

## Acknowledgment

Throughout this endeavor we have benefited from the advice, encouragement, and support of numerous individuals, including the contributing authors, thoughtful reviewers, supportive colleagues, and patient family members. Without the contributions of all of these people, this book would not been possible.

First, we would like to express our deepest thanks and sincere appreciation to the authors whose chapters appear in this book. We have enjoyed working with all of them, for they have made our work interesting, enjoyable, and relatively painless. Their excellent contributions make us feel confident that readers will truly benefit from reading chapters of this book.

Second, we are very grateful for the support provided by the reviewers. They have done outstanding work providing us with detailed comments and constructive suggestions for each of the chapters. Their comments and suggestions were helpful to us in making editorial decisions and providing important feedback to the authors for improving and revising their chapters.

Finally, we would like to thank our families for their patience and encouragement. Both of our families have been a constant source of understanding, support, and encouragement. We dedicate this book to our spouses, Li Chen and Patrivan K. Yuen, and thank them both for love and support and for letting us disappear into the abyss for hours on end.

*Harrison H. Yang and Steve C. Yuen*  
*March 11, 2009*