Word and phrase index

I have tried to include in this index not only the location where each term is defined, but also all significant occurrences of the concepts in question; but it has not been easy to decide which occurrences are significant. I would welcome your observations on the types of cases you would find it useful to have in the index, and on any entries that are erroneous, unnecessary, or missing.

Pages where terms are defined or where conventions relating to them are set are shown with boldface page numbers. (Sometimes a formal definition occurs after the first page of discussion of a topic, and sometimes more than one version of a concept is defined, leading to occasional entries such as 100-**101**-115, **130**-140.) At some future time, I may try to provide other information in similar ways: e.g., perhaps small type for brief tangential references, a raised dot after a page-number to signal the approximate height on the page at which a term occurs, etc.. I would be interested in your thoughts as to what information of this sort would be useful.

I have generally grouped specific concepts under more general ones. Thus, ''dihedral group'' appears under ''group'', not ''dihedral''. But when a subtopic would have a large number of entries relating to it, it is often made a separate heading. E.g., ''abelian groups'' has its own heading; on the other hand, items relating to ''commutative rings'' are shown under ''rings'', since we don't discuss as many facets of that subtopic.

When two broad concepts intersect, it is hard to give a rule as to where the intersection is indexed. Concepts studied in this course that cut across various types of algebras outrank the specific types of algebras; so, ''free group'' appears only under ''free''. Occasionally, I reference the same topic under more than one heading.

The great majority of the entries in this index concern algebraic topics. Most of the remainder concern foundations and logic, topology, or meta-topics such as ''heuristics'' and ''open questions''. For convenience, the handful of entries relating to still other subjects are grouped under the heading ''miscellaneous areas''.

Terms used by other authors for which different words are used in this work are, if referenced, put in single quotes; e.g., 'free product', for what we call ''coproduct''.

In secondary headings, the words of the main heading are abbreviated ''–''. In cross-references, the form ''*see* main-heading: subheading'' is used; in particular, ''*see* –: subheading'' points to another subheading under the same main heading. Cross-references are often abbreviated by replacing words after the first one or two by ''...''; on the other hand, ''etc.'' means ''and similar topics''. ''...'' without immediately preceding words, as in ''*see* different-heading: ...'', indicates a phrase similar to the present subheading.