

# Preface

First, we wish to thank Professor Takesaki who encouraged us to write this book. Without him, we would never have started; without the unfailing support of Yuko and Harvinder, we would never have finished.

Monotone complete  $C^*$ -algebras are now entering a new and exciting stage of their development. The new classification semigroup and spectroid invariants are useful, but we are a very long way from a full understanding; many mysteries remain. The second author particularly wishes to thank Dennis Sullivan for stimulating discussions on generic dynamics and related topics.

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