

Preface to the Revised Edition

In preparing this edition we have endeavored to remain as closely as possible to Oystein Ore's original intentions. We have felt free, however, to make changes in the presentation and layout of the material, and we have updated terminology and notation to bring them in line with current usage.

We have added many exercises and a considerable amount of new material, including a section on Euler's phi function and a chapter on its application to cryptography. We also discuss some exciting new developments that have occurred in number theory since Ore's time, most notably the proof of Fermat's last theorem, but also advances made possible by computers in the search for large primes and other numbers (such as Mersenne primes and perfect numbers).

We have always regarded Ore's text as a classic, and working on this second edition has only served to reinforce this view. It is our hope that this edition will enable a new generation of readers to derive as much pleasure from Ore's book in the 21st century as we did in the last one.

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