END NOTE

This thesis was prepared on an Apple Macintosh SE/30 computer with a Radius Pivot display and printed on an Apple LaserWriter IIg. The text was prepared and set using Word (Microsoft). Graphs and illustrations were prepared in Cricket Graph (Cricket Associates), Claris CAD (Claris), SuperPaint (Silicon Beach) and Mathematica (Wolfram Research). Colour prints from the interferometer were printed on a Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 550C inkjet printer. Grey scale images were scanned at 16 grey levels on a Panasonic FXRS307 scanner, at 150 dpi resolution. Original video prints were obtained on a Mitsubishi P68B video printer. Photographs are courtesy of NPL Photographic Section and are © Crown Copyright. Colour and half-tone reproductions of diagrams and photographs were performed on a Canon colour copier. The text is set in 12 point Times-Roman with 10 point Times-Roman-Italic (& bold) for figure and table captions. Chapter headings are set in 18 point **Helvetica bold**. Section headings are in 12 POINT BOLD CAPS with sub-sections in Bold. Tables are set in 9 point Avant Garde. Mathematica-generated output contains Courier font and is imported as Encapsulated PostScript. Other diagrams were imported as either TIFF or PICT format. Computer code is represented in Monaco. The entire thesis, excluding colour diagrams, colour photographs and published papers occupies 13.5 Mb of disc space.

2002 Re-edition note: recreation of several plots in Microsoft Excel 2000 and PC Mathematica, and replacement of several Apple Macintosh fonts with nearest PC equivalent. Final correction, editing and preparation using Microsoft Word 2000 and Adobe Acrobat on a PC. No editing other than reformatting for page breaks, re-creation of some images which did not import from Mac Word, image recolouration, inclusion of references to significant changes, and some minor typo corrections.

Andrew Lewis, April 2002

"In the real world, absolute precision is an ideal that can never be reached"

R P Feynman