

Preface

A “Summer School on Commutative Algebra” was held from July 16 to 26, 1996, at the Centre de Recerca Matemàtica (CRM) in Bellaterra, a mathematical research institute sponsored by the Institut d’Estudis Catalans. It was organized by CRM and supported by CRM, Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia, Comissió Interdepartamental de Recerca i Innovació Tecnològica and Universitat de Barcelona. The School organizers were J. Elias, J. M. Giral, R. M. Miró-Roig and S. Zarzuela.

The School mainly consisted in 6 series of 5 lectures surveying and highlighting recent developments in Commutative Algebra, as well as 9 addressed talks and 28 short communications. Over 150 participants attended the School and contributed to its success.

This volume contains texts grown out of the six series of lectures given by the authors in the Summer School on Commutative Algebra. We are deeply indebted to them for their effort and excellent job.

The editors want to express their gratitude to the Director of the CRM, M. Castellet, and its staff for their support to our project without which it would not have taken place. We also want to thank our graduate students who helped in several tasks, specially J. Martínez for his unvaluable assistance in the preparation of this volume. Finally, thanks are due to Birkhäuser Verlag for their interest in it.

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Barcelona, September 1997.

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