

## Re: Heuristics for number theory?

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- *From:* [jdolan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jdolan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) (James Dolan)
  - *Date:* Mon, 11 Apr 2005 23:33:37 +0000 (UTC)
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in article <6011229.1113259693074.javamail.jakarta@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, patrick <picogoethe@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

|if you're looking for a more practical approach to number theory in  
|terms of cryptographic type things, you should check out a book like  
|"Cryptography: Theory and Practice" by doug stinson. it's a very  
|good read, and it will give you many of the same mathematical  
|insights, only with a lot of really good practical insight as well.  
|other than that one, any basic crypto book will give you good  
|applications of the supposedly unthemed material.

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|having strong mathematical background, i would say number theory is a  
|very beautiful (maybe one of the most beautiful) area of mathematics,  
|but it should be approached carefully. if you're in it for the  
|application, a number theory course in mathematics will probably just  
|confuse you (as it apparently did), and something like a graduate  
|course in cryptography/network security from an electrical  
|engineering or computer science department may do more for you.

you read what this person wrote, and you came away with the impression  
that the reason for their dissatisfaction with the course was that  
they were just in it for the applications, and just got confused by  
the stuff in it that wasn't directly applications-oriented??? well,  
maybe you're correct, for all i know; let's see whether the original  
poster thinks that you got it right.

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[e-mail address jdolan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx]

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• **References:**

◆ **Re: Heuristics for number theory?**

◇ *From:* Stephen White

◆ **Re: Heuristics for number theory?**

◇ *From:* patrick

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