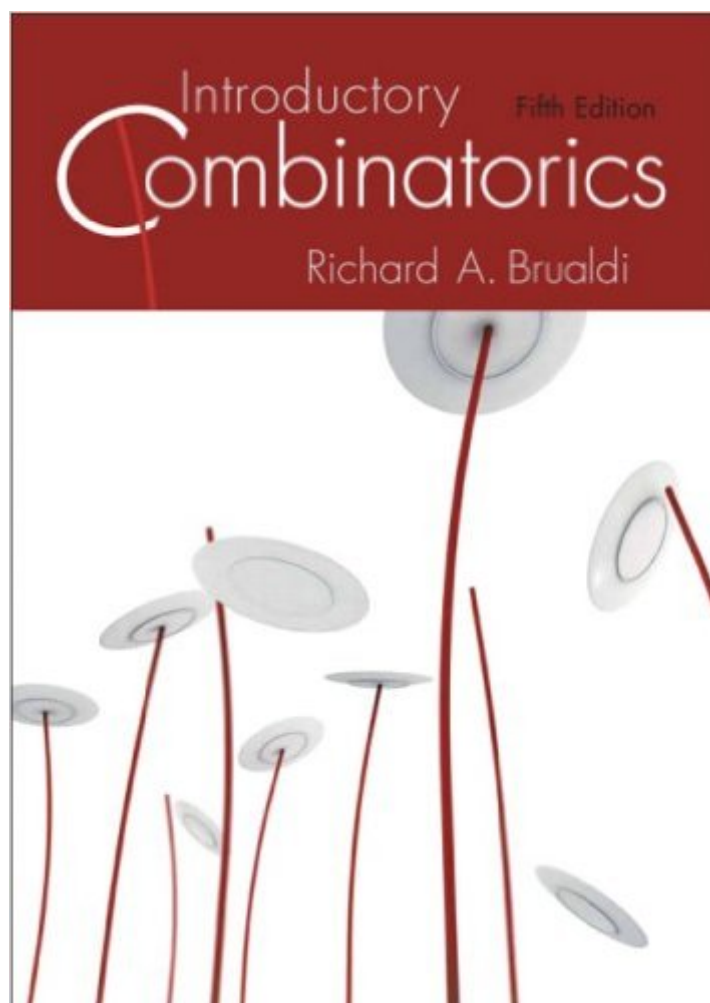


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Introductory Combinatorics (5th Edition)



Synopsis

This trusted best-seller emphasizes combinatorial ideasâ “including the pigeon-hole principle, counting techniques, permutations and combinations, PÃ lya counting, binomial coefficients, inclusion-exclusion principle, generating functions and recurrence relations, combinatorial structures (matchings, designs, graphs), and flows in networks. The Fifth Edition clarifies the exposition throughout and adds a wealth of new exercises. Appropriate for one- or two-semester, junior- to senior-level combinatorics courses.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.2 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (12 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I used the book to guide me through a Combinatorics class I took in the summer of 1998. The author has presented some very interesting problems like prove that of any 10 points chosen within an equilateral triangle of side length 1, there are 2 whose distance apart is at most $1/3$ that use some interesting techniques such as the pigeonhole principal. The book, however contained too many mistakes. My professor said on average there is one mistake per page and he wasn't exaggerating either. Luckily with his help, we corrected the many mistakes and then were successfully able to use the book. I notice that the author has written a new edition. I hope most of the mistakes have been corrected because when I pay a good sum of money for a book I expect it to be good book without errors.

Most (but not all) of the copious errors in earlier editions have been fixed.(Brualdi maintains an errata list on his website.) I like this book a lot,it has a nice, relaxed style of exposition and the

choice of topics is good for an introductory course.

At least some of the reviews on this page are for previous versions of the text. The fifth edition had few errors or ambiguities. The range of topics is pretty standard and the difficulty steadily ramps up through the book. If you're not buying it for a class, it will be an okay introduction or review, but many of the exercises don't have solutions or hints in the back which might be frustrating for some computational exercises.

I'm very surprised that this book is in its 5th edition and it still has a many errors. There are even errors in statements of theorems, which is really scary, and many errors in the back of the book where you are supposed to be able to check your answers. I have very little faith in this textbook. If it weren't in use for my course (and I'm not sure why it is, because I have yet to find its good qualities) I would never have bought it. Hopefully the publishers hire a math grad student or two for editing the sixth edition.

I would not recommend learning from this book. The exposition is very confusing, the exercises contain many mistakes, and the layout is simply painful. I strongly dislike this book.

Book was breaking apart from the spine, and pages were wrinkled like if it had been wet.

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