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sition of generating functions, trees, algebraic generating functions, D-finite generating functions, noncommutative generating functions, and symmetric functions. The chapter on symmetric functions provides the only available treatment of this subject suitable for an introductory graduate course and focusing on combinatorics, especially the Robinson-Schensted-Knuth algorithm. Also covered are connections between symmetric functions and representation theory. An appendix (written by Sergey Fomin) covers some deeper aspects of symmetric function theory, including jeu de taquin and the Littlewood-Richardson rule.

W.D. WALLIS. — **Magic graphs.** — Un vol. broché, $15,5 \times 23,5$, de xiv, 146 p. — ISBN 0-8176-4252-8. — Prix: SFr. 78.00. — Birkhäuser, Boston, 2001.

This concise, self-contained book is unique in its focus on the theory of magic graphs/labelling and its applications to a number of new areas, e.g., networks, the construction of rulers, and pulse codes. It may serve as a graduate text for a special topics seminar in mathematics or computer science, or as a professional text for the researcher. Some key features: concise exposition from basic topics in graph theory to current research; theorems from graph theory and interesting counting arguments.

Théorie des nombres

Richard CRANDALL, Carl POMERANCE. — **Prime numbers: a computational perspective.** — Un vol. relié, $17 \times 24,5$, de xv, 545 p. — ISBN 0-387-94777-9. — Prix: DM 98.00. — Springer, New York, 2001.

Destined to become a definitive textbook conveying the most modern computational ideas about prime numbers and factoring, this book will stand as an excellent reference for this kind of computation, and thus be of interest to both educators and researchers. It is also a timely book, since primes and factoring have reached a certain vogue, partly because of cryptography. The final chapter focuses on “applications” of prime numbers, incorporating the mathematics of finance, via quasi-Monte Carlo theory. Historical comments are contained in every chapter. — *Contents:* Primes! — Number-theoretical tools. — Recognizing primes and composites. — Primality proving. — Exponential factoring algorithms. — Sub-exponential factoring algorithms. — Elliptic curve arithmetic. — The ubiquity of prime numbers. — Fast algorithms for large-integer arithmetic.

Maruti Ram MURTY. — **Problems in analytic number theory.** — Graduate texts in mathematics, vol. 206. — Un vol. relié, 16×24 , de xvi, 452 p. — ISBN 0-387-95143-1. — Prix: DM 98.00. — Springer, New York, 2001.

This book gives a problem-solving approach to the difficult subject of analytic number theory. It is primarily aimed at graduate and senior undergraduate students. The goal is to give a rapid introduction of how analytic methods are used to study the distribution of prime numbers. The book also includes an introduction to p -adic analytic methods. It is ideal for a first course in analytic number theory. *From the preface:* This book is a collection of about five hundred problems in analytic number theory with the singular purpose of training the beginning graduate student in some of its significant techniques.

Harald NIEDERREITER, Chaoping XING. — **Rational points on curves over finite fields: theory and applications.** — London Mathematical Society lecture note series, vol. 285. — Un vol. broché, 15×23 , de x, 245 p. — ISBN 0-521-66543-4. — Prix: £27.95. — Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2001.

Ever since the seminal work of Goppa on algebraic-geometry codes, rational points on algebraic curves over finite fields have been an important research topic for algebraic geometers

and coding theorists. Recently, the authors discovered another important application of algebraic curves over finite fields with many rational points, namely to the construction of low-discrepancy sequences. These sequences are needed for numerical methods in areas as diverse as computational physics and mathematical finance. This has given additional impetus to the theory of, and the search for, algebraic curves over finite fields with many rational points.

Alexei SKOROBOGATOV. — **Torsors and rational points.** — Cambridge tracts in mathematics, vol. 144. — Un vol. relié, 16×24 , de VIII, 187 p. — ISBN 0-521-80237-7. — Prix: £35.00. — Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2001.

The classical descent on curves of genus one can be interpreted as providing conditions on the set of rational points of an algebraic variety X defined over a number field, viewed as a subset of its adelic points. This is a natural set-up of the Hasse principle and various approximation properties of rational points. This book represents the first detailed exposition of: The general theory of torsors with key examples. — The relation of descent to the Manin obstruction. — Applications of descent to conic bundles, to bielliptic surfaces, and to homogenous spaces of algebraic groups.

Corps et polynômes

Jean-Pierre TIGNOL. — **Galois' theory of algebraic equations.** — Un vol. broché, $15,5 \times 21,5$, de XIII, 333 p. — ISBN 981-02-4541-6. — Prix: £26.00. — World Scientific, Singapore, 2001.

Galois' Theory of Algebraic Equations gives a detailed account of the development of the theory of algebraic equations, from its origins in ancient times to its completion by Galois in the nineteenth century. The main emphasis is placed on equations of at least the third degree, i.e. on the developments during the period from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century. The appropriate parts of works by Cardano, Lagrange, Vandermonde, Gauss, Abel and Galois are reviewed and placed in their historical perspective, with the aim of conveying to the reader a sense of the way in which the theory of algebraic equations has evolved and has led to such basic mathematical notions as "group" and "field". A brief discussion of the fundamental theorems of modern Galois theory is included. Complete proofs of the quoted results are provided, but the material has been organized in such a way that the most technical details can be skipped by readers who are interested primarily in a broad survey of the theory. This book will appeal to both undergraduate and graduate students in mathematics and the history of science, and also to teachers and mathematicians who wish to obtain a historical perspective of the field.

Géométrie algébrique

Chris GODSIL, Gordon ROYLE. — **Algebraic graph theory.** — Graduate texts in mathematics, vol. 207. — Un vol. relié, $16,5 \times 24$, de XIX, 439 p. — ISBN 0-387-95241-1. — Prix: DM 149.00. — Springer, New York, 2001.

Algebraic graph theory is a combination of two strands. The first is the study of algebraic objects associated with graphs. The second is the use of tools from algebra to derive properties of graphs. The authors' goal has been to present and illustrate the main tools and ideas of algebraic graph theory, with an emphasis on current rather than classical topics. While placing a strong emphasis on concrete examples they tried to keep the treatment self-contained. A substan-