1023-12-103 **Scott Corry*** (scorry@math.upenn.edu), University of Pennsylvania, Department of Mathematics, 209 S. 33rd St., Philadelphia, PA 19104. *Galois Covers of the Open p-adic Disc.* Preliminary report.

Using the theory of the Field of Norms developed by Fontaine and Wintenberger, we prove a result which characterizes the special fibre of a Galois branched cover of the open $p$-adic disc in terms of the characteristic zero specializations of the cover. In addition to providing new insight into the structure of the open $p$-adic disc, our result allows for a characteristic zero reformulation of the Oort Conjecture concerning the liftability of cyclic covers of curves from characteristic $p$ to characteristic zero. As an application, we give a new proof of the $p$-cyclic case of the Oort Conjecture, showing that from this point of view, the issue is no longer one of translation from characteristic $p$ to characteristic zero, but rather an explicit understanding of ramification in Kummer extensions. (Received July 31, 2006)