

1687 AD

Newton's Principia is published.

Fermat and Pascal begin to work out the laws that govern chance and probability in five letters, which they exchange during the summer.



1791 AD

It is determined that the standard unit of length should be the ten-millionth part of a quadrant of a great circle on Earth. This standard later becomes known as the meter.

1801 AD

Gauss calculates the orbit of asteroid 1 Ceres and publishes Disquisitiones arithmeticae on number theory.

1854 AD

De Morgan publishes The Laws of Thought on Which are founded the Mathematical Theories of Logic and Probabilities. He reduces logic to algebra and this algebra of logic is now known as Boolean algebra.

1858 AD

August Möbius invents the Möbius strip, a strip of paper that has only one side and only one edge.



1998 AD

Thomas Hales proves Kepler's problem on sphere packing.

1977 AD

Apple II personal computer is introduced.

1982 AD

Mandelbrot publishes The fractal geometry of nature, which develops his theory of fractal geometry.

1994 AD

Wiles proves Fermat's Last Theorem.

2004 AD

IBM announces that its Blue Gene/L supercomputer achieved a record for sustained performance of 70.72 Tflops, or teraflops, during installation. A teraflop is one trillion floating-point operations per second.