Contents

Preface	ix
Introduction	1
1 Topological Invariants and Differential Geometry	6
1.1 Topological Invariants	7
1.2 Fundamental Groups and Covering Spaces	10
1.3 Complex Manifolds and Metrics	13
1.4 Divisors, Line Bundles, the First Chern Class	16
2 Riemann Surfaces, Coverings, and Hypergeometric Functions	23
2.1 Genus and Euler Number	23
2.2 Möbius Transformations	25
2.3 Metric and Curvature	29
2.4 Behavior of the Euler Number under Finite Covering	33
2.5 Finite Subgroups of PSL(2, $\mathbb{C}$)	34
2.6 Gauss Hypergeometric Functions	36
2.7 Triangle Groups	41
2.8 The Hypergeometric Monodromy Group	45
3 Complex Surfaces and Coverings	47
3.1 Coverings Branched over Subvarieties with Transverse Intersections	47
3.2 Divisor Class Group and Canonical Class	49
3.3 Proportionality	54
3.4 Signature	59
3.5 Blowing Up Points	61
4 Algebraic Surfaces and the Miyaoka-Yau Inequality	65
4.1 Rough Classification of Algebraic Surfaces	65
4.2 The Miyaoka-Yau Inequality, I	70
4.3 The Miyaoka-Yau Inequality, II	73
5 Line Arrangements in $\mathbb{P}_2(\mathbb{C})$ and Their Finite Covers	85
5.1 Blowing Up Line Arrangements	87
5.2 Höfer's Formula	88

5.3 Arrangements Annihilating R and Having Equal Ramification along All Lines 92
5.4 Blow-Up of a Singular Intersection Point 99
5.5 Possibilities for the Assigned Weights 103
5.6 Blowing Down Rational Curves and Removing Elliptic Curves 115
5.7 Tables of the Weights Giving Prop $= 0$ 122

6 Existence of Ball Quotients Covering Line Arrangements 126
6.1 Existence of Finite Covers by Ball Quotients of Weighted Configurations: The General Case 128
6.2 Remarks on Orbifolds and b-Spaces 133
6.3 $K_{X''} + D''$ for Weighted Line Arrangements 135
6.4 Existence Question 139
6.5 Ampleness of $K_{X''} + D''$ 140
6.6 Log-Terminal Singularities and LCS 145
6.7 Existence Theorem for Line Arrangements 148
6.8 Isotropy Subgroups of the Covering Group 164

7 Appell Hypergeometric Functions 167
7.1 The Action of S_5 on the Blown-Up Projective Plane 168
7.2 Appell Hypergeometric Functions 173
7.3 Arithmetic Monodromy Groups 181
7.4 Some Remarks about the Signature 186

A Torsion-Free Subgroups of Finite Index 189
A.1 Fuchsian Groups 190
A.2 Fenchel's Conjecture 191
A.3 Reduction to Triangle Groups 192
A.4 Triangle Groups 193

B Kummer Coverings 197

Bibliography 205
Index 213