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D.A.R. WALLACE. — **Groups, rings and fields.** — Springer undergraduate mathematics series. — Un vol. broché, VIII, 248 p. — ISBN 3-540-76177-2. — Prix: DM 58.00. — Springer, London, 1998.

David Wallace has written a text on modern algebra which is suitable for a first course in the subject given to mathematics undergraduates. It aims to promote a feeling for the evolutionary and historical development of algebra. It assumes some familiarity with complex numbers, matrices and linear algebra which are commonly taught during the first year of an undergraduate course. Each chapter contains examples, exercises and solutions, perfectly suited to aid self-study.

Paul ZEITZ. — **The art and craft of problem solving.** — Un vol. relié, 20×24,5, de XVII, 334 p. — ISBN 0-471-13571-2. — Prix: £19.99. — John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 1999.

This is a book about mathematical problem solving, for college-level novices. The book is divided into two parts. Part I is an overview of problem-solving methodology, and is the core of the book. Part II contains four chapters, that can be read independently of one another, which outline algebra, combinatorics, number theory, and calculus from the problem solver's point of view.

## *Histoire*

Norman L. BIGGS, E. Keith LLOYD, Robin J. WILSON. — **Graph theory: 1736-1936.** — Reprinted with corrections. — Un vol. broché, 16×23,5, de X, 239 p. — ISBN 0-19-853916-9. — Prix: £25.00. — Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1998.

Building on a set of original writings from some of the founders of graph theory, the book traces the historical development of the subject through a linking commentary. The relevant underlying mathematics is also explained, providing an original introduction for students. Appendices give a brief account of developments since 1936, biographical information, and a comprehensive bibliography.

Paul J. NAHIN. — **An imaginary tale: the story of square root of minus one.** — Un vol. relié, 16×24, de XVI, 257 p. — ISBN 0-691-02795-1. — Prix: US\$24.95. — Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1998.

In the book, Paul Nahin tells 2000-year-old history of one of mathematics' most elusive numbers, the square root of minus one, also known as  $i$ , re-creating the baffling mathematical problems that conjured it up and the colorful characters who tried to solve them. Addressing readers with both a general and scholarly interest in mathematics, the author weaves into this narrative entertaining historical facts, mathematical discussions, and the application of complex numbers and functions to important problems, such as Kepler's laws of planetary motion and ac electrical circuits. This book can be read as an engaging history, almost a biography, of one of the most evasive and pervasive "numbers" in all mathematics.

## *Logique et fondements*

Xavier CAICEDO, Carlos H. MONTENEGRO, (Editors). — **Models, algebras, and proofs.** — Selected papers of the X Latin American symposium on mathematical logic held in Bogotá. — Lecture notes in pure and applied mathematics, vol. 203. — Un vol. broché, 17,5×25,5, de XIII, 448 p. — ISBN 0-8247-1970-0. — Prix: US\$165.00. — Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, 1999.

Featuring original research and timely surveys by over 30 known experts worldwide, this book provides a thorough discussion of generic and end extensions of models of set theory...