

DEFINITION OF SCHEMES

This sheet refers to [EGA I, §2.1].

By definition, the *scheme* is a ringed space (X, \mathcal{O}_X) in which for any point $x \in X$ there exists an open neighborhood $U \ni x$, such that $(U, \mathcal{O}_X|_U)$ is isomorphic to some ringed space $(\text{Spec } A, \mathcal{O}_{\text{Spec } A})$. Here:

- $\text{Spec } A$ is the spectrum space of some commutative ring A , equipped with the Zariski topology. Moreover, all basic open subsets of the form $D(a)$ with $a \in A$ generate a basis of the Zariski topology.
- Define a presheaf $D(a) \mapsto Aa$ over the basic open sets. We thus obtain the structure sheaf $\mathcal{O}_{\text{Spec } A}$ over $\text{Spec } A$.
- The isomorphism $(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \rightarrow (Y, \mathcal{O}_Y)$ between ringed spaces can be understood naively. That is, a homeomorphism between underlying topological spaces $X \simeq Y$, together with ring isomorphisms over each open subset, which is compatible with restriction. (c.f. [EGA I, §1.3] for more details.)

Hopefully, one may notice that other geometric objects share a similar algebraic expression. For example,

(1) **Smooth manifolds.**

Each point on a smooth manifold X has an open neighborhood U such that $(U, \mathcal{O}_X|_U)$ is isomorphic to (Q, \mathcal{O}_Q) , where Q is the unit open ball in some Euclidean space, and \mathcal{O}_Q is the sheaf of real-valued smooth functions. Moreover, one can get the notion of *analytic manifold* by the same argument.

(2) **Complex manifolds.**

We must modify the construction of \mathcal{O}_Q . Let Q be the unit open ball in \mathbb{C}^n , i.e. $Q = \{(z_i) \in \mathbb{C}^n : |z_i| < 1\}$. Then take \mathcal{O}_Q as the sheaf of complex-analytic functions on Q .

(3) **Complex analytic spaces.**

The notion of *complex analytic space* is a generalized version to that of complex manifold. It can be defined by replacing (Q, \mathcal{O}_Q) with $(Q', \mathcal{O}_{Q'})$ as follows. Given finitely many functions $f_1, \dots, f_m \in \mathcal{O}_Q(Q)$ on Q , we can redefine a new ringed space $(Q', \mathcal{O}_{Q'})$ say, where Q' , a subset of Q , is the intersection of zero sets of f_1, \dots, f_m , and $\mathcal{O}_{Q'} = (\mathcal{O}_Q/(f_1, \dots, f_m))|_{Q'}$. [Unlike complex manifolds, a complex analytic space can possibly obtain very complicated singularities, such as singularities of Schubert cycles.](#) On the other hand, granting GAGA, we can somehow regard the complex manifolds as “smooth” complex analytic spaces.

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