

tails to the appendices, which makes the body of the book accessible to a wider class of readers, has inevitably made a smooth and coherent presentation almost out of the question. (2) The discussion of the various applications are quite repetitive, and while this may be desirable for the general reader, it does not help the mathematician. (3) The book is now two years old, and was written when many parts of the field were undergoing very active development. It is to be hoped that future editions, or a book at a higher level, will provide a more coherent account, covering such new work as that of Wolfowitz [5] and Seth [6] on sequential estimation, Wald [3, 4] and Arrow, Blackwell, and Girshick [7], on multiple decision functions.

The book is relatively free from typographical errors. We may mention that a " $\Delta$ " should appear in the denominator of the fraction appearing at the very end of page 9, that in expression (3.3) on page 38 the inequality should be reversed, that in expression (4.22) on page 85 the fraction on the right should be inverted, and that the summand of the sum in the third line of page 133 should be squared.

#### REFERENCES

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2. Statistical Research Group, Columbia University, *Sampling inspection*, New York, McGraw-Hill, 1948.
3. A. Wald, *Foundations of a general theory of sequential decision functions*, Econometrica vol. 15 (1947) pp. 279–313.
4. ———, *Statistical decision functions*, Ann. Math. Statist. vol. 20 (1949) pp. 165–205.
5. J. Wolfowitz, *The efficiency of sequential estimates and Wald's equation for sequential processes*, Ann. Math. Statist. vol. 18 (1947) pp. 215–230.
6. G. R. Seth, *On the variance of estimates*, Ann. Math. Statist. vol. 20 (1949) pp. 1–27.
7. K. J. Arrow, D. Blackwell, and M. A. Girshick, *Bayes and minimax solutions of sequential decision problems*, Econometrica vol. 17 (1949) pp. 213–244.

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*Variétés abéliennes et courbes algébriques*. By A. Weil. Paris, Hermann, 1948. 165 pp.

This is the second of a series of papers with which the author promised to follow his book, *Foundations of algebraic geometry*, American Mathematical Society, 1946. The first paper, entitled: *Sur les courbes algébriques et les variétés qui s'en déduisent*, is concerned in particular with the theory of correspondences of an algebraic curve