Contents

Introduction 1

Advice for the Beginner 2

Information for the Expert 2

Prerequisites 6

Sources 6

Courses 7

A First Course 7

A Second Course 8

Acknowledgements 9

0 Elementary Definitions **11**

0.1 Rings and Ideals 11

0.2 Unique Factorization 13

0.3 Modules 15

I Basic Constructions 19

1 Roots of Commutative Algebra **21**

1.1 Number Theory 21

1.2 Algebraic Curves and Function Theory 23

1.3 Invariant Theory 24

1.4 The Basis Theorem 26

1.4.1 Finite Generation of Invariants 29

1.5 Graded Rings 29
1.6 Algebra and Geometry: The Nullstellensatz 31
1.7 Geometric Invariant Theory 37
1.8 Projective Varieties 39
1.9 Hilbert Functions and Polynomials 41
1.10 Free Resolutions and the Syzygy Theorem 44
1.11 Exercises 46
Noetherian Rings and Modules 46
An Analysis of Hilbert's Finiteness Argument 47
Some Rings of Invariants 47
Algebra and Geometry 49
Graded Rings and Projective Geometry 51
Hilbert Functions 53
Free Resolutions 54
Spec, max-Spec, and the Zariski Topology 54

2 Localization 57
2.1 Fractions 59
2.2 Horn and Tensor 62
2.3 The Construction of Primes 70
2.4 Rings and Modules of Finite Length 71
2.5 Products of Domains 78
2.6 Exercises 79
Z-graded Rings and Their Localizations 81
Partitions of Unity. 83
Gluing 84
Constructing Primes 85
Idempotents, Products, and Connected Components 85

3 Associated Primes and Primary Decomposition 87
3.1 Associated Primes 89
3.2 Prime Avoidance 90
3.3 Primary Decomposition 94
3.4 Primary Decomposition and Factoriality 98
3.5 Primary Decomposition in the Graded Case 99
3.6 Extracting Information from Primary Decomposition . . . 100
3.7 Why Primary Decomposition Is Not Unique 102
3.8 Geometric Interpretation of Primary Decomposition 103
3.9 Symbolic Powers and Functions Vanishing to High Order 105
3.9.1 A Determinantal Example 106
3.10 Exercises 108
General Graded Primary Decomposition 109
Primary Decomposition of Monomial Ideals 111
The Question of Uniqueness 111
Determinantal Ideals 112

Total Quotients 113
Prime Avoidance 113

4 Integral Dependence and the Nullstellensatz **117**
4.1 The Cayley-Hamilton Theorem and Nakayama's Lemma 119
4.2 Normal Domains and the Normalization Process 125
4.3 Normalization in the Analytic Case 128
4.4 Primes in an Integral Extension 129
4.5 The Nullstellensatz 131
4.6 Exercises 135
Nakayama's Lemma 135
Projective Modules and Locally Free Modules 136
Integral Closure of Ideals 137
Normalization 137
Normalization and Convexity 138
Nullstellensatz 141
Three More Proofs of the Nullstellensatz 142

5 Filtrations and the Artin-Rees Lemma **145**
5.1 Associated Graded Rings and Modules 146
5.2 The Blowup Algebra 148
5.3 The Krull Intersection Theorem 150
5.4 The Tangent Cone 151
5.5 Exercises 151

6 Flat Families **155**
6.1 Elementary Examples 157
6.2 Introduction to Tor 159
6.3 Criteria for Flatness 161
6.4 The Local Criterion for Flatness 166
6.5 The Rees Algebra 170
6.6 Exercises 171
Flat Families of Graded Modules 175
Embedded First-Order Deformations 175

7 Completions and Hensel's Lemma **179**
7.1 Examples and Definitions **179**
7.2 The Utility of Completions 182
7.3 Lifting Idempotents 186
7.4 Cohen Structure Theory and Coefficient Fields 189
7.5 Basic Properties of Completion 192
7.6 Maps from Power Series Rings 198
7.7 Exercises 203
Modules Whose Completions Are Isomorphic . . . 203
The Krull Topology and Cauchy Sequences 204
Completions from Power Series 205

Coefficient Fields 205
Other Versions of Hensel's Lemma 206

II Dimension Theory **211**

8 Introduction to Dimension Theory **213**
8.1 Axioms for Dimension 218
8.2 Other Characterizations of Dimension 220
8.2.1 Affine Rings and Noether Normalization 221
8.2.2 Systems of Parameters and Krull's Principal Ideal Theorem 222
8.2.3 The Degree of the Hilbert Polynomial 223

9 Fundamental Definitions of Dimension Theory 225
9.1 Dimension Zero 227
9.2 Exercises 228

10 The Principal Ideal Theorem and Systems of Parameters **231**
10.1 Systems of Parameters and Parameter Ideals 234
10.2 Dimension of Base and Fiber 236
10.3 Regular Local Rings 240
10.4 Exercises 242
Determinantal Ideals 244
Hilbert Series of a Graded Module 245

11 Dimension and Codimension One 247
11.1 Discrete Valuation Rings 247
11.2 Normal Rings and Serre's Criterion 249
11.3 Invertible Modules 253
11.4 Unique Factorization of Codimension-One Ideals 256
11.5 Divisors and Multiplicities 259
11.6 Multiplicity of Principal Ideals 261
11.7 Exercises 264
Valuation Rings 264
The Grothendieck Ring 265

12 Dimension and Hilbert-Samuel Polynomials **271**
12.1 Hilbert-Samuel Functions 272
12.2 Exercises 275
Analytic Spread and the Fiber of a Blowup 276
Multiplicities 276
Hilbert Series 280

13 The Dimension of Affine Rings **281**
13.1 Noether Normalization 281
13.2 The Nullstellensatz 292
13.3 Finiteness of the Integral Closure 292
13.4 Exercises 296
Quotients by Finite Groups 296
Primes in Polynomial Rings 297
Dimension in the Graded Case 297
Noether Normalization in the Complete Case 298
Products and Reduction to the Diagonal 299
Equational Characterization of Systems of Parameters 301

14 Elimination Theory, Generic Freeness, and the Dimension of Fibers **303**
14.1 Elimination Theory 303
14.2 Generic Freeness 307
14.3 The Dimension of Fibers 308
14.4 Exercises 314
Elimination Theory 314

15 Gröbner Bases **317**
Constructive Module Theory 318
Elimination Theory 318
15.1 Monomials and Terms 319
15.1.1 Hilbert Function and Polynomial 320
15.1.2 Syzygies of Monomial Submodules 322
15.2 Monomial Orders 323
15.3 The Division Algorithm 330
15.4 Gröbner Bases 331
15.5 Syzygies 334
15.6 History of Gröbner Bases 337
15.7 A Property of Reverse Lexicographic Order 338
15.8 Gröbner Bases and Flat Families 342
15.9 Generic Initial Ideals 348
15.9.1 Existence of the Generic Initial Ideal 349
15.9.2 The Generic Initial Ideal is Borel-Fixed 351
15.9.3 The Nature of Borel-Fixed Ideals 352
15.10 Applications 355
15.10.1 Ideal Membership 355
15.10.2 Hilbert Function and Polynomial 355
15.10.3 Associated Graded Ring 356
15.10.4 Elimination 357
15.10.5 Projective Closure and Ideal at Infinity 359
15.10.6 Saturation 360

15.10.7 Lifting Homomorphisms . , ... 360
15.10.8 Syzygies and Constructive Module Theory 361
15.10.9 What's Left? 363
15.11 Exercises 365
15.12 Appendix: Some Computer Algebra Projects 375
Project 1. Zero-Dimensional Gorenstein Ideals 376
Project 2. Factoring Out a General Element from an sth Syzygy. 377
Project 3. Resolutions over Hypersurfaces 377
Project 4. Rational Curves of Degree $r+1$ in $\mathbf{P}^r$ . . 378
Project 5. Regularity of Rational Curves 378
Project 6. Some Monomial Curve Singularities . . . 379
Project 7. Some Interesting Prime Ideals . . . . . . , . 379

16 Modules of Differentials **383**
16.1 Computation of Differentials 387
16.2 Differentials and the Cotangent Bundle 388
16.3 Colimits and Localization 391
16.4 Tangent Vector Fields and Infinitesimal Morphisms 396
16.5 Differentials and Field Extensions 397
16.6 Jacobian Criterion for Regularity 401
16.7 Smoothness and Generic Smoothness 404
16.8 Appendix: Another Construction of Kähler Differentials . 407
16.9 Exercises 409

III Homological Methods 417

17 Regular Sequences and the Koszul Complex **419**
17.1 Koszul Complexes of Lengths 1 and 2 420
17.2 Koszul Complexes in General 423
17.3 Building the Koszul Complex from Parts 427
17.4 Duality and Homotopies 432
17.5 The Koszul Complex and the Cotangent Bundle of Projective Space 435
17.6 Exercises 437
Free Resolutions of Monomial Ideals 439
Conormal Sequence of a Complete Intersection . . . 440
Regular Sequences Are Like Sequences of Variables . 440
Blowup Algebra and Normal Cone of a Regular Sequence. . . . . , . . . 441
Geometric Contexts of the Koszul Complex 442

18 Depth, Codimension, and Cohen-Macaulay Rings 447
18.1 Depth 447
18.1.1 Depth and the Vanishing of Ext 449
18.2 Cohen-Macaulay Rings 451
18.3 Proving Primeness with Serre's Criterion 457
18.4 Flatness and Depth 460
18.5 Some Examples 462
18.6 Exercises 465

19 Homological Theory of Regular Local Rings **469**
19.1 Projective Dimension and Minimal Resolutions 469
19.2 Global Dimension and the Syzygy Theorem 474
19.3 Depth and Projective Dimension:
The Auslander-Buchsbaum Formula 475
19.4 Stably Free Modules and Factoriality of Regular Local
Rings 480
19.5 Exercises 483
Regular Rings 484
Modules over a Dedekind Domain 484
The Auslander-Buchsbaum Formula 485
Projective Dimension and Cohen-Macaulay Rings . . 485
Hilbert Function and Grothendieck Group 485
The Chern Polynomial 487

20 Free Resolutions and Fitting Invariants **489**
20.1 The Uniqueness of Free Resolutions **490**
20.2 Fitting Ideals **492**
20.3 What Makes a Complex Exact? **496**
20.4 The Hilbert-Burch Theorem 501
20.4.1 Cubic Surfaces and Sextuples of Points in the
Plane 503
20.5 Castelnuovo-Mumford Regularity 504
20.5.1 Regularity and Hyperplane Sections 508
20.5.2 Regularity of Generic Initial Ideals 509
20.5.3 Historical Notes on Regularity 509
20.6 Exercises 510
Fitting Ideals and the Structure of Modules 510
Projectives of Constant Rank 513
Castelnuovo-Mumford Regularity 516

21 Duality, Canonical Modules, and Gorenstein Rings **519**
21.1 Duality for Modules of Finite Length 520
21.2 Zero-Dimensional Gorenstein Rings 525
21.3 Canonical Modules and Gorenstein Rings in Higher
Dimension 528

21.4 Maximal Cohen-Macaulay Modules **529**
21.5 Modules of Finite Injective Dimension 530
21.6 Uniqueness and (Often) Existence 534
21.7 Localization and Completion of the Canonical Module . . 536
21.8 Complete Intersections and Other Gorenstein Rings 537
21.9 Duality for Maximal Cohen-Macaulay Modules 538
21.10 Linkage . . . . , ... 539
21.11 Duality in the Graded Case 545
21.12 Exercises 546
The Zero-Dimensional Case and Duality 546
Higher Dimension 548
The Canonical Module as Ideal 551
Linkage and the Cayley-Bacharach Theorem 552

Appendix 1 Field Theory 555
A1.1 Transcendence Degree 555
A1.2 Separability 557
A1.3 p-Bases 559
A1.3.1 Exercises 562

Appendix 2 Multilinear Algebra 565
A2.1 Introduction 565
A2.2 Tensor Products 567
A2.3 Symmetric and Exterior Algebras 569
A2.3.1 Bases 572
A2.3.2 Exercises 574
A2.4 Coalgebra Structures and Divided Powers 575
A2.4.1 S(M)* and S(M) as Modules over One Another 582
A2.5 Schur Functors 584
A2.5.1 Exercises 587
A2.6 Complexes Constructed by Multilinear Algebra 589
A2.6.1 Strands of the Koszul Complex 591
A2.6.2 Exercises 603

Appendix 3 Homological Algebra **611**
A3.1 Introduction 611
Part I: Resolutions and Derived Functors 614
A3.2 Free and Projective Modules 615
A3.3 Free and Projective Resolutions 617
A3.4 Injective Modules and Resolutions 618
A3.4.1 Exercises 623
Injective Envelopes 623
Injective Modules over Noetherian Rings 623
A3.5 Basic Constructions with Complexes 626
A3.5.1 Notation and Definitions 626

A3.6 Maps and Homotopies of Complexes 627
A3.7 Exact Sequences of Complexes 631
A3.7.1 Exercises 632
A3.8 The Long Exact Sequence in Homology 632
A3.8.1 Exercises 634
Diagrams and Syzygies 634
A3.9 Derived Functors 636
A3.9.1 Exercise on Derived Functors 639
A3.10 Tor 639
A3.10.1 Exercises: Tor 639
A3.11 Ext 642
A3.11.1 Exercises: Ext 645
A3.11.2 Local Cohomology 649
Part II: From Mapping Cones to Spectral Sequences . . 650
A3.12 The Mapping Cone and Double Complexes 650
A3.12.1 Exercises: Mapping Cones and Double Complexes 654
A3.13 Spectral Sequences 656
A3.13.1 Mapping Cones Revisited 657
A3.13.2 Exact Couples 658
A3.13.3 Filtered Differential Modules and Complexes . . . 661
A3.13.4 The Spectral Sequence of a Double Complex . . . 665
A3.13.5 Exact Sequence of Terms of Low Degree 670
A3.13.6 Exercises on Spectral Sequences 671
A3.14 Derived Categories 677
A3.14.1 Step One: The Homotopy Category of Complexes 678
A3.14.2 Step Two: The Derived Category 679
A3.14.3 Exercises on the Derived Category 682

Appendix 4 A Sketch of Local Cohomology 683
A4.1 Local Cohomology and Global Cohomology 684
A4.2 Local Duality 686
A4.3 Depth and Dimension 686

Appendix 5 Category Theory 689
A5.1 Categories, Functors, and Natural Transformations 689
A5.2 Adjoint Functors 691
A5.2.1 Uniqueness 692
A5.2.2 Some Examples 692
A5.2.3 Another Characterization of Adjoints 693
A5.2.4 Adjoints and Limits 694
A5.3 Representable Functors and Yoneda's Lemma 695

Appendix 6 Limits and Colimits 697
A6.1 Colimits in the Category of Modules 700
A6.2 Flat Modules as Colimits of Free Modules 702
A6.3 Colimits in the Category of Commutative Algebras . . . 704
A6.4 Exercises 707

Appendix 7 Where Next? 709

Hints and Solutions for Selected[1] Exercises 711

References 745

Index of Notation 763

Index 767

[1]The selected exercises are marked with a *.