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This book has been published in three editions. The first edition was published in 1987, the second edition in 1995, and the third edition appeared in 2005. Since then there have been many exciting advances in computing, and the publication of the fourth edition of this book 20 years later is the natural result of the “one” of cryptography that were important then are still relevant now—providing a foundation to the fundamental concepts a primary goal of this book. Many chapters have been updated to reflect new topics or perhaps written from scratch. Some chapters have been pushed into the book. Other chapters were removed by consensus of the authors. A detailed description of these changes is given in the section of new approaches and techniques to the design and analysis of cryptographic protocols. In most cases, this involved changing cryptographic schemes to more secure ones, or adding more secure components to existing ones. In some cases, it was necessary to make significant changes to the basic core material of number and polynomial computation, such as in the section on increasing efficiency. However, there are also topics that have been added to this edition, the most important being the following:

• Chapter 10 on changes on the exciting consequences of post-quantum computing, including the current known cryptosystems that are designed to protect against a novel attack by quantum computers (Chapter 10 is a high-level, non-technical overview of concepts and tools of quantum computing and its applications);

• The finalized appendix is included, which summarizes definitions and results in number theory, field algebra that are used throughout the book. This enables a quick way to reference any mathematical terms or results from a reader’s perspective to find (Appendix B).

• A detailed description of many ciphers is provided, including comments on their security and a brief description of the popular stream cipher RC4 and its variants.

The book now provides additional interesting attacks on crytographic primitives, including the following: