TOPOLOGICAL RECONSTRUCTION THEOREMS FOR VARIETIES

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ABSTRACT. We study Torelli-type theorems in the Zariski topology for varieties of dimension at least 2, over arbitrary fields. In place of the Hodge structure, we use the linear equivalence relation on Weil divisors. Using this setup, we prove a universal Torelli theorem in the sense of Bogomolov and Tschinkel. The proofs rely heavily on new variants of the classical Fundamental Theorem of Projective Geometry of Veblen and Young.

For proper normal varieties over uncountable algebraically closed fields of characteristic 0, we show that the Zariski topological space can be used to recover the linear equivalence relation on divisors. As a consequence, we show that the underlying scheme of any such variety is uniquely determined by its Zariski topological space. We use this to prove a topological version of Gabriel’s theorem, stating that a proper normal variety over an uncountable algebraically closed field of characteristic 0 is determined by its category of constructible abelian étale sheaves.

We also discuss a conjecture in arbitrary characteristic, relating the Zariski topological space to the perfection of a proper normal variety.

CONTENTS

1. Introduction 2
   1.1. Conventions 3
   1.2. Acknowledgments 3
2. Generic fundamental theorems of projective geometry 4
   2.1. The fundamental theorem of definable projective geometry 4
   2.2. The probabilistic fundamental theorem of projective geometry 11
3. Divisorial structures and definable linear systems 22
   3.1. Divisorial structures 22
   3.2. Some remarks on divisors 24
   3.3. Definable subspaces in linear systems 27
4. The universal Torelli theorem 31
   4.1. Reduction to the quasi-projective case 31
   4.2. The quasi-projective case 32
   4.3. The case of finite fields 36
   4.4. Counterexamples to weaker statements 47
5. Results over uncountable fields of characteristic 0 47
   5.1. Linear equivalence over uncountable fields of characteristic 0 47
   5.2. Algebraic geometry lemmas 48
   5.3. Zariski topology lemmas 56
   5.4. A topological Gabriel theorem 58
   5.5. Counterexamples with weaker hypotheses 60
References 61
1. INTRODUCTION

The underlying topological space \(|X|\) of a smooth projective variety \(X\) over a field \(k\) is typically viewed as a rather weak invariant. For example, for a smooth projective curve \(X/k\) the topological space \(|X|\) is determined by the cardinality of the set of points. As we discuss further below in Lemma \[4.4.0.1\], there are also many examples of homeomorphic smooth projective surfaces (over algebraic closures of finite fields)\(^1\) that are not isomorphic.

The present paper is a reflection on what additional structures on \(|X|\) enable one to recover the scheme \(X\). There is a substantial literature on related questions. In particular, we mention the work of Bogomolov–Korotiaev–Tschinkel [4] and subsequent work of Zilber [26]. There is also related work of Cadoret–Pirutka [7] and Topaz [21, 22] for reconstruction from \(K\)-theory and other Galois-cohomological invariants. Finally, we mention the work of Voevodsky [23], proving a conjecture of Grothendieck that the étale topos of a normal scheme of finite type over a finitely generated field uniquely determines the scheme.

We summarize the main results of the present paper somewhat informally, and with slightly stronger assumptions than in the body of the paper, in the following theorem:

**Main Theorem** (Universal Torelli, proper case). Let \(X\) be a proper normal geometrically integral variety of dimension at least 2 over a field \(k\).

**A.** If \(k\) is infinite or \(X\) is Cohen-Macaulay of dimension \(\geq 3\), then \(X\) is uniquely determined as a scheme by the pair

\[
(|X|, c : X^{(1)} \to \text{Cl}(X)),
\]

where \(|X|\) is the underlying Zariski topological space, \(\text{Cl}(X)\) is the group of Weil divisor classes, \(X^{(1)}\) is the set of codimension 1 points of \(|X|\), and \(c\) is the map sending a codimension 1 point of \(X\) to its divisor class.

Equivalently, \(X\) is determined as a scheme by its underlying topological space \(|X|\) and the rational equivalence relation on the set of effective divisors.

**B.** If \(k\) is an uncountable algebraically closed field of characteristic 0, then linear equivalence of divisors on \(X\) is determined by \(|X|\). As a consequence of this and statement **A**, \(X\) is determined by \(|X|\) alone.

The full statements of the main results are Theorem \[3.1.12\], Theorem \[4.3.1.1\], and Theorem \[5.1.2\] below. Note that the isomorphism type that is recovered is the isomorphism class of \(X\) over \(\mathbb{Z}\), not over \(k\). As an example, observe that the theorem implies that for \(n \geq 4\), any Zariski homeomorphism of hypersurfaces in \(\mathbb{P}^n_k\), with \(K\) a number field, that preserves degrees of divisors induces an isomorphism of the underlying \(\mathbb{Q}\)-schemes. For a complex hypersurface, statement **B** says that the degrees of divisors are uniquely determined by the Zariski topology, so that the underlying \(\mathbb{Q}\)-scheme is uniquely determined by the Zariski topological space. This is the best one could hope for: the group \(\text{Gal}(K/\mathbb{Q})\) acts on \(\mathbb{P}^n_K\) by degree-preserving Zariski homeomorphisms.

We also prove a categorical corollary.

\(^1\) In fact, examples of homeomorphic surfaces over fields of different characteristics...
Corollary (Topological Gabriel–Rosenberg, Theorem 5.4.1). If \( X \) is a normal scheme such that \( \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \) is an uncountable algebraically closed field of characteristic 0 and \( X \to \text{Spec} \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \) is proper, then \( X \) is uniquely determined by the category of constructible abelian étale sheaves on \( X \).

As we briefly discuss in Section 5.4, this leads to a number of interesting questions about topological analogues of classical results: the work of Balmer [1] and the theory of Fourir–Mukai transforms primary among them.

Remark. The Main Theorem is a Torelli-type result in the following sense. One can think of Torelli’s theorem as a statement about adding a small amount of geometric content to the cohomology of a variety in order to distinguish distinct algebraic structures on a fixed differentiable manifold. The Main Theorem starts with the Zariski topology, which already encodes some of the algebraic structure – for example, the algebraic cycles – and adds the class group, which encodes the finest possible “cohomological relation” among divisors. Thus, we can think of the Main Theorem as applying the Torelli philosophy in reverse, whereupon it becomes universally true.

The key to proving the Main Theorem is a rational form of the Fundamental Theorem of Projective Geometry, which we develop in Section 2.1. In Section 3.3, we leverage the incidence-definition of a Zariski open set of pencils in certain linear systems to recover the linear structure on set-theoretic rational equivalence classes using the rational fundamental theorem. This is inspired by work of Bogomolov and Tschinkel who used similar ideas to reconstruct function fields [5].

1.1. Conventions. In this paper, we freely use the theory of projective structures, as described in [16,19] and summarized in [5, Section 3]. We will not recapitulate the theory here.

Given a commutative monoid \( (M, +) \), we will call an equivalence relation \( \Lambda \) on \( M \) a congruence relation if for all \( a, b, c, d \in M \), we have that \((a, c) \in \Lambda \) and \((b, d) \in \Lambda \) imply that \((a + c, b + d) \in \Lambda \).

For a vector space \( V \) over a field \( k \) we write \( PV \) for the projective space of lines in \( V \). This convention makes the discussion of classical projective geometry easier, though it conflicts with the conventions of EGA.

Given a variety \( X \) and a divisor \( D \), we will write \( |D| \) for the classical linear system of \( D \), that is \( |D| = P \mathbb{H}^0(X, \mathcal{O}(D)) \). We will write \( |D|' \) for the dual projective space \( P \mathbb{H}^0(X, \mathcal{O}(D))^\vee \) (i.e., the space of hyperplanes in \( |D| \)), which is the natural target for the induced rational map \( \nu_D : X \dashrightarrow |D|' \). When the base field is algebraically closed, the closed points of the image of \( \nu_D \) correspond to the hyperplanes \( H_x \subset |D| \), where \( H_x = \{ E \in |D| : x \in E \} \).

1.2. Acknowledgments. During the work on this paper, Lieblich was partially supported by NSF grants DMS-1600813 and DMS-1901933 and a Simons Foundation Fellowship; Olsson was partially supported by NSF grants DMS-1601940 and DMS-1902251; Kollár was partially supported by NSF grant DMS-1901855; Sawin served as a Clay Research Fellow. Part of this work was done while the JK, ML, and MO visited the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute in Berkeley, whose support is gratefully acknowledged. We thank Jarod Alper, Giulia Battiston, Daniel Bragg,
Charles Godfrey, and Kristin de Vleming for helpful conversations, and Yuri Tschinkel and Brendan Hassett for enlightening discussions about earlier versions of this paper. Thanks to Noga Alon for pointing out the connection with linearity testing in 2.2.2.

2. Generic fundamental theorems of projective geometry

In this section, we prove two strengthenings of the classical Fundamental Theorem of Projective Geometry, which states that linearity of a map of projective spaces can be detected simply by the preservation of lines. Our strengthenings have to do with assuming only that general lines (either a Zariski open – over infinite base fields – or a suitably high fraction of lines – over finite base fields) are known to be mapped to lines.

2.1. The fundamental theorem of definable projective geometry. Here we discuss a variant of the Fundamental Theorem of Projective Geometry in which one only knows distinguished subsets of “definable” lines in the projective structures and one still wishes to produce a semilinear isomorphism between the underlying vector spaces that induces the isomorphism on a dense open subset. In Section 3.3 and Section 4 we explain how to use this theory to reconstruct varieties.

Definition 2.1.1. A definable projective space is a triple \((k, V, U)\) consisting of an infinite field \(k\), a \(k\)-vector space \(V\), and a subset \(U \subset \text{Gr}(1, \mathbf{P}(V))(k)\) which contains the \(k\)-points of a dense open subset of the space \(\text{Gr}(1, \mathbf{P}(V))\) of lines in the projective space \(\mathbf{P}(V)\). The dimension of \((k, V, U)\) is defined to be

\[ \dim(k, V, U) := \dim_k V - 1. \]

In other words, a definable projective space is a projective space together with a collection of lines that are declared “definable” subject to some conditions.

Definition 2.1.2. Let \(k\) be a field and \(V\) a \(k\)-vector space. The sweep of a subset \(U \subset \text{Gr}(1, \mathbf{P}(V))(k)\), denoted \(S_U(\mathbf{P}(V))\) is the set of \(k\)-points \(p \in \mathbf{P}(V)\) that lie on some line parametrized by \(U\).

2.1.3. Let \((k, V, U)\) be a definable projective space. Then there exists a maximal subset \(U^o \subset U\) which is the \(k\)-points of a Zariski open subset of \(\text{Gr}(1, \mathbf{P}(V))\). Furthermore, \((k, V, U^o)\) is again a definable projective space. This is immediate from the definition.

Example 2.1.4. Fix a projective \(k\)-variety \((X, \mathcal{O}_X(1))\) of dimension \(d\) at least 2. Given a closed subset \(Z \subset X\), we can associate the subspace \(V(Z) \subset |\mathcal{O}(1)|\) of divisors that contain \(Z\). The lines of the form \(V(Z)\) give a subset of \(\text{Gr}(1, |\mathcal{O}(1)|)\) (see Section 3.3). These are the definable lines we will consider.

The main goal of this section is to prove the following result.

Theorem 2.1.5. Suppose \((k_1, V_1, U_1)\) and \((k_2, V_2, U_2)\) are finite-dimensional definable projective spaces of dimension at least 2. Given an injection \(\varphi : \mathbf{P}(V_1) \to \mathbf{P}(V_2)\) that induces an inclusion \(\lambda : U_1 \to U_2\), there is an isomorphism \(\sigma : k_1 \to k_2\) and a \(\sigma\)-linear injective map of vector spaces \(\psi : V_1 \to V_2\) such that \(\mathbf{P}(\psi)\) agrees with \(\varphi\) on a Zariski-dense open subset of \(\mathbf{P}(V_1)\) containing the sweep of \((k_1, V_1, U_1^o)\).
Remark 2.1.6. In Theorem 2.1.5 we can without loss of generality assume that \( U_2 = \text{Gr}(1, P(V_2))(k) \). However, we prefer to formulate it as above to make it a statement about definable projective spaces.

Remark 2.1.7. If either the dimensions of \( V_1 \) and \( V_2 \) are equal or we assume that 
\[
\lambda(U_1^\circ) \subset \text{Gr}(1, P(V_2)) \text{ is dense, then the map } \psi \text{ is an isomorphism. In the case when the dimensions are equal this is immediate, and in the second case observe that if } V_1 \otimes_{k_1, \sigma} k_2 \subsetneq V_2 \text{ is a proper subspace then there exists a dense open subset } W \subset \text{Gr}(1, P(V_2)) \text{ of lines which are not in the image of } P(\psi), \text{ contradicting our assumption that } P(\psi)(U_1^\circ) = \lambda(U_1^\circ) \text{ is dense.}
\]

Remark 2.1.8. Observe that two lines in a projective space are coplanar if and only if they intersect in a unique point. This enables us to describe the map \( P(\psi) \) as follows. Let \( U' \subset U_1 \) be any dense subset which is the \( k \)-points of a Zariski open subset of \( \text{Gr}(1, P(V_1)) \), and let \( P \in P(V_1) \) be a point. Choose any line \( \ell \subset P(V_1) \) corresponding to a point of \( U' \) and not containing \( P \) (this is possible since \( U' \) is the points of an open subset of \( \text{Gr}(1, P(V_1)) \)), and let \( Q, R \in \ell \) be two distinct points. Let \( L_{P,Q} \) (resp. \( L_{P,R} \)) be the line through \( P \) and \( Q \) (resp. \( P \) and \( R \)), and choose points \( S \in L_{P,Q} - \{P,Q\} \) and \( T \in L_{P,R} - \{P,R\} \) such that the line \( L_{S,T} \) through \( S \) and \( T \) is also given by a point of \( U' \) (it is possible to choose such \( S \) and \( T \) since \( U' \) is the \( k \)-points of an open set).

The lines \( L_{S,T} \) and \( L_{Q,R} = \ell \) are then coplanar and therefore intersect in a unique point \( E \). It follows that \( \varphi(L_{S,T}) \) and \( \varphi(L_{Q,R}) \), which are lines since \( L_{S,T} \) and \( L_{Q,R} \) are definable, are coplanar since they intersect in \( \varphi(E) \). It follows that the lines in \( P(V_2) \) given by \( L_{\varphi(Q),\varphi(T)} \) and \( L_{\varphi(S),\varphi(R)} \) are coplanar and consequently intersect in a unique point, which is \( P(\psi) \).

This description will play an important role in Section 2.2 below.

Proof of Theorem 2.1.5 This proof is very similar to the proof due to Emil Artin in the classical case, as described by Jacobson in [12, Section 8.4].

We may without loss of generality assume that \( U_1 = U_1^\circ \).

Let us begin by showing the existence of the isomorphism of fields \( \sigma : k_1 \to k_2 \). The construction will be in several steps.

First we set up some basic notation. Let \( V \) be a vector space over a field \( k \). For a nonzero element \( v \in V \) let \([v] \in P(V)\) denote the point given by the line spanned by \( v \). For \( P \in P(V) \) write \( \ell_P \subset V \) for the line corresponding to \( P \), and for two distinct points \( P, Q \in P(V) \) write \( L_{P,Q} \subset P(V) \) for the projective line connecting \( P \) and \( Q \). If \( P = [v] \) and \( Q = [w] \) then \( L_{P,Q} \) corresponds to the 2-dimensional subspace of \( V \) given by
\[
\text{Span}(v, w) := \{av + bw | a, b \in k\}.
\]

If \( L \subset P(V) \) is a line and \( P, Q, R \in L \) are three pairwise distinct points then there is a unique \( k \)-linear isomorphism \( L \sim P^1 \) sending \( P \) to 0, \( Q \) to 1, and \( R \) to \( \infty \). For a collection of data \( (L, \{P, Q, R\}) \) we therefore have a canonical identification
\[
e^{P,Q,R} : k \sim L - \{R\}.
\]

In the case when \( L = L_{[v],[w]} \) for two non-colinear vectors \( v, w \in V - \{0\} \) we take \( P = [v], Q = [v + w] \), and \( R = [w] \). Then the identification of \( k \) with \( L - \{R\} \) is given by
\[
a \mapsto v + aw.
\]
Suppose given \((L, \{P, Q, R\})\) as above, and fix a basis vector \(v_P \in \ell_P\). Then one sees that there exists a unique basis vector \(v_R \in \ell_R\) such that \([v_P + v_R] = Q\). This observation enables us to relate the maps \(\epsilon^{P,Q,R}\) for different lines as follows.

Consider a second line \(L'\) passing through \(P\) and equipped with two additional points \(\{S, T\}\), and let \(a, b \in k - \{0\}\) be two scalars. We can then consider the two lines
\[
L_{T,R}, \ L_{\epsilon^{P,Q,R}(a)\epsilon^{P,S,T}(b)},
\]
which will intersect in some point
\[
\{O\} = L_{T,R} \cap L_{\epsilon^{P,Q,R}(a)\epsilon^{P,S,T}(b)}.
\]
The situation is summarized in the following picture, where to ease notation we write simply \(a\) (resp. \(b\)) for \(\epsilon^{P,Q,R}(a)\) (resp. \(\epsilon^{P,S,T}(b)\)):

![Figure 1]

If we fix a basis element \(v_P \in \ell_P\) we get by the above observation a basis vector \(v_Q\) (resp. \(v_R, v_S, v_T\)) for \(\ell_Q\) (resp. \(\ell_R, \ell_S, \ell_T\)), which in turn gives an identification
\[
\epsilon^{[v_T],[v_T + v_R],[v_R]} : k \rightarrow L_{T,R} - \{R\}.
\]

An elementary calculation then shows that
\[
O = \epsilon^{[v_T],[v_T + v_R],[v_R]}(-a/b).
\]
In particular, if \(a = b\) then the point \(O\) is independent of the choice of \(a\), and furthermore it follows from the construction that \(O\) is also independent of the choice of the basis element \(v_P\).

Consider now a definable projective space \((k, V, U)\), and let \(L_0 \subset P(V)\) be a definable line with three points \(P, Q, R \in L\). Fix \(a \in k\) so we have a point
\[
\epsilon^{P,Q,R}(a) \in L_0.
\]

Let \(M_P\) denote the scheme classifying data \((L, \{S, T\})\), where \(L\) is a line through \(P\) and \(\{S, T\}\) is a set of two additional points on \(L\) such that \(P, S, \) and \(T\) are all distinct. The scheme \(M_P\) has the following description. The point \(P\) corresponds to a line \(\ell_P \subset V\) and the set of lines passing through \(P\) is given by \(P(V/\ell_P)\). If \(\mathcal{L} \rightarrow P(V/\ell_P)\) denotes the universal line in \(P(V)\) passing through \(P\) then there is an open immersion
\[
M_P \subset \mathcal{L} \times_{P(V/\ell_P)} \mathcal{L},
\]
whence \(M_P\) is smooth, geometrically connected, and rational. Since \(k\) is infinite it follows that the \(k\)-points of \(M_P\) are dense.
Lemma 2.1.9. Fix $a \in k$. There exist a nonempty open subset $U_{P,a} \subset M_P$ such that if $(L,\{S,T\})$ is a line through $P$ with two points corresponding to a $k$-point of $U_{P,a}$ then the lines

\begin{equation} \label{2.1.9.1} L_{P,T}, \ L_{T,R}, \ L_{\epsilon_{P,Q,R}(a),\epsilon_{P,S,T}(a)} \end{equation}

are all definable.

Proof. We may without loss of generality assume that $U = U^o$.

Let $Q_0 \in M_P$ denote the point corresponding to $(L_0,\{Q,R\})$. The procedure of assigning one of the lines in \ref{2.1.9.1} to a pointed line $(L,\{S,T\})$ is a map

$$q : M_P \to \text{Gr}(1, \mathbb{P}(V)).$$

Note that the image of this map contains the point corresponding to the line $L_0$, and therefore the inverse image $q^{-1}(U)$ is nonempty. Since $M_P$ is integral it follows that the intersection of the preimages of $U$ under the three maps defined by \ref{2.1.9.1} is nonempty.

A variant of the above lemma is the following, which we will use below.

Lemma 2.1.10. With notation as in \ref{2.1.9} let $P, Q \in \mathbb{P}(V)$ be two points in the sweep of $U^o$. Then there exists a definable line $L_P$ through $P$ and a definable line $L_Q$ through $Q$ such that $L_P$ and $L_Q$ intersect in a point $R$.

Proof. Let $N_P \subset \text{Gr}(1, \mathbb{P}(V))$ denote the space of lines through $P$, so $N_P \cong \mathbb{P}(V/\ell_P)$ for the line $\ell_P \subset V$ corresponding to $P$. Let $\mathcal{L} \to N_P$ denote the universal line through $P$, and let $s : N_P \to \mathcal{L}$ denote the tautological section. Then the natural map

$$\mathcal{L} - \{s(N_P)\} \to \mathbb{P}(V) - \{P\}$$

is an isomorphism, since any two distinct points lie on a unique line. The set of points of $\mathbb{P}(V) - \{P\}$ which can be connected to $P$ by a line given by a point of $U^o$ is under this isomorphism identified with the preimage of $U^o \cap N_P$. In particular, this set is nonempty and open. It follows that the set of points of $\mathbb{P}(V)$ which can be connected to both $P$ and $Q$ by lines given by points of $U^o$ is the intersection of two dense open subsets, and therefore is nonempty.

With these preparations we can now proceed with the proof of Theorem \ref{2.1.5}. Proceeding with the notation of the theorem, let us first define the map $\sigma : k_1 \to k_2$. Choose a definable line $L_0 \subset \mathbb{P}(V_1)$ together with three points $P, Q, R \in L_0$ such that $\varphi(L_0) \subset \mathbb{P}(V_2)$ is also a definable line. We then get a map

$$k_1 \xrightarrow{\epsilon_{P,Q,R}} L_0 - \{R\} \xrightarrow{\varphi} \varphi(L_0) - \{\varphi(R)\} \xrightarrow{(\varphi(P),\varphi(Q),\varphi(R))^{-1}} k_2,$$

which we temporarily denote by $\sigma(L_0,\{P,Q,R\})$.

Claim 2.1.11. The map $\sigma(L_0,\{P,Q,R\})$ is independent of $(L_0,\{P,Q,R\})$.

Proof. Let $(L'_0,\{P',Q',R'\})$ be a second definable line with three points. Given $a \in k_1$, we will show that

$$\sigma(L_0,\{P,Q,R\})(a) = \sigma(L'_0,\{P',Q',R'\})(a).$$
From the definition, we see that this holds for \( a = 0 \) and \( a = 1 \), so we assume that \( a \neq 0 \) in what follows. First consider the case when \( P = P' \). By Lemma 2.1.9 we can find a line \( L \) with two points \( \{ S, T \} \) such that the lines \( (2.1.9.1) \) are all definable, as well as the lines \( (2.1.9.1) \) obtained by replacing \( (L_0, \{ P, Q, R \}) \) with \( (L'_0, \{ P', Q', R' \}) \).

The picture in Figure 1 is taken by \( \varphi \) to the corresponding picture in \( P(V_2) \). Looking at the intersection point it follows that

\[
\sigma^{(L_0,\{P,Q,R\})}(a) = \sigma^{(L_0,\{P,S,T\})}(a) = \sigma^{(L'_0,\{P',Q',R'\})}(a).
\]

It follows, in particular, that the map \( \sigma^{(L_0,\{P,Q,R\})} \) is independent of the points \( Q \) and \( R \). Since \( \sigma^{(L_0,\{R,Q,P\})} \) is given by the formula

\[
t_{k_2} \circ \sigma^{(L_0,\{P,Q,R\})} \circ t_{k_1},
\]

where \( t_{k_j} \) denotes the involution of \( k_j^* \) given by \( u \mapsto u^{-1} \), it follows that the map \( \sigma^{(L_0,\{P,Q,R\})} \) is independent of the triple \( \{ P, Q, R \} \), so we get a well-defined map \( \sigma^{L_0} : k_1 \rightarrow k_2 \). Now for a second definable line \( L'_0 \), which has nonempty intersection with \( L_0 \) the intersection, the point \( P := L_0 \cap L'_0 \) is on both lines so we can apply the preceding discussion with the two lines \( L_0 \) and \( L'_0 \) and \( Q, R \) and \( Q', R' \) chosen arbitrarily to deduce the independence of the choice of \( \{ L_0, \{ P, Q, R \} \} \). Finally for an arbitrary definable line we can by 2.1.10 find a chain (in fact of length 2) of definable lines which connect the two, which concludes the proof.

\[\square\]

Let us write the map of Claim 2.1.11 as \( \sigma : k_1 \rightarrow k_2 \).

**Claim 2.1.12.** The map \( \sigma \) is an isomorphism of fields.

**Proof.** First note that by construction the map \( \sigma \) sends 1 to 1 and is compatible with the inversion map \( a \mapsto a^{-1} \). Indeed the statement that \( \sigma(1) = 1 \) is immediate from the construction and the compatibility with the inversion map can be seen as follows. Let \( \iota_j : k_j^* \rightarrow k_j^* \) \((k = 1, 2) \) denote the map \( a \mapsto a^{-1} \), and let \( (L, \{ P, Q, R \}) \) be a definable line with three marked points. Write \( L^\times \) (resp. \( \varphi(L)^\times \)) for \( L - \{ P, R \} \) (resp. \( \varphi(L) - \{ \varphi(P), \varphi(R) \} \)). Then by the independence of the choice of marked line in the definition of \( \sigma \), we have that the diagram

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\sigma \\
\downarrow \\
\varphi \\
\end{array}
\begin{array}{ccc}
\sigma & \mapsto & \varphi \\
\epsilon_{\varphi(P),\varphi(Q),\varphi(R)} & & \epsilon_{\varphi(R),\varphi(Q),\varphi(P)} \\
\sigma & \mapsto & \varphi \\
\downarrow & & \\
\varphi & & \varphi \\
\end{array}
\begin{array}{c}
\iota_1 \\
\iota_2 \\
\end{array}
\begin{array}{c}
k_1 \\
k_2 \\
\end{array}
\begin{array}{c}
k_1 \\
k_2 \\
\end{array}
\begin{array}{c}
\epsilon_{P,Q,R} \\
\epsilon_{R,Q,P} \\
\end{array}
\begin{array}{c}
\iota_1 \\
\iota_2 \\
\end{array}
\begin{array}{c}
L^\times \\
\varphi(L)^\times \\
\end{array}
\end{array}
\]

commutes. The compatibility with the multiplicative structure again follows from contemplating Figure 1, and the observation that by construction the map \( \sigma \) takes 1 to 1. Indeed given \( a, b \in k_1^\times \) such that all the lines in Figure 1 are definable, we must have

\[
(2.1.12.1) \quad \sigma(-a/b) = -\sigma(a)/\sigma(b)
\]
since this fraction is given by the point $O$. Since the condition of being definable is open (by our initial reduction to $U_1 = U_0^0$), the fact that for any definable $(L, \{P, Q, R\})$ the line through $e^{P,Q,R}(a)$ and $e^{P,Q,R}(b)$ is definable implies that the same is true after deforming $(L, \{P, Q, R\})$. Thus we get the formula \((2.1.12.1)\) for all $a$ and $b$. In particular, taking $b = 1$ we get that $\sigma(-a) = -\sigma(a)$ for all $a$, and since $\sigma$ is compatible with the inversion maps we get that

$$\sigma(ab) = \sigma(a)\sigma(b)$$

for all $a, b \in k^\times$. Since $0$ is also taken to $0$ by $\sigma$ we in fact get this formula for all $a, b \in k$.

For the verification of the compatibility with additive structure, consider a marked line $(L, \{P, Q, R\})$. Let $S$ be a point not on the line and let $T$ be a third point on $L_{S,R}$. The lines $L_{P,T}$ and $L_{Q,S}$ intersect in a point we call $V$, and then the line $L_{V,R}$ intersects $L_{P,S}$ in a point we call $W$. This is summarized in the following picture, where we write simply $a$ (resp. $b$) for $e^{P,Q,R}(a)$ (resp. $e^{S,T,R}(b)$).

\[\text{Figure 2}\]

A straightforward calculation done by choosing a basis $v_R \in \ell_R$ then shows that the point of intersection marked with the larger bullet is the point

$$e^{W,V,R}(a + b).$$

To prove that $\sigma$ is compatible with the additive structure it suffices to show the following lemma, which concludes the proof.

Lemma 2.1.13. For any $a, b \in k$ there exists a pointed line $(L, \{P, Q, R\})$ and points $S$ and $T$ such that all the lines in Figure 2 are definable.

Proof. The collections of data

\[(2.1.13.1)\]  

$(L, \{P, Q, R\}, \{S, T\})$

defining a diagram as in Figure 2 are classified by an irreducible scheme $M$, each line in the diagram gives a morphism

$$t : M \to \text{Gr}(1, \mathbb{P}(V_1)).$$

It therefore suffices to show that for any particular choice of line in Figure 2, there exists a choice of \((2.1.13.1)\) for which that line is definable. Indeed, then the set of choices of data \((2.1.13.1)\) for which that line is definable is nonempty and open in $M$.  


Since the $M$ is irreducible the intersection of nonempty open sets is nonempty and we conclude that there exists a point for which all the lines in Figure 2 are definable.

For the line through $R$, $V$, and $W$ this follows from noting that the data of the colinear points $S$ and $T$ is equivalent to the data of the points $\{V,W\}$. Indeed given these two colinear points, the lines $\overline{OV}$ and $\overline{OQ}$ are coplanar and therefore intersect in a unique point, which defines $S$, and the intersection of $\overline{SR}$ and $\overline{PV}$ then defines $T$. Therefore the map $t$ is smooth and dominant in this case, so the preimage of $U_1$ is nonempty.

For the other lines in Figure 2, note that we can extend the map $t$ to the bigger (but still irreducible) scheme $\overline{M}$ classifying collections of data $(L,\{P,Q,R\},\{S,T\})$, where as before $L$ is a point, $\{P,Q,R\}$ are three points on $L$, and $\{S,T\}$ are two additional points which are colinear with $R$, but where we no longer insist that the line through $T$ and $S$ is distinct from $L$, but only that the points $\{P,Q,R,S,T,a,b\}$ are distinct. Now it is clear that the preimage in $\overline{M}$ of $U_1$ is nonempty since we can take all the points to lie on the same definable line $L$. $\square$

Now that we have constructed the isomorphism $\sigma$, it remains to construct the map $\psi : V_1 \to V_2$.

First note that we can choose a basis $e_1, \ldots, e_n$ for $V_1$ with the property that the span of $e_i$ and $e_j$ is a definable line for any $i \neq j$. Define $e'_1, \ldots, e'_n \in V_2$ as follows. For $e'_1$ we take any basis element in $L_{\varphi([e_1])}$. Now for each $e_i$, $i \geq 2$, the line in $\mathbb{P}(V_1)$ associated to the plane $\text{Span}(e_1, e_i)$ is definable, and therefore the image under $\varphi$ is a definable line and contains the points $\varphi([e_1]), \varphi([e_i])$, and $\varphi([e_1 + e_i])$. The choice of the representative $e'_1$ for $\varphi([e_1])$ defines a representative $e'_i$ for $\varphi([e_i])$ such that $\varphi([e_1 + e_i]) = e'_1 + e'_i$. Consider the map

$$\gamma : V_1 \to V_2$$

defined by

$$\gamma(a_1e_1 + \cdots + a_ne_n) := \sigma(a_1)e'_1 + \cdots + \sigma(a_n)e'_n.$$ 

**Claim 2.1.4.** For general $(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$ we have

$$\varphi([a_1e_1 + \cdots + a_ne_n]) = [\gamma(a_1e_1 + \cdots + a_ne_n)].$$

**Proof.** By the construction of $\sigma$, if for each $2 \leq i \leq n$ the vectors

$$(2.1.14.1)\quad a_1e_1 + \cdots + a_{i-1}e_{i-1}, \ a_ie_i$$

span a definable line, then we get by induction on $i$ that

$$\varphi([a_1e_1 + \cdots + a_ie_i]) = [\gamma(a_1e_1 + \cdots + a_ie_i)].$$

Now for each $i$ the map sending a vector $(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$ to the span of the elements

$$(2.1.14.1)\quad a_1e_1 + \cdots + a_n e_n\in A(k_1)$$

whose image meets $U_1$. Taking the common intersection of the preimages of $U_1$ under these maps, we get a nonempty open subset $A^\circ \subset A$ of tuples $(a_1, \ldots, a_n) \in A(k_1)$ for which the vectors $$(2.1.14.1)\quad a_1e_1 + \cdots + a_n e_n$$

span a definable line. $\square$
As a consequence, the map \( \gamma \) defined above is uniquely associated to \( \varphi \), up to scalar, and is thus independent of the general choice of basis \( e_1, \ldots, e_n \).

To complete the proof of Theorem 2.1.5 it suffices to show that \( P(\gamma) \) agrees with \( \varphi \) on the entire sweep of \( (k_1, V_1, U_1) \). By the above remark, to show this for a particular point \( p \), it suffices to work with any general basis. To prove this we show that given a point \( p \in S_{U_1}(P_{k_1}(V_1)) \) there exists a basis \( e_1, \ldots, e_n \) for \( V_1 \) as above for which \( p \) lies in the resulting subset \( A^p \). Reviewing the above construction, one sees that it suffices to show that we can find a basis \( e_1, \ldots, e_n \) for \( V_1 \) such that the following hold:

(i) \( p \) is the point corresponding to the line spanned by \( e_1 \).
(ii) Any two elements \( e_i \) and \( e_j \), with \( i \neq j \), span a definable line.
(iii) For any \( 2 \leq i \leq n \) the vectors \( e_1 + \cdots + e_{i-1}, e_i \) span a definable line.

For this start by choosing \( e_1 \) so that (i) holds. Since \( p \) lies in the sweep we can then find \( e_2 \) such that \( e_1 \) and \( e_2 \) span a definable line. Now observe that given \( 2 \leq r \leq n \) and a basis \( e_1, \ldots, e_r \) satisfying (ii) and (iii) with \( i, j \leq r \) we can find \( e_{r+1} \) such that (ii) and (iii) hold with \( i, j \leq r + 1 \). Indeed a general choice of vector in \( V_1 \) will do for \( e_{r+1} \) since for given fixed vector \( v_0 \) lying in the sweep there is a nonempty Zariski open subset of vectors \( w \) such that \( w \) and \( v_0 \) span a definable line.

This completes the proof of the Theorem.

2.2. The probabilistic fundamental theorem of projective geometry. In this section, we prove that knowing most lines also determines linearity of a map of finite projective spaces.

To state the main result consider the following functions of three variables (whose origin will be explained in the proof):

\[
A(q, n, \epsilon) := 2\left(\epsilon + \frac{q - 1}{q^{n+1} - 1}\right) \cdot \frac{(q^{n+1} - q)}{(q^{n+1} - 1)} - \frac{(q - 1)^2}{q^n - 1}
\]

\[
B(q, n, \epsilon) := 2(q - 1) \cdot \frac{q^{n+1} - 1}{q^{n+1} - q} \cdot \left(2\epsilon + 2A(q, n, \epsilon) + \frac{2q^2(q + 1)^2}{q^{n+1} - q}\right) + 2A(q, n, \epsilon) + \frac{2q^2(q + 1)^2}{q^{n+1} - q}.
\]

The main result of this section is the following:

**Theorem 2.2.1.** Let \( F \) be a finite field with \( q \) elements, and let \( P_1 \) and \( P_2 \) be projective spaces over \( F \) of dimension \( n > 3 \). Let \( f : P_1 \to P_2 \) be an injection of sets. Assume given \( \epsilon > 0 \) such that the proportion of lines \( L \subset P_1 \) for which \( f(L) \subset P_2 \) is a line is at least \( 1 - \epsilon \), and assume that

\[
A(q, n, \epsilon) + 2q^2(q + 1)^2 < \frac{1}{2}
\]

and

\[
9B(q, n, \epsilon) + q^{-n+3} < 1.
\]
Then there is an injection \( f' : P_1 \to P_2 \) that takes lines to lines, and such that the proportion of elements of \( P_1 \) on which \( f \) and \( f' \) agree is at least

\[
1 - 2\epsilon - 2A(q, n, \epsilon) - \frac{2q^2(q + 1)^2}{q^{n+1} - q}.
\]

**Remark 2.2.2.** Theorem 2.2.1 is similar in spirit to the Blum-Luby-Rubinfeld linearity test [3, Lemmas 9-12], part of the theory of property testing in computer science. The arguments of that paper show that given a function \( f : G \to G' \) for groups \( G, G' \), if the proportion of \( x, y \in G \) such that \( f(x)f(y) = f(xy) \) is close enough to 1, then there exists a group homomorphism \( f' : G \to G' \) such that \( f(x) = f'(x) \) for a proportion of \( x \) close to 1. Their methods are computational and give an approach to find \( f' \). Theorem 2.2.1 solves the analogous problem where, instead of a group of homomorphism, we have an injective map of projective spaces of large enough dimension. The strategy of [3] relies on choosing \( f'(x) \) so that \( f'(x) = f(xy^{-1})f(y) \) for a proportion of \( y \) close to 1, and our strategy uses a similar, but more complex, formula adapted to the case of projective spaces.

After building up suitable technical material (including the definition of the map \( f' \)), we will record the proof of Theorem 2.2.1 in Paragraph 2.2.25 below.

**2.2.3.** For a subset \( T \) of a finite set \( S \) write

\[
\mathcal{Q}_S(T) := \frac{\#T}{\#S}.
\]

Let \( k \) be a finite field with \( q \) elements. Let \( P_1 \) and \( P_2 \) be projective spaces over \( k \) of dimension \( n > 3 \) and let

\[
f : P_1 \to P_2
\]

be a injection of sets. Let \( \mathcal{L}_{P_i} \) be the set of lines in \( P_i \). Since the cardinality of \( P_i \) is

\[
q^{n+1} - 1
\]

the cardinality of \( \mathcal{L}_{P_i} \) is equal to

\[
\frac{(q^{n+1} - 1)(q^{n+1} - q)}{q(q + 1)(q - 1)^2}.
\]

Let \( \mathcal{L}_{P_i}^f \subset \mathcal{L}_{P_i} \) be the subset of lines \( L \subset P_1 \) for which \( f(L) \) is a line in \( P_2 \). We make the following assumption.

**Assumption 2.2.4.** For a given \( \epsilon > 0 \), we have

\[
\mathcal{Q}_{\mathcal{L}_{P_1}}(\mathcal{L}_{P_1}^f) \geq 1 - \epsilon.
\]

Under the conditions of Assumption 2.2.4, we will explain how to construct a new map

\[
f' : P_1 \to P_2
\]

that agrees with \( f \) on a large proportion of points. This construction will yield a linear map agreeing with \( f \) at most points by applying the usual fundamental theorem of projective geometry to \( f' \), giving us the desired approximate linearization.
2.2.5. The construction of \( f' \) follows the recipe described in Remark 2.1.8. Starting with \( x \in P_1 \) choose two general lines \( L_1 \) and \( L_2 \) through \( x \). Let \( y_1, y_2 \in L_1 - \{x\} \) and \( y_3, y_4 \in L_2 - \{x\} \) be randomly chosen points. Let \( M_1 \) (resp. \( M_2 \)) be the line in \( P_2 \) through \( f(y_1) \) and \( f(y_2) \) (resp. \( f(y_3) \) and \( f(y_4) \)). Then we will argue that \( M_1 \) and \( M_2 \) intersect in a unique point \( z \) and define \( f'(x) := z \).

To make this precise, let us begin with some calculations. For two points \( y_1, y_2 \in P_1 \) we can consider the linear span \( Sp(y_1, y_2) \subset P_1 \), which is either a line (if the points are distinct) or a point. Let \( P^2_{12} := P^2_{1} \) be the subset of pairs of distinct points \( y_1, y_2 \) for which \( Sp(y_1, y_2) \in \mathcal{L}_{P_1} \).

**Lemma 2.2.6.**

\[
\phi_{P_1^2}(P^2_{12}) \geq 1 - \epsilon - \frac{q - 1}{q^{n+1} - 1}.
\]

**Proof.** We have a surjective map

\[
(P^2_1 - \Delta) \to \mathcal{L}_{P_1}, \quad (y_1, y_2) \mapsto Sp(y_1, y_2),
\]

which has fibers of cardinality \( q(q + 1) \). Here \( \Delta \subset P^2_1 \) denotes the diagonal. Therefore the number of pairs \((y_1, y_2) \in P^2_1 - \Delta \) for which \( f(Sp(y_1, y_2)) \) is not a line is at most

\[
\epsilon \cdot \#(P^2_1 - \Delta).
\]

Therefore

\[
\phi_{P_1^2}(P^2_{12}) \geq 1 - \epsilon \cdot \frac{\#(P^2_1 - \Delta)}{\#P^2_1} - \frac{\#\Delta}{\#P^2_1}.
\]

Since

\[
\frac{\#(P^2_1 - \Delta)}{\#P^2_1} \leq 1
\]

and

\[
\#\Delta = \frac{q^{n+1} - 1}{q - 1}, \quad \#P^2_1 = \left( \frac{q^{n+1} - 1}{q - 1} \right)^2
\]

we get the result. \( \square \)

For a fixed point \( x \in P_1 \), there is a variant of Lemma 2.2.6 where we only consider pairs of points not equal to \( x \). Set

\[
(P_1 - \{x\})^2_{12} := (P_1 - \{x\})^2 \cap P^2_{12} \subset (P_1 - \{x\})^2.
\]

**Lemma 2.2.7.** We have

\[
\phi_{(P_1 - \{x\})^2}((P_1 - \{x\})^2_{12}) \geq 1 - \left( \epsilon + \frac{q - 1}{q^{n+1} - 1} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{q^{n+1} - q}{q^{n+1} - 1} \right)^2.
\]

**Proof.** Using Lemma 2.2.6, we have

\[
\#((P_1 - \{x\})^2 - (P_1 - \{x\})^2_{12}) \leq \#(P^2_1 - P^2_{12}) \leq \#(P^2_1) \cdot \left( \epsilon + \frac{q - 1}{q^{n+1} - 1} \right).
\]

Therefore

\[
\phi_{(P_1 - \{x\})^2}((P_1 - \{x\})^2_{12}) \geq 1 - \frac{\#(P^2_1)}{\#((P_1 - \{x\})^2)} \cdot \left( \epsilon + \frac{q - 1}{q^{n+1} - 1} \right).
\]
Now
\[ \frac{\#(P_1^2)}{\#((P_1 - \{x\})^2)} = \left( \frac{q^{n+1} - q}{q^{n+1} - 1} \right)^{-2}. \]
From this the result follows. \qed

Fix a point \( x \in P_1 \) and let \( \mathcal{L}_x \) denote the set of lines through \( x \). Let \( \mathcal{L}_x^{(2)} \) denote the set of triples \((L, y_1, y_2)\), where \( L \in \mathcal{L}_x \) and \( y_1, y_2 \in L \cap \{x\} \) are distinct points. For \((i, j) \in \{(1, 3), (1, 4), (2, 3), (2, 4)\}\) let
\[ \pi_{ij} : (\mathcal{L}_x^{(2)})^2 \to (P_1 - \{x\})^2 \]
be the map given by
\[ ((L_1, y_1, y_2), (L_2, y_3, y_4)) \mapsto (y_i, y_j). \]
Let
\[ (\mathcal{L}_x^{(2)})^{2, (i,j)-\text{good}} \subset (\mathcal{L}_x^{(2)})^2 \]
denote the subset of data \((L_1, y_1, y_2), (L_2, y_3, y_4)\) for which \( y_i \) and \( y_j \) are distinct and span a line in \( \mathcal{L}_x^{(2)} \).

**Lemma 2.2.8.**
\[ \varphi((\mathcal{L}_x^{(2)})^2, ((\mathcal{L}_x^{(2)})^{2, (i,j)-\text{good}}) \geq 1 - \left( \epsilon + \frac{q - 1}{q^{n+1} - 1} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{q^{n+1} - q}{q^{n+1} - 1} \right)^{-2}. \]

**Proof.** Indeed this follows from Lemma 2.2.7 and the observation that the map \( \pi_{ij} \) is surjective with fibers of equal cardinality \((q - 1)^2\). \qed

Let \( \mathcal{S} \subset (\mathcal{L}_x^{(2)})^2 \) denote the subset of data \((L_1, y_1, y_2), (L_2, y_3, y_4)\) such that \( Sp(y_1, y_3), Sp(y_2, y_4) \in \mathcal{L}_x \) and \( Sp(f(y_1), f(y_2)) \) and \( Sp(f(y_3), f(y_4)) \) have a unique intersection point.

**Lemma 2.2.9.**
\[ \varphi(\mathcal{L}_x^{(2)})^2(\mathcal{S}) \geq 1 - A(q, n, \epsilon). \]

**Proof.** Two lines in \( P_1 \) are coplanar if and only if they intersect in exactly one point. From this it follows that for data
\[ (L_1, y_1, y_2), (L_2, y_3, y_4) \in (\mathcal{L}_x^{(2)})^{2,(1,3)-\text{good}} \cap (\mathcal{L}_x^{(2)})^{2,(2,4)-\text{good}} \]
the points \((f(y_1), f(y_2), f(y_3), f(y_4))\) are coplanar. Indeed because the points \((y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4)\) are coplanar, the lines \( Sp(y_1, y_3) \) and \( Sp(y_2, y_4) \) intersect in a unique point from which it follows that the lines
\[ Sp(f(y_1), f(y_3)) = f(Sp(y_1, y_3)), \quad Sp(f(y_2), f(y_4)) = f(Sp(y_2, y_4)) \]
are coplanar (since they intersect in a unique point).

Let \( \mathcal{S}^c \subset (\mathcal{L}_x^{(2)})^{2,(1,3)-\text{good}} \cap (\mathcal{L}_x^{(2)})^{2,(2,4)-\text{good}} \) be the subset of the collections of data for which
\[ Sp(f(y_1), f(y_2)) = Sp(f(y_3), f(y_4)). \]
From this discussion we then have
\[ \varphi(\mathcal{X}^2) \geq 1 - 2 \left( \epsilon + \frac{q - 1}{q^{n+1} - 1} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{q^{n+1} - q}{q^{n+1} - 1} \right)^{-2} - \varphi(\mathcal{X}^2)^c. \]

It therefore suffices to show that
\[ (2.2.9.2) \quad \varphi(\mathcal{X}^2)^c \leq \frac{(q - 1)^2}{q^{n+1} - q}. \]

The set \( \mathcal{S}^c \) is contained in the set of collections of data \( (2.2.9.1) \) for which \( f(y_3) \) and \( f(y_4) \) are each points of the line \( Sp(f(y_1), f(y_2)) \). Since \( f \) is an injection the cardinality of this set is less than or equal to
\[ (\#\mathcal{L}_x^{(2)}) \cdot (q - 1)^2, \]
and so we obtain the inequality \( (2.2.9.2) \). \( \square \)

**2.2.10.** For two collections
\[ ((L_1, y_1, y_2), (L_2, y_3, y_4), (L_1', y_1', y_2'), (L_2', y_3', y_4')) \in \mathcal{S}, \]
we then get two intersection points
\[ z := Sp(f(y_1), f(y_2)) \cap Sp(f(y_3), f(y_4)), \quad z' := Sp(f(y_1'), f(y_2')) \cap Sp(f(y_3'), f(y_4')). \]

We are interested in the probability that \( z = z' \).

For \( z \in P_2 \) let
\[ S_z \subset \mathcal{S} \]
be the subset of pairs
\[ ((L_1, y_1, y_2), (L_2, y_3, y_4)) \in \mathcal{S} \]
for which
\[ Sp(f(y_1), f(y_2)) \cap Sp(f(y_3), f(y_4)) = z. \]

**Lemma 2.2.11.** There exists \( z \in P_2 \) such that
\[ \varphi(\mathcal{X}^2)^c(\mathcal{S}_z) \geq 1 - 2A(q, n, \epsilon) - 2q^2(q + 1)^2/q^{n+1} - q. \]

**Proof.** For \( ((L_1, y_1, y_2), (L_2, y_3, y_4)) \in \mathcal{S} \) with
\[ Sp(f(y_1), f(y_2)) \cap Sp(f(y_3), f(y_4)) = z \]
the number of triples \( (L_3, y_5, y_6) \in \mathcal{L}_x^{(2)} \) for which the intersections
\[ (2.2.11.1) \quad Sp(f(y_5), f(y_6)) \cap Sp(f(y_1), f(y_2)), \quad Sp(f(y_5), f(y_6)) \cap Sp(f(y_3), f(y_4)) \]
consist of single points not equal to \( z \) can be bounded as follows. For each \( a_1 \in Sp(f(y_1), f(y_2)) \) and \( a_2 \in Sp(f(y_3), f(y_4)) \) there exists a unique line \( L_{a_1, a_2} \subset P_2 \) through \( a_1 \) and \( a_2 \), and there are \( (q + 1)^2 \) pairs of ordered points \( (w_5, w_6) \) on this line. Now if \( (L_3, y_5, y_6) \in \mathcal{L}_x^{(2)} \) is such that the intersections \( (2.2.11.1) \) consist of single points not equal to \( z \), then we must have \( (y_5, y_6) = (f^{-1}(w_5), f^{-1}(w_6)) \) for some such pair \( (w_5, w_6) \) (with \( a_1 \) and \( a_2 \) the two respective intersections). Since \( L \) is determined by \( (y_5, y_6) \) this shows that the number of such triples \( (L_3, y_5, y_6) \) is bounded by \( q(q + 1) \) for a given \( (a_1, a_2) \).
Let $T \subset (\mathcal{L}_{x}^{(2)})^{4}$ be the set of collections of data

\[(2.2.11.2) \quad \{(L_{1}, y_{1}, y_{2}), (L_{2}, y_{3}, y_{4}), (L'_{1}, y'_{1}, y'_{2}), (L'_{2}, y'_{3}, y'_{4})\} \in (\mathcal{L}_{x}^{(2)})^{4}\]

for which any pair of elements in this set is in $S$. We then get from the preceding discussion that if $T_{bad} \subset T$ denotes the subset of elements for which

$$Sp(f(y_{1}), f(y_{2})) \cap Sp(f(y_{3}), f(y_{4})) \neq Sp(f(y'_{1}), f(y'_{2})) \cap Sp(f(y'_{3}), f(y'_{4}))$$

then

$$\#T_{bad} \leq 2|S| \cdot q^{2}(q + 1)^{2} \cdot \#(\mathcal{L}_{x}^{(2)}).$$

Setting

$$T_{good} := T - T_{bad}$$

we find that

$$\varphi(\mathcal{L}_{x}^{(2)})^{4}(T_{good}) \geq \varphi(\mathcal{L}_{x}^{(2)})^{4}(S^{2}) - 2\frac{q^{2}(q + 1)^{2}}{\#\mathcal{L}_{x}^{(2)}}.$$ 

Now by Lemma $2.2.9$ we have

$$\varphi(\mathcal{L}_{x}^{(2)})(S^{2}) \geq 1 - 2A(q, n, \epsilon),$$

and since

$$\#\mathcal{L}_{x}^{(2)} = q^{n+1} - q$$

we find that

\[(2.2.11.3) \quad \varphi(\mathcal{L}_{x}^{(2)})^{4}(T_{good}) \geq 1 - 2A(q, n, \epsilon) - 2\frac{q^{2}(q + 1)^{2}}{q^{n+1} - q}.\]

Let

$$t : (\mathcal{L}_{x}^{(2)})^{4} \to (\mathcal{L}_{x}^{(2)})^{2}$$

be the projection sending $(2.2.9.2)$ to the pair

$$((L_{1}, y_{1}, y_{2}), (L_{2}, y_{3}, y_{4})).$$

From the inequality $(2.2.11.3)$ we then find that there exists

$$((L'_{1}, y'_{1}, y'_{2}), (L'_{2}, y'_{3}, y'_{4})) \in S$$

such that

$$\varphi(\mathcal{L}_{x})^{2}(T_{good} \cap t^{-1}(((L'_{1}, y'_{1}, y'_{2}), (L'_{2}, y'_{3}, y'_{4})))) \geq 1 - 2A(q, n, \epsilon) - 2\frac{q^{2}(q + 1)^{2}}{q^{n+1} - q}.$$ 

Let $z$ denote the point

$$z := Sp(f(y'_{1}), f(y'_{2})) \cap Sp(f(y'_{3}), f(y'_{4})).$$

Then

$$T_{good} \cap t^{-1}(((L'_{1}, y'_{1}, y'_{2}), (L'_{2}, y'_{3}, y'_{4}))) \subset S_{z}$$

and therefore we have found $z$ as in the lemma. □
Corollary 2.2.12. If

\begin{equation}
A(q, n, \epsilon) + 2\frac{q^2(q + 1)^2}{q^{n+1} - q} < \frac{1}{2}
\end{equation}

then there exists a unique point \( z \in P_2 \) such that

\[ \wp_{(L_2)^2}(S_z) \geq \frac{1}{2}. \]

**Proof.** Indeed this follows from Lemma 2.2.11 and the fact that the \( S_z \)'s are disjoint. \( \square \)

Assumption 2.2.1. Assume for the rest of the discussion that the inequality (2.2.12.1) holds.

2.2.13. We define a map

\[ f' : P_1 \to P_2 \]

by sending \( x \in P_1 \) to the point \( z \in P_2 \) given by Corollary 2.2.12.

Let \( P_1^{f = f'} \subset P_1 \) be the set of points \( x \) for which \( f(x) = f'(x) \).

**Lemma 2.2.14.**

\[ \wp_{P_1}(P_1^{f = f'}) \geq 1 - 2\epsilon - 2A(q, n, \epsilon) - 2\frac{q^2(q + 1)^2}{q^{n+1} - q}. \]

**Proof.** Let \( (L_x)^2 \) denote the set of collections

\begin{equation}
(x, ((L_1, y_1, y_2), (L_2, y_3, y_4))),
\end{equation}

where \( x \in P_1 \) and \( ((L_1, y_1, y_2), (L_2, y_3, y_4)) \in (L_x)^2 \). We have two maps

\[ F, F' : (L_x)^2 \to P_2 \]

given by

\[ F((x, ((L_1, y_1, y_2), (L_2, y_3, y_4)))) = x \]

and

\[ F'((x, ((L_1, y_1, y_2), (L_2, y_3, y_4)))) = f'(x), \]

and it suffices to calculate the proportion of elements for which \( F = F' \) since the map

\[ (L_x)^2 \to P_1 \]

given by \( x \) is surjective with constant fiber size.

Let \( (L_x)^2_{F\text{-good}} \subset (L_x)^2 \) denote the subset of collections for which \( f \) takes the lines

\[ Sp(y_1, y_2), \ Sp(y_3, y_4) \]

to lines in \( P_2 \). For collections in \( (L_x)^2_{F\text{-good}} \) we then have

\[ f(x) = Sp(f(y_1), f(y_2)) \cap Sp(f(y_3), f(y_4)). \]

Define \( (L_x)^2_{F'\text{-good}} \subset (L_x)^2 \) to be the subset of collections for which

\[ ((L_1, y_1, y_2), (L_2, y_3, y_4)) \in S_{f'(x)} \subset (L_x)^2. \]

We have

\[ \wp_{(L_x)^2}((L_x)^2_{F\text{-good}}) \geq 1 - 2\epsilon. \]
Indeed for \((i, j)\) equal to \((1, 2)\) or \((3, 4)\) the map
\[
\left(\mathcal{L}_-^{(2)}\right)^2 \to \mathcal{L}_{P_1}
\]
is surjective with constant fiber size, and therefore the proportion of collections \((2.2.14.1)\) for which \(f\) does not take the line \(Sp(y_1, y_i)\) to a line in \(P_2\) is less than or equal to \(\epsilon\). Therefore the proportion of collections \((2.2.14.1)\) for which one of \(f(\text{Sp}(y_1, y_2))\) and \(f(\text{Sp}(y_3, y_4))\) is not a line is less than or equal to \(2\epsilon\).

For a collection \((2.2.14.1)\) in \(\left(\mathcal{L}_-^{(2)}\right)_{\mathcal{F}-\text{good}}\) we have
\[
f'(x) = Sp(f(y_1), f(y_2)) \cap Sp(f(y_3), f(y_4)).
\]
Now by Lemma \(2.2.11\) we have
\[
\varphi_{\left(\mathcal{L}_-^{(2)}\right)^2}(\left(\mathcal{L}_-^{(2)}\right)^2_{\mathcal{F}-\text{good}}) \geq 1 - 2A(q, n, \epsilon) - 2\frac{q^2(q + 1)^2}{q^{n+1} - q}.
\]

To get the lemma note that \(F = F'\) on
\[
\left(\mathcal{L}_-^{(2)}\right)^2_{\mathcal{F}-\text{good}} \cap \left(\mathcal{L}_-^{(2)}\right)^2_{\mathcal{F'}-\text{good}}
\]
and by the preceding observations we have
\[
\varphi_{\left(\mathcal{L}_-^{(2)}\right)^2}(\left(\mathcal{L}_-^{(2)}\right)^2_{\mathcal{F}-\text{good}} \cap \left(\mathcal{L}_-^{(2)}\right)^2_{\mathcal{F'}-\text{good}}) \geq 1 - 2\epsilon - 2A(q, n, \epsilon) - 2\frac{q^2(q + 1)^2}{q^{n+1} - q}.
\]

\[\square\]

2.2.15. Fix a point \(x \in P_1\). Let us calculate a lower bound for the proportion of elements \((L, y_1, y_2) \in \mathcal{L}_x^{(2)}\) for which the following conditions hold:
(i) \(f(y_1) = f'(y_1)\) and \(f(y_2) = f'(y_2)\).
(ii) \((L, y_1, y_2) \in \mathcal{L}_x^{(2)}\) is in the image of the projection map
\[
\chi : \mathcal{S}_{f'(x)} \to \mathcal{L}_x^{(2)}
\]
sending \(((L_1, y_1, y_2), (L_2, y_3, y_4))\) to \((L_1, y_1, y_2)\).

For \(j = 1, 2\) the map
\[
\mathcal{L}_x^{(2)} \to P_1 - \{x\}, \quad (L, y_1, y_2) \mapsto y_j
\]
is surjective with constant fiber size \(q - 1\). It follows from this and Lemma \(2.2.14\) that the number of \((L, y_1, y_2)\) for which (i) fails is bounded above by
\[
2(q - 1) \cdot \frac{\#P_1}{\#P_1 - 1} \cdot \left(2\epsilon + 2A(q, n, \epsilon) + 2\frac{q^2(q + 1)^2}{q^{n+1} - q}\right).
\]

As for condition (ii), note that the complement of the image of \(\chi\) is at most of size
\[
\frac{\#\mathcal{L}_x^{(2)} - \#\mathcal{S}_{f'(x)}}{\#\mathcal{L}_x^{(2)}}
\]

Therefore using Lemma \(2.2.11\) we find that the proportion of elements of \(\mathcal{L}_x^{(2)}\) for which (i) or (ii) fails is bounded above by \(B(q, n, \epsilon)\).

Now if \((L, y_1, y_2) \in \mathcal{L}_x^{(2)}\) satisfies (i) and (ii), then it follows that \(f'(x), f'(y_1), f'(y_2) \in P_2\) are collinear. We summarize this in the following lemma:
Lemma 2.2.16. We have

\[ \varphi_{L^2} \left( \{ (L, y_1, y_2) \in L^2 \mid (f'(x), f'(y_1), f'(y_2)) \text{ are collinear} \} \right) \geq 1 - B(q, n, \epsilon). \]

Proof. This follows from the preceding discussion. \qed

2.2.17. We will use Lemma 2.2.16 to show that \( f' \) takes lines to lines and that \( f' \) is injective. For this we will use Desargues’s theorem, which is a consequence of Pappus’s axiom, and the notion of Desargues configurations.

Recall that a Desargues configuration is a collection of 10 points and 10 lines such that any line contains exactly three of the points and exactly three lines pass through each point.

Desargues’s theorem can be stated as follows. Consider two collections of three points \( \{A, B, C\} \) and \( \{D, E, F\} \), usually thought of as the vertices of two triangles, and consider the 9 lines

\[ \{AB, AC, BC, DE, DF, EF, AD, BE, CF\}. \]

Theorem 2.2.18 (Desargues). If the three lines \( AD, BE, \) and \( CF \) meet in a common point \( G \) then the three intersection points

\[ H := AB \cap DE, \quad I := AC \cap DF, \quad J := BC \cap EF, \]

are collinear, and conversely if these three points are collinear then the lines \( AD, BE, \) and \( CF \) meet at a common point.

In other words, the ten points and ten lines obtained in this way form a Desargues configuration.

2.2.19. To show that \( f' \) takes lines to lines, it therefore suffices to show that for any three collinear points \( (x, y, t) \) there exists a Desargues configuration as above with \( (H, I, J) = (x, y, t) \) such that \( f' \) takes all the lines other than \( Sp(x, y) \) to lines in \( P_2 \). For then, by Desargues’s theorem, it follows that \( (f'(x), f'(y), f'(t)) \) are collinear. We will produce such a Desargues configuration using basic linear algebra. We fix the collinear points \( \{x, y, t\} \) in what follows.

Notation 2.2.20. Let \( V_1 \) be an \( F \)-vector space with \( PV_1 = P_1 \), and choose vectors \( a, b \in V_1 \) such that \( (x, y, t) \) is given by the three elements \( \{a, b, a - b\} \in V_1 \).

Construction 2.2.21. For \( c, d \in V_1 \), consider the ordered set of five elements \( \{0, a, b, c, d\} \).

Let \( \mathcal{P}(c, d) \) denote the set of points of \( P_1 \) given by the differences of two elements

\[ \mathcal{P}(c, d) := \{[a], [b], [c], [d], [b - a], [c - a], [d - a], [c - b], [d - b], [c - d]\}, \]

and let \( \mathcal{M}(c, d) \) denote the set of lines obtained by taking for each subset of three elements \( T \subset \{0, a, b, c, d\} \) the linear span \( L_T \) of differences of elements of \( T \).

Lemma 2.2.22. As long as the set of four elements \( \{a, b, c, d\} \) are linearly independent the ten points and ten lines \( (\mathcal{P}(c, d), \mathcal{M}(c, d)) \) form a Desargues configuration.

Proof. The proof is routine linear algebra. \qed
Fig. 2.2.1 shows a typical configuration generated by Construction 2.2.21 (on a true set of randomly generated data). The bold line shows the collinear points $x, y,$ and $t,$ together with the auxiliary points given by the choices of $c$ and $d.$ Some of the lines naturally come in pairs, corresponding to the construction of the map $f'$ in Paragraph 2.2.13. (For example, the dotted line connecting $x$ to $d$ and $d - a$ and the dotted line connecting $x$ to $c$ and $c - a$ serve to define $f'(x)$, under the assumption that those two lines are mapped to lines under $f.$) The remaining solid lines complete the Desargues configuration. The two perspective triangles are shaded in gray. The center of perspectivity lies at $c - d,$ and the axis of perspectivity is the line spanned by $x, y,$ and $t.$

**Notation 2.2.23.** Let $W \subset V_1^{\times 2}$ be the subset of pairs $(c, d)$ such that the following conditions hold:

(i) The set of ten lines and ten points $(\mathcal{P}(c, d), \mathcal{M}(c, d))$ of Construction 2.2.21 is a Desargues configuration.

(ii) For all $P \in \mathcal{P}(c, d)$ not in $\{x, y, t\}$ we have $f(P) = f'(P)$.

(iii) The map $f'$ takes every line in $\mathcal{M}(c, d) \setminus \{Sp(x, y)\}$ to a line in $P_2.$

We can find a lower bound for the size of $W$ as follows. Recall the function $B$ from (2.2.0.2).

**Proposition 2.2.24.** We have

$$\wp_{V_1^{\times 2}}(W) \geq 1 - 9B(q, n, \epsilon) - q^{-n+3}.$$
In particular, if

$$9B(q, n, \epsilon) + q^{-n+3} < 1$$

then $W \neq \emptyset$.

**Proof.** Let $X \subset V_1^{\times 2}$ be the subset of pairs $(c, d)$ for which \{a, b, c, d\} are linearly independent. Letting $X^c$ denotes the complement of $X$ in $V_1^{\times 2}$, note that

$$\#X^c \leq q^{n+4}.$$  

For a subset $T \subset \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ of size 3 not equal to \{0, 1, 2\} we have a map

$$\pi_T : X \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(2)$$

sending $(c, d)$ to the linear span of differences of elements of $T \subset \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\} \simeq \{0, a, b, c, d\}$, with the two points defined by the differences of the first and last element, and second and last element of $T$.

If $T$ meets \{0, 1, 2\} in two elements, so that one of the points \{x, y, t\} lies on $\pi_T(c, d)$ for any $(c, d)$, then $\pi_T$ surjects onto $\mathcal{L}(2)$ for some $z \in \{x, y, t\}$ with constant fiber size, and if $T$ meets \{0, 1, 2\} in one element then $\pi_T$ is surjective onto $\mathcal{L}(2)$ with constant fiber size.

Combining this with Lemma 2.2.14 and the discussion in Paragraph 2.2.15 it follows that if $X^T \subset X$ is the set of pairs $(c, d)$ such that the linear span of differences of elements of $T$ is taken to a line in $P_2$ under $f'$ and such that $f' = f$ on the points of this line corresponding to elements of $\mathcal{P} - \{x, y, t\}$, then

$$\varphi_X(X^T) \geq 1 - B(q, n, \epsilon).$$

Note that

$$\cap_T X^T = W,$$

and since there are nine choices of $T$ we find that

$$\varphi_X(W) \geq 1 - 9B(q, n, \epsilon).$$

Combining this with our estimate for $X^c$ we find that

$$\varphi_{V_1^{\times 2}}(W) \geq 1 - 9B(q, n, \epsilon) - q^{-n+3},$$

as desired. \hfill \Box

2.2.25. We are now ready to give the proof of Theorem 2.2.1

**Proof of Theorem 2.2.1** We let $f'$ be the map defined in Paragraph 2.2.13. We refer in this proof to the diagram in Fig. 2.2.1.

Assuming the inequality of Proposition 2.2.24, we can choose $(c, d) \in W$, and let $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{M}) = (\mathcal{P}(c, d), \mathcal{M}(c, d))$ be the resulting Desargues configuration. We have that all the lines in $\mathcal{M}$, except possibly for $(x, y, t)$, are taken to lines in $P_2$ under $f'$. Thus, in Fig. 2.2.1 the dotted, dashed, dot-dashed, and non-bold solid lines are all taken to lines under $f'$. On the other hand, the images of the dotted lines intersect at $f'(x)$, the images of the dashed lines intersect at $f'(y)$, and the images of the dot-dashed lines intersect at $f'(t)$. By Desargues theorem, $f'(x)$, $f'(y)$, and $f'(t)$ are collinear and distinct, lying on the axis of perspectivity for the image Desargues configuration. Note that this also implies that $f'$ is injective. \hfill \Box
3. **Divisorial structures and definable linear systems**

3.1. **Divisorial structures.** In this section we introduce the key structure that will ultimately be the subject of our main reconstruction theorem. Recall that, given a Zariski topological space $Z$, an effective divisor is a formal finite sum $\sum a_i x_i$, where each $x_i \in X$ is a point of codimension 1 and each $a_i$ is positive. We denote the set of effective divisors on $Z$ by $\text{Eff}(Z)$. When $X$ is a scheme, we will write $\text{Eff}(X)$ for $\text{Eff}(|X|)$.

**Definition 3.1.1.** An absolute variety is a scheme $X$ such that the following conditions hold:

(i) $X$ is integral and $\kappa_X := \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$ is a field.

(ii) The canonical morphism $X \to \text{Spec}(\kappa_X)$ is separated, of finite type, and has integral geometric fibers.

An absolute variety is polarizable if $X$ admits an ample invertible sheaf.

**Remark 3.1.2.** In what follows we refer to $\kappa_X$ as the constant field of $X$.

**Definition 3.1.3.** A normal separated $k$-scheme $X$ is divisorially proper over $k$ if for any reflexive sheaf $L$ of rank 1 we have that $\Gamma(X, L)$ is finite-dimensional over $k$.

**Lemma 3.1.4.** If a $k$-scheme $X$ is normal, separated, and divisorially proper over $k$ and $U \subset X$ is an open subscheme such that $\text{codim}(X \setminus U \subset X) \geq 2$ at every point, then $U$ is also divisorially proper over $k$.

**Proof.** Any reflexive sheaf $L$ of rank 1 on $U$ is the restriction of a reflexive sheaf $L'$ of rank 1 on $X$, and Krull’s theorem tells us that the restriction map

$$\Gamma(X, L') \to \Gamma(U, L)$$

is an isomorphism of $k$-vector spaces. □

**Definition 3.1.5.** A absolute variety $X$ is definable if it is normal and divisorially proper over $\Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$.

Write $\mathcal{V}_{\text{Var}}$ for the category whose objects are absolute varieties and whose morphisms are open immersions $f : X \to Y$ such that $Y \setminus f(X)$ has codimension at least 2 in $Y$ at every point. We will write $\mathcal{D}_{\text{ef}} \subset \mathcal{V}_{\text{Var}}$ for the full subcategory of definable schemes.

**Definition 3.1.6.** A divisorial structure is a pair $(Z, \Lambda)$ with $Z$ a Zariski topological space and $\Lambda$ a congruence relation on the monoid $\text{Eff}(Z)$.

**Definition 3.1.7** (Restriction of a divisorial structure). Suppose $t := (Z, \Lambda)$ is a divisorial structure. Given an open subset $U \subset Z$, the restriction of $t$ to $U$, denoted $t|_U$, is the divisorial structure $(U, \Lambda_{\text{Eff}(U)})$, where $\Lambda_{\text{Eff}(U)}$ is the induced relation on the quotient monoid $\text{Eff}(X) \to \text{Eff}(U)$.

In other words, if we let $\text{Eff}(X) \to Q$ denote the quotient by $\Lambda$, we define the congruence relation on $\text{Eff}(U)$ by forming the pushout

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Eff}(X) & \longrightarrow & Q \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\text{Eff}(U) & \longrightarrow & Q_U
\end{array}$$
in the category of commutative integral monoids.

Alternatively, recall that the condition that an equivalence relation \( \Lambda \subset \text{Eff}(Z) \times \text{Eff}(Z) \) is a congruence relation is equivalent to the condition that \( \Lambda \) is a submonoid. The congruence relation on \( \text{Eff}(U) \) induced by \( \Lambda \) is simply the image of \( \Lambda \) under the surjective map

\[
\text{Eff}(Z) \times \text{Eff}(Z) \to \text{Eff}(U) \times \text{Eff}(U).
\]

**Definition 3.1.8 (Morphisms of divisorial structures).** A morphism of divisorial structures

\[
(Z, \Lambda) \to (Z', \Lambda')
\]

is an open immersion of topological spaces \( f : Z \to Z' \) such that

\[
\text{Eff}(f) : \text{Eff}(Z) \to \text{Eff}(Z')
\]

is a bijection and

\[
(\text{Eff}(f) \times \text{Eff}(f))(\Lambda) = \Lambda'.
\]

**Notation 3.1.9.** We will write \( \mathcal{T} \) for the category of divisorial structures.

**Definition 3.1.10.** The divisorial structure of an integral scheme \( X \) is the pair

\[
\tau(X) := (|X|, \Lambda_X),
\]

where \( |X| \) is the underlying Zariski topological space of \( X \) and

\[
\Lambda_X \subset \text{Eff}(X) \times \text{Eff}(X)
\]

is the rational equivalence relation on effective divisors.

**Remark 3.1.11.** The divisorial structure of an integral scheme \( X \) can be obtained from the data of the triple

\[
(|X|, \text{Cl}(X), c : X^{(1)} \to \text{Cl}(X)).
\]

Indeed by the universal property of a free monoid on a set giving the map \( c \) is equivalent to giving a map of monoids

\[
\text{Eff}(X) \to \text{Cl}(X),
\]

and the congruence relation defined by this map is precisely the equivalence relation given by rational equivalence. Conversely, from the equivalence relation on \( \text{Eff}(X) \) we obtain the class group as the group associated to the quotient of \( \text{Eff}(X) \) by the congruence relation and the map \( c \) is induced by the natural map \( X^{(1)} \to \text{Eff}(X) \).

Formation of the divisorial structures defines a diagram of categories

\[
(3.1.11.1) \quad \text{Def} \subset \text{Var} \xrightarrow{\tau} \mathcal{T}
\]

The main result of this paper is the following.

**Theorem 3.1.12.** The functor \( \tau|_{\text{Def}} \) is fully faithful.

The proof of Theorem 3.1.12 will be given in Section 4 after some preliminary foundational work.
3.2. Some remarks on divisors. In this section we gather a few facts about divisors on normal varieties. Our main purpose is to demonstrate that some basic features of such varieties – such as the maximal factorial open subscheme – can be characterized purely in terms of the divisorial structure.

Fix a field $k$. For a normal irreducible separated $k$-scheme $X$ let

$$q : \text{Eff}(X) \to \overline{\text{Eff}}(X)$$

denote the quotient monoid given by rational equivalence of divisors, so that $\overline{\text{Eff}}(X)$ is the image of $\text{Eff}(X)$ in $\text{Cl}(X)$. Given a divisor $D$ on $X$, upon identifying $|D|$ with the subset of effective divisors on $X$ that are linearly equivalent to $D$, we have a set-theoretic equality

$$|D| = q^{-1}(q(D)).$$

In particular, the linear system is defined as a set by the map $q$.

There is a reflexive sheaf of rank 1 canonically associated to $D$ that we will write $\mathcal{O}(D)$. Members of $|D|$ are in bijection with sections $\mathcal{O} \to \mathcal{O}(D)$ in the usual way. Recall that $D$ is Cartier if and only if $\mathcal{O}(D)$ is an invertible sheaf on $X$.

**Lemma 3.2.1.** Let $U \subset X$ be an open subscheme. Then the commutative diagram

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Eff}(X) & \longrightarrow & \overline{\text{Eff}}(X) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\text{Eff}(U) & \longrightarrow & \overline{\text{Eff}}(U)
\end{array}
$$

is a pushout diagram in the category of integral monoids.

**Proof.** If $E_1, E_2 \in \text{Eff}(U)$ are two classes mapping to the same class in $\overline{\text{Eff}}(U)$ then there exists a rational function $f \in \overline{\text{Eff}}(U)$ such that

$$\text{div}_U(f) = E_1 - E_2$$

in $\text{Div}(U)$. Then $\text{div}_X(f) \in \text{Div}(X)$ maps to $\text{div}_U(f)$ in $\text{Div}(U)$, so if we write $\text{div}_X(f)$ as

$$\tilde{E}_1 - \tilde{E}_2,$$

where the divisors $\tilde{E}_i$ are effective, then $\tilde{E}_i \in \text{Eff}(X)$ are rationally equivalent divisors mapping to the $E_i$. This shows that the equivalence relation on $\overline{\text{Eff}}(U)$ given by rational equivalence is the image of equivalence relation on $\text{Eff}(X)$ given by the projection $\text{Eff}(X) \to \overline{\text{Eff}}(X)$, which implies the lemma. \hfill $\square$

**Corollary 3.2.2.** If $X$ is an integral scheme and $U \subset X$ is an open subscheme then the divisorial structure $\tau(U)$ is canonically isomorphic to the restriction $\tau(X)|_U$ (see Definition 3.1.7).

**Proof.** The equivalence relation on $\text{Eff}(X)$ is the relation defined by the quotient map $\text{Eff}(X) \to \overline{\text{Eff}}(X)$. By Lemma 3.2.1 we see that the induced relation on $\tau(X)|_U$ is precisely the relation for $\tau(U)$, giving the desired result. \hfill $\square$

**Definition 3.2.3.** Given an excellent scheme $X$, the Cartier locus of $X$ is the largest open subscheme $U \subset X$ that is factorial (i.e., such that every Weil divisor on $U$ is Cartier).
Proposition 3.2.4. Let $X$ be a normal irreducible quasi-compact separated scheme and let $D \subset X$ be a divisor.

(1) If $|D|$ is basepoint free then $D$ is Cartier.
(2) If $D$ is ample then $D$ is $Q$-Cartier.

Proof. Since $X$ is quasi-compact, if $D$ is ample we know that $|nD|$ is basepoint free for some $n$. Thus it suffices to prove the first statement. Given a point $x \in X$, choose $E \in |D|$ such that $x \notin E$. This gives some section $s : \mathcal{O} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(D)_x$ is an isomorphism in codimension 1 (for otherwise $E$ would be supported at $x$). Since $\mathcal{O}(D)$ is reflexive, it follows that $s$ is an isomorphism, whence $\mathcal{O}(D)$ is invertible in a neighborhood of $x$. Since this holds at any $x \in X$, we conclude that $\mathcal{O}(D)$ is invertible, as desired.

Corollary 3.2.5. A normal irreducible separated scheme $X$ is factorial if and only if it is covered by open subschemes $U \subset X$ with the property that every divisor class on $U$ is basepoint free.

Proof. If $X$ is factorial, then any affine open covering has the desired property, since any Cartier divisor on an affine scheme is basepoint free. On the other hand, if $X$ admits such a covering, then we know that every divisor class on $X$ is locally Cartier, whence it is Cartier.

Proposition 3.2.6. If $X$ is a normal $k$-variety then we can characterize the Cartier locus of $X$ as the union of all open subsets $U \subset X$ such that every divisor class on $U$ is basepoint free.

Proof. This is an immediately consequence of Corollary 3.2.5.

The preceding discussion implies that various properties of a scheme $X$ and its divisors can be read off from the divisorial structure. We summarize this in the following.

Proposition 3.2.7. Let $X$ be a normal separated quasi-compact and irreducible scheme and let

$$\tau(X) = (|X|, \Lambda_X)$$

be the associated divisorial structure. Then

(i) the property that $D \in \text{Eff}(X)$ has basepoint free linear system $|D|$ depends only on $\tau(X)$;

(ii) the property that $X$ is factorial depends only on $\tau(X)$;

(iii) the Cartier locus of $X$ depends only on $\tau(X)$;

(iv) the condition that a divisor $D$ is ample depends only on $\tau(X)$.

Proof. Let

$$q : \text{Eff}(X) \rightarrow \text{Eff}(X)$$

denote the quotient map defined by $\Lambda_X$, so that for $D \in \text{Eff}(X)$ we have $|D| = q^{-1}q(D)$.

The condition that $|D|$ is base point free is the statement that for every $x \in |X|$ there exists $E \in |D|$ such that $x \notin E$. Evidently this depends only on $\tau(X)$, proving (i).

Likewise the condition that a divisor $D$ is ample is the statement that the open sets defined by elements of $|nD|$ for $n \geq 0$ give a base for the topology on $|X|$. Again this clearly only depends on $\tau(X)$, proving (iv).
Statement (ii) follows from Corollary \ref{cor:3.2.5} and Lemma \ref{lem:3.2.1} which implies that the divisorial structure $\tau(U)$ for an open subset $U \subset X$ is determined by $|U| \subset |X|$ and $\tau(X)$.

Finally (iii) follows from Proposition \ref{prop:3.2.6}.

\section*{3.2.8.} Our proof of Theorem \ref{thm:3.1.12} will ultimately rely on reducing to the projective case. For the remainder of this section, we record some results about polarizations that we will need later.

Given a definable scheme $X$, write $\text{Abpf}(X) \subset \text{Eff}(X)$ for the (possibly empty) submonoid of ample basepoint free effective divisors $D$ and $\text{Abpfi}(X) \subset \text{Abpf}(X)$ for the submonoid of divisors whose associated linear system defines an injective map $\nu_D : X \hookrightarrow |D|^\vee$.

\begin{lemma} \label{lem:3.2.9} Suppose given two definable schemes $X$ and $Y$ and an isomorphism $\varphi : \tau(X) \to \tau(Y)$. If $X$ is polarizable and factorial then so is $Y$ and $\varphi$ induces a commutative diagram of monoids

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Abpf}(X) & \longrightarrow & \text{Eff}(X) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \uparrow \\
\text{Abpf}(Y) & \longrightarrow & \text{Eff}(Y)
\end{array}
\]

in which the vertical arrows are isomorphisms. If the constant fields of $X$ and $Y$ are algebraically closed, then the isomorphism $\text{Abpf}(X) \to \text{Abpf}(Y)$ restricts to an isomorphism $\text{Abpfi}(X) \to \text{Abpfi}(Y)$ so we obtain a commutative diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Abpfi}(X) & \longrightarrow & \text{Abpfi}(X) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\text{Abpfi}(Y) & \longrightarrow & \text{Abpfi}(Y)
\end{array}
\]

\end{lemma}

\begin{proof} Since $X$ is factorial all divisors are Cartier divisors. By Proposition \ref{prop:3.2.7}, $Y$ is also factorial and polarizable, and the submonoid $\text{Abpf}$ is preserved, as claimed. Finally, when $\kappa_X$ and $\kappa_Y$ are algebraically closed, one can tell if $\nu_D$ is injective by seeing if the sets $H_x = \{ E \in |D| : x \in E \}$ are distinct for distinct closed points $x$; thus, $\text{Abpfi}(X)$, resp. $\text{Abpfi}(Y)$, is determined by $\tau(X)$, resp. $\tau(Y)$. (Note that it is not yet clear if $\kappa_X$ is determined by $\tau(X)$. This will be discussed in Section \ref{sec:2.1} and Section \ref{sec:4} below.)
\end{proof}

\begin{definition} \label{def:3.2.10} Suppose $X$ is a definable scheme. An open subscheme $U \subset X$ will be called \textit{essential} if $\text{codim}(X \setminus U \subset X) \geq 2$, $U$ is factorial, and $U$ is polarizable.

Note that if $U \subset X$ is essential, then the natural restriction map $\text{Eff}(X) \to \text{Eff}(U)$ is an isomorphism of monoids.
\end{definition}

\begin{lemma} \label{lem:3.2.11} If $X$ is a normal, separated, quasi-compact $k$-scheme then there is an open subscheme $U \subset X$ such that $\text{codim}(X \setminus U \subset X) \geq 2$ and $U$ is quasi-projective. In particular, any definable scheme $X$ contains an essential open subset $U \subset X$.
\end{lemma}
Proof. Working one connected component at a time, we may assume that $X$ is irreducible. By Chow’s lemma, there is a proper birational morphism $\pi : \tilde{X} \to X$ with $\tilde{X}$ quasi-projective. Since $X$ is normal, $\pi$ is an isomorphism in codimension 1. Thus, $\tilde{X}$ and $X$ have a common open subset $U$ whose complement in $X$ has codimension at least 2, and which is quasi-projective. Passing to the Cartier locus yields the second statement. □

Lemma 3.2.12. Suppose $X$ and $Y$ are definable schemes and $\varphi : \tau(X) \to \tau(Y)$ is an isomorphism of divisorial structures. If $U \subset X$ is an essential open subset then $\varphi(U) \subset Y$ is an essential open subset and there is an induced isomorphism $\tau(U) \cong \tau(\varphi(U))$.

Proof. First note that since $\varphi$ induces a homeomorphism $|X| \to |Y|$, we have that $\text{codim}(X \setminus Y \subset X) = \text{codim}(Y \setminus \varphi(U) \subset Y)$. In particular, if $U$ is definable then so is $\varphi(U)$ by Lemma 3.1.4. By Definition 3.1.7, we have isomorphisms

$$\tau(X)|_U \cong \tau(U)$$

and

$$\tau(Y)|_{\varphi(U)} \cong \tau(\varphi(U)).$$

On the other hand, $\varphi$ induces an isomorphism $\tau(X)|_U \cong \tau(Y)|_{\varphi(U)}$. The result thus follows from Lemma 3.2.9. □

3.3. Definable subspaces in linear systems. Fix a definable absolute variety $X$ with infinite constant field. Let $P := |D|$ be the linear system associated to an effective divisor $D$.

Definition 3.3.1. A subspace $V \subset P$ is definable if there is a subset $Z \subset X$ such that

$$V = V(Z) := \{ E \in P \mid Z \subset E \}.$$ 

Remark 3.3.2. If $Z \subset X$ is a subset and $Z' \subset X$ is the closure of $Z$ then $V(Z) = V(Z')$. When considering definable subspaces it therefore suffices to consider subspaces defined by closed subsets.

Remark 3.3.3. Note that $V(Z)$ is the projective space associated to the kernel of the restriction map

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(D)) \to H^0(Z_{\text{red}}, \mathcal{O}_X(D)|_{Z_{\text{red}}}),$$

where we write $Z_{\text{red}} \subset X$ for the reduced subscheme associated to the subspace $Z \subset |X|$.

Lemma 3.3.4. Suppose $V = V(Z)$ is a non-empty definable subset of a basepoint free linear system $P$ on $X$. Then there is an ascending chain of closed subsets

$$Z = Z_1 \subsetneq \cdots \subsetneq Z_n$$

such that the induced chain

$$V(Z) = V(Z_1) \supsetneq \cdots \supsetneq V(Z_n)$$

is a full flag of linear subspaces ending in a point.
Proof. By induction, it suffices to produce $Z_2 \supset Z_1 = Z$ such that $V(Z_2) \subsetneq V(Z_1)$ has codimension 1.

Since $P$ is base point free we have a morphism $\pi : X \to \mathbb{P}^r$, where $\mathbb{P}^r$ denotes the dual projective space of $P$. Given a subset $Z \subset X$ the space $V(Z)$ is the same as the space $V(\langle \pi(Z) \rangle)$, the space of hyperplanes containing the linear span of $\pi(Z)$ in $\mathbb{P}^r$. If $\langle \pi(Z) \rangle = \mathbb{P}^r$ then $V(Z) = \emptyset$, contrary to our assumption. Thus, there must be a point $x \in X \setminus \pi^{-1}(\langle \pi(Z) \rangle)$ (for if $X = \pi^{-1}(\langle \pi(Z) \rangle)$ then $\pi$ factors through a morphism $\pi' : X \to \langle \pi(Z) \rangle \subset \mathbb{P}^r$ which implies that $\langle \pi(Z) \rangle = \mathbb{P}^r$).

We claim that we can find a linear space $L \subset \mathbb{P}^r$ containing $\langle \pi(Z) \rangle$ such that the space of hyperplanes containing $L$ has codimension 1 in the space of hyperplanes containing $Z$ and $\pi^{-1}(L)$ has nonempty intersection with $X \setminus \pi^{-1}(\langle \pi(Z) \rangle)$. This will conclude the proof. Indeed setting $Z_2 = \pi^{-1}(L)$ gives $V(Z_2) \subsetneq V(Z_1)$ of codimension 1, as desired.

To verify the claim, note that since the space parametrizing such $L \supset \langle \pi(Z) \rangle$ is rational and $k$ is infinite, it suffices to verify the claim after base changing to an algebraic closure of $k$. We may therefore assume that we have a $k$-point $x \in X \setminus \pi^{-1}(\pi(Z))$. In this case we have

$$\dim\langle Z \cup \{x\} \rangle = \dim(Z) + 1.$$ 

Since the linear system $P$ is base point free it follows that $V(Z \cup \{x\}) \subsetneq V(Z)$ has codimension 1.

Corollary 3.3.5. The dimension of $P$ is equal to one more than the length of a maximal chain of definable subsets.

Proof. Take $Z = \emptyset$ in Lemma 3.3.4.

Observation 3.3.6. There is a subtle point in the proof of Lemma 3.3.4: we are not assuming that $\pi^{-1}(L)$ is reduced. However, we are assuming that

$$\pi^{-1}(L) \cap (X \setminus \pi^{-1}(\pi(Z))) \neq \emptyset,$$

so that the linear span must grow, and thus the topological condition suffices to reduce the size of the space. Since the space of sections vanishing set-theoretically on a subscheme $Y$ (i.e., $V(Y_{\text{red}})$) is possibly larger than the space vanishing on the scheme $Y$ (i.e., $V(Y)$), we see that set-theoretic vanishing on $\pi^{-1}(L) \cap X$ must be a codimension 1 condition (since the same is true for scheme-theoretic vanishing along $\pi^{-1}(L) \cap X$, and the spaces are already set-theoretically different because $\pi^{-1}(L) \cap (X \setminus \pi^{-1}(\pi(Z))) \neq \emptyset$).

Corollary 3.3.7. Given a basepoint free linear system $P$ on $X$, the definable lines in $P$ are precisely those definable subsets with more than one element that are minimal with respect to inclusions of definable subsets.

Proof. By Lemma 3.3.4, any definable set of higher dimension contains a definable line.

Lemma 3.3.8. Let $\ell \subset P(V)$ be a line corresponding to a two-dimensional subspace $T \subset V$. Let $Z' \subset X$ be the maximal reduced closed subscheme of the intersection of the zero-loci of elements of $T$. Then $\ell$ is definable if and only if the dimension of the kernel

$$K := \ker(H^0(X, \mathcal{L}) \to H^0(Z', \mathcal{L}|_{Z'}))$$
is equal to 2.

Proof. First suppose \( \ell \) is definable, so we can write \( \ell = V(Z) \) for some closed subset \( Z \subset |X| \), which we view as a subscheme with the reduced structure. Then by definition \( \ell \) is the projective subspace of \( PV \) associated to the kernel of the map

\[
H^0(X, \mathcal{L}) \to H^0(Z, \mathcal{L}|_Z),
\]

which must therefore equal \( T \). In particular, we have \( Z \subset Z' \), which implies that

\[
T \subset K \subset \ker(H^0(X, \mathcal{L}) \to H^0(Z, \mathcal{L}|_Z)).
\]

It follows that \( K = T \), and, in particular, \( K \) has dimension 2.

Conversely, if \( K \) has dimension 2 then we have \( T = K \) and \( \ell = V(Z') \). \( \square \)

Lemma 3.3.9. Suppose \( P(V) \) is a basepoint free linear system on \( X \). Let \( F_1, F_2 \in V \) be two linearly independent vectors with zero loci \( Z_1 \) and \( Z_2 \). Assume that

1. \( Z_1 \) is reduced;
2. the natural map \( H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \to H^0(Z_1, \mathcal{O}_{Z_1}) \) is an isomorphism;
3. the intersection \( Z := Z_1 \cap Z_2 \) is reduced and does not contain any components of the \( Z_i \).

Then the line in \( P(V) \) spanned by \( F_1 \) and \( F_2 \) is definable.

Proof. We have short exact sequences

\[
0 \to \mathcal{O}_X \to \mathcal{L} \to \mathcal{L}|_{Z_1} \to 0,
\]

and

\[
0 \to \mathcal{O}_{Z_1} \to \mathcal{L}|_{Z_1} \to \mathcal{L}|_Z \to 0,
\]

where the second sequence is exact because \( Z_1 \) is reduced and \( Z \) does not contain any components of \( Z_1 \). From these sequences we see that if \( K \) denotes the kernel of the map

\[
H^0(X, \mathcal{L}) \to H^0(Z, \mathcal{L}|_Z)
\]

then there is a short exact sequence

\[
0 \to k \cdot F_2 \to K \to H^0(Z_1, \mathcal{O}_{Z_1}).
\]

By assumption (2) the right term of this sequence is 1-dimensional, and since \( K \) contains the span of \( F_1 \) and \( F_2 \) it follows that \( K \) is 2-dimensional. The result therefore follows from Lemma 3.3.8. \( \square \)

Proposition 3.3.10. Let \( \mathcal{O}_X(1) \) be a very ample invertible sheaf on \( X \) with associated linear system \( P \). Let \( j : X \hookrightarrow \overline{X} \) be the compatification of \( X \) provided by the given projective imbedding.

(i) Let \( V \subset \text{Gr}(1, P)(k) \) be the subset of lines \( \ell \) spanned by elements \( D \) and \( E \) for which \( D \) is geometrically reduced, \( E \) is geometrically integral, the intersection \( B := E \cap D \subset \overline{X} \) is geometrically reduced and does not contain any components of \( D \) or \( E \), and the inclusions

\[
D \cap X \hookrightarrow D, \ E \cap X \hookrightarrow E, \ B \cap X \hookrightarrow B
\]

are all schematically dense. Then \( V \) is the \( k \)-points of a dense Zariski open subset of \( \text{Gr}(1, P) \) and every element of \( V \) is definable.
(ii) If \( D \in |\mathcal{O}_X(1)| = P \) is a geometrically reduced divisor in \( X \) for which \( D \cap X \subset D \) is dense, then \( D \) lies in the sweep of the maximal Zariski open subset of the definable locus in \( \text{Gr}(1, P) \).

Proof. For \( D \) and \( E \) as in (i) it follows from Lemma 3.3.9 that the span of \( D \) and \( E \) is a definable line. Furthermore, note that the conditions on \( D \) and \( E \) are both open conditions. Therefore to prove (i) it suffices to show that \( V \) is nonempty, which follows from Bertini’s theorem [9, 3.4.10 and 3.4.14].

In fact, given geometrically reduced \( D \) with \( D \cap X \subset D \) dense, the set of \( E \) such that \((D, E)\) satisfy the conditions in (ii) is open and nonempty by [9, 3.4.14]. From this statement (ii) also follows. \( \square \)

Example 3.3.11. In general the set of definable lines in \( \text{Gr}(1, P) \) is not open. An explicit example is the following.

Consider three \( k \)-points \( A, B, C \in \mathbb{P}^2 \), say \( A = [0 : 0 : 1] \), \( B = [0 : 1 : 0] \), and \( C = [1 : 0 : 0] \). For a line \( L \subset \mathbb{P}^2 \) passing through \( A \) set

\[
T_L := \{ F \in H^0(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(2)) \mid V(F) \text{ passes through } A, B, C \text{ and is tangent to } L \text{ at } A \}.
\]

Concretely if \( X, Y, \) and \( Z \) are the coordinates on \( \mathbb{P}^2 \) and \( L \) is given by

\[
\alpha X + \beta Y = 0,
\]

then \( T_L \) is given by

\[
T_L = \{ aXY + b(\alpha X + \beta Y)Z \mid a, b \in \mathbb{F} \}.
\]

In particular, \( T_L \) gives a line \( \ell_L \) in \( \mathbb{P}^2 \).

If \( \alpha \) and \( \beta \) are nonzero then \( L \) does not pass through \( B \) and \( C \) and the set-theoretic base locus of \( T_L \) is equal to \( \{ A, B, C \} \) and the space of degree two polynomials passing through these three points has dimension 3. Therefore for such \( L \) the line \( \ell_L \) is not definable.

However, for \( L \) the lines \( X = 0 \) or \( Y = 0 \) the line \( \ell_L \) is definable. Indeed in this case the set-theoretic base locus of \( \ell_L \) is given by the union of the line \( L \) together with a third point not on the line, from which one sees that \( T_L \) is definable.

Letting \( \alpha \) and \( \beta \) vary we obtain a 1-parameter family of lines \( \mathbb{P}^1 \simeq \Sigma \subset \text{Gr}(1, |\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(2)|) \) whose general member is not definable but with two points giving definable lines. It follows that the definable locus is not open in this case.

Summary 3.3.12. Let us summarize the main consequences of the results in this section. Starting with a projective normal geometrically integral scheme \( X \) over an infinite field \( k \) we can consider the associated divisorial structure \( \tau(X) = (|X|, \Lambda_X) \).

From the divisorial structure we can extract several key pieces of information.

(i) The basepoint free and ample effective divisors and their linear systems are determined by \( \tau(X) \). This was discussed in Proposition 3.2.7.

(ii) For an ample basepoint free linear system \( P \) the set of definable lines in \( P \) is by Corollary 3.3.7 characterized as those definable subsets with more than one element minimal with respect to inclusion. This set depends only on the divisorial structure.

(iii) If \( \dim(X) \geq 2 \) then for a very ample linear system \( P \) the set of definable lines contains a the \( k \)-points of a dense open subset of \( \text{Gr}(1, P) \).
4. The universal Torelli theorem

In this section we prove Theorem 3.1.12. Suppose $X$ and $Y$ are definable schemes of dimension at least 2 with infinite constant fields. We need to show that given an isomorphism $\varphi : \tau(X) \to \tau(Y)$, there is a unique isomorphism of schemes $f : X \to Y$ such that $\tau(f) = \varphi$.

4.1. Reduction to the quasi-projective case.

**Lemma 4.1.1.** If $X$ is a separated Noetherian scheme then for any point $x \in X$ we have that

$$\{x\} = \bigcap \{y\},$$

the intersection taken over all points $y \in X$ of codimension at most 1 such that $x \in \{y\}$.

**Proof.** By treating each component of $X$ separately and intersecting the final result, we may assume that $X$ is integral with function field $\kappa(X)$. Since $X$ is separated, the inclusion $x \in X$ is uniquely determined by the inclusion $\mathfrak{O}_{X,x} \subset \kappa(X)$. The points $y$ such that $\{x\} \subset \{y\}$ correspond to those points such that the local ring $\mathfrak{O}_{X,y}$ contains $\mathfrak{O}_{X,x}$, as subrings of $\kappa(X)$. Letting $I_y \subset \mathfrak{O}_{X,x}$ denote the ideal of $\{y\}$ in $\mathfrak{O}_{X,x}$ (i.e., the intersection $m_y \cap \mathfrak{O}_{X,x}$ in $\kappa(X)$), we see that we wish to prove that $m_x = \sqrt{\sum_i I_y}$ as $\mathfrak{O}_{X,x}$-modules. Writing $m_x = (\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_n)$, we see that $\{x\} = \cap Z(\alpha_i)$ in $|\text{Spec} \mathfrak{O}_{X,x}|$. By the Krull Hauptidealsatz, each $Z(\alpha_i)$ is a union of codimension 1 closed subschemes that contain $x$. Taking for $\{y_i\}$ the set of all codimension 1 points that occur among the $Z(\alpha_i)$, we have that $m_x = \sqrt{\sum_i I_{y_i}}$, as desired. \qed

**Lemma 4.1.2.** Suppose $f, g : |X| \to |Y|$ are homeomorphisms of the underlying spaces of two separated normal Noetherian schemes. Given an open subset $U \subset |X|$ containing all points of codimension 1, if $f|_U = g|_U$ then $f = g$.

**Proof.** By Lemma 4.1.1, we can characterize any point $x \in X$ as the unique generic point of an irreducible intersection of closures of codimension $\leq 1$ points. But $f$ and $g$ establish the same bijection on the sets of points of codimension $\leq 1$, and, since they are homeomorphisms, therefore the same bijections on the closures of those points. The result follows. \qed

**Lemma 4.1.3.** Suppose $X$ and $Y$ are normal separated Noetherian schemes, $U \subset X$ and $V \subset Y$ are dense open subschemes with complements of codimension at least 2. Suppose $f : |X| \to |Y|$ is a homeomorphism of Zariski topological spaces such that $f(U) = V$ and $f|_U$ is the underlying map of an isomorphism $\tilde{f}_U : U \to V$ of schemes. Then $\tilde{f}_U$ extends to a unique isomorphism of schemes $\tilde{f} : X \to Y$ whose underlying morphism of topological spaces is $f$.

**Proof.** Let us first show that $\tilde{f}_U$ extends to a morphism of schemes $\tilde{f} : X \to Y$. If $W_1, W_2 \subset X$ are two open subsets and $\tilde{f}_{W_i} : W_i \to Y$ ($i = 1, 2$) are morphisms of schemes such that $\tilde{f}_{W_i}$ and $\tilde{f}_{W_j}$ agree on $W_i \cap W_j$, then since $Y$ is separated the morphisms $\tilde{f}_{W_1}$ and $\tilde{f}_{W_2}$ agree on $W_1 \cap W_2$. To extend $\tilde{f}_U$ it therefore suffices to show that $\tilde{f}_U$ extends locally on $X$. In particular, by covering $X$ by open subsets of the form $\tilde{f}^{-1}(\text{Spec}(A))$ for affines $\text{Spec}(A) \subset Y$, we are reduced to proving the existence of an extension in
the case when $Y = \text{Spec}(A)$ is affine. In this case, to give a morphism of schemes $X \to \text{Spec} A$, it suffices to give a morphism of rings $A \to \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$. By Krull’s theorem, $\Gamma(U, \mathcal{O}_X) = \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$. Thus, the morphism $\tilde{f}_U : U \to \text{Spec} A$ extends uniquely to a morphism $\tilde{f} : X \to \text{Spec} A$, and we get the desired extension $\tilde{f}$.

Applying the same argument to the inverse of $f$, and using that $X$ is separated, we see that in fact $\tilde{f}$ is an isomorphism. In particular, its underlying map of topological spaces is a homeomorphism and agrees with $f$ on $|U|$. We conclude by Lemma 4.1.2 that $|\tilde{f}| = f$.

4.1.4. From this we get that in order to prove Theorem 3.1.12 it suffices to prove that $X$ is quasi-projective. Indeed by Lemma 3.2.12, there are essential open subsets $U \subset X$ and $V \subset Y$ such that $V = \varphi(U)$ and $\tau$ induces an isomorphism $\tau(U) \to \tau(V).$ If we know the result in the quasi-projective case then the homeomorphism $|U| \to |V|$ induced by $\varphi$ extends to an algebraic isomorphism $f_U : U \to V$ such that $\tau(f) = \varphi|_U$. By Lemma 4.1.3, $f$ extends uniquely to an isomorphism of schemes $f : X \to Y$ such that $\tau(f) = \varphi$.

4.2. The quasi-projective case.

4.2.1. For remainder of the proof we assume furthermore that $X$ is quasi-projective. Let $\mathcal{O}_X(1)$ denote a very ample invertible sheaf on $X$ and for $m \geq 1$ let

$$+ : |\mathcal{O}_X(1)|^m \to |\mathcal{O}_X(m)|$$

denote the addition map on divisors.

Lemma 4.2.2. For a general point $p$ of $|\mathcal{O}_X(1)|^m$ the point $+(p) \in |\mathcal{O}_X(m)|$ lies in the sweep of the maximal Zariski open subset of the set of definable lines in $\text{Gr}(1, |\mathcal{O}_X(1)|)$.

Proof. Let $\overline{X}$ be the projective closure of $X$ in the embedding given by $\mathcal{O}_X(1)$. Note that $\overline{X}$ is also geometrically integral. Indeed if $j : X \hookrightarrow \overline{X}$ is the inclusion then the map $\mathcal{O}_X \to j_*\mathcal{O}_X$ is injective, and remains injective after base field extension. Since $X$ is geometrically integral it follows that $\overline{X}$ is as well.

By Bertini’s theorem [9, 3.4.14], for a general choice of $p \in |\mathcal{O}_X(1)|^m = |\mathcal{O}_X(1)|^m$ the point $+p \in |\mathcal{O}_X(1)|$ satisfies the conditions on $D$ in Proposition 3.3.10(ii) and the result follows.

Lemma 4.2.3. Let $X$ be an integral scheme of dimension $d$ of finite type over $k$ and let $\mathcal{O}_X(1)$ be an ample invertible sheaf on $X$. Let $z \in X$ be a regular closed point. Then there exists an integer $m_0$ such that for every $m \geq m_0$ and any $d + 1$ general elements $D_1, \ldots, D_{d+1} \in |\mathcal{O}_X(m)|$ containing $z$ we have

$$\{z\} = |D_1| \cap |D_2| \cap \cdots \cap |D_{d+1}|.$$

Proof. Let

$$b : B \to X$$
denote the blowup of $z$, and let $\mathcal{L}$ be the ample invertible sheaf given by $b^*\mathcal{O}_X(1)(-E)$, where $E$ is the exceptional divisor. Then elements of $|\mathcal{L}^\otimes m|$ map to elements of $|\mathcal{O}_X(m)|$ which pass through $z$. Now choose $m_0$ such that $\mathcal{L}^\otimes m$ is very ample for $m \geq m_0$. Then by [13, 6.11(1)] we have that the intersection of $d + 1$ general elements of $|\mathcal{L}^\otimes m|$ is empty for $m \geq m_0$, and that general $D \in |\mathcal{L}^\otimes m|$ is irreducible.
Corollary 4.2.4. Let $X$ be an integral $k$-scheme and $\mathcal{O}_X(1)$ a very ample invertible sheaf on $X$. Given a regular closed point $z \in X$, we have that

\[(4.2.4.1) \quad \{z\} = \bigcap |D| \subset |X|,\]

the intersection taken over all irreducible divisors $D$ in $|\mathcal{O}_X(m)|$ for all $m$.

Proof. This follows from Lemma 4.2.3. \hfill \square

Proposition 4.2.5. Suppose $X$ and $Y$ are definable schemes of dimension at least 2 with infinite constant fields, and assume that $X$ is polarizable. Given an isomorphism $\varphi : \tau(X) \to \tau(Y)$, the associated homeomorphism $|X| \to |Y|$ extends to an isomorphism $X \to Y$.

Proof. Let $D \in \text{Abpf}(X)$ be a divisor with $\mathcal{O}_X(D) = \mathcal{O}_X(1)$ and let $\mathcal{O}_Y(1)$ denote $\mathcal{O}_Y(\varphi(D))$. After possibly taking a power of our choice of polarization, we may assume that $\mathcal{O}_X(1)$ and $\mathcal{O}_Y(1)$ are very ample. Note that we are not asserting that we can detect very ampleness from $\tau(X)$ and $\tau(Y)$, just that we know that such a multiple must exist, so we are free to choose one.

By Summary 3.3.12 (iii), for each $m > 0$ the sets of definable lines are dense in the Grassmannians of $|\mathcal{O}_X(m)|$ and $|\mathcal{O}_Y(m)|$, contain the points of dense Zariski opens, and thus by Theorem 2.1.5, there is an isomorphism $\sigma_m : \kappa_X \to \kappa_Y$ and a $\sigma$-linear isomorphism $\gamma_m : |\mathcal{O}_X(m)| \to |\mathcal{O}_Y(m)|$ that agrees with $\varphi$ on a Zariski dense open subscheme $U \subset |\mathcal{O}_X(m)|$.

Consider the diagram of addition maps

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
|\mathcal{O}_X(m)| & \longrightarrow & |\mathcal{O}_Y(m)| \\
+X & \uparrow & \uparrow +Y \\
|\mathcal{O}_X(1)|^{\times m} & \longrightarrow & |\mathcal{O}_Y(1)|^{\times m}.
\end{array}
$$

Since a general sum of divisors in $\mathcal{O}(1)$ lies in the sweep of the maximal open subset of the definable points by Lemma 4.2.2, we see that the associated diagram of schemes

\[(4.2.5.1) \quad \begin{array}{ccc}
|\mathcal{O}_X(m)| & \longrightarrow & |\mathcal{O}_Y(m)| \\
+X & \uparrow & \uparrow +Y \\
|\mathcal{O}_X(1)|^{\times m} & \longrightarrow & |\mathcal{O}_Y(1)|^{\times m}
\end{array}
\]

commutes over the $\kappa_X$-points of $|\mathcal{O}_X(1)|^{\times m}$. Here the scheme $|\mathcal{O}_X(1)|^{\times m}$ is the $m$-fold fiber product of the projective space $|\mathcal{O}_X(1)|$ with itself over $\kappa_X$, and $|\mathcal{O}_Y(1)|^{\times m}$ is defined similarly over $\kappa_Y$.

Lemma 4.2.6. The two isomorphisms of fields $\sigma_1, \sigma_m : \kappa_X \to \kappa_Y$ are equal.

Proof. Let $U_1 \subset |\mathcal{O}_X(1)|$ (resp. $U_m \subset |\mathcal{O}_X(m)|$) be the sweep of the maximal open subset in the set of definable lines in $|\mathcal{O}_X(1)|$ (resp. $|\mathcal{O}_X(m)|$). Then $U_1^{\times m} \subset |\mathcal{O}_X(1)|^{\times m}$ is the $\kappa_X$-points of a nonempty Zariski open subset, and therefore

$$
V := (+X)^{-1}(U_m) \cap U_1^{\times m} \subset |\mathcal{O}_X(1)|^{\times m}
$$
is the $\kappa_X$-points of a Zariski open subset of $|O_X(1)|^{\times m}$. We can therefore find points

$$P, Q, R, P_2, \ldots, P_m \in |O_X(1)|$$

such that the three points of $|O_X(1)|^{\times m}$ given by

$$(P, P_2, \ldots, P_m), (Q, P_2, \ldots, P_m), (R, P_2, \ldots, P_m)$$

lie in $V$ and $P, Q, R \in |O_X(1)|$ are colinear. Since $\gamma_1$ and $\gamma_m$ agree with the maps defined by $\varphi$ on $U_1$ and $U_m$ it follows that we have

$$(\gamma_m \circ +_X)(P, P_2, \ldots, P_m) = (+_Y \circ \gamma_1^m)(P, P_2, \ldots, P_m) \quad \text{(call this point $\overline{P} \in |O_Y(m)|$)}$$

$$(\gamma_m \circ +_X)(Q, P_2, \ldots, P_m) = (+_Y \circ \gamma_1^m)(Q, P_2, \ldots, P_m) \quad \text{(call this point $\overline{Q} \in |O_Y(m)|$)},$$

$$(\gamma_m \circ +_X)(R, P_2, \ldots, P_m) = (+_Y \circ \gamma_1^m)(R, P_2, \ldots, P_m) \quad \text{(call this point $\overline{R} \in |O_Y(m)|$)},$$

Let $L \subset |O_Y(m)|$ be the line through $\overline{P}$ and $\overline{Q}$, and let $L \subset |O_X(1)|$ be the line through $P$ and $Q$. Then

$$+_X(L \times \{P_2\} \times \cdots \{P_m\})$$

is the line in $|O_X(m)|$ through the two points

$$+_X(P, P_2, \ldots, P_m), \quad _+X(Q, P_2, \ldots, P_m).$$

Since $\gamma_m$ takes lines to lines it follows that

$$(\gamma_X \circ +_X)(L \times \{P_2\} \times \cdots \{P_m\}) = \overline{L}.$$}

Similarly since $\gamma_1$ takes lines to lines and agrees on $U_1$ with the map defined by $\varphi$, we find that

$$(+_Y \circ \gamma_1^m)(L \times \{P_2\} \times \cdots \{P_m\}) = \overline{L}.$$}

Since $\gamma_m \circ +_X$ and $+_Y \circ \gamma_1^m$ agree on a dense open subset of $L$, viewed as imbedded in $|O_X(1)|^{\times m}$ via the identification

$$L \cong L \times \{P_2\} \times \cdots \times \{P_m\}$$

we conclude that the two compositions

$$\kappa_X \xrightarrow{\alpha} L \subset |O_X(1)|^{\times m} \xrightarrow{\gamma_m \circ +_X} \overline{L} \xrightarrow{\beta^{-1}} \kappa_Y$$

and

$$\kappa_X \xrightarrow{\alpha} L \subset |O_X(1)|^{\times m} \xrightarrow{+_Y \circ \gamma_1^m} \overline{L} \xrightarrow{\beta^{-1}} \kappa_Y$$

agree on all but finitely many elements of $\kappa_X$, where $\alpha : \kappa_X \cong L$ (resp. $\beta : \kappa_Y \cong \overline{L}$) is the isomorphism obtained as in the proof of Theorem 2.1.5 using the three points $P, Q, R$ (resp. $\overline{P}, \overline{Q}, \overline{R}$). Now the first of these maps is the map $\sigma_m$ and the second is $\sigma_1$. We conclude that $\sigma_1(a) = \sigma_m(a)$ for all but finitely many elements $a \in \kappa_X$, which implies that $\sigma_1 = \sigma_m$. □

In the rest of the proof we write $\sigma : \kappa_X \to \kappa_Y$ for the isomorphism $\sigma_m = \sigma_1$.

Next observe that the diagram of schemes (4.2.5.1) commutes, since the two morphisms obtained by going around the different directions of the diagram are semi-linear with respect to the same field isomorphism and agree on dense set of points.

Consider the embeddings

$$\nu_X : X \hookrightarrow |O_X(1)|^\vee$$
and
\[ \nu_Y : Y \hookrightarrow |\mathcal{O}_Y(1)|^Y \]
and let \( \overline{X} \) (resp. \( \overline{Y} \)) be the scheme-theoretic closure of \( \nu_X(X) \) (resp. \( \nu_Y(Y) \)). Let \( S_X \) (resp. \( S_Y \)) be the symmetric algebra on \( \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(1)) \) (resp. \( \Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(1)) \)) so \( \overline{X} \) (resp. \( \overline{Y} \)) is given by a graded ideal \( I_{\overline{X}} \subset S_X \) (resp. \( I_{\overline{Y}} \subset S_Y \)).

Choosing a lift
\[ \overline{\gamma}_1 : \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(1)) \to \Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(1)) \]
yields an induced \( \sigma \)-linear isomorphism of graded rings
\[ \gamma^\sharp : S_X \to S_Y \]
that is uniquely defined up to scalars. We claim that \( \gamma^\sharp(I_{\overline{X}}) = I_{\overline{Y}} \).

For this, consider the diagram
\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(m)) & \xrightarrow{\overline{\gamma}_m} & \Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(m)) \\
\uparrow_{p_X} & & \uparrow_{p_Y} \\
S^m_X = \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(1)) \otimes m & \xrightarrow{\gamma^\sharp_m} & \Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(1)) \otimes m = S^m_Y \\
\uparrow & & \uparrow \\
\Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(1)) \times m & \xrightarrow{\overline{\gamma} \times m} & \Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(1)) \times m
\end{array}
\]
arising as follows. The vertical arrows are the natural multiplication maps, and the induced linear maps from the universal property of \( \otimes \). The arrow \( \overline{\gamma}_m \) is a lift of \( \gamma_m \).

By the commutativity of diagram (4.2.5.1), we see that this diagram commutes (up to suitably scaling \( \overline{\gamma}_m \)), which implies that \( \gamma^\sharp_m(I_{\overline{X},m}) = I_{\overline{Y},m} \), as desired.

In summary, we have shown that if
\[ A_{\overline{X}} \subset \oplus_{m \geq 0} \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(m)) \] (resp. \( A_{\overline{Y}} \subset \oplus_{m \geq 0} \Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(m)) \))
denotes the subring generated by \( \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(1)) \) (resp. \( \Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(1)) \)), then we have an isomorphism of graded rings
\[ \overline{\gamma} : A_{\overline{X}} \to A_{\overline{Y}} \]
such that the isomorphism induced by \( \overline{\gamma} \) in degree \( m \)
\[ |\mathcal{O}_{\overline{X}}(m)| \to |\mathcal{O}_{\overline{Y}}(m)| \]
fits into a commutative diagram
\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
|\mathcal{O}_{\overline{X}}(m)| & \xrightarrow{|\mathcal{O}_{\overline{Y}}(m)|} \\
\downarrow & \Downarrow \\
|\mathcal{O}_X(m)| & \xleftarrow{\varphi} |\mathcal{O}_Y(m)|,
\end{array}
\]
where the vertical maps are the restriction maps and the map labelled \( \varphi \) is the map
given by the isomorphism of Torelli structures.

In other words, if we let
\[ f : \overline{X} \to \overline{Y} \]
be the isomorphism given by $\tilde{\gamma}$, then the diagram

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
X & \longrightarrow & Y \\
\downarrow_\imath & & \downarrow_\jmath \\
\text{Proj}(A_X) & \xrightarrow{\tilde{\gamma}} & \text{Proj}(A_Y) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
|\mathcal{O}_X(1)|^\vee & \xrightarrow{\gamma_m} & |\mathcal{O}_Y(1)|^\vee
\end{array}
$$

commutes. The commutativity of the top square in this diagram implies that if $D \subset X$ is an effective divisor in $|\mathcal{O}_X(m)|$ then the image of the divisor $f(D) \subset Y$ in $|\mathcal{O}_Y(m)|$ (i.e., the restriction $f(D)|_Y$) is the divisor $\gamma_m(D)$. In particular, if $D$ is irreducible with generic point $\eta_D \in X$ then $f(\eta_D) = \varphi(\eta_D)$.

By Corollary 4.2.4 applied to $X$, we conclude that $f$ acts the same as $\varphi$ on every regular closed point of $X$. Since $|X|$ is a Zariski topological space, it follows that $\varphi$ and $f$ have the same action on $|X^\text{reg}|$, the regular locus of $X$. This implies that there are open subschemes $U \subset X$ and $V \subset Y$ such that

1. $\text{codim}(U^c \subset X) \geq 2$,
2. $\text{codim}(V^c \subset Y) \geq 2$,
3. $f$ induces an isomorphism $f|_U : U \to V$, and
4. $f|_U$ induces $\varphi|_U$ on topological spaces.

By Lemma 4.1.3 it follows that $\varphi$ is algebraizable to a unique isomorphism $f : X \to Y$, showing that $\tau$ is fully faithful.

This completes the proof of Theorem 3.1.12.

4.3. The case of finite fields.

4.3.1. Statements of results. The main result of this section is the following.

**Theorem 4.3.1.1.** Let $X$ and $Y$ be Cohen-Macaulay connected definable varieties over finite fields of dimension $\geq 3$. Any isomorphism $\varphi : \tau(X) \to \tau(Y)$ of Torelli structures is induced by a unique isomorphism of schemes $X \sim \to Y$.

The proof is based on the Bertini-Poonen theorem, generalized to complete intersections in [6] and reviewed in Section 4.3.2 below, and the probabilistic fundamental theorem of projective geometry, Theorem 2.2.1.

**Remark 4.3.1.2.** The Cohen-Macauley assumptions in Theorem 4.3.1.1 are needed in order to apply known results on Bertini theorems over finite fields to deduce that, in a certain precise sense, a density 1 set of complete intersections in $X$ and $Y$ are reduced, the key point being that a generically smooth Cohen-Macauley scheme is reduced. It might be possible to prove directly a Bertini theorem calculating the density of reduced hypersurfaces among all hypersurfaces, but for a non-Cohen-Macauley scheme this could be strictly less than 1, which is not sufficient for our probabilistic fundamental theorem of projective geometry to apply.
4.3.2. The Bertini-Poonen theorem. In fact, we will not need the main results of [6, 18], but only a certain key lemma. Poonen’s argument, and its variant due to Bucur and Kedlaya, proceeds by treating points of small, medium, and large degrees separately. For our purposes, we will need only their results about points of large degree. We introduce some notation so that this result can be stated.

4.3.3. The large degree estimate. Let $F$ be a finite field with $q$ elements and let $r$ and $n$ be positive integers. Let $X/F$ be a smooth finite type separated $F$-scheme of equidimension $m \geq r$ equipped with an embedding

$$X \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$$

defining an invertible sheaf $\mathcal{O}_X(1)$ on $X$.

Let $S$ denote the polynomial ring in $n + 1$ variables over $F$ and let $S_d \subset S$ denote the degree $d$ elements in this ring, so we have a ring homomorphism

$$S \to \Gamma_*(X, \mathcal{O}_X(1))$$

restricting to a map

$$S_d \to \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(d))$$

of vector spaces.

Fix functions

$$g_i : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$$

for $i = 2, \ldots, r$ such that there exists an integer $w > 0$ for which

$$d \leq g_i(d) \leq wd$$

for all $d \in \mathbb{N}$ and all $i$. For notational reasons it will be convenient to also write $g_1 : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$ for the identity function.

4.3.3.1. Let $S$ denote the product $\prod_{j=1}^r S$ and let $S_d$ denote the subset

$$S_d \times S_{g_2(d)} \times \cdots \times S_{g_r(d)} \subset S.$$

For a section $f \in S_d$ let $H_{X,f} \subset X$ be the closed subscheme defined by the image of $f$ in $\Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(d))$, and for $f = (f_1, \ldots, f_r) \in S_d$ let

$$(4.3.3.1.1) \quad X_f := \bigcap_{i=1}^r H_{X,f_i}$$

For an integer $d$ let $W_d \subset S_d$ denote the subset of vectors $f$ such that the intersection $X_f$ is smooth of dimension $m - r$ at all closed points $P$ in this intersection of degree $> d/(m + 1)$, and define

$$e_d := 1 - \frac{\#W_d}{\#S_d}.$$

Lemma 4.3.3.2. There exists a constant $C$, depending on $n$, $r$, $m$, $w$, and the degree of $X \subset \mathbb{P}^n$, such that

$$e_d \leq Cd^m q^{-\min\{d/(m+1),d/p\}}.$$

In particular,

$$\lim_{d \to \infty} e_d = 0.$$

Proof. This is [6, 2.7].

37
We recall some additional useful notation from [18], which we will use in stating consequences of Lemma 4.3.3.2. For a subset \( P \subset S \) write
\[
\mu(P) := \lim_{d \to \infty} \frac{\#(S_d \cap P)}{\#S_d}
\]
and
\[
\bar{\mu}(P) := \limsup_{d \to \infty} \frac{\#(S_d \cap P)}{\#S_d}
\]

4.3.4. Variants.

4.3.4.1. As in Section 4.3.3, let \( F \) be a finite field and let \( X \subset \mathbb{P}^n \) be a quasi-projective scheme. Assume that \( X \) is reduced and Cohen-Macaulay, and of equidimension \( m \) and that \( r < m \).

Let \( H_d \subset S_d \) be the subset of elements \((f_1, \ldots, f_r)\) such that for every subset \( R \subset \{1, \ldots, r\} \) the scheme-theoretic intersection
\[
X_R := \bigcap_{i \in R} X_{f_i}
\]
is reduced of dimension \( m - \#R \). Let \( H \subset S \) denote the union of the \( H_d \).

Theorem 4.3.4.2. We have
\[
\mu(H) = 1.
\]

Proof. For a given \( R \), let \( H_{R,d} \subset S_d \) be the subset of those vectors for which the intersection \( X_R \) is reduced of dimension \( m - \#R \), and let \( H_R \) denote the union of the \( H_{R,d} \). Then
\[
1 - \frac{\#H_d}{\#S_d} \leq \sum_R \left( 1 - \frac{\#H_{R,d}}{\#S_d} \right).
\]
It therefore suffices to show that \( \mu(H_R) = 1 \). Furthermore, this case reduces immediately to the case when \( R = \{1, \ldots, r\} \), which we assume henceforth.

Note that if the intersection \( X_R \) is generically smooth of the expected dimension, then it is reduced. Indeed this follows from the fact that a complete intersection in a Cohen-Macaulay scheme is Cohen-Macaulay and that a generically reduced Cohen-Macaulay scheme is reduced.

Let \( \overline{X} \subset \mathbb{P}^n \) be the closure of \( X \) with the reduced scheme structure, and fix a finite stratification \( \overline{X} = \{X_i\}_{i \in I} \) with each \( X_i \) a smooth locally closed subscheme of \( \overline{X} \), and one of the strata \( X_0 \) equal to the smooth locus of \( X \). If we further arrange that each \( X_{i,R} \subset X_i \) has the expected dimension then it follows that the inclusion
\[
X_R \cap X_0 \hookrightarrow X_R
\]
is dense.

For an integer \( s \) let \( E^{(s)}_{X_i,d} \subset S_d \) denote the subset of those vectors \((f_1, \ldots, f_r)\) for which the intersections \( X_{i,d} \) is smooth of the expected dimension at all points \( P \) of degree \( \geq s \). Let \( E^{(s)}_d \) denote the intersection of the \( E^{(s)}_{X_i,d} \).
Observe that since we assumed that $r < m$, the closed points of degree $\geq s$ are dense in any irreducible component of $X_{0,f}$. In particular, we have $E_d^{(s)} \subset H_d$. Let $E^{(s)}$ denote the union of the $E_d^{(s)}$. Taking $s = \lfloor \frac{d}{m+1} + 1 \rfloor$ have

$$E_{X_i,d}^{(s)} = W_{X_i,d},$$

where $W_{X_i,d}$ is defined as in Paragraph 4.3.3.1 applied to $X_i$.

By this and Lemma 4.3.3.2 we have that

$$\lim_{d \to \infty} \sum_i \frac{#(S_d \setminus E_{X_i,d})}{#S_d} = 0.$$

We conclude that

$$\lim_{d \to \infty} \frac{#E_d^{(s)}}{#S_d} = 1,$$

and it follows that

$$\mu(H_R) = 1,$$

as desired.

\[\square\]

4.3.5. Preparatory lemmas. We continue with the setup of Section 4.3.3.

Lemma 4.3.5.1. Let $k$ be a field and let $\overline{D}/k$ be a geometrically irreducible proper $k$-scheme, let $D \subset \overline{D}$ be a dense open subscheme with $D$ geometrically reduced and $\text{codim}(\overline{D} - D, \overline{D}) \geq 2$. Then $H^0(D, \mathcal{O}_D) = k$.

Proof. We may without loss of generality assume that $\overline{D}$ is reduced, and furthermore, by replacing $\overline{D}$ by its normalization that $\overline{D}$ is normal. Since $\overline{D}$ is geometrically reduced and irreducible it follows that $H^0(\overline{D}, \mathcal{O}_{\overline{D}}) = H^0(D, \mathcal{O}_D) = k$. \[\square\]

Lemma 4.3.5.2. Let $X$ be a definable Cohen-Macaulay variety over a perfect field $k$ and let $\mathcal{O}_X(1)$ be a very ample invertible sheaf with associated linear system $P$. Let $j : X \hookrightarrow \overline{X}$ be the compactification of $X$ provided by the given projective embedding, so $X$ is schematically dense in $\overline{X}$. Fix a finite stratification $\{\overline{X}_i\}_{i \in I}$ of $\overline{X}$ with each $\overline{X}_i$ smooth, equidimensional, and $X_i \hookrightarrow \overline{X}$ locally closed. Let $F, G \in H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(1)) = H^0(\overline{X}, \mathcal{O}_{\overline{X}}(1))$ be two linearly independent sections. Let $\overline{D}_F$ (resp. $\overline{D}_G$) be the zero locus in $\overline{X}$ of $F$ (resp. $G$) and set $D_F := \overline{D}_F \cap X$ (resp. $D_G := \overline{D}_G \cap X$), and assume they satisfy the following:

(i) $\overline{D}_F$ is geometrically irreducible.

(ii) The intersection $\overline{D}_F \cap \overline{X}_i$ has dimension $\dim(\overline{X}_i) - 1$ for all $i$, and the intersection $\overline{D}_F \cap \overline{D}_G \cap \overline{X}_i$ has dimension $\dim(\overline{X}_i) - 2$ for all $i$ (here we make the convention that the empty scheme has dimension $-1$ as well as $-2$).

(iii) $D_F$ and the intersection $D_F \cap D_G$ are generically smooth.

Then $F$ and $G$ span a definable line.

Proof. Assumption (ii) implies that $D_F \subset \overline{D}_F$ is dense. Furthermore, $D_F$ is Cohen-Macaulay (see for example [20, Tag 02JN]) and the generic smoothness of $D_F$, assumed in (iii), then implies that $D_F$ is geometrically reduced. Similarly, $D_F \cap D_G$ is...
geometrically reduced, and \( D_F \cap D_G \subset \overline{D}_F \cap \overline{D}_G \) is dense. We need to show that the kernel of the restriction map \( H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(1)) \to H^0(D_F \cap D_G, \mathcal{O}_{D_F \cap D_G}(1)) \) is the span of \( F \) and \( G \).

To this end, let \( W \) denote \( (D_F \cap D_G) \setminus (D_F \cap D_G) \). By assumption (ii), \( W \) has codimension at least 2 in \( D_F \), and we have a closed immersion \( D_F \cap D_G \hookrightarrow D_F \setminus W \). From this we therefore get an exact sequence

\[
0 \to H^0(\overline{D}_{F, \text{red}} \setminus W, \mathcal{O}_{\overline{D}_{F, \text{red}} \setminus W}) \to H^0(D_F \cap D_G, \mathcal{O}_{D_F \cap D_G}(1)).
\]

From the commutative diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(1)) & \xrightarrow{\sim} & H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(1)) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
H^0(\overline{D}_{F, \text{red}} \setminus W, \mathcal{O}_{\overline{D}_{F, \text{red}} \setminus W}(1)) & \to & H^0(D_F, \mathcal{O}_{D_F}(1))
\end{array}
\]

we see that the kernel of the map \( H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(1)) \to H^0(\overline{D}_{F, \text{red}} \setminus W, \mathcal{O}_{\overline{D}_{F, \text{red}} \setminus W}(1)) \) is 1-dimensional generated by \( F \). From this and the argument used in Lemma 3.3.9 we see that to prove the proposition it suffices to show that the dimension of \( H^0(\overline{D}_{F, \text{red}} \setminus W, \mathcal{O}_{\overline{D}_{F, \text{red}} \setminus W}(1)) \) is 1. This follows from Lemma 3.3.5.1.

\[\square\]

**Lemma 4.3.5.3.** Let \( X/k \) be a Cohen-Macaulay quasi-projective definable variety of dimension at least 3, and let \( \mathcal{O}_X(1) \) be a very ample line bundle on \( X \). Let \( X \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P} \) be the embedding into projective space provided by \( \mathcal{O}_X(1) \) and let \( \overline{X} \subset \mathbb{P} \) be the closure of \( X \), with the reduced subscheme structure. Let \( \mathcal{H}_n \) be the set of lines in \( \mathbb{P} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(n)) \) and let \( \mathcal{H}_n^{\text{def}} \subset \mathcal{H}_n \) be the subset of lines which are definable as lines in \( \mathbb{P} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X(n)) \). Then

\[
\lim_{n \to \infty} \mu_{\mathcal{H}_n}(\mathcal{H}_n^{\text{def}}) = 1.
\]

**Proof.** Fix a finite stratification \( \{X_i\}_{i \in I} \) of \( \overline{X} \) into locally closed smooth subschemes. Let \( \mathcal{P}_n \) denote the set of pairs of linearly independent elements

\[
f_1, f_2 \in \Gamma(\overline{X}, \mathcal{O}_{\overline{X}}(n)),
\]

and let \( \mathcal{P}_n' \subset \mathcal{P}_n \) denote the subset of pairs \( (f_1, f_2) \) with associated divisors \( \overline{D}_s := V(f_s) \cap \overline{X} \) have the following properties:

(i) \( \overline{D}_s \) is geometrically irreducible for \( s = 1, 2 \).
(ii) \( \overline{D}_s \cap \overline{X}_i \) and the double intersections \( \overline{D}_1 \cap \overline{D}_2 \cap X_i \) have the expected dimension.
(iii) \( \overline{D}_1 \cap X, \overline{D}_2 \cap X, \) and \( \overline{D}_1 \cap \overline{D}_2 \cap X \) are generically smooth.
There is a map

\[ Sp : P_n \to H_n \]

sending a pair \((f_1, f_2)\) to the line spanned by \(f_1\) and \(f_2\). By Lemma 4.3.5.2 the image of \(P'_n\) is contained in \(H_n^{\text{def}}\) and therefore we have

\[ \mu_{P'_n}(P'_n) \leq \mu_{H_n^{\text{def}}}(H_n^{\text{def}}), \]

and it suffices to show that

\[ \lim_{n \to \infty} \mu_{P'_n}(P'_n) = 1. \]

This follows from Theorem 4.3.4.2 and [8, Theorem 1.1].

**4.3.5.4.** For integers \(n_1, n_2\) with \(n_1 \leq n_2 \leq 2n_1\) consider the subset

\[ T_{n_1, n_2} \subset S_{n_1} \oplus S_{n_2} \oplus S_{n_1+n_2} \]

whose elements are triples \((f_1, f_2, f_3)\) for which the elements \(f_1 f_2\) and \(f_3\) span a definable line in \(\Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(n_1 + n_2))\).

**Lemma 4.3.5.5.** For any function \(g : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}\) such that \(n \leq g(n) \leq 2n\) for all \(n\), we have

\[ \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\#T_{n, g(n)}}{\#(S_n \oplus S_{g(n)} \oplus S_{n+g(n)})} = 1. \]

**Proof.** Fix a stratification \(\{X_i\}_{i \in I}\) of \(\overline{X}\) into smooth subschemes.

By Lemma 4.3.5.2 the set \(T_{n, g(n)}\) contains the set \(T'_{n, g(n)}\) of triples \((f_1, f_2, f_3)\) \(\in S_n \oplus S_{g(n)} \oplus S_{n+g(n)}\) satisfying the condition that the zero locus of each \(f_i\) in \(\overline{X}\) is irreducible, and for all \(R \subset \{1, 2, 3\}\) the intersection \(X_R\) is generically smooth and the intersection \(\overline{X}_R \cap X_i\) have the expected dimension for all \(i\). The result then follows from Theorem 4.3.4.2 and [8, Theorem 1.1].

**4.3.6. Proof of Theorem 4.3.1.1.** By the same argument as in Section 4.1, which did not require any assumption on the ground field, it suffices to prove Theorem 4.3.1.1 in the case when \(X\) and \(Y\) are quasi-projective.

**4.3.6.1.** Fix \(\epsilon > 0\). In the course of the proof we will make various assumptions on \(\epsilon\) being sufficiently small. As there are only finitely many steps, this is a harmless practice.

Fix an ample invertible sheaf \(\mathcal{O}_X(1)\) on \(X\) represented by an effective divisor \(D\). By Proposition 3.2.7 the property of being ample depends only on the Torelli structure, and therefore \(\varphi(D)\) defines an ample invertible sheaf on \(Y\), which we denote by \(\mathcal{O}_Y(1)\).

After replacing \(\mathcal{O}_X(1)\) by \(\mathcal{O}_X(n)\) for sufficiently large \(n\) we may assume that \(\mathcal{O}_X(1)\) and \(\mathcal{O}_Y(1)\) are very ample.

Furthermore, by choosing \(n\) sufficiently large we may assume by Lemma 4.3.5.3 that there exist definable lines in \(\Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(1))\) and \(\Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(1))\). Since the number of elements in a definable line is \(q + 1\), we see that the finite fields \(\kappa_X\) and \(\kappa_Y\) are isomorphic to the same finite field \(\mathbb{F}\), and in particular have the same number of elements which we will denote by \(q\).
4.3.6.2. Let \( \overline{X} \subset \mathsf{P} \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(1)) \) (resp. \( \overline{Y} \subset \mathsf{P} \Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(1)) \)) be the scheme-theoretic closure of \( X \) (resp. \( Y \)). Define graded rings
\[
A_X := \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \Gamma(\overline{X}, \mathcal{O}_X(n)), \quad A_Y := \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \Gamma(\overline{Y}, \mathcal{O}_Y(n)),
\]
so \( A_X \subset A_X \) and \( A_Y \subset A_Y \). For \( m > 0 \) and any of these graded rings \( A \) write \( A(m) \) for the subring \( A(m) \subset A \) given by
\[
A(m) := \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} A^{nm}.
\]
Write \( |A_X^n| \subset |nD| \) for \( \mathsf{P} \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(n)) \subset \mathsf{P} \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(n)) \), and similarly for \( |A_Y^n| \). By Lemma 4.3.5.3 for \( n \) sufficiently large the proportion of definable lines in the linear system \( |A_X^n| \) is greater than or equal to \( 1 - \epsilon \). Choosing \( \epsilon \) sufficiently small, and thereafter \( n \) sufficiently large so that Theorem 2.2.1 applies to the map
\[
|A_X^n| \hookrightarrow \mathsf{P} \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(n)) \to \mathsf{P} \Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(n))
\]
we therefore find an integer \( n_0 \) such that for each \( n \geq n_0 \) we get an isomorphism of fields
\[
\sigma_n : \kappa_X \to \kappa_Y
\]
and a \( \sigma_n \)-linear
\[
\gamma_n : A_X^n \to \Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(n))
\]
such that the induced morphism of projective spaces
\[
f'_n : \mathsf{P} \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(n)) \to \mathsf{P} \Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(n))
\]
agrees with the map
\[
f_n : |A_X^n| \to |\mathcal{O}_Y(n)|
\]
defined by \( \varphi \) on a proportion of points
\[
1 - 2\epsilon - 2A(q, N, \epsilon) - 2\frac{q^2(q + 1)^2}{q^{N+1} - q},
\]
where \( N \) is the projective dimension of \( |A_X^n| \).

For notational convenience let \( \tilde{\epsilon} \) denote \( 9\epsilon \). Then for \( n \) sufficiently large the expression (4.3.6.2.1) is greater than or equal to \( 1 - \tilde{\epsilon} \). After possibly replacing \( n_0 \) by a bigger number we may assume that (4.3.6.2.1) is at least \( 1 - \tilde{\epsilon} \) for all \( n \geq n_0 \). After possibly replacing \( n_0 \) by a bigger number and applying Lemma 4.3.5.5, we may assume the following.

**Assumption 4.3.6.3.** For all \( n \geq n_0 \), we have that
\[
\frac{\# T_{n,g(n)}}{\#(S_n \oplus S_{g(n)} \oplus S_{n+g(n)})} = 1 - \tilde{\epsilon}
\]
for \( g(n) = n \) and \( g(n) = n + 1 \).

4.3.6.4. Next we prove that the \( f'_n \) are close to multiplicative.
Claim 4.3.6.5. Given Assumption 4.3.6.3 for any $n_1 \geq n_0$ and for $n_2 = n_1$ or $n_2 = n_1 + 1$ we have

$$f'_n(s_1)f'_{n_2}(s_2) = f'_{n_1+n_2}(s_1s_2)$$

for a proportion $1 - 5\bar{\epsilon}$ of pairs

$$(s_1, s_2) \in A^{n_1}_X \times A^{n_2}_X.$$  

Proof. Let $\Xi$ denote the set of pairs $(s_1, s_2)$ such that the proportion of lines through $s_1s_2$ that are definable is at most $1/4$. The hypothesis of the Claim and Lemma 4.3.5.5 imply that

$$\#\Xi \cdot \frac{1}{4} \#S_{n_1+n_2} \leq \epsilon \cdot \#S_{n_1} \cdot \#S_{n_2} \cdot \#S_{n_1+n_2}.$$  

It follows that for a proportion of $1 - 4\bar{\epsilon}$ of pairs $(s_1, s_2)$, the line in $\Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(n_1 + n_2))$ spanned by $s_1s_2$ and at least three quarters of the elements in $A^{n_1+n_2}_X$ is definable. Thus, for at least half of the pairs $(s_3, s'_3)$ of elements in $A^{n_1+n_2}_X$, the lines $Sp(s_1s_2, s_3)$ and $Sp(s_1s_2, s'_3)$ are definable.

Consider the set $\Lambda$ of lines $\ell$ through $s_1s_2$ such that $f_{n_1+n_2}(t) \neq f'_{n_1+n_2}(t)$ for all $t$ in $\ell$ except possibly for one point; let $\widetilde{\Lambda}$ denote the set of all lines through $s_1s_2$. A straightforward counting argument shows that $\#\Lambda/\#\widetilde{\Lambda} < 4\bar{\epsilon}$. So assuming $4\bar{\epsilon} < 1/4$, for a proportion $1 - 4\bar{\epsilon}$ of pairs $(s_1, s_2)$ we can find a pair $(s_3, s'_3)$ such that the lines

$$Sp(s_1s_2, s_3), \ Sp(s_1s_2, s'_3)$$

are definable and each contain at least two points for which $f_n = f'_n$. Since $f_n$ preserves definable lines, and $f'_n$ takes lines to lines, we conclude that for such $(s_3, s'_3)$ we have

$$f'_n(\Gamma(s_1s_2, s_3)) = f_n(\Gamma(s_1s_2, s_3)), \ f'_n(\Gamma(s_1s_2, s'_3)) = f_n(\Gamma(s_1s_2, s'_3)).$$

Since the intersection of these two lines is $s_1s_2$ we conclude that

$$f'_n(s_1s_2) = f_n(s_1s_2) = f_n(s_1) f_n(s_2).$$

Since $f_n = f'_n$ on a proportion of $1 - \bar{\epsilon}$ points we conclude that $f'_{n_1}(s_1)f'_{n_2}(s_2) = f'_{n_1+n_2}(s_1s_2)$ for a proportion of $1 - 5\bar{\epsilon}$ pairs. 

4.3.6.6. Next we show that the $\gamma_n$ are close to multiplicative.

Claim 4.3.6.7. Given Assumption 4.3.6.3 for any $n_1$ and $n_2 = n_1$ or $n_2 = n_1 + 1$, there exists a constant $c_{n_1, n_2}$ such that

$$(4.3.6.7.1) \quad \gamma_{n_1}(s_1)\gamma_{n_2}(s_2) = c_{n_1, n_2}\gamma_{n_1+n_2}(s_1s_2)$$

for all pairs $(s_1, s_2)$.

Proof. Let $V_n$ denote $A^n_X$, viewed as a vector space over the prime field $\mathbb{F}_p$. We then have two symmetric bilinear forms

$$b_X, b_Y : V_{n_1} \times V_{n_2} \to \Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(n_1 + n_2))$$

given by

$$b_X(s_1, s_2) := \gamma_{n_1}(s_1)\gamma_{n_2}(s_2), \ b_Y(s_1, s_2) := \gamma_{n_1+n_2}(s_1s_2).$$

These forms have the property that they agree up to scalar for a proportion of $1 - 5\bar{\epsilon}$ of pairs $(s_1, s_2)$.
Given $s_1$, let $Y_{s_1}$ be the set of $s_2$ such that $b_X(s_1, s_2)$ is a scalar multiple of $b_Y(s_1, s_2)$. Let $p(s_1) = \#Y_{s_1}/\#V_{n_2}$. It follows from the above remarks that we have

$$\#\{s_1 | p(s_1) < 2\sqrt{\epsilon} \} \cdot 2\sqrt{\epsilon} < 5\epsilon \cdot \#V_{n_1}.$$ 

Thus, for a proportion of $1 - (5/2)\sqrt{\epsilon}$ of elements $s_1$ the two forms $b_X(s_1, s_2)$ and $b_Y(s_1, s_2)$ agree up to scalar for a proportion of $1 - 2\sqrt{\epsilon}$ of elements $s_2$.

Fix $s_1$ for which $p(s_1) \geq 2\sqrt{\epsilon}$. Each of the maps

$$b_X(s_1, -), b_Y(s_1, -) : V_{n_2} \to \Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(n_1 + n_2))$$

are injective, which implies that

$$\text{rank}(b_X(s_1, -) - \alpha b_Y(s_1, -)) + \text{rank}(b_X(s_1, -) - \alpha' b_Y(s_1, -)) \geq \dim(V_{n_2})$$

for any distinct elements $\alpha, \alpha'$. It follows that there is at most one scalar $\alpha = 0$ for which the rank of $b_X(s_1, -) - \alpha b_Y(s_1, -)$ is less than or equal to $\dim(V_{n_2})/2$.

Suppose that in fact we have

$$\text{rank}(b_X(s_1, -) - \alpha b_Y(s_1, -)) \geq \dim(V_{n_2})/2$$

for all $\alpha$. Then the proportion of $s_2$ for which $b_X(s_1, s_2)$ is a scalar multiple of $b_Y(s_1, s_2)$ is at most

$$\frac{q - 1}{q^{\dim(V_{n_2})/2}},$$

and we obtain the inequality

$$\frac{q - 1}{q^{\dim(V_{n_2})/2}} \geq 1 - 2\sqrt{\epsilon}.$$ 

For $n$ chosen sufficiently large relative to $\epsilon$ this is a contradiction. We conclude that there exists exactly one scalar $\alpha_0$ such that

$$\text{rank}(b_X(s_1, -) - \alpha_0 b_Y(s_2, -)) < \dim(V_{n_2})/2.$$

Now in this case we find that the proportion of $s_2$ for which $b_X(s_1, s_2)$ is a scalar multiple of $b_Y(s_1, s_2)$ is at most

$$\frac{(q - 2)}{q^{\dim(V_{n_2})/2}} + \frac{1}{p^{r_0}},$$

where $r_0$ is the rank of $b_X(s_1, -) - \alpha_0 b_Y(s_1, -)$. For $\epsilon$ suitably small we see that this implies that in fact $r_0 = 0$ and $b_X(s_1, s_2) = \alpha_0 b_Y(s_1, s_2)$ for all $s_2$.

Note that this argument is symmetric in $s_1$ and $s_2$. That is, for a fixed $s_2$ subject to the condition that $b_X(s_1, s_2)$ is a scalar multiple of $b_Y(s_1, s_2)$ is at least $1 - 2\sqrt{\epsilon}$ we find that there exists a constant $\beta$ such that

$$b_X(s_1, s_2) = \beta b_Y(s_1, s_2)$$

for all $s_1$. From this it follows that in fact the constant $\alpha_0$ in the previous paragraph is independent of the choice of $s_1$. Furthermore, using the bilinearity we find that there exists a constant $c_{n_1, n_2}$ such that

$$b_X(s_1, s_2) = c_{n_1, n_2} b_Y(s_1, s_2)$$

for all pairs $(s_1, s_2)$. In other words, we have the equality $\boxed{(4.3.6.7.1)}$.
Claim 4.3.6.8. Given Assumption [Claim 4.3.6.3] for every \( n \geq n_0 \) and integer \( m \geq 1 \) there exists a constant \( c_m \) such that for all sections \( s_1, \ldots, s_m \in A^n_X \) we have
\[
\gamma_{nm}(s_1 \cdots s_m) = c_m \gamma_n(s_1) \cdots \gamma_n(s_m).
\]

Proof. This we show by induction, the case \( m = 1 \) being vacuous. For the inductive step write \( m = a + b \) for positive integers \( a \) and \( b \) with \( a = b = m/2 \) if \( m \) is even, and \( a = (m - 1)/2 \) and \( b = (m + 1)/2 \) if \( m \) is odd. Then by the above discussion there exists a constant \( c_{a,b} \) such that
\[
\gamma_{nm}(s_1 \cdots s_m) = c_{a,b} \gamma_{na}(\prod_{i=1}^{a} s_i) \gamma_{nb}(\prod_{j=1}^{b} s_{a+j}).
\]
By our inductive hypothesis this equals
\[
c_{a,b}c_a c_b \gamma_n(s_1) \cdots \gamma_n(s_m),
\]
so we can take \( c_m = c_{a,b}c_a c_b \). \( \square \)

4.3.6.9. In particular, after possibly choosing \( n_0 \) even bigger so that \( A_X(n_0) \) is generated by \( A^n_X \), we get an injective ring homomorphism
\[
\rho_{n_0} : A_X(n_0) \rightarrow A_Y(n_0)
\]
given in degree \( mn_0 \) by \( \gamma_{mn_0}/c_m \).

4.3.6.10. The map \( \rho_{n_0} \) defines a rational map
\[
\lambda : Y \dashrightarrow X.
\]
Let \( Y^\circ \subset Y \) be the maximal open subset over which \( \lambda \) is defined and the map \( \rho_{n_0} \) induces an isomorphism \( \lambda^* \mathcal{O}_{\overline{X}}(n_0) \simeq \mathcal{O}_Y(n_0) \). We claim that the two maps of topological spaces
\[
|\lambda|, \varphi^{-1} : |Y^\circ| \rightarrow |\overline{X}|
\]
agree, where we write \( \varphi^{-1} \) also for the composition
\[
|Y| \xrightarrow{\varphi^{-1}} |X| \xrightarrow{\epsilon} |\overline{X}|
\]
To prove this it suffices to show that these two maps agree on all closed points. Suppose to the contrary that we have a closed point \( y \in Y^\circ \) such that \( \lambda(y) \neq \varphi^{-1}(y) \).
Consider the subset
\[
T_m \subset A^n_X
\]
of sections \( g \in \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_{\overline{X}}(n_0 m)) \) whose zero locus contains both \( \lambda(y) \) and \( \varphi^{-1}(y) \). Now any section \( g \) whose zero locus contains \( \lambda(y) \) and for which \( f_{nm}(g) = f'_{nm}(g) \) lies in \( T_m \) by definition of \( \lambda \) and \( f_n \). It follows that
\[
\frac{\#T_m}{\#A^{nm}_X} \geq \frac{1}{q^{\deg(\lambda(y))} - q^{\deg(\lambda)} - \overline{\epsilon}}.
\]
On the other hand, for \( m \) sufficiently big we have

\[
\frac{\#T_m}{\# A_{n_0}^{m}} = \frac{1}{\nu^{\deg(\lambda(y)) + \deg(\varphi^{-1}(y))}}.
\]

Now observe that if we replace our choice of \( n_0 \) by a multiple, the open subset \( Y^\circ \subset Y \) and \( \lambda \) remain the same, but we can decrease the size of \( \varepsilon \) by making such a choice of \( n_0 \). Since the right side of Eq. (4.3.6.10.2) is larger than the right side of Eq. (4.3.6.10.3) for \( \varepsilon \) sufficiently small this gives a contradiction. We conclude that the two maps Eq. (4.3.6.10.1) agree.

**Lemma 4.3.6.11.** Let \( k \) be a field, let \( S \) be a normal quasi-projective \( k \)-scheme, and let \( T/k \) be a proper \( k \)-scheme. Let \( \tilde{f} : |S| \to |T| \) be a continuous map of topological spaces which is a homeomorphism onto an open subset of \(|T|\). Assume that there exists a dense open subset \( U \subset S \) and a morphism of schemes \( \tilde{f}_U : U \to T \) whose underlying morphism of topological spaces \(|\tilde{f}_U| : |U| \to |T|\) agrees with the restriction of \( \tilde{f} \). Then there exists a unique morphism of schemes \( \tilde{f} : S \to T \) whose underlying morphism of topological spaces is \( \tilde{f} \) and which restricts to \( \tilde{f}_U \) on \( U \).

**Proof.** Since \( S \) is normal and \( T \) is proper there exists an open subset \( S^\circ \subset S \) containing \( U \) and with complement of codimension \( \geq 2 \) such that \( \tilde{f}_U \) extends to a morphism of schemes \( \tilde{f}_{S^\circ} : S^\circ \to T \).

We claim that \( \tilde{f}_{S^\circ} \) induces \( f|_{|S^\circ|} \) on underlying topological spaces.

If \( s \in S^\circ \) is a closed point, then by Bertini’s theorem (or in the finite field case Poonen-Bertini) there exist effective irreducible divisors \( D_1, \ldots, D_r \subset S^\circ \), with \( D_i \cap U \) nonempty for all \( i \), such that

\[
\{s\} = D_1 \cap \cdots \cap D_r.
\]

Since \( f \) is a homeomorphism onto an open subset of \( T \) we can further arrange that

\[
\{f(s)\} = \overline{f(D_1)} \cap \cdots \cap \overline{f(D_r)},
\]

where \( \overline{f(D_i)} \) is the closure of \( f(D_i) \) in \(|T|\). Since

\[
\tilde{f}_{S^\circ}(s) \subset \overline{f(D_1)} \cap \cdots \cap \overline{f(D_r)}.
\]

We conclude that \( \tilde{f}_{S^\circ}(s) = f(s) \). This shows that \( \tilde{f}_{S^\circ} \) agrees with \( f \) on all closed points and therefore also on all points.

We are therefore reduced to the case when the complement of \( U \) in \( Y \) has codimension \( \geq 2 \). In this case, the morphism \( \tilde{f}_U \) extends to a map \( \tilde{f} : Y \to T \) by the same argument as in the proof of Lemma 4.1.3, and repeating the previous argument we see that \( \tilde{f} \) induces \( f \) on topological spaces. \( \square \)

**4.3.6.12.** By Lemma 4.3.6.11 we therefore get a morphism of schemes

\[
u : Y \to X
\]

whose underlying morphism of topological spaces is \( \varphi^{-1} \).

For \( n \) sufficiently big, the line bundle \( \mathcal{O}_Y(n) \) can be represented by an effective divisor \( D \subset Y \) all of whose irreducible components occur with multiplicity one and
have nonempty intersection with \( Y^\circ \). The divisor \( \varphi(D) \) then represents the line bundle \( \mathcal{O}_X(n) \), and we have a nonzero map
\[
u^* \mathcal{O}_X(-n) = u^* \mathcal{O}_X(-\varphi^{-1}(D)) \to \mathcal{O}_Y(-D) = \mathcal{O}_Y(-n).
\]
Since \( \varphi \) induces an isomorphism on class groups we conclude that this map is an isomorphism, so \( u \) extends to a map of polarized schemes
\[
u : (Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(n)) \to (X, \mathcal{O}_X(n)),
\]
for all \( n \) sufficiently big.

Since the cardinalities of the linear systems \( \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(n)) \) and \( \Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(n)) \) are the same for all \( n \), we conclude that \( u \) induces an isomorphism of graded rings
\[
A_X(n) \to A_Y(n)
\]
for all \( n \) sufficiently big. This implies that \( u \) is an open immersion. Indeed if \( \overline{X} \) (resp. \( \overline{Y} \)) is the closure of \( X \) (resp. \( Y \)) in the projective imbedding defined by \( \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X(n)) \) (resp. \( \Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y(n)) \)) then we see that \( u \) induces an isomorphism between the homogeneous coordinate rings of \( \overline{X} \) and \( \overline{Y} \), and therefore \( u \) is an open immersion inducing an isomorphism of topological spaces, whence an isomorphism.

This completes the proof of Theorem 4.3.1.1. □

4.4. Counterexamples to weaker statements. One might wonder if the congruence relation on \( \text{Eff}(X) \) is really necessary, or if the Zariski topological space itself might suffice to capture \( X \). In one direction, we have the following.

Lemma 4.4.0.1. Given two primes \( p \) and \( q \) and two smooth projective surfaces \( X \) over \( \overline{F}_p \) and \( Y \) over \( \overline{F}_q \), each of Picard number 1, any homeomorphism between a curve in \( X \) and a curve in \( Y \) extends to a homeomorphism \( |X| \to |Y| \).

Proof. The proof of is essentially contained in the proof of the final Proposition of [24], once one notes that the topological space of such a surface satisfies the axioms laid out in [24, Corollary 1] (even though they are stated there only for \( \mathbb{P}^2 \)). □

Remark 4.4.0.2. In particular, there are examples of surfaces of general type that are homeomorphic to the projective plane. Even more bizarrely, one can show that \( \mathbb{P}^2_{\overline{F}_p} \) is homeomorphic to \( \mathbb{P}^2_{\overline{F}_q} \) for any primes \( p \) and \( q \). In other words, the linear equivalence relation in the divisorial structure is necessary. The proofs of [24] are heavily reliant on working over the algebraic closure of a finite field.

5. Results over uncountable fields of characteristic 0

5.1. Linear equivalence over uncountable fields of characteristic 0. In this section, we show that over uncountable algebraically closed fields of characteristic 0, one can recover linear equivalence entirely topologically. This gives the following results.

Theorem 5.1.1. If \( X \) is a normal, proper variety over an uncountable algebraically closed field \( k \) of characteristic 0, then linear equivalence of divisors is determined by \( |X| \).
Theorem 5.1.2. If \( X \) is a normal proper variety over an uncountable algebraically closed field \( k \) of characteristic 0, then \( X \) is uniquely determined as a scheme by its underlying Zariski topological space \( |X| \). It is also uniquely determined as a scheme by its associated étale topos.

It is interesting to compare this to work of Voevodsky on an anabelian-type conjecture of Grothendieck \([23]\). While Grothendieck’s conjecture and Voevodsky’s theorem require a finitely generated base field, they also give more, namely full functoriality, not merely isomorphy.

It is also interesting to compare this to \([11]\). While it is not entirely clear how the present work relates to the theory of Zariski geometries, we believe that it should be relatively straightforward to derive \([11\), Proposition 1.1\] from our results.

Remark 5.1.3. We suspect that it is possible to extend the methods of this section to handle the category of proper normal varieties together with finite étale morphisms, giving slightly more than the groupoid of such schemes. This will be pursued elsewhere.

5.2. Algebraic geometry lemmas. We recall a definition and a few basic facts in modern language (see \([25]\) for a classical exposition).

Notation 5.2.1. A pencil of divisors on a variety \( X \) is a dominant rational map \( X \to C \) to a smooth proper curve. The pencil is irrational if the genus \( g(C) \) is greater than 0. It is linear if \( g(C) = 0 \).

A pencil has members. To make this precise, suppose \( X \) is proper and \( f : X \to C \) is a pencil. The closure of the generic fiber of \( f \) is a divisor \( D \subset X \otimes \kappa(C) \), giving rise to a morphism
\[
\varphi : \text{Spec} \kappa(C) \to \text{Hilb}_X.
\]
Suppose \( L \subset \text{Hilb}_X \) is the residue field of the image of \( \varphi \); for dimension reasons \( L \) must have transcendence degree 1 over \( k \). Taking the closure defines a curve \( \overline{C} \subset \text{Hilb}_X \) with a morphism \( C \to \overline{C} \). This gives rise to a universal family \( \mathcal{D}(f) \subset X \times C \) associated to the pencil \( f \).

Equivalently, we can describe \( \mathcal{D}(f) \subset X \times C \) as the scheme-theoretic closure of the graph of the rational map \( f \). (This is equivalent to the previous definition by the separatedness of the Hilbert scheme.)

Definition 5.2.2. The fibers of the morphism \( \mathcal{D}(f) \to C \) described above are the members of the pencil, denoted \( |f| \). The intersection of all members of the pencil is the base locus of the pencil, denoted \( \text{Bs}(f) \).

By construction there is a diagram
\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathcal{D}(f) & \xrightarrow{i} & X \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \pi \\
C & & \\
\end{array}
\]
(5.2.2.1)

where \( i \) is proper and birational (note that the birationality follows from the fact that by definition the locus \( U \subset X \) where \( f \) is regular is contained in \( \mathcal{D}(f) \).
Lemma 5.2.3. Let $U \subset X$ be the maximal open subset over which $f$ is defined, and let $B \subset X$ be the complement of $U$. Then a closed point $x \in X$ lies in $B$ if and only if for every closed point $y \in C$ we have $x \in \mathcal{D}(f)_y$.

Proof. This is [25, §8]. For the convenience of the reader we give a proof.

If $x$ lies in $\mathcal{D}(f)_y \cap \mathcal{D}(f)_{y'}$ for $y \neq y'$ then certainly we must have $x \in B$. Conversely suppose that $f$ is not defined at $x$. Then the fiber $\iota^{-1}(x)$ must be positive dimensional, since $X$ is normal, and dominates $C$. It follows that $\iota^{-1}(x) \cap \mathcal{D}(f)_y$ for every $y \in C(k)$, which implies the lemma.

Lemma 5.2.4. Suppose $X$ is normal. Given a pencil $f : X \rightarrow C$ with base locus $B$ and with associated family of members $\mathcal{D}(f) \rightarrow C$, the canonical morphism $\mathcal{D}(f) \rightarrow X$ is an isomorphism over $X \setminus B$. Moreover, any member of the pencil gives a Cartier divisor in $X \setminus B$.

Proof. By assumption, in the diagram (5.2.2.1) the morphism $\iota$ is a closed immersion on each fiber of $\pi$. Moreover, any point $x \in X \setminus B$ lies on exactly one member of the pencil by Lemma 5.2.3. That is, $\iota$ is finite and injective away from $B$; since $X$ is normal, this implies that $\iota$ is an isomorphism over $X \setminus B$, as claimed.

To see that every member is Cartier outside of $B$, note that the fibers of $\pi$ are Cartier divisors (since $C$ is smooth), and this is transported to $X$ by $\iota$, which is an isomorphism outside of $B$. □

We give a proof of a classical result here, for lack of convenient reference.

Proposition 5.2.5. A proper variety over an algebraically closed field has only countably many equivalence classes of irrational pencils $X \rightarrow Z$, where $X \rightarrow Z_1$ is equivalent to $X \rightarrow Z_2$ if they have the same members.

Proof. First assume that $X$ is smooth and projective. Consider an irrational pencil $f : X \rightarrow C$. Let $U \subset X$ be the maximal domain of definition of $f$. If $U \neq X$, then $f$ extends generically across the blowup $B_{\left[f \right]}X$ so that the extension is not constant on the exceptional fiber. But then $C$ is unirational, hence rational. Thus, $f$ extends to a morphism $f : X \rightarrow C$. It follows (by, for example, computing the deformation space of a general fiber of $f$) that $C$ gives a single irreducible component of the Hilbert scheme of $X$. Since the Hilbert scheme has countably many components, we see that there can be only countably many equivalence classes of irrational pencils. We also see that if $X \rightarrow C$ and $X \rightarrow C'$ are equivalent pencils, then there is an isomorphism $C \rightarrow C'$ that conjugates them. In particular, the equivalence class of the pencil is uniquely determined by the abstract subfield $k(C) \subset k(X)$.

Now suppose $X$ is an arbitrary proper variety over $k$. Given an alteration $X' \rightarrow X$, we see that the set of pencils on $X$ injects into the set of pencils on $X'$ (since the set of subfields of $k(X)$ injects into the set of subfields of $k(X)$). On the other hand, there is a smooth projective alteration $X' \rightarrow X$. This reduces the result to the smooth projective case. □

Lemma 5.2.6. On a proper normal variety $X$, no effective divisor is algebraically equivalent to 0.
Proof. Let \( g : X' \to X \) be a projective birational morphism from a normal projective variety. If there is an effective divisor \( D \subset X \) that is algebraically equivalent to 0, then there is a corresponding algebraic equivalence

\[
D' + E_1 \sim E_2
\]
on \( X' \), where \( D' \) is an effective non-exceptional divisor and \( E_1, E_2 \) are effective exceptional divisors with no components in common. (This is explained in [10, Example 10.3.4].) Taking general hyperplane sections of \( X' \), the Gysin map reduces us to the case in which \( X \) and \( X' \) are normal surfaces. If we wish, we may assume that \( X' \) is also smooth. By [17, Section 1, page 6], we have \( E_2 \cdot E_2 < 0 \) unless \( E_2 = 0 \). But \( (D' + E_1) \cdot E_2 \geq 0 \). It follows that \( E_2 = 0 \). But then we have an effective divisor on a projective surface algebraically equivalent to 0, which is impossible, as one can see by intersecting with a general hyperplane. □

Lemma 5.2.7. Let \( X \) be a projective integral \( k \)-scheme, and let \( Z \hookrightarrow \text{Hilb}_X \) be a connected smooth curve embedded in the Hilbert scheme corresponding to a family \( \mathcal{W} \hookrightarrow X \times Z \) of closed subschemes. Assume that for a general point \( z \in Z \) the fiber \( W_z \subset X_{k(z)} \) is geometrically integral of some dimension strictly smaller than \( \dim(X) \). Then the map

\[
g : \mathcal{W} \to X
\]
is generically unramified.

Proof. Shrinking on \( Z \) if necessary, we may assume that \( \mathcal{W} \) is integral. Since \( \mathcal{W} \) is geometrically integral, the morphism \( \mathcal{W} \to \text{Spec}(k) \) is generically smooth, and it suffices to show that the morphism

\[
g^* \Omega^1_X \to \Omega^1_{\mathcal{W}}
\]
is generically surjective. Let \( z \in Z \) be a point and let \( \mathcal{W}_z \) be the fiber of \( \mathcal{W} \) over \( z \) which is a closed subscheme

\[
g_z : \mathcal{W}_z \hookrightarrow X_{k(z)}.
\]
Assume that \( z \) is general so that \( \mathcal{W}_z \) is generically smooth. Let \( I_z \subset \mathcal{O}_{X_{k(z)}} \) be the ideal sheaf of \( \mathcal{W}_z \). We then have a commutative diagram

\[
\begin{array}{c}
g_z^* I_z \to g_z^* \Omega^1_X \to \Omega^1_{\mathcal{W}_z} \to 0 \\
\downarrow \alpha \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad 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is given by sending $\partial : \Omega^1_Z(z) \to k(z)$ to the map $g_z^* I_z \to \mathcal{O}_{W_z}$ given by the composition

$$g_z^* I_z \xrightarrow{\alpha} f_z^* \Omega^1_Z(z) \xrightarrow{\partial} \mathcal{O}_{W_z}.$$ 

Since (5.2.7.1) is injective it follows that $\alpha \neq 0$.

\[\square\]

**Lemma 5.2.8.** Let $X$ be a proper geometrically integral variety, $\{D_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ a countable set of geometrically integral Weil divisors and $B \subset X$ a closed subset. Assume that

1. the $D_i$ are algebraically equivalent to each other and
2. $D_i \cap D_j \subset B$ for every $i \neq j$.

Then infinitely many of the $D_i$ are members of a (possibly irrational) pencil of divisors $p : X \dashrightarrow Z$. If the codimension of $B$ is at least 2 and $X$ is geometrically normal, then all of the $D_i$ lie in $|p|$.

**Proof.** It suffices to prove the result after passing to the algebraic closure of $k$. We begin by producing the pencil (i.e., the rational map $X \dashrightarrow C$), which we may do on any birational model of $X$.

Let $Z \subset \text{Hilb}_X$ be the Zariski closure of the points $[D_i]$. There is a universal family $u : U \to Z$ with canonical map $\chi : U \to X$. Since the $D_i$ are irreducible, we see that each geometric generic fiber of $u$ is irreducible. We wish to show that $\chi$ is a birational morphism, for then $Z$ must be a curve and $p = u \chi^{-1}$ defines the pencil.

Let $\kappa(Z)$ be the ring of total fractions of $Z$; in this case, it is the product of the function fields of the components of $Z$. Let $c : Y \to X$ be a proper birational morphism from a projective variety. The strict transform of the generic fiber $U_{\kappa(Z)}$ in $Y_{\kappa(Z)}$ extends to a flat family $V \to Z^0$ over some dense open subscheme $Z^0 \subset Z$, with a morphism $V \to Y$ that is a closed immersion on each geometric fiber over $Z^0$. Moreover, for each $D_i$, corresponding to a point $z_i \in Z^0$, we have that $D_i$ is the image of $V_{z_i}$ under the natural map $Y \to X$. Shrinking $Z^0$ and replacing the $D_i$ by an infinite subsequence, we may assume that each $V_{z_i}$ is irreducible, and is the strict transform of $D_i$. This reduces the existence of the pencil to the case where $X$ is projective, which we now assume until noted otherwise. Shrinking $Z$, we may assume that all fibers of $U \to Z$ are geometrically integral.

To show that $\chi$ is generically injective, it suffices to show that the restriction of $\chi$ to a general complete intersection in $X$ is generically injective. Note that, by generic flatness, for any such complete intersection $Q \subset X$ there is an induced rational map $\text{Hilb}_X \dashrightarrow \text{Hilb}_Q$. Since $Z$ is quasi-compact, the fibers $U_z$ have bounded Castelnuovo–Mumford regularity, from which it follows that for sufficiently high multiples $nH$ of the ample class, for any complete intersection $Q \subset X$ of divisors in $|nH|$ the induced map $Z \dashrightarrow \text{Hilb}_Q$ is generically injective.

Let $S \subset X$ be such a general complete intersection surface in $X$ and let $\tilde{S} \to S$ be a resolution of singularities. By generic flatness, there is an open subscheme $Z_0 \subset Z$ such that the family $U \times_X \tilde{S}|_{Z_0} \to Z_0$ is a flat family of divisors on $\tilde{S}$ containing a countable dense subset $z_i \in Z_0$ satisfying the hypotheses of the Lemma. Thus, to show that $\chi : U \to X$ is generically injective, it suffices to show the result under the additional assumption that $X$ is a smooth projective surface. There are two cases to consider.
First, suppose there are \( i \) and \( j \) such that \( D_i \cap D_j = \emptyset \). By the invariance of intersection number, we have that \( U_s \cdot U_t = 0 \) for all \( s \) and \( t \), whence \( U_s \cap U_t = \emptyset \) unless they are equal. But \( Z \) injects into \( \text{Hilb}_X \), so we conclude that \( U_s \cap U_t = \emptyset \). This shows that \( U \to X \) is generically injective.

On the other hand, suppose \( D_i \cap D_j \neq \emptyset \), so that \( D_i \cdot D_j > 0 \). We conclude that for any \( s, t \in Z \) we have \( U_s \cap U_t \neq \emptyset \). In particular, we have that the natural map

\[
q : U \times_X U \to Z \times Z
\]

is dominant. If the morphism \( U \to X \) has general geometric fiber with at least 2 points then \( w : U \times_X U \to X \) is also dominant. But then \( q(w^{-1}(X \setminus B)) \) contains a dense open of \( Z \times Z \), whence it contains a point \( ([D_i], [D_j]) \) for some \( i \neq j \). We conclude that \( D_i \cap D_j \cap (X \setminus B) \neq \emptyset \), contradiction.

Returning to the original situation (proper, possibly non-projective \( X \) of arbitrary dimension), we conclude that \( \chi \) is generically injective, which also implies that \( Z \) has dimension 1. By Lemma [5.2.7] we also know that \( \chi \) is generically unramified, whence we conclude that \( \chi \) is birational. In particular, \( \chi \) defines a pencil \( |D| : X \to Z \), and we conclude that infinitely many of the \( D_i \) are members of a pencil \( |D| \) parameterized by \( Z \), as claimed.

Now suppose that \( X \) is geometrically normal and \( B \) has codimension at least 2. We claim that in fact all \( D_i \) lie in the pencil. To see this, note that every irreducible divisor \( E \subset X \) is either an irreducible component of a member of the pencil \( E \subset D \) or \( D_i \cap (E \setminus B) \neq \emptyset \) for all but finitely many members. Indeed, since the \( D \) cover \( X \), their intersections with \( E \) cover \( E \). It follows that only a proper closed subset of \( Z \) parameterizes \( D \) such that \( D \cap E \subset B \).

If \( D_i \) were not an irreducible component of some member in the pencil \( |D| \) then the above observation would violate condition (2) above. On the other hand, if there is a member \( D \) such that \( D - D_i \) is effective, then \( D - D_i \) would be an effective divisor algebraically equivalent to 0, contradicting Lemma [5.2.6].

**Definition 5.2.9.** Let \( X \) be a variety over a field \( k \). Let \( C \subset X \) be a 1-dimensional subscheme and \( D = \sum a_i D_i \subset X \) a divisor, written as a weighted sum of prime divisors. We define the *naive intersection number* as

\[
\#(C \cap D)_X := \begin{cases} 
\infty & \text{if } C \subset D \\
\sum_i a_i \left( \sum_{x \in C \cap D_i} [k(x) : k] \right) & \text{otherwise}.
\end{cases}
\]

We drop the subscript \( X \) if it is clear from the context. If \( C \) is proper and \( D \) is a Cartier divisor in a neighborhood of \( C \) then \( \#(C \cap D) \leq (C \cdot D) \). If \( k \) is algebraically closed then \( \#(C \cap D) \) is the weighted sum of the numbers of points in the sets \( C(k) \cap D_i(k) \).

We call a curve \( C \subset X \) *t-ample* if \( C \cap D \neq \emptyset \) for every divisor \( D \subset X \). If \( X \) is projective then every complete intersection of ample divisors is t-ample. If \( X \) is proper then the image of a t-ample curve under any projective modification \( X' \to X \) is t-ample on \( X \).

Let \( p : X \to Z \) be a (possibly irrational) pencil of divisors and \( B \subset X \) a closed subset containing the base locus of \( p \). Following Matsusaka [15] we define the *variable*
**intersection number**

\[
\# [C \cap p]_{X \backslash B} := \max_{D \in |D|} \# (C \cap D)_{X \backslash B}.
\]

**Situation 5.2.10.** Suppose \( k \) is an algebraically closed field of characteristic 0 and \( X \) is a proper normal \( k \)-variety. Fix a (possibly irrational) pencil \( f : X \to Z \) and a subset \( B \subset X \) containing the base locus of \( f \). Let

\[
Y \xrightarrow{i} X \xrightarrow{\pi} Z
\]

be the family of members of \( f \).

**Notation 5.2.11.** Given a set \( S \) of cycles on a scheme \( Y \), let \( \text{Comp} S \) denote the set of all irreducible components of all elements of \( S \). Let \( \text{ConnComp} S \) denote the set of connected components of the elements of \( S \).

We will often use \( \text{Comp} |f| \), the set of irreducible components of the members of a pencil.

**Lemma 5.2.12.** Assume we are in Situation 5.2.10. Let \( C \subset X \) be a weakly ample curve so that no component of \( C \) lies entirely in \( B \), and let \( C' \subset Y \) be the strict transform of \( C \).

1. For every \( z \in Z \) we have

\[
\# (C \cap \iota(Y_z))_{X \backslash B} \leq (C' \cdot Y_z) = \# [C \cap f]_{X \backslash B}.
\]

2. For all but finitely many \( z \in Z(k) \) we have that

\[
\# [C \cap f]_B = \# (C \cap \iota(Y_z))_{X \backslash B}.
\]

**Proof.** Since \( C \) is t-ample, the morphism \( \pi|_{C'} : C' \to Z \) is finite. Since \( k \) has characteristic 0, \( \pi|_{C'} \) is separable. Since no component of \( C \) is contained in \( B \), we have that

\[
\#[C \cap f]_{X \backslash B} = \# [C' \cap f]_X.
\]

That is, the intersection \( C' \cap Y_z \) for general \( z \) is disjoint from the preimage of \( B \) in \( Y \), which is a subset of codimension 1 intersecting \( C' \) properly. On the other hand, since \( C' \) is separable over \( Z \), the general naive intersection equals the degree of \( C' \) over \( Z \). In particular, for every \( z \in Z(k) \) we have that

\[
\# [C' \cap f]_X = (C' \cdot Y_z).
\]

This proves the result. \( \square \)

**Lemma 5.2.13.** In Situation 5.2.10, suppose \( Y_z \) is a member of \( |f| \) and \( E \leq Y_z \) is an effective divisor. Then there exists \( i \) such that \( E + D_i \leq Y_z \) if and only if there exists a subset \( B \subset X \) of codimension at least 2, containing the base locus of \( f \), and an integral divisor \( A \subset X \) such that for every t-ample curve \( C \not
in B \) we have

\[
\# (C \cap E)_{X \backslash B} + \# (C \cap A)_{X \backslash B} \leq \# [C \cap f]_{X \backslash B}.
\]
Proof. Let $B$ be the union of the base locus of $f$, the singular locus of $X$, and the image of the singular locus of $Y$. Let $\tilde{Y} \to Y$ be a resolution of singularities. Since $B$ is assumed to contain the singular locus of $X$, we have that $\tilde{Y} \to Y$ is an isomorphism outside of $B$. Given a component $Q \subset Y$, we have that $Q_{\tilde{Y}} = \tilde{Q} + Q'$, where $\tilde{Q}$ is the strict transform and $Q'$ is a divisor supported over $B$. For any curve $C \subset X$ not contained in $B$, with strict transform $\tilde{C} \subset \tilde{Y}$, we have an inequality

$$\#(C \cap Q)_{X\setminus B} \leq \tilde{C} \cdot \tilde{Q}.$$  

Moreover, if we write $Y_z = \sum a_i D_i$, we have (in the same notation) that

$$\sum a_i (\tilde{C} \cdot \tilde{D}_i) \leq (\tilde{C} \cdot \tilde{Y}_z) = (C \cdot Y_z) = \#(C \cap f)_{X\setminus B},$$

where the first inequality follows from the fact that $\tilde{Y}_z$ is equal to $\sum a_i \tilde{D}_i$ plus an effective divisor not containing any components of $\tilde{C}$, the middle equality is by the projection formula, and the last equality is by Lemma 5.2.12.

If $E = \sum b_i D_i < Y_z$, then pick $A \in \text{Comp}|D|$ such that $E + A \leq Y_z$. That is, let $A = D_j$ for some $j$ such that $b_j + 1 \leq a_j$. For any proper irreducible t-ample curve $C$ not contained in $B$ we then have

$$\#(C \cap E)_{X\setminus B} + \#(C \cap A)_{X\setminus B} \leq \sum b_i (\tilde{C} \cdot \tilde{D}_i) + (\tilde{C} \cdot \tilde{D}_j) \leq \sum a_i (\tilde{C} \cdot \tilde{D}_i) \leq \#(C \cap f)_{X\setminus B},$$

and thus the condition is necessary.

To complete the proof we need to show that if $E = Y_z$ then for every subset $B$ of $X$ of codimension at least 2 and every integral divisor $A \subset X$, there is a t-ample curve $C \not\subset B$ such that

$$\#(C \cap E)_{X\setminus B} + \#(C \cap A)_{X\setminus B} > \#(C \cap f)_{X\setminus B}.$$  

Choose a proper, birational morphism $p : X' \to X$ such that $X'$ is normal and projective, and the pencil $f$ extends to a morphism $f' : X' \to Z$. Let $S' \subset X'$ be a general complete intersection of $\dim X - 2$ very ample divisors. Then $S'$ is normal and $f'$ restricts to a morphism $f' : S' \to Z$. The support of the preimage of $B$ in $S'$ is the union of a finite set of points $P$, a reduced $f'$-horizontal divisor $B^h$, and a reduced $f'$-vertical divisor $B^v$. Since $B$ has codimension 2, we see that $B^v$ does not contain any fibers of $f'$.

Resolving the singularities of $S'$ and using the fact that the image of a t-ample curve is t-ample, we may assume that $S'$ is smooth over $k$. Note that for a general ample curve $C' \subset S'$, we have that

$$\#(p(C') \cap E)_{X\setminus B} \geq (C' \cdot E_{S'}) - (C' \cdot B^v).$$

Indeed, for general $C'$ there is no intersection with $P$ and the intersection with $B^h$ occurs outside $E$, so that the second term in the difference on the right side thus puts an upper bound on the cardinality of $C'(k) \cap E(k) \cap B(k)$.

Since $E = Y_z$, so that

$$(C' \cdot E_{S'}) = (p(C') \cdot Y_z) = \#(p(C') \cap f)_{X\setminus B}$$
for any $B$, we see that to achieve the desired inequality for the curve $C = p(C')$, it suffices to find an ample curve $C' \subset S'$, not contained in $B|_{S'}$, such that

$$(C' \cdot E_{S'}) + (C' \cdot A_{S'}) > (C' \cdot E_{S'}) + (C' \cdot B^v),$$

which is equivalent to

(5.2.13.2) $$(C' \cdot A_{S'}) > (C' \cdot B^v).$$

Suppose $H \subset S'$ is an ample divisor. Since $B^v$ is vertical and does not contain a fiber, its intersection matrix is negative definite [2, Corollary 2.6]. Thus, there is an effective $Q$-divisor $N$ supported on $B^v$ such that $H + N$ is numerically trivial on $B^v$. Moreover, for any irreducible curve $C$ not contained in $\text{Supp} \, B^v$, we have $(H + N) \cdot C \geq H \cdot C$. Now

$$(1 + \epsilon)H + N = \epsilon H + (H + N)$$

is ample, very small on $B^v$, and bigger than $H$ on every other divisor. Let $C'$ be a general member of a very ample multiple of $(1 + \epsilon)H + N$ and let $C := p(C')$ be the image in $X$. It is straightforward that for sufficiently small $\epsilon$ we have the inequality (5.2.13.2), and this implies (5.2.13.1), as desired. □

Remark 5.2.14. Note that Lemma 5.2.13 is false in characteristic $p$. We give an example in the context of Section 5.5; we will retain the notation from that section in this remark. Let $Z$ be the divisor $f(x, y, z) = 0$ and let $Y$ be a general curve in $P^2$ that meets $Z$ transversely. There is an associated pencil $\langle Z, Y \rangle : P^2 \rightarrow P^1$ in the linear system $|\mathcal{O}(p)|$. This induces a pencil $\langle \tilde{Z}, \tilde{Y} \rangle : X_f \rightarrow P^1$ associated to the pullback divisors $\tilde{Z}, \tilde{Y} \subset X_f$. Note that the divisor $\tilde{Z}$ is not reduced, since the divisor $Z$ becomes divisible by $p$ in $D_f$ (hence has a component in $X_f$ that is divisible by $p$).

On the other hand, there is a finite purely inseparable morphism $X_f \rightarrow Q$ of smooth surfaces described in Section 5.5. The restriction $Z|_Q$ is reduced (since $Q$ is a blow up of $P^2$ at a finite set disjoint from $Z$). Since the underlying topological spaces of $X_f$ and $Q$ are the same, the sets of curves are in bijection. We see that a general curve meeting $Y$ and $Z$ transversely in $Q$ corresponds to a curve with $\#(C \cap Y) = \#(C \cap Z)$. The corresponding curve in $X_f$ therefore has the same property. We conclude that

$$\#(C \cap \tilde{Y}) = \#(C \cap \tilde{Z}) = C \cdot \tilde{Y} = C \cdot \tilde{Z},$$

but this does not imply that members of the pencil are reduced. Thus, the naïve intersection multiplicity cannot be used to identify multiplicities of components of fibers. (This arises from the fact that the general naïve intersection need not equal the general intersection number because maps of curves need not be separable. This is the crux of the characteristic 0 hypothesis.)

Corollary 5.2.15. In Situation 5.2.10, suppose $E$ is a reduced divisor on $X$ whose components lie in $\text{Comp} |f|$ and such that $E \setminus Bs |f|$ is connected. Then $E$ is a member...
of $|f|$ if and only if for every subset $B \subset X$ of codimension 2 containing $B_\Sigma |f|$ and every integral divisor $A \subset X$, there is a t-ample curve $C \not\subset B$ such that
\[ \#(C \cap E)_{X \setminus B} + \#(C \cap A)_{X \setminus B} > \# [C \cap f]_{X \setminus B}. \]

**Proof.** This follows immediately from Lemma 5.2.13, once we note that $E$ must lie in $Y_z$ for some $z \in Z$, since $E \setminus B_\Sigma |f|$ is connected. $\Box$

### 5.3. Zariski topology lemmas.

In this section we assume that the base field $k$ is algebraically closed and uncountable.

**Definition 5.3.1.** Let $X$ be a normal, proper variety. A t-pencil on $X$ is a set of reduced Weil divisors $\{D_c\}$ such that
1. the union of the $D_c$ contains all closed points of $X$,
2. there is a subset $B \subset X$ of codimension $\geq 2$ such that $D_{c_1} \cap D_{c_2} \subset B$ for every $c_1 \neq c_2$, and
3. all but finitely many of the $D_c$ are irreducible.

Two t-pencils are distinct if they share only finitely many members.

**Lemma 5.3.2.** Suppose $X$ is a proper normal variety over a field $k$. Let $\text{Hilb}^1_X$ be the union of the components of the Hilbert scheme that contain points corresponding to integral divisors. Then $\text{Hilb}^1_X$ has only countably many irreducible components.

**Proof.** Let $\pi : X' \to X$ be a birational projective morphism from a normal projective variety. In particular, $\pi$ is an isomorphism in codimension 1. Define a rational map
\[ p : (\text{Hilb}^1_{X'})_{\text{red}} \to \text{Hilb}^1_X \]
by pushforward. More precisely, the universal ideal sheaf $\mathcal{I} \subset O_{X' \times \text{Hilb}^1_{X'}}$ defines an ideal sheaf
\[ \pi_* \mathcal{I} \cap O_{X \times \text{Hilb}^1_{X'}} \subset O_{X \times \text{Hilb}^1_{X'}}. \]
By generic flatness, this defines a rational map from the reduced structure of $\text{Hilb}^1_{X'}$ to $\text{Hilb}^1_X$. On the other hand, strict transform defines a rational map
\[ q : (\text{Hilb}^1_X)_{\text{red}} \to \text{Hilb}^1_{X'}. \]
It is not hard to see that $pq = \text{id}$ as rational maps on each irreducible component of $\text{Hilb}^1_X$. In particular, the set of irreducible components of $\text{Hilb}^1_X$ is identified with a subset of the set of irreducible components of $\text{Hilb}^1_{X'}$. Since $X'$ is projective, $\text{Hilb}^1_{X'}$ has countably many components. The result follows. $\Box$

**Lemma 5.3.3.** Let $X$ be a normal, proper variety and $\{D_c\}$ a t-pencil. Assume that the base field is uncountable and algebraically closed. Then there is a (possibly irrational) pencil of divisors $|f|$ such that
\[ \text{ConnComp}\{D_c \setminus B_\Sigma |f|\} = \text{ConnComp}\{E \setminus B_\Sigma |f| : E \in |f|\}. \]
In particular, if every $D_c \setminus B_\Sigma |f|$ is connected and every $E \setminus B_\Sigma |f|$ is connected for $E \in |f|$, then the $D_c$ are precisely the reduced structures on the $E \in |f|$.
Proof. By Lemma [5.3.2], countably many components of the Hilbert scheme of $X$ contain all of the points $[D_c]$. Thus, there are uncountably many $D_c$ that are algebraically equivalent. They determine a pencil $|D|$ by Lemma [5.2.8]. Each remaining divisor must lie in a member of $|D|$ (by connectedness). Since the $D_c$ cover $X$, we conclude that each connected component appears.

As the following example shows, over a countable field t-pencils need not come from algebraic pencils. (This more or less must be the case by Lemma [4.4.0.1]. Here is an explicit example.)

Example 5.3.4 (t-pencils over countable fields). Let $X$ be a normal, projective variety of dimension $\geq 2$ over an infinite field $K$ and $L$ a very ample line bundle on $X$.

Pick any $s_1 \in H^0(X, L^m_1)$ and $s_2 \in H^0(X, L^{m_2})$. Assume that we already have $s_i \in H^0(X, L^m_i)$ for $i = 1, \ldots, r$ such that $\text{Supp}(s_i = s_j = 0)$ is independent of $1 \leq i < j \leq r$.

Set $M = \prod m_i$,

$$S_{r+1} := \left( \prod_i s_i^{M/m_i} \right) \left( \sum_i s_i^{-M/m_i} \right) \text{ and } T_{r+1} := \prod_i s_i,$$

and choose $s_{r+1} = S_{r+1} + g \cdot T_{r+1}$ for a general $g \in H^0(X, L^n)$ where $n = M(r-1) - \sum m_i$. Then $(s_{r+1} = 0)$ is irreducible and $\text{Supp}(s_i = s_j = 0)$ is independent of $1 \leq i < j \leq r + 1$.

If $K$ is countable then we can order the points of $X$ as $x_1, x_2, \ldots$ and we can choose the $s_i$ such that $\prod s_i$ vanishes on $x_1, \ldots, x_r$ for every $r$. Then the resulting $D_i := (s_i = 0)$ is a t-pencil that does not correspond to any actual pencil.

Definition 5.3.5. Let $X$ be a normal proper variety and $\{D_c\}$ a t-pencil. We say that $D_c$ is a true member of $\{D_c\}$ if the condition of Corollary [5.2.15] holds.

Definition 5.3.6. Two reduced divisors $D$ and $E$ are directly linearly t-equivalent if there is an uncountable collection of divisors $F_i, i \in I$ such that

1. for each $F_i$, there is a t-pencil $P_i$ containing $D$ and $F_i$ as true members and a t-pencil $Q_i$ containing $E$ and $F_i$ as true members;
2. the pencils $P_i$ are pairwise distinct, and the pencils $Q_i$ are pairwise distinct.

The equivalence relation generated by direct linear t-equivalence will be called linear t-equivalence and denoted by $\sim_t$.

Lemma 5.3.7. If $X$ is a proper normal variety over an uncountable algebraically closed field of characteristic 0, then linearly t-equivalent divisors are linearly equivalent.

Proof. It suffices to show that two directly linear t-equivalent divisors $D$ and $E$ are linearly equivalent. By Lemma [5.3.3] there are pencils connecting $D$ to $F_i$ and $E$ to $F_i$. Since $X$ has only countably many irrational pencils (by Proposition [5.2.5]), we conclude that most of the pencils are linear, showing that $D$ and $E$ are linearly equivalent.

Lemma 5.3.8. If $X$ is a proper normal variety over an uncountable algebraically closed field of characteristic 0 then linear equivalence of divisors is the same as linear t-equivalence.
Proof. By Lemma [5.3.7] it suffices to show that linearly equivalent divisors are linearly t-equivalent.

Choose a proper birational morphism \( p : X' \to X \) where \( X' \) is normal and projective. Let \( B \subset X \) be the smallest closed subset such that \( p \) is an isomorphism over \( X \setminus B \), and let \( B' = p^{-1}(B) \). Let \(|H'|\) be an ample linear system on \( X' \) and set \(|H| := p_*|H'|\). This is well-defined since proper pushforward of algebraic cycles preserves rational equivalence. Note that for any \( m > 0 \) we have that \( p_*mH' = mH \). Similarly, for any divisor \( A \subset X \) with strict transform \( A' \) in \( X' \), we have that \(|A + mH| = p_*|A' + mH'|\).

In particular, for all sufficiently large \( m \), we have that \(|A + mH|\) is the pushforward of a very ample linear system from \( X' \).

Suppose \( A \) is a connected reduced divisor on \( X \) with strict transform \( A' \subset X' \). (Note that \( A' \) need not be connected.) Choose \( m \) so that \( A' + mH' \) is very ample. Let \( A'_0, \ldots, A'_m \) be the connected components of \( A' \setminus B' \). A general member \( H'_m \) of \(|mH'|\) is integral and meets \( A'_i \) for all \( i \), so that \((H'_m + A') \setminus B' \) is connected.

Write \( Q_0, \ldots, Q_N \) for the irreducible components of \((H'_m + A') \setminus B' \). A general member \( A'_m \) of \(|A' + mH'|\) will be integral and not contain any irreducible component of any intersection \( Q_i \cap Q_j \). It follows that \((H'_m + A') \setminus A'_m \) remains connected.

It follows that for general \( H_m \in |mH| \) and \( A_m \in |A + mH| \), we have that \( A + H_m \) and \( A_m \) are directly linearly t-equivalent, since we have just shown that for general choices of \( H_m \) and \( A_m \), removing the base locus of \( \langle A + H_m, A_m \rangle \) does not disconnect \( A + H_m \) or \( A_m \). Since this holds for general \( A_m \) given a fixed general \( H_m \), we see that for general \( A_m \) and \( H_m \), we have a linear t-equivalence \( A + H_m \sim_t A_m \).

Suppose given an effective divisor \( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i A_i \) on \( X \). Arguing as above we see that for large enough \( m \) and a general member \( H_m \in |mH| \), there is a direct linear t-equivalence

\[
A_1 + H_m \sim_t A_0
\]

with \( A_0 \) an integral divisor distinct from \( A_1, \ldots, A_n \). This yields a linear t-equivalence

\[
H_m + \sum_{i=1}^n a_i A_i \sim_t A_0 + (a_1 - 1) A_1 + \sum_{i=2}^n a_i A_i.
\]

By induction on \( \sum a_i \), we see that for all sufficiently large \( m \), for any \( d > \sum a_i \) and general members \( H^{(1)}_m, \ldots, H^{(d)}_m \), there is a linear t-equivalence

\[
H^{(1)}_m + \cdots + H^{(d)}_m + \sum_{i} a_i A_i \sim_t A_\infty
\]

for some integral divisor \( A_\infty \).

Given two linearly equivalent effective divisors \( A = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i A_i \) and \( B = \sum_{j=1}^m b_j B_j \), choose \( d > \max\{\sum a_i, \sum b_j\} \). By the above argument, we get linear t-equivalences \( H^{(1)}_m + \cdots + H^{(d)}_m + A \sim_t A_\infty \) and \( H^{(1)}_m + \cdots + H^{(d)}_m + B \sim_t B_\infty \) for two linearly equivalent integral divisors \( A_\infty \) and \( B_\infty \). Moreover, choosing \( d \) large enough, we may assume that the linear system containing \( A_\infty \) and \( B_\infty \) is the pushforward of a very ample linear system from \( X' \). Choosing a general member of the linear system \(|A_\infty|\) then produces uncountably many pencils as in Definition [5.3.6].
We thus get a chain of linear t-equivalences
\[ H^{(1)} + \cdots + H^{(d)} + A \sim_t A_\infty \sim_t B_\infty \sim_t H^{(1)} + \cdots + H^{(d)} + B, \]
showing that \( A \) and \( B \) are linearly t-equivalent, as claimed. \( \square \)

5.4. A topological Gabriel theorem. In this section, we prove the following analogues of Gabriel’s reconstruction theorem. Rosenberg credit?

Theorem 5.4.1. Let \( X \) be a proper normal variety over an uncountable algebraically closed field \( k \). Let \( \mathcal{C} \) be one of the following categories:

1. the category of constructible abelian étale sheaves on \( X \);
2. the category of constructible étale sheaves of \( F_\ell \)-modules on \( X \);
3. the category of constructible étale \( \mathbb{Q}_\ell \)-sheaves on \( X \);
4. the category of constructible étale \( \mathbb{Q}_\ell \)-sheaves on \( X \).

Then \( X \) is uniquely determined as an abstract scheme up to isomorphism by the category \( \mathcal{C} \) up to equivalence. More precisely, given two such varieties \( X \) and \( Y \), any equivalence \( \mathcal{C}_X \to \mathcal{C}_Y \) induces an isomorphism \( X \to Y \) of schemes.

Let \( A \) be one of the rings \( F_\ell \) or a subfield \( \mathbb{Q}_\ell \subset A \subset \overline{Q}_\ell \) and let \( \mathcal{C} \) be the category of constructible étale \( A \)-modules on \( X \).

Lemma 5.4.2. A constructible \( A \)-module \( M \) is isomorphic to a sheaf of the form \( \iota_* A \) for some \( \iota : \text{Spec} \ k \to X \) if and only if it is a (non-zero) simple object of \( \mathcal{C} \).

Proof. Since \( M \) is constructible, its support is a constructible subset of \( X \). If it contains two closed points \( x \) and \( y \), then \( M \) contains the proper submodule \( \iota_! M_x \), where \( \iota : x \to X \) is the inclusion map. We conclude that \( M \) is supported at a single closed point \( x \in X \), so that \( M = \iota_* M' \) for some \( M' \). Since \( M \) is simple, \( M' \) must be a simple vector space, so it must have dimension 1. \( \square \)

Definition 5.4.3. An object \( F \in \mathcal{C} \) is irreducible if

1. for every simple object \( s \in \mathcal{C} \) we have \( \dim_A \text{Hom}(F, s) \leq 1 \), and
2. any pair of subobjects \( F'', F'' \subset F \) have non-zero intersection.

Two irreducible sheaves \( F \) and \( F' \) are equivalent if and only if there is an irreducible sheaf \( F'' \) and two monomorphisms \( F'' \hookrightarrow F \) and \( F'' \hookrightarrow F' \).

Lemma 5.4.4. The following hold for irreducible sheaves.

1. If \( F \) is irreducible then the closure of the support of \( F \) is irreducible.
2. Two irreducible sheaves \( F \) and \( F' \) satisfy \( \text{Supp}(F) = \text{Supp}(F') \) if and only if they are equivalent.
3. The irreducible closed subsets of \( X \) are in bijection with equivalence classes of irreducible sheaves. More precisely, the irreducible closed subsets \( Z \subset X \) are given by choosing an irreducible sheaf with maximal support, viewed as a subset of \( X \).
4. An irreducible closed subset \( Y \subset X \) lies in an irreducible closed subset \( Z \subset X \) if and only if there is an irreducible sheaf \( F \) with \( \text{Supp}(F) = Z \), an irreducible sheaf \( F' \) with \( \text{Supp}(F') = Y \), and a surjection \( F \to F' \).
Proof. If the closure of the support of $F$ is not irreducible then there are two open subsets $U,V \subset \text{Supp}(F)$ such that $U \cap V = \emptyset$. But then $(j_U)_* F_U$ and $(j_V)_* F_V$ are two non-zero subsheaves with trivial intersection. The second statement follows immediately from the fact that open subsets of the support define subsheaves. The third statement follows from the previous two statements. The last statement follows from the fact that for any surjection $F \to F'$ we have $\text{Supp}(F') \subset \text{Supp}(F)$, combined with the fact that, if $i : Y \to Z$ is a closed immersion, the natural map $A_Z \to i_* A_Y$ is a surjection of irreducible sheaves. (We will not need the final statement in what follows, but it is nice to observe.) □

**Proposition 5.4.5.** The Zariski topological space $X$ is uniquely determined by the category $\mathcal{C}$.

**Proof.** It suffices to reconstruct the Zariski topology on the set of closed points $X(k)$. First note that we can describe the set itself as the set of isomorphism classes of simple objects of $\mathcal{C}$, by Lemma 5.4.2. Given a sheaf $F$, we can thus describe the support $\text{Supp}(F) \subset X(k)$. By Lemma 5.4.4 we can reconstruct the set of irreducible closed subsets $Z \subset X(k)$. This suffices to completely determine the topology, since closed subsets are precisely finite unions of irreducible closed subsets. □

**Proof of Theorem 5.4.1** The result follows immediately from Proposition 5.4.5 and Theorem 5.1.2. □

**Remark 5.4.6.** It is natural to wonder if there are topological analogues of Balmer’s monoidal reconstruction theorem [1], or the theory of Fourier–Mukai transforms. These ideas will be pursued elsewhere.

5.5. **Counterexamples with weaker hypotheses.** Here we give some examples showing that the assumption that $k$ is algebraically closed of characteristic 0 is necessary for Theorem 5.1.1 and Theorem 5.1.2 to be true as stated. We also briefly speculate about appropriate replacements in positive characteristic.

**Example 5.5.1.** Let $E$ be an elliptic curve over a field $k$ of characteristic $p > 0$. Then the morphism

$$F_{E/k} \times \text{id} : E \times_k E \to E^{(p)} \times_k E$$

is a homeomorphism which is not induced by an isomorphism of schemes

$$E \times_k E \to E^{(p)} \times_k E.$$ 

Indeed such an isomorphism would have to respect the product structure implying that $E \simeq E^{(p)}$ over $k$. So we get examples where Theorem 5.1.2 fails by choosing $E$ such that $E$ is not isomorphic to $E^{(p)}$ over $k$.

**Example 5.5.2.** For the second example, we assume that $k$ has characteristic at least 5. Given a homogeneous polynomial $f(x,y,z)$ of degree $p$, let $D_f \subset \mathbb{P}^3$ denote the divisor given by the equation $w^p - f(x,y,z)$. The projection map

$$(x,y,z,w) \mapsto (x,y,z) : \mathbb{P}^3 \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$$

defines a morphism $\pi : D_f \to \mathbb{P}^2$ which realizes $D_f$ as obtained from the $p$-th root construction

$$D_f = \text{Spec}_{\mathbb{P}^2} 6 \oplus 6(-1) \oplus \cdots \oplus 6(-p + 1),$$
with the multiplication structure defined by the inclusion \( \mathcal{O}(-p) \to \mathcal{O} \) associated to the divisor \( f(x, y, z) = 0 \). In particular, \( D_f \) is finite flat over \( \mathbb{P}^2 \). Since a general such polynomial \( f \) (for example, \( f(x, y, z) = x^{p-1}y + y^{p-1}w + w^{p-1}x \)) has a finite set of critical points, we see that for such \( f \) the scheme \( D_f \) is a normal surface. By adjunction, we have that \( K_{D_f} \cong \mathcal{O}_{D_f}(p - 3) \) is big. We will write \( X_f \to D_f \) for a minimal resolution of \( X_f \); the preceding considerations show that \( X_f \) is a smooth surface of general type.

Since \( \pi \) is purely inseparable, the map \( \pi \) is a homeomorphism, but not an isomorphism, as \( D_f \) is not smooth. This gives counterexamples to Theorem 5.1.2 in positive characteristic.

Note that the example described here comes from a purely inseparable homeomorphism \( X \to P \). In particular, \( X \) and \( P \) have isomorphic perfections. This leads naturally to the following question:

**Question 5.5.3.** Suppose \( X \) and \( Y \) are proper normal varieties over uncountable algebraically closed fields with perfections \( X^{\text{perf}} \) and \( Y^{\text{perf}} \). Is the map

\[
\text{Isom}(X^{\text{perf}}, Y^{\text{perf}}) \to \text{Isom}(|X|, |Y|)
\]

a bijection?

In the spirit of Grothendieck and Voevodsky, it is also natural to ask the following question.

**Question 5.5.4.** Is the perfection of a normal scheme of positive dimension over an uncountable algebraically closed field uniquely determined by its proétale topos?

We also note the following result of Kollár and Mangolte [14].

**Theorem 5.5.5 (Kollár–Mangolte).** Let \( S \) be a smooth, projective rational surface over \( R \). Then the group of algebraic automorphisms (defined over \( R \)) is dense in the group of diffeomorphisms of \( S(R) \).

Here an algebraic automorphism is an automorphism of \( S(R) \) induced by a rational map \( S \to S \) whose domain of definition includes all of the real points \( S(R) \). Thus, for instance, there are many Cremona transformations with purely imaginary base-points that induce Zariski homeomorphisms on the Zariski dense of real points. These cannot extend to isomorphisms of schemes, even after change of complex structure. Thus, the fullness of the functor fails if one tries to restrict attention to real points, even for rational surfaces.

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