

Contents

Preface	v
0 Introduction	1
0.1 Fascinating numbers	1
0.2 Well ordering	5
0.3 The division algorithm	7
0.4 Mathematical induction	10
0.5 The Fibonacci sequence	12
Portrait and biography of Fibonacci	12
0.6 A method of proof (reductio ad absurdum)	15
0.7 A method of disproof (the counterexample)	16
0.8 Iff	18
1 Divisibility	19
1.1 Primes and composites	19
1.2 The sieve of Eratosthenes	22
1.3 The infinitude of primes	25
1.4 The fundamental theorem of arithmetic	29
Portrait and biography of Hilbert	32
1.5 GCDs and LCMs	34
1.6 The Euclidean algorithm	37
1.7 Computing GCDs	40
1.8 Factorisation revisited	43
2 More About Primes—A Historical Diversion	47
2.1 A false dawn and two sorry tales	47
Portrait and biography of Dickson	50
2.2 Formulae generating primes	51
Portrait and biography of Dirichlet	53
2.3 Prime pairs and Goldbach's conjecture	56
2.4 A wider view of the primes. The prime number theorem	58
2.5 Bertrand's conjecture	67
Biography of Mersenne	70
2.6 Mersenne's and Fermat's primes	70

3	Congruences	76
3.1	Basic properties	76
3.2	Fermat's little theorem	82
	Portrait and biography of Fermat	83
3.3	Euler's ϕ function	88
3.4	Euler's theorem	95
3.5	Wilson's theorem	97
4	Congruences Involving Unknowns	102
4.1	Linear congruences	102
4.2	Congruences of higher degree	109
4.3	Quadratic congruences modulo a prime	115
	Portrait and biography of Lagrange	117
4.4	Lagrange's theorem	118
5	Primitive Roots	123
5.1	A converse for the FLT	123
5.2	Primitive roots of primes. Order of an element	125
	Biography of Legendre	126
5.3	Gauss's theorem	132
5.4	Some simple primality tests. Pseudoprimes. Carmichael numbers	136
5.5	Special repeating decimals	142
6	Diophantine Equations and Fermat's Last Theorem	146
6.1	Introduction	146
6.2	Pythagorean triples	148
6.3	Fermat's last theorem	153
6.4	History of the FC	155
	Portrait and biography of Germain	158
6.5	Sophie Germain's theorem	159
6.6	Cadenza	161
7	Sums of Squares	163
7.1	Sums of two squares	163
	Portrait and biography of Mordell	166
7.2	Sums of more than two squares	169
7.3	Diverging developments and a little history	174
8	Quadratic Reciprocity	179
8.1	Introduction	179
8.2	The law of quadratic reciprocity	179
	Portrait and biography of Euler	180

8.3	Euler's criterion	185
8.4	Gauss's lemma and applications	188
8.5	Proof of the LQR—more applications	193
	Portrait and biography of Jacobi	197
8.6	The Jacobi symbol	198
8.7	Programming points	200
9	The Gaussian Integers	202
9.1	Introduction	202
	Portrait and biography of Gauss	203
9.2	Divisibility in the Gaussian integers	205
9.3	Computer manipulation of Gaussian integers	209
9.4	The fundamental theorem	212
9.5	Generalisation. Two problems of Fermat	214
9.6	Lucas's test	221
10	Arithmetic Functions	224
10.1	Introduction	224
10.2	Multiplicative arithmetic functions	229
	Portrait and biography of Möbius	235
10.3	The Möbius function	235
10.4	Averaging—a smoothing process	240
11	Continued Fractions and Pell's Equation	249
11.1	Finite continued fractions	249
11.2	Infinite continued fractions	252
11.3	Computing continued fractions for irrational numbers	258
11.4	Approximating irrational numbers	261
11.5	iscfs for square roots and other quadratic irrationals	264
	Biography of Pell	267
11.6	Pell's Equation	267
11.7	Two more applications	272
12	Sending Secret Messages	277
12.1	A cautionary tale	277
12.2	The Remedy: the RSA cipher system	279
Appendices I	Multiprecision arithmetic	285
II	Table of least prime factors of integers	293
Bibliography		299
Index		303
Index of Notation		310