Number theory, and a journey towards its research.

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Number theory is, at least in its history, concerned with properties of integers and the equations they satisfy. It is a beautiful area of pure mathematics, though some like to say that "number theory is applied   math!" This is, of course, a joke, but it has a kernel of truth which is reflected in the following fact: From a modern standpoint, research in number theory receives a remarkable amount of input from a whole host of other diverse areas of mathematics. I will describe some of the first problems in the history of modern number theory whose solutions received significant input from other areas of math, both analytic and algebraic. At the same time, I will describe how these problems, as well as the people around me, helped motivate me to pursue research in number theory.