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Weil divisors on schemes

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Related topic BibliographyForAlgebraicGeometry

Defines prime divisor Defines effective divisor

Defines regular in codimension one

Let X be a noetherian integral separated scheme such that every local ring \mathcal{O}_x of X of dimension one is regular (such a scheme X is said to be regular in codimension one, or non-singular in codimension one).

Definition. A prime divisor on X is a closed integral subscheme Y of codimension one. We define an abelian group Div(X) generated by the prime divisors on X. A Weil divisor is an element of Div(X). Thus, a Weil divisor W can be written as:

$$W = \sum n_Y Y$$

where the sum is over all the prime divisors Y of X, the n_Y are integers and only finitely many of them are non-zero. A degree of a divisor is defined to be $\deg(W) = \sum n_Y$. Finally, a divisor is said to be effective if $n_Y \geq 0$ for all the prime divisors Y.

For more information, see Hartshorne's book listed in the bibliography for algebraic geometry.