

Pacific Journal of Mathematics

FORMS OF THE AFFINE LINE AND ITS ADDITIVE GROUP

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Let k be a field, X_0 an object (e.g., scheme, group scheme) defined over k . An object X of the same type and isomorphic to X_0 over some field $K \supset k$ is called a form of X_0 . If k is not perfect, both the affine line A^1 and its additive group G_a have nontrivial sets of forms, and these are investigated here. Equivalently, one is interested in k -algebras R such that $K \otimes_k R \cong K[t]$ (the polynomial ring in one variable) for some field $K \supset k$, where, in the case of forms of G_a , R has a group (or co-algebra) structure $s: R \rightarrow R \otimes_k R$ such that $(K \otimes s)(t) = t \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes t$. A complete classification of forms of G_a and their principal homogeneous spaces is given and the behaviour of the set of forms under base field extension is studied.

If k is perfect, all forms of A^1 and G_a are trivial, as is well known (cf. 1.1). So assume k is not perfect of characteristic $p > 0$. Then a nontrivial example (cf. [5], p. 46) of a form of G_a is the subgroup of $G_a^2 = \text{Spec } k[x, y]$ defined by $y^p = x + ax^p$ where $a \in k, a \notin k^p$. We show that this example is quite typical (cf. 2.1): Every form of G_a is isomorphic to a subgroup of G_a^2 defined by an equation $y^{p^n} = a_0x + a_1x^p + \dots + a_mx^{p^m}, a_i \in k, a_0 \neq 0$. Analyzing the equivalence relation induced on the right hand side polynomials by isomorphism of the groups which they define, we obtain a description of the set of forms of G_a split by $k^{p^{-n}}$ as, essentially, the quotient of an infinite direct sum of copies of k/k^{p^n} under a certain group action (cf. 2.5).

If G is a nontrivial form of G_a , we show that $\text{End}_k G$ is a finite field (cf. 3.1). This allows one to compute the set of k_s/k -forms of G (k_s a separable algebraic closure of k) using Galois cohomology. This set is nontrivial in general, in contrast to the same situation for G_a .

A form X of A^1 may fail to have a group structure for two reasons. First, and this is the serious failure, X_{k_s} may not have enough (i.e., infinitely many) automorphisms. As an example, with the identity as the only automorphism, one may take $P^1 - \{q\}$, where P^1 is the projective line and q is a purely inseparable point of degree $p^n > 2$. The general case here seems to be rather complex. Secondly, X_{k_s} may have enough automorphisms, but X may not have a rational point. We show that then X is a principal homogeneous space for a form of G_a (cf. 4.1). This gives a new interpretation of a result of Rosenlicht ([4], p. 10, theorem) on curves with exceptionally many automorphisms (cf. 4.2).

1. Throughout this paper k will be a fixed base field, \bar{k} an algebraic closure of k , $k_i = k^{p^{-\infty}}$ ($p = \text{char } k$) the perfect and k_s the separable closure of k in \bar{k} . Reference to k will usually be omitted.

It is well known (cf. [5], p. 34 and [6], p. 108) that a form G of G_a is split by k_i , that is, $G_{k_i} \cong G_{a k_i}$. The same is true for forms X of A^1 . For the sake of completeness, and to establish some notation, we briefly outline the argument. The idea is to investigate the complete regular curve P determined by X . As a matter of terminology, we call a scheme Y regular if all its local rings are regular, and nonsingular if Y_K is regular for any $K \supset k$. As is well known, Y_K nonsingular implies Y nonsingular, and Y is nonsingular if and only if $Y_{k^{p^{-1}}}$ is regular. The existence of forms of A^1 is closely connected with the divergence of these notions if k is not perfect. If Y is a curve, we denote by \tilde{Y}_K the regular curve obtained by normalizing Y_K .

LEMMA 1.1. *Let X be a form of A^1 and $P \supset X$ a complete regular curve.*

(i) *$P - X$ is a point purely inseparable over k .*

(ii) *There is a unique minimal field $k' \supset k$ such that $X_{k'} \cong A^1_{k'}$, and k' is purely inseparable of finite degree over k .*

Proof. The genus of \tilde{P}_{k_i} is zero since this is so after suitable base field extension and since, k_i being perfect, the genus does not change under base field extension (cf. [1], V, § 5, Th. 5). Since $\tilde{P}_{\bar{k}}$ has a rational point, $\tilde{P}_{\bar{k}} \cong P^1_{\bar{k}}$. An open subscheme of P^1_K (K any field) is a form of A^1_K if and only if it is the complement of a purely inseparable point. Hence $\tilde{P}_{\bar{k}} - X_{\bar{k}}$ is a point, and a fortiori $P - X$ (resp. $P_{k_i} - X_{k_i}$) is a point purely inseparable over k (resp. rational over k_i). In particular, $\tilde{P}_{k_i} \cong P^1_{k_i}$ and $X_{k_i} \cong A^1_{k_i}$. If $K \supset k$ is any field such that $X_K \cong A^1_K$, then $\tilde{P}_K - X_K$ is a point rational over K and K contains (up to unique isomorphism) the residue field k_1 of $P - X$. Now pass to X_{k_1} and continue this process. After finitely many steps, we reach a field $k' \subset K$, $k \subset k' \subset k_i$, such that $\tilde{P}_{k'} \cong P^1_{k'}$, and $\tilde{P}_{k'} - X_{k'}$ is rational over k' . Then $X_{k'} \cong A^1_{k'}$.

$A^1 = \text{Spec } k[t]$ admits, up to choice of origin, a unique group structure (given by $s(t) = t \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes t$ if the origin is at $t = 0$), and any automorphism of A^1 sending the origin to the origin is a group homomorphism. Let G and G' be groups with origins q and q' and ψ an isomorphism of the underlying schemes, supposed to be forms of A^1 , such that $\psi(q) = q'$. Then ψ is a homomorphism of groups after base field extension, which means that a certain diagram of morphisms (over k) commutes after base extension and so is commutative to begin with. Hence ψ is an isomorphism of groups. This gives:

LEMMA 1.2. *Let X be a form of A^1 . Then any group scheme G with underlying scheme X is a form of G_a . The group structure (if it exists) is unique up to choice of origin. If $X_K \cong A^1_K$, then $G_K \cong G_{aK}$.*

We assume from now on that $\text{char } k = p > 0$. We denote by θ^n the base change functor deduced from

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi^n: k &\longrightarrow k \\ a &\longmapsto a^{p^n}. \end{aligned}$$

For any scheme X there is a canonical morphism $F_X^n: X \rightarrow \theta^n X$. If X is a group scheme, so is $\theta^n X$ and F_X^n is a homomorphism. Referring to [3], p. I. 1-5 for more details, we remark only that if $X = \text{Spec } R$ is affine, then $\theta^n X = \text{Spec } ((k, \varphi^n) \otimes_k R)$ where $(k, \varphi^n) = k$ considered as a right k -algebra via φ^n and as a left k -algebra in the usual way, and that F_X^n is deduced from

$$\begin{aligned} F_R^n: (k, \varphi^n) \otimes_k R &\longrightarrow R \\ a \otimes x &\longmapsto ax^{p^n}. \end{aligned}$$

θ^n accomplishes, up to isomorphism, the same as the base change $k \subset k^{p^{-n}}$. More precisely, if K is purely inseparable of exponent $\leq n$ over k (that is, $K^{p^n} \subset k$), there is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} k & \longrightarrow & K \\ \varphi^n \downarrow & \nearrow \bar{\varphi} & \\ k & & \end{array}$$

and we have $\theta^n X \cong (k, \bar{\varphi}) \otimes_K X_K$ for any scheme X over k .

LEMMA 1.3. *Let X be a form of A^1 . For any integer $n \geq 0$, F_X^n is a purely inseparable morphism of degree p^n . For any morphism $\psi: X \rightarrow Y$ of finite degree, there is a unique factorization $\psi = \bar{\psi} F_X^m$ where p^m is the inseparable degree of ψ and $\bar{\psi}$ is a separable morphism. Finally, there is an integer $n \geq 0$ such that $\theta^n X \cong A^1$.*

Proof. The last statement follows from 1.1 and the remark above. The function field $\kappa(X)$ of X is separable of transcendence degree one over k and so has, for each n , a unique subfield $\supset k$ over which it is purely inseparable of degree p^n , namely

$$k(\kappa(X)^{p^n}) \cong (k, \varphi^n) \otimes_k \kappa(X) = \kappa(\theta^n X)$$

(cf. [2], p. 186, Th. 19 and p. 179, corollary). This proves the first statement and the second follows in view of the fact that $\theta^m X$ is normal.

1.4. Let X be a form of A^1 . We let $n(X)$ be the least n such that $\theta^n X \cong A^1$ or, equivalently, the least n such that X has a splitting field of exponent n over k .

The point of 1.3 is that the affine ring R of X has a unique maximal subring of the form $S = k[x]$ such that $R^{p^n} \subset S$ for some n , and that the only other subrings with this property are the rings $k[x^{p^m}]$, $m \geq 0$. Note, however, that $n(X)$ need not be the least n such that $\kappa(\theta^n X) \cong k(t)$ or, equivalently, that $\theta^n X \subset \mathbf{P}^1$. $Y = \mathbf{P}^1 - \{q\}$, q purely inseparable and not rational over k , is one example and, giving Y some further twist, one can find X such that $\theta^n X \cong Y$ and $n > 1$.

2. Since G_a is defined over the prime field, we may identify G_a and θG_a . Then $F = F_{G_a} \in A = \text{Hom}_k(G_a, G_a)$. It is well known that $A = k[F]$, a ring of noncommutative polynomials with relations $Fa = a^p F$ for $a \in k$. We define the power series ring $\hat{A} = k[[F]]$ in the same way. Let $\varepsilon: A \rightarrow k$ be the natural augmentation. We let $A^* = \varepsilon^{-1}(k^*)$ and $A^{**} = \varepsilon^{-1}(1)$ and make corresponding definitions for \hat{A} . As in the case of ordinary power series, \hat{A}^* is the group of units of \hat{A} . By truncation we obtain groups $U_n = \hat{A}^*/\hat{A}F^n \cong A^*/AF^n$. $\tau = \sum_{i=0}^m a_i F^i \in A$, $a_m \neq 0$, has degree p^m as a morphism $\tau: G_a \rightarrow G_a$, and we also give it degree p^m in the graded ring $k[F]$. Note that $A^* \subset A$ is the subset of separable homomorphisms. An endomorphism $\lambda: k \rightarrow k$ commutes with p -th powers and so extends to an endomorphism $\lambda: A \rightarrow A$

$$\sum a_i F^i \longmapsto \sum \lambda(a_i) F^i .$$

In the particular case $\lambda = \varphi^n$ we put $\lambda(\tau) = \tau^{(n)}$ for $\tau \in A$ and $\lambda(A) = A^{(n)}$. $\tau^{(n)}$ is characterized by $F^n \tau = \tau^{(n)} F^n$.

If $G = \text{Spec } R$ is an affine group with group operation $s: R \rightarrow R \otimes_k R$, $\text{Hom}_k(G, G_a)$ may be identified with

$$\{r \mid s(r) = r \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes r\} \subset R \cong \text{Hom}(k[t], R) .$$

In particular, A is identified with the set of p -polynomials

$$f(t) = a_0 t + a_1 t^p + \dots + a_m t^{p^m} \in k[t] .$$

THEOREM 2.1. *Let G be a form of G_a . Then G is isomorphic to a subgroup $\text{Spec } k[x, y]/I$ of $G_a^2 = \text{Spec } k[x, y]$ where I is generated by a polynomial $y^{p^n} - (a_0 x + a_1 x^p + \dots + a_m x^{p^m})$, $a_0 \neq 0$. Equivalently, G is a fiber product*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G & \xrightarrow{\xi} & \mathbf{G}_a \\ \eta \downarrow & & \downarrow \tau \\ \mathbf{G}_a & \xrightarrow{F^n} & \mathbf{G}_a \end{array}$$

where $\tau = a_0 + a_1F + \dots + a_mF^m \in A^*$. Conversely, any G defined that way is a form of \mathbf{G}_a .

Proof. Let $G = \text{Spec } R, s: R \rightarrow R \otimes_k R$ the group operation,

$$\bar{s}: (k, \varphi^n) \otimes_k R \longrightarrow (k, \varphi^n) \otimes_k R \otimes_k R \cong ((k, \varphi^n) \otimes_k R) \otimes_k ((k, \varphi^n) \otimes_k R)$$

the induced group operation for $\theta^n G$. By 1.3, we have $\theta^n G \cong \mathbf{G}_a$ for some n , so that $(k, \varphi^n) \otimes_k R \cong k[t]$ where we can choose t such that $\bar{s}(t) = t \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes t$. Write $t = \sum a_i \otimes y_i$ with $a_i \in k$ and $y_i \in R$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{s}(t) &= t \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes t = \sum a_i \otimes y_i \otimes 1 + \sum a_i \otimes 1 \otimes y_i \\ &= \sum \bar{s}(a_i \otimes y_i) = \sum a_i \otimes s(y_i). \end{aligned}$$

If we choose the a_i linearly independent in k considered as a vector space over k via φ^n , i.e., linearly independent over k^{p^n} , this implies $s(y_i) = y_i \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes y_i$. Hence the $y_i(1 \otimes y_i)$ define homomorphisms $\eta_i: G \rightarrow \mathbf{G}_a$ ($\theta^n \eta_i: \mathbf{G}_a \rightarrow \mathbf{G}_a$). As observed above, this implies $1 \otimes y_i = f_i(t)$ where f_i is a p -polynomial. Applying F_R^n and putting $x = F_R^n(t)$, we obtain $y_i^{p^n} = f_i(x)$. Clearly the y_i generate R over k and one of them, call it y , is a separating variable for $\kappa(G)$. Then $y^{p^n} = f(x) = a_0x + a_1x^p + \dots + a_mx^{p^m}$, with $a_0 \neq 0$ since x is separable over $k(y)$. This shows that $k[x, y] \subset R$ is integrally closed. $\kappa(G)$ is separable and purely inseparable over $k(x, y)$, so $k(x, y) = \kappa(G)$ and $R = k[x, y]$. This proves the first statement. The next follows letting η be the homomorphism corresponding to y and $\xi = F_a^n$ the homomorphism corresponding to x . Finally, let $R = k[x, y]$ where $y^{p^n} = f(x)$. Then $s: R \rightarrow R \otimes_k R, s(x) = x \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes x, s(y) = y \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes y$, is well defined and gives a group structure on R . Taking $a_0 = 1$ for simplicity, we have

$$1 \otimes x = (1 \otimes y^{p^{n-1}} - (a_1^{p^{n-1}} \otimes x + \dots + a_m^{p^{n-1}} \otimes x^{p^{m-1}}))^p = t_1^p$$

in $(k, \varphi^n) \otimes_k R$. Replacing $1 \otimes x$ by t_1^p on the right hand side and continuing that way, we find $t \in (k, \varphi^n) \otimes_k R$ such that $1 \otimes x = t^{p^n}$ and $1 \otimes y^{p^n} = (f(t))^{p^n}$. $\text{Spec } R$ is nonsingular, so $(k, \varphi^n) \otimes_k R$ is reduced. Hence $1 \otimes y = f(t)$, showing that $(k, \varphi^n) \otimes_k R = k[t]$.

2.2. We write $G = (F^n, \tau)$ (with $\tau \in A^*$) for a fiber product as in the theorem. Note that G can be so written if and only if $\theta^n G \cong \mathbf{G}_a$.

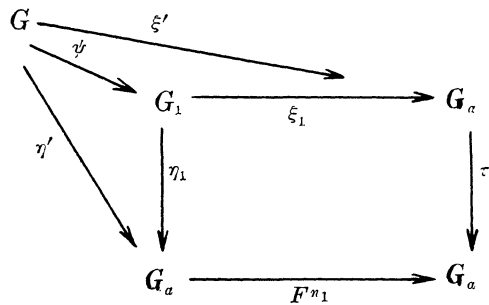
PROPOSITION 2.3. *Let $G = (F^n, \tau), G_1 = (F^{n_1}, \tau_1)$ and assume $n_1 \leq n$. Then $G \cong G_1$ if and only if there exist elements $\rho \in A^*, \sigma \in A$ and $c \in k^*$ such that*

$$\tau_1^{(n-n_1)} = (\rho^{(n)}\tau + F^n\sigma)c^{-1}.$$

ρ may be chosen of degree $\leq p^{n-1}$.

Proof. The monomorphism $(\xi, \eta): G \rightarrow G_a^2$ induces an epimorphism of A -modules $A \oplus A = \text{Hom}_k(G_a^2, G_a) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_k(G, G_a)$ (cf. [6], p. 102, proposition). Hence $\text{Hom}_k(G, G_a) = A\eta + A\xi$ with $F^n\eta = \tau\xi$ as a defining relation. Since G is reduced and irreducible, $\text{Hom}_k(G, G_a)$ is torsion free.

Let $\psi: G \rightarrow G_1$ be an isomorphism and consider the commutative diagram

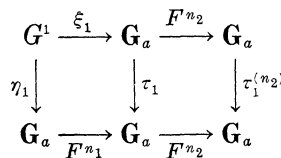


Now $\eta' = \eta_1\psi = \rho\eta + \sigma\xi$ for some $\rho, \sigma \in A$, and we must have $\rho \in A^*$ since η' is separable. Also, if $\rho = \rho_1 + \rho_2 F^n$, then $\rho\eta = \rho_1\eta + \rho_2\tau\xi$. So we can choose ρ of degree $< p^n$. Assume first $n = n_1$. Then $\xi' = \xi_1\psi$ is purely inseparable of degree p^n . By 1.3, $\xi_1\psi = c\xi$ with $c \in A$ a separable and purely inseparable homomorphism, that is, $c \in k^*$. Now

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tau_1\xi_1\psi &= F^n\eta_1\psi = F^n\rho\eta + F^n\sigma\xi = \rho^{(n)}F^n\eta + F^n\sigma\xi \\
 &= (\rho^{(n)}\tau + F^n\sigma)\xi = (\rho^{(n)}\tau + F^n\sigma)c^{-1}\xi_1\psi,
 \end{aligned}$$

giving $\tau_1 = (\rho^{(n)}\tau + F^n\sigma)c^{-1}$. Conversely, define $\xi', \eta' \in \text{Hom}(G, G_a)$ by $\xi' = c\xi$ and $\eta' = \rho\eta + \sigma\xi$. Then $F^n\eta' = \tau_1\xi'$, and we obtain a homomorphism $\psi: G \rightarrow G_1$ such that $\xi' = \xi_1\psi$ and $\eta' = \eta_1\psi$. Now ρ is invertible in \hat{A} and we can write $\rho^{-1} = \rho_1 + \sigma_2 F^n$ with $\rho_1 \in A^*$. Then $\tau = (\rho_1^{(n)}\tau_1 + F^n\sigma_1)c$ with $\sigma_1 = (\sigma_2\rho^{(n)}\tau - \rho_1\sigma)c^{-1} \in A$. Reversing the roles of G and G_1 we get $\psi_1: G_1 \rightarrow G$ inverting ψ .

Suppose now $n - n_1 = n_2 \geq 0$. In the commutative diagram



both the left and right square are cartesian. So the big square is cartesian, and consequently $G_1 = (F^n, \tau_1^{(n_2)})$. Now the previous argument applies.

Since $(F^n, \tau) \cong (F^n, \tau\varepsilon(\tau^{-1}))$, any G can be written with $\tau \in A^{**}$. This normalizes τ to some extent:

COROLLARY 2.3.1. *Let $G = (F^n, \tau)$. Then $G \cong G_a$ if and only if $\tau c \in A^{(n)}$ for some $c \in k^*$. If $\tau = 1 + a_1F + \dots + a_mF^m \in A^{**}$, then $k' = k(a_1^{p^{-n}}, \dots, a_m^{p^{-n}})$ is the minimal splitting field for G .*

Proof. Since $G_a = (F^n, 1)$, the proposition gives $\tau c = \rho^{(n)} + F^n\sigma \in A^{(n)}$ if $G \cong G_a$. Conversely, let $\tau c = \tau_1^{(n)}$. Then $\tau_1 \in A^*$ and we can write $1 = \rho\tau_1 + \sigma F^n$. So $1 = (\rho^{(n)}\tau + F^{(n)}\sigma c^{-1})c$ and $(F^n, 1) \cong (F^n, \tau)$. This proves the first statement, and the second follows since we can take $c = 1$ above if $\tau \in A^{**}$.

COROLLARY 2.3.2. *Let $G = (F^n, \tau)$ and $0 \leq m \leq n$. Then*

$$\theta^m G = (F^{n-m}, \tau).$$

Proof. Apply θ^m to the cartesian square defining G . Noting that $\theta^m \tau = \tau^{(m)}$, we get $\theta^m G = (F^n, \tau^{(m)}) \cong (F^{n-m}, \tau)$.

2.4. For any field $K \supset k$, we define $E(K)$ as the set of isomorphism classes of forms of G_{aK} and put $E(K, n) = \{G \in E(K) \mid \theta^n G \cong G_{aK}\}$.

The rule $(\rho, \sigma, c) \cdot \tau = (\rho^{(n)}\tau + F^n\sigma)c^{-1}$ defines an action of

$$A^* \times A \times k^*,$$

endowed with a suitable semi-direct product structure, on A^* , and 2.3 states that $E(k, n)$ may be considered as the quotient of A^* under this action. A^* is not a group, but this inconvenience can be avoided by dividing out by A first and passing to the group $U_n = A^*/AF^n$. Let $V_n = U_n \times k^*$. Then the map

$$(*) \quad \begin{aligned} V_n \times A^*/F^n A &\longrightarrow A^*/F^n A \\ (\bar{\rho}, c) \times \bar{\tau} &\longmapsto (\rho^{(n)}\tau c^{-1})^- \end{aligned}$$

(where $-$ denotes taking residue classes) is well defined and gives an action of V_n on $A^*/F^n A$. Clearly all the operations involved are compatible with base field extension. Now 2.3 implies:

THEOREM 2.5. *The map*

$$\begin{aligned} A^* &\longrightarrow E(k, n) \\ \tau &\longmapsto (F^n, \tau) \end{aligned}$$

induces a bijection between the quotient of $A^*/F^n A$ by the action (*) defined above and $E(k, n)$. This identification is compatible with base field extension.

Similarly, we can define an action

$$U_n \times A^{**}/F^n A \longrightarrow A^{**}/F^n A \text{ by } \bar{\rho} \cdot \bar{\tau} = (\rho^{(n)} \tau \varepsilon(\rho)^{-p^n})^- .$$

Since any G can be written as $G = (F^n, \tau)$ with $\tau \in A^{**}$, the quotient may again be identified with $E(k, n)$. As an example, let us work out the case $n = 1$. Choose a complementary subspace W_0 for k^p in k and for each $i \geq 1$ let W_i be a copy of W_0 . Then $U_1 = k^*$ acts on $W = \bigoplus_{i=1}^\infty W_i$ by $c \cdot \sum a_i = \sum c^{p(1-p^i)} a_i$. Letting $(F, 1 + \sum a_i F^i)$ correspond to the class of $\sum a_i$, one identifies $E(k, 1)$ and W/k^* .

Let $A^*/F^{n+1} A \rightarrow A^*/F^n A$ be the natural map and define $V_{n+1} \rightarrow V_n$ by $(\bar{\rho}, c) \mapsto (\bar{\rho}^{(1)}, c)$. Then

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V_{n+1} \times A^*/F^{n+1} A & \longrightarrow & A^*/F^{n+1} A \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ V_n \times A^*/F^n A & \longrightarrow & A^*/F^n A \end{array}$$

commutes and it follows from 2.3.2 that the induced map on the quotients is $\theta: E(k, n + 1) \rightarrow E(k, n)$. Unfortunately there does not seem to be a coherent way to reverse the vertical arrows in order to obtain the inclusion $E(k, n) \subset E(k, n + 1)$.

PROPOSITION 2.6. *Let $K \supset k$ be a field and*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Psi: E(k) & \longrightarrow & E(K) \\ G & \longmapsto & G_K \end{array}$$

the natural map.

- (i) *If K is purely inseparable over k , then Ψ is surjective.*
- (ii) *If k is algebraically closed in K and K is separable over k , then Ψ is injective.*

Proof. (i) Let $G = (F^n, \tau) \in E(K)$, $\tau = 1 + a_1 F + \dots + a_m F^m$. There is an integer $r \geq 0$ such that $a_i^{p^r} = \alpha_i \in k$, $i = 1, \dots, m$. Let $\tau' = 1 + \alpha_1 F + \dots + \alpha_m F^m$ and $G' = (F^{n+r}, \tau') \in E(k)$. Then $\tau' = \tau^{(r)}$ over K and 2.3 implies $G'_K = (F^{n+r}, \tau^{(r)}) \cong (F^n, \tau) = G$.

(ii) Let $G = (F^n, \tau)$, $\tau = 1 + \sum a_i F^i \in A$, $\rho = \sum x_i F^i \in A_K^*$ with $x_i = 0$ for $i \geq n$, and $\sigma = \sum y_i F^i \in A_K$. Suppose $(\rho^{(n)} \tau + F^n \sigma) x_0^{-p^n} = 1 + \sum b_i F^i = \tau' \in A$, that is,

$$(*) \quad \left(\sum_{j=0}^{i-1} x_j^{p^n} \alpha_{i-j}^{p^j} + x_i^{p^n} + y_{i-n}^{p^n} \right) x_0^{-p^{n+i}} = b_i \in k$$

for $i \geq 1$. (Set $y_i = 0$ for $i < 0$). We have to show that the same can be done with $x_i, y_i \in k$. We may clearly assume $G \not\cong G_a$. Then not all $a_i \in k^{p^n}$ and there is an $r \geq 1$ such that $a_1, \dots, a_{r-1} \in k^{p^n}$ but $a_r \notin k^{p^n}$. If $r > 1$, we can replace τ by $(1 - a_1 F)\tau$ (since $a_1 \in k^{p^n}$) which has a zero linear term. By an obvious induction argument, we can assume $a_1 = \dots = a_{r-1} = 0$. Then (*) gives (for $i = r$)

$$a_r x_0^{p^n - p^{n+r}} + x_r^{p^n} x_0^{-p^{n+r}} + y_{r-n}^{p^n} x_0^{-p^{n+r}} = b_r .$$

Put $u = x_0^{-1}, v = x_r x_0^{-p^r}$ if $r < n$ (and so $y_{r-n} = 0$), and $v = y_{n-r} x_0^{-p^r}$ if $r \geq n$ (and so $x_r = 0$). In both cases $a_r u^{(p^r-1)p^n} + v^{p^n} = b_r$. Extracting p -th roots in k from a_r and b_r as far as possible, we can write $au^{(p^r-1)p^{n_1}} + v^{p^{n_1}} = b$ where not both a and b are in k^p and $n_1 \geq 1$ (since $a_r \notin k^{p^n}$). If $u \notin k$, then u is transcendental over k , $au^{(p^r-1)p^{n_1}} - b + v^{p^{n_1}}$ is irreducible in $k(u)[v]$, but becomes reducible upon adjoining $a^{p^{-1}}$ and $b^{p^{-1}}$ to k . This shows that $k(u, v) \subset K$ is not separable, contradicting the separability of K . Hence $x_0 = u^{-1} \in k$. Taking (*) first with $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$, we see that $x_i \in k$, and then $y_{i-n} \in k$ follows for $i \geq n$.

The proof above suggests examples showing that the assumptions in (ii) cannot be weakened. First, let $k = k_0(a, b)$ with a, b algebraically independent over k_0 . Then $G = (F, 1 + aF)$ and $G' = (F, 1 + bF)$ are not isomorphic over k . On the other hand, we can define $K = k(u, v)$ by $au^{p(p-1)} - b + v^p = 0$. One checks that k is algebraically closed in K . But now $1 + bF = u^{-p}(1 + aF)u^p + Fv$, so that $G_K \cong G'_K$. Next, suppose k contains elements a and c such that $a \notin k^p$ and $c \in k^{q-1}$ where $q = p^m > 2$. Let $G = (F^m, 1 + aF^m), G' = (F^m, 1 + c^q a F^m)$. If $K \supset k$, then $G_K \cong G'_K$ if and only if $au^{q(q-1)} + v^q = c^q a$ has a solution with $u, v \in K$. If K is separable over k , then $a \notin K^p$, so necessarily $v = 0$ and $u^{q-1} = c$. This is possible over a finite separable extension of k but not over k . We will see below that this example is typical (cf. 3.1.1.).

3. Let G and G_1 be forms of G_a written as fiber products

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G & \xrightarrow{\xi} & G_a \\ \eta \downarrow & & \downarrow \tau \\ G_a & \xrightarrow{F^n} & G_a \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} G_1 & \xrightarrow{\xi_1} & G_a \\ \eta_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow \tau_1 \\ G_a & \xrightarrow{F^{n_1}} & G_a \end{array}$$

with $n = n(G)$ and $n_1 = n(G_1)$ (cf. 1.4). Suppose $\psi \in \text{Hom}_k(G, G_1)$ is nonzero. Then $\theta^n \psi: G_a \rightarrow \theta^n G_1$ is nonzero, and since a nonzero homomorphic image of G_a is isomorphic with G_a (cf. [6], p. 101, lemma), we must have $n_2 = n - n_1 \geq 0$. Now $F^{n_2} \xi_1 \psi$ has inseparable degree $\geq p^n$ and therefore factors through ξ . This gives a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 G & \xrightarrow{\xi} & G_a & & \\
 \psi \downarrow & & \downarrow \tau_2 = \theta^n \psi & & \\
 G_1 & \xrightarrow{\xi_1} & G_a & \xrightarrow{F^{n_2}} & G_a \\
 \eta_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow \tau_1 & & \downarrow \tau_1^{(n_2)} \\
 G_a & \xrightarrow{F^{n_1}} & G_a & \xrightarrow{F^{n_2}} & G_a .
 \end{array}$$

If ψ is separable, so are τ_2 and $\tau_1^{(n_2)}\tau_2$. This shows that one can use the big square to define G as a fiber product, that is, $G \cong (F^n, \tau_1^{(n_2)}\tau_2)$. By 2.3 there exist $\rho \in A^*$ and $\sigma \in A$ such that

$$(*) \quad \tau_1^{(n_2)}\tau_2 = \rho^{(n)}\tau + F^n\sigma .$$

(No c appears since ξ is left unchanged.) Conversely, if τ_2 satisfies (*), there is a unique ψ making the diagram commutative. So separable homomorphisms $\psi: G \rightarrow G_1$ are in one-to-one correspondence with those $\tau_2 \in A^*$ for which a solution to (*) exists.

THEOREM 3.1. *Let G be a form of $G_a, G \not\cong G_a$. Then $\text{End}_k G$ may be identified with a finite subfield of k . If $\text{End}_{k_s} G_{k_s} = \mathbf{F}_q$ and $k \subset K \subset k_s$, then $\text{End}_K G_K = K \cap \mathbf{F}_q$.*

Proof. Let $G = (F^n, \tau), n = n(G)$, and suppose $\psi: G \rightarrow G$ is non-zero. If ψ is not separable, there is a nonzero homomorphism $\theta G \rightarrow G$. Since $n(\theta G) < n(G)$, this is impossible, as we have seen. So ψ is separable and $\tau_2 = \theta^n \psi$ satisfies a relation

$$(*) \quad \tau\tau_2 = \rho^{(n)}\tau + F^n\sigma, \quad \rho \in A^*, \sigma \in A .$$

We will assume, as we may, that $\text{deg } \rho < p^n$. Since $\theta^r, r \geq 0$, is a faithfully flat base change functor, $\theta^r: \text{End}_k G \rightarrow \text{End}_k \theta^r G$ is injective and moreover $\theta^r \psi$ is a monomorphism (epimorphism) if and only if ψ is. Taking $r = n - 1$, we see that it is enough to prove the first statement in case $n = 1$. We can then choose $\rho = a \in k^*$ and $\tau = 1 + a_1 F^{m_1} + \dots + a_s F^{m_s}$ with $1 \leq m_1 < m_2 < \dots < m_s$ and $a_i \notin k^p$. Let $\tau_2 = c_0 + c_1 F + \dots + c_r F^r, c_0 \neq 0$ and $c_r \neq 0$. Comparing coefficients in (*), we get $a_s c_r^{p^{m_s}} \in k^p$ unless $r = 0$. Since $m_s \geq 1$ and $a_s \notin k^p$, we actually have $r = 0$ and $\tau_2 = c_0 = c \in k^*$. (*) now reduces to $a^p \tau - \tau c \in FA$, and this gives $a^p - c = 0$ and $(c - c^{p^{m_i}})a_i \in k^p, i = 1, \dots, s$. Since $a_i \notin k^p$, this implies $c - c^{p^{m_i}} = 0$. Or, equivalently, $c - c^{p^m} = 0$ where m is the greatest common divisor of m_1, \dots, m_s . Conversely $\tau c = c\tau$ for such c and if $c \neq 0$, it lifts to an automorphism of G . Hence $\text{End}_k G = k \cap \mathbf{F}_{p^m}$ in this case.

Now let $n \geq 1, \mathbf{F}_q = \text{End}_{k_s} G_{k_s}, k \subset K \subset k_s$ and $\tau_2 = c \in K \cap \mathbf{F}_q^*$. To

show that $c \in \text{End}_K G_K$, we have to solve (*) with $\rho, \sigma \in A_K$. However there exists a solution over k_s , and applying to it a K -automorphism λ of k_s , we get $\tau c = \lambda(\tau c) = \lambda(\rho^{(n)}) + F^n \lambda(\sigma)$ and $0 = (\rho^{(n)} - \lambda(\rho^{(n)}))\tau + F^n(\sigma - \lambda(\sigma))$. Multiplying by τ^{-1} (in \hat{A}_K), we have $0 = (\rho^{(n)} - \lambda(\rho^{(n)})) + F^n(\sigma - \lambda(\sigma))\tau^{-1}$, giving $\rho^{(n)} = \lambda(\rho^{(n)})$ and $\sigma = \lambda(\sigma)$ since $\deg \rho < p^n$. Hence $\rho, \sigma \in A_K$.

The theorem states that the automorphism functor of G coincides with the functor μ_r (r -th roots of unity, $r = q - 1$ prime to p) on separable algebraic extensions of k . Galois cohomology therefore gives (for details we refer to [8], in particular I, §5, II, §1 and III, §1):

COROLLARY 3.1.1. *Let $E(k_s/k, G)$ be the set of k_s/k -forms of G . Then $E(k_s/k, G) = H^1(k, \mathbf{F}_q^*) \cong k^*/k^{*q-1}$.*

4. We turn now to forms of A^1 that fail to be groups by just the absence of a rational point.

PROPOSITION 4.1. *Let X be a form of A^1 and suppose that X_{k_s} admits a group structure. Then X is a principal homogeneous space for a form G of G_a determined uniquely by X . Moreover, $X = \text{Spec } k[x, y]/I, G = \text{Spec } k[u, v]/J$ where I and J are generated respectively by $y^{p^n} - b - f(x)$ and $v^{p^n} - f(u)$ with $b \in k$ and f a separable p -polynomial. Conversely, if X and G are defined as above, then X is a principal homogeneous space for G .*

Proof. Let $X = \text{Spec } R$. As in the proof of 2.1, we have $(k, \varphi^n) \otimes_k R \cong k[t]$ for some $n, t = \sum a_i \otimes y_i$ with $a_i \in k$ linearly independent over k^{p^n} , and $y_i^{p^n} = g_i(x) \in k[x]$ with $x = F_R^n(t)$. Let $q \in X_{k_s}$ be rational over k_s and let $c_i \in k_s$ be the residue of y_i at q . Put $y'_i = y_i - c_i, t' = t - \sum a_i c_i^{p^n} = t - c$ and $x' = x - c$. Then $t' = \sum a_i \otimes y'_i, q$ lies above the point $t' = 0$ of $A^1_{k_s} \cong \theta^n X_{k_s}$ and we can choose q as the origin of the group structure supposed to exist on X_{k_s} . The a_i remain linearly independent over $k_s^{p^n}$ and we have $y'^{p^n} = f'_i(x')$ with f'_i a p -polynomial as in the proof of 2.1. Hence $g_i(x) = y_i^{p^n} = b_i + f_i(x)$ with $b_i = c_i^{p^n} - f_i(c)$, and $g_i(x) \in k[x]$ implies $b_i \in k$ and $f_i(x) \in k[x]$. If y is a separating variable for $\kappa(X)$ picked from the y_i , we get $y^{p^n} = b + f(x)$ where f has nonzero linear term. As before, this implies $R = k[x, y]$. Let $G = \text{Spec } S, S = k[u, v]$ with $v^{p^n} = f(u)$. Then $\alpha: R \rightarrow R \otimes_k S, \alpha(x) = x \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes u$ and $\alpha(y) = y \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes v$, defines an action of G on X . $\bar{\alpha}: R \otimes_k R \rightarrow R \otimes_k S$ defined by $\bar{\alpha}(w \otimes z) = (w \otimes 1)\alpha(z)$ is an isomorphism and gives an isomorphism (over X) $G \times_k X \xrightarrow{\sim} X \times_k X$. Hence X is a principal homogeneous space for G . If this is also true for G_1 , we get an isomorphism (over X) $G \times_k X \xrightarrow{\sim} G_1 \times_k X$. Applying 2.6 (ii) to the fiber over the generic

point of X , we see that $G \cong G_1$.

Principal homogeneous spaces for G are classified by $H^1(k, G)$ (cf. [8], I, Proposition 33). Let $G = (F^n, \tau)$. Then there is a commutative diagram with exact rows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 & \longrightarrow & \ker \eta & \longrightarrow & G & \xrightarrow{\eta} & \mathbf{G}_a \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \downarrow \wr & & \downarrow \xi & & \downarrow F^n \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & \ker \tau & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{G}_a & \xrightarrow{\tau} & \mathbf{G}_a \longrightarrow 0 .
 \end{array}$$

The exact cohomology sequence and $H^1(k, \mathbf{G}_a) = 0$ give $H^1(k, G) = k/f(k) + k^{p^n}$, where f is the p -polynomial corresponding to τ . The Galois group of the splitting field of $0 = b + f(x) = b + a_0x + \dots + a_mx^{p^n}$, $a_0 \neq 0$, is isomorphic to a subgroup of $f^{-1}(0) \subset k_s$. Hence $f(k) = k$ if k has no normal extension of degree p , and $H^1(k, G) = 0$ for all forms G of \mathbf{G}_a in that case. The author does not know whether the converse of this statement is true if k is not perfect.

In [4] Rosenlicht characterized curves that are “exceptional” in the sense that the genus g is ≥ 1 and the group of automorphisms (leaving a point fixed if $g = 1$) is infinite. We give another characterization, already implicit in [4], p. 10, theorem, assuming the exceptional case over k_s only.

THEOREM 4.2. *Let P be a complete regular curve such that P_{k_s} is exceptional. Then P has exactly one singular point q , q is purely inseparable over k , and $X = P - \{q\}$ is a principal homogeneous space for a form of \mathbf{G}_a .*

Proof. It is enough to prove the first statement in case $k = k_s$. It is then taken directly from [4], p. 5, lemma. It is also shown there that \tilde{P}_{k_i} has genus zero. Hence $X = P - \{q\}$ is a form of \mathbf{A}^1 and we have $F_X^n: X \rightarrow \theta^n X \cong \mathbf{A}^1 = \text{Spec } k[t]$ for some n . This gives an injection $\theta^n: \text{Aut}_k X \rightarrow \text{Aut}_k \mathbf{A}^1$. Now let $k = k_s$. It then follows from [4], loc. cit., that $\text{Aut}_k X$ has an infinite subset of automorphisms operating without fixed point. Hence $\theta^n(\text{Aut}_k X)$ contains infinitely many translations $t \mapsto t + b$. With notations as in the proof of 4.1, write $t = \sum a_i \otimes y_i$, $1 \otimes y_i = f_i(t)$, with t so chosen that the point $q_0 \in X$ above $t = 0$ is rational. If c_i is the residue of y_i at q_0 , we have $f_i(0) = c_i^{p^n} \in k^{p^n}$. Since $0 = \sum a_i f_i(0)$, we get $f_i(0) = 0$. If T_b is the automorphism of X inducing $t \mapsto t + b$, we have $t + b = \sum a_i \otimes T_b^*(y_i)$. Let $b_i \in k$ be the residue of y_i at $T_b(q_0)$. Then $b = \sum a_i b_i^{p^n}$ and $t + b = \sum a_i \otimes (y_i + b_i)$. Hence $T_b^*(y_i) = y_i + b_i$ and $f_i(t + b) = 1 \otimes T_b^*(y_i) = f_i(t) + b_i^{p^n}$. With $t = 0$, this shows $b_i^{p^n} = f_i(b)$. Since this holds for infinitely many b , each f_i is a p -polynomial. Hence X has a group

structure (over k_s) and 4.1 applies.

If X is a principal homogeneous space for a form G of G_a and $P \supset X$ a complete regular curve, then $G(k_s) \subset \text{Aut}_{k_s} P_{k_s}$ is infinite. So P_{k_s} is exceptional if the genus g of P is positive. The cases $g = 0$ as well as $g = 1$ can be settled completely. Excluding the trivial case $X = A^1$, we have: If $g = 0$, then $\text{char } k = 2$. If $g = 1$, then $\text{char } k = 3$. Moreover, $X = \text{Spec } k[x, y]/I$ where I is generated by $y^p - b - x - ax^p$ with $p = 2$ or 3 respectively and $a, b \in k$.

It is enough to prove the corresponding statement for the groups G that are involved, that is, we may assume $X = G$ has a rational point. Now, by a theorem of Tate ([9], Corollary 2), the genus changes by a multiple of $1/2(p - 1)$ on passage from X to θX . On the other hand, if \mathcal{O} is the local ring of $P - X$, the genus change is $\dim_k \mathcal{O}_1/\mathcal{O}'$ where $\mathcal{O}' = (k, \varphi) \otimes_k \mathcal{O}$ and \mathcal{O}_1 is the normalization of \mathcal{O}' (cf. [7], p. 73, example). So a drop in genus occurs unless \mathcal{O} is nonsingular. But then P is nonsingular, so $g = 0$ and $P \cong P^1$. Excluding the case $G = G_a$ we must have $P^1 - G$ of degree 2 (cf. [5], p. 35 or the remark in the introduction). Hence $p = 2$ and $n(G) = 1$. If $p > 2$, we see that $g \geq 1/2n(G)(p - 1)$. So $g = 1$ implies $n(G) = 1$ and $p = 3$. In both cases ($g = 0$ or 1) $G = \text{Spec } k[x, y]$ with $y^p = x + a_1x^p + \dots + a_mx^{p^m}$ and $a_m \notin k^p$ (cf. 2.1). Using [9], proposition, one checks that then $g = 1/2(p - 1)(p^m - 2)$. So necessarily $m = 1$.

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Received May 16, 1969. This research was supported in part by the U. S. Army Research Office (Durham).

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PUBLISHED BY PACIFIC JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS, A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

Printed at Kokusai Bunken Insatsusha (International Academic Printing Co., Ltd.), 7-17, Fujimi 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

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Pacific Journal of Mathematics

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