Contents

Preface to the Third Edition vii

Preface to the Second Edition ix

Preface to the First Edition xi

1 The Theorem of Pythagoras 1
- 1.1 Arithmetic and Geometry . . . 2
- 1.2 Pythagorean Triples . . . 4
- 1.3 Rational Points on the Circle . . . 6
- 1.4 Right-Angled Triangles . . . 9
- 1.5 Irrational Numbers . . . 11
- 1.6 The Definition of Distance . . . 13
- 1.7 Biographical Notes: Pythagoras . . . 15

2 Greek Geometry 17
- 2.1 The Deductive Method . . . 18
- 2.2 The Regular Polyhedra . . . 20
- 2.3 Ruler and Compass Constructions . . . 25
- 2.4 Conic Sections . . . 28
- 2.5 Higher-Degree Curves . . . 31
- 2.6 Biographical Notes: Euclid . . . 35

3 Greek Number Theory 37
- 3.1 The Role of Number Theory . . . 38
- 3.2 Polygonal, Prime, and Perfect Numbers . . . 38
- 3.3 The Euclidean Algorithm . . . 41
- 3.4 Pell's Equation . . . 44
- 3.5 The Chord and Tangent Methods . . . 48

3.6 Biographical Notes: Diophantus 50

4 Infinity in Greek Mathematics **53**
4.1 Fear of Infinity 54
4.2 Eudoxus's Theory of Proportions 56
4.3 The Method of Exhaustion 58
4.4 The Area of a Parabolic Segment 63
4.5 Biographical Notes: Archimedes 66

5 Number Theory in Asia **69**
5.1 The Euclidean Algorithm 70
5.2 The Chinese Remainder Theorem 71
5.3 Linear Diophantine Equations 74
5.4 Pell's Equation in Brahmagupta 75
5.5 Pell's Equation in Bhâskara II 78
5.6 Rational Triangles 81
5.7 Biographical Notes: Brahmagupta and Bhâskara 84

6 Polynomial Equations **87**
6.1 Algebra 88
6.2 Linear Equations and Elimination 89
6.3 Quadratic Equations 92
6.4 Quadratic Irrationals 95
6.5 The Solution of the Cubic 97
6.6 Angle Division 99
6.7 Higher-Degree Equations 101
6.8 Biographical Notes: Tartaglia, Cardano, and Viète 103

7 Analytic Geometry **109**
7.1 Steps Toward Analytic Geometry 110
7.2 Fermat and Descartes 111
7.3 Algebraic Curves 112
7.4 Newton's Classification of Cubics 115
7.5 Construction of Equations, Bézout's Theorem 118
7.6 The Arithmetization of Geometry 120
7.7 Biographical Notes: Descartes 122

8 Projective Geometry **127**
8.1 Perspective 128
8.2 Anamorphosis 131
8.3 Desargues's Projective Geometry 132
8.4 The Projective View of Curves 136
8.5 The Projective Plane 141
8.6 The Projective Line 144
8.7 Homogeneous Coordinates 147
8.8 Pascal's Theorem 150
8.9 Biographical Notes: Desargues and Pascal 153

9 Calculus **157**
9.1 What Is Calculus? 158
9.2 Early Results on Areas and Volumes 159
9.3 Maxima, Minima, and Tangents 162
9.4 The *Arithmetica Infinitorum* of Wallis 164
9.5 Newton's Calculus of Series 167
9.6 The Calculus of Leibniz 170
9.7 Biographical Notes: Wallis, Newton, and Leibniz 172

10 Infinite Series **181**
10.1 Early Results 182
10.2 Power Series 185
10.3 An Interpolation on Interpolation 188
10.4 Summation of Series 189
10.5 Fractional Power Series 191
10.6 Generating Functions 192
10.7 The Zeta Function 195
10.8 Biographical Notes: Gregory and Euler 197

11 The Number Theory Revival **203**
11.1 Between Diophantus and Fermat 204
11.2 Fermat's Little Theorem 207
11.3 Fermat's Last Theorem 210
11.4 Rational Right-Angled Triangles 211
11.5 Rational Points on Cubics of Genus 0 215
11.6 Rational Points on Cubics of Genus 1 218
11.7 Biographical Notes: Fermat 222

12 Elliptic Functions **225**
12.1 Elliptic and Circular Functions 226
12.2 Parameterization of Cubic Curves 226
12.3 Elliptic Integrals 228
12.4 Doubling the Arc of the Lemniscate 230
12.5 General Addition Theorems 232
12.6 Elliptic Functions 234
12.7 A Postscript on the Lemniscate 236
12.8 Biographical Notes: Abel and Jacobi 237

13 Mechanics **243**
13.1 Mechanics Before Calculus 244
13.2 The Fundamental Theorem of Motion 246
13.3 Kepler's Laws and the Inverse Square Law 249
13.4 Celestial Mechanics 253
13.5 Mechanical Curves 255
13.6 The Vibrating String 261
13.7 Hydrodynamics 265
13.8 Biographical Notes: The Bernoullis 267

14 Complex Numbers in Algebra **275**
14.1 Impossible Numbers 276
14.2 Quadratic Equations 276
14.3 Cubic Equations 277
14.4 Wallis's Attempt at Geometric Representation 279
14.5 Angle Division 281
14.6 The Fundamental Theorem of Algebra 285
14.7 The Proofs of d'Alembert and Gauss 287
14.8 Biographical Notes: d'Alembert 291

15 Complex Numbers and Curves **295**
15.1 Roots and Intersections 296
15.2 The Complex Projective Line 298
15.3 Branch Points 301
15.4 Topology of Complex Projective Curves 304
15.5 Biographical Notes: Riemann 308

16 Complex Numbers and Functions **313**
16.1 Complex Functions 314
16.2 Conformal Mapping 318
16.3 Cauchy's Theorem 319
16.4 Double Periodicity of Elliptic Functions 322
16.5 Elliptic Curves 325
16.6 Uniformization 329
16.7 Biographical Notes: Lagrange and Cauchy 331

17 Differential Geometry **335**
17.1 Transcendental Curves 336
17.2 Curvature of Plane Curves 340
17.3 Curvature of Surfaces 343
17.4 Surfaces of Constant Curvature 344
17.5 Geodesics 346
17.6 The Gauss–Bonnet Theorem 348
17.7 Biographical Notes: Harriot and Gauss 352

18 Non-Euclidean Geometry **359**
18.1 The Parallel Axiom 360
18.2 Spherical Geometry 363
18.3 Geometry of Bolyai and Lobachevsky 365
18.4 Beltrami's Projective Model 366
18.5 Beltrami's Conformal Models 369
18.6 The Complex Interpretations 374
18.7 Biographical Notes: Bolyai and Lobachevsky 378

19 Group Theory **383**
19.1 The Group Concept 384
19.2 Subgroups and Quotients 387
19.3 Permutations and Theory of Equations 389
19.4 Permutation Groups 393
19.5 Polyhedral Groups 395
19.6 Groups and Geometries 398
19.7 Combinatorial Group Theory 401
19.8 Finite Simple Groups 404
19.9 Biographical Notes: Galois 409

20 Hypercomplex Numbers **415**
20.1 Complex Numbers in Hindsight 416
20.2 The Arithmetic of Pairs 417
20.3 Properties of + and × 419
20.4 Arithmetic of Triples and Quadruples 421
20.5 Quaternions, Geometry, and Physics 424
20.6 Octonions 428
20.7 Why $\mathbb{C}$, $\mathbb{H}$, and $\mathbb{O}$ Are Special 430
20.8 Biographical Notes: Hamilton 433

21 Algebraic Number Theory **439**
21.1 Algebraic Numbers 440
21.2 Gaussian Integers 442
21.3 Algebraic Integers 445
21.4 Ideals 448
21.5 Ideal Factorization 452
21.6 Sums of Squares Revisited 454
21.7 Rings and Fields 457
21.8 Biographical Notes: Dedekind, Hilbert, and Noether . . . 459

22 Topology **467**
22.1 Geometry and Topology 468
22.2 Polyhedron Formulas of Descartes and Euler 469
22.3 The Classification of Surfaces 471
22.4 Descartes and Gauss–Bonnet 474
22.5 Euler Characteristic and Curvature 477
22.6 Surfaces and Planes 479
22.7 The Fundamental Group 484
22.8 The Poincaré Conjecture 486
22.9 Biographical Notes: Poincaré 492

23 Simple Groups **495**
23.1 Finite Simple Groups and Finite Fields 496
23.2 The Mathieu Groups 498
23.3 Continuous Groups 501
23.4 Simplicity of SO(3) 505
23.5 Simple Lie Groups and Lie Algebras 509
23.6 Finite Simple Groups Revisited 513
23.7 The Monster 515

23.8 Biographical Notes: Lie, Killing, and Cartan 518

24 Sets, Logic, and Computation **525**
24.1 Sets 526
24.2 Ordinals 528
24.3 Measure 531
24.4 Axiom of Choice and Large Cardinals 534
24.5 The Diagonal Argument 536
24.6 Computability 538
24.7 Logic and Gödel's Theorem 541
24.8 Provability and Truth 546
24.9 Biographical Notes: Gödel 549

25 Combinatorics **553**
25.1 What Is Combinatorics? 554
25.2 The Pigeonhole Principle 557
25.3 Analysis and Combinatorics 560
25.4 Graph Theory 563
25.5 Nonplanar Graphs 567
25.6 The Kőnig Infinity Lemma 571
25.7 Ramsey Theory 575
25.8 Hard Theorems of Combinatorics 580
25.9 Biographical Notes: Erdős 584

Bibliography **589**

Index **629**