

Contents

Preface	xiii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 A naive heuristic	2
1.2 The basic counting function	5
1.3 Influence of analytic number theory	8
1.3.1 Paucity results	9
1.3.2 Waring's problem	10
1.3.3 Vinogradov's mean value theorem	11
1.3.4 Small solutions	12
1.3.5 Divisor problems	14
Exercises for Chapter 1	15
2 The Manin conjectures	17
2.1 Divisors on varieties	17
2.1.1 The Picard group	18
2.1.2 The canonical divisor	19
2.1.3 The intersection form	19
2.1.4 Cubic surfaces	19
2.2 The conjectures	20
2.3 Degree 3	24
2.3.1 Non-singular surfaces	24
2.3.2 Singular surfaces	27
2.4 Degree 4	33
2.4.1 Non-singular surfaces	33
2.4.2 Singular surfaces	37
2.5 Degree ≥ 5	41
2.6 Universal torsors	43
Exercises for Chapter 2	46

3	The dimension growth conjecture	47
3.1	Linear spaces on hypersurfaces	49
3.2	Dimension growth for hypersurfaces	52
3.3	Exponential sums	54
3.3.1	Singular X	57
3.3.2	Non-singular X	58
3.4	Covering with linear spaces	59
	Exercises for Chapter 3	62
4	Uniform bounds for curves and surfaces	63
4.1	The determinant method	70
4.2	The geometry of numbers	72
4.3	General plane curves	76
4.4	Diagonal plane curves	79
	Exercises for Chapter 4	82
5	A_1 del Pezzo surface of degree 6	83
5.1	Passage to the universal torsor	84
5.2	The asymptotic formula	88
5.3	Perron's formula	91
	Exercises for Chapter 5	97
6	D_4 del Pezzo surface of degree 3	99
6.1	Passage to the universal torsor	100
6.2	A crude upper bound	103
6.3	A better upper bound	105
	Exercises for Chapter 6	111
7	Siegel's lemma and non-singular surfaces	113
7.1	Dual variety	115
7.2	Non-singular del Pezzo surfaces of degree 3	116
7.3	Non-singular del Pezzo surfaces of degree 4	118
	Exercises for Chapter 7	122
8	The Hardy–Littlewood circle method	123
8.1	Major arcs and minor arcs	125
8.2	Quartic hypersurfaces	128
8.2.1	The minor arcs	129
8.2.2	The major arcs	134
8.2.3	Improving Birch's argument	136
8.3	Diagonal cubic surfaces	137
8.3.1	The lines on a diagonal cubic surface	138
8.3.2	Cubic characters and Jacobi sums	140
8.3.3	The heuristic	142

<i>Contents</i>	xi
Exercises for Chapter 8	149
Bibliography	151
Index	159