Preface

The fourth Algorithmic Number Theory Symposium takes place at the Universiteit Leiden, in the Netherlands, from July 2-7, 2000. Its organization is a joint effort of Dutch number theorists from Leiden, Groningen, Nijmegen, and Amsterdam.

Six invited talks and 36 contributed talks are scheduled. This volume contains the written versions of the talks, with the exception of two of the invited talks. Not included are: *A rational approach to* π by Frits Beukers (Utrecht) and *The 40 trillionth binary digit of* π *is* 0 by Peter Borwein (Burnaby, Canada). These talks are aimed at a wider audience, and form part of the special ANTS IV event *Pi in de Pieterskerk* on July 5, 2000. This event includes an evening ceremony in which the tombstone of Ludolph van Ceulen is replaced. Van Ceulen, who was appointed to Leiden in 1600, calculated 35 decimals of π. His tombstone in the Pieterskerk, in which these decimals were engraved, disappeared in the 19th century.

ANTS in Leiden is the fourth in a series of symposia that started in 1994. Previous locations were Cornell University, Ithaca, New York (1994), Université de Bordeaux I in Bordeaux, France (1996), and Reed College, Portland, Oregon (1998). The diversity of the papers contained in this volume shows that the main theme of ANTS, algorithmic number theory, is taken in a broad sense. The number of submissions for the Leiden conference largely exceeded the physical limitations of our one-week schedule. We are therefore confident that we are only at the beginning of a continuing tradition.

May 2000

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