

# Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
<i>Author's Note</i>	xiii
<i>Introduction</i>	1
<b>Entries A to Z</b>	
abc conjecture	6
abundant number	7
AKS algorithm for primality testing	8
aliquot sequences (sociable chains)	9
almost-primes	11
amicable numbers	11
amicable curiosities	12
Andrica's conjecture	13
arithmetic progressions, of primes	13
Aurifeuillian factorization	14
average prime	15
Bang's theorem	16
Bateman's conjecture	16
Beal's conjecture, and prize	16
Benford's law	17
Bernoulli numbers	19
Bernoulli number curiosities	20
Bertrand's postulate	20
Bonse's inequality	21
Brier numbers	21
Brocard's conjecture	22
Brun's constant	22
Buss's function	23
Carmichael numbers	23
Catalan's conjecture	24
Catalan's Mersenne conjecture	25
Champernowne's constant	26

champion numbers	26
Chinese remainder theorem	26
cicadas and prime periods	27
circle, prime	27
circular prime	28
Clay prizes, the	28
compositorial	29
concatenation of primes	29
conjectures	30
consecutive integer sequence	32
consecutive numbers	32
consecutive primes, sums of	32
Conway's prime-producing machine	33
cousin primes	33
Cullen primes	34
Cunningham project	34
Cunningham chains	35
decimals, recurring (periodic)	36
the period of $1/13$	36
cyclic numbers	37
Artin's conjecture	38
the repunit connection	38
magic squares	39
deficient number	40
deletable and truncatable primes	40
Demlo numbers	40
descriptive primes	41
Dickson's conjecture	41
digit properties	42
Diophantus (c. AD 200; d. 284)	42
Dirichlet's theorem and primes in arithmetic series	44
primes in polynomials	45
distributed computing	45
divisibility tests	48
divisors (factors)	48
how many divisors? how big is $d(n)$ ?	49
record number of divisors	50
curiosities of $d(n)$	50
divisors and congruences	51
the sum of divisors function	51
the size of $\sigma(n)$	52

a recursive formula	52
divisors and partitions	53
curiosities of $\sigma(n)$	53
prime factors	54
divisor curiosities	54
economical numbers	55
Electronic Frontier Foundation	55
elliptic curve primality proving	56
emirp	57
Eratosthenes of Cyrene, the sieve of	58
Erdős, Paul (1913–1996)	59
his collaborators and Erdős numbers	61
errors	63
Euclid (c. 330–270 BC)	64
unique factorization	65
$\sqrt{2}$ is irrational	65
Euclid and the infinity of primes	66
consecutive composite numbers	67
primes of the form $4n + 3$	67
a recursive sequence	67
Euclid and the first perfect number	68
Euclidean algorithm	68
Euler, Leonhard (1707–1783)	69
Euler’s convenient numbers	70
the Basel problem	72
Euler’s constant	73
Euler and the reciprocals of the primes	73
Euler’s totient ( $\phi$ ) function	74
Carmichael’s totient function conjecture	75
curiosities of $\phi(n)$	77
Euler’s quadratic	77
the Lucky Numbers of Euler	78
factorial	80
factors of factorials	80
factorial primes	80
factorial sums	81
factorials, double, triple . . .	82
factorization, methods of	82
factors of particular forms	84
Fermat’s algorithm	85
Legendre’s method	86

congruences and factorization	87
how difficult is it to factor large numbers?	87
quantum computation	88
Feit-Thompson conjecture	89
Fermat, Pierre de (1607–1665)	89
Fermat’s Little Theorem	91
Fermat quotient	92
Fermat and primes of the form $x^2 + y^2$	92
Fermat’s conjecture, Fermat numbers, and Fermat primes	94
Fermat factorization, from $F_5$ to $F_{30}$	95
Generalized Fermat numbers	97
Fermat’s Last Theorem	97
the first case of Fermat’s Last Theorem	99
Wall-Sun-Sun primes	99
Fermat-Catalan equation and conjecture	100
Fibonacci numbers	101
divisibility properties	102
Fibonacci curiosities	103
Édouard Lucas and the Fibonacci numbers	104
Fibonacci composite sequences	105
formulae for primes	106
Fortunate numbers and Fortune’s conjecture	108
gaps between primes and composite runs	109
Gauss, Johann Carl Friedrich (1777–1855)	110
Gauss and the distribution of primes	111
Gaussian primes	112
Gauss’s circle problem	113
Gilbreath’s conjecture	113
GIMPS—Great Internet Mersenne Prime Search	115
Giuga’s conjecture	116
Giuga numbers	116
Goldbach’s conjecture	117
good primes	119
Grimm’s problem	119
Hardy, G. H. (1877–1947)	119
Hardy-Littlewood conjectures	121
heuristic reasoning	123
a heuristic argument by George Pólya	123
Hilbert’s 23 problems	124
home prime	125
hypothesis H	126

illegal prime	126
inconsummate number	128
induction	128
jumping champion	131
$k$ -tuples conjecture, prime	131
knots, prime and composite	132
Landau, Edmund (1877–1938)	134
left-truncatable prime	134
Legendre, A. M. (1752–1833)	134
Lehmer, Derrick Norman (1867–1938)	135
Lehmer, Derrick Henry (1905–1991)	135
Linnik’s constant	137
Liouville, Joseph (1809–1882)	137
Littlewood’s theorem	138
the prime numbers race	138
Lucas, Édouard (1842–1891)	139
the Lucas sequence	142
primality testing	144
Lucas’s game of calculation	145
the Lucas-Lehmer test	146
lucky numbers	147
the number of lucky numbers and primes	148
“random” primes	148
magic squares	149
Matijasevic and Hilbert’s 10th problem	150
Mersenne numbers and Mersenne primes	151
Mersenne numbers	152
hunting for Mersenne primes	152
the coming of electronic computers	153
Mersenne prime conjectures	155
the New Mersenne conjecture	156
how many Mersenne primes?	156
Eberhart’s conjecture	157
factors of Mersenne numbers	157
Lucas-Lehmer test for Mersenne primes	158
Mertens constant	159
Mertens theorem	159
Mills’ theorem	160
Wright’s theorem	161
mixed bag	161
multiplication, fast	162

Niven numbers	163
odd numbers as $p + 2a^2$	164
Opperman's conjecture	164
palindromic primes	164
pandigital primes	165
Pascal's triangle and the binomial coefficients	165
Pascal's triangle and Sierpinski's gasket	167
Pascal triangle curiosities	167
patents on prime numbers	168
Pépin's test for Fermat numbers	169
perfect numbers	170
odd perfect numbers	172
perfect, multiply	172
permutable primes	174
$\pi$ , primes in the decimal expansion of	174
Pocklington's theorem	175
Polignac's conjectures	175
Polignac or obstinate numbers	175
powerful numbers	176
primality testing	177
probabilistic methods	179
prime number graph	180
prime number theorem and the prime counting function	181
history	181
elementary proof	182
record calculations	183
estimating $p(n)$	185
calculating $p(n)$	185
a curiosity	185
prime pretender	186
primitive prime factor	187
primitive roots	187
Artin's conjecture	188
a curiosity	188
primorial	188
primorial primes	189
Proth's theorem	189
pseudoperfect numbers	190
pseudoprimes	190
bases and pseudoprimes	192

pseudoprimes, strong	192
public key encryption	193
pyramid, prime	194
Pythagorean triangles, prime	195
quadratic residues	195
residual curiosities	196
polynomial congruences	196
quadratic reciprocity, law of	197
Euler's criterion	198
Ramanujan, Srinivasa (1887–1920)	198
highly composite numbers	199
randomness, of primes	200
Von Sternach and a prime random walk	202
record primes	203
some records	203
repunits, prime	204
Rhonda numbers	206
Riemann hypothesis	206
the Farey sequence and the Riemann hypothesis	209
the Riemann hypothesis and $\sigma(n)$ , the sum of divisors function	210
squarefree and blue and red numbers	210
the Mertens conjecture	211
Riemann hypothesis curiosities	211
Riesel number	212
right-truncatable prime	212
RSA algorithm	212
Martin Gardner's challenge	214
RSA Factoring Challenge, the New	215
Ruth-Aaron numbers	216
Scherk's conjecture	217
semi-primes	217
sexy primes	218
Shank's conjecture	218
Siamese primes	219
Sierpinski numbers	219
Sierpinski strings	219
Sierpinski's quadratic	219
Sierpinski's $\phi(n)$ conjecture	219
Sloane's <i>On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences</i>	220

Smith numbers	221
Smith brothers	222
smooth numbers	222
Sophie Germain primes	223
safe primes	224
squarefree numbers	224
Stern prime	225
strong law of small numbers	225
triangular numbers	228
trivia	228
twin primes	229
twin curiosities	230
Ulam spiral	232
unitary divisors	233
unitary perfect	234
untouchable numbers	235
weird numbers	235
Wieferich primes	235
Wilson's theorem	236
twin primes	237
Wilson primes	237
Wolstenholme's numbers, and theorems	238
more factors of Wolstenholme numbers	239
Woodall primes	240
zeta mysteries: the quantum connection	241
<i>Appendix A: The First 500 Primes</i>	245
<i>Appendix B: Arithmetic Functions</i>	249
<i>Glossary</i>	251
<i>Bibliography</i>	253
<i>Index</i>	265