

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are indebted to a selected group of anonymous reviewers whose invaluable help has greatly contributed towards improving the overall quality of this compilation. Our gratitude extends also to Joseba Lakarra, as general editor of the series, as well as to Teresa Cantón, Luisa Martí and Javier Ormazabal for their useful comments and practical help. Finally, we are deeply grateful to the fifteen contributors to this volume, whose interest and enthusiasm in this project have made it possible. This publication was partially funded in its later stages by research grant PS95-0049 (DGiCyT, Ministry of Education, Spain).