Abelianization of the $F$-divided fundamental group scheme

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MS received 27 July 2015; revised 13 January 2016

Abstract. Let $(X, x_0)$ be a pointed smooth proper variety defined over an algebraically closed field. The Albanese morphism for $(X, x_0)$ produces a homomorphism from the abelianization of the $F$-divided fundamental group scheme of $X$ to the $F$-divided fundamental group of the Albanese variety of $X$. We prove that this homomorphism is surjective with finite kernel. The kernel is also described.

Keywords. $F$-divided fundamental group scheme; Frobenius; Picard scheme; Albanese.

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification. 14G17; 14F35; 14K30.

1. Introduction

Let $X$ be a proper and smooth variety defined over an algebraically closed field $k$. Once a $k$-point $x_0$ of $X$ is chosen, we have the Albanese morphism

$$\alpha : X \longrightarrow A,$$

as explained in p. 10 of [13]. Let $\pi^\text{et}_1$ stand for the etale fundamental group as defined in [12] and use the superscript ‘ab’ to denote the abelianization. Since $\pi^\text{et}_1(A, \alpha(x_0))$ is abelian (XI, 2.1, p. 222 of [12]) the homomorphism of fundamental groups induced by $\alpha$ factors through the quotient $\pi^\text{et}_1(X, x_0) \longrightarrow \pi^\text{et}_1(X, x_0)^\text{ab}$. It is known that the resulting homomorphism

$$\alpha_# : \pi^\text{et}_1(X, x_0)^\text{ab} \longrightarrow \pi^\text{et}_1(A, 0)$$

is surjective with finite kernel; the kernel can also be described (see Lemma 5 of [5]).

Analogous considerations can be made for the essentially finite fundamental group scheme $\pi^\text{ef}_1$ [10], since it is known that $\pi^\text{ef}_1(A, \alpha(x_0))$ is abelian [11]. This work was undertaken by Antei, who showed that the homomorphism $\alpha_# : \pi^\text{ef}_1(X, x_0)^\text{ab} \longrightarrow \pi^\text{ef}_1(A, 0)$ is surjective with finite kernel (see [1]). Langer [7] treated the analogous property in the setting of the $S$-fundamental group scheme.
Our aim here is to address the question for the $F$-divided fundamental group scheme [2] and generalize the analysis made in loc. cit. More precisely, we prove the following (see Theorem 4.1):

- The homomorphism from the abelianized $F$-divided fundamental group scheme of $X$ to the $F$-divided fundamental group scheme of $A$ (which is abelian), induced by $\alpha$, is surjective.
- The kernel of the above surjective homomorphism is finite.

We also describe this kernel.

**Notation and standard terminology**

1. Let $k$ be an algebraically closed field of characteristic $p > 0$.
2. If $Y$ is any $k$-scheme, let $F: Y \longrightarrow Y$ stand for the absolute Frobenius morphism: on the underlying topological space it is just the identity and $F^\# : \mathcal{O}_Y \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_Y$ is the usual Frobenius morphism of rings in characteristic $p$.
3. The $F$-divided sheaves are the flat sheaves of Definition 1.1 on p. 3 of [3]. We adopt the terminology introduced in p. 695, Definition 4 of [2].
4. The rank of an $F$-divided sheaf $\{\mathcal{E}_i, \sigma_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ is the rank of $\mathcal{E}_0$ (which are locally free due to Lemma 6 of [2]).
5. The fundamental group scheme for the $F$-divided sheaves on a pointed smooth $k$-scheme $(Y, y_0)$, call it $\Pi_1(Y, y_0)$, is the one introduced in p. 696, Definition 7 of [2]: the category of $F$-divided sheaves is equivalent, as a Tannakian category, to the category of finite dimensional representations of $\Pi_1(Y, y_0)$.
6. Let $G$ be an affine group scheme over $k$. A quotient of $G$ is a quotient in the sense of Waterhouse (p. 114, 15.1 of [16]). A quotient morphism of affine group schemes $G \rightarrow H$ is also said to be surjective.
7. Given an affine group scheme $G$ over $k$, we let $G^{\text{ab}}, G^{\text{uni}}$ and $G^{\text{diag}}$ stand respectively for the largest abelian, largest unipotent, and largest diagonal quotient of $G$.
8. Given any abelian group $\Lambda$, we write $\text{Diag}(\Lambda)$ for the affine group scheme defined in Part 1, 2.5, p.26 of [4]. It is simply the ‘torus’ having $\Lambda$ as its group of characters.
9. If $Y$ is a smooth and proper variety over $k$, we let $\text{Pic}(Y)$ be the Picard scheme for the Picard group. The connected component of the identity of $\text{Pic}(Y)$ will be denoted by $\text{Pic}_0(Y)$; we write $\text{Pic}_0(Y)$ for its group of $k$-points. At present, the best general reference for the Picard scheme seems to be [6].
10. Finite groups will be identified with their associated finite affine group schemes (§2.3 of [16]). The same identifications are extended to profinite groups.
11. For any abelian group scheme $G$ and any positive integer $m$, we write $G[m]$ for the kernel of multiplication by $m$.
12. For an abelian variety $B$ over $k$, we let $T_pB$ stand for the pro-etale group scheme $\lim_{\leftarrow} B[p^n](k)$. The reader should bear in mind that $T_pB$ is an unipotent group scheme.

### 2. The Albanese variety

Let $X$ be a proper and smooth variety defined over $k$. In what follows, the underlying reduced subscheme of $\text{Pic}^0(X)$ is denoted by $\text{Pic}^0_{\text{red}}(X)$. We fix a closed point $x_0 \in X$. Consider the unique Poincaré line bundle on $X \times \text{Pic}^0(X)$ which is trivial on $x_0 \times \text{Pic}^0(X)$. 

Restrict the Poincaré bundle to \( X \times \text{Pic}^0_{\text{red}}(X) \). Viewing this restriction as a line bundle on \( \text{Pic}^0_{\text{red}}(X) \) parametrized by \( X \), we get a morphism
\[
\alpha : X \longrightarrow A := \text{Pic}^0_{\text{red}}(\text{Pic}^0_{\text{red}}(X)).
\] (2.1)

The abelian variety \( A \) and the morphism \( \alpha \) defined above enjoy an universal property characterizing them as the Albanese variety and Albanese morphism in the sense of [14]. Since we have no use for this universal property, the reader is only required to bear in mind the definition in (2.1).

**PROPOSITION 2.1**

*The homomorphism
\[
\alpha^* : \text{Pic}^0(A) \longrightarrow \text{Pic}^0_{\text{red}}(X)
\]
induced by the Albanese morphism \( \alpha \) in (2.1) is an isomorphism.*

*Proof.* For an abelian variety \( B \), we have \( \text{Pic}^0(\text{Pic}^0(B)) = B \), with the identification given by the Poincaré line bundle on \( B \times \text{Pic}^0(B) \). More precisely, the classifying morphism \( B \longrightarrow \text{Pic}^0(\text{Pic}^0(B)) \) associated to the above Poincaré line bundle is an isomorphism. In particular, we have \( \text{Pic}^0(A) = \text{Pic}^0_{\text{red}}(X) \). Now it is straightforward to check that \( \alpha^* \) is the identity morphism of \( \text{Pic}^0_{\text{red}}(X) \). \( \square \)

### 2.1 The group of isomorphism classes of \( F \)-divided sheaves of rank one

Define
\[
\vartheta(X) := \left\{ \text{\( F \)-divided sheaves of rank one on \( X \)} \right\} \bigg/ \text{isomorphisms.}
\] (2.2)

Under the tensor product of line bundles, \( \vartheta(X) \) is an abelian group. Since \( X \) is assumed to be proper, the structure of \( \vartheta(X) \) is easily determined from the Picard group of \( X \) by means of the following construction (Section 3 of [2]):

**DEFINITION 2.3**

For an abelian group \( G \), let \([p] : G \longrightarrow G \) be the homomorphism \( z \mapsto p \cdot z \). We define \( G\langle p \rangle \) as the following projective limit:
\[
\lim_{\longleftarrow} \cdots \ [p] \longrightarrow G \longrightarrow G \longrightarrow \cdots .
\]

For each invertible sheaf \( \mathcal{L} \) of \( X \), we write \([\mathcal{L}]\) for its class in the Picard group \( \text{Pic}(X) \).

**PROPOSITION 2.2** (cf. p. 7, Theorem 1.8 of [3] and p. 706, Lemma 20 of [2])

*Let \( \mathcal{L} = (\mathcal{L}_0, \mathcal{L}_1, \ldots ) \) be an \( F \)-divided sheaf of rank one. Write
\[
\tau(\mathcal{L}) = ([\mathcal{L}_0], [\mathcal{L}_1], \ldots ) \in \text{Pic}(X)\langle p \rangle .
\]*

Then, \( \tau \) induces an isomorphism between the abelian groups \( \vartheta(X) \) (see (2.2)) and \( \text{Pic}(X)\langle p \rangle \) (see Definition 2.3).
Proof. If \( \mathcal{L} \) and \( \mathcal{M} \) are isomorphic \( F \)-divided sheaves of rank one, then clearly \( \tau(\mathcal{L}) = \tau(\mathcal{M}) \), and hence \( \tau \) is indeed a homomorphism from \( \vartheta(X) \) to \( \text{Pic}(X) \langle p \rangle \). It is obvious that \( \tau \) is surjective, while its injectivity is an observation due to p. 6, Proposition 1.7 of [3]. □

COROLLARY 2.3

Let \( \text{NS}(X) \) stand for the Néron–Severi group of \( X \) and \( \text{NS}(X)' \) for its subgroup of elements whose order is finite and prime to \( p \). Then \( \vartheta(X) \) sits in a short exact sequence

\[
0 \rightarrow \text{Pic}^0(X) \langle p \rangle \rightarrow \vartheta(X) \rightarrow \text{NS}(X)' \rightarrow 0.
\]

Proof. By definition, we have a short exact sequence of abelian groups

\[
0 \rightarrow \text{Pic}^0(X) \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X) \rightarrow \text{NS}(X) \rightarrow 0
\]

which gives rise to an exact sequence of the projective systems considered in Definition 2.3. Applying the projective limit functor and using that

\[
[p] : \text{Pic}^0(X) \rightarrow \text{Pic}^0(X)
\]

is surjective (p. 59 of [8]), we conclude that the sequence

\[
0 \rightarrow \text{Pic}^0(X) \langle p \rangle \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X) \langle p \rangle \rightarrow \text{NS}(X) \langle p \rangle \rightarrow 0
\]

is exact (§3.5 of [17]). As \( \text{NS}(X) \) is finitely generated (Exp. 13, Theorem 5.1 of [15]) and the functor \( G \mapsto G \langle p \rangle \) annihilates finitely generated free abelian groups, the corollary follows from Proposition 2.2 and the easily verified by isomorphisms \( \text{NS}(X)' \simeq \text{NS}(X) \langle p \rangle \simeq \text{NS}(X) \langle p \rangle \). □

PROPOSITION 2.4

The natural homomorphism

\[
\alpha^* : \vartheta(A) \rightarrow \vartheta(X)
\]

is injective, and its cokernel is the group \( \text{NS}(X)' \) introduced in Corollary 2.3. In particular, the kernel of

\[
\alpha_# : \Pi(X, x_0)^\text{diag} \rightarrow \Pi(A, \alpha(x_0))^\text{diag}
\]

is isomorphic to \( \text{Diag}(\text{NS}(X)') \).

Proof. We have a commutative diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\vartheta(A) & \xrightarrow{\alpha^*} & \vartheta(X) \\
\sigma \downarrow & & \tau \downarrow \\
\text{Pic}(A) \langle p \rangle & \xrightarrow{j} & \text{Pic}(X) \langle p \rangle \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow i \\
\text{Pic}^0(A) \langle p \rangle & \xrightarrow{i} & \text{Pic}^0(X) \langle p \rangle
\end{array}
\]
From Proposition 2.2, we know that $\sigma$ and $\tau$ are isomorphisms. From Corollary 2.3 and Corollary 2, Ch. IV, Section 19, p. 165 of [8], we know that $j$ is an isomorphism. The same Corollary 2.3 also guarantees that $i$ is injective with co-kernel $\text{NS}(X)'$. Since, by Proposition 2.1, the homomorphism $\text{Pic}^0(A)p \longrightarrow \text{Pic}^0(X)p$ is an isomorphism, we are done. The statement concerning group schemes follows easily from the fact that the functor $\text{Diag}$ takes exact sequences of abelian groups to exact sequences of affine abelian group schemes.

3. The group $\pi^\text{et}(X, x_0)^\text{ab}$

Since $\Pi(X, x_0)^\text{uni}$ is proétale (Corollary 16, p. 704 of [2]), the following considerations are in order.

PROPOSITION 3.1 (cf. p. 308, Lemma 5 of [5])

The homomorphism

$$\pi_1^\text{et}(X, x_0)^\text{ab,uni} \longrightarrow \pi_1^\text{et}(A, \alpha(x_0))^\text{uni} = T_p(A)$$

is surjective and its kernel $K$ is the group of $k$-points of the Cartier dual of the local affine group scheme

$$\text{Pic}^0(X)/\text{Pic}^0_\text{red}(X).$$

Proof. This can be easily extracted from p. 308, Lemma 5 of [5], but we give details for the convenience of the reader.

We will consider the category of finite groups as a full subcategory of the category of finite group schemes over $k$. In the same spirit, the category of pro-finite groups is regarded as a subcategory of the category of pro-etale group schemes over $k$. We know that

$$\text{Hom}(\mu_{p^n}, \text{Pic}(X)) = \text{Hom}(\mu_{p^n}, \text{Pic}^0(X)).$$

Let $Q$ stand for the quotient $\text{Pic}^0(X)/\text{Pic}^0_\text{red}(X)$. Then, using that $\text{Ext}^1(B, \mu_m) = 0$ for any abelian variety $B$ (Remark, p. 310 of [5]), we arrive at the exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \text{Hom}(\mu_{p^n}, \text{Pic}^0_\text{red}(X)) \longrightarrow \text{Hom}(\mu_{p^n}, \text{Pic}^0(X))$$

$$\hspace{1cm} \longrightarrow \text{Hom}(\mu_{p^n}, Q) \longrightarrow 0.$$
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(see §2.4 of [16] for the first isomorphism and Ch. 15, p. 134, Theorem 1 of [8] for the second isomorphism), it follows that

\[
\text{Hom}(\mu_{p^n}, \text{Pic}^0_{\text{red}}(X)) \simeq \text{Hom}(A[p^n], \mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z})
\]

\[
\simeq \text{Hom}(T_p A, \mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z})
\]

thus completing the proof. \qed

4. The main result

Since the $F$-divided fundamental group $\Pi(A, \alpha(x_0))$ of the Albanese variety $A$ is abelian (p. 707, Theorem 21 of [2]), we have a commutative diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\Pi(X, x_0) & \longrightarrow & \Pi(A, \alpha(x_0)) \\
\alpha_{#} & \downarrow &  \\
\Pi(X, x_0)^{\text{ab}} & \rightarrow &  \\
\end{array}
\]

**Theorem 4.1.** Let $\text{NS}(X)'$ be as in Corollary 2.3 and $K$ as in Proposition 3.1. The homomorphism

\[
\alpha_{#} : \Pi(X, x_0)^{\text{ab}} \longrightarrow \Pi(A, \alpha(x_0))
\]

is surjective, and its kernel is

\[
\text{Diag}(\text{NS}(X)') \times K.
\]

**Proof.** We can write $\Pi(X, x_0)^{\text{ab}}$ as a product of $U \times \Delta$, where $U$ is unipotent and $\Delta$ is diagonal (§9.5, p. 70, Theorem of [16]). By definition, $\Pi(X, x_0)^{\text{diag}}$ is the largest diagonal quotient of $\Pi(X, x_0)^{\text{ab}}$, and there are no nontrivial homomorphisms from $U$ to $\Delta$ (use §8.3, Corollary, p. 65 of [16]). Therefore, we have $\Pi(X, x_0)^{\text{diag}} \simeq \Delta$. The same argument shows, employing Exercise 6, p. 67 of [16], that $\Pi(X, x_0)^{\text{ab,uni}} \simeq U$. As remarked in p. 707, Theorem 21 of [2], we have isomorphisms

\[
\Pi(A, \alpha(x_0)) \simeq \text{Diag}(\text{Pic}^0(A)(p)) \times \pi_1^{\text{et}}(A, \alpha(x_0))^{\text{uni}}
\]

\[
\simeq \text{Diag}(\text{Pic}^0(A)(p)) \times T_p(A).
\]

Since there are no nontrivial homomorphisms from an unipotent (respectively, diagonal) affine group scheme to a diagonal (respectively, unipotent) affine group scheme, the homomorphism $\alpha_{#}$ in the statement is given by a pair of homomorphisms

\[
\alpha_{#}^{\text{diag}} \times \alpha_{#}^{\text{uni}} : \Pi(X, x_0)^{\text{diag}} \times \Pi(X, x_0)^{\text{ab,uni}} \longrightarrow \text{Diag}(\text{Pic}^0(A)(p)) \times T_p(A).
\]

From Corollary 2.4, we know that the homomorphism $\alpha_{#}^{\text{diag}}$ is surjective with kernel $\text{Diag}(\text{NS}(X)')$. From p. 704, Corollary 16 of [2], we know that $\Pi(X, x_0)^{\text{ab,uni}}$ is pro-etale, that is, $\Pi(X, x_0)^{\text{ab,uni}} \simeq \pi_1^{\text{et}}(X, x_0)^{\text{ab,uni}}$; applying Proposition 3.1, we conclude that $\alpha_{#}^{\text{uni}}$ is surjective with kernel $K$. \qed
Acknowledgements

The first author (IB) wishes to thank the Institut de Mathématiques de Jussieu – Paris Rive Gauche for hospitality while this work was carried out.

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