

Schedule for Completing Introduction to Algebra

This is the backbone of what you need to learn before the national competition, and also future learning. The goal is to immerse you in algebra and get you comfortable with the language of mathematics. Both of these schedules are designed to be very demanding, but if you choose one and follow it conscientiously you will almost certainly make the leaderboard.

Instructions for the book

- A good rule of thumb is to at least solve every challenge problem in a chapter, unless you are absolutely sure they are too easy for you. (e.g. problems 6.44-6.51)
- If you feel like you are going nowhere after 5 minutes of solving a challenge problem, go through the chapter more carefully.
 - If you understand everything in the chapter, but are still stuck, read a hint.
 - Hints are available at the end of the book, for the majority of challenge problems. (from page 625 onwards in the PDF)
- **Do something constantly, do not just stare at the problem.**
- If the starred challenge problems feel impossible after a serious attempt, read the solution from the solutions manual.
 - If some steps made in the solution are unclear or feels unjustified, you can always ask David (or Maithreyi or Nethaniel if preferred)

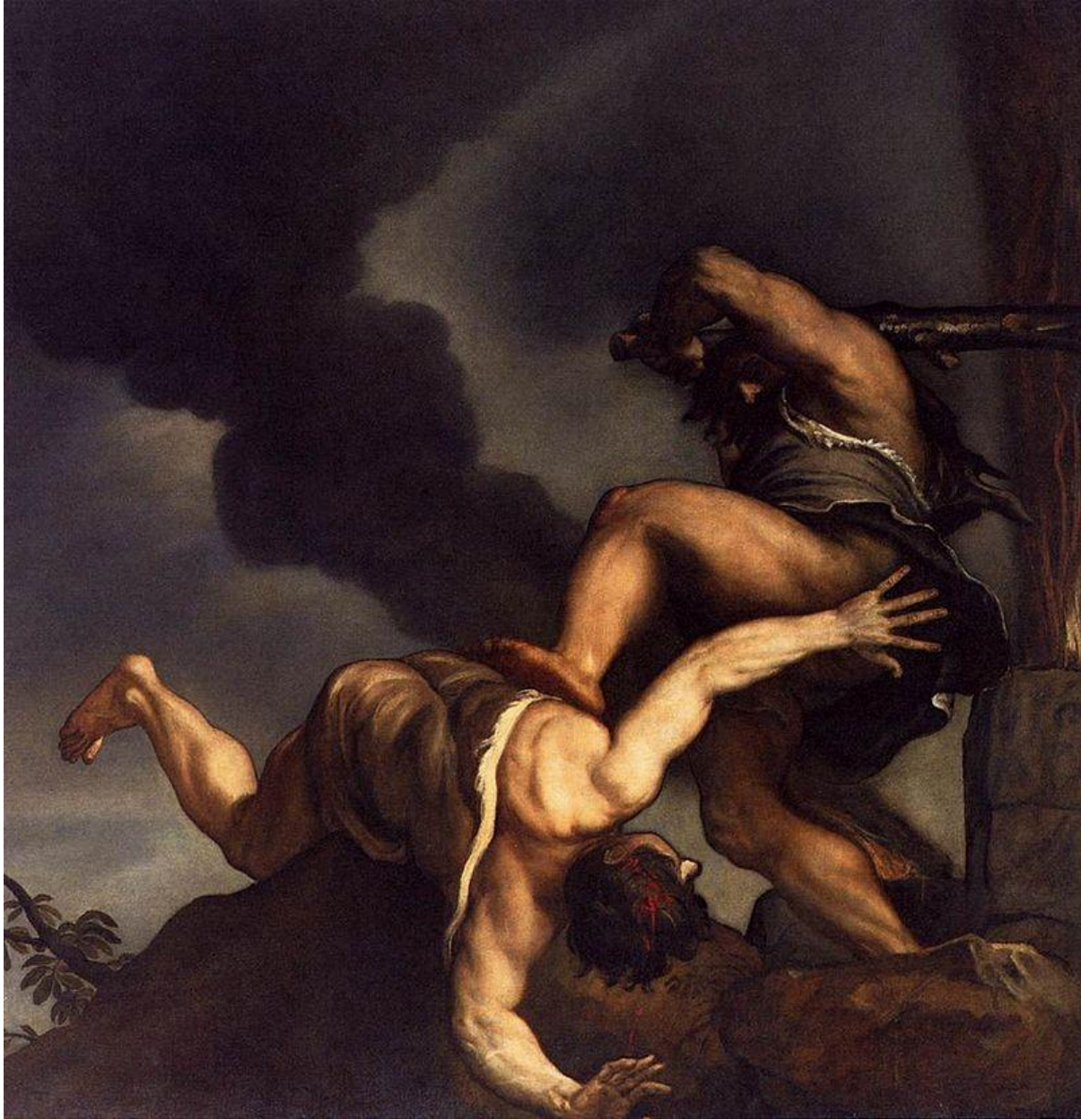
Harder Schedule

| Chapters | Deadline |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1-5 | Thursday 10.3 |
| 6, 7 | Thursday 10.10 |
| 9, 10, 11 | Thursday 10.17 |
| 13, 21 | Thursday 10.24 |

Easier Schedule

| Chapters | Deadline |
|----------------|----------|
| 1-5 | 10.3 |
| Rest of 1-5, 6 | 10.10 |
| 9, 10 | 10.17 |
| 11, (21) | 10.24 |

If you do the harder schedule and want to increase your chances at entering the final round, David suggests completing chapters 16, 18, 22 during autumn break.



“If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.” (Genesis 4:7)