
Preface

In writing this book we have been keenly aware of the influence of our great teachers in this subject, David Buchsbaum, Phillip Griffiths, David Mumford, and Antonius van de Ven. Great stylists as well as great mathematicians, we can only hope that, consciously or not, the reader will occasionally hear their voices in our writing.

We have taught large parts of this material at Harvard and Berkeley, and our students' contributions to whatever virtues our text may have are considerable. İzzet Coşkun, in particular, read an earlier version of this manuscript in detail, and made myriad useful comments.

We have had the good fortune to have, in the role of copy-editor, a mathematician and friend, Silvio Levy, whose sense of style and publishing expertise informs the layout of this book. Silvio also converted our sketches, done (to quote James Thurber) with a dull pencil, into professional graphics that are mathematically accurate when possible.

Writing this book was an enterprise of years that involved the patience of more than just the authors, and we have been fortunate to have had the support of Monika and Vicky, who understood and valued our work during the hours “away” that were necessary.

To all these, our heartfelt thanks!

David and Joe, August, 2024