
Contents

Terminology and notation	1
Introduction	3
1 Infinitesimal deformations	9
1.1 Extensions	9
1.1.1 Generalities	9
1.1.2 The module $\text{Ex}_A(R, I)$	12
1.1.3 Extensions of schemes	15
1.2 Locally trivial deformations	20
1.2.1 Generalities on deformations	20
1.2.2 Infinitesimal deformations of nonsingular affine schemes ...	23
1.2.3 Extending automorphisms of deformations	26
1.2.4 First-order locally trivial deformations	29
1.2.5 Higher-order deformations – obstructions	32
2 Formal deformation theory	37
2.1 Obstructions	37
2.2 Functors of Artin rings	44
2.3 The theorem of Schlessinger	54
2.4 The local moduli functors	64
2.4.1 Generalities	64
2.4.2 Obstruction spaces	69
2.4.3 Algebraic surfaces	72
2.5 Formal versus algebraic deformations	75
2.6 Automorphisms and prorepresentability	89
2.6.1 The automorphism functor	89
2.6.2 Isotriviality	96

3	Examples of deformation functors	103
3.1	Affine schemes	103
3.1.1	First-order deformations	103
3.1.2	The second cotangent module and obstructions	109
3.1.3	Comparison with deformations of the nonsingular locus	117
3.1.4	Quotient singularities	120
3.2	Closed subschemes	122
3.2.1	The local Hilbert functor	122
3.2.2	Obstructions	129
3.2.3	The forgetful morphism	132
3.2.4	The local relative Hilbert functor	136
3.3	Invertible sheaves	137
3.3.1	The local Picard functors	137
3.3.2	Deformations of sections, I	141
3.3.3	Deformations of pairs (X, L)	145
3.3.4	Deformations of sections, II	152
3.4	Morphisms	156
3.4.1	Deformations of a morphism leaving domain and target fixed	157
3.4.2	Deformations of a morphism leaving the target fixed	161
3.4.3	Morphisms from a nonsingular curve with fixed target	172
3.4.4	Deformations of a closed embedding	176
3.4.5	Stability and costability	180
4	Hilbert and Quot schemes	187
4.1	Castelnuovo–Mumford regularity	187
4.2	Flatness in the projective case	194
4.2.1	Flatness and Hilbert polynomials	194
4.2.2	Stratifications	198
4.2.3	Flattening stratifications	200
4.3	Hilbert schemes	206
4.3.1	Generalities	206
4.3.2	Linear systems	207
4.3.3	Grassmannians	209
4.3.4	Existence	213
4.4	Quot schemes	219
4.4.1	Existence	219
4.4.2	Local properties	223
4.5	Flag Hilbert schemes	227
4.5.1	Existence	227
4.5.2	Local properties	230
4.6	Examples and applications	235
4.6.1	Complete intersections	235
4.6.2	An obstructed nonsingular curve in \mathbb{P}^3	237
4.6.3	An obstructed (nonreduced) scheme	238
4.6.4	Relative grassmannians and projective bundles	240

4.6.5	Hilbert schemes of points	247
4.6.6	Schemes of morphisms	249
4.6.7	Focal loci	251
4.7	Plane curves	254
4.7.1	Equisingular infinitesimal deformations	254
4.7.2	The Severi varieties	256
4.7.3	Nonemptiness of Severi varieties	262
A	Flatness	269
B	Differentials	279
C	Smoothness	293
D	Complete intersections	305
D.1	Regular embeddings	305
D.2	Relative complete intersection morphisms	307
E	Functorial language	313
	References	321
	List of symbols	329
	Index	333