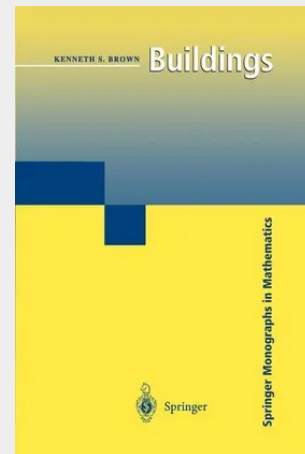


Buildings

For years I have heard about buildings and their applications to group theory. I finally decided to try to learn something about the subject by teaching a graduate course on it at Cornell University in Spring 1987. This book is based on the notes from that course. The course started from scratch and proceeded at a leisurely pace. The book therefore does not get very far. Indeed, the definition of the term "building" doesn't even appear until Chapter IV. My hope, however, is that the book gets far enough to enable the reader to tackle the literature on buildings, some of which can seem very forbidding. Most of the results in this book are due to J. Tits, who originated the theory of buildings. The main exceptions are Chapter I (which presents some classical material), Chapter VI (which presents joint work of F. Bruhat and Tits), and Chapter VII (which surveys some applications, due to various people). It has been a pleasure studying Tits's work; I only hope my exposition does it justice.

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