

Preface



With great pleasure we present this special issue of Applied Numerical Mathematics, dedicated to Professor Pieter Wilhelm Hemker (Piet for friends and colleagues), on the occasion of his 65th birthday on November 22, 2006. In the Netherlands, 65 is the official retirement age. This means that according to standard rules Piet will officially retire as of December 1, 2006. Therefore, this special issue is also on the occasion of Piet's retirement.

Piet started his research career in mathematics on January 16, 1970 at CWI, the 'Centrum voor Wiskunde en Informatica' in Amsterdam, at that time named 'Mathematisch Centrum'. CWI is a research institute for mathematics and informatics associated to the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research. CWI has been Piet's employer for almost 37 years. In addition, since 1989, Piet also held a part-time position as full professor in mathematics at the Korteweg–de Vries Institute, the mathematics institute of the University of Amsterdam. In this position Piet has held the chair 'Industrial Mathematics' of the 'Stichting Beta Plus' for 17 years.

Because Piet is well-known in our community, and has a great diversity of contacts ranging from theoretical to applied numerical mathematics, it was not difficult at all to organize this special issue. In fact, we were forced to limit the number of contributors, who were all invited to submit original work. All submissions have been refereed according to the standard journal procedure. Naturally, Piet's research interests gave rise to the main guideline for

inviting contributors. Consequently, this special issue contains one or more papers on multigrid methods, on special methods for singularly perturbed boundary-value problems, on finite-element methods, on sparse-grid methods, on hyperbolic problems, on elliptic problems, and a few papers on related topics.

We wish to thank all authors for their willingness to contribute with their excellent research work. In particular, we hope that this collection of papers on a wide range of topics – topics to which Piet himself has made many significant contributions – will stimulate him to continue his research and to take the 65-years threshold not too seriously.

The guest editors

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