

languages, they are not yet widespread, so we have not written any examples in the newer dialects.

- (4) In our discussions of numerical algorithms (like the square root routine above) we will not try to treat all possible pathological cases; the defenses needed against overflow, significance loss, and other numerical pitfalls are beyond the scope of this book. But we do insist that at least the rudimentary precautions be taken, like using relative tests instead of absolute and avoiding division by zero, to ensure good results for reasonable inputs.
- (5) Every line of code in this book has been compiled, directly from the text, which is in machine-readable form. All of our programs have been tested (Fortran on a Honeywell 6070, PL/I on an IBM 370/168). Our Fortran programs have also been run through a verifier to monitor compliance with the ANSI standard.

Nevertheless, mistakes can occur. We encourage you to view with suspicion anything we say that looks peculiar. Test it, try it out. Don't treat computer output as gospel. If you learn to be wary of everyone else's programs, you will be better able to check your own.