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# Preface to the Second Edition

This second edition follows the plan and the arrangement of topics of the first edition. Some proofs have been revised or simplified. A number of typos and mistakes in the exercises and in the hints for solving them have been corrected. We are very grateful to the publishing staff of the American Mathematical Society and of the Royal Spanish Mathematical Society, especially to Edward Dunne and Guillermo Curbera, for their willingness to undertake a second edition and for their support. We also thank Donald Babbitt for his effort and considerable improvement of both the English and the mathematics in this second edition.

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