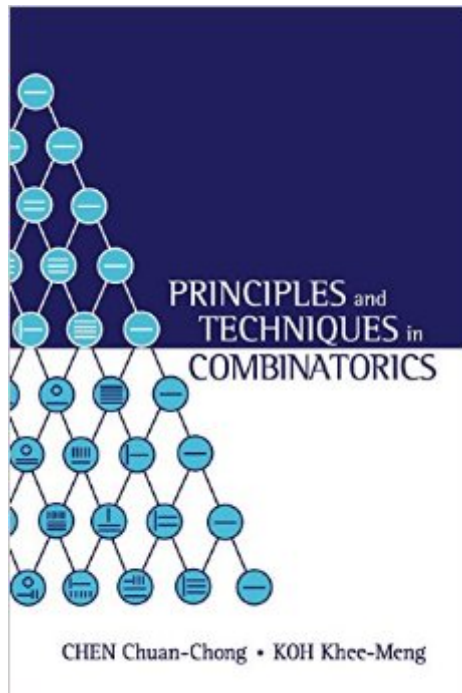


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Principles And Techniques In Combinatorics



Synopsis

A textbook suitable for undergraduate courses. The materials are presented very explicitly so that students will find it very easy to read. A wide range of examples, about 500 combinatorial problems taken from various mathematical competitions and exercises are also included.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Oh how I wish I had found this book at the beginning of my semester of combinatorics instead of at its end...When I found this tome here on it was at the behest of a reviewer that stated the strength of this book in the explanation of Recurrence Relations. I can't agree further. The text assigned for my class was Tucker's Applied Combinatorics book, and to be frank, it's a fairly decent text that does have an incredibly strong introduction to Generating Functions that goes down as one of the finest I have encountered. However, this book also discusses sequence creation using generating functions, something that Tucker leaves out. This book is a *true* introduction to combinatorics, explicitly detailing every step of every proof--something direly missing in most other texts of this type. Most people taking this class have only had a rudimentary sampling of proof techniques (comp-sci majors usually take combinatorics) and this book helps fill in the missing gaps left in slightly higher-flyers such as Tucker's. But the reason this one is such a gem in recurrence relations is that it goes in depth in teaching you HOW TO MODEL with this tool. Tucker assumes you can do that already. His chapter on modeling is light on problems and doesn't explain the examples as clearly as this one does. This book also shows some incredibly creative problem solutions that crafty high-schoolers have devised (being olympiad trainers) that help you think about other

implications in things such as Pascal's triangle. It does a great job of improving mathematical thinking and if I didn't enjoy Tucker's chapter on generating functions so much I would sell that thing in a heartbeat.

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