Acknowledgments

We are grateful to Steve Orszag (1943–2011), who suggested the idea of the course "Mathematics in the Real World" to us, and to Michael Frame at Yale University, who was a source of continuous help and inspiration in developing the course and writing the book. We would like to thank Roger Howe, Andrew Casson, Frank Robinson, and Bill Segraves at Yale, as well as Bala Rajaratnam, Ravi Vakil, and Brian Conrad at Stanford, for their generous assistance in introducing the course at these universities.

We would like to thank our parents and our teachers in high school, college, and graduate school, who taught us to appreciate the depth and beauty of mathematics, and encouraged us, by their own example, to share it with others.

It is a pleasure to thank our students for whom the course was created, whose curiosity and enthusiasm helped shape this book.

We are grateful to our editor, Joseph Calamia, for his careful reading of the manuscript and for multiple suggestions and corrections, which significantly improved the exposition, and to Nancy Hulnick and Mary Pasti, whose thorough editing helped refine the text. We would also like to thank the reviewers of the manuscript for their remarks and suggestions.

Special thanks go out to our families for their continuous support, encouragement, and patience during our work on the book.

