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Elements of Phase Transitions and Critical Phenomena

Hidetoshi Nishimori and Gerardo Ortiz

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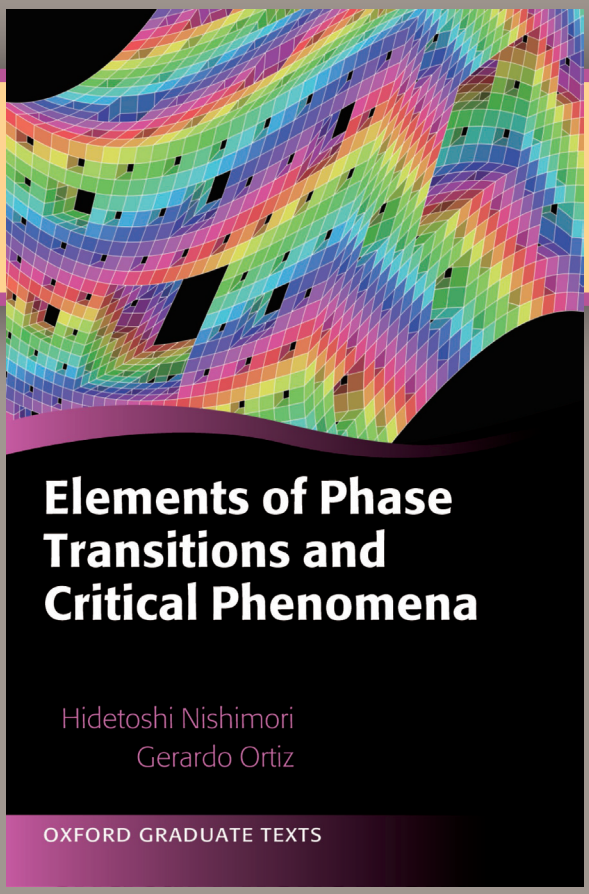

As an introductory account of the theory of phase transitions and critical phenomena, this book reflects lectures given by the authors to graduate students at their departments and is thus classroom-tested to help beginners enter the field. Most parts are written as self-contained units and every new concept or calculation is explained in detail without assuming prior knowledge of the subject. The book significantly enhances and revises a Japanese version which is a bestseller in the Japenese market and is considered a standard textbook in the field. It contains new pedagogical presentations of field theory methods, including a chapter on conformal field theory, and various modern developments hard to find in a single textbook on phase transitions. Exercises are presented as the topics develop, with can be solutions found at the end of the book, making the text useful for self-teaching, as well as for classroom learning.

After spending three years as a postdoctoral fellow at Carnegie-Mellon University and Rutgers University in the US, HIDETOSHI NISHIMORI returned to Japan, first as a research associate at Tokyo Institute of Technology. He is now a professor of physics at the same Institute. He received the Nishina Memorial Prize in 2006 for his work on spin glasses. He is a Fellow of Institute of Physics.y.

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