NUMERICAL ANALYSIS

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AR Mitchell 75th Birthday Volume

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PREFACE

This Volume is intended as a small tribute to Ron Mitchell on the occasion of his 75th birthday, which falls on 22 June 1996. It consists of a collection of articles, written by people with links with Ron, as students, as colleagues, as co-workers, or just as regular visitors to Dundee. This set is of course very large, and we were obliged to restrict our requests for contributions to a subset, which was chosen in a somewhat arbitrary manner. Some of those who were not asked for contributions might feel disappointed or even offended: we very much regret if that is the case. Of course, some of those we did approach were, for various perfectly legitimate reasons, unable to provide us with a contribution within the given timescale. Since it will not be clear into which of these groups any particular person falls, we hope therefore that this venture will not lose us too many friends.

Some details of Ron's work and career are given elsewhere in this book but an explanation for its existence might be expected in a preface such as this. We could do this by drawing attention to the fact that Ron has made many substantial contributions to Numerical Analysis, both at a national and an international level, through his papers, his books, his conference talks, his visits, his supervision of students and of research fellows, his encouragement of young people, friends and colleagues. But that formal list does not do full justice to Ron. Because what is not included is the range of human qualities, the immense personal magnetism, the marvellous sense of humour. No attempt to characterise Ron would be complete without mention of these, because they are essential parts of a full picture. They are a major part of the reason why Ron is regarded in such high esteem, and with so much affection, by his friends and colleagues.

We are grateful to the World Scientific Publishing Company for giving us the opportunity to produce this book, and we would like to thank them, and in particular Dr Anju Goel for help in the pre-publication process. We have been privileged to have been members of the Numerical Analysis Group in Dundee, led by Ron, for over 25 years. We join with the other contributors to this volume in saying: "Happy birthday, Ron, and many more of them".

David F. Griffiths
G. Alistair Watson

Dundee
January, 1996

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