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M. LOTHAIRE. — **Algebraic combinatorics on words.** — Encyclopedia of mathematics and its applications, vol. 90. — Un vol. relié, 16×23,5, de XIII, 504 p. — ISBN 0-521-81220-8. — Prix: £60.00. — Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2002.

Combinatorics on words has arisen independently within several branches of mathematics, for instance number theory, group theory and probability, and appears frequently in problems related to theoretical computer science. The first unified treatment of the area was given in Lothaire's book *Combinatorics on Words*. Since its publication, the area has developed and the author now aims to present several more topics as well giving deeper insights into subjects that were discussed in the previous volume. This book is both a comprehensive introduction to the subject and a valuable reference source for researchers. There are numerous examples, full proofs whenever possible and note sections discussing further developments in the area.

J.H. VAN LINT, R.M. WILSON. — **A course in combinatorics.** — Second edition. — Un vol. broché, 18×25, de XIV, 602 p. — ISBN 0-521-00601-5. — Prix: £24.95. — Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2001.

This is the second edition of a popular book on combinatorics, a subject dealing with ways of arranging and distributing objects, and which involves ideas from geometry, algebra and analysis. The breadth of the theory is matched by that of its applications, which include topics as diverse as codes, circuit design and algorithm complexity. It has thus become essential for workers in many scientific fields to have some familiarity with the subject. The authors have tried to be as comprehensive as possible, dealing in a unified manner with, for example, graph theory, extremal problems, designs, colorings and codes. The depth and breadth of the coverage make the book a unique guide to the whole of the subject.

Ordre, treillis

B.A. DAVEY, H.A. PRIESTLEY. — **Introduction to lattices and order.** — Second edition. — Un vol. broché, 23×15, de XII, 298 p. — ISBN 0-521-78451-4. — Prix: £19.95. — Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2002.

This new edition presents a radical reorganization and updating of the content of the successful first (1990) edition. The primary aim of the original – to serve as a textbook devoted to ordered sets and lattices and to their contemporary applications – is unchanged. The explosive development of theoretical computer science in recent years has, in particular, influenced the book's evolution: a fresh treatment of fixpoint theorems testifies to this and Galois connections now feature prominently. Concept analysis, a methodology for data analysis, has been moved forward, so as to allow an early presentation of both a concrete foundation for the subsequent theory of complete lattices and an application of order theory which is of commercial value in social science.

Théorie des nombres

Michal KŘÍŽEK, Florian LUCA, Lawrence SOMER. — **17 lectures on Fermat numbers: from number theory to geometry.** — With foreword by Alena Šolcová. — CMS books in mathematics. Ouvrages de mathématiques de la SMC, vol. 9. — Un vol. relié, 24×16, de XXIV, 257 p. — ISBN 0-387-95332-9. — Prix: € 69.95. — Springer, New York, 2001.

The purpose of this book is to provide readers with an overview of the many properties of Fermat numbers and to demonstrate their numerous appearances and applications in areas such as number theory, probability theory, geometry, and signal processing. This book introduces a general mathematical audience to basic mathematical ideas and algebraic methods connected with the Fermat numbers and provides invaluable reading for amateur and professional alike.