Preface to the second edition

Since the first edition of this book appeared in 2005, the subject of metric geometry and nonpositive curvature has grown in several directions at an increasingly fast rate. In particular, hyperbolic geometry, Teichmüller spaces and Hilbert geometry, which are mentioned here as illustrations of the ideas and of the techniques used, are today the subject of intense research. Despite these new developments, I have kept, for this second edition, the main body of the book with its original size and its elementary character unchanged. I have corrected several misprints and some mistakes, I have added a few notes and footnotes on the recent developments, and I have updated the bibliographical references.

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