
Contents

Preface	vii
A remark on notation	viii
Acknowledgments	ix
Chapter 1. Expository Articles	1
§1.1. The blue-eyed islanders puzzle	1
§1.2. Kleiner’s proof of Gromov’s theorem	2
§1.3. The van der Corput lemma, and equidistribution on nilmanifolds	9
§1.4. The strong law of large numbers	15
§1.5. Tate’s proof of the functional equation	22
§1.6. The divisor bound	31
§1.7. The Lucas-Lehmer test for Mersenne primes	36
§1.8. Finite subsets of groups with no finite models	41
§1.9. Small samples, and the margin of error	47
§1.10. Non-measurable sets via non-standard analysis	56
§1.11. A counterexample to a strong polynomial Freiman-Ruzsa conjecture	58
§1.12. Some notes on “non-classical” polynomials in finite characteristic	61
§1.13. Cohomology for dynamical systems	67
Chapter 2. Ergodic Theory	75
§2.1. Overview	75

§2.2.	Three categories of dynamical systems	81
§2.3.	Minimal dynamical systems, recurrence, and the Stone-Čech compactification	88
§2.4.	Multiple recurrence	98
§2.5.	Other topological recurrence results	105
§2.6.	Isometric systems and isometric extensions	119
§2.7.	Structural theory of topological dynamical systems	134
§2.8.	The mean ergodic theorem	141
§2.9.	Ergodicity	152
§2.10.	The Furstenberg correspondence principle	163
§2.11.	Compact systems	172
§2.12.	Weakly mixing systems	181
§2.13.	Compact extensions	195
§2.14.	Weakly mixing extensions	205
§2.15.	The Furstenberg-Zimmer structure theorem and the Furstenberg recurrence theorem	212
§2.16.	A Ratner-type theorem for nilmanifolds	217
§2.17.	A Ratner-type theorem for $SL_2(R)$ orbits	227
Chapter 3.	Lectures in Additive Prime Number Theory	239
§3.1.	Structure and randomness in the prime numbers	239
§3.2.	Linear equations in primes	248
§3.3.	Small gaps between primes	259
§3.4.	Sieving for almost primes and expanders	267
	Bibliography	277
	Index	291