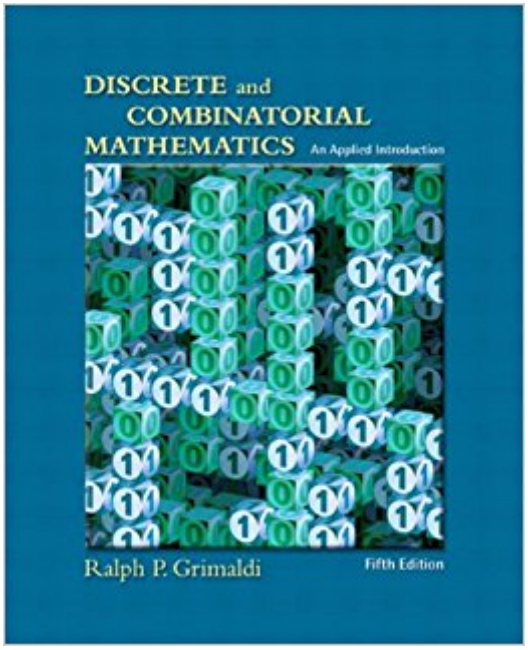
Discrete And Combinatorial Mathematics: An Applied Introduction, Fifth Edition



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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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 occaisional 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 alot 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 would rent this book again if necessary. It will do wonders for people taking Discrete Structures -- the mathematics class.

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-homegeneous 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.

Great.

To begin, I have absolutely no experience with discrete math and generally learn through doing a lot of practice problems. This book is the book our professor is using for our discrete math class and it is atrocious. While it has a a lot of examples, they cover the bare basics and don't go into enough detail to then understand what you need to do for later problems or even the early problems. The author uses the cop out of "you need to use creativity to solve some of these problems," to cover his tracks and not just accept that he is lazy and is not going into enough detail to really understand the problems. This means you'll just get a whole bunch of problems wrong in the process of learning and will eventually run out of problems to practice because after looking at the answer, the problems lose their ability to test your understanding. Or even worse, somethings are not highlighted in a very clear manner (for the sake of being "concise") leading to severe frustration when you in essence have to basically learn discrete math by trying every option under the sun. If you're a discrete math prodigy and can learn through one reading of the material, then you may find this book good, but for the rest of us who have to work for our knowledge, this book is about as pleasurable as eating one ton of bear poop, while getting your eyes gouged and taking roundhouse kicks from Chuck Norris.

First of all, I gotta compliment the seller with the fast shipping! at least that is a plus!But everything about the book itself turned out to be unexpected in a bad way.1. As i bought the paperback as "new", i expected it to be "new". Receiving the item it turned out the be used and dirty. Not only was it bulky (first, i thought it was because of the harsh shipping) but then the pages inside also was dirty! Certainly not in an condition to be tagged as "new".2. The book itself is really messy and the layout could have been done in a much better way, I am totally getting headaches from trying to learn from this. The pages is of a bad quality, and there is no colours, which makes it seem copied and fake.3. I recently bought a school book from ebay, and this one turned out to be in a much more splendid shape. I recommend everyone to rather buy ur books from ebay.

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