

Editorial Foreword

This book was composed on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Stichting Mathematisch Centrum (SMC). It provides an impression of the research carried out under the umbrella of SMC. All group leaders of CWI - the research institute of SMC - and project leaders from each of the National Working Parties managed by SMC were asked to contribute by writing an essay on their research. In addition, two mathematicians and two computer scientists were asked to give their views on the future of their disciplines. This has resulted in 38 contributions, 22 of which are by CWI researchers.

The various activities were coordinated by an editorial committee consisting of W.A.M. Aspers, J.W. de Bakker, P.J.W. ten Hagen, M. Hazewinkel, P.J. van der Houwen, and H.M. Nieland. The bulk of the editorial work was carried out by H.M. Nieland and W.A.M. Aspers. Wim Aspers was desk editor. His careful reading led to several improvements. Henk Nieland took responsibility for the presentation of the contributions in such a way that also non-specialists could get at least a taste of the subject, without sacrificing scientific depth.

The book was prepared for printing by SMC's Publication department. Tobias Baanders designed the cover and the layout, and managed the illustrations; Josi Foe took care of the typesetting, and Jan Schipper performed various background actions. Frank van de Wiel provided the necessary support in electronic file handling.

Finally, we want to express gratitude to all authors for their articles.