

FOREWORD TO THE SECOND EDITION

The first edition has been here thoroughly revised. We have duly eliminated misprints, a few mistakes and, in particular, a number of inconsistencies (hopefully, all of them) in the symbols used, as a result, the present text is definitively clearer.

We have also added a few arguments and remarks as well as several new exercises.

It was pretty hard going, believe us, but wellworth it.

We greatly acknowledge M. Impedovo for helpful suggestions and for the careful rereading of the whole text. Finally we thank G. Barbieri for his robust english revision.

Milan, january 2009

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