Contents

List of Tables xiii

Notation and Conventions xv

1 Polynomial Ideals and Their Varieties 1
1.1 Fundamental Concepts 1
1.2 The Ideal Membership Problem and Gröbner Bases 7
1.3 Basic Properties and Algorithms 24
1.4 Decomposition of Varieties 38
1.5 Notes and Complements 50
Exercises 51

2 Stability and Normal Forms 57
2.1 Lyapunov's Second Method 57
2.2 Real Normal Forms 62
2.3 Analytic and Formal Normal Forms 68
2.4 Notes and Complements 83
Exercises 84

3 The Center Problem 89
3.1 The Poincaré First Return Map and the Lyapunov Numbers 91
3.2 Complexification of Real Systems, Normal Forms, and the Center Problem 96
3.3 The Center Variety 108
3.4 Focus Quantities and Their Properties 118
3.5 Hamiltonian and Reversible Systems 128
3.6 Darboux Integrals and Integrating Factors 136
3.7 Applications: Quadratic Systems and a Family of Cubic Systems . . . 147
3.8 The Center Problem for Liénard Systems 158
3.9 Notes and Complements 164
Exercises 167

4 The Isochronicity and Linearizability Problems 175
4.1 The Period Function 175
4.2 Isochronicity Through Normal Forms and Linearizability 177
4.3 The Linearizability Quantities 191
4.4 Darboux Linearization 199
4.5 Linearizable Quadratic Centers 205
4.6 Notes and Complements 208
Exercises 209

5 Invariants of the Rotation Group 213
5.1 Properties of Invariants 214
5.2 The Symmetry Ideal and the Set of Time-Reversible Systems 229
5.3 Axes of Symmetry of a Plane System 237
5.4 Notes and Complements 244
Exercises 245

6 Bifurcations of Limit Cycles and Critical Periods 249
6.1 Bautin's Method for Bifurcation Problems 250
6.2 The Cyclicity Problem 257
6.3 The Cyclicity of Quadratic Systems and a Family of Cubic Systems 269
6.4 Bifurcations of Critical Periods 287
6.5 Notes and Complements 299
Exercises 301

Appendix 307

References 313

Index of Notation 323

Index 327