

# Contents

|          |  |           |
|----------|--|-----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Basic Tools</b>   | <b>3</b>  |
| 1.1      | Some Combinatorial Interpretations . . . . .                           | 3         |
| 1.2      | Counting Technique 1: Ask a Question and Answer Two Ways . . . . .     | 6         |
| 1.3      | Counting Technique 2: Description-Involution-Exception (DIE) . . . . . | 7         |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Binomial Identities</b>   | <b>8</b>  |
| 2.1      | Working Together . . . . .   | 8         |
| 2.2      | On Your Own . . . . .  | 9         |
| 2.3      | What’s the Parity of $\binom{n}{k}$ ? . . . . .                        | 10        |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Fibonacci Identities</b>  | <b>13</b> |
| 3.1      | Tiling with Squares and Dominoes . . . . .                             | 13        |
| 3.2      | Working Together . . . . .   | 14        |
| 3.3      | On Your Own . . . . .  | 15        |
| 3.4      | Combinatorial Proof of Binet’s Formula . . . . .                       | 16        |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Generalizations—Lucas, Gibonacci, and Linear Recurrences</b>        | <b>18</b> |
| 4.1      | Motivating Generalization . . . . .                                    | 18        |
| 4.2      | Weighting the Tilings . . . . .  | 19        |
| 4.3      | Working Together . . . . .   | 20        |
| 4.4      | On Your Own . . . . .  | 21        |
| 4.5      | Weighting Tiles Individually . . . . .                                 | 22        |
| 4.6      | A Gibonacci Magic Trick . . . . .                                      | 24        |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Continued Fractions</b>   | <b>26</b> |
| 5.1      | Introductions and Explorations . . . . .                               | 26        |
| 5.2      | Working Together . . . . .   | 28        |
| 5.3      | On Your Own . . . . .  | 30        |
| 5.4      | Primes of form $4m + 1$ . . . . .                                      | 31        |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Alternating Sums</b>  | <b>32</b> |
| 6.1      | Working Together . . . . .   | 32        |
| 6.2      | On Your Own . . . . .  | 34        |
| 6.3      | Extend and Generalize by Playing with Parameters . . . . .             | 35        |
| 6.4      | Beyond DIE—a.k.a. “What happens after you DIE?” . . . . .              | 37        |
| 6.5      | Binet Revisited . . . . .  | 38        |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Determinants</b>  | <b>39</b> |
| 7.1      | The Big Formula . . . . .  | 40        |
| 7.2      | Matrices from Determined Ants . . . . .                                | 41        |
| 7.3      | Determinants are Really Alternating Sums . . . . .                     | 42        |
| 7.4      | Working Together . . . . .   | 43        |
| 7.5      | On Your Own . . . . .  | 44        |
| 7.6      | Classic Properties of Determinants . . . . .                           | 45        |
| 7.7      | Vandermonde Determinant . . . . .                                      | 45        |