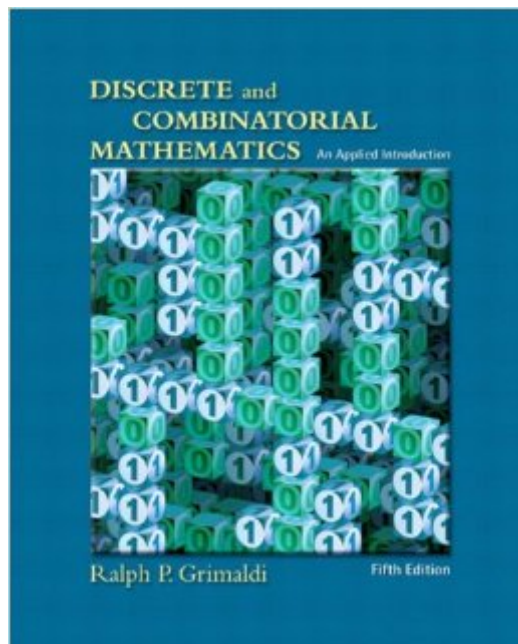


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Discrete And Combinatorial Mathematics: An Applied Introduction, Fifth Edition



Synopsis

This fifth edition continues to improve on the features that have made it the market leader. The text offers a flexible organization, enabling instructors to adapt the book to their particular courses. The book is both complete and careful, and it continues to maintain its emphasis on algorithms and applications. Excellent exercise sets allow students to perfect skills as they practice. This new edition continues to feature numerous computer science applications-making this the ideal text for preparing students for advanced study.

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Customer Reviews

Excellent book, carefully chosen examples, ideal for self study. I like it very much. My advice is not to skip any section or solved examples or you might be lost.

This is a bad book if you are not already familiar with the basic concepts of the material. The author was more interested in showing worked examples than explaining concepts, and the more difficult problems in the exercise sections do not have solutions in the back of the book, so even 'self-learning' is extremely hard. Unless you have a very good teacher, you will not benefit from the way the material is presented inside this book. 'Solutions' and 'examples' are presented 'as is' without explanations. One of my friends into math did mention it's not a bad reference guide for proofs, but he was as unimpressed with this book as a learning tool as I was. The level of rigor is very high, but the simple explanations to go with it are not present. I advise finding a good source on the subject instead of this unfriendly text, which has a target audience of math professionals.

I bought this book as a supplement to a summer course in Discrete Math, and since this was my first ever exposure to mathematical proof and dialog, I first thought this book mostly alien, with occasional sections of brevity; it did help me fill in some gaps left behind in Rosen's book, especially on some basic proofs dealing with integers and with combinatorial reasoning--something this book is REALLY good at...I'm in my first course of Combinatorics with a teacher that assumes we know a lot more calculus than we do. We use Tucker's Applied combinatorics 5th, and I was cruising along just fine until we hit Generating Functions. Brick wall. Rosen's book didn't cover it (well; there's a great page of known identities, but not an intro-level version), neither did Epp, so I dusted this tome off my shelf and cracked it open... section 9.1 presents Generating functions on such an easy to use language and analytic explanation that I went from getting every problem wrong in Tucker's book to getting them all right; all due to the clarity of exposition. I've also found that as my 'mathematical maturity' has grown in the last year, so has the comprehensibility of this text. It may be too deep for a beginner--I would agree that it would be too much for all but your brightest minus an excellent teacher--but this book teaches 'real math' and does so *very* well. In conclusion, if you have the available student loan \$\$ and want a very good supplementary book that you really can take with you to higher classes, put this at the top of your list. I also own Epp and Rosen's discrete math texts, and have to say that for me ultimately I needed all three as a beginner; plus a few extra books from the library for special topics. But what I learned stayed with me and all three have their positives and negatives, but if I were to choose only one to stay on my shelf, THIS would be the one.

I used an earlier edition of this book in my undergrad. Then... I hated it, but I'm reviewing for grad school now and without the pressure of having to get through the material the book is actually very good. The chapters are 80% examples. Understanding the examples in the chapter is required to do the section and chapter review (homework) questions. This is not a book that you can skim read and expect to do well.

Gives a good overview of abstract mathematics in a very well presented fashion. Gives an introduction and some practice applying first order logic, set theory, algebras, solutions to recurrence equations, and more. It really has nothing to do with computer science and makes no attempt to show anything about it, as any language is just a language.

A masturbatory exposition by an author who may understand the material on some level, but not well enough to properly explain it. Avoid this book. If a college course requires it, then I encourage you to enroll under a more thoughtful instructor.

Out of the three main discrete math texts, Rosen, Epp, and this one--Grimaldi--this text unites the best parts of both; Epp has some really great explanations, but suffers from not having enough solutions and lacks depth. Rosen's book manages to write hundreds of words per concept while completely confusing new students in dense mathematical jargon. I used this book as a supplement to my discrete math class in summer and as a supplement for a combinatorics class this past fall. My mathematical 'maturity' when approaching discrete math was business calculus. (Yeah, I know that sucks, and all you mathematicians and engineers can laugh your hind off about it. Don't remind me.) So basically, I was behind the class in both this and in the combinatorics class this fall. This book is best approached if you take the explanations it uses *while trying to solve the problems.* It seemed pitched high to me because Epp is focused on giving you concepts and Rosen is concerned with making sure you learn theory. Grimaldi is interested in teaching you to solve problems. This book also has the one of the *best* sections on recurrence relations. I thought Chen's book was king here, but this book, when working through gobs of problems, helps you learn them inside and out. It has two charts detailing what happens in a non-homogeneous recurrence relation, one that states general solutions, another that gives you a relation, its homogeneous counterpart, and changes the NH part and shows you how the general form changes. Brilliant, and blows Tucker's "Applied Combinatorics" out of the water in clarity when solving recurrence relations. Best book in its class. (Got an A- and a B in those classes, for the results-minded.) This is where this book became the holy grail.

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