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978-0-521-47423-8 - Automorphic Representations and L-Functions for the General Linear Group, Volume I

Dorian Goldfeld and Joseph Hundley

Frontmatter

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AUTOMORPHIC REPRESENTATIONS AND L-FUNCTIONS FOR THE GENERAL LINEAR GROUP

Volume I

This graduate-level textbook provides an elementary exposition of the theory of automorphic representations and L-functions for the general linear group in an adelic setting. Definitions are kept to a minimum and repeated when reintroduced so that the book is accessible from any entry point, and with no prior knowledge of representation theory. The book includes concrete examples of global and local representations of $GL(n)$, and presents their associated L-functions.

In Volume I, the theory is developed from first principles for $GL(1)$, then carefully extended to $GL(2)$ with complete detailed proofs of key theorems. Several proofs are presented for the first time, including Jacquet's simple and elegant proof of the tensor product theorem. In Volume II the higher rank situation of $GL(n)$ is given a detailed treatment.

Containing over 250 exercises written by Xander Faber, this book will motivate students to begin working in this fertile field of research.

Dorian Goldfeld is a Professor in the Department of Mathematics at Columbia University, New York.

Joseph Hundley is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

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Frontmatter

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- 129 D. Goldfeld & J. Hundley *Automorphic representations and L-functions for the general linear group, I*
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978-0-521-47423-8 - Automorphic Representations and L-Functions for the General Linear Group, Volume I

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Frontmatter

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Automorphic Representations
and L-Functions for the General
Linear Group

Volume I

DORIAN GOLDFELD

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With exercises by

XANDER FABER



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Frontmatter

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

To Ada, Dahlia, and Iris.

–D. G.

To Melissa, and to my Family.

–J. H.

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Dorian Goldfeld and Joseph Hundley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents for Volume I

	<i>Contents for Volume II</i>	<i>page</i> xiii
	<i>Introduction</i>	xv
	<i>Preface to the Exercises</i>	xix
1	Adeles over \mathbb{Q}	1
	1.1 Absolute values	1
	1.2 The field \mathbb{Q}_p of p -adic numbers	2
	1.3 Adeles and ideles over \mathbb{Q}	7
	1.4 Action of \mathbb{Q} on the adeles and ideles	8
	1.5 p -adic integration	12
	1.6 p -adic Fourier transform	15
	1.7 Adelic Fourier transform	18
	1.8 Fourier expansion of periodic adelic functions	23
	1.9 Adelic Poisson summation formula	30
	Exercises for Chapter 1	31
2	Automorphic representations and L-functions for $GL(1, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	39
	2.1 Automorphic forms for $GL(1, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	39
	2.2 The L-function of an automorphic form	45
	2.3 The local L-functions and their functional equations	55
	2.4 Classical L-functions and root numbers	60
	2.5 Automorphic representations for $GL(1, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	65
	2.6 Hecke operators for $GL(1, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	68
	2.7 The Rankin-Selberg method	69
	2.8 The p -adic Mellin transform	70
	Exercises for Chapter 2	72
3	The classical theory of automorphic forms for $GL(2)$	76
	3.1 Automorphic forms in general	76
	3.2 Congruence subgroups of the modular group	77
	3.3 Automorphic functions of integral weight k	78
	3.4 Fourier expansion at ∞ of holomorphic modular forms	80
		vii

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-47423-8 - Automorphic Representations and L-Functions for the General Linear Group, Volume I

Dorian Goldfeld and Joseph Hundley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

Contents

3.5	Maass forms	81
3.6	Whittaker functions	84
3.7	Fourier-Whittaker expansions of Maass forms	87
3.8	Eisenstein series	89
3.9	Maass raising and lowering operators	90
3.10	The bottom of the spectrum	92
3.11	Hecke operators, oldforms, and newforms	94
3.12	Finite dimensionality of the eigenspaces	97
	Exercises for Chapter 3	98
4	Automorphic forms for $GL(2, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	103
4.1	Iwasawa and Cartan decompositions for $GL(2, \mathbb{R})$	103
4.2	Iwasawa and Cartan decompositions for $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	105
4.3	The adèle group $GL(2, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	107
4.4	The action of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q})$ on $GL(2, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	108
4.5	The universal enveloping algebra of $\mathfrak{gl}(2, \mathbb{C})$	112
4.6	The center of the universal enveloping algebra of $\mathfrak{gl}(2, \mathbb{C})$	117
4.7	Automorphic forms for $GL(2, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	117
4.8	Adelic lifts of weight zero, level one, Maass forms	119
4.9	The Fourier expansion of adelic automorphic forms	126
4.10	Global Whittaker functions for $GL(2, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	128
4.11	Strong approximation for congruence subgroups	134
4.12	Adelic lifts with arbitrary weight, level, and character	136
4.13	Global Whittaker functions for adelic lifts with arbitrary weight, level, and character	141
	Exercises for Chapter 4	147
5	Automorphic representations for $GL(2, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	152
5.1	Adelic automorphic representations for $GL(2, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	152
5.2	Explicit realization of actions defining a $(\mathfrak{g}, K_{\infty})$ -module	161
5.3	Explicit realization of the action of $GL(2, \mathbb{A}_{\text{finite}})$	168
5.4	Examples of cuspidal automorphic representations	172
5.5	Admissible $(\mathfrak{g}, K_{\infty}) \times GL(2, \mathbb{A}_{\text{finite}})$ -modules	173
	Exercises for Chapter 5	178
6	Theory of admissible representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	183
6.0	Short roadmap to chapter 6	183
6.1	Admissible representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	183
6.2	Ramified versus unramified	192
6.3	Local representation coming from a level 1 Maass form	193
6.4	Jacquet's local Whittaker function	195
6.5	Principal series representations	200
6.6	Jacquet's map: Principal series \rightarrow Whittaker functions	205

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-47423-8 - Automorphic Representations and L-Functions for the General Linear Group, Volume I

Dorian Goldfeld and Joseph Hundley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

<i>Contents</i>		ix
6.7	The Kirillov model	214
6.8	The Kirillov model of the principal series representation	221
6.9	Haar measure on $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	228
6.10	The special representations	232
6.11	Jacquet modules	236
6.12	Induced representations and parabolic induction	238
6.13	The supercuspidal representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	240
6.14	The uniqueness of the Kirillov model	243
6.15	The Kirillov model of a supercuspidal representation	252
6.16	The classification of the irreducible and admissible representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	252
	Exercises for Chapter 6	253
7	Theory of admissible (\mathfrak{g}, K_∞) modules for $GL(2, \mathbb{R})$	259
7.1	Admissible (\mathfrak{g}, K_∞) -modules	259
7.2	Ramified versus unramified	260
7.3	Jacquet's local Whittaker function	260
7.4	Principal series representations	263
7.5	Classification of irreducible admissible (\mathfrak{g}, K_∞) -modules	269
	Exercises for Chapter 7	275
8	The contragredient representation for $GL(2)$	277
8.1	The contragredient representation for $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	277
8.2	The contragredient representation of a principal series representation of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	281
8.3	Contragredient of a special representation of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	283
8.4	Contragredient of a supercuspidal representation	285
8.5	The contragredient representation for $GL(2, \mathbb{R})$	289
8.6	The contragredient representation of a principal series representation of $GL(2, \mathbb{R})$	294
8.7	Global contragredients for $GL(2, \mathbb{A}_\mathbb{Q})$	303
8.8	Integration on $GL(2, \mathbb{A}_\mathbb{Q})$	306
8.9	The contragredient representation of a cuspidal automorphic representation of $GL(2, \mathbb{A}_\mathbb{Q})$	311
8.10	Growth of matrix coefficients	316
8.11	Asymptotics of matrix coefficients of (\mathfrak{g}, K_∞) -modules	330
8.12	Matrix coefficients of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$ via the Jacquet module	343
	Exercises for Chapter 8	353
9	Unitary representations of $GL(2)$	358
9.1	Unitary representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	358
9.2	Unitary principal series representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	360

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-47423-8 - Automorphic Representations and L-Functions for the General Linear Group, Volume I

Dorian Goldfeld and Joseph Hundley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x	<i>Contents</i>	
9.3	Unitary and irreducible special or supercuspidal representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	364
9.4	Unitary (\mathfrak{g}, K_∞) -modules	365
9.5	Unitary $(\mathfrak{g}, K_\infty) \times GL(2, \mathbb{A}_{\text{finite}})$ -modules Exercises for Chapter 9	368 374
10	Tensor products of local representations	378
10.1	Euler products	378
10.2	Tensor product of (\mathfrak{g}, K_∞) -modules and representations	379
10.3	Infinite tensor products of local representations	381
10.4	The factorization of unramified irreducible admissible cuspidal automorphic representations	383
10.5	Decomposition of representations of locally compact groups into finite tensor products	388
10.6	The spherical Hecke algebra for $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	396
10.7	Initial decomposition of admissible $(\mathfrak{g}, K_\infty) \times GL(2, \mathbb{A}_{\text{finite}})$ -modules	403
10.8	The tensor product theorem	406
10.9	The Ramanujan and Selberg conjectures for $GL(2, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$ Exercises for Chapter 10	413 415
11	The Godement-Jacquet L-function for $GL(2, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	418
11.1	Historical remarks	418
11.2	The Poisson summation formula for $GL(2, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	419
11.3	Haar measure	423
11.4	The global zeta integral for $GL(2, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	425
11.5	Factorization of the global zeta integral	430
11.6	The local functional equation	432
11.7	The local L-function for $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$ (unramified case)	434
11.8	The local L-function for irreducible supercuspidal representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	440
11.9	The local L-function for irreducible principal series representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	441
11.10	Local L-function for unitary special representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	444
11.11	Proof of the local functional equation for principal series representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	446
11.12	The local functional equation for the unitary special representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	450
11.13	Proof of the local functional equation for the supercuspidal representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	452

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-47423-8 - Automorphic Representations and L-Functions for the General Linear Group, Volume I

Dorian Goldfeld and Joseph Hundley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

<i>Contents</i>		xi
11.14	The local L-function for irreducible principal series representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{R})$	463
11.15	Proof of the local functional equation for principal series representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{R})$	467
11.16	The local L-function for irreducible discrete series representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{R})$	471
	Exercises for Chapter 11	474
	<i>Solutions to Selected Exercises</i>	478
	<i>References</i>	531
	<i>Symbols Index</i>	537
	<i>Index</i>	541

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-47423-8 - Automorphic Representations and L-Functions for the General Linear Group, Volume I

Dorian Goldfeld and Joseph Hundley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents for Volume II

<i>Contents for Volume I</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Introduction</i>	xv
<i>Preface to the Exercises</i>	xix
12 The classical theory of automorphic forms for $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$	1
12.1 Iwasawa decomposition for $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$	1
12.2 Congruence subgroups of $SL(n, \mathbb{Z})$	2
12.3 Automorphic functions of arbitrary weight, level, and character	3
Exercises for Chapter 12	13
13 Automorphic forms and representations for $GL(n, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	16
13.1 Cartan, Bruhat decompositions for $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$	16
13.2 Iwasawa, Cartan, Bruhat decompositions for $GL(n, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	17
13.3 Strong approximation for $GL(n)$	22
13.4 Adelic lifts and automorphic forms for $GL(n, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	24
13.5 The Fourier expansion of adelic automorphic forms	31
13.6 Adelic automorphic representations for $GL(n, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	36
13.7 Tensor product theorem for $GL(n)$	41
13.8 Newforms for $GL(n)$	43
Exercises for Chapter 13	47
14 Theory of local representations for $GL(n)$	52
14.1 Generalities on representations of $GL(n, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	52
14.2 Generic representations of $GL(n, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	56
14.3 Parabolic induction for $GL(n, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	60
14.4 Supercuspidal representations of $GL(n, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	66
14.5 The Bernstein-Zelevinsky classification for $GL(n, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	70
14.6 Classification of smooth irreducible representations of $GL(n, \mathbb{Q}_p)$ via the growth of matrix coefficients	75
14.7 Unitary representations of $GL(n, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	78
14.8 Generalities on $(\mathfrak{g}, K_{\infty})$ -modules of $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$	80
	xiii

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-47423-8 - Automorphic Representations and L-Functions for the General Linear Group, Volume I

Dorian Goldfeld and Joseph Hundley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xiv	<i>Contents</i>	
14.9	Generic representations of $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$	85
14.10	Parabolic induction for $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$	88
14.11	Classification of the unitary and the generic unitary representations of $GL(n, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	100
14.12	Unramified representations of $GL(n, \mathbb{Q}_p)$ and $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$	102
14.13	Unitary duals and other duals	105
14.14	The Ramanujan conjecture for $GL(n, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	106
	Exercises for Chapter 14	106
15	The Godement-Jacquet L-function for $GL(n, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	114
15.1	The Poisson summation formula for $GL(n, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	114
15.2	The global zeta integral for $GL(n, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	118
15.3	Factorization of the global zeta integral for $GL(n, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$	124
15.4	The local functional equation for $GL(n, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	125
15.5	The L-function and local functional equation for the supercuspidal representations of $GL(n, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	128
15.6	The local functional equation for tensor products	128
15.7	The local zeta integral for a parabolically induced representation of $GL(n, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	130
15.8	The local zeta integral for discrete series (square integrable) representations of $GL(n, \mathbb{Q}_p)$	138
15.9	The local zeta integral for irreducible unitary generic representations of $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$	143
	Exercises for Chapter 15	151
	<i>Solutions to Selected Exercises</i>	153
	<i>References</i>	169
	<i>Symbols Index</i>	175
	<i>Index</i>	179

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-47423-8 - Automorphic Representations and L-Functions for the General Linear Group, Volume I

Dorian Goldfeld and Joseph Hundley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Introduction

The theory of L-functions is an old subject with a long history. In the 1940s Hecke and Maass rewrote the classical theory in the setting of automorphic forms, and it seemed as if the theory of L-functions had settled into a fairly final form. This view was effectively overturned with the publication of two major books: [Gelfand-Graev-Piatetski-Shapiro, 1969], [Jacquet-Langlands, 1970], where it was shown that the theory of L-functions could be recast in the language of infinite dimensional complex representations of reductive groups.

Another milestone in the recent theory of L-functions was the book by Roger Godement and Hervé Jacquet, [Godement-Jacquet, 1972], which defined for the first time the standard L-functions attached to automorphic representations of the general linear group, and proved their key properties by generalizing the seminal ideas of [Tate, 1950], [Iwasawa, 1952, 1992]. The proofs in [Godement-Jacquet, 1972] made fundamental use of matrix coefficients associated to automorphic representations. The standard L-functions of the general linear group are often called Godement-Jacquet L-functions. Although several other techniques have since been discovered to obtain the main analytic properties of such L-functions, none is more beautiful and elegant than the method of matrix coefficients, originally devised by Godement and Jacquet, which is a major theme of this book.

Modern research in the theory of automorphic representations and L-functions is largely focused in the direction of the Langlands program. Quoting from [Bernstein-Gelbart, 2003]:

The Langlands program roughly states that, among other things, any L-function defined number-theoretically is the same as the one which can be defined as the automorphic L-function of some $GL(n)$. In this loose way, every L-function is (conjecturally) viewed as one and the same object.

Langlands' philosophy established the central importance of the general linear group for number theory. A great step forward was obtained recently when Ngo proved the fundamental lemma (see: [Laumon-Ngo, 2004], [Ngo, 2008]).

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-47423-8 - Automorphic Representations and L-Functions for the General Linear Group, Volume I

Dorian Goldfeld and Joseph Hundley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

The purpose of this book is to provide an elementary yet extremely rigorous exposition of the theory of cuspidal automorphic representations and L-functions for the general linear group in a textbook form that can be understood by the beginning graduate student with minimal background in representation theory. The theory of Eisenstein series and the \mathcal{L}^2 decomposition of the space of automorphic forms are omitted for reasons of space. To simplify the presentation, the theory is restricted to the adèle group of \mathbb{Q} , although in most cases, the proofs can be easily generalized to any number field. Definitions are reintroduced where necessary so that the book is easily accessible from any entry point. Most definitions and key ideas are explained in concert with simple concrete examples. Almost every definition, theorem, and proposition is captioned, so that the flow of ideas is easy to grasp. The book contains over 250 exercises as well as over 50 pages of solutions to exercises.

The first chapter introduces the theory of p -adic fields and the adèle ring $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}}$ from first principles. A highlight of this chapter is a short, rigorous, and elementary proof of the Fourier expansion of periodic adelic functions which plays such a crucial role in the proof of the analytic continuation and functional equation of L-functions.

The second chapter presents the theory of automorphic representations and L-functions for the group $GL(1, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$. This is essentially Tate's thesis recast in the language of automorphic representations for $GL(1)$.

Chapters 3 through 11 develop the theory of automorphic representations and L-functions for $GL(2)$. Particular care is taken to show the relationship between irreducible cuspidal automorphic representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$ and Hecke-Maass newforms for congruence subgroups of $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$. Highlights include the classification of the irreducible admissible representations of $GL(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$ given in Chapter 6, the classification of irreducible admissible $(\mathfrak{g}, K_{\infty})$ -modules given in Chapter 7, growth of matrix coefficients given in Chapter 8, Jacquet's simple and extremely elegant proof of the tensor product theorem in Chapter 10, and the proofs (using matrix coefficients) of the key analytic properties of the Godement-Jacquet L-functions given in Chapter 11.

Finally, the entire theory is redone for the more general case of $GL(n)$ in the final Chapters 12 through 15. Chapter 12 presents a classical theory of automorphic forms for $GL(n, \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$, which generalizes the theory presented in [Goldfeld, 2006]. Instead of K -fixed forms, automorphic forms with arbitrary K -type, level, and character are studied. Chapter 14 presents the Bernstein-Zelevinsky classification of the smooth irreducible representations of $GL(n, \mathbb{Q}_p)$ as well as Vogan's classification of the irreducible unitary representations of $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$. The book ends with the theory of the Godement-Jacquet L-function for $GL(n)$.

By seeing the theory of automorphic representations and L-functions in three different settings:

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978-0-521-47423-8 - Automorphic Representations and L-Functions for the General Linear Group, Volume I

Dorian Goldfeld and Joseph Hundley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Introduction*

xvii

- *the abelian setting of $GL(1)$;*
- *the rank one setting of $GL(2)$;*
- *the higher rank situation of $GL(n)$;*

along with many simple concrete examples to investigate, the beginning student can gain deep insight into this beautiful subject. It is hoped that by reading this book students and researchers will be motivated to begin working in this fertile field of research.

The authors are deeply indebted to Hervé Jacquet for walking them through the most difficult steps and showing them new proofs of many results. These proofs substantially simplify the arguments previously available in the literature, and we would like to thank Hervé Jacquet for allowing us to include them in this exposition. Without his help this book could not have been written. We are especially grateful to Xander Faber for a careful reading of the manuscript, pointing out innumerable errors, and for creating all the exercises and a solutions section, which will be so invaluable for students. The authors would like to specially thank Min Lee for carefully reading the book, correcting many errors, and preparing the index and table of symbols. We would like to thank Gautam Chinta, Ivan Fesenko, Joe Pleso, and Shou-Wu Zhang for many helpful comments. We thank Jacqueline Anderson, Atanas Atanasov, Alberto Baider, Ioan Filip, Timothy Heath, Jeffrey Hoffstein, Thomas Hulse, Eren Mehmet Kiral, Karol Koziol, Chan Jeong Kuan, Li Mei Lim, Matthew Spencer, and Ian Whitehead for patiently reading various chapters and pointing out errors and typos. We thank the NSF and NSA for financial support. Finally we want to thank Roger Astley and Cambridge University Press for encouraging us to write and publish this book.

Dorian Goldfeld and Joseph Hundley

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface to the Exercises

My goal for this project was to remedy some of my ignorance of the theory of automorphic forms. I hope these exercises will aid the reader in doing the same. If an exercise requires some sort of inspiration that isn't immediately obvious from the text, then I have tried to give at least a hint. I have attempted to write a detailed sketch or a full solution whenever an exercise was particularly difficult (for me). But it will be evident that I have violated both of these guiding principles at times with little rhyme or reason. An exercise marked with a * is particularly tricky (again, for me).

My thanks go to Dorian for the opportunity to be a part of this project, and to Joe for patiently answering loads of my questions. It's been a pleasure working with both of you. A National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellowship provided my funding during the completion of this project. Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Alana, for her unwavering support of my endeavors, especially those that detract from our time together.

— Xander Faber