

Preface to the English Edition

The present monograph is a translation of *Introduction au calcul des variations* that was published by Presses Polytechniques et Universitaires Romandes. In fact it is more than a translation, it can be considered as a new edition. Indeed, I have substantially modified many proofs and exercises, with their corrections, adding also several new ones. In doing so I have benefited from many comments of students and colleagues who used the French version in their courses on the calculus of variations.

After several years of experience, I think that the present book can adequately serve as a concise and broad introduction to the calculus of variations. It can be used at undergraduate as well as graduate level. Of course at a more advanced level it has to be complemented by more specialized materials and I have indicated, in every chapter, appropriate books for further readings. The numerous exercises, integrally corrected in Chapter 7, will also be important to help understand the subject better.

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