

Title

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Last time: $V(I) = \{x \in \mathbb{A}^n \mid f(x) = 0 \forall x \in I\}$ and $I(X) = \{f \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n] \mid f(x) = 0 \forall x \in X\}$.

We proved the Hilbert Nullstellensatz $I(V(J)) = \sqrt{J}$, defined the coordinate ring of an affine variety X as $A(X) := k[x_1, \dots, x_n]/I(X)$, the ring of “regular” (polynomial) functions on X .

Recall that a *topology* on X can be defined as a collection of “closed” subsets of X that are closed under arbitrary intersections and finite unions. A subset $Y \subset X$ inherits a subspace topology with closed sets of the form $Z \cap Y$ for $Z \subset X$ closed.

Definition 1.0.1 (Zariski Topology).

Let X be an affine variety. The closed sets are affine subvarieties $Y \subset X$.

We have \emptyset, X closed, since

1. $V_X(1) = \emptyset$,
2. $V_X(0) = X$

Closure under finite unions: Let $V_X(I), V_X(J)$ be closed in X with $I, J \subset A(X)$ ideals. Then $V_X(IJ) = V_X(I) \cup V_X(J)$.

Closure under intersections: We have $\bigcap_{i \in \sigma} V_X(J_i) = V_X\left(\sum_{i \in \sigma} J_i\right)$.

Remark 1.

There are few closed sets, so this is a “weak” topology.

Example 1.1.

Compare the classical topology on \mathbb{A}^1/\mathbb{C} to the Zariski topology.

Consider the set $A := \{x \in \mathbb{A}^1/\mathbb{C} \mid \|x\| \leq 1\}$, which is closed in the classical topology.

But A is not closed in the Zariski topology, since the closed subsets are finite sets or the whole space.

Here the topology is in fact the cofinite topology.

Example 1.2.

Let $f : \mathbb{A}^1/k \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1/k$ be any injective map. Then f is necessarily continuous wrt the Zariski topology.

Thus the notion of continuity is too weak in this situation.

Example 1.3.

Consider $X \times Y$ a product of affine varieties. Then there is a product topology where open sets are of the form $\cup_{i=1}^n U_i \times V_i$ with U_i, V_i open in X, Y respectively.

This is the wrong topology! On $\mathbb{A}^1 \times \mathbb{A}^1 = \mathbb{A}^2$, the diagonal $\Delta := V(x - y)$ is closed in the Zariski topology on \mathbb{A}^2 but not in the product topology.

Example 1.4.

Consider \mathbb{A}^2/\mathbb{C} , so the closed sets are curves and points. Observation: $V(x_1x_2) \subset \mathbb{A}^2/\mathbb{C}$ decomposed into the union of the coordinate axes $X_1 := V(x_1)$ and $X_2 := V(x_2)$. The Zariski topology can detect these decompositions.

Definition 1.0.2 (Irreducibility and Connectedness).

Let X be a topological space.

- a. X is *reducible* iff there exist nonempty proper closed subsets $X_1, X_2 \subset X$ such that $X = X_1 \cup X_2$. Otherwise, X is said to be **irreducible**.
- b.