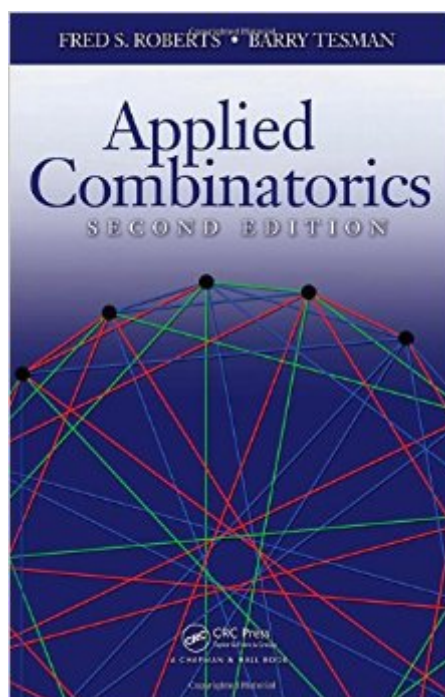


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Applied Combinatorics, Second Edition



Synopsis

Now with solutions to selected problems, *Applied Combinatorics*, Second Edition presents the tools of combinatorics from an applied point of view. This bestselling textbook offers numerous references to the literature of combinatorics and its applications that enable readers to delve more deeply into the topics. After introducing fundamental counting rules and the tools of graph theory and relations, the authors focus on three basic problems of combinatorics: counting, existence, and optimization problems. They discuss advanced tools for dealing with the counting problem, including generating functions, recurrences, inclusion/exclusion, and Pólya theory. The text then covers combinatorial design, coding theory, and special problems in graph theory. It also illustrates the basic ideas of combinatorial optimization through a study of graphs and networks.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book offers a good mix of both theory and practice. Roberts does writes well the proofs, but doesn't get lost in the stratosphere of theory, instead coming down to Earth with a huge collection of applications. It has many good chapters in enumerative combinatorics, which are well written and offers an array of applications. These chapters teach how to count in a friendly way, and the students should enjoy them. For example, the topic on counting with repeated elements is very enjoyable. The chapter on Polya's Theory, which is a difficult subject is presented in a very "user-friendly" approach with intermediate applications, that allow the reader to understand more thoroughly the subject. This is just one of many examples of the good writing skills of Roberts. It

also has several chapters on graph theory, with an even greater emphasis on its applications. These chapters deal with the subject both from a mathematician point of view, with interesting theorems, and from the point of view of the computer scientist, with several graph algorithms. The chapter on networks and the Ford-Fulkerson algorithm and its applications is very well written. Also very good is the chapter on codes. Unfortunately it ties the Hadamard codes with a previous chapter on designs, when it can be covered with slight alterations independently. Another good interesting feature of the book is the bibliography, which invites further exploration of the topics. The exercises both complement the theory and show how it is applied. Furthermore, there are many examples of applications which ``continue'' from one chapter to another, exploring them from many different points of view.

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