

# Foreword

As with the first, the second volume contains substantially more material than can be covered in a one-semester course. Such courses may omit many beautiful and well-grounded applications which connect broadly to many areas of mathematics. We of course hope that students will pursue this material independently; teachers may find it useful for undergraduate seminars.

For an overview of the material presented, consult the table of contents and the chapter introductions. As before, we stress that doing the numerous exercises is indispensable for understanding the subject matter, and they also round out and amplify the main text.

In writing this volume, we are indebted to the help of many. We especially thank our friends and colleagues Pavol Quittner and Gieri Simonett. They have not only meticulously reviewed the entire manuscript and assisted in weeding out errors but also, through their valuable suggestions for improvement, contributed essentially to the final version. We also extend great thanks to our staff for their careful perusal of the entire manuscript and for tracking errata and inaccuracies.

Our most heartfelt thank extends again to our “typesetting perfectionist”, without whose tireless effort this book would not look nearly so nice.<sup>1</sup> We also thank Andreas for helping resolve hardware and software problems.

Finally, we extend thanks to Thomas Hintermann and to Birkhäuser for the good working relationship and their understanding of our desired deadlines.

Zürich and Kassel, March 1999

H. Amann and J. Escher

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<sup>1</sup>The text was set in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, and the figures were created with CorelDRAW! and Maple.

**Foreword to the second edition**

In this version, we have corrected errors, resolved imprecisions, and simplified several proofs. These areas for improvement were brought to our attention by readers. To them and to our colleagues H. Crauel, A. Ilchmann and G. Prokert, we extend heartfelt thanks.

Zürich and Hannover, December 2003

H. Amann and J. Escher

**Foreword to the English translation**

It is a pleasure to express our gratitude to Silvio Levy and Matt Cargo for their careful and insightful translation of the original German text into English. Their effective and pleasant cooperation during the process of translation is highly appreciated.

Zürich and Hannover, March 2008

H. Amann and J. Escher