Igor R. Shafarevich: Basic Algebraic Geometry 2

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Basic Algebraic Geometry 2

Second, Revised and Expanded Edition

Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg GmbH

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With 12 Figures

The title of the original Russian edition:
Osnovy algebraicheskoj geometrii, tom 2
© Nauka, Moscow 1988

Third Printing 1997

ISBN 978-3-540-57554-2 ISBN 978-3-642-57956-1 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-3-642-57956-1

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data.
Shafarevich, I. R. (Igor' Rostislavovich), 1923- [Osnovy algebraicheskoi geometrii. English]
Basic algebraic geometry/Igor R. Shafarevich; [translator, Miles Reid]. - 2nd. rev. and expanded ed. p. cm. "Springer study edition." Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
ISBN 978-3-540-57554-2 1. Geometry, Algebraic. I. Title. QA564.S4513 1994 516.3'5. - dc20

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© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 1977, 1994
Originally published by Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York in 1994

This book was typeset by the translator using the AMS-TEX macro package and typefaces, together with Springer-Verlag's TEX macro package CPMono01

SPIN 10979808 41/3111- 5 – Printed on acid-free paper

Preface to Books 2 and 3

Books 2 and 3 correspond to Chap. V–IX of the first edition. They study schemes and complex manifolds, two notions that generalise in different directions the varieties in projective space studied in Book 1. Introducing them leads also to new results in the theory of projective varieties. For example, it is within the framework of the theory of schemes and abstract varieties that we find the natural proof of the adjunction formula for the genus of a curve, which we have already stated and applied in Chap. IV, 2.3. The theory of complex analytic manifolds leads to the study of the topology of projective varieties over the field of complex numbers. For some questions it is only here that the natural and historical logic of the subject can be reasserted; for example, differential forms were constructed in order to be integrated, a process which only makes sense for varieties over the (real or) complex fields.

Changes from the First Edition

As in the Book 1, there are a number of additions to the text, of which the following two are the most important. The first of these is a discussion of the notion of the algebraic variety classifying algebraic or geometric objects of some type. As an example we work out the theory of the Hilbert polynomial and the Hilbert scheme. I am very grateful to V. I. Danilov for a series of recommendations on this subject. In particular the proof of Chap. VI, 4.3, Theorem 3 is due to him. The second addition is the definition and basic properties of a Kähler metric, and a description (without proof) of Hodge's theorem.

Prerequisites

Varieties in projective space will provide us with the main supply of examples, and the theoretical apparatus of Book 1 will be used, but by no means all of it. Different sections use different parts, and there is no point in giving exact indications. References to the Appendix are to the Algebraic Appendix at the end of Book 1.

Prerequisites for the reader of Books 2 and 3 are as follows: for Book 2, the same as for Book 1; for Book 3, the definition of differentiable manifold,

the basic theory of analytic functions of a complex variable, and a knowledge of homology, cohomology and differential forms (knowledge of the proofs is not essential); for Chap. IX, familiarity with the notion of fundamental group and the universal cover. References for these topics are given in the text.

Suggestions for Further Reading

Some references for further reading are included in the text. The reader who would like to continue the study of algebraic geometry is recommended the following books.

For scheme theory, the cohomology of algebraic coherent sheaves and its applications, see: Hartshorne [35], especially Chap. III.

For the Riemann–Roch theorem. An elementary proof for curves is given in the book: W. Fulton, Algebraic curves, Springer.

For the general case, see any of the following:

A. Borel and J.-P. Serre, Le théorème de Riemann-Roch, Bull. Soc. Math. France, **86** (1958), 97–136. Or

Yu. I. Manin, Lectures on the K-functor in algebraic geometry, Uspekhi Mat. Nauk **24**:5 (1969), 3–86. English translation in: Russian Math. Surveys, **24**:5 (1969), 1–89. Or

W. Fulton and S. Lang, Riemann-Roch algebra, Springer, 1985.

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