

## Corrections, Clarifications, and Comments \*

### Chapter 2

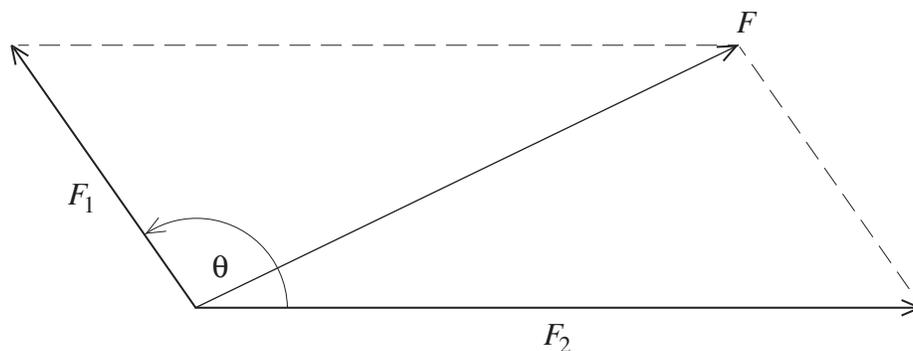
page 33, Figure 2.30a, should have  $90^\circ$  in place of  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  (because the radian measure of an angle is introduced and discussed only later).

page 37, end of the first paragraph. The sentences “Notice that the smooth exterior finish of the outer oval is intact. The missing finish from the inner oval reveals the rough concrete of its construction.” This is not quite accurate. The original construction of the Colosseum utilized concrete for the foundation, travertine blocks (travertine is a form of lime stone) held together by clamps for the piers and arcades, and brick faced concrete for the upper levels and most of the vaults. There have been several reconstructions over the centuries. In particular, “the smooth exterior finish of the outer oval” visible in Figure 2.37 is unlikely to be original. Much of “the rough concrete” referred to is travertine. The holes that are visible are the places where the clamps once were. The Romans did finish much of the original facade, but with marble plates.

page 40, beginning of the last paragraph. To the end of the sentence “The Romans built the Pantheon out concrete.” add: “with intermittent courses of bricks.”

pages 46-47. The Laws of Sines and Cosines both provide important information about forces, their resultants, and their components. The following two problems illustrate these connections.

**Problem.** Two forces of respective magnitudes  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  act at a point. The angle between the two forces is  $\theta$  with  $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ . The typical situation is depicted in the figure below. Show that the

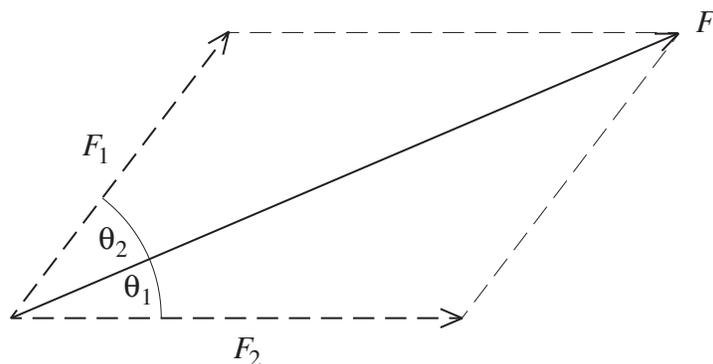


magnitude  $F$  of the resultant of the two forces satisfies  $F^2 = F_1^2 + F_2^2 - 2F_1F_2 \cos(\pi - \theta)$ . So  $F = \sqrt{F_1^2 + F_2^2 - 2F_1F_2 \cos(\pi - \theta)}$ .

**Problem.** A force of magnitude  $F$  as well as two angles  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  with  $0 \leq \theta_1 + \theta_2 \leq \pi$  are given. The force together with the two angles determine the parallelogram shown in the figure below. This parallelogram in turn determines two forces that have the given force  $F$  as their resultant. Show

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\* I am grateful to Steve Wassel, Professor of Mathematics, Sweet Briar College, Virginia, for pointing out several of the errata that follow.



that the magnitudes  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  of the two forces are

$$F_1 = \frac{F \sin \theta_1}{\sin(\pi - (\theta_1 + \theta_2))} \quad \text{and} \quad F_2 = \frac{F \sin \theta_2}{\sin(\pi - (\theta_1 + \theta_2))}.$$

top of page 48, Problem 24. What is asserted here is better explained as follows. Because  $W = U + V$ , the sum  $U \cos \alpha$  and  $V \cos \alpha$  of the magnitudes of the upward forces along the ladder is equal to the downward push  $W \cos \alpha$  along the ladder. If the friction  $F$  were to be non-zero, then the magnitude  $F \cos \beta$  of its component in the direction of the ladder would bring about an imbalance. So  $F$  must be zero. More directly, since there is no horizontal force acting on the ladder, other than possibly the horizontal frictional force at the base, this frictional force must be zero.

### Chapter 3

page 70, consider the first sentence. "... and notice that the two cylindrical surfaces of each groin vault give rise to two intersecting circular arcs." The word "circular" is used here very loosely. These arcs are not parts of circles. Rather, they are curves in three dimensions (they do not lie in a plane). The first sentence should therefore be restated as follows: "... and notice that the intersection of the two cylindrical surfaces that form the groin vault is given by two curves that cross at the top of the vault."

page 88, add to the discussion about the first dome of the Hagia Sophia (after the paragraph that ends with "... must have been larger." : Some architectural historians who have analyzed the matter think that the original dome was about 20 feet lower in terms of its flatness than the current dome and about 10 feet lower in elevation. Such conclusions are plausible, but not definitive (as there are differences of opinion about the matter). See Rabun Taylor's article in the References. In any case, the choice of 10 feet in the context of Problems 4 and 5 is more than enough to illustrate the point that a flatter dome will generate a much greater outward thrust than one that rises more steeply.

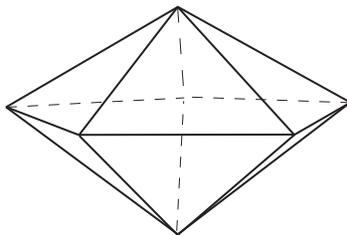
page 94. Refer to Problem 19. Compare the tracery of the window of Figure 3.24 with the tracery of the window on the left in Figure 3.31. Notice that the rosette of the cathedral of Chartres has reflectional symmetries but that the rosette of the Duomo of Milan does not. Such windows are unusual in the Gothic tradition, but the Duomo of Milan has several of them.

## Chapter 4

page 127, Problem 1. The assertion “Tilt it so that the tube is parallel to the wall, and you will get a parabola,” is wrong and should be replaced by “Tilt more, but carefully, until the part of the beam farthest from the wall no longer hits the wall. At the moment this occurs you will have a parabola.” (What curve appears when the tube is parallel to the wall?)

pages 129, 130, and 131. Missing hyphens. In Problem 18, it should be “ $xy$ -coordinate”; in Problem 22, “ $xy$ -plane”; in Problems 26 and 27, “ $xy$ -plane”; in the paragraph “The discussion about . . .” on page 131 it should be “ $xy$ -plane” and “ $xyz$ -space” and in Problem 36, “ $xy$ -coordinate plane”.

page 132, Discussion 4.1. In the statement “These five solid figures are the only three dimensional convex shapes (think of convex as the requirement that all vertices can be placed on a circle) that have the property that all the sides are identical regular polygons” the suggestion in the parentheses needs to be changed to “where in this context convex is understood to mean that all vertices—these are the corners of the solid—lie on a sphere.” The reason for the change from ‘circle’ to ‘sphere’ is clear because solid figures and not planar figures are involved. The reference to corners clarifies the meaning of vertex. The remaining change concerns the definition of convex, or better strictly convex (this is what is involved here). This definition requires for any two points of the solid (including edges and sides) not on the same edge or side, that the line segment that joins the two points must lie completely inside the solid with the possible exception of the two endpoints (that can be on an edge or side). The fact is that there are exactly five solids (with planar sides) that are convex, have sides that are identical regular polygons, but that are not among the five Platonic solids. For all five, the regular polygon is the equilateral triangle. The figure below provides one of these five solids. It is obtained from Figure 4.45e by taking the five cornered hats at the top and bottom and



joining them. So the statement “The five Platonic solids are the only three dimensional convex shapes that have the property that all the sides are identical regular polygons” is correct if convex is taken to mean that all vertices lie on a sphere, but it is incorrect with the standard definition of convex.

page 136, 2nd paragraph. The statement to the effect that the decimal expansion of  $\pi$  is unpredictable and has no pattern needs some clarification. In mathematics, a number is *normal* if no digit, or combination of digits, occurs more frequently than any other, and this is true whether the number is written in base 10 the decimal expansion  $\pi = 3.14159\dots$  under discussion, or any other base (binary for instance). A recent publication (by Bailey, Borwein, etc.) concludes that the probability that  $\pi$  is not normal is extraordinarily small. So it is most probably true that before a

given decimal place in the expansion is actually computed, any result from 0 to 9 is equally likely.

pages 136-137, Discussion 4.3. The descriptions of both the structure of the cylinder and its support as well as the model of this structure need to be modified. When I checked whether one  $2\frac{1}{2}$  foot long cylindrical dowel rod of 1 inch in diameter (this is the correct structural component given that the toothpicks selected for the model would normally be round) could support a load of  $\frac{1}{2} \times 400$  pounds, it turned out that it can! The related fact is that the model as described is much overbuilt. But modified versions of the structure and its model did provide a successful illustration of the fact that the stability of the model does not imply the stability of the structure. In the description of the structure, replace the two  $2\frac{1}{2}$  foot long beams with  $1 \times 1$  inch square cross section (that support the 400 pound cylinder) by two 4 foot dowel rods 1 inch in diameter. In the model, replace the two  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch long toothpicks by two 4 inch toothpicks that are round with a thickness of  $\frac{1}{12}$  inch (hence slightly thinner than  $\frac{3}{32}$  inch). Two such toothpicks (use a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch overlap with the supports at their ends) will easily carry the 20 quarters. When testing the structure, use one of the dowel rods described supported by a 6 inch high base on each side (with the dowel rod overlapping with the base by  $\frac{1}{4}$  foot on each side). Ask students of increasing weights to step on the middle of the rod to test whether the rod supports their weights. In the test that was carried out, the rod failed when a student weighing about 150 pounds stepped on it (showing that the dowel rod could not support a weight of 200 pounds).

## Chapter 5

page 143, the three parenthetical remarks in the first paragraph should be changes as follows: in the first, “shown in gray” should be replaced by “shown in black”, in the second, “also in gray” should be replaced by “also in black”, and in the third, “in black” should be replaced by “in white”.

page 149, bottom of the page. The old Venetian foot was in fact slightly larger than the foot we use today. While the *piede* varied even within the same region, the values for Venice and the Veneto region are in the 34.7 to 35.4 cm range (about 13.66 to 13.94 inches). See Steve Wassel’s chapter in the book *Andrea Palladio: Villa Cornaro in Piombino Dese*, edited by Branko Mitrović and Steve Wassel and published by Acanthus Press.

pages 168–171. In a second edition, the section “Bernini’s Baroque Basilica” should be renamed and expanded into “Baroque Rome: Bernini and Borromini.” The Italian architect Francesco Borromini (1599-1667) was the second extraordinary figure of Roman Baroque. While Bernini’s work remained closer to the aims and ideals of the classical Renaissance, Borromini represented a more imaginative and geometrically daring approach to baroque architecture. After several years training in both architecture and sculpture in Milan, he came to Rome to work as draftsman and stonemason for Carlo Maderno, assisting the aging capomaestro with the work on St. Peter’s. Later, Borromini closely collaborated with Bernini in the realization of the bronze baldacchino. Bernini was in command, but paid Borromini a substantial sum from 1631 to 1633 for his work. The Roman churches of Sant’ Ivo alla Sapienza (1640-1650) and San Carlo alle Quattro Fontane (1638–1641) as well as Oratory of Saint Philip Neri (1637–1643) with its library are the most distinctive of Borromini’s creations. Their exteriors feature sensuously curving façades and their interiors are

characterized by dynamic plans and beautifully mathematical geometries.

page 196, second paragraph. Delete the sentence: “Accordingly, one speaks of one-, two-, or three-point perspective.” It is incorrect (with regard to the standard definitions of these terms). Change the sentence “The depiction of Alberti’s floor in Figure 5.49b with its focus on vertical and diagonal lines is an example of a drawing in two-point perspective.” to “The head-on depiction of Alberti’s tile floor in Figure 5.49b with its focus on a primary central vanishing point is an example of a drawing in one-point perspective.”

page 196, add before Problem 11: The solutions of Problems 11 to 30 that follow require facts developed in the section “Brunelleschi and Perspective.”

page 198, Problem 16. For clarity, replace the last sentence by: Repeat this with  $P_2 - P_1$  to obtain two more sets of parametric equations for L.

page 202, after Problem 30: Change “We turn next to study examples . . . involving perspective” as follows: “Problems 31 to 37 study examples of quadratic equations and conic sections and Problems 38 and 39 analyze the perspective images of circles on Alberti’s tile floor. All these problems rely on the section “From Circle to Ellipse.”

page 204, Problem 38 iii. Change the problem to: For any of the circles under discussion,  $d = 2$  and  $y_{\text{cen}} > h = 22$ , so that  $d + y_{\text{cen}} > 1$  and  $-4e^2((d + y_{\text{cen}})^2 - 1) < 0$ . This confirms that the perspective image of the circle is an ellipse. But what if  $d = 1$ ,  $h = 0$ , and  $y_{\text{cen}} = 0$ ? In this case, the artist looks out on a semicircle of radius 1. What kind of curve would he draw on his canvas (if he were to follow Alberti’s rule)?

## Chapter 6

pages 220 to 226. The discussion from: “The story of the validation . . .” (on page 220) to “. . . and the related static behavior between the components into account.” (on page 226) should be placed into a new section with the title “From the Strings of Varignon to the Theorem of Heyman”. Both this new section and the section “Analyzing Structures: Statics and Materials” that follows it should be marked with a \* pointing to separate footnotes asserting that both of these sections are technical and may be skipped. The fact is that only the last section “The Calculus of Moments and Centers of Mass” of Chapter 7 is impacted by them (primarily by “Analyzing Structures: Statics and Materials”).

pages 232 to 233. This book is not intended to be a forum for a discussion of the merits of Coulomb’s theory of arches, or more generally, of Coulomb’s memoir *Essay on Problems of Statics* of 1773. However, given the considerable attention that these *Mathematical Excursions* gives to Coulomb’s theory, it is instructive to summarize what is said about both in Stephen Timoshenko, *History of Strength of Materials*, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1983. It is pointed out that at the end of the eighteenth century, a considerable number of tests were performed on arches that upheld the assumptions that Coulomb made in the development of his analysis. This analysis of arches does not (as we have seen) give definitive rules for designing them, but only determines limits for the

thrusts that ensure stability. For this reason, Coulomb’s work was not appreciated by the engineers of his time. But in the nineteenth century, after graphic methods were developed for calculating the limits (d) and (e) (this is a reference to the inequality  $G_0 \leq H \leq G_1$  discussed in the section “Analyzing Structures: Statics and Materials”) arch builders used his ideas extensively. Coulomb’s landmark memoir also discusses other important problems in the mechanics of materials, including the testing of the strength of materials, the theory of bending of beams (Coulomb uses the equations of statics correctly to study the internal forces in a beam and has clear ideas about the distribution of these forces over its cross section), the compression of a prism by an axial force, and the stability of retaining walls) and offers correct solutions of several of them. But it took engineers more than forty years to understand them satisfactorily and to use them in practical applications.

page 242, end of first paragraph. The last sentence “In all cases, the angle between any two consecutive ribs at the springing point  $A$  would be the same  $3.65^\circ$ .” should be replaced by “Every rib would rise from the springing point  $A$  with the same angular width of  $3.65^\circ$  for all of the vaults.”

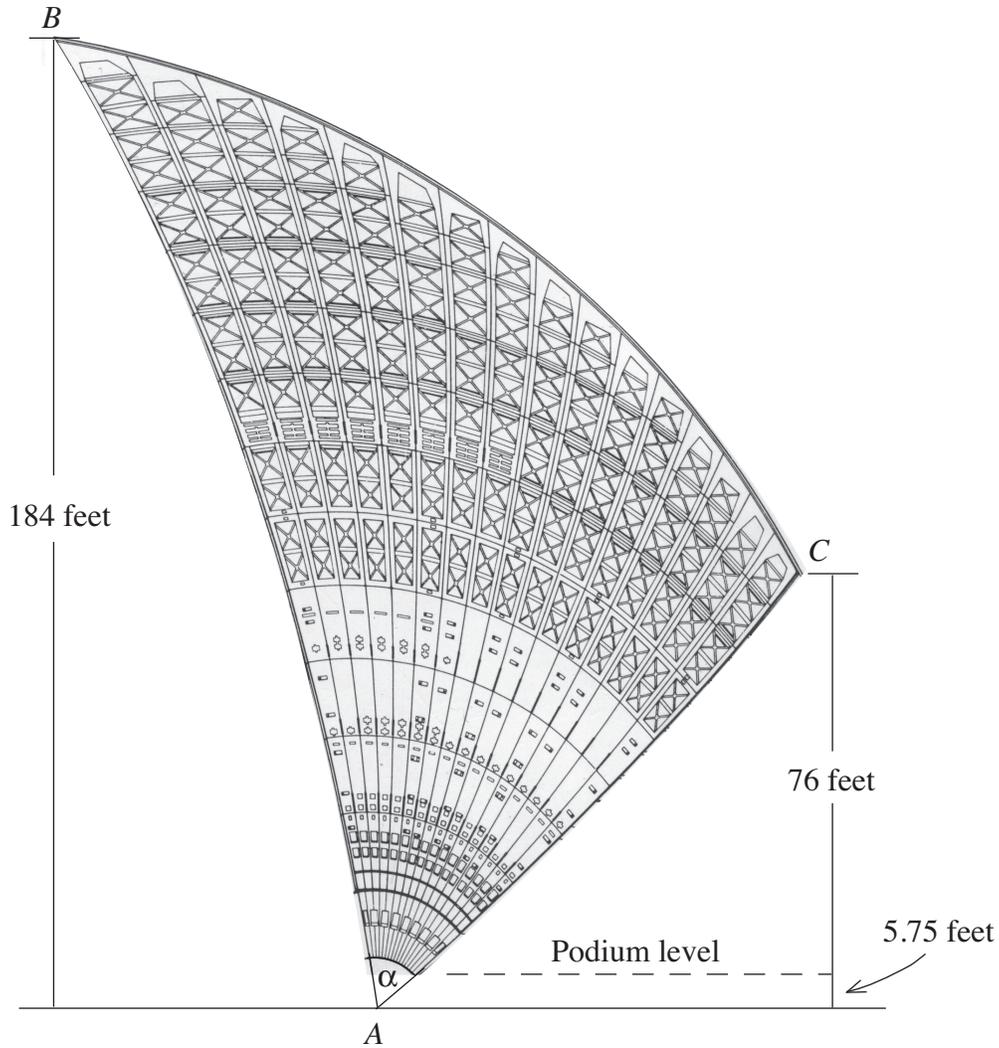
page 243, second line from the top. The 220 feet (more accurately, 221 feet) refers to the height of the top of shell A2 above sea level. The height of the top of the shell as measured from its base at the Podium is 179 feet.

page 258. Problem 8. This problem was taken from a secondary source. After reflecting about it later, it was difficult for me to believe that Wren would have thought an arch to be stable as long as the rotational effect of the pier to the left would be greater than the rotational effect of the arch to the right. So I went back to the original source and found that Wren does seem to be saying just this. We’ll cite the relevant passage from page 245 of the *Parentalia* (it references a figure—Wren’s version of Figure 6.51—on page 243) because it includes interesting comments by Wren about both the Pantheon and St. Peter’s in Rome.

“Let a Stone be cut in this Form [he refers to his version of Figure 6.51],  $FB$  a Parallelogram,  $CD$  a Semicircle added,  $AB$  a Perpendicular,  $M$  the Center of Gravity of  $FB$ , and  $N$  of  $ACD$ , now if  $N$  be equiponderant [this means: to be equal or balanced in weight, power, force] to  $M$  on each Side the Perpendicular  $AB$ , it is certain the whole Stone will stand immoveable upon the Basis at  $B$ , although it be but half an Arch; add the like Stone on the opposite Side, till the Horns meet in an entire Arch, so the Whole will stand as well as the Halves. If any thing be added without  $M$ , that alters nothing, only ’tis an useless Expence; but if any thing be added above  $N$ , that alters the Center of Gravity, which therefore must be provided for, by adding more Weight to  $M$ ; and the same may be shewn in all kinds of Vaulting. So it appears that the Design, where there are Arcades, must be regulated by the Art of Staticks, or Invention of the Centers of Gravity, and the duly poising [to bring into balance, equilibrium] all Parts to equiponderate; without which, a fine Design will fail and prove abortive. Hence I conclude, that all Designs must, in the first place, be brought to this Test, or rejected. I have examined some celebrated Works, as the Pantheon, and judge there is more Butment than necessary, though it is flat and low; but I suppose the Architect provided it should stand against Earthquakes, as indeed it hath, and will. The great Fabrick of St. Peter’s if it had been followed as Bramante had designed it, would have been as durable; but the Butment of the Cupola was not placed with Judgment: however, since it was hooped with Iron, it

is safe at present, and, without an Earthquake, for Ages to come. Iron, at all Adventures, is a good Caution; but the Architect should so poise his Work, as if it were not necessary.”

pages 261 and 262. In Discussion 6.2, in particular in Figures 6.56, 6.57a, and 6.57b, and Problem 16, the heights of 220 and 86 feet are incorrect and need to be changed to 184 and 76 feet as



defined in the figure above. I wish to thank both Kerry Stubley, Administration & Systems Coordinator, as well as Chris Linning, Manager of Building Information of the Sydney Opera House for supplying these corrections and much additional information.

page 262, Figure 6.57, replace  $\varphi_B$  and  $\varphi_C$  by  $\phi_B$  and  $\phi_C$ , respectively.

Problem 17, change “spherical” to “geodesic” in the sentence “... is the triangle  $ABC$  in Figure 6.41 a spherical triangle?”

page 264, line 11 from the bottom: one too many ts in Bonnett

## Chapter 7

Add to the Introduction of the chapter: The first six chapters of this text were designed to be self contained. This is not so for Chapter 7, in particular the first section “The Basics of Calculus” of Chapter 7. This brief overview of calculus omits many details. For example, familiarity with functions, their graphs, and the rules of differentiation (the power, product, quotient, and chain rules) are assumed. It is the intention of this overview to convey the essentials aspects of both differential and integral calculus, as well as the fundamental theorem of calculus and to put these to quick use in the subsequent sections.

page 265, third paragraph, second sentence: One of the “the the” should be deleted.

page 269, near the bottom of the page. Change the very last part of the sentence “If the graph of  $f$  has . . . (is not defined) at  $c$ .” to “(equivalently,  $f$  is not defined at  $c$ ).”

page 274, near the top of the page. From the sentence “Notice that the terms . . . remains”, delete “in pairs”.

page 281, in the inequality in the middle of the page,

$$W \leq 190,000 \text{ should be replaced by } W \leq 191,000.$$

page 284, second line from the bottom. The horizontal bar of the square root symbol should not cut the symbol  $C_0$ .

page 286. Insert as a new paragraph after the paragraph ending with “. . . fits neatly into a 630 by 630 foot square.”

Note that an arch that is built in the shape of a catenary (or possibly a related curve) will never, in terms of its structural properties, satisfy the assumptions made in the derivation of this geometry. The assumption that “the gravitational forces on the arch are perfectly balanced by its reaction to the compressions that these forces generate” made at the beginning of the section “The Shape of an Ideal Arch” is the important case in point. The Gateway Arch in St. Louis does not satisfy any such an assumption, not because it is a compressed catenary (and hence not a catenary), but because it gains its strength from its visible outer structure in stainless steel, a parallel inner stainless steel core, and the reinforced concrete that fills the space between them (up to a height of 300 feet). The point is that the catenary is an attractive curve and that an arch can be built in this ideal shape without having to conform to the structural assumptions that determine the curve.

page 294, Problem 12. There is a typo in the statement of this problem. What needs to be derived is the estimate of  $23,300 \text{ ft}^3$  for the volume and not the estimate of 23,300 pounds for the weight of the original dome. The estimate of  $23,300 \text{ ft}^3$  for the volume implies that the estimate of  $23,300 \times 110 \approx 2,560,000$  pounds for the weight of the original dome (as called for in Problem 5 of Chapter 3).

page 294, Problem 13. The data  $D = 16$  and  $E = 48$  are needed as well.

page 294, Problem 14. Delete  $V_1 =$  as this suggests that the integral that follows is the same as that of the discussion on page 280. (It is not.)

page 295, in Problem 15, replace  $(D, a)$  by  $(D, 0)$ .

page 296. Problem 20. This question is clarified and answered by the paragraph formulated above for inclusion on page 286.

page 299, 300. Problems 31 to 36 not only illustrate the importance of the location of the horizontal force  $H$  in Coulomb's analysis of the stability of arches (see Figures 7.25a and 7.25b), but that calculus does—contrary to Coulomb's own assessment—inform this analysis. The solutions of these problems also tell us that the functions  $\frac{W_\alpha x_0}{y_0}$  and  $\frac{W_\alpha x_1}{y_1}$  that are developed in the section “Calculating Coulomb's Arch” are, respectively, equal to

$$\frac{W_\alpha x_0}{y_0} = \left[ \frac{1}{2}w(R^2 - r^2) \frac{\alpha \sin \alpha}{1 - \cos \alpha} - \frac{1}{3} \frac{w}{r} (R^3 - r^3) \right] \left[ \frac{1 - \cos \alpha}{\frac{R}{r} - \cos \alpha} \right] \quad \text{and}$$

$$\frac{W_\alpha x_1}{y_1} = \left[ \frac{1}{2}w(R^2 - r^2) \frac{\alpha \sin \alpha}{1 - \cos \alpha} - \frac{1}{3} \frac{w}{R} (R^3 - r^3) \right] \left[ \frac{1 - \cos \alpha}{\frac{r}{R} - \cos \alpha} \right]$$

and that both factors are informed by the strategies that calculus provides.