

Preface

The International Number Theory Conference in Memory of Alf van der Poorten was held in Newcastle, NSW, Australia, 12–16 March 2012; see <http://carma.newcastle.edu.au/alfcon/>. This conference was followed by a less formal *International Workshop* at Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW, Australia, 19–20 March 2012.

The purpose of these meetings was to commemorate the research and influence of Alf van der Poorten on number theory and generally on mathematics. It also presented an exciting opportunity to:

- Promote number theoretic research and graduate study in Australia, and initiate collaborative research in number theory within Australia
- Attract several distinguished international visitors and strengthen the existing and establish new collaborative international links between Australian and international researchers
- Give a comprehensive account of recent achievements in theoretic and computational number theory and its applications to cryptography and theoretical computer science

The meeting in Newcastle attracted a large number of excellent international participants (about half of 75 participants) from essentially all parts of the world, and fully served its purpose. Many of the participants attended the later workshop at Macquarie University. Both were noteworthy for the quality of the science and of the companionship.

The volume presents a collection of carefully refereed papers in honour of Alf van der Poorten that for the most part originated with talks given at both meetings. In addition, it starts with a detailed academic appreciation of Alf's life and work written by his close friend and former colleague, David Hunt.

Both meetings were generously supported by the Australian Mathematical Society, Australian Mathematical Science Institute, the Centre for Computer Assisted Research Mathematics and its Applications (CARMA), University of Newcastle and Macquarie University.

Finally, we would like to thank all those who made the two meetings and this volume possible—funders, organizers, participants, speakers, authors, referees, and publishers.

Callaghan, NSW, Australia
North Ryde, NSW, Australia
Callaghan, NSW, Australia

Jonathan M. Borwein
Igor Sparlinski
Wadim Zudilin

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Borwein, J.; Shparlinski, I.; Zudilin, W. (Eds.)

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