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algebraic torus

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Let k be a field. Then k^* , the multiplicative group of k is an affine algebraic group over k. An affine algebraic group of the form $(k^*)^n$ is called an *algebraic torus* over k.

The name is to the fact that if $k = \mathbb{C}$, then an algebraic torus is the complexification of the standard torus $(S^1)^n$.