

# Rational points of varieties over $\mathbb{C}((t))$

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## Motivation

**W**HICH class of algebraic varieties over a given field automatically has a rational point?

This is a question of current research. For example there is the following result in [1]:

**Theorem.** *Every projective rationally connected variety  $X$  over  $\mathbb{C}(t)$  has a rational point.*

The same is true for  $K := \mathbb{C}((t))$ . But for example it is not known what happens if we weaken the assumption on  $X$  slightly.

**H**OW can one detect rational points of a given  $K$ -variety  $X$ ?

The idea is to look at a model  $\mathcal{X}$  of  $X$ , i.e. an  $S$ -variety,  $S := \text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_K)$ , whose generic fiber is isomorphic to  $X$ . If  $\mathcal{X}$  is proper over  $S$ , we get the following one-to-one correspondence:

$$K\text{-points of } X \xleftarrow{1:1} S\text{-points of } \mathcal{X}$$

To find an  $S$ -points of  $\mathcal{X}$ , look at the special fiber  $\mathcal{X}_{\mathbb{C}} := \mathcal{X} \times_S \text{Spec}(\mathbb{C})$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ . We have a reduction map  $\phi : \mathcal{X}(S) \rightarrow \mathcal{X}_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbb{C})$ . As  $\mathcal{O}_K$  is Henselian, we have  $\text{Sm}(\mathcal{X}_{\mathbb{C}})(\mathbb{C}) \subset \phi(\mathcal{X}(S))$ . If  $\mathcal{X}$  is regular, we even get an equality, so in this case  $\mathcal{X}$  has an  $S$ -point if and only if  $\mathcal{X}_{\mathbb{C}}$  has a reduced component. In general it is not known if a given singular point  $x \in \mathcal{X}_{\mathbb{C}}$  lies in the image of  $\phi$ .

To find a nice model of  $X$  it is sometimes easier to look for a nice model  $\mathcal{Y}$  of  $X_L := X \times_{\text{Spec}(K)} \text{Spec}(L)$ , with  $L$  over  $K$  a finite field extension, for example one can demand the special fiber of  $\mathcal{Y}$  to be a reduced simple normal crossing divisor (semistable reduction).

In order to be able to construct a model  $\mathcal{X}$  of  $X$  from a model  $\mathcal{Y}$  of  $X_L$ , assume that the diagonal action of  $G := \text{Gal}(L/K)$  on  $X_L \subset \mathcal{Y}$  extends to a  $G$ -action on  $\mathcal{Y}$ , which is compatible with the  $G$ -action on  $T := \text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_L)$  given by restriction of the Galois action of  $G$  on  $L$  to  $\mathcal{O}_L \subset L$ . Then  $\mathcal{X} := \mathcal{Y}/G$  is an  $S = T/G$ -scheme with generic fiber  $X$ , i.e. a model of  $X$ .

The aim of my work is to understand a model of a  $K$ -variety  $X$  constructed as described above.

## My Research

**F**IX a regular  $T$ -scheme  $\mathcal{Y}$  with a  $G$ -action which is compatible with the  $G$ -action on  $T$ . Let  $\text{Sm}(\mathcal{Y}) \subset \mathcal{Y}$  be the smooth locus of the structure map of  $\mathcal{Y}$ .

**Proposition.**  *$\mathcal{X} := \mathcal{Y}/G$  has an  $S$ -point if and only if there exists a closed fixed point  $x \in \text{Sm}(\mathcal{Y})$ .*

The most interesting part of the proof is the "if"-part, done by constructing an  $S$ -point of  $\mathcal{X}/G$  through the image of the fixed point  $x \in \text{Sm}(\mathcal{Y})$  under the quotient map. This is done by constructing a  $G$ -invariant  $T$ -point of  $\mathcal{X}$  through  $x$  using the fact that the  $G$ -action is diagonalizable on the complete local ring and a kind of weighted,  $G$ -equivariant blowup.

Note that the constructed  $S$ -point might be in the singular locus of  $\mathcal{X}/G$ . To see this look at the following example:

**Example.** Look at the  $G = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ -action on the smooth  $T$ -scheme  $\mathbb{A}_T^1 = \text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}[[u]][x])$  given by

$$g : \mathbb{C}[[u]][x] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}[[u]][x]; P(u, x) \rightarrow P(-u, -x)$$

This action is compatible with the  $G$ -action on  $T$ , given by  $g_T : \mathbb{C}[[u]] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}[[u]]; P(u) \rightarrow P(-u)$ . The closed point  $Q = (0, 0)$  is fixed.

$\mathbb{A}_T^1/G \cong \mathbb{C}[[t]][b, c]/(tb - c^2)$  is singular in the image  $Q' = (0, 0, 0)$  of  $Q$  under the quotient map.

**F**OR a given  $K$ -variety  $X$  one can define the Serre invariant as follows: One takes a weak Néron model  $\mathcal{X}$  of  $X$ , i.e.  $\mathcal{X}$  is smooth over  $S$  and  $\mathcal{X}(S) = X(K)$ . Such a model always exists, but is not unique. The Serre invariant  $S(X)$  is the special fiber of  $\mathcal{X}$  in  $K_0(\text{Var}_{\mathbb{C}})/(\mathbb{L} - 1)$ , which is independent of the choice of a weak Néron model. Here  $K_0(\text{Var}_{\mathbb{C}})$  is the Grothendieck Ring of varieties, generated by isomorphism classes  $[Z]$  of separated  $\mathbb{C}$ -schemes of finite type and for every closed immersion  $Z' \rightarrow Z$  relations  $[Z] = [Z \setminus Z'] + [Z']$ , with multiplication given by fiber product over  $\mathbb{C}$ , and  $\mathbb{L} = [\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{C}}^1]$ . For the construction see [2].

Now take a finite field extension  $L$  of  $K$  and a model  $\mathcal{Y}$  of  $X_L$  with a  $G$ -action as above. Let  $\mathcal{Y}^G \subset \mathcal{Y}$  be the fixed point locus of this action. By the Proposition we have that  $S(X) = 0$  if and only if  $[\mathcal{Y}^G] = 0 \in K_0(\text{Var}_{\mathbb{C}})/(\mathbb{L} - 1)$ .

**Question.** *Do we have  $S(X) = [\mathcal{Y}^G] \in K_0(\text{Var}_{\mathbb{C}})/(\mathbb{L} - 1)$ ?*

## References

- [1] Tom Graber, Joe Harris, and Jason Starr, *Families of rationally connected varieties*, J. Amer. Math. Soc. **16** (2003), no. 1, 57–67 (electronic). MR 1937199 (2003m:14081)
- [2] Johannes Nicaise, *A trace formula for varieties over a discretely valued field*, J. Reine Angew. Math. **650** (2011), 193–238. MR 2770561