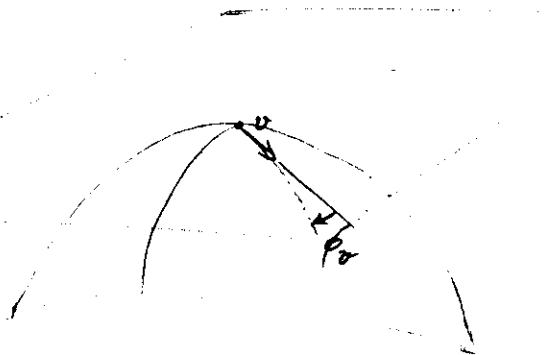
Let $V_0 := T_0 A \cong \mathbb{C}^g$ be the tangent space of A in 0 .

For any $v \in T_0 A$ we have a unique holomorphic homomorphism

$$\phi_v: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow A(\mathbb{C})$$

such that

$$d\phi_v(1) = v$$



The exponential map is defined by

$$\exp: T_0 A \rightarrow A(\mathbb{C})$$

$$v \mapsto \phi_v(1)$$

$$\text{Unicity} \rightarrow \begin{cases} \phi_{sv}(t) = \phi_v(st) & \Rightarrow \exp(tv) = \phi_v(t), \\ \phi_v + \phi_{v'} = \phi_{v+v'} & \Rightarrow \exp \text{ is a homomorphism} \end{cases}$$

It follows that $\exp$ is a holomorphic homomorphism with $d\exp = \text{id}$

$\Rightarrow \exp$ is a local homeomorphism (by implicit function theorem!)

$\Rightarrow \exp: V_0 \rightarrow A(\mathbb{C})$ is the universal covering of $A(\mathbb{C})$

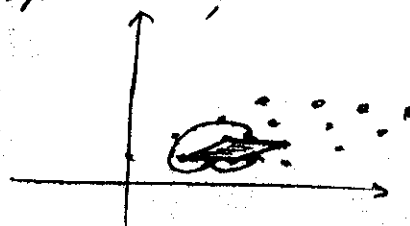
$\Rightarrow \ker(\exp)$ is a discrete subgroup in $V_0 \cong \mathbb{C}^g$ with compact quotient

$\Rightarrow \Lambda := \ker(\exp)$ is a lattice of rank $2g$

Result: $A(\mathbb{C}) \cong \mathbb{C}^g / \Lambda$ is a complex torus of dimension g .

Example: $g=1$, A an elliptic curve,

$$\mathbb{C} / \Lambda$$



Warning: Not every complex torus is an abelian variety ($\rightarrow$ see later).

Consequence about n -torsion:

$k = \bar{k}$ of char. 0, A an abelian variety over k of dimension g , $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

then $A(k)_n := \{a \in A(k) : na = 0\} \cong (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^{2g}$

(This is not true if $\text{char } k \mid n$!)

§4 Some fundamental technical theorems

V a complete variety over k .

What is a "family" of line bundles on V ?

T an integral scheme of finite type over k ,

L a line bundle on $V \times T$;

- for any point $t \in T$ we then have the inverse image line bundle L_t on $V_t := V \times \{t\}$ (this is a complete variety over $k(t)$)
— the "fiber" in t —

Seesaw principle: Let L and M be line bundles on $V \times T$ such that:

a. $L_t \cong M_t$ for any t in some dense subset $U \subseteq T$,

b. $L_a \cong M_a$ for some $a \in V(k)$;

then $L \cong M$.

Proof: Replacing L by $L \otimes M^{-1}$ it suffices to prove: If

a'. L_t is trivial for $t \in U$, and

b'. L_a is trivial for some $a \in V(k)$

holds then L is trivial.

Let $q: V \times T \rightarrow T$ be the projection map: it is proper hence closed since V is complete.

We need (part of) the cohomological base change theorem:

- The function $t \mapsto \dim_{k(t)} H^0(V_t, L_t)$ is upper semicontinuous, i.e., for any $c \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ the set $\{t \in T: \dim H^0(V_t, L_t) > c\}$ is closed in T ;
- if the above function is constant of value r then $q_* L$ is a locally free $\mathcal{O}_T$ -module of rank r and $q_* L \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_T} k(t) = H^0(V_t, L_t)$.

Step 1: a' $\Rightarrow U \subseteq \{t: H^0(V_t, L_t) \text{ and } H^0(V_t, L_t^{-1}) \neq 0\}$ closed in T ,

U dense $\Rightarrow$

— " —

$= T$

for arbitrary t we then have nonzero sections $s_1 \in L_t(V_t)$ and $s_2 \in L_t^{-1}(V_t)$, i.e., nonzero homomorphisms $s_1: \mathcal{O}_{V_t} \rightarrow L_t$ and $s_2: \mathcal{O}_{V_t} \rightarrow L_t^{-1}$,

then

$$\mathcal{O}_{V_t} \xrightarrow{s_1} L_t \xrightarrow{s_2^{\text{dual}}} \mathcal{O}_{V_t}$$

being nonzero is an isomorphism ($\text{Hom}(\mathcal{O}_{V_t}, \mathcal{O}_{V_t}) = \mathcal{O}_{V_t}(V_t) = k(t)$ by the completeness of V_t)

$\Rightarrow \mathcal{S}_2$ dual epimorphism $\Rightarrow \mathcal{S}_2$ dual isomorphism;

we therefore have:

a". $\mathcal{L}_t$ is trivial for any $t \in T$.

Step 2: a' $\Rightarrow \dim H^0(V_t, \mathcal{L}_t) = \dim H^0(V_t, \mathcal{O}_{V_t}) = \dim k(t) = 1$ is constant in t ,

ii. $\Rightarrow q_* \mathcal{L}$ is a line bundle with $q_* \mathcal{L} \otimes k(t) = H^0(V_t, \mathcal{L}_t)$,

consider the natural adjunction homomorphism

$$\alpha: q^* q_* \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{L},$$

on fibers we have

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \alpha_t: (q^* q_* \mathcal{L})_t & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{L}_t \\ \downarrow \mathcal{O}_{V_t} \otimes_{k(t)} (q_* \mathcal{L})_t & & \parallel \\ \downarrow \mathcal{O}_{V_t} \otimes_{k(t)} \mathcal{L}_t(V_t) & & \mathcal{L}_t \\ \parallel \leftarrow \text{trivialization} \rightarrow \parallel & & \\ \mathcal{O}_{V_t} \otimes_{k(t)} k(t) & \xlongequal{\quad} & \mathcal{O}_{V_t} \end{array}$$

bijectivity,

Nakayama lemma $\Rightarrow \alpha$ is surjective,

both sides are line bundles $\Rightarrow \alpha$ is an isomorphism.

Step 3: Consider $\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{T} = \{a\} \times T & \hookrightarrow & V \times T \\ & \searrow & \downarrow q \\ & & T \end{array}$

therefore $\mathcal{L}_a \cong (q^* q_* \mathcal{L})_a = q_* \mathcal{L}$ which is trivial by b',
 $\Rightarrow q^* q_* \mathcal{L} \cong \mathcal{L}$ is trivial.

Theorem of the cube: Let U, V, W be complete varieties over k and $u_0 \in U(k)$, $v_0 \in V(k)$, $w_0 \in W(k)$; a line bundle $\mathcal{L}$ on $U \times V \times W$ is trivial if its restrictions to $\{u_0\} \times V \times W$, $U \times \{v_0\} \times W$, and $U \times V \times \{w_0\}$ are trivial.

Remarks on the proof: Step 1: Reduce to $k = \bar{k}$.

Step 2: $\mathcal{L} / \underbrace{U \times V}_{Z} \times \{\omega_0\}$ is trivial,

therefore it suffices by the descent principle to show that $\mathcal{L} / \{z\} \times U$ is trivial for z in a dense subset of $Z = U \times V$.

Step 3: Reduce to case $\dim U = 1$ by showing that the union of all irreducible curves in U which contain u_0 is dense in U .

Step 4: (technical part) Use the Riemann-Roch theorem for the curve U .

Corollary: Let f, g, h be k -morphisms from a variety V into an abelian variety A over k ; for any line bundle $\mathcal{L}$ on A the line bundle

$\mathcal{L}_{f,g,h} := (f+g+h)^*\mathcal{L} \otimes (f+g)^*\mathcal{L}^{-1} \otimes (g+h)^*\mathcal{L}^{-1} \otimes (f+h)^*\mathcal{L}^{-1} \otimes f^*\mathcal{L} \otimes g^*\mathcal{L} \otimes h^*\mathcal{L}$ on V is trivial.

Proof: Let $\varphi: V \xrightarrow{(f,g,h)} A \times A \times A$

and $p_i: A \times A \times A \rightarrow A$ be the projection maps,

then $\mathcal{L}_{f,g,h} = \varphi^* \mathcal{L}_{p_1, p_2, p_3}$,

but the theorem of the cube applies to $\mathcal{L}_{p_1, p_2, p_3}$.

Theorem of the Square: For any line bundle $\mathcal{L}$ on an abelian variety A over k and any two points $a, b \in A(k)$ we have

$$t_{a+b}^* \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{L} \cong t_a^* \mathcal{L} \otimes t_b^* \mathcal{L}.$$

Proof: Corollary $\Rightarrow$

$(\text{left side}) \otimes (\text{right side})^{-1} \cong \mathcal{L}_{\text{id}, t_a \circ (\text{zero map}), t_b \circ (\text{zero map})}$ is trivial.

Important application: Tensoring the above isomorphism with $\mathcal{L}^{\otimes -2}$ shows that

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{\mathcal{L}}: A(k) &\longrightarrow \text{Pic}(A) \\ a &\longmapsto t_a^* \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{L}^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

is a group homomorphism. Put $K(\mathcal{L})(k) := \ker \varphi_{\mathcal{L}}$.

Moreover: $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{L}'} = \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{L}} + \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{L}'}$, $\mathcal{O}_{T_b^* \mathcal{L}} = \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{L}}$ for any $b \in A(k)$.

Now consider the line bundle $\mu^* \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{P}_2 \mathcal{L}^{-1}$ on $A \times A$; from an argument in the proof of the seesaw principle we know that

$$K(\mathcal{L}) := \{t \in A : (\mu^* \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{P}_2 \mathcal{L}^{-1})_t \text{ is trivial}\}$$

is closed in A ; but for $a \in A(k)$ we have

$$(\mu^* \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{P}_2 \mathcal{L}^{-1})_a = T_a^* \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{L}^{-1}.$$

Therefore we see (at least if $\text{char } k = 0$) that $K(\mathcal{L})(k)$ indeed is the set of k -rational points of the closed subgroup scheme $K(\mathcal{L})$ in A .

(in general not integral, nor even reduced!!
in $\text{char } > 0$!!)

§5 Projectivity of abelian varieties

Let D be an effective divisor on the abelian variety A ,

let $\mathcal{L} := \mathcal{L}(D)$ be the associated line bundle,

$|D| := \{(\varphi) + D \geq 0 : \varphi \in k(A)^*\}$ be the associated linear system.

Try to define a morphism $A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$ in the following way:

Choose a k -basis $s_1, \dots, s_N$ of $H^0(V, \mathcal{L}(D))$ and put

$$\begin{aligned} A &\longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^N \\ a &\longmapsto [s_1(a) : \dots : s_N(a)] \end{aligned}$$

this only makes sense if it cannot happen that $s_1(a) = \dots = s_N(a) = 0$,
but $\text{div}(s_i) \in |D|$;

therefore the above morphism is defined if $|D|$ has no base points, i.e., no points a such that $a \in \text{supp } E$ for any $E \in |D|$.

Proposition: The following assertions are equivalent,

- $H := \{b \in A(k) : T_b^* D = D\}$ is finite;
- $K(\mathcal{L})$ is a finite group scheme;
- $|2D|$ has no base points and defines a finite morphism $A \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$;
- $\mathcal{L}$ is an ample line bundle.

Proof of i. $\Rightarrow$ first part of iii.: We may assume that $k = \bar{k}$;

Theorem of the square $\Rightarrow T_b^* \mathcal{L} \otimes T_{-b}^* \mathcal{L} \cong \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(2D)$

$\Rightarrow T_b^* D + T_{-b}^* D$ is linearly equivalent to $2D$

$\Rightarrow T_b^* D + T_{-b}^* D \in |2D|$ for any $b \in A(k)$,

now assume that $a \in A(k)$ is a base point of $|2D|$,

$D = \sum u_i C_i \Rightarrow T_b^* D + T_{-b}^* D = \sum u_i ((C_i - b) + (C_i + b))$

$\Rightarrow a \in \text{supp}(T_b^* D + T_{-b}^* D) \subseteq \{C_i \pm b\}$

$\Rightarrow a+b$ or $a-b \in \text{supp } D$ for any $b \in A(k)$

$\Rightarrow A = (\text{supp } D - a) \cup (a - \text{supp } D) \quad \Leftarrow$

Theorem: Any abelian variety A is projective.

Proof: By the general theory one knows:

If $\mathcal{L}$ is an ample line bundle on A then $\mathcal{L}^{\otimes m}$, for $m \gg 0$, is very ample and defines an embedding $A \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$.

By the Proposition it therefore suffices to find an effective divisor D on A such that i holds:

Let U be an affine open neighbourhood of $0 \in A$,

let $D_1, \dots, D_r$ be the irreducible components of $A \setminus U$; $D := \sum D_i$ is an effective divisor (since U is affine!);

for $b \in H$ we have $T_b(U) = U$, in particular $T_b(0) = b \in U \Rightarrow H \subseteq U$, we have $H = \mathcal{H}(\bar{k})$ for the closed subscheme

$$\mathcal{H} := \bigcap_{a \in (A \setminus U)(\bar{k})} \text{preimage of } A \setminus U \text{ under } A \xrightarrow{\alpha^+} A$$

$\Rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ complete and affine $\Rightarrow \mathcal{H} \text{ finite} \Rightarrow H \text{ finite}$.

Corollary: There are line bundles $\mathcal{L}$ on A (the ample ones) such that $K(\mathcal{L})$ is finite.

Application to complex tori:

Since any holomorphic line bundle on $\mathbb{C}^N$ is trivial we have, for a line bundle $\mathcal{L}$ (here as a scheme, not as invertible sheaf) on A a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathbb{C} \times V_0 & \longrightarrow & (\mathbb{C} \times V_0) / \Lambda & = & \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{C}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ V_0 & \xrightarrow{\pi} & V_0 / \Lambda & = & A(\mathbb{C}) \end{array}$$

where the action of $\lambda \in \Lambda$ on $\mathbb{C} \times V_0$ is of the form

$$\lambda: (c, v_0) \mapsto (e_\lambda(v_0) \cdot c, v_0 + \lambda) \quad \text{for some "1-cocycle" } e_\lambda \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{ét}}^*(V_0)$$

Theorem of Appell-Humbert:

Up to a "1-coboundary" e_λ is of the form

$$e_\lambda(v_0) = \alpha(\lambda) \cdot e^{\pi H(v_0, \lambda) + \frac{1}{2} \pi H(\lambda, \lambda)}$$

where H is a positive Hermitian form on V_0 such that $(\text{im } H)/\Lambda \times \Lambda \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$ and $\alpha: \Lambda \rightarrow \{ |c| = 1 \}$ is an appropriate homomorphism.

By explicit computation one checks that for $a = \pi(v_0) \in A(\mathbb{C})$ the line bundle

$$T_a^* L \text{ is given by } (H, \alpha \cdot e^{2\pi i (\text{im } H)(v_0, \cdot)})$$

Consequence: $K(L) = \underbrace{\{ v \in V_0 : (\text{im } H)(v, \Lambda) \subseteq \mathbb{Z} \}}_{\substack{\Lambda^\perp \\ \Lambda^\perp / \Lambda}}$;

in particular: $K(L)$ is finite $\iff \Lambda^\perp / \Lambda$ is finite

$$\iff \text{im } H \text{ nondegenerate}$$

$$\iff H \text{ nondegenerate}$$

$$\iff H \text{ positive definite}$$

Theorem: A complex torus V_0/Λ is an abelian variety if and only if there is a positive definite Hermitian form H on V_0 such that $(\text{im } H)/\Lambda \times \Lambda \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$.

Proof: " $\implies$ "

V_0/Λ abelian variety $\implies$ exists L such that $K(L)$ is finite
 $\implies$ the associated H has the required properties ;

" $\impliedby$ "
 If $K(L)$ is finite one shows that the holomorphic sections of L (theta functions) define a projective embedding.

Corollary: Any 1-dim. complex torus $\mathbb{C}/\Lambda$ is an abelian variety (elliptic curve).

Proof: We may assume $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}\lambda_1 + \mathbb{Z}\lambda_2$ with $\text{im}(\lambda_1/\lambda_2) > 0$, define a $\mathbb{R}$ -linear alternating form $E: \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$v \wedge v' = E(v, v') \cdot \lambda_1 \wedge \lambda_2 ,$$

then $H(v, v') := E(iv, v') + i E(v, v')$ has the required properties.

§6 The dual abelian variety

Recall the homomorphism

$$\begin{aligned} g_L: A(\bar{k}) &\longrightarrow \text{Pic}(A/\bar{k}) \\ a &\longmapsto \nabla_a^* L \otimes L^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

and: i. $g_L \otimes g_{L'} = g_{L \otimes L'}$,

ii. $g_{T_b^* L} = g_L^\circ$ for any $b \in A(\bar{k})$.

Definition: $\text{Pic}^\circ(A) := \{ \mathcal{L} \in \text{Pic}(A) : g_{\mathcal{L}} \equiv 0 \}$.

i. $\Rightarrow \text{Pic}^\circ(A)$ is a subgroup;

ii. $\Rightarrow \text{im } g_L \subseteq \text{Pic}^\circ(A/\bar{k})$ for any L ;

we therefore have an exact sequence

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow \text{Pic}^\circ(A/\bar{k}) &\xrightarrow{\cong} \text{Pic}(A/\bar{k}) \longrightarrow \text{Hom}(A(\bar{k}), \text{Pic}^\circ(A/\bar{k})) \\ L &\longmapsto g_L \end{aligned}$$

Now assume L to be ample; then $K(L)$ is a finite subgroup scheme in A . For general reasons the quotient

$$\hat{A} := A/K(L)$$

in the category of schemes exists and is again an abelian variety (which for the moment being depends on L).

Theorem: If L is ample then

$$g_L: A(\bar{k}) \longrightarrow \text{Pic}^\circ(A/\bar{k}) \text{ is surjective}$$

and therefore induces an isomorphism $\hat{A}(\bar{k}) \cong \text{Pic}^\circ(A/\bar{k})$.

More generally one has that $\hat{A}$ represents the functor

$$\begin{aligned} k\text{-schemes} &\longrightarrow \text{abelian groups} \\ S &\longmapsto \text{Pic}^\circ(A \times S/S) \end{aligned}$$

This shows that $\hat{A}$ is up to unique isomorphism independent of the choice of the ample line bundle L . We also see that

$$g_L: A \longrightarrow \hat{A}$$

actually is a homomorphism of abelian varieties over k (corresponding

to the quotient homomorphism $A \rightarrow A/K(L)$; it is called a polarization of A and, of course, depends on L .

Definition: $\hat{A}$ is called the dual abelian variety of A .

Why 'dual'?

Any homomorphism $f: A \rightarrow B$ of abelian varieties over k induces (by pulling back line bundles) a natural transformation of functors

$$\text{Pic}^0(B \times /.) \rightarrow \text{Pic}^0(A \times /.)$$

and hence a homomorphism of abelian varieties

$$\hat{f}: \hat{B} \rightarrow \hat{A}$$

So we see that $A \mapsto \hat{A}$ actually is a contravariant functor.

What about the double dual $\hat{\hat{A}}$?

One has an additional structure, namely a line bundle - the Poincaré bundle - P on $A \times \hat{A}$ such that

- For any $\alpha \in \hat{A}(\bar{k})$ the isomorphism class of the line bundle P_α on $A_{/\bar{k}} \times \{\alpha\} = A_{/\bar{k}}$ is the image of α under $\hat{A}(\bar{k}) \cong \text{Pic}^0(A_{/\bar{k}})$
- $P/\{0\} \times \hat{A}$ is trivial.

Note that by the seesaw principle the properties a. and b. determine P up to isomorphism.

But symmetrically to a. we may use P to define a homomorphism

$$\begin{aligned} i: A(\bar{k}) &\rightarrow \text{Pic}^0(\hat{A}_{/\bar{k}}) = \hat{\hat{A}}(\bar{k}) \\ a &\mapsto \text{isomorphism class of } P_a \end{aligned}$$

Proposition: $i: A \xrightarrow{\sim} \hat{\hat{A}}$ is an isomorphism of abelian varieties.

LITERATURE:

D. Mumford "Abelian Varieties", Oxford Univ. Press 1974

J.S. Milne "Abelian Varieties", Chap. V of Arithmetic Geometry (Eds. Cornell, Silverman), Springer 1986

