

Contents

1. Invariants and Relative Invariants	
1.1 Symmetric Polynomials	1
1.2 The Basic Objects of Study	4
1.3 The Alternating Group	10
1.4 Matrix Invariants	14
1.5 Elementary Properties of Invariants and Coinvariants	17
2. Finite Generation of Invariants	
2.1 The Field of Invariants	24
2.2 Noetherian Rings and Modules	25
2.3 Finite Groups in Arbitrary Characteristic	26
2.4 Noether's Bound	28
2.5 The Classical Form Problem : Linear Reductive Groups	35
3. Construction of Invariants	
3.1 Orbit Polynomials and Orbit Chern Classes	41
3.2 Examples	53
3.3 Another Finiteness Proof	58
3.4 The First Main Theorem of Invariant Theory for Σ_m	65
4. Poincaré Series	
4.1 The Hilbert-Serre Theorem	74
4.2 Permutation Representations	79
4.3 Molien's Theorem	86
4.4 Reflecting Hyperplanes	99
5. Dimension Theoretic Properties of Rings of Invariants	
5.1 Review of some Graded Commutative Algebra	105
5.2 Krull Dimension	108
5.3 Noether Normalization	111
5.4 Going Up and Down: Localization	117
5.5 Degree	122
5.6 Examples : $GL(2, \mathbb{F}_p)$ and its Subgroups	128
6. Homological Properties of Invariants	
6.1 Flat, Projective and Free Modules	140
6.2 Regular Sequences : The Koszul Complex	142
6.3 Hilbert's Syzygy Theorem	150
6.4 The Converse of Hilbert's Syzygy Theorem	152
6.5 Poincaré Duality Algebras	155
6.6 Homological Codimension	159
6.7 Cohen-Macaulay Rings	163

7. Groups Generated by Reflections

7.1 Pseudoreflections	177
7.2 Real and Crystallographic Reflection Groups	184
7.3 Groups Generated by Pseudoreflections	198
7.4 The Shephard-Todd Theorem	205
7.5 Coinvariants	219
7.6 Relative Invariants	225
7.7 Automorphisms of Rings of Coinvariants	230

8. Modular Invariants

8.1 The Dickson Algebra	236
8.2 Transvections	242
8.3 p -Sylow Subgroups and the Cohen-Macaulay Property	256
8.4 Groups Generated by Pseudoreflections	260

9. Polynomial Tensor Exterior Algebras

9.1 Polynomial Invariants and Representation Theory	265
9.2 A Variant of Molien's Theorem	268
9.3 Groups Generated by Pseudoreflections	272
9.4 An Application to the Cohomology of the Symmetric Group ..	280

10. Invariant Theory and Algebraic Topology

10.1 Spaces with Polynomial Cohomology	285
10.2 Classification of Nonmodular Pseudoreflection Groups	289
10.3 The Steenrod Algebra	294
10.4 Steenrod Operations and Invariants	301
10.5 The Theorem of Adams-Wilkerson	306
10.6 Another Proof of Dickson's Theorem	312
10.7 Torsion Primes for Weyl Groups	316

11. The Steenrod Algebra and Modular Invariant Theory

11.1 The Steenrod Algebra over Galois Fields	323
11.2 Invariant Ideals in Unstable Algebras over the Steenrod Algebra	326
11.3 Going Up and Down with Invariant Ideals	328
11.4 Invariant Ideals in Rings of Invariants	329
11.5 Applications to the Transfer	333

References 341

Notations 355

Index 357